January-February 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for :-

Convertible Whole Life · Education Endowment · Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust · Retirement · House Purchase · Security for your Family

General Insurance for :-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR TEMPERANCE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office: ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

YOUR SECURITY AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Male Life 21 next birthday

£10,000 INITIAL COVER FOR ABOUT **10/- per week**

Sum Assured		Normal Annual Premium
£500	Endowment, With Profit, to age 65 (Estimated Maturity Value £2,271)	£13 5 0
£1,000	Whole of Life, Non Profit, Assurance	£9 2 0
£5,000	Initial Sum Assured for Family Income Benefits of £250 p.a. for 20 years	£3 5 0
£3,500	Conversion Rights for 25 years	£5 19 0
	Gross Annual Premiums	£31 11 0
	Income Tax Relief (if obtainable)	£5 4 0
£10,000	Life Cover for an Annual Net Outlay of	£26 7 0

NOTE: Rates vary with age and the Plan may be adjusted to suit your needs. An ideal composite plan with conversion rights which may be used for House Purchase.

Telephone **2966** Richmond

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months 24/-; *single month,* 2/-).

☆

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1971

Vol. 25 (*New Series*) **No. 1**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Looking through the archives of the Corps' historical officer, **Colonel Adams,** we came across the photograph which we have featured this month.

We felt we must use it as it exemplified so well the special association between the Corps and the Royal Air Force. While our role in respect of the RAF has undergone considerable changes since the days of Air Formation Signals our contacts have, if anything, become even closer with the Air Support units which have taken their place.

It has always been a privilege and pleasure to be 'in support' of the RAF. They have invariably made the Corps feel completely at home on their stations and nothing has been too much trouble for them.

In this, our first edition in the New Year, we would like to take the opportunity of wishing our Royal Air Force friends every success in 1971. There can be no doubt the Corps looks forward to many years of continued association with this fine Service.

The photograph was taken about 1965 at Khormaksar, Aden. The N.C.O. on the right is believed to be **Sergeant Askham.**

'The Wire' in 1971

1970 has been what might be termed, in modern parlance, a traumatic year for THE WIRE. Because of the Corps' Golden Jubilee we have received a great deal of material which simply had to go into the pages of THE WIRE. Added to this were a number of outstanding Corps' sporting successes which called for full coverage. Most of our Unit correspondents, no doubt inspired with the 1970 spirit, wrote at greater length than usual, and we also received many more general interest articles than in a normal year. As a result THE WIRE came out with a number of editions far larger than they should have been from the point of view of breaking even financially —and this after some pretty hard-hearted Editorial cutting as some of our correspondents will doubtless recall. The upshot is that THE WIRE will be something like £1,600 'in the red' for 1970. Against this we can offset £1,000, kindly authorised by the Central Committee at the beginning of the year to help towards the cost of front cover colour photographs and general interest articles and a saving elsewhere of some £300 on Association 1970 activities.

1970 is now over and although we may be excused for having 'gone abust' in the Jubilee Year of the Corps and, incidentally, to mark our own 50th anniversary, we cannot continue this rake's progress in 1971. We must, therefore, in phraseology now fashionable at Westminster, ask our correspondents to co-operate in a policy of RESTRAINT.

This request is specifically made to Unit correspondents from whom a large proportion of the material in THE WIRE derives. As a guide line we would suggest that Unit notes should not **normally** exceed one-and-a-half columns of THE WIRE. This is equivalent to 1,400 words of text. Where photographs are submitted 300 words should be allowed for each photograph, e.g. if two photographs are sent then the text should be cut back to something like 800 words. Do not submit photographs unless they are of good, clear definition and the subject matter is of real interest. This restriction does NOT apply when Units have something of particular importance they wish to report or for good general interest articles which should be sent in as a separate item from Unit notes. If a Unit has missed sending in notes for one or two issues of THE WIRE they can, in fairness, exceed the suggested space ration, but again as a guide line we would hope that the Unit tries not to exceed a page, i.e. 1,800 words including photos.

It is with regret that we ask Unit correspondents to adopt a policy of restraint from now on. Ever-increasing costs make it difficult to publish THE WIRE economically unless we keep down to a reasonable size. We are already generously subsidised by the Central Committee of the Association. Our loyal and long-suffering correspondents, along with the Editor, must play their part too.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



ONLY A FEW MILES LEFT BUT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE IT

Headed by the Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, participants in the 226 Signal Squadron Wives' Club Sponsored Charity Walk near journey's end. Centre left (wearing black hood) is the organizer, Janet Young, wife of O.C. 226 Squadron and originator of the idea

SPLENDID EFFORT BY 226 SIGNAL SQUADRON WIVES' CLUB

£800 raised for Association Welfare case

We are indebted to P.R., H.Q., 1st Division, B.A.O.R., for the photographs and the write-up below of a unique money-raising venture by the wives and their friends of 226 Squadron. The Association, when it first heard of the idea, had expected a sum of perhaps £30 or £40 to be raised. When the news of £800 came through, we could hardly believe our ears!

The Association is now discussing with the hospital concerned a project which, for the time being must remain confidential, but which, if it comes to fruition, will provide a wonderful service, not only to our Corps patient, but also to other iron lung cases in the same area. We hope to publish details of this in the next issue of 'The Wire.'

It all began as a small Squadron effort to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Signals.

In reality, it escalated beyond anyone's wildest dreams and resulted in 40 or so women and children raising the incredible sum of DM 7030 (approx. £800) to buy comforts for a wartime soldier in an iron lung!

"Little did I realise when I suggested a Wives' Club sponsored walk that it would reach these proportions," said a flabbergasted **Mrs. Janet Young,** wife of the Officer Commanding 226 Signal Squadron, **Major Gordon Young.**

"In fact, when I first broached the subject at a club meeting, it wasn't at all well received. It was only when the cause was known that they began to sit up and take notice."

Not wishing for cash they raised to be swallowed up in a large charity, **Mrs. Young** wrote to the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, for ideas.

Back came a reply telling the ladies about a certain Signalman who had been in an iron lung suffering from polio since 1949.

His widowed mother, aged 73, constantly visits him and sometimes stays at the hospital to cheer him up," wrote the Secretary. "She likes to bring him comforts on her visits. How nice it would be if she could say that the things she was bringing were the result of a charitable effort by the ladies of 226 Signal Squadron."

With a definite object in mind, Squadron wives quickly volunteered to take part in the 21-mile walk from Wesendorf to Celle—the distance their husbands have to travel to work each day.

So enthusiastically did they set about their task of finding sponsors, that 'pledges' quickly mounted, and by the day of the event, at least half-a-dozen participants were walking for DM 10 (£1 2s. 9d.) or more a mile.

Lady with the most money on her head (in the nicest sense of the word) was **Mrs. Elsie Rowland,** wife of the Squadron's Foreman of Signals, **Stan Rowlands,** who was backed to the tune of DM 47.50 (£5 8s. 3d.) a mile.

Mrs. Eve Askew, wife of R.E.M.E. **Corporal Terry Askew,** had achieved her target of 50 sponsors to bring in over DM 30 (£3 8s. 4d.) for each mile; and organiser, **Mrs. Young,** was worth DM 25.25 (£2 17s. 6d.) a mile!

At the start of the walk, there were no fewer than 43 walkers —22 wives and children from the Squadron, 10 'outsiders,' including the Padre's wife, **Mrs. Ursula Hughes,** and wives of other O.C.s in the area, and 11 Cubs and Scouts, Brownies and Guides.

Of this number, 31 finished the full distance, to really hit the pockets of the sponsors in a big way! First 'home,' in 4¾ hours were two 13-year-olds, **Andre Allum,** son of **Sergeant Syd Allum,** of 226 Signal Squadron, and **Derek Sims,** son of **Sergeant Vic Sims,** of 94 Locating Regiment, R.A.

First lady to cover the distance was 17-year-old **Elaine Allum,** while first Squadron wives to finish were **Mrs. Young** and **Mrs. Margaret Noonan,** wife of **Captain Cliff Noonan.** Youngest participant to walk the 21 miles was nine-year-old **Julie Ann Hughes,** daughter of **Sergeant Ron Hughes.**



WITH SUCH ATTRACTIVE WALKERS NO WONDER SPONSORS DUG DEEP IN THEIR POCKETS

Putting their best foot forward during 226 Signal Squadron Wives' Club Sponsored Charity Walk are Mrs. Rita Allum (nearest camera) and Mrs. Elsie Rowland. Mrs. Rowland was backed to the tune of £5 8s. 0d. a mile and finished the 21 mile course to bring in over £100!



10 MILES GONE AND STILL IN GREAT SPIRITS

You'd hardly think that these ladies had "legged it" ten miles as they double away at the beginning of the second stage of 226 Signal Squadron Wives' Club Sponsored Charity Walk!

HALT!

the depreciation of your Savings

CHECK WITH SERVICE BROKERS

THE INVESTMENT SPECIALISTS

1 SERVICE BROKERS will assist you with expert knowledge – and Without Obligation

2 Investment! Protection! House Purchase! School Fees! etc. SERVICE BROKERS take it all in their stride

On the Command

"FALL OUT"
FALL IN

with SERVICE BROKERS the Service Specialists

SERVICE BROKERS

PRINCIPALS

John Newman and Charles Young

30b Market Place, Richmond, Yorkshire

Telephone Richmond 2435

New Year's Honours

All will be pleased to hear of the following awards in the New Year's Honours:

K.B.E.

Major-General J. E. Anderson

C.B.E.

Brigadier A. D. Brindley

O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Birtwhistle

M.B.E.

W.O.II W. F. Graham, W.O.II D. J. Hall and Captain Yahya Bin Haji Omar

B.E.M.

Staff Sergeant P. L. Grey, Staff Sergeant R. J. Matheson, Staff Sergeant D. North, Corporal L. Smith

His friends will be very pleased to hear that **Major C. Stagg** (now retired) was awarded the I.S.O. for services rendered as Resident Engineer of the National Gas Turbine Establishment, Pyestock.

From our "In" Tray

A Jubilee and Centenary Event

The Institution of Electrical Engineers are celebrating their Centenary Year, having been found largely by the enthusiasm of R.E. Officers who were almost simultaneously founding the R.E. Telegraph Units. The I.E.E. invited the Royal Signals Institution to hold a joint meeting with them at Savoy Place on 10th December, 1970.

Lord Nelson of Stafford, President I.E.E., welcomed the members of the R.S.I. and then handed over the chair to the Master of Signals who replied, thanking the I.E.E. for the honour they were doing the R.S.I. Over 500 members from both institutions were present. The business of the evening was the presentation by the S.O.-in-C. (Army) of a paper on Army Communication of the 1980s by **Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Ball.** Speakers included scientists from S.R.D.E., members of the Corps, representatives of industry and the G.P.O., and academics.

At the conclusion, **Lord Nelson** said he hoped it would not be another 100 years before such an interesting occasion was repeated.

A dinner was held in the I.E.E. Refectory after the meeting. Among the 90 or so present were about 45 members of the R.S.I.—the guests of the I.E.E. Council Dining Club. **Lord Nelson** again made us all welcome and among other speeches made was a bout between **Brigadier Tucker** and **Sir Albert Mumford** over a 10-year-old unburied hatchet concerning frequencies. **Sir Albert** also commented unfavourably on the Corps tie in the form of a bow. It will be realised that a dinner in the Refectory is not only delicious but entertaining.

The fact that this whole function ever took place is due to the imagination and effort of **Lieutenant-Colonel Day,** Secretary R.S.I., and for its success we must thank the permanent staff of the I.E.E.

33 Corps Signals (SEAC) Association

33 Corps Signals is only one title of a long line of illustrious units beginning in 1940 with Western Desert Force Signals. The evolution, in order of succession, was 13 Corps Signals, 'W' Force Signals, Iraq Force Signals, 26 Corps Signals, I.E.F. (Indian Expeditionary Force) Signals and then 33 Corps Signals. After that, the unit had a brief existence as 12th Army Signals in Rangoon before disbandment in 1945.

The old war-time spirit of comradeship still burns bright in the hearts of many who belonged to one or more of these units. They have kept this spirit alive by the formation of an Association which continues to flourish and is likely to do so for many years to come.

At the Annual Reunion dinner held at the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, on 17th October, the following were present:

Harry Attwill, Ken Brown, Don Chapman, Doug Fraser, Bill Goodsir, John Green, C. Greenhalgh, Bill Hart, B. Jordan, Harry Jowett, Bob Knott, Bernard Lawrence, Wally Offord, D. Purser, G. O. (Joe) Reynolds, F. Ridgway, Reg Robinson, John Robinson, Gordon Robinson. Freddie Stewart, A. E. (Lofty) Taylor, T. C. Tellis, Fred Vince and J. E. Woodward.

After the dinner, as one can imagine, there was considerable talk about old times and old comrades. Some absent friends were already members of the Association but it was thought that there were many others who were unaware of its existence and who would join, and even come to dinner, if they knew about it.

The President is **Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Woodward, O.B.E.,** who commanded the unit at the time of disbandment. The Secretary is **K. H. (Ken) Brown,** and it is due to his hard work and unselfish enthusiasm that the long continuance of the Association is mainly due. He would be delighted to hear from anyone who has served in the units listed and who would like to become a member. His address is: 12 Bennett Road, Brighton, Sussex.

Ken Brown somehow also manages to find time to organise representation of the Association, and a special bar, at the Annual Burma Reunion held in the Albert Hall.

56 Years' Service

Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Price, M.B.E. retires

ON 17th December, 1970, **Lieutenant-Colonel George Redvers ('Ted or Kitna') Price, M.B.E.,** retired after 56 years, 147 days' service, at the age of 71. **Ted** joined as an R.E. Trumpeter in July, 1914. By 1917, he had grown enough and put on sufficient weight to qualify for man status. His early service in Royal Signals was with 2 Wireless Company at Sarafand. He became a W.O. while with 3rd Division in 1930.

On his arrival in India in 1933, he found that he always seemed to be stationed, on ceremonial parades, alongside the tallest Punjabi Musulman soldiers. He got down to learning Urdu and used it. When dressing his Battalion he called out 'bhaito.' He had intended to use a word for 'steady.' What he actually said meant 'sit down.' Fortunately the soldiers were too surprised to obey. The Indian ranks greatly liked him and called him 'Kitna' sahib. This was a pun, as 'Kitna' meant 'how much.' He was R.Q.M.S. of 'A' (Indian) Corps Signals and was R.S.M. of 2nd Indian Division when his five-year tour expired in 1938.

He returned to U.K. as Q.M. of 3rd Divisional Signals and accompanied the unit with the B.E.F. He pulled his weight, occasionally as Adjutant and sometimes as Second-in-Command. The Field Marshal, then G.O.C., noticed him and marked the occasion by giving him a public rocket. In 1940 he became Adjutant of No. 1 Holding Battalion until, in 1942, he became a major in the School of Signals.

He was GSO2 in Palestine from 1946 and he organised the move of No. 1 Wireless Regiment (now 9th Regiment) from Sarafand to Cyprus. He was again 'noticed' by the higher ranks, but this time he received the M.B.E. and two mentions in despatches.

It is on record that he 'retired' in 1954 but on the same day he became an R.O. As a member of the staff of C.S.O. Eastern Command he was known to every staff officer in every district headquarters in the Command. They all saw in him a person who could produce whatever was needed out of thin air, and loved doing it. In spite of working as hard as anyone he played golf equally hard. His shrewd advice on any matter concerning the Army or the Civil Service was valued by everyone. He never flapped and always laughed. He knew the way round or through every regulation and should have been on the other side.

On reaching the age of 65 he was retired as an R.O., and the Editor of THE WIRE put it in print that he did not believe it. He was right, **Ted** accepted the offer of a temporary permanent staff job in the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment



Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Price, M.B.E. and Mrs. Price

as Adjutant. In 1966 he moved on to GSO1, Headquarters Special Communications, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, from which appointment he now retires at the age of 71. He is in good form, having recovered from a recent major operation and has remarried. In his long service **Ted** has been a boy soldier, adult soldier, Warrant Officer Class II and Class I, regular officer, R.O., T.A. officer and T.A.V.R. officer, and could paper a fair-sized room with his parchments.

Ted has many friends in all arms of the service and all will join in wishing him and **Mrs. Price** a happy life in their retirement.

COLONEL R. A. CHELL, T.D., APPOINTED A.D.C. TO H.M. THE QUEEN

News has been received that **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D.,** Deputy Commander, 12 Signal Group (V), has been appointed A.D.C. (T. & A.V.R.) to H.M. The Queen.

Colonel Chell was commisisoned into Royal Signals in 1942 and saw war service in the Sudan. He joined the Territorial Army in 1947 and commanded 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment from April, 1964, to March, 1967. He was appointed Deputy Commander, 12 Signal Group (V), in April, 1967, which appointment has recently been extended to March, 1972.

TRAINING BRIGADE UPGRADING COURSES, FEBRUARY, 1971

Serial	Course	Class	Assembles	Disperses
1/61	Technician Radio	II-I	23 Feb.	28 Oct.
1/31	Technician R R	II-1	2 Feb.	23 Sep.
1/83	Radio Operator	II-1	9 Feb.	23 Apr.
1/52	Comcen Operator	II-1	2 Feb.	7 May
1/42	Driver R Signals	II-1	9 Feb.	23 Apr.
1/53	Lineman	II-1	2 Feb.	8 Jul.
2/49	Technician T E	III-II	9 Feb.	29 Jul.
2/39	Technician R R	III-II	23 Feb.	29 Jul.
2/03	Radio Relayman	III-11	9 Feb.	8 Apr.

25th BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

The 25th meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association has been fixed for 10.30 a.m., Saturday, 17th April, 1971, at the usual venue, 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V), near Hammersmith underground station. This date coincides with the annual Indian Signals Dinner at the Duke of York's H.Q., the same evening.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November, 1970:

	£	s.	d.
Officer Commanding 59th (West Lancashire) Signal Squadron (V)	3	10	0
Officer Commanding 11th Signal Regiment (Collection box) ...		5	0
Colonel T. M. Niven (balance of funds of the 1st Lanarkshire Volunteers' Benevolent Fund	72	0	0
F. C. Wilson, Esq.	5	16	0
Major P. Krell for Major A. H. Laing, RTR	5	5	0
F. G. Key, Esq.	3	16	0
Major C. J. A. Chapman	2	16	0
J. H. A. (Boots) Potter, Esq.	2	2	0
Captain E. J. Brooks	1	16	0
Major G. A. Stanley, D.C.M.	1	5	0
Major J. K. Heyes	1	0	0
F. Veness, Esq.	1	0	0
J. D. Smethurst Esq.		18	0
Major M. McG. Simmonds		16	0
G. B. Hollings, Esq.		15	0
J. Milburn, Esq.		11	0
G. D. Webster, Esq.		10	0
Lieutenant E. M. Short		10	0
Various individual donations	1	6	6
	£105	17	6

Special Mention

Ten Corps Canoeists awarded or re-awarded Army Colours for 1970

These awards were announced at the Army Canoe Union Executive Committee meeting recently and the Colours will be presented at the annual general meeting to be held in the New Year. The ten are: **Lieutenant M. E. Harrison,** Royal Signals, new award; present unit, School of Signals. **Sergeant M. A. Brett,** re-award; present unit, 8th Signal Regiment. **Sergeant J. Cornforth,** new award; present unit, A.O.B.S., Towyn, Merionithshire. **Corporal M. J. Bull,** re-award; present unit, School of Signals. **Corporal V. E. Bingham,** new award; present unit, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment. **Lance-Corporal R. G. Story,** re-award; present unit, School of Signals. **Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink,** re-award; present unit, School of Signals. **Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow,** re-award; present unit, School of Signals. **Lance-Corporal A. Robinson,** re-award; present unit, 30th Signal Regiment. **Lance-Corporal S. H. W. Hebdon,** new award; present unit, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment.

40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V)

For a remarkable performance in the T.A.V.R. Non-Central Full Bore Shooting Matches for 1970. This competition is open to all T.A.V.R. units country-wide and the results below were achieved in direct competition with Infantry, Parachute and other units.

Match 1(a) **The Lord Wakefield Match**
(Deliberate 500, Fire and Movement, Rapid, Snap)

1st	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"A" Team	395
2nd	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"B" Team	352

Match 1(b) **High Sheriff's Challenge Shield**
(as for Match 1(a))

1st	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"A" Team	423
2nd	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"B" Team	402
3rd	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"C" Team	378

Match 1(c) **Queen's Westminster Challenge Cup**
(as for Match 1(a))

1st	Lt.-Col. D. Hall—40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)		133
2nd	Cpl. R. Shanks	"	113
3rd	S Sgt. B. Darrah	"	90

Match 3 **The Machine Gun Cup**

1st	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) (Capt. D. MacKinnon Cpl. A. Duly)		39

Match 4 **The Simpson Challenge Cup**
(Team of 6 Riflemen and 2 LM Gunners)

1st	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"A" Team	313
2nd	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"B" Team	281
3rd	"B" Coy. 15th Bn. Para. Regiment 1 Section		256

Prizes presented for first 12 teams.

Match 8 **The Grand Slam**
Aggregate of Matches 1a and 1b
Winners of the Kolar Cup—
40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)

(*Continued overleaf*)

Match 9	**SMG Competition**		
1st	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"B" Team	877
2nd	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)	"A" Team	837
Match 10	**Pistol Team Match**		
1st	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)		
	Lt.-Col. D. Hall		173
	Cpl. W. Temple		163
			336
2nd	40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)		
	Lt. B. G. Patterson		144
	Capt. D. Mackinnon		156
			300

(It's a good thing they are on our side!—Editor).

Movements

Officers

Major A. R. J. Ainsworth	To	7th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.	,,	H.Q. 3 Signal Group (Colonel)
Major A. B. Byng	,,	229 Signal Squadron
Major D. B. Carnie, M.B.E.	,,	School of Signals (Lt.-Col.)
Captain M. J. C. Cartwright	,,	4 Gds. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Captain A. S. Cheal	,,	H.Q.L.F., Gulf
Lieutenant G. Davies	,,	8th Regiment
Captain M. S. Davies	,,	School of Signals
Major P. R. Davies	,,	1 Arty. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Second-Lieutenant R. A. Dickson	,,	11th Regiment (retires)
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Evans, M.C.	,,	H.Q. South East District
Captain R. Finister	,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant J. H. Fisher	,,	School of Signals (course)
Captain G. O. Fulton	,,	226 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant R. A. J. Gardner	,,	School of Signals (course)
Lieutenant D. G. W. Gardiner	,,	2 Queens
Lieutenant F. J. Garrod	,,	School of Signals (course)
Lieutenant C. B. Greig	,,	28th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) C. B. Hesketh	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (retires)
Captain D. R. Hodges	,,	School of Signals
Lieutenant P. T. Innocent	,,	45 A.Y.T.
Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.	,,	11 Sig. Group (V) as Brigadier
Major S. J. Lockett	,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre	,,	School of Signals (attached)
Captain M. J. McCann	,,	16th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Millo	,,	B.A.S. Washington as Colonel
Major (Tfc.) F. W. Moseley	,,	11th Regiment (HS) retiring
Major (Tfc.) F. W. Natolie	,,	10th Regiment
Major W. J. Pritchard	,,	R.C.B., Westbury
Major G. C. A. Ridley	,,	R.A.C. Centre as Lt.-Col.
Major F. St. C. Robinson	,,	10th Regiment
Major H. S. de V. Rogers	,,	2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major J. A. P. Russell	,,	J.S.S.C., Latimer (course)
Lieutenant I. M. G. Strong	,,	16th/5th Lancers
Lieutenant J. F. Stuart	,,	School of Signals (course)
Major J. H. S. Weston	,,	H.Q. 1 Signal Group
Captain (T.O.T.) A. Whittington	,,	224 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant F. P. Wilkinson	,,	1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major A. M. Willcox	,,	Staff College, Quetta.
Captain (T.O.T.) A. Williams	,,	10th Regiment

W.Os and Sergeants

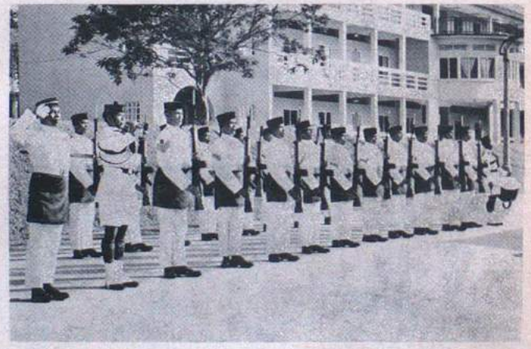
W.O.I (F. of S.) E. Holland	To	30th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) E. P. Mahoney	,,	223 Squadron
W.O.II (Y. of S.) P. C. Gray	,,	22nd Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) V. G. Kelly	,,	4th Division Signal Regiment
W.O.II J. W. Gray	,,	39th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.II (Y. of S.) L. J. Kelly	,,	222 Squadron
W.O.II W. W. Easter	,,	Army Appren. College, Harrogate
W.O.II L. V. Stoneham	,,	229 Squadron
W.O.II F. R. Gardner	,,	11th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.II T. B. Cooper	,,	13th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) W. F. Graham	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. F. Brindle	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Sugden	,,	19th Regiment (Gan Island)
Staff Sergeant H. Holdsnorth	,,	224 Squadron
Staff Sergeant E. L. Bates	,,	8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. T. Casey	,,	9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. R. Hague	,,	9th Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant J. B. Bartlett	,,	63 S.A.S. Signal Squadron (V)
Sergeant J. D. Waterston	,,	30th Regiment (for 621 Troop)
Staff Sergeant O. Duffy	,,	Scarborough Signal Training Centre
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) M. J. Smith	,,	4th Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. Maidment	,,	Army Works Study Group
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) M. J. Boland	,,	216 Parachute Squadron
Sergeant D. M. Elkerton	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant R. Scriven	,,	Army Appren. College, Harrogate
Sergeant I. Dolby	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant P. Scriven	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant B. J. Lloyd	,,	11th Regiment, Depot Sqn.
Sergeant P. D. Shawyer	,,	225 Squadron
Sergeant G. A. Wilson	,,	10th Regiment
Sergeant D. E. P. Rock	,,	10th Regiment
Sergeant B. Moyle	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant F. E. Worrall	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant J. Murphy	,,	261 Squadron
Sergeant J. R. Longstaff	,,	Army Appren. College, Harrogate
Sergeant M. J. Abson	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant G. H. Moloney	,,	19th Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. S. Mason	,,	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron
Sergeant A. Russell	,,	H.Q., SHAPE
Sergeant G. W. Walker	,,	261 Squadron
Sergeant F. Black	,,	36th Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. F. Chapman	,,	31st Regiment
Sergeant J. Conway	,,	3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Strange	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant T. L. Pigg	,,	Central Volunteer Headquarters and Training Wing
Sergeant G. J. Ditchburn	,,	24th Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant H. Creedy	,,	6th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant K. C. Purnell	,,	2nd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. E. Clarke	,,	2nd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Mawson	,,	Army Appren. College, Harrogate
Sergeant E. Birchall	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant T. W. MacDonald	,,	602 Troop
Sergeant J. Lee	,,	1st Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. H. Leslie	,,	1st Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant F. J. Meek	,,	19th Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. W. Hornby	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant A. Brighton	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant P. K. Heavey	,,	3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Phair	,,	224 Squadron
A/Sergeant N. D. Illman	,,	Army Appren. College Harrogate
A/Sergeant J. P. Shergold	,,	8th Regiment
A/Sergeant J. Bonnett	,,	11th Regiment

KEEP US IN THE PICTURE

With several thousand individual subscribers 'The Wire' cannot hope to keep up with postings, changes in rank, decorations awarded. If you are going to be posted or promoted or have something new to add after your name drop us a card so that we can address your 'Wire' properly. Thank you.

Letters to the Editor

British Army LEP (Malaysia/Singapore) Benevolent Fund



Smart, hardworking and outstandingly loyal . . . These are the qualities of the men which this appeal hopes to help.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, 18th Regiment, writes:

I am writing to you as the Royal Signals member of the committee set up to raise money for the above fund.

There are many members of the Corps who have served with locally enlisted soldiers here in Singapore and Malaysia since the war. They will remember these happy, hardworking men of many races who have served the Corps so loyally. I therefore ask for space in THE WIRE to give publicity to the fund and appeal for the generous support of all individuals who feel they can do so. For those not so lucky to have served in this part of the world, I enclose a photograph which amply shows the quality of men we are trying to help.

The fund has been set up to help ex-Service Locally Enlisted Personnel (LEP) of the British Army who were recruited from Malaysia and Singapore. This includes large numbers who have served or are still serving in the Royal Signals, all of whom will be made redundant by the end of 1971. The Corps in Singapore has therefore taken a leading part in starting this scheme, and so far, $20,000 (£3,000) has been raised by 18th and 19th Regiments as our initial contribution to the local effort. Other Corps with Locally Enlisted Soldiers are similarly contributing, and the overall target is $300,000 (£40,000). After 1971, the fund will be administered by the Staff of the new British Headquarters to be established in Singapore. Grants will be made to deserving cases after investigation on similar lines to the Army Benevolent Fund at home.

Any serving or former member of the Corps who feels able to contribute to this deserving cause should send his/her donation to me at the following address:—

Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E., R Signals,
18th Signal Regiment,
c/o G.P.O. Singapore.

Cheques or Postal Drafts (in any currency) should be made out to the Central Bank, 18th Signal Regiment, and crossed 'LEP Benevolent Fund.' All donations, however large or small, will be personally acknowledged by me.

P.S.—If anyone has any reminiscences about their service in LEP Units, we would be interested to have them for historical records.

Salute to an R.S.M.

Sir,

I often read of the movements of personnel in the regular units and how they will be missed for the impact they have had on the persons with whom they work. Well, I would like to let you know of a Regular R.S.M. who has certainly made his mark on the Volunteer Regiment he serves with and also on the civvies in the Royal Signals Association whom he has helped so much. It's not every Regular R.S.M.'s cup of tea to be posted to a T.A.V.R. Unit but he came to the 38th Signal Regiment T.A.V.R. and took us all in his stride. He impresses his vitality and personality on everyone in the regiment. He took one look at the dismal wooden building used as a W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess and decided it just would not do. So, taking the word 'Volunteer' very seriously, he did some cajoling, arm-twisting, skullduggery, plus sheer personality and example and he converted this building into a Mess which would do credit to any regiment in the country. The Sheffield Branch were invited to use the Mess as soon as it was completed. To the R.S.M. I would say, this place to us will always be known as R.S.M. P. W. Johnson's creation and that his personality got the volunteers from his senior N.C.Os to make it all possible. The Association salutes you, Sir!

F. Powell, Hon. Secretary,
Royal Signals Association (Sheffield Branch)

102, Richmond Park Crescent,
Sheffield, S13 8HG.

This is a particularly good example of the assistance afforded by some of our T.A.V.R. and Regular units to local or nearby Branches of the Association. For this the Association is most grateful.—Editor.

Kranji Military Cemetery

Sir,

The other day I was in Kranji Military Cemetery and was most impressed by its lay-out and beauty, and the high standard to which it is maintained by the War Graves Commission.

In walking around the graves, I noticed a number which were those of members of our Corps who died in this theatre during and since the last war.

It occurred to me that the relatives of some of these men might be interested in having news of the condition of the graves and even a photograph of a particular grave as it is today.

I, therefore, had a list drawn up of all Signallers buried in Kranji, which I am attaching to this letter. If you agree and think it is a reasonable idea, I was wondering whether you would consider publishing this list in THE WIRE, explaining what it is and saying that if any relatives care to write to me direct, I will do my best to supply details and send a photograph of the grave concerned to them.

I leave the matter entirely at your discretion but as this is the time of year when our minds do turn to those who fell in the last conflict, it might be appropriate.

Yours, etc.,
D. A. Polley (Colonel).

Headquarters, 5 Signal Group,
c/o G.P.O. Singapore.

List of Royal Signals personnel buried at Kranji War Cemetery

Rank	*Name*	*Rank*	*Name*
Lance/Sergeant	Arnott, J.	Sergeant	Lyon, J.
Signalman	Arundale, J. S.	Signalman	Marshall, C. J.
Captain	Barlow, R. G.	Signalman	Manson, A. W.
Lance-Corporal	Barton, W.	Signalman	Martindale, J. L.
Signalman	Bennett, S. E.	Signalman	Meadows, S.
W.O.II (CSM)	Bennington, L.	Signalman	Miles, R.
Signalman	Billsborough, V. E.	Signalman	Nairn, H.
2/Lieutenant	Brown, S.	Signalman	Pagdin, C.
Lance-Corporal	Burnell, S. C.	Sergeant	Paton, F. R.
Signalman	Cawthray, J.	Signalman	Patrick, C.
Signalman	Charlish, A. W. L	Signalman	Pentreath, G. H.
Signalman	Clark, A. C. B.	Lieutenant	Peters, N. S.
Signalman	Clemson, H.	Signalman	Peters, S.
Lance-Corporal	Coathupe, C. S.	Signalman	Picksley, W. W.
Signalman	Conley, J.	Signalman	Queen, T.
Driver	Driver, C. W.	Lance-Corporal	Ramsden, A. J.
Sergeant	Farrow, H. W.	Signalman	Ratcliffe, F. P.
Signalman	Finch, F. J.	Signalman	Raymish, D.
Driver	Forrest, W. S.	Lance-Corporal	Roderick, C. W.
Signalman	Fotheringham, R.	Lance-Sergeant	Salter, H. B.
Signalman	Foxon, D.	Driver	Saunders, C. T.
Signalman	Fraser, A.	Signalman	Smoothy, J.
Corporal	Gausden, A. P.	Signalman	Swaits, J. A.
Lance-Sergeant	George, C.	Signalman	Taff, F.
Lieutenant	Harvey, C. E.	Lance-Corporal	Talbot, W. A. J.
Driver	Hebb, F. W.	W.O.II (CSM)	Taylor, T.
Signalman	Horton, A.	Driver	Terry, J.
Lieutenant	Howard, J. M.	Signalman	Titmuss, F. J.
Signalman	Humphreys, H. R.	Driver	Triggs, F. W.
Sergeant	Hunt, G. L.	Driver	Van Looy, J. C. A.
Signalman	Inglis, H.	Signalman	Waller, R.
Signalman	Jamieson, P. W.	Driver	Waters, H.
C.Q.M.S.	Jones, W.	Driver	Wilson, G. C.
Signalman	Kay, J.	Signalman	Yarrington, G. T. W.
C.Q.M.S.	Lawrenson, G.		

20,000 Limbless Ex-Service Men await a word from you



A word of encouragement and a token of help—needed, now, by British Ex-Service men who have sacrificed a full life. Many of them are completely unable to help themselves. Money is urgently needed to help these men conquer their handicap—money to equip and maintain homes in which they can be given convalescence, or care and comfort in their old age. BLESMA is not aided by the State. Will you help?

Another way you can help. Do you know any British Ex-Service man or woman who has lost a limb and would benefit from specialist help and advice? Let BLESMA know.

Donations and information:
Major the Earl of Ancaster, T.D., Chairman of Appeal (S.6)
Midland Bank Ltd., 60, West Smithfield, London, E.C.1.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

(Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act 1948 and, as a charity, under the Charities Act 1960.)

SUMMING UP ON JORDAN

Mission accomplished. The various Corps detachments have now all returned to base from Jordan. We publish below some further reports that recently came in on this highly successful operation.

Report from Headquarters 3 Signal Group

'Do not adjust your mind. There is a temporary fault in reality'

DISPLAYED in the Operations Room at the British Field Hospital in Amman, this seemed an apt caption for a force of R.A.M.C., Q.A.R.A.N.C. and Royal Signals, disguised in cooks' shirts, NAAFI sweaters and miscellaneous trousers as Red Cross 'medical assistants' and 'technicians,' deployed in Jordan on an urgent life-saving mission after the recent inter-command fighting there.

'Ferrieforce,,' named after its Commander, **Colonel Ferrie,** R.A.M.C., arrived in Cyprus on 21st/22nd September, was deployed to Jordan on 30th September, returned to Cyprus on 1st/2nd November and, after a well-earned rest, flew back to the U.K. on 4th/5th November.

Designed to establish a 50-bed Field Hospital, supported by a Field Surgical Team, dental surgeon and ambulances, the force treated over 650 patients and performed more than 240 operations.

Rear link communications were provided by a 'short' SR D13/R234 detachment, supplied by 14th Signal Regiment and commanded by **Captain Tim Hallchurch,** who became 'Ferrieforce' Signals Officer. A local radio net was provided



Commander 3rd Signal Group (NEARELF), Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E., chats to members of the D13 detachment on their return from Jordan. Captain T. T. Hallchurch, Ferrieforce Signals Officer, is on the extreme left

and operated by **Lieutenant Chris Grant** and SR A13 HP detachments from 30th Signal Regiment. Two FFR Land Rover detachments, fitted with SR C11/R210 and commanded by **Sergeant Mike Banks,** came from 262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus) to give communications mobility. Also from Cyprus came a 40/160 line exchange, telephones and field cable to give the force a telephone system.

This was a British Forces Near East mounted operation and communications responsibility was vested in the Joint Signal Board (Near East), chaired by Commander 3rd Signal Group, **Colonel David Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** during the critical phases. Also fairly heavily involved was the SO 2 (Ops/Tels), **Major Charles Galbraith,** who was fortunate enough to be able to visit the force in Amman.

The communications provided were a credit to the Corps. The D13 once again proved its reliability, having no technical problems whatsover. One unexplained at the time outage of a few minutes, due to 'local interference,' turned out to have been caused by an 'adopted' child up-patient twiddling the wrong knob. Security!

The A13s and C11s proved especially valuable as no other field hospital had taken either ambulances or communications. As a result 'Ferrieforce' supplied a radio-ambulance service with stations at H.Q. International Red Cross, Amman Airport and the British, Danish, German, Palestinian Red Crescent and Swiss hospitals.

In Amman the force lived in fairly primitive and heavily restricted conditions. Moments of danger were many and certain individuals will be able to dine out for several months on their experiences. Officials of the International Red Cross and members of the medical teams had nothing but praise for the reliability of the communications provided and for the versatility and know-how of the Royal Signallers who provided them.

Well done 'the professionals.'

Report from Astrafiya Hospital, Amman

By Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Gunter and Lance-Corporal 'Dixie' Dixon, of 1 (Operations) Squadron, 30th Regiment

On 15th October we joined our intrepid crew commander, **Corporal 'Dixie' Dickson,** at the now famous Astrafiya Hospital in Amman. This particular hospital was situated in the centre of guerilla-held territory, and being run by a team of Danish doctors and nurses—with whom we soon acquainted ourselves (nurses first, of course).

Our radio kit consisted of one A13 (HP) working back to the King Hussein Hospital and six other out-stations. An end-fed antenna on the roof of the hospital was quite adequate for the purpose. We were completely self-contained, being re-supplied every day from control with all necessities such as beer, cigarettes and mail! We acquired the nickname of 'Front Line Boys' owing to our numerous shooting reports, although the nearest **'Dixie' Dickson** came to the front line was when he suffered from a case a 'Astrafiya runs,' and ended up with two penicillin jabs in an unmentionable part of his body, from a 'beautiful' Palestinian nurse. The expression on his face was one of pure terror, and shall always remain in our thoughts. **Lance-Corporal 'Dixie' Dixon** also suffered a similar attack, but was fortunately spared the penicillin jabs.

Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Gunter, being Welsh and used to the rigours of a hard life, managed to survive, and kept the station working (when he wasn't sunbathing).

Owing to the activities of the Fedayeen troops around the hospital we were almost permanently indoors. Venturing bravely to the roof of the hospital only once, we were soon to be sent scurrying back inside by machine-gun fire about 30 yards away. Life was made bearable by the likeable Danish chief, **Dr. Hansen,** who always had a remedial supply of beer on tap. The days were marked off on our 'chuff chart,' each one beginning with a cup of thick black liquid (which **Corporal 'Dixie' Dickson** had the temerity to call tea), and ended the same. We would like to point out that life at Astrafiya was not as rough as it sounds, but a combination of confinement and compo it wasn't exactly Butlins. Our reliefs, **(Mr.) 'Paddy' Fox** and **Signalman (Aberdeen forever) McLennan,** arrived on 22nd October, and your writers departed to the greener pastures at Red Cross H.Q. P.S. **'Dixie' Dickson** has now recovered, but still bears the scars—to be seen only by **Mrs. Dickson!**

A JOB WELL DONE

The following signal was sent to all concerned in the mounting and execution of Operation 'Shoveller.'

"Operation 'Shoveller.' First, From Chief of Defence Staff on behalf of the Secretary of State and Chiefs of Staff, congratulations to everyone concerned on initiative, skill and hard

(*Continued on page 9*)

(*Continued from page 8*)

work which made the whole operation a success under very difficult circumstances.

"Second. General Officer Commanding Army Strategic Command wishes to add his thanks and warmest congratulations to all who took part in Operation 'Shoveller' or helped in its mounting and support. Thanks to good team work the operation was most successful and brought great credit to the Army. His thanks also go to our Royal Air Force friends whose skill and efficiency made the operation possible."

Report from the German Hospital, Jordan

The following account, written by **Lance-Corporal Ted Gough,** indicates so well the spirit of service and co-operation shown by all members of the Corps during their humanitarian work in Jordan. Their country could not have been served by better ambassadors than these young soldiers.

"After establishing our base at the King Hussein Hospital, along with the remainder of the British team, detachments were then sent to other national hospitals. Among these was the detachment that went to the German hospital; it consisted of **Corporal John Collins, Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Holverson** and myself.

The German team had established themselves two days previously in a school at Wadi-es-Seer, just outside Amman. and comprised, at that time, of five doctors, four nurses and three technical personnel. They were still in the process of setting up 'shop,' but, as yet, were not open for 'business.'

Our three operators were very warmly welcomed, and after setting up their A13 radio station, were soon helping the Germans whenever they could. **Corporal John Collins** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Holverson** fully proved their worth by assisting with the installation of the lighting and power, whilst I helped to assemble the anaesthetist's equipment, which looked harder than in fact it was.

Shortly after this, the first patients started to arrive, and everybody was involved in their own jobs during that first hectic day. Due to the British team having the only ambulances, requests had to be passed through the A13 circuit, which kept all of us very busy and on our toes.

After about two weeks, four out of the five doctors had to return to Germany to continue with either their studies or practices. Their replacements arrived the following day, via Beirut; they consisted of four doctors, one of whom was an eye specialist, three nurses, and two more technical personnel, as well as an administrative officer. At about this time we were also joined by three French sisters from the Catholic religious order 'Caritas.' One came from their local headquarters in Lebanon, whilst the other two came from 'Soeurs Franciscaines De Marie' in Beirut.

Throughout the whole operation, the detachment was accepted by the German team as part of the 'fami'y,' and were very loathe to say goodbye when the operation finished. As a result, since their return, they have received letters of thanks, and invitations to stay with members of the German team if they ever go to Germany."

FOR TELEVISION — RENT OR BUY
LATEST MODELS

D. & G. MANSELL

6, FINKLE STREET,
RICHMOND, YORKS. Tel. 2024.

Also all Domestic Electrical Appliances

Our Record Dept. contains the largest selection of records in the district, also sheet music and musical instruments.

252 Signal Squadron Tackle a Community Relations Project and . . .

The lights are now shining brightly in remote Tai a Chau

252 Signal Squadron recently undertook a community relations project, technically supervised by **Captain (T.O.T.) F. C. Williams,** to install an electrical supply for the inhabitants of the small remote island of Tai A Chau. The island is just within the Crown Colony—we hope—as the border with Communist China we are told runs parallel to the beach.

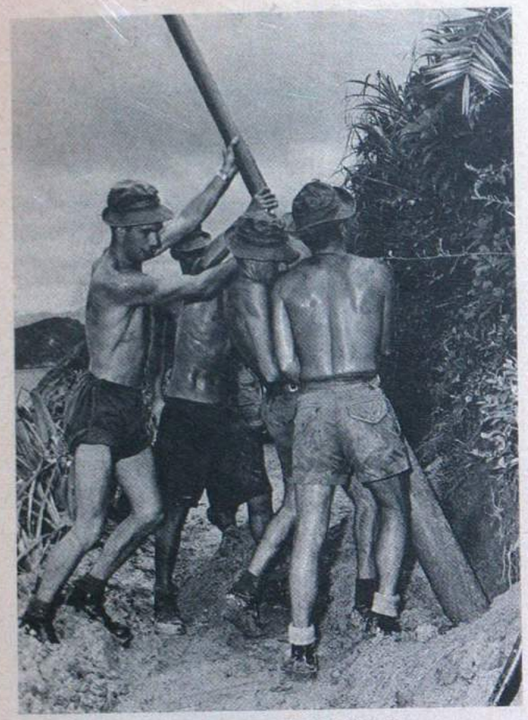
The technical and administrative preparation ranged from the ordering and collecting of technical stores, and by both fair means and foul the procurement of all the administrative backing required to house 30 men on a remote island under canvas for one month.

Finally, however, on 1st September the landing craft arrived at Lyemun Slipway, and the task of ferrying stores and equipment through the chaotic streets of Hong Kong, to the comparative peace and quiet of Lyemun Camp began. It was all too soon realised that our estimate of eight tons of stores—on paper—was vastly different to the eventual tonnage loaded on the ship before she sailed. Sail she did though, and after an early uneventful start on 2nd September the landing craft beached at Tai A Chau.

The task of unloading and setting up camp was supervised with minimum force and maximum voice by **S.S.M. McMahon;** after a few hours it rather looked as if the Army had been there for years, tea constantly being brewed and the whole operation supervised—as always—by the local children.



SOME CORPS EXPERTISE ON THE ISLAND OF TAI A CHAU
Sergeant Mackintosh and Corporal Parker of the Corps efficiently and quickly get on with the job in hand



A BIT OF BEEF NEEDED HERE?
Sergeant Holmes, Sergeant Mackintosh, Corporal Dunn and Corporal Parker of 252 Signal Squadron hard at work on Tia a Chau island during the Squadron's project to install an electrical supply to the island

On 3rd September the installation work began in earnest, 17 houses, one school and a water-pump house were to be wired for electricity and the path connecting two communities fitted with street lighting. Digging holes into almost solid rock, with the temperature in the eighties and the humidity in the nineties, was extremely exhausting work. Plenty of wholesome food—compo—San Miguel beer and early nights put everyone in good shape for the next day's work.

Each Tuesday saw the changeover of personnel and the comparative luxury of 200 gallons of water, often supplemented by helicopter lifts to ensure an adequate supply. The locals have a well, which is not quite up to normal hygiene standards, and the water itself is in rather short supply.

The rather arduous conditions, clean sea air and sunshine ensured that everyone returned refreshed and suntanned at the end of their week on the island.

The final phase of the project was the air lift by a Royal Navy Wessex helicopter of a 10k.w. diesel generator to supply the power.

The switching-on ceremony by **Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott, M.C.,** Commander 51st Infantry Brigade, on Friday, 6th November, was watched by a large crowd, including members of the Squadron, their wives and children, who had all braved a two-and-a-half-hour journey in a landing craft to witness the ceremony.

Finally, it is interesting to note that reports from district officers and the Marine Police have shown a significant improvement in the normally taciturn relations with the island's population.

A Communications Exercise in the Bahamas

And men of 'E' Troop 14th Signal Regiment get in some soldiering 1971 style

THIS eight-week exercise recently took place in New Providence, or more commonly known as Nassau which is the capital of the Bahamian Commonwealth.

The Troop was deployed at fairly short notice and we were airlifted—as befits our role—by courtesy of the Royal Air Force Support Command. Chalk One (the first aircraft load to the unitiated) got away bang on time. Within five minutes of take-off the bridge school had started, with **W.O.I F. of S.) Reg Banham** and **Sergeant Jim Armstrong** striving to regain their losses from **Corporals 'Taff' White** and **Paul Strugnell.**

Story to 'The Wire' by O.C. 'E' Troop, Lieutenant Chris Dakin

On schedule, and after a night's stop in Gander, Newfoundland, the Hercules landed at Windsor Airport, Nassau. The two other chalks were not so lucky, having their flights delayed for nearly two days. At least, they were in U.K. and not subject to the rigours of topless nightlife in bleak Gander.

On arrival I, and **W.O.I Banham,** had to go off and draw the administrative transport for the exercise. These vehicles—brand new 1970 automatic drive Ford Cortinas—suited the Troop very well (though soon there was adverse comment about the lack of a radio in each). On our return to the airport we found that the plane, under the supervision of the RAF, and assisted by **Staff Sergeant (Burly Bob) Paterson,** had been unloaded. Off we then went to Oakes Field, the main sports centre in Nassau; a rather run-down racing circuit containing swamp, a rugby pitch and a baseball diamond, which had been allocated as our exercise location.

The Troop flag was flying bravely

Soon the Troop flag was flying bravely from a pole attached to a goal post and 'E' Troop camp was established. Neatly at first, and then less so when the local rugby team asked us to move; nevertheless, this was home for the time being.

Very quickly things were sorted out and 'Percy's Caff' (owned and operated by **Lance-Corporal Percy Johnson,** A.C.C., ably assisted by **Private Ken Shaw**) was soon in full swing, providing a wide variety of food from compo to curry, not forgetting the rum-flavoured ice-cream.

It rained . . . and rained

For the first 10 days it rained . . . how it rained. Those who know the rains of the Far East have little to boast compared with Nassau. Floods swamped the tents, violent tropical storms that would have dismantled the camp on several occasions, had it not been for the sandbags weighting us down. However, don't be misled, for the majority of the time the Bahamas lived up to their reputation as the playground of the rich—rich being the operative word.

A word about the place would not perhaps be amiss, for people who have not been so lucky as to sample the pleasures it offers. Nassau, 200 miles east of Florida, is a picturesque town located on the island of New Providence and is blessed with good weather. It rains spasmodically for but a few weeks of the year, and is prone to hurricanes about once in 30 years. Swimming is the cheapest form of entertainment, and was the most popular, especially when a pint of beer costs nearly ten shillings!

Off to Miami

Two enterprising members, **Sergeant Jim (Peace) Burns** and **Corporal 'Nick' Hughes,** braved the rigours of the U.S. Customs searching and flew across to Miami, where amongst other things they paid their respects to 'Flipper.' Others, notably **Corporal Dave Tankard, Lance-Corporal 'Wombat' Williamson,** R.E.M.E., **Corporals Strugnell** and **White,** indulged in some fishing, with a marked lack of success. Visits to Paradise Island, which boasts the largest casino in the world



SOLDIERING '71 STYLE
The members of an E21 detachment off duty in Nassau are Lance-Corporals "Wombat" Williamson, "Porky" Lord, Bill Cook and Dave Marland

as well as beaches that put those of Malaya to shame, and a three-hour catamaran trip, complete with calypso group, helped while away off-duty time.

Green Turtle stew!

At the end of the month, whether we liked it or not, we had to move into an air-conditioned hotel, the Royal Victoria. This hotel, right in the middle of town, boasts the best tropical gardens in the Bahamas, a fair-sized swimming pool and plenty of American tourists who thought British soldiers were 'just too cute.' To make matters worse because the hotel kitchen was out of order we had to eat in a nightclub, on the main street, called 'Dirty Dicks,' complete with fire dancers, limbo artists and the inevitable calypso group. Soft lights and sweet music are fine in the evening, but not at breakfast! Here we were subject to such delights as green turtle stew and boiled garouper. However, we did get drinks on the house on some occasions.

On 13th November the main party of 20 departed, leaving behind a saddened group consisting of **Sergeant Phil Vince, Corporal Tankard, Corporal Bob Moffat, Lance-Corporals Dave Marland, 'Luigi' Cook** and **Signalman Ted Shimmin,** to bring the radio station home by other means later.

Washington—and in bed watching television

Meanwhile, back on the Eastern Airline Whisper jet taking us to Baltimore we were enjoying a pleasant flight. Three hours after leaving Nassau we were in our hotel rooms on 12th and K Street, Washington, in bed, watching colour television! A burst of sightseeing took place as members rushed to view the White House, Capitol, Washington Monument and Adult Films.

Eventually we boarded our coach and drove out to Dulles Field to catch the RAF VC-10 home by way of Montreal. Arriving at Brize Norton on a cold early November morning we were met by sympathetic Customs and a coach to take us to Worcester—a journey made just bearable by a bottle of Bacardi. Exercise 'Vulcan' was over and was already becoming a pleasant memory and topic of conversation.

☆ ☆ 'Ton-up' Corporal ☆ ☆

19th Signal Regiment (Air Support) is pleased to submit the following article written by Corporal P. J. Ascough, of Microwave Troop. As you will read, he has gone it alone in what is very much an individual sport and, greatly to his credit, achieved no small measure of success.

It was in July, 1969, that I began motor cycle racing by entering a 350 c.c. AJS in a local scramble held at Colombo



Corporal Ascough at speed

Camp; once I had gained some experience I started being placed, and even had the occasional win.

In November of last year I decided to have a go at road racing and entered my road machine, a 500 c.c. Triumph, in the Dunlop-sponsored Gap Hill Climb. Although I didn't gain a place in the unlimited class, I did to my surprise win the 500 c.c. class. The following week I crashed while scrambling and spent a while in B.M.H. with an injured back and was told "no racing for three months."

During my compulsory lay-off I saved for a new road racing machine and another scrambler to replace my badly bent AJS. After a careful search of the dealers I bought a 350 c.c. BSA Gold Star of 1956 vintage for road racing; it was rather old but very reliable and reasonably fast. As a replacement for my scrambler I obtained a 500 c.c. Triumph which although rather heavy proved to be good exercise trying to make it go where I wanted instead of where it wanted!

First taste of real road racing

My first taste of real road racing was at a Clubman's Meeting at Kuala Lumpur at the end of February, 1970. To my surprise I won the scratch event and, after having to start last, managed a second in the handicap race. The following month was a repetition of the last meeting and qualified me for my F.I.M. licence to allow me to enter the Singapore Grand Prix at the end of March.

After a very wet ride I finished third in the Clubman's event but in the actual GP my luck and petrol ran out from a fractured petrol pipe when in eighth position. The next weekend in the Selangor Grand Prix my failing was over-enthusiasm and I slid off at a bend, thus proving the theory that it is more comfortable to sit on the machine than on the road! Luckily I was unhurt but the controls were too bent for me to carry on.

Success—unlimited

By June a 250 c.c. Yamaha had replaced my 500 c.c. Triumph and this I entered in the 250 c.c. class in a Dunlop Hill Climb gaining third place. In the same event on my BSA I came first in the 250 c.c. class and third in the unlimited class. By this time the BSA was getting a bit tired and so it was rebored and fitted with a new piston; this brought it up to 354 c.c. which meant it was now in the 500 c.c. class. My first ride in this new class was the Rothman's-sponsored Thompson Road Sprint held on the back section of the GP circuit; this time I won the 500 c.c. and unlimited class events.

In September came the Malay Grand Prix and in the 500 c.c. class, after the New Zealander **Geoff Perry** on a works Suzuki retired, I won the event. In the actual Grand Prix mechanical trouble put me well down the field.

Some 'firsts' and the fastest time of the day

The most recent event, another Dunlop-sponsored Gap Hill Climb, was one of my most successful meetings with firsts in the 250 c.c., 500 c.c. and unlimited classes plus the fastest time of the day award.

Between times were entries in various scramble events in Singapore with several wins and placings. I also competed in the Malaysian Grass Track Championships at Ipoh and in the first four rounds obtained two firsts, five seconds and one third place. Unfortunately duty and transport difficulties prevented me competing in the final.

Forty trophies now in the bag

In my new sport I have so far won 40 trophies in various events. I carry out all my own maintenance and tuning but the major related problems are expense and transport for my machines and spares. As one improves so the sport becomes more expensive but nonetheless is well worth while. As regards transport I have found a solution with the BAMCA which will reduce the drain on my pocket.

A trip to Korea

By Lieutenant John Stuart

A D13 detachment from 'B' Troop, including many of the old faithfuls, such as **Signalman Les Harrison, Lance-Corporal 'Stew' Hawey, Corporal Terry Williams, Corporal 'Geordie' Snaith** and **Corporal Pat Garrigan,** a CII detachment from 'A' Troop, ably led by **Corporal Johnny Weightman** and **Y. of S. Bill Donnelly,** with two Commcen Operators from 'O' Troop were attached to Commonwealth Liaison Mission H.Q. UNC to take part in an exercise in Korea, in the latter half of October. The detachment was required to produce rear link communication to Hong Kong.

Lost key—red face

Prior to going on the exercise, detachment drills were polished up and every item of kit carefully checked. So important was it that nothing should be left behind that **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Thornber** checked the loading of **Signalman 'Griff' Griffin's** line hamper item by item, down to the last jointing sleeve, and then, after putting a padlock on the hamper, insisted that he should keep the key, lest any item should wander out of it. Unfortunately, on arrival in Korea, it was found that the F. of S. had lost the key!

Two C130s were tasked to transport the detachment to Korea, but, as expected—we were flying R.A.F.—the outward journey was not uneventful.

Tangling with a flock of birds

The C130, carrying chalk two, took off from R.A.F. Changi on its second attempt, the first having been a complete failure because of running into a flock of birds during take-off. Shortly after take-off, the R.A.F. enquired whether we had any equipment on board that could possibly be putting their main compasses out of alignment. We were not the cause of the trouble, but feeling sure they had an old ship's sextant aboard for emergencies such as this, we were not in the least worried. Next the undercarriage became faulty, but by now we were ready for anything, and no one was particularly concerned when we made an unscheduled landing at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, with all the doors and emergency hatches open.

150 dollars for your S.M.G.!

We spent two days on the base waiting for the C130 to be repaired, and throughout our stay, the whole detachment was well looked after. For some of the detachment it was a first introduction to the Americans, and their different customs, but we were all amazed at the airman who offered **Lance-Corporal McAllister** $150 for his SMG whilst he was on guard duty. Needless to say, he didn't accept!

The X Factor

Eventually both chalks met up at Taegu, Korea; more, I feel, by chance than design, and the detachment was deployed in a large U.S. Camp. In our profession, we talk happily about the X factor, but the full meaning was pushed home when we were erecting the transmit antennae on a golf course under a constant hail of golf balls. The receive site was on the edge of a fairway, which was probably worse than being in the centre, because a good slice would send a ball flying into our



INTERNATIONAL GET-TOGETHER

Left to right: Driver Tay (Korea), Corporal Terry Williams (U.K.), Special Operator Konstanz (U.S.A.) and Lance-Corporal Bill Allan (U.K.)

midst. The receive antennae were placed on an American football pitch, and whenever a game was due to be played, the antennae legs had to be moved, jeopardizing communications. It was felt that communications could be improved in future if the golfers managed to cure their slice, and if the American footballers took up ten-pin bowling.

The C11 detachment was the most fortunate, in that it was required to establish a couple of links from the area of Seoul to Taegu. This gave **Corporal Johnny Weightman** and **Lance-Corporals Bill Allan, Bill Lovatt** and **'Wilki' Wilkinson** a good opportunity to see a fair bit of Korea. The others were somewhat confined to the camp area throughout the exercise, but most people did manage to get into the town. One could say that the American influence had spoilt Taegu, but on the other hand, it did mean that there were a lot of facilities which the detachment made use of, and when off duty, few were at a loose end.

Ancient temples

The CLM, realising that we had seen so little of Koreans and so much of the Americans that some of the detachment might at a later date doubt that they ever went to Korea, took the detachment to see some ancient temples. This took place just before we returned to Singapore, and was a pleasant conclusion to the exercise, much appreciated by the detachment.

The final surprise came when both C130s made it from Taegu to Changi in one hop, but perhaps it should be added that one of the aircraft spent an unscheduled two days on the airfield in Korea being prepared for this long haul.

Next year we hope to take four C130s with us—and a fully-trained golf coach!

☆ Munich has its moments ☆

A technical report from Tropospheric Scatter Troop, 28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)

Initiation

THERE has been an eight-month delay in forming the Troop due to equipment delays, for one reason or another. However, on 19th October the Troop was officially formed as part of 1 Squadron, commanded by **Major Derek Copeland,** in order to prepare for a three-week course in Munich during November.

The course was at Siemens to instruct the technicians on the multiplex equipment that we hope to receive in January. The party finally comprised half the Troop, namely:

Lieutenant Mike Martin, F. of S. Gordon Nickson, Sergeants Vic Selby, 'Mac' McMahon, Jack Ayre, Mick Everett, Corporals 'Kayser' Bond, 'Taff' Llewellyn, 'Scouse' Jackson, 'Boon' Gibson, 'St. George' (story later) Davies, 'Capp' Bowler, Lance-Corporal Pete Shepherd and Signalman 'Blackers' Blackman. Some well-intentioned person had remembered that the Munich Beer Fest was in October, hence our visit in November.



TROPO SCATTER COURSE IN MUNICH

Students derived much value from this advanced technical course as the photographer indicates. Applying themselves particularly hard in the Platzl study centre were *left to right:* Lance-Corporal Pete Shepherd, Corporal "St. George" Davies and Sergeant Mick Everett

First impressions

We based ourselves in a small hotel and soon settled in. By evening everyone had changed ready to sample Munich. The best of first impressions must be the girls.

A group in Munich is termed an 'Aggregate of Amazons' in comparison with the 'Pride of Pygmies' found in Krefeld. The city is ravaged by preparation for the 1972 Olympic Games. Everywhere cranes and diggers are at work.

Eating out in Munich

As the hotel was purely bed and breakfast, one just had to go out to eat every evening. Comparisons soon began so a five-point rating system was devised, value for money being the most important consideration. Other factors received reward, e.g. comely waitresses (there were many), hot plates, a good band, attractive scenery (more amazons), a speedy service of beer (the Lowenbrau was pure nectar).

As for the wine it caused a new variation on an old music hall phrase, to be born, to the bemusement of one of the course. A Wine Queen had, he thought, been well 'chatted up' for a future dinner date; when ringing to check he spoke to the husband as follows:

Q. "Who was that Wine Queen you were with last night?"
A. "That was no Wine Queen that's my WIFE!"

The wines were tasted and appreciated, as were the beers, especially at the house of 101 beers. This lived up to its reputation but we could not manage a 100% sample so maintained our faith in Lowenbrau. Many restaurants were visited as well and a points guide is available on application.

A similar points system was developed for those who 'chatted up' the less pretty girls going from a one to a five-toed dragon. **Corporal (St. George) Davies** achieved highest points on the first evening and held off a strong challenge by **Sergeant Jack Ayre** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Shepherd** on the last evening by buying a dear old lady a red rose.

Places of interest

As everyone assimilated information concerning the equipment so readily there was time for the following very worthwhile visits:

At satellite communication station, which will be used for transmitting the 1972 Olympics world wide, as well as its other daily transmitting tasks.

The Olympic Tower on the site of the 1972 stadium containing a revolving restaurant. It is from this tower that communications will be transmitted to the satellite station.

The Elektronica 1970 exhibition spread over 20 large halls and providing a worthwhile day's visit.

The Deutsches Museum, which overshadows our Science Museum in Kensington and holds many fascinations for everyone. The high tension demonstration showing a spark jump five feet at one million volts was most impression.

The Siemens Exhibition. This demonstrated Siemens' many interests in control of traffic on roads or rail, the use of alarms, terminal equipments for communications, computers and their work with laser beams.

The Hofbrau Haus, famous as a beer hall and collecting place for one and all. Very popular with everyone.

The Platzl, a Bavarian theatre where we were taken for an excellent dinner and show of Bavarian folk acts.

The Glockenspeil. This clock, above the Rat Haus, has figures which move in large galleries set below the clock. The dance they execute copies that done by barrel makers who celebrated the end of the plague. The figures are set so as to move only at 11.00 hours daily, so on our final morning we gathered with all the children to watch and I think enjoyed it more than the children.

Our home base

Tonis, our small bar/cafe only 200 metres from the hotel, became our home and many pleasant evenings were spent together in an atmosphere made more 'gemutlich' (cosy) by liquor as the night wore on. We presented a plaque to mark our stay, so in years to come a Corps plaque, hanging in an Italian restaurant in Munich may perhaps puzzle some traveller.

Souvenirs

What to take home for one's family is always a problem. It was made easier by Christmas time, for the shops were full of super toys so that in the evening the hotel became full of 'Dads' with electrically driven machines. If one wasn't picked up by a crane or run down by a racing car, you could be sure to be flattened by a motor roller. I wonder how many of the children will see those toys.

The course

Yes, we forgot to mention that—but details will bore everyone. Suffice to say that a good result was achieved by all!

P.S. Recommendation for breakfast in Munich—two lightly poached asprins.

London

Teleprinter Maintenance Technician

Teleprinter Maintenance Technicians required to work in Central London for our expanding Service Centre.

Applicants should hold a clean current UK driving licence, be resident within about 30 miles of central London and have good practical experience of 5-unit telegraph machines including maintenance, trouble shooting and installation work. They should also be experienced in the use of Test equipment such as TDMS and Oscilloscopes.

5-day week of 36 hours effective work earning a starting salary of £1325 per annum if aged 27 or over on career salary-scale providing for annual increases, with additional paid overtime. Also eligible for Special Allowance of £84 annually on completion of training. Telephone provided for standby duties. Luncheon Vouchers.

If you have suitable experience and are looking for secure pensionable employment in an expanding organisation write for application form giving brief details of experience, age and present salary to: Personnel Officer (Recruitment), Cable and Wireless Limited, Dept. A101/237, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1, or telephone 01-242 4433 Ext. 211.

Cable and Wireless
worldwide communications



B.20 HF SSB Station Radio

The B.20 is a very versatile all solid-state equipment. It can be used as a manpack or installed in vehicles and light aircraft.

The B.20 HF SSB Station Radio, which has an RF output of 30W p.e.p., represents an entirely new design concept. The transmitter-receiver weighs only 10 lb (4.5 kg), and a lightweight station including a 24W/h battery weighs only 15 lb (6.8 kg). The B.20 uses a fully synthesized frequency control system developed by Plessey specially for this equipment, and which provides 280,000 channels on the frequency range 2–29.99 MHz. SSB is the main mode of communication, but a.m. and c.w. facilities are also provided.

The B.20 will achieve reliable ground wave communications using 8 ft. (2.4m) whip antennae at ranges in excess of 30 miles (48.3 km). By using vehicle whip antennae distances in excess of 45 miles (72 km) are possible. Using sky wave, communication over 300 miles (480 km) is achieved.

The Plessey Company won the Queen's Award to Industry 1969 for the export achievements of its Electronics Group.

For further information and illustrated literature, please contact The Sales Manager, Defence Unit.

PLESSEY Electronics

The Plessey Company Limited,
Radio Systems Division,
Ilford, Essex, England
Telephone: Ilford 3040
Telex: 23166

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY

THIS term's Graduation Day was held on Wednesday, 9th December, clear blue skies and sparkling sunshine adding lustre to an already glittering occasion.

Commanding the 740 Apprentices on the parade was **A/T R.S.M. Derek Boyd,** of Belfast; "his confidence, bearing and deportment are an example to us all," commented the Reviewing Officer, **Air Marshal J. H. Hunter-Tod, C.B., O.B.E., M.A.,** Director-General of Engineering (R.A.F.).

In his address following graduation parade, the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** outlined the Air Marshal's distinguished career, adding that, through his close contact with the R.A.F. apprentices' establishments at Halton and Locking, the Reviewing Officer was well versed in "what goes on in the minds of Apprentice Tradesmen." **Colonel Clinch** went on to thank the Air Marshal for his "efforts to demolish our rather unsightly boiler-house chimney"—by means of a fly-past of four Provost jet aircraft from R.A.F. Leeming, which, with split-second precision, greeted the Reviewing Officer's arrival on the dais.

Speaking in his turn, **Air-Marshal Hunter-Tod** expressed himself "much honoured to be invited to join in this most important occasion." He considered himself something of a connoisseur of passing-out parades, and thought this one of the best he had seen, and a great credit to **R.S.M. Cunningham.** He congratulated all those who had won prizes; those who had not, he urged "pull your fingers out, it's a competitive world." He stressed the importance of maintaining good public relations so that civilians should realise that the Services are "not only necessary, but nice." Within the Services, he hoped that his audience would be "tolerant of the R.E.M.E. and R.A.F.; it's not their fault that they haven't had the advantage of going to Harrogate."

On the platform to present the Borough of Harrogate prizes was the Mayor, **Alderman Edwin Pickard,** who told a delightful story of a minister who went to take a service in another church. On arrival, he placed two half-crowns in the box. After the service, the Verger opened the box, took out the two coins and pressed them upon the Minister as a contribution towards his expenses. As they drove away, the Minister's daughter commented: "There you are, Daddy: if you'd put more in, you'd have got more out."

Main prizewinners this term were:

Commandant's Prize (for conduct, discipline and example): **A/T R.S.M. D. Boyd.**

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award (for the best all-round tradesman of the term): **A/T Lance-Corporal I. M. Urquhart.**

Colonel Commandant's Award (for the best all-round soldier/tradesman): **A/T Sergeant M. R. Buckley.**

Corps Committee Prizes (for the Apprentices who have made the best use of their opportunities at the College:

Technicians: **A/T Lance-Corporal D. F. McKay**
A/T Lance-Corporal I. M. Urquhart

Operators: **A/T Sergeant D. P. Gittoes**

Borough of Harrogate Prize (for the best essay on Local Government):

Technician: **A/T Sergeant B. G. Thompson**
Operator: **A/T M. P. Rowan**



[*Photo: Courtesy Mr. John Stockley*

GRADUATION DAY

The Reviewing Officer inspects members of the Senior Term. *On left:* A/T R.S.M. D. Boyd; *on right:* A/T Sergeant M. R. Buckley

The 'Blue Marlins' win Barracuda Trophy

The College's Sub-Aqua Club, now officially known as the 'Blue Marlins,' emerged as winners of the 'Norfed Windive' (Sub-Aqua) Meeting, held at Oldham on 14th-15th November. They were thus presented with the coveted Barracuda Trophy (the top sub-aqua award in the North of England) by **Rear-Admiral Sir Stanley Miles.**

A total of eleven teams entered, each of four members; of these, the two College teams were placed first and third. The outcome of the competition hinged on the bottle-sharing event, in which four divers must remain submerged, living on one air bottle and one demand valve. At the international event, held in the spring of this year, the winning team, from Holland, lasted 16 minutes, 14 seconds; on Sunday, 15th November, our young apprentices lasted 19 minutes, 50 seconds. We hope that before long Phillips Squadron's bed race will not be the only College entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

We should like it known that we owe our success to a remarkable piece of sportsmanship on the part of **Mr. Alan Davey,** President of the Harrogate Branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club. Hearing that the College had no air, he stayed up far into the night organising other clubs to come to our aid and lend us a couple of bottles. It was his own club that, through his efforts on our behalf, we beat into second place, and we are grateful to him for all his help.

To crown a highly-successful meeting, **Sergeant Steve Graham** came away with first prize in the underwater photography competition.

Team 'A': **Sergeant Hanrahan,** R.I.R., **Sergeant Greaves,** R.C.T., **A/T Corporal Travers** and **A/T Norfield** (captain).

Team 'B': **A/T Hagen, A/T Stewart, A/T Charlton, A/T Finch** (captain).

College rugby team to tour B.A.O.R.

For the first time in history, the College's rugby team is to go on tour. During the forthcoming Christmas leave, they are to play a series of matches against Regiments of the British Army stationed in B.A.O.R.

The programme, which involves their playing four matches in five days, is as follows: 16th December, depart by air from U.K.; 17th December, v. 4 RTR; 18th December, free; 19th December v. 39 Missile Regiment, R.A.; 20th December v.

4th Division Signal Regiment; 21st December, v. 1st Division Signal Regiment; 22nd December, return to U.K.

The side, which has an equal mixture of Permanent Staff and Apprentices, is captained by **Captain Peter Thomas,** R.A.E.C., a former Royal Navy and Combined Services player, and includes the Chaplain of the College, the **Rev. Peter** Clemett. Other 'tourists' are: **Captain I. D. Reading, Lieutenant G. J. Parker** (R.A.E.C.), **W.O.I J. D. Griffiths, W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. D. Price, Sergeant R. Harris, Sergeant D. M. Thomas, Sergeant M. R. Wringe, Corporal W. S. Balding, A/T Sergeant A. J. L. Kite, A/T Sergeant R. G. Crockart, A/T Corporal S. A. Graham, A/T Corporal B. G. Thompson, A/T G. M. Stockdale, A/T Lance-Corporal R. G. Hagan, A/T Lance-Corporal Sandford, A/T C. E. Abbott, A/T K. L. Glider, A/T A. M. Roberts, A/T M. K. Vincent.**

It is unfortunate for the club that they will lack the service of their regular hooker, **A/T Harry Elkan,** who, at the age of 17½, has been chosen to play for the Army against R.M.A., Sandhurst, on the very day that the College team leave for their tour.

Major Trevor Luscombe, M.B.E.

1st November saw the arrival at the College of **Major Trevor Luscombe, M.B.E.**—for the second time. He came to us originally in November, 1964, as the first Staff Quartermaster to be posted here, and saw the College all the way through its transition from a hutted camp to its present buildings. He retired from both College and Army in December, 1969; we now welcome him back as Assistant Adjutant, which makes College H.Q. very much a 'family' affair: his daughter, Lynda, is already well established as P.A. to the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch.**

Trevor Luscombe has had a long and distinguished Army career, in which he made his mark, not only as an able technician, but also as a rugger player, having twice played in the winning team at Army rugby finals.

He began his Army career as a boy, and now he ends it with boys. But as he says: "It is all very different now."

On 10th November, **Major Luscombe** went to Buckingham Palace to receive from Her Majesty the M.B.E., which he was awarded in this year's Birthday Honours List.



PALACE AWARD

Official Photograph following the Investiture at Buckingham Palace on 10th November, 1970. *Left to right:* Miss Lynda Luscombe, Major Trevor Luscombe, Mrs. Mary Luscombe, Mr. Anthony Luscombe

1st. Division Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 32

SINCE our last notes the Regiment has been busy with those annual rituals, P.R.E. inspections of vehicles and equipment, these having been preceded by the annual Fitness For Role Inspection on 6th November.

Over 108 years of long service and good conduct

Our photograph shows six Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s who were presented with their L.S. and G.C. medals by **Brigadier R. N. Ohlenschlager, M.B.E.** Observant readers will see that the A.P.T.C. were well represented on this occasion. Also a recipient but not in the photograph was our Second-in-Command, H.Q. Squadron, and P.R.I., **Lieutenant Jack Simpson,** Royal Signals.



SIX GOOD MEN AND TRUE!

Long service and good conduct medals were presented to: *Left to right:* Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. J. M. Peters, Royal Signals; Company-Sergeant D. W. Morgan, QRIH; W.O.II (AQMS) A. R. Basset, REME; W.O.II (Q.M.S. I) M. C. G. Henley, APTC; W.O.II R. A. J. Fullbrook, RAMC; W.O.II C. J. Andrews, APTC

Sport

Although busy with the foregoing activities sport has not been neglected. The rugby team, spurred on by their energetic captain, **Captain John Neeve,** has now reached the Divisional final of the Army Rugby Competition. They beat the Q.O.H. 16-0 and 3 RTR 24-10 in the first two rounds, and on 28th November they beat 39 Msl. Regiment, R.A., 26-6 to earn a place in the final against 26th Field Regiment, R.A., which is to be played on 12th December at Hohne. So far this season the team have an impressive record of winning 11 matches and losing one. The team has been considerably strengthened by **Sergeant Joseph,** R.E.M.E., and **Driver Chapman,** R.C.T. The Regimental soccer team, although currently top of the 1st Division crusader league, were beaten in the first round of the Army Cup by 26th Field Regiment, R.A., who are the Divisional finalists.

The hockey team is again in good form this year and has reached the Divisional semi-final of the Army Cup, having beaten 21st Engineer Regiment 4-0 and 4th Field Regiment, R.A., 5-0. Sitting very firmly at the top of the Soltau Garrison league, the team has the impressive record of having played eight and won six with two drawn. Goals for are 24, with only two against. Two of the team were selected to play for B.A.O.R. during their recent tour of Berlin, **Corporal Mick Raybould,** Royal Signals, and **Corporal Harry Kernohan,** Royal Signals.

(*Continued on page* 17)

(*Continued from page* 16)

The team gave a farewell party to their captain of the last two seasons, **W.O.I Peter Field,** R.A.O.C., who has now departed on commissioning. **Sergeants 'Rip' Monk** and **Ted Banham** have represented Royal Signals B.A.O.R.

Those being the major sports, Inter-Squadron sport is now gaining momentum and soccer, hockey and basketball are all being contested.

Regimental activities

Many of the Regimental clubs whose activities have been somewhat restricted due to the heavy programme of exercises and P.R.E. inspections are now becoming more active, new ideas and plans for the winter season abound, persons who may be posted to 1st Regiment have a wide choice. Archery, .22 shooting, fencing, badminton, basketball, judo and squash provide for the indoor sportsman. There are clubs covering model car racing, chess, amateur dramatics, philately, caravan owners, motor sports, amateur radio and photography. The 'folk singing' club, recently formed, meets weekly and now has a membership of about 30. A new innovation is a Regimental 'Schnell Imbiss' (quick snacks), which utilising our newly made Officers' Mess kitchen trailer sells brockwurst, bratwurst and fish and chips, providing a much-needed late-night refreshment service.

The ski-ing season is just around the corner and after a year's absence we are again entering teams in the Divisional championships. The team is now down in Bavaria and training hard (we hope). This year we are running our own 'Snow Queen' scheme and so some 60 soldiers should before the next exercise season begins obtain the benefit of a fortnight sun and snow.

Stop Press: In the Division Final played on 12th December we beat 26th Field Regiment, R.A., 3-0. Full report next time.

2nd Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 46

Anglo-German relations

BEING a small station, we spend a good deal of time cultivating our relations with the local German Stadt. At this time, our relationship is perhaps better than it has ever been. Recently, during an annual Anglo-German cocktail party, the Commanding Officer presented the Stadt Bünde with a leather-bound copy of 'Through to 1970.'

The Corporals' Club obviously improved their standing in the community by inviting the local fire brigades to their most recent dance.



PRESENTATION

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Yeoman (*left*) hands over a presentation copy of "Through to 1970" to Herr Siegfried Moning, Burgermeister, Stadt Bunde

Visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief

We were very pleased to welcome **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** and **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** to the Regiment on the morning of 18th November. Fortunately the sun broke from the clouds just as they arrived and we were able to show the General the more important aspects of the Regiment. He also met as many people as he could possibly cope with in such a short time. We certainly enjoyed his visit and we hope he found us in 'good heart.'

R.S.O.s' Convention

The 12th November saw 2nd Division R.S.O.s' Convention. The convention was opened by the G.O.C., 2nd Division, **Major-General H. R. S. Pain, M.C.** His opening words were "when I was a Regimental Signal Officer," these words obviously had a salutary effect on the audience, as most of them sat up in their seats. **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E.,** C.C.R. Signals, was the opening speaker. All the audience were obviously impressed with what he said, as they continually asked detailed questions on what is going to happen on the VHF nets in the Corps area. One thing is sure, all VHF nets are going to improve this year. **Brigadier Sherratt's** opening address was followed by presentations on CLANSMAN, ground-to-air communications, German panzer battalion communications and the 'Party Line' from the School of Infantry. The convention ended with a dinner night—breakfast, the following morning, was a very quiet meal.

Sports

Rugby.—On Friday, 4th December, we beat 10th Regiment, R.C.T., 9—3 in the final of the 2nd Division Cup. It was very much a forwards' game. R.C.T. tried to open the game, but lost as a result of dropping the ball, and some excellent tackling by our threequarters. Needless to say, the weather was foul.

We are also leading the 2nd Division League at this moment, with games in hand. We look forward to March, 1971, when we play the 4th Division finalists.

Boxing.—We unfortunately lost in the 2nd Division final against 1 K.O.S.B., 14—18, against a very experienced team. Three of our team were novices, and the result of their bouts were obviously forecast.

Ski-ing.—Again this year we are opening a 'Snow Queen' hut. Unfortunately, we have lost last year's very successful team and will have to start from scratch. We will therefore only be able to enter in the Nordic events.

We have just received a 500-metre artificial langlauf track, which means we will be able to train our ski teams all the year round from now on.

Farewell to C.R.A.

16th December sees the farewell visit of the C.R.A. and Garrison Commander, **Brigadier Desmond Mangham.** He has always shown a very close and helpful interest in the Regiment and we wish him well at the I.D.C.

3rd. Division Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

Unfortunately our notes arrived on the editor's desk too late for publication in the last issue, and these notes cover October and November.

Exercise 'Crystal Palace'—October 1970

The beginning of the month found the regiment in its second home, i.e., on Salisbury Plain involved in Exercise 'Crystal Palace.' The exercise was so successful that messages were coming in from B.A.O.R. (this was a U.K. only exercise) asking where they should send troops to combat the enemy invading the south of England. Still, you can't win them all. The only other crisis arose when a certain senior officer wanted to use the 'loo.' The last we heard was of a young Captain hurtling over the plain at a high rate of knots with a toilet seat under one arm and an 'elsan' under the other. Rumour has it he also had a chit for 28 'extras' in his left pocket.

Orienteering

This sport is becoming increasingly popular in the Army, so we decided to have an inter-troop competition. **Lieutenant John Pattison** was given the organising problems. The course was set near the village of Bramshaw in the New Forest. As one can imagine, the Forest in autumn looks very beautiful but it is very doubtful if the competitors thought about it.

The competitors, numbering about sixty, were all novices and generally found the course rather difficult but, surprisingly, all managed to find their way home. First man home was **Corporal McMahon** of 1 Squadron, closely followed by **Second-Lieutenant Paul Holden,** who was heard to gasp, "I had to keep him in sight otherwise I'd have been lost." We hope for better luck next time. Our congratulations go to A3 Troop, 2 Squadron, who took the team prize. The event was so successful another is to be run in November.

Fovant Badges

As the majority of readers know, many regiments have their cap badges cut into the chalk hillsides at Fovant. The C.O. decided it was about time that the Corps badge should be one of them. The task was given to 1 Squadron and **Lieutenant Pattison** and his merry band went off into the blue to literally put the Corps on the map. Work is progressing well as we go to press, and we hope to be able to inform you of its completion in the next issue.

Tartan Badger

Once again the walls of the Tartan Badger Club bulged at the seams as the monthly dance got under way. These dances are extremely popular, especially with the local population. We may not get many recruits from them but they certainly lead to better relationships between Service and civilians. Our thanks go to **Corporal Bob Hutchinson** and his committee for their enthusiasm and efforts. Rumour has it they think they made a profit.

Sergeants' Mess

The highlight of the month was the Autumn Ball. Approximately 180 members and guests attended and a truly excellent time was had by all. The Mess sends its thanks to **W.O.II Colin Johnson** who sent a gift of a pair of Dutch sabots for the R.S.M. He duly did a clog dance to earn them, to the merriment of all. The only problem was the clogs were probably made for **W.O.II Johnson** and were therefore about six inches too big for the Tara, but he managed; they know now he is not just a pretty face. Special thanks must go to **W.O.II Jeff Baxter, A.C.C.,** and his staff for a really magnificent 'spread.'

November, 1970

November saw us preparing for the annual event of burning poor old 'Guy Fawkes' on the fifth. This went off well, and the frequent accompaniment of ooo's and ah's from the children told us they thought so too.

Talking of 'Guys,' our Second-in-Command, **Major Guy Rogers,** was busy organising some detachments of this and other regiments, into film stars, making a recruiting film. I'm told there's no truth in the rumour that the NAAFI sales of hair cream and after shave trebled, or that the Second-in-Command's office window was being continually being passed with prominent side profiles. We're all waiting now to see the results of hours of waiting for twenty-second shots.

2 Squadron reorganised Alpha Troop, but this happens so often we're quite used to it. **Captain Roy Lund,** our T.O.T., with a party from the regiment, attended The First second mates course sponsored by the R.S.Y.C. on the Solent in mid November. Apart from getting wet, inside and out, they all enjoyed it immensely.

Our vehicles are all in the throes of being painted in the new matt finish. O.C. 1 Squadron reckons COMMCEN will certainly disappear now; he's off on a selling visit to Iran at the moment. Funny how these things happen just prior to the festive season. Mine's a double, please. Let's hope he's successful in his salesmanship.

We received two visitors this month. The first was **Major Kazern Shayesteh** from Iran. He spent 10 days with us, and we hope he was impressed with what he saw. Then **Major General E. Gralka,** the Assistant C. of S. Communications and Electronics SHAPE. We set up the complete communication system around Carter Barracks, and even had some detachments from the U.K. M.L.F. present, which was the first time he had ever met them, although as he said, he's had dealings with them for quite some time. We also had the new 'Range Rover' there for him to see, and I'm sure he was most disappointed that time did not allow him the opportunity to drive it.

We were most sorry that at the eleventh hour the visit of **Mr. Ian Gilmore, M.P.,** the Under Secretary of State for the Army, was cancelled due to bad weather. His timetable did not allow him to come to us by any other means than helicopter.

We ended the month of November with exercise 'Staff Ride III,' which was, for a change, off the Plain. The first location was in a barracks even older than Carter, but not as well preserved, we've glad to say.

It was during this exercise that we heard the very sad news of the death of Sergeant Tony Vallance. He was buried at Tidworth Military Cemetery on Tuesday, 1st December, with full Military Honours, and we offer our very deepest sympathies to his widow and two boys.

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

THIS November has been laughingly described as 'a quiet month' by one who should know better. What he really meant, of course, was that it has not been a month for banner headlines, as everyone has been dashing about madly catching up on all the things there was not time to do in the preceding months.

There was the grand bonfire and firework display on the 5th, when **Leutenant Dick Stokes** and hs Fearless Fire Picquets managed to preserve the surrounding German houses from incineration—aided, they must admit, by torrents of rain.

There was Exercise 'Quick Train,' too, to keep us on our toes. Incidentally, our Q.M. (Accommodation), **Major Alec Ayrton,** has been heard to complain that this is the first Regiment he has ever met which wears out its D.M.S. boots at the toes instead of the heels. This is, of course, particularly puzzling to a Household Cavalryman like himself.

But I digress. The 'Quick Train' alarm went at 16.55 hours, which was rough on those who had slipped off home a little early—but of course we don't have many of that sort.

The alarm also coincided with the arrival of **Colonel J. N. Burrell,** the AAG of AGII. We did our best to persuade him that we always wear combat kit and webbing when receiving visitors.

Courses

Among the other diversions in our quiet month there was a Crashing of Courses (or whatever the collective noun for courses is).

It might have been a particularly suitable word, as one course was for drivers. In fact, our M.T.O., **Captain Bill Greene,** managed to train them without mishap. Perhaps it is his R.C.T. cap badge that makes his students pay more heed than usual.

No less than three MPC 2 and 3 courses have passed out in four weeks, qualifying 56 soldiers, and 15 more are on another course now. The best students were **Lance-Corporals Mel Geach** and **David Blakemore,** of 3 Squadron, and **Lance-Corporal John Dunford,** of 1 Squadron.

Arrivals and departures

So many changes have taken place, or are about to, that it is pretty hard to keep up with them all. **Major Bob Bedford,** R.A.P.C., has joined us as Unit Paymaster, and **Captain Mike Greenstreet** has replaced **Captain Ron Bird** as O.C. L.A.D. We are about to lose **Major David Dudley** and **Captain Gerry Funnell** to Staff College, and **Captain Ian Hamilton** to the School of Signals. **Lieutenant Peter Bonser** has just arrived from 9th Signal Regiment, and **Second-Lieutenants Chris Harper** and **Willie Brewin** from their 'Q' course.



M.P.C. 2 and 3 COURSE RUN BY 1 SQUADRON

Back row, left to right: Signalman Higgins, Signalman Seago, Signalman Whittle, Driver Lomas, Driver Sutton, Signalman Park, Signalman Brown
Centre row, left to right: Driver Yemm, Signalman Robbins, Signalman Curran, Signalman Blair, Signalman Jones, Signalman Johnson, Signalman Harbidge, Signalman McCourt
Front row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Cairns, Lance-Corporal Wilby, Corporal G. Brook, Sergeant F. Stacy, 2/Lieutenant I. D. Bingham, W.O.II D. J. Loome, Lance-Corporal Dunford, Lance-Corporal Butler, Signalman Bostock

We are also about to lose our gallant R.M.O., **Captain Cledwyn Lewis,** R.A.M.C., who is somehow getting himself dragged away to that well-known punishment station, Gibraltar. (How do they do it?).

Corporal Parker ransacks the NAAFI

Corporal Mike Parker, Tech. T.E. of 3 Squadron, stepped into the limelight the other day by winning a ticket in the 'Ransack the NAAFI' competition. He competed against one lady in the Herford NAAFI grocery shop, plus unknown numbers in other NAAFIs. The general idea is that you are given a sack, and when the whistle blows you have 10 minutes in which to grab as much stuff as you can, until your sack is filled. Being a crafty sort of chap, our hero filled his sack in a mere four minutes, and chose to change his goods for a credit note of the same value (112 Deutschmarks), thus pleasing **Mrs. Parker** who would no doubt have chosen a completely different selection. (We only have intelligent soldiers in Royal Signals, as you know).

We are now waiting with bated breath to learn if he actually won the competition — in which case they give him a free NAAFI Girl or something. WATCH THIS SPACE. (Yes, **Mrs. Parker,** of course he'll change her for a credit note, too).

The social whirl

The main social event seems to have been the 1 Squadron darts match. One expects 'Shiny One' to set the pace in this as in other fields—and my dear EVERYONE was there.

To quote the Squadron scribe, it was "A Quadrangular Competition, with an Officers' team, S.N.C.O.s' team, J.N.C.O.s' team, and Signalmen's team. In the middle of the match the wives and girl friends picked a team and were included in the knock-out, only to be knocked out by the Officers (most ungentlemanly)." Talk about the permissive society.

Anyhow, having managed to beat the ladies and then the S.N.C.O.s (who obviously cannot have been trying—they have this THING about discipline) they were finally humbled by the sheer professionalism of the J.N.C.O.s—**Corporals 'Free-Flight' Rocket** and **'Bull's-Eye' Sloan,** with **Lance-Corporal 'Off-Line' McLaughlin.**

The exercise that wasn't

'Forefront' was the name of our great intended FTX, between a British and a German Brigade, with H.Q. 4 Division as control. Readers familiar with the fun-life of B.A.O.R. will instantly recognise that this meant the building of a small city of tents with an elaborate 'One-off' communications system of a sort never intended by the creators of 'Bruin.'

The weather gave us time to do all the hard work before it turned sour—so sour that eventually the whole thing was cancelled. Otherwise armoured vehicles would have done enormous damage to the German farms in the area.

In the hope that the ground might harden at the last moment the final order for cancellation was delayed for several days, during which time we wondered whether we would be washed away, blown away or quietly sunk without trace. The waiting period produced some interesting pastimes at the relay site.

Arrival and departures

Major Mike Hartnett, our Second-in-Command, left us early in October, and was replaced by **Major Mike O'Connor**—if one can replace a leading player and trainer of the hockey team, an above-average sailor and squash player and one who seemed to know everybody's name by heart. He had been with us for four years in all, and will be sadly missed.

Also departed are **Major Bernard Hodgson** and **Lieutenants 'Rommel' Armstrong,** of AFV 432 fame, and **Graham Thomas,** the latter a mainstay of the Folk Club among his various accomplishments.

Positively Stop-Press

A correspondent reports breathlessly that the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Stonham,** aided by the Adjutant, **Captain Lance** and **R.S.M. Hill,** have been stirring things again. Mild panic ensues, until I am assured it was only the Christmas pudding, which is apparently expected to be as good as ever.

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Military Radio for example.

M.E.L. specialise in the production of Military telecommunications equipment, their principal contribution lying in the H.F. range with special emphasis on mobile and transportable tactical equipment.

Currently produced sets such as the C11, C11(SSB), and radio telegraph adaptor equipment are in constant use in many countries throughout the world.

M.E.L. are also actively engaged in developing a wide range of military radio equipment for use in the '70s and '80s . . . one such equipment is the UK VRC-321 H.F. Combat Radio, being developed for future use by the British Army.

This equipment is designed specifically for tactical roles, in combat and signals vehicles, and for transportable command stations for forward and rear units.

M.E.L. leadership in Military Electronics also extends to Opto-Electronics, Radar and Radar Interception equipment.

M E L The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.



M.E.L. Mobile H.F. Radio is widely used for British and Foreign Military applications and is incorporated in many combat and support vehicles, including the Saladin, Ferret, Saracen and Grenadier.

7th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 15

NOVEMBER has been a busy month, in spite of very few exercises. The S.O.-in-C., **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** who was on a visit to B.A.O.R., came to a very pleasant buffet supper in the Cfficers' Mess on 17th November. The following afternoon he watched the Regimental XV beat 27th Medium Regiment R.A., to reach the third round of the B.A.O.R. competition. The A.A.G., A.G.II, **Colonel J. N. Burrell,** also visited Herford on the 24th.

Sailing

Although the season finished a month ago it was an over-modest omission not to mention our final flourish.

In our B.A.O.R. inter-unit semi-final, sailed on the Mohne See on 18th September, we met 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment. There was very little wind and our opposition were without their team captain, **Major Mike Hartnett;** so we reached the final. The final was held on the Dummer See on 21st September against 32 Engineer Regiment, hence there were many high-ranking Sapper and Signals supporters at the Club that day!

After weeks of sailing with no wind, a breeze came up and our opposition, who had been practising hard with little or no breezes, were handicapped. The first race was won by **Major Chris Story** with **Lance-Corporal Ross Parrotte** second. Our team captain, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bill Kitchen,** had been 'covered' by the opposition until he brilliantly had his cover disqualified. The points now stood at 7¼ for, and against us. After an excellent lunch we took to the water for the second race where we took positions 2, 3 and 4, so winning by a total of 16¼ points against 25¾ points.

The Corps Commander presented the prizes — individual engraved pewter beer mugs and a very large shield for the Regimental display cabinet. Of course our victory would not have been possible without the crew members of the team: **Captain (T.O.T.) Jim Nixson, Lance-Corporal 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **Lance-Corporal 'Stroudel' Perkins.**

Exercise 'Spear Star I'

The annual Regimental Safe Driving Competition was held on 19th and 20th November. It is now called Spear Star after the founder and organiser of the first two such events, **Major Ian Spear.** The competition is basically along standard rallying lines, with 'herringbones' and 'tulips' to confuse the uninitiated, and a driving skills event to end the fun. Forty-four vehicles were entered for the 400-mile, 30-hour event, crewed by about 110 members of the Regiment. This year, as in the two previous years, the winning team came from 4 Squadron. **Sergeant Ken King, Corporal Harry Bishop** and **Signalman 'Snowy' Snow,** although in the winning team, were thwarted in their attempts to achieve the overall winners' hat-trick by team colleagues **Captain Paul White, Corporal 'Plonk' Turner** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Allport. W.O.II (Y. of S.) Bob Coole, Corporal Brian Beers** and **Signalman 'Ginge' Tate,** the 4 Squadron professionals and undisputed winners by their own calculations, obviously went to different maths classes than the organisers, but finished a well-deserved joint second. Many reasons have been voiced for this monopoly, not the least by **W.O.II (Y. of S.) 'Pathfinder' Gurr,** of 2 Squadron, who claims that his vehicle was sabotaged and others who claim that the leading vehicle (naturally from 4 Squadron) purloined certain critical clues on the Club 8 section! The real reason, bias from a 4 Squadron writer apart, is sheer map-reading ability! **Corporal 'Grotty Watty' Watson, Lance-Corporal 'Cad' Cadwallader** and **Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Dale,** also of 4 Squadron, were the first individual entry home, and **Signalman Peter Haddock,** of 2 Squadron, won the skills section.

Thanks and congratulations are due to **Lieutenant John Finch** and **Sergeant John Davies** who organised the event so well, and to **Sergeant Kevin Cheetham,** 1 Squadron, who arrived at the night stop 2½ hours early and was heard to mutter, "I must have made a mistake somewhere!" The stories are many and varied but the obvious enjoyment of all those who took part is a credit to the hard work of the organisers.

Rugby—Dutch National Side beaten

The Regiment has now played and won three rounds of the 4 Division Section of the Army Cup, beating 1 R.H.A., 13/18 Hussars and 27 Medium Regiment, R.A. We are shortly to meet 24 Missile Regiment in the semi-final, the winners then meeting either 8th Regiment, R.C.T., or 1 Welsh Guards in the final on 12th December.

On 18th November the club spent the annual weekend in The Hague. As usual, the weekend was a complete success. We played the Impalas, the Dutch national side, and won 8-5.

Very soon, we anticipate the frost closing in on us which as usual prevents any games being played before the end of January.

Tailpiece obituary

It is with regret that we announce the death of Dog-Corporal Boot who was adopted by 4 Squadron on its transfer from Lippstadt. His presence will be sadly missed by 'Alpha' Troop with whom he spent the last four years.

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Visit of Representative Colonel Commandant

ON Thursday, 29th October, the Regiment was honoured by a visit by **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.**

On arrival, **General Price** inspected the Quarterguard formed from the M.P.T. Course then running in the Regiment.

After talking to members of the Guard, he was escorted on a tour. During his walk-round, in glorious sunshine, the **General** showed a particular interest in the junior ranks' dining hall, where **W.O.II Fred Prendergast** showed him why his dining hall produced the best food on the island.

At midday 'no-side' was called and **General Price,** with the accompanying party, retired to the Sergeants' Mess where he presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **W.O.I (F. of S.) John Walke, Sergeant Raymond Glew** and **Corporal Norman Short,** the latter two both being members of our Royal Air Force element.

After the presentation, the **General** stayed for a drink with the medallists and their wives before leaving. **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Bill Smith** ensured that the awards were well and truly wetted.

In the evening the **General** was guest of honour for dinner in the Officers' Mess for the dining-out of our T.O.T., **Captain A. Whittington.**



. . . AND THIS LITTLE CUPBOARD WAS PRACTICALLY BARE
Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., C.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant has a smile for the Wire photographer during his visit to R.A.F. Akrotiri. With him in the picture from *left to right:* Signalman Pitt, Lance-Corporal Campbell, Signalman Morton and Corporal Thorburn seem amused at what the General found in this 'little cupboard'

CYPHER VACANCIES

Government Communications Headquarters

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,253.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Applications with full details of qualifications to:

Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone : Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

UK or European posting?

Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen : forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.

Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* WI
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*
Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*
Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS

Opportunity knocks

The last occasion we highlighted the son of a senior N.C.O., it was to report that the son of the previous S.S.M. 1 Squadron had joined the Corps.

This is not quite what **Stephen Cosser,** son of **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Ray Cosser,** has in mind—he's going to be a DJ. He has already been 'doing his thing' on B.F.B.S. in his own programme 'Poppergander.' During term-time he posts his material on tape from U.K.

Dhekelia Dash

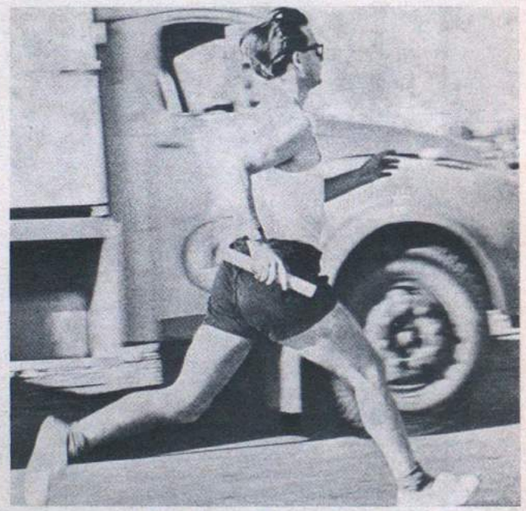
The annual 'Dhekelia Dash' was held on Saturday, 24th October, starting from Ayios Nikolaos and finishing at the Ordnance Depot, Dhekelia—a distance of some 18 miles. The event is open to all Ordnance Depot personnel and minor units, with major units being guests.

The first leg was 440 yards and the remaining distance was divided into one-mile relays. Fielding a full team of 16 runners from all Corps, including such famous athletes as O.C. 2 Squadron **Major R. S. Mansfield,** Royal Signals, **Sergeant Malcolm Smith, Lance-Corporal Ian Daniels** and **Signalmen Arthur Weaver** and **George Poulter,** victory was certain.

In fact, after the first leg we gained a lead on King Richard's School which seesawed for the next six miles.

At the finish 9th Signal Regiment were indeed the victors with King Richard School second. 48 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., finished third.

As we were only guests, and eligible only for the guest prize, 48 Command Workshops were declared outright winners and received their trophy from **Lieutenant-Colonel M. K. Wilson,** R.A.O.C.



A TURN OF SPEED IN THE DHEKELIA DASH
Major R. S. Mansfield, O.C. 2 Squadron, 9th Signal Regiment, putting on the pressure during the 'Dhekelia Dash'. The event in relays covers a distance of 18 miles and was won by the Regiment

CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

10th Signal Regiment Hounslow

New London (Central) Commcen

ON 27th November, 1970, London (Central) Commcen's new accommodation was officially opened by the Chief of Staff, London District, **Brigadier M. C. Thursby Pelham.** He was accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, London District, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Garnons Williams,** O.C. 2 Squadron, **Major J. L. Botterill,** and **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Durrant.** During his tour, the Chief of Staff chatted to **Sergeant Crabtree,** the shift supervisor, **Corporal Pike, Corporal Rock, Lance-Corporal McDermid, Lance-Corporal Poile** and **Signalman Butler.** He showed great interest in practical message handling and asked a number of searching and pertinent questions on the organisation of the telegraphic automatic switching system and the strategic network.

Many members of the Corps will remember the dingy, cramped corridor which hitherto served as a Commcen in the ancient building at Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall. It has been fondly referred to as 'two T.A.S.S. terminals at the end of a fire escape.' The new Commcen is a credit to the many people who took a hand in its planning in the past, and to the M.P.B.W. who built it. Located on the ground floor of Horse Guards Parade, it occupies the original site of the Life Guards' stables and blacksmiths forge.

The general effect of the whole complex is light and airy, with a colour scheme of black and white. The layout includes a separate counter room with two purpose-built telephone booths. Leading off the counter room is a spacious telegraph room equipped with an on-line T.A.R.E. connected terminal, two T.A.S.S. terminals and two tape-cutting positions. Facing this room is a well-appointed Yeoman's Office. An outstanding feature of the Commcen is an information room. This is equipped with large map boards and has plenty of scope for further development. It is pleasantly furnished, and equipped with TV.

The Commcen is often thought of as 'the London District Commcen,' but in actual fact its responsibilities include the handling of signals traffic for no less than 250 units and other authorities. Statistics do not often convey the true facts, for instance, 2,000 IN messages cleared to a central registry is rather different from the same number cleared by phone, S.D.S. and messages. However, for the records, the Commcen handles over 7,000 transactions a month, and the annual S.D.S. mileage is in excess of 400,000 miles. More recently, the responsibility for the guarding of traffic for closed stations has increased.

With the new accommodation we really have joined the professionals.

Hail and farewell

After 36 years' service **Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) Eric Thompson** decided against a full career and we wish him well in his new venture. Welcome to **Captain (T.O.T.) R. W. V. Hutley** who fills the vacant chair. Welcome, too, to **Major (Q.M.) Jack Harding** who fills the chair vacated by **Major (Q.M.) W. G. Finch** en-route B.A.O.R.

The Bruno Club was the scene of much glint, colour and merrymaking on 16th October, the occasion of dining-out **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Jim Iverson** and **Staff Sergeant John Moss** prior to their departure into civilian life. Good luck to you both.

Sub Aqua Club

Corporal John Smith, now a B.S.A.C. Class III Diver, is closely followed by **Signalmen Booth** and **Buckley,** all of Radio Troop. Great assistance is being given to the club by the R.E. Diving School at Marchwood where weekend training visits are arranged.

The recent highlight of the club was the recovery of a radio-controlled boat from the depths of a local lake by our previous Adjutant, **Major Norman Muir** and **Corporal Smith,** assistance provided by **Signalman Booth**—rowing the boat, activities being published in the local newspaper under 'Army Brightens Black Day' and a brief mention in the national Press.

Slot car racing

74ft. in 10 seconds using a 1/32nd car equates to something like 160 m.p.h., that's about the size of 'Beavers Circuit' and the lap speed attained by our better drivers. To achieve this one must first learn to control the car at the bottom of the 16ft. straight, to manipulate the sharp bend that ensues and not to leave oily marks on the wall and twisted chassis on the floor.

The brain-child of **W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. G. Postlethwaite,** the recent construction of 'Beavers Circuit' was the combined effort of the R.S.M. (straights and curves), with **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Taylor** (hills and home-made track) and technical **Sergeants McDonald** and **Phillips** (positives and negatives).

Racing, which takes place on Tuesday and Friday evenings, falls into six classes, GT, Sports, Formula Junior, GP, Production and Libre, all using 1/32nd scale cars. A second circuit is to be built in an adjacent room to meet the demand of the club and to enable racing up to 1/24th scale to take place. This time the complete track will be home-made.

Senior and junior participation is encouraged. Apart from sons of soldiers, a number of boys have been enlisted from Lampton School, Hounslow. The Headmaster, **Mr. Lister,** served with the Corps in 1 Division Signals during the war.

Team challenges in junior and senior events readily accepted!

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Welcomes and farewells

We extend a warm welcome to **Captain Terry English** (Royal Anglian) who takes over as Infantry Adviser (G3 Feet) from **Major Simon Firbank.** Also leaving is **Lieutenant Roger Howard,** who has gone to live a life of luxury in B.A.O.R. We wish them and their wives the best of luck in their new postings.

Taking over as R.S.M. we have **W.O. J. R. Markham,** and we hope he and his wife will enjoy their time in Catterick.

We say farewell to **Corporals Watkins** and **Williamson** and welcome **Lance-Corporals Tofield** and **Pearson** to the Regiment.

Rugby

A new season has brought a change for the better in the Regimental XV. At this stage of the season we have now won more matches than we did in the whole of last season, which is no mean achievement with the limited number of players that are available to choose from.

Some 20 games have now been played, of which the Regiment has won eight and lost twelve; our best win being a 3—0 victory in the Northern Command Minor Units Cup against 5 Ordnance Field Park.

This match was only decided by the brilliant try that **Lance-Corporal 'Ricky' Johns** scored by running half the length of the field and scoring in the corner.

The leading scorer at this stage of the season is our Command representative, **Corporal 'Mick' Rattray,** who has scored 40 points, the last 15 being scored against Roundhay.

Our next opponents in the Minor Units Cup have now been decided, and it now remains to be seen if we can dispatch 7 Field Squadron, R.E., in order to reach the semi-final.

Squash

The Regiment has played three matches in the current season and despite losing all three, our team is stronger in depth this season by the addition of **Captain Mike Carson** and **Lieutenant Peter Morgan.** We lost our first match against 8th Signal Regiment by 4—1, our second to A.A.C., Harrogate, by 4—2, and somewhat unluckily, by 3—2 when we played Barnard Castle School, perhaps the strongest squash-playing school in the North of England.

Our two representatives at the Corps Championships, **Captain John Radford** and **Sergeant Derek Leggott,** both won their opening matches, but then came to grief in the second round.

Mr. David Brown retires

Mr. David Brown, of Willance Grove, Richmond, at one time chef to the last Viceroy of India, retired on 16th November as head cook of 11th Signal Regiment.

Mr. Brown, a cook for 51 years, joined the Royal Navy on his 14th birthday and did boy's service in the galley of H.M.S. 'Ganges.' In 1940 he was posted to H.M.S. 'Kelly,' commanded by Lord Louis Mountbatten.



[Photo by Capt. R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., Royal Signals

51 YEARS OF COOKING
Mr. David Brown and wife

After the war he went to Bermuda as Lord Mountbatten's personal chef, and then to India. He retired from the Navy in 1947 and went as a chef to the NAAFI Headquarters in London. He joined 11th Signal Regiment in 1959.

Mr. Brown says service food has improved out of all recognition since he joined. "There used to be only two choices—take it or leave it."

He was presented with a pair of beer mugs by the Regiment's Second-in-Command, **Major Donald Humphries,** and the Catering Officer, **Captain D. J. Daniell,** made a presentation on behalf of the kitchen staff.

The rank is probably wrong, but is your name here?

Staff Sergeant R. Elliott, Staff Sergeant T. E. B. Cran, Sergeant R. Fell, Staff Sergeant P. G. Burgess, Sergeant L. Burnham, Sergeant F. H. Delpinto, Sergeant M. Morphey, Sergeant W. Skimming, Sergeant J. G. Newberry, Staff Sergeant J. A. Sharman, Staff Sergeant J. B. Appleby, Staff Sergeant J. M. Cardinan, Sergeant F. G. Holmonroyd, Sergeant G. H. Johnson, Sergeant B. S. Lincoln, Sergeant C. H. Richardson, Staff Sergeant C. E. Stephens, W.O.II W. D. Landymore, Sergeant D. W. R. Monteith, Sergeant C. Speight, Sergeant J. Huey.

If it is, you attended Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course No. 7 (7th March, 1965, to 16th April, 1965).

Instructional Wing, 11th Signal Regiment, only needs a photograph from your course to form a complete record of Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Courses. If you have your old course photograph, please send it to I Wing, 11th Signal Regiment. We will copy it and return it to you unharmed.

Don't wait for the other chap to send his copy. There are probably very few prints left in existence.

Festival of Remembrance—Royal Albert Hall

There was a scuffle of feet, and with practised efficiency, equipment was moved into position. The Royal Albert Hall was in darkness as the Royal Signals tableau, prepared for their show for the Festival of Remembrance. The trumpeters of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals were ready as the compere introduced the Royal Signals with the words "The Royal Corps of Signals, who celebrate their 50th Anniversary this year . . . . " and the show had started.

This was the culmination of weeks of rehearsals. The fanfare sounded, and the five tableaux, portraying the history of the Corps from 1815 to 1970, prepared to receive the onslaught of the spotlights.

The ringing tones of the fanfare subsided and the spotlight started its journey through history, picking out the tableaux.

The first was of an officer (**Lieutenant P. G. T. Morgan**) and two Sergeants (**Sergeants Alan Bailey** and **Jim Lindsay**) resplendent in their red coats, showing the method of military signalling in 1815.

The spotlight then moved to the Boer War, where two Signallers (**Sergeant Phil Urry** and **Corporal Ron Roberts**) were flashing urgent messages using heliograph and begbie.

The spotlight continued its course through time to 1916 to show a messenger (**Signalman Wadsworth**) running to H.Q. (portrayed by **Signalman Gorford**) grasping a message for the D.R. (**Signalman Pete Kingston**) to despatch.

Then onwards to 1942, to two Linemen (**Signalmen Brown** and **Temple**) lay a remote 'tail,' while a parachutist (**Corporal Duffy**) tries to contact Ballahen H.Q. through his man-pack radio.

The last tableau, representing the modern Royal Corps of Signals, consisted of a satellite station, three Apprentices from Harrogate (**A/Sergeant Potter, A/Sergeant Hickling, A/Lance-Corporal Brockhan**) and three members of the W.R.A.C. (**Lieutenant D. M. Morgan, Corporal Collinson, Private Perrie**) portraying the present and future Corps.

The huge hall was again plunged into darkness, the five tableaux disappeared to be replaced by the cheerful notes of the Corps Band, formation marching. They played three marches under the direction of **Captain Keith Boulding.** These were '50 Years Young,' written by **Captain K. R. R. Boulding,** 'H.R.H.' the Corps slow march and 'Begone Dull Care,' the Corps quick march.

The display ended with the Band forming a figure 50, backed by the tableau personnel, as **Captain K. R. R. Boulding** paid final respects to Her Majesty The Queen.

So ended our Festival of Remembrance. Compliments must be paid to **Lieutenant Jeff Vaughan,** who produced and directed our display; to **Major Brian Toy,** our compere; and to **Sergeant Grey,** who was our manager and make-up artist, without whom the display would not have been such a success.

13th Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 40

Pause for breath

ALTHOUGH October was an apparently quiet month, there was a great deal of activity behind the scenes in preparation for two international conferences, and three weeks of scrutiny by a team from the Inspectorate of Establishment (Army). These events are now happy(?) memories, and we are building-up our strength for the hectic days of Christmas.

Sports

Our football team were unlucky to be beaten 3-2 by 3 B.A.P.D. in the first round of the Army Cup. After being three goals down with ten minutes to go, we managed to pull back two and were pressing hard for the equaliser when the final whistle went. A recent arrival, **Signalman Tony Higgs** has been a very useful member of the team this season, as have the 'stalwarts' **Corporals Bob Williamson, Ron Clay** and **Lance-Corporal John Kirk.**

Our hockey team started the season well, and until we met H.Q. B.A.O.R. in the Army Cup we were unbeaten. However, we are still at or very near the top of the league and our forward line of **Sergeants Keith Robinson, Mick Crane, 'Nobby' Clark, Lance-Corporal Dave Luckett** and **Signalman Dave Hooper** all have a goodly number of goals to their credit.

The Regimental cross-country meeting took place on 29th October in the absence of our stars, but **Signalman Keith Baker,** of 1 Squadron, showed his prowess by leading the field home four minutes ahead of the other competitors. Although there was a significant time gap between the first and last runners we were pleased to see that everyone completed the six-and-a-half miles. 1 Squadron won the team event with a team consisting of **Staff Sergeant Tom Neal, Corporal Ron Clay, Lance-Corporal Tony Bird** and **Signalmen Tom Burns, Keith Baker, Tony Higgs, Bob Ravenscroft** and **Chris Roe.**

Canoeing continues to be very popular, thanks to the efforts of **Staff Sergeant Jim Goodridge,** and the team are now top of their league. Their latest success was at Wolfenbuttel on 31st October when **Signalman 'Chalky' White, Private John Coulthard, Signalman Neal Mapp** and **Corporal 'Paddy' Sweeney** finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively in the Class III A race.

Special mention

Signalman Mick Rideout has set a good pace for the runners in the Regiment. He was placed second in a representative team trial held at RAF Wildenrath in October, and then came third in the Inter-Command Cross-Country Championship in U.K., where he represented B.A.O.R.

A mention also for **Sergeant John Bandey** who finished 60th out of a field of 200 in the Army Orienteering Championships held recently in England. This was his first serious event and is a very promising beginning.

The Haelen Marches

Continuing our marching tradition we entered two teams in the local Dutch Haelen Marches, a male team in the 40km. march and a W.R.A.C. team in the ladies' 25km. event. Despite the bad weather and the fact that the direction signs seemed to be leading the teams in ever-decreasing circles, both teams enjoyed the march. The men's team came first in their event and the W.R.A.C. team fourth.

Sergeants' Mess

Disappointed that our December/January notes got lost en-route and failed to arrive at Cheltenham Terrace in time for publication, we apologise to our readers for our absence in last month's WIRE and open this month by wishing you all "A Happy New Year." Having said that, at the time of writing we have too few shopping days to Christmas and our Christmas draw committee, with **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Peter Foster** at the helm, is out and about finding the better buys.

Looking back, a Regimental guest night was held on 23rd October. On this occasion we said farewell to **W.O.I Geoff Fletcher** and **Sergeant Gordon Smith,** both of the Intelligence Corps. **Geoff,** after X years in the Regiment, is off to Rheindahlen, and **Gordon Smith** to civilian life. Our thanks to the P.M.C., **W.O.II John Jones,** and the P.E.C., **Staff Sergeant Frank Kendall,** R.A.P.C., for a wonderful Hallowe'en. Members were asked to come in weird and ghoulish outfits; **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob Phippard** and **Mrs. Barbara Wesley** succeeded in doing just this and took away the winners' prizes.

We entertained 16th Signal Regiment to a games evening on 20th November. Our team thought they had narrowly beaten the visitors, and were lining up to celebrate when our President, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Eric Filder** (with a bit of a wink?) announced that the home team had offended on some technicality, and promptly presented the winner's trophy to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Jim Gittins!** So ended another very good evening.

Comings and goings

Farewell to **W.O.I G. A. Fletcher, W.O.II A. Riddell, W/Sergeant J. McGregor, Sergeants F. Dyer, G. H. Smith, S. M. Sims, R. J. Groucott,** R.A.P.C. Welcome to **Sergeant N. E. Mortimer, Sergeant D. S. Berry.**

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

TIME for WIRE notes again? It seems that it was only a couple of days ago that the Regimental correspondent put down his pen having completed last month's report. But—as those who read the notes from this Regiment regularly will know—time passes quickly in 14th Regiment. Things are seldom, if ever, still for long as we dash about the world carrying out our lawful business.

Since last month's notes the 1 Squadron D13 detachment from Jordan and the TSC-500 detachment from Singapore have safely returned to the fold in Worcester. Most of the crew of the E21 in Nassau have returned leaving only the radio station and a skeleton crew to come back as soon as an airlift can be arranged.

602 (Special Communications) Troop

As some may know (but many more will not) 602 (SC) Troop lives with the Regiment in Norton Barracks at Worcester. A hard-working, happy unit of high morale, this Troop has shown time and time again that it is a collection of men whose energy, attention to detail and enthusiastic approach to all tasks makes it a Troop that the Corps can be well proud of. It is some time since news of the Troop appeared in THE WIRE thus 'up date' the Corps in general, and ex-members of '602 (SC)' in particular, the following report is published.

Since last writing in THE WIRE the Troop has, almost completely, changed its management. In July **Captain 'Gerry' Funnell** left for a six-month tour in B.A.O.R., 'marking time' before continuing on his path to stardom through the Staff College. He was replaced by **Captain W. J. P. 'Bill' Robins,** embarrassingly keen, bright and slightly oiled(?) after some four years with airborne forces in Aldershot. **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Tony Cudlip** has replaced **Yeoman J. Halliday**—now retired—and **Staff Sergeant Jack Milton** has taken over from **W.O.II C. Meredith,** the latter being 233 Squadron bound. This turnover is also reflected amongst the longer serving members of the Troop, many of whom are drawing near to the end of their time and are reluctantly preparing to leave. They are being replaced by some more shining brethren from Harrogate in January and by several other lucky operators in May. By this time next year several more soldiers will know what communicating is really all about.

A notable recent Troop activity was Exercise 'Scarborough Fair.' Based on the named town, and magnificently supported by the Officer Commanding the Signal Training Centre at Burniston Barracks, the event turned out to be an exercise of very marked contrasts—take cooking for example. In the early stages we shared the barracks with 17 police cooks who did us really proud particularly the Sunday lunch which gave the choice of four soups, five meats, six vegetables, eight(?) potatoes and five sweets. At the time this was too much, but how we longed for it again a few days later as we ate our cold compo on the Brecon Beacons in a howling storm.

It was in these hills that the bulk of the exercise took place. Almost throughout we experienced a force 8 gale which in no way helped as we struggled on with—amongst other comforts—our packs weighted to ensure a minimum of 70lb. per man. The patrol terminated with a tactical exercise at Sennybridge. The O.C. kept telling us that the trial was good for the soul. Maybe.

BAOR.....?

—If you are arriving soon, or are here already, and interested in a new:—

TRIUMPH '71 FAMILY MODELS UP TO 15% OFF! Toledo £584 1500 £732 2000 £986!

OR LIST PRICES SLASHED!

PEUGEOT ALL '71 MODELS DISCOUNT PRICES FROM ONLY £646!

Then for details of U.K./Germany Delivery, Specifications, Nato Prices, H.P., 'Partex, Call, 'Phone or Write to:

Mr. P. BRENNAN DUPLEIX
of WALTER HAGEN & CO., GmbH
415 KREFELD
Pestalozzistr.—WEST GERMANY
or TELEPHONE KREFELD 28311 (10.30-12.00 hrs. preferably)

IMPORTER — SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

(We have Agents in the U.K. too)

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE



READY FOR INSPECTION

Alpha, Bravo and Romeo Troops of 249 Squadron on parade

Fitness for Role

THE last formal FFR inspection of this Regiment was held in Princess Mary Barracks and the Tanglin Complex on Tuesday, 17th November. **Colonel F. Graham-Bell,** Commander Troops, H.Q. FARELF, accompanied by his staff, carried out the inspection which, owing to the size of the Regiment, had to be held in two parts. The first parade comprised vehicles and personnel of H.Q. and 1 Squadrons drawn up and dressed for their normal everyday duties, and a second showed 249 Signal Squadron equipped and ready to move in their Far East Strategic Reserve role. The parades dramatically displayed the great variety of tasks of the Regiment, a point not lost on the inspecting officer, we think!

East Pakistan

Significantly a short time after the inspection, some 70 men of 249 Signal Squadron, under the command of **Major Hamish MacKinlay,** were airlifted and shipped to East Pakistan in support of the British relief force in the disaster area. A full report on their activities in Pakistan will, of course, appear in a future edition of THE WIRE.

Visit of Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals)

On Wednesday, 4th November, the A.C.D.S. (Signals), **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** visited 18th Signal Regiment in the course of his recent tour of the Far East. **General Anderson** is, of course, the elder brother of **Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. G. Anderson,** one of our former Commanding Officers. The **General** was briefed on the changes that have recently taken place in the Regiment's organisation and on our plans for the forthcoming rundown and eventual disbandment at the end of next year. He was later entertained to lunch in the Princess Mary Officers' Mess.

Exercise 'Cold Comfort'

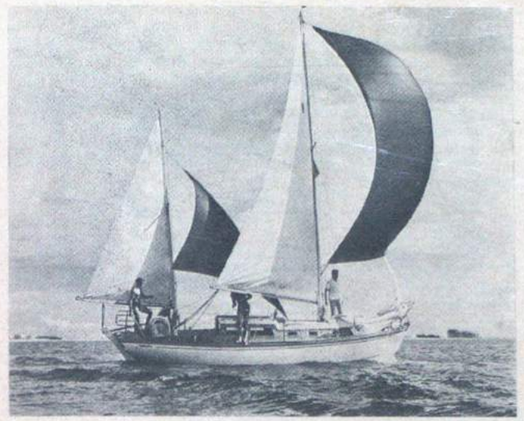
Exercise 'Cold Comfort 15' commenced on Tuesday, 10th November, with the object of testing the Internal Security arrangements of the Regiment. The Island-wide communications worked almost faultlessly and the defence of the Dover Road complex, based as it is on open-plan system with no boundary fence, achieved a very high standard.

Captain Barney Mansor, commanding the I.S. Platoon, consisting of LEP, worked extremely hard creating and manning a Dannert wire obstacle, however the *piece de resistance* on the first night was the dispersal of a hostile crowd by fire hoses, under the direction of the Commanding Officer. Reports kept coming in throughout the night of prisoners being taken in a wet and bedraggled condition. The second night of the exercise showed the Regiment taking a more aggressive role in situations which had deteriorated, and as a result, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Thomas** and his party in the guard room were kept very busy admitting and controlling a number of prisoners who had intended to operate against PM, but, in fact, were captured by a party from 249 Signal Squadron under **Captain Les Waumsley,** with their vehicles, even before their operation started. The exercise was an outstanding success in respect of the communications and the less glamorous role of aid to the civil power, ending on a high note when the enemy (40 Commando, Royal Marines) were safely behind bars.

'Brigand of Changi'

The ketch *Brigand of Changi* has now completed her last charter in the waters of Singapore and is being prepared for 'posting.' *Brigand* was obtained in March, 1968, from a private owner when she was only two years old. As a condition of the grant from Welfare Funds towards her purchase price, she has since that time been available for charter to the whole Singapore area, and she has been a great success. To those not familiar with her, she is a 30ft. glass fibre ketch, built in Hong Kong, with four berths and a Volve diesel auxiliary. She is well suited for cruising in tropical waters and is now fitted for racing.

The boat is now being prepared for shipping, under the careful eye of **Sergeant Geoff Farr,** the boat's husband, and early in 1971 she will be lifted into a cradle aboard the Royal



BRIGAND OF CHANGI

Auxiliary *Hebe*, and taken to Cyprus, via Gibraltar, where she will be permanently located. We are certain that *Brigand* will provide the same enjoyment in the waters off Cyprus as she has in Singapore.

Warren Golf Club

An upsurge of interest in golf is taking place within the Regiment, which ensures a strong military representation in the club in the period before withdrawal.

A new constitution is being written in preparation for the hand-over to civilian management in 1971; meanwhile, the Commanding Officer continues to administer the club, and has been honoured with a Vice-Presidency. The Speaker in the Singapore Parliament took over as President in August this year from **Brigadier D. E. Warren,** the founder of the club, and which bears his name.

To those who have spent many happy hours on the course, it will be of interest to know that the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, **Mr. Lee Kuan Yew,** and the Chief Justice of Singapore are now among its members.

Parkinson Field Cooker

W.O.I (A.S.M.) Parkinson, R.E.M.E., in charge of the Regimental L.A.D., considered that a requirement existed for a Calor Gas field cooker, so he designed and produced one, which has been widely used by many of the units in Singapore and Hong Kong. The Commanding Officer made a cash award to **Mr. Parkinson** under the Unit Suggestion Scheme and the MOD added a further cash award to the designer.

W.O.I Parkinson has generously donated his award to the LEP Benevolent Fund, an appeal for which, you will have seen elsewhere in this copy of THE WIRE.

Tailpiece

Found under the driver's seat of C.O.'s staff car, four newborn feline objects. Comment by **W.O.II Larry Burnham** (S.S.M., 1 Squadron): "First time I've heard of the C.O.'s driver having kittens!"

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

The Festival of Herbswoche

THROUGHOUT Westphalia at this time of year the local celebration is the autumn festival Herbstwoche.—a solid week of country fairs and dances, exhibitions, music festivals, and a more than liberal sampling of the local brew.

Lippstadt lies on the Westphalian plain, to the south-west of the Teutoburger Wald, about 50 miles north of Dortmund. To the south and west there is the attractive forrested Sauerland, a beautifully wooded area with the Hohne, Eder and Sorpe reservoirs providing a sharp relief from the green wooded slopes.

Dortmund and Paderborn beers are famous throughout Westphalia and Weissenburg infamously potent in the Lippstadt area.

During the local festival, Lippstadt was transformed with gay flags, lights and bunting and a wonderful country-style fair in the market place, and on Saturday, 24th October, we managed, with a great deal of effort by many individuals, to crown all their efforts by inviting the locals to come and see our own show. This took the form of an 'Open Day' at Churchill Barracks, which about half of the local population came to see our drill display, silver display, NAAFI show and numerous sideshows.

Herr Dr. Wolff inspected a guard of honour and the barracks was officially declared open. During the day a truly international flavour of music filled the air from the bands of the 7 Panzer Grenadier Division, 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders and the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. The bands marched around the barracks with large groups of civilians following them; it was quite a sight to see the local eyes pop out and their feet falter when the Inniskillings set off at light infantry pace. In the afternoon a selected Lippstadt XI played a Regimental XI and narrowly beat our talents by two goals to one.

The soup kitchen, the NAAFI, Ben's Bar and all our other resources were strained to the utmost during a hectic day, but it was still possible to buy a beer and bratwurst in the middle of the afternoon.

A ride in a tank, a look around a helicopter, or even a close-up of an Honest John and other big guns of the Royal Artillery, were all very attractive to our visitors and ourselves, but it was with a sigh of relief that we security swept the area and retired once more into our own barracks.

Late Flash

Our junior ranks' club has been completely redesigned, refurnished on the club concept and now looks more like the 'Teahouse of the August Moon' than a 'tea-and-wad shack.' The official re-opening was performed by **Brigadier R. L. C. Dixon, M.C.,** to rousing cheers by the men; it was pure coincidence that free pints followed.

Squadrons and other groups are already rushing to book the various lounges for their own Christmas festivities.

Later Flash

For the first time, we entered a team of intrepid amateurs for the B.A.O.R. Motor Cycle Trials, led by **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Park;** they gained much very valuable experience in this very competitive sport. **W.O.II Park** finished 16th overall.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

WHEN I discovered that I had volunteered to write THE WIRE notes for November, I thought to myself that should not be difficult, nothing ever happens in the month before Christmas, which just goes to show how wrong one can be.

Exercise 'Grape Pick'

On 2nd November 26 members of 28th Regiment headed south to the river Mosel on Exercise 'Grape Pick.'

This was a purely voluntary exercise organised by **Herr Veltin,** the Oberburgermeister of Bernkastel, for the purpose of assisting owners of vineyards in their grape harvest. The volunteers were spread through the 12 towns forming the

middle-Mosel wine region. The vineyard owners were responsible for the housing and feeding of the labour force, and as is found to happen, some fared better than others.

Towards the end of the exercise the organisers requested that our members' stay be extended by 10 days. This extension, much to the regret of some, could not be agreed.

One man, however, **Signalman 'Tiny' Matthews,** spent most of his time in the local hospital where he left his appendix.

Operation 'Deinrheinwine'

On 6th/7th November a combined Royal Signals and Army Catering Corps group set out on Operation 'Deinrheinwine.'

This was indeed a most pleasant operation. **Baroness Van Zuylan,** the public relations officer of Deinhard and Co., gave us a most entertaining and informative tour of the wine cellars in Koblenz and the Doktor Vinyard in Bernkassel.

In the Board Room the group tasted such delightful wines as the Ostricher, Eiserber Riesling Feine Spatlese 67. After the tasting a first-class luncheon was provided at which a fine Deinhart seck was served.

Sergeant Jim Hodgins, A.C.C., is now determined that wine should be a normal issue in the service ration scale; comment from treasury is awaited. **Signalman Ron Towers,** the non-drinking driver for the group, was given a bottle of seck in sympathy.

Sergeants' Mess

It has been quite a while since the Sergeants' Mess contributed to Regimental WIRE notes, so we hope that the following bits and pieces will be of interest to ex-Mess members and to any of our other friends who read THE WIRE.

Entertainments are currently under new, and extremely able, management; with **W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) Jimmy Combes** and **Staff Sergeant (C. of W.) George Cowe** organising our social life, with minimum fuss and maximum effect. To date they have produced a number of excellent functions.

This quarter got off to a good start with a games night, the opposition being provided by our ladies. Despite the spirited determination, and surprising skill, displayed by the ladies, they were beaten quite soundly. A return contest was arranged and this time gallantry prevailed, resulting in an overall win for the girls. A final deciding match is due to be played off in January. Should this be drawn, the contest will be decided by means of a boat race—could be interesting!

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John McNaughton organised a cheese and wine night on Saturday, 3rd October, to which we invited our old friends and neighbours of the 16th Signal Regiment Mess. **John** and his volunteers laid on a really mouthwatering display, with an almost infinite variety of cheeses and tastefully chosen wines to accompany them (or does the cheese accompany the wine?). Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening, although next morning individual recollections seemed a bit hazy to say the least.

Sergeant John Wales (R.E.M.E.) introduced his new bride, **Veronica,** to the Mess recently. They were both obviously surprised and delighted to be greeted by a guard of honour in full Mess kit and with drawn swords before being presented with a wedding gift from all members of the Mess.

The Mess is taking part in the North Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess Sunday football league. Our team of (usually hung over) stalwarts turns out bravely in all weathers and conditions. Battered, bruised, but unbroken in spirit anyway, they battle on. We have only won one game this season but it's not over yet. As a bloke called John Paul Jones once said (I think): "I have not yet begun to fight"—potential opponents please note.

Since our last notes, we have said goodbye and thanks to the following members:

W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Mike Berriman, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Joe Green, W.O.I Joe Oyteben, A.C.C. (our Army champion cook), **W.O.II 'Andy' Souter** (come back **Joe** and **Andy,** we miss your financial support), **Sergeant Frank Gilbert, W.O.I Mike Butler** (commissioned), **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Jim Mancais.**

Welcome to **W.O.I (F. of S.) Ernie Nugent, W.O.II Joe Wa'ton, W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Bob Pearce, Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Pete Ridley** and **W.O.II Joe Gomm,** A.C.C.

Corporals' Mess Outing

On Friday, 6th November, 30 members of the Corporals' Mess and **Mr. Marlow,** the relief NAAFI manager, paid a visit to the Amstel Brewery in Amsterdam.

The coach left camp at 09.00 hours and arrived in Amsterdam at 12.45 hours. At the Dutch border a puzzled Customs official found it difficult to understand why we should be taking two cases of Amstel back to the brewery, until it was carefully pointed out that it was not intended that the bottles should be full on arrival.

At the brewery the party was met by two guides who, after an introductory address, each took a group on a tour around the various departments of the brewery. The tour finished in Amstel's own bar where there were sandwiches and limitless beer.

When all had had their fill the P.M.C., **Sam Hackett,** gave a few words of thanks before we were cast upon the town of Amsterdam.

Doubtless many a tale could be told about our evening in Amsterdam, but let it suffice to say that we all arrived back at St. Tonis in the small hours of the following day, safe if not sound.

Football

For the second year running our football team have reached the Rhine Area Final in the Army Cup, having defeated 45 Regiment R.A. 2-1 in the quarter-final and 22 Light Air Defence Regiment R.A. 6-1 in the semi-final.

The game against 45 Regiment took place on 4th November St. Tonis. It was a hard-fought game and no goals were scored in the first half. However, shortly after the commencement of the second half we netted, only to have the goal disallowed. Soon after this, while spirits were a little low, 45 broke through to score a well-taken goal. Things looked black until **Cliff Newell,** cutting in from the left-wing, scored, netting a rebound from the goalkeeper.

With their tails up, 28 went on to win, by a goal from **Tex Gal'agher** who put a ball, fumbled by the opposing goalkeeper, firmly in the back of the net.

On 19th November we were at home to 22 Light Air Defence Regiment R.A., who arrived with a strong reputation having won their previous round 7-1. 22 setted down first and gave us a hard time until **'Scouse' Quirk** first-timed a ball, which went over the goalkeeper for a very good goal. This lead was short-lived, however, when 22 drew level a few minutes later.

By now **'Scouse' Quirk** was really finding his form and scored a second goal every bit as good as his first. From then on we did not look back and ran out winners by 6 goals to 1, **'Scouse' Quirk** having netted four and **Ray Anderson** two.

Since these notes were forwarded, 28th Regiment beat 16th Regiment in the final by 2 goals to one.

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

D.G.O.W. writes

AGAIN the Regiment has had a very full and varied couple of months, including the deployment of AMF(L) Troop to B.A.O.R. and Turkey, the EW Squadron also to Germany, and the continued deployment and eventual recovery of the 1 Squadron detachment from Jordan. 1 Squadron, also, have a most interesting assignment, for a small detachment, led by **Lance-Corporal David Brotton,** are going to the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. Leaving just after Christmas, in support of the Sappers, the detachment will winter until mid-March out there. It's a tough life!

Older members of the Corps will note with regret the retirement of **Majors Freddie Thirkell** and **Jim Cheshire** who, between them have given over 68 years' service to the Corps. In particular, the record of **Major Thirkell** is an impressive one, spanning as it does, just four decades. We wish them both every happiness in a well-deserved retirement.

And so to our subscribers . . .

AMF(L) Radio Troop—mobile once more
By Corporal 'Scouse' Chapman

Tuesday, 22nd September, dawned bright and clear and found AMF(L) Force Radio Troop leaving Blandford Camp at normal AMF(L) convoy speed on the first part of their journey to Germany and Exercise 'Deep Test.' The night of the 22nd found us at our first staging camp at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, three hours early. We were greeted at Shorncliffe with the news that the NAAFI was closing down the following day, and could we ease the manager's stock-taking problem. This was found to be no problem to **Lance-Corporal Mooney** and his friends, and it was a much-relieved manager that bid us goodnight and good morning with no beer left in his club.

We breakfasted on the 23rd on board a Townsend car ferry, and some caught up with sleep they had missed, due to the early start, and others due to their late finish. A military escort picked us up at Zeebrugge and escorted us to Emblem, in Belgium, which was our secondary staging camp. Our short stay in Emblem was long enough to beat the local basketball team, and rehearse some of our songs for Germany in the NAAFI. We left Emblem en route for Merzig, our final destination.

On arrival at the German border, the German customs officer at first refused to let us enter Germany, but after **Corporal Dave Blackall** had spoken to the customs, and movements control had produced a form, all was well and we were once more speeding on our way.

We arrived in Merzig at 20.00 hours on the 24th, and were informed that a meal had been laid on for us—this turned out to be bread rolls and a mixture of German meats and green salad—which proved to be our staple diet over the weeks to come. The next day was spent cleaning and servicing our vehicles in preparation for the exercise, and also arranging recreational activities such as football, basketball and visits to places of local interest (Bierfest). The football match arranged by **Lance-Corporal Pete Ryan** and interpreted by **Lance-Corporal 'Chippy' Wood** (Pomfritte Holtz) turned out to be a mis-match, as we lost by 9—0, but if **Lance-Corporal Les Rix** had scored that penalty when the scores were 0—0, it could have been a different story. We had our revenge that night, as the losers challenged the winners to a drinking and singing match in the bier bar, and with the aid of two strikers, **Lance-Corporal Alan Liddle** and **Corporal 'Scouse' Chapman,** we won trousers down. A visit was arranged to the local brewery, and the locals are still wondering how many people managed to get into one vehicle, especially as two of them were **Sergeant 'Doug' Rogers** and **Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith.**

A more sedate party visited the steelworks, and after being shown around the works were provided with an excellent meal and more liquid refreshment than the party at the brewery received!

The CPX in Germany was a great success, although some of the other nations that were with us must be wondering about the new drill movement performed by **Sergeant 'Nobby' Clark,** who was seen in the middle of the H.Q. area skipping, ably assisted on either end of the rope by **S.S.M. Roy Stark** and **Sergeant Paddy Tuite.**

All to soon, our visit to Merzig came to an end, which coincided with the local Bierfest closing, and the last night saw **F. of S. Terry Brabon,** ably assisted by **Sergeant 'Paddy' Tuite,** on the stage, thanking all the local people for their hospitality, and his sentiments were echoed by the whole of the Troop . . . .

And so to Turkey by Lieutenant Chris Johnson

Between 8th and 13th October, AMF(L) Force Radio Troop was airlifted from Frankfurt air base to Turkey to take part in Exercise 'Deep Express.' There was, of course, much speculation as to what it would be like in Turkey, opinions ranging from blazing hot weather and dry, sandy, conditions, to ten feet of snow. After all the glamorous speculation, it was a let-down to find the weather no different to late summer in U.K., in more ways than one. We were greeted by grey overcast skies, light rain and an R.M.P.—had it not been for the fact that the roads were straight, from the first impression we might easily have been back in U.K. However, these ideas soon changed as daylight broke and things started to appear very un-English indeed. Gone were the rolling green hills, and in their place a brown, treeless vista, interspersed with the odd wadi. The impression given was one of extreme poverty. The way of life of the people is such that a very high percentage make their living from the land. New houses seem to be very few and far between, and the majority of accommodation is poor by U.K. standards. In the European part of Turkey roads are bad. There are the only two metalled roads, both of which lead to Istanbul. In good weather the roads are usable, but even a small amount of rain turns these into treacherous skid-pans. At times they were so bad that four-wheel drive was no more effective than two!

This then, was the setting for the AMF(L) autumn manoeuvres in 1970. For the first stage of the exercise we were located at Corlu, about 60 miles from Istanbul. At this stage, the headquarters was not tactical and was laid out over a vast area of barren plain. It was perhaps fortunate that there was no requirement to be tactical, as the nearest trees were about 70 miles away.

The exercise started and the detachments were deployed to their locations. Although life in the headquarters was still non-tactical—this was illustrated by a brass band and a quarter guard, which appeared with monotonous regularity—life in the key Companies was tactical. The U.K. Recce Squadron also moved so regularly that it was difficult to find due to excellent camouflage.

The exercise then moved to a location just outside Kesan, a few miles from the Greek border. The headquarters was carefully sited on top of a rubbish dump. It was one of the few locations I have been in where used compo tins would have enhanced the scenery. However, it was decided that a policy of 'Keep Turkey Tidy' should be initiated, and so the area was cleaned up. The exercise itself went very well and a lot was learnt by all. Considering the language problems, this was surprising, but evidently the policy of 'if you shout loud enough anyone can understand' was seen to work.

At the end of the exercise we moved back to U.K. by air and sea. Those who went by air had the advantage not only of arriving home earlier, but also missing the opportunity of being violently ill on an LSL on the return journey! Those of us who came back on 31st October had the consolation of being able to sample the delights of Istanbul before we left, as the cholera scare was over and the city was back in bounds. As a result of this visit, Land Rovers were loaded to the gunwales with leather goods, onyx and Turkish delight, and the customs were quite fair and reasonable when we finally returned to U.K. after an absence of seven weeks.

Finally, a report from 4 Squadron

Since the last time we went to print, 4 Squadron have had their fair amount of demonstrations—'showing the flag' type, of course. During the month of October, the whole Squadron went to B.A.O.R. for the annual exercise. We stayed with and were administered by 225 Signal Squadron, who really did us proud. Our main exercise was uppermost in all we did, which included football matches against 3 Squadron of 1st Canadian Signal Regiment and, of, course, against our hosts. We did not lose a single game, although the home team did have the edge and should have won—obviously being the hosts they were the perfect gentlemen.

We would like to point out that 225 have swimming facilities within their unit lines, but 4 Squadron, having cleared our P.E. test requirements, only made small use of same by User Trials on the rowing machine (AFLOAT) which was owned by the O.C., **Major Tom Blashill.** Our intrepid oarsman, **Sergeant Willie Henderson,** must take full credit for the seaworthy trials, although the underwater trials were not planned!

The Exercise 'Black Pelican' was in two phases. One week was allocated to working up and the following two weeks were 'Field work.' The exercise terminated with a smoker in the NAAFI Club of 225 Signal Squadron where all Squadrons were well entertained. 4 Squadron were ably represented with turns by 'Stripper' WOG-H (**S.S.M. Tony Waugh**), Zulu warriors **Corporal Dave Hopkins** and **Corporal Derek (Foxy) Fowler** and our O.C., **Major Tom 'Maverick' Blashill.**

During the month of November we have been showing our set-up at many and varied Regimental demonstrations. The work entailed is great and credit must be given to all ranks of the Squadron for the success we have had. 23rd November saw the Regiment in the field (again). This time Regimental training was the initial aim. **Lieutenant Jack Fiskel** and **W.O.II (Radio Supervisor) Bill Motion** were the planning brains behind the Squadron moves which included a sea trip in an R.P.L. to the ranges and various aspects of military training. Meanwhile the O.C. had planned a day of circuit training and obstacle courses which everyone, including the D.S., enjoyed.

To conclude, we would like to wish all members of the Corps a Happy and a Prosperous New Year. Especially our absent Squadron members abroad, namely: A/Sergeant Bill Wareham, Corporals Jeff Cromack, Ken Fox, Brian Copley, Derek Leach, Lance-Corporals Jim Mitchell and 'Noddy' Needham.



WARRANT OFFICERS, N.C.O.'s– bring your skills and rank to Australia

Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army–or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank and acquired specialist skills. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain–and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain you receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity.

Don't leave it any longer!
Your trade may be included in those available and this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London–or post the coupon for all the facts.

Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name_____

Address_____

_____

_____

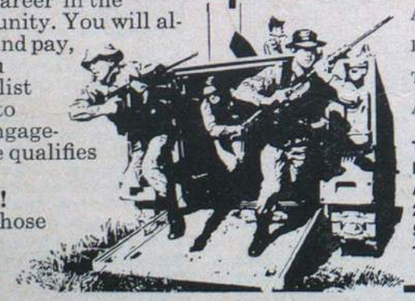
Age_____ Married/Single_____

Rank_____ Corps _____

Trade_____

Anticipated Discharge Date_____

To: Captain J. R. Godwin,
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356



4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (204) B.F.P.O. 17

AS usual at this time of year in a Signal Squadron, everyone seems to be either on courses or on leave, and the most precious commodity of all is the 'spare' soldier. The Transport Officer demands men for servicing vehicles, the R.S.M. wants fatigue men, the Communications Officer wants training and the poor old Troop Commanders are caught in the crossfire.

The highlight of October was a trip to the Mosel valley, grape picking. Twenty-five soldiers went to Brauenberg for two weeks and had a very enjoyable time. They lived with German families and were paid about DM 20 a day for 12 hours' hard physical work—if you don't believe it, try carrying 120lb. hods up and down the vineyards. Some of the younger soldiers found that the families they were living with were fairly strict about staying out late, but most people found a way around this and enjoyed a hectic social life.

Y. of S. Hazelgrove and **Sergeant Williams** have had a busy two months in the training room. We ran an Admin Unit HF Course from 19th October to 30th November, and at the same time they were instructing on a BIII - BII radio operator course. The training room has never been busier, and the instructors have had a trying time. (He might be a good footballer, but as an operator . . .)

Football notes

That was the month, that was! Our football team consolidated its Munster League position and remained league leaders. We did, however, join battle with 20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron in the Army Cup, and eventually lost the tie 2—1, after extra time. Without in any way seeking to detract from the 20 Brigade Signal Squadron victory, we feel it only fair to point out that they had ground advantage AND we missed three penalties (is this a record?). In addition, with no pretence to shame, our worthy opponents actually had the nerve to play **Lance-Corporal Swinhoe** at left-half against us. Avid readers of this column will undoubtedly be aware that **Corporal Swinhoe** had applied to be posted to this unit, but the league management committee (in this case Office-in-Charge Records) refused to allow the transfer!

Signalman Laurie Lawrence continues to mastermind our sometimes skilled attack. He was transferred in from 4th Division Regiment in the close season (thank you, 4th Division). He's quite a useful radio operator, too. Our skipper is **Sergeant 'Ginge' Lister,** who plays between shift changes in the Commcen, and the side is managed by **Major R. C. Williams, M.B.E.** (W.G.). He asks that we use the medium of THE WIRE to request bids for our goalkeeper, **Captain M. J. Vest.** Anyone who needs a goalkeeper badly should not apply, however, we will be delighted to accept any Communications Captain in exchange—football talent unnecessary.



SOME PRETTY PICTURES ON THE OSCILLOSCOPE?
Sergeant Hudson of 19th Infantry Brigade Squadron finds a party of Royal Navy Lieutenants from Greenwich an interested audience as he demonstrates the oscilloscope—an incident which occurred when the Squadron staged a signals gear display for the Navy

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) Colchester

IT is surprising how quickly time flies and THE WIRE notes are again due. Nothing of an exciting nature has happened since our last notes were published—unless the annual inspection can be called exciting!

October saw us at Sennybridge in Wales, administering the Brigade Support Weapons Concentration. No one considered us fit to shoot a Wombat or fire a mortar but the D. & E. Platoon, led by **Lieutenant David Strudley,** were an effective enemy force. The communications were as tricky as in Malaysia but 'A' Troop deployed a couple of R.R.B.s and forgot about them for four days. No one learnt Welsh but **Lance-Corporal Young** can now converse with sheep.

Since October we have been inspected non stop and little training was possible. There was, however, time enough to run a M.P.C. II course and the students (taken from R.A.O.C., R.C.T., R.C.P. and Royal Signals) all did well. At the same time a few hardy members joined **Second-Lieutenant Chris Smith** in a week's mountain climbing in Snowdonia. **Corporal Jimmy Jardine** actually lost 3oz. in weight.

On Friday, 20th November, we staged a display of signals gear for a party of Royal Navy Lieutenants from Greenwich.

Brigadier G. L. C. Cooper, M.C. inspected the Squadron at priority one scales on Thursday, 26th November, and surprised everyone by talking to every soldier on parade. In the afternoon he inspected the Troop stores and offices which had all been repainted in the 'Self Help Scheme.' Friday was a holiday for all so that everyone would return fit and able to compete in the Inter-Troop Competition of soccer, smallbore shooting and safe driving.

It only remains for us to wish everyone a Prosperous New Year and to thank all those who have assisted us during 1970.

12 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (212), B.F.P.O. 36

Squadron Officers

Squadron Commander	...	**Major H. A. Morrison**
Second-in-Command	...	**Captain A. W. de V. Hunt**
Communications Officer	...	**Captain R. E. S. Drew**
O.C. 'A' Troop	... ...	**Second-Lieutenant R. Hill**
O.C. 'B' Troop	... ...	**Lieutenant A. Sugdon**
Q.M.	... ...	**Captain N. Lane**
Adjutant	... ...	**Captain B. P. R. Keir (W.F.R.)**
M.T.O.	... ...	**Captain W. K. Adrian (R.C.T.)**

A very busy month having just passed people sat back and felt life might now be easier. That month contained our

Brigade FTX. It seems that we were one of the few Brigades to have one, the weather having caused more than one cancellation. Exercise 'Twin Fin' was its name and valuable it proved. From there it was Exercise 'Livex Air,' which was hampered by the weather as no RAF planes (the stars of the act) could fly.

Upon return our life became busy with those ever-present range of courses, inspections. Exercise 'Quick Train' almost came as a welcome change.

Rugby

Once again the rugby season is upon us. With our trainers, **Second-Lieutenant Robin Hill** and **Sergeant Sammy Leggett,** the team has won four out of five matches. One win was against the R.M.P.s. It will be of more than a little interest to see where the radar speed trap will now be stationed.

Border patrols

S.H.Q. vanished towards the border and will shortly be followed by both 'Alpha' and 'Bravo' Troops. **Lieutenant Sugdon** has been seen cleaning his pistol—we wonder just why.

P.E. Tests

Boots and blisters time, which is why the R.S.M. looks happy. The route was recced by the R.S.M. and **Sergeant Leggett,** who tell us they got lost and covered some 15 miles. The report brought tears to many eyes (of mirth).

The festive season is upon us and it seems everyone will be full of Christmas cheer. Our blood is due to be diluted again and again and again. What was that about the R.M.P.s.

Farewells

This month confusion will cease when we bid farewell to **F. of S. Staff Sergeant Roy Kelly** and **Y. of S. Staff Sergeant Kelly.** Both will be missed and we hope that they and their families will be very happy in their new postings in England. We welcome **F. of S. Staff Sergeant Bob Scriven.**

Projects

It is hoped that **Captain Keir** and **Lieutenant Sugdon** will lead an adventure training Langlaufing expedition to Southern Germany. The Second-in-Command, **Captain Hunt,** is at present considering rowing the north sea in assault boats, building and sleeping in an igloo when the snow arrives and finally marching the Squadron 60 miles from Minden to Osnabruck. I have made out a unique three -month leave pass. I can but hope.

39 Airportable Bde. Signal Squadron (213) Lisburn, Northern Ireland

IT is now a very long time since this Squadron last had notes in THE WIRE; we console ourselves with the fact that the harder we work the less time we have for writing! Here, at last, is a brief account of nearly two years of communicating during 'the troubles'—years of outstandingly successful signalling and very great individual effort and achievement.

With small beginnings—the emergency developed

1969 opened with promise, with 39 Brigade the only formation in Northern Ireland. Exercises were planned in delightful places, and the political horizon was as uncluttered as it ever can be in Ireland. Then, with small beginnings, the emergency developed.

Hopes of a good year were soon shattered. Various civil rights groups organised events, often countered by right wing organisations. In April, bomb attacks in Belfast, and on the pipelines carrying water from the Mourne Mountains to Belfast, caused the Army to deploy widely in the province, and guards were mounted on many points. Communications Troop, under **Captain Cooke** and **Staff Sergeant Kinsey,** started on the never-ending task of providing communications for the deployed brigade. **Corporal Jubb** and the linemen worked round the clock to put in the many lines needed to vulnerable points, and the operators set up the widespread radio nets.

At this time the Squadron had only 55 Royal Signals men, and the first of what was to be a long train of reinforcements arrived to swell the Squadron.

From June onwards the province saw endless demonstrations and counter-demonstrations. The conflicting groups were out every weekend protesting about something, and most of the Squadron was virtually permanently deployed from then until November. SDS ran widely over the province; the ED's under **Corporal Smith** had the big job of maintaining power for the many communications sites, and a heavy load was borne by **F. of S. Waudby's** technicians, who were on call night and day to go almost anywhere in Northern Ireland.

The non-communication elements of the Squadron, and particularly the Q.M.'s empire, the M.T. and S.H.Q., were worked as hard as anyone, not only on meeting their normal commitments, but also on guards, escorts and re-supply runs.



PYE RELAY VEHICLE IN N. IRELAND
Sergeant Yeomans watches some of the first trials of a Pye Relay vehicle

The Orange Marches

Predictably, the Orange marches of 12th July led to trouble, including some shooting. By the time August came — The Apprentice Boys of Derry march on 12th August to celebrate the successful defence of Londonderry against the Catholic King James in 1689—tension was high. Fighting broke out in Londonderry, and soon spread to Belfast. There was widespread shooting and bombing, and a state of near civil war existed in parts of Belfast, with murder and arson the order of the day.

On 18th August, a Brigade Tactical H.Q. was set up in Belfast, and command was to stay there until 25th November. Also at about this time, H.Q., 24 Infantry Brigade moved to Londonderry, and 39 Brigade became responsible for only the eastern half of the province—mainly Belfast. All of this time reinforcements were flowing in, bringing their own problems. Most reinforcement operators needed training on the C11 and BID150, and all needed shooting practice and had to be briefed on Northern Ireland and the IS rules. The continuing deployment, and particularly the running of two headquarters, took its toll; almost everyone in the Squadron worked nonstop from June to November, leave and courses were stopped, and to have one night home in four or five was reckoned to be good going.

(Continued on page 33)

(Continued from page 32)

The Squadron reaches its maximum strength

By the end of November the Squadron had reached its maximum strength—204 (139 Royal Signals) and the move of the Commander and staff back to Lisburn from Belfast eased the work load. The Brigade communications continued to be fully deployed — particularly our arctic rebro site 'Seven Charlie' on the Divis Range—but it was at last possible to think of leave, and to catch up on administration.

The winter of 1969/70 saw many happenings. **Major R. Bell** arrived from B.A.O.R. to take over from Major D. A. C. **Randel,** who went to the MOD (Arms Sales). **Staff Sergeant Kinsey** received a well-earned B.E. . in the New Year's Honours List. **R.S.M. G. A. Aven** arrived, taking over from **S.S.M. Teehan,** who stayed with us as R.Q.M.S. On the communications side, a Pye commercial radio system and a C42 net replaced the well-tried HF and VHF nets; all of the emergency reinforcements returned to their units, and our rebro site on Divis closed down. A build-up of telephone and telegraph circuits took place and traffic through our comcens increased. The Squadron entered the spring of 1970 with almost every communication system changed or expanded.

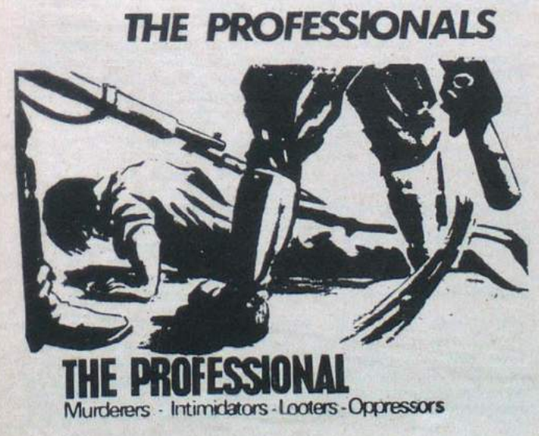
Our thanks to the emergency reinforcements

We would particularly like to thank the very many emergency reinforcement soldiers who have served with us, particularly in 1969, but also in 1970—we can hardly hope that they all enjoyed their unexpected, and often arduous tour in Northern Ireland, but they did an invaluable job. Thank you!

1970 has been another year of hard work, and once again leave and courses had to be stopped throughout the summer months. The Brigade Commander's crew—particularly **Corporal Stretton** and **Lance-Corporal Garner**—now know Belfast better than many of the locals. For much of the summer the Brigade Tactical H.Q. in Belfast was activiated, and the Pye and C42 rebroadcast detachments have spent a lot of time deployed. Our Pye relays are now helicopter portable, and our air experts —**Second-Lieutenant Bob Binham** and **Staff Sergeant Ruff**—are the world experts on the peaks of Northern Ireland, and for most of the summer months **Sergeant McCrindle's** radio relaymen were hard-pressed to provide links here, there, and everywhere—fortunately we were reinforced from 3rd Signal Regiment.

The 'Battle of the Falls'

Perhaps the most notable Brigade action this year was the 'Battle of the Falls.' During a night of armed battle, in which a number of people died, the densely-populated area of the Lower Falls was dominated by the Army. Searches subsequently found about 90 rifles, pistols, etc., nearly 30,000 rounds of ammunition, and various other warlike bits of kit, including explosives. Various posters proclaiming the popularity of the Army appeared about the city in Republican areas. (See below).





DARK CLOUDS ALWAYS HAVE A SILVER LINING
R.S.M. G. A. Aven takes a little time off from 'The Troubles' and relaxes at the tiller while sailing off the Scottish coast

But, strangely enough, we have had time this year to have a little fun in the 'off-peak' periods. **Captain Barry Cooke,** late O.C. Communications Troop, took a party sailing off the West Coast of Scotland; later in the year we provided communications for the local amateur golf championship, and although trouble flared up in Belfast half-way through, **Yeoman Storie** and **Staff Sergeant Kinsey** and their party finished the job. And much later in the year **Captain Johnathan Cox,** who took over Communications Troop in September, captained our team which won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Orienteering Championship, although not all of the team would regard it as fun.

Awards

1970 also had its quota of postings and honours. **Foreman Waudby** was awarded the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List, and at the same time was posted to R.M.C.S., Shrivenham—his technicians say for R and R. **Foreman Livesey** took his place, and has carried on with the necessary work of inventing the many bits of kit which we need but are not in issue. **Captain (Q.M.) Leeson** received the G.O.C.'s Commendation for outstanding work during 1969. And **Yeoman Storie** left us for the delights of B.A.O.R.

One of the successes has been the opening—at last—of our own Sergeants' Mess, which is going like a bomb—rumours that **Staff Sergeant Kinsey** is going to retire to become a professional M.C. are untrue—and there is no doubt that it is going to be a very great success.

And so we look forward to 1971. No doubt the Irish will think up a lot of things to keep us going and their disputes will probably be as fierce as ever.

Overheard in Belfast in the autumn of 1969, as bullets were flying, petrol bombs bursting and the situation deteriorating, Royal Signals Officer (in beret) to Royal Signals Staff Sergeant: "Lend me your helmet, Staff!"

216 Parachute Signal Squadron Aldershot

THE Squadron has been very active, both at work and in the sporting field, during the last two months.

Communications Troop have been on exercise in Scarborough during September. They manned radio links direct to Penhale, Cornwall and to Aldershot with C11 SSB, A14 and A16 sets. They left with high hopes for Pickering Castle camp, only to find that it consisted of eight Nissen huts, without doors or windows and with no water. Some disappointed faces were seen when sleeping bags had to be laid on the concrete floor. However, neither this nor the cooking dampened the morale of the Troop. Time was also found for P. of W. escape and survival training which proved to be very interesting, and in some cases amusing.

Also in September, Support Troop tried their skill and strength against the rapids of the River Wye in canoes. Exercise 'Wye-Go '(?) involved some of the Troop canoeing down from Builth Wells to Ross-on-Wye over three days, camping at night by the river. Spirits were high despite many soakings (including the Adjutant) and the Squadron Sergeant Major's cooking.

Brigade Weapons Week Trophy in our cabinet

The first week of October saw the return of the Brigade Weapons Week Trophy to our cabinet. The competition involved teams of approximately platoon strength completing an assault course of 15 obstacles specially selected for the quantity of mud and water surrounding them. This was followed immediately by a two-mile advance to contact, finishing at Stoneycastle Range, where a platoon fire and movement exercise with live rounds was held. Other parts of the competition were a night shoot and 84 m.m. Carl Gustav shoot. This year there was a reduced number of entries owing to the commitments of 16 Parachute Brigade. However, the total points of the Squadron would have won it against the 25 teams entered in 1969. Our team was led by **Sergeants Jim McGovern** and **John Angus.** After the competition, a celebration was held at 'The Grosvenor,' where **Lance-Corporal 'Ricky' Richardson** performed his now well-practised cabaret act, much to the amazement of some of the ladies present. Afterwards a Squadron plaque was presented to the publican and his wife, who were leaving the next day.

Communications Troop have just returned from a very cold and wet two weeks at Stanford, where they provided communications to Aldershot for the Brigade Strike Group Competition. They spent two nights digging 'hides' from which to operate at night and despite the hard ground and the appalling weather conditions, they still managed to provide 100 per cent communications.

. . . on the sports field

On the sports field we have again been very active. We have just been able to play off the final of the Brigade Soccer Cup, since 2 Para have now returned from Northern Ireland. The match against 'B' Company, 2 Para, was won 7-0. Two of our players, **Lance-Corporal Ian Campbell** and **Signalman John Duffy,** have again played for the Army team recently. On the hockey pitch **Corporal's Andy 'Plod' Fox** and **Bob 'Josie' Paterson** have represented the Corps.

The efforts of **Corporal Alan Hogg** to raise a budding judo team in the Squadron have produced several stiff shoulders. However, **Corporal Hogg** has moved from strength to strength in the Army team.

The Squadron orienteering team has not been without its successes. We collected the South East District Minor Units Championship as one of our check points and have qualified for the Army Championships at the Southern Command event. **Lieutenant John Griffin,** who took fourth place overall at the South East District competition, has now left us for R.M.C.S., Shrivenham. We wish him every success and hope he will not give up orienteering, although his new set of golf clubs took pride of place in his car.

Corporals Ray Marshall and **'Taff' Roberts** have completed the basic Free-Fall Parachuting Course at Netheravon since August and **Lance-Corporal Pete Whitehead** has also done the Advanced Free-Fall Course at Pau in France. Recent murmurs of discontent have been heard about having to 'hook up' before jumping!

The marriage register of the Squadron has boomed lately as **Sergeant John Angus, Corporal Dave Jackson, Lance-Corporal Mick Lumgair and Signalmen 'Jo' Baker, 'Sandy' Shaw** and **Pete Martin** have all gone west!

(P.S. Late entry from the Editor. Who was the subaltern who, when told to represent the O.C. on Monday morning prayers, asked if they were held in the Garrison church?).

Farewell and good luck

As we go to Press we say a big farewell to **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Kelly. Yeoman Vic Kelly** has been with the Squadron since 1965. We wish him and his family good luck and not too easy a time with 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment. (We understand that he has been collared to do all the work again).

The Yeoman's chair will be taken by **Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Boland** who is returning after three years away from 'the family.'

223 Signal Squadron (Radio) Winchester

WE'VE had a good mixture of events since last you read about us; so, without more ado, we plunge into details.

Badminton

Late summer saw the unit Badminton Tournament drawing to a close. Twenty-eight had entered the lists and these had been steadily whittled down to a final four 'stars,' **Sergeants 'Ali' Austin** and **Jim Young, Corporal Jarrold** and **Lance-Corporal Terry Buckley.** In the semi-final, Young—the organiser-in-chief—went down to **Austin,** and **Jarrold** beat **Buckley.**

Jarrold then went on to 'take' **Austin** in no uncertain terms, 15—4 and 15—1. He thus becomes the Squadron's most worthy, first champion and proud holder of the cup, which was presented by **Mrs. Rose Bushell,** wife of the Squadron Commander.

Sergeant Young tells us that he has high hopes of the tournament becoming an annual event. He does add, however, that he is still rather baffled by his own failure to win, considering all the 'scheming and fixing' he put into it.

Canoeing expedition

Very conscious of, and grateful for, the technical support of 30th Signal Regiment, a number of our crazier stalwarts "took ther-sels awa ti bonny Scotland" in mid-September, taking canoes along with them. There they paddled their way from Oban (we hear it's been re-named 'O Bang' since the Concorde) to Inverness, their route taking them by way of sea lochs and the Caledonian Canal into the fresh water of Loch Ness. While they didn't brush with the monster, they saw plenty of people looking for it.

Hardy souls taking part in this expedition were: **Captain Howard Culley, Staff Sergeant Dave Poole, Sergeants Stan Ball** and **Bob Mawson, Corporal Billy Button, Lance-Corporals Jim Stewart** and **'Cocky' Coker** and **Signalmen Dennis Hughes** and **Len Green.** Canoes used were Wessex two-man and KW7 singles. Members took turns on the Admin party, which travelled from camp site to camp site by 3-tonner. A hired safety boat and crew accompanied the canoes.

The first three days of the expedition were spent in static camp at Loch Awe, where novices were brought up to Army Canoe Union and British Canoe Union standard. Camps were under canvas, despite continuous rain; food for the period was carried, but beer was bought in fresh daily.

Practically everyone fell into the water at one time or another, but probably the unluckiest came the way of young **Coker,** who managed a glorious, trouble-free run of over 16 miles and then turned over as he was running into the beach. **Dave Poole** reputedly spent the whole three-day training period pointing out the disadvantages of getting wet without once tempting providence. Small wonder then, that he was the first to go when the actual run started.

Consensus of opinion is that they all had a wonderful, wet time; "it was almost a sensual pleasure to get into really dry clothes at the end . . ." was more than one man's comment. Without exception, they are looking forward to their next chance to go canoeing. By then, they hope to have their own canoes and not be so dependant on the generosity of good neighbours like 30th Regiment.

Quiz

Right now we are in the throes of an all-unit knockout quiz, dreamed up by that past-master of quiz inquisitors, **Lieutenant Ken Day.** There will be a full report in our next contribution.

Sergeants' Mess

A 'fastest gun in the Mess' competition provided some hilarious fun at a 'Western Night' party held in the Sergeants' Mess. Bad men please note, **Sergeant Roy 'Chalky' White** is the reigning marshal. Only applicants with game legs need apply for the post vacated by 'Chester.' That tournament bug even crept in here; so **Staff Sergeant Dennis Crump** can now bask in the glory of being the Mess 'Shuv Ha'penny Champion.' **Sergeant Jimmy Rhind** is reigning darts champ, despite a miscalculation which almost caused him to concede the game in the last few throws.

Comings and goings

All that's left is to say our helloes and goodbyes—to **Captain Howard Culley** (by now in Sharjah); **Second-Lieutenant David Jessett, W.O.II Graham Widdowson** (now with 9th Signal Regiment), **Sergeant Bill Smith** (now with 12 Brigade) and **Captain Alan Alkins**—we say cheerio, it was nice knowing you. To **Sergeant Ian Scorer, Lieutenant Norman Williams, Captain George Hayes, Sergeant Ron Crabtree, Captains Ron Cooper** and **Tony Field** and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Colin Meredith,** we say hello. Also, we would like to welcome back **Staff Sergeants Tim Feldon** and **Dave Etherton.** Congratulations on your promotion.

Last of all, we would like to wish all Royal Signals and attached personnel, right round the world, A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR from 223 Signal Squadron.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Bonfire

NOVEMBER dawned, and with it a resurgence of interest in religion on the part of **Lieutenant Alan Pearce,** as he prayed feverishly for fine weather on the fifth. From the degree of success he enjoys on all these ventures, we can only assume he has a direct line, via the Padre.

The fifth was dry and mild, crowds flocked in from the surrounding district intent on enjoying the festivities. The bar, hamburger and roast potato stall, with hot soup, proved very popular. Whilst parents fed the inner man, the children with typical childish exuberance, let off steam with sparklers and a cacophony of sound which defies description.

R.Q.M.S. Colin Johnson, Staff Sergeant Derick Moat and **Sergeant Pat Toovey,** with a party of volunteers, seemed intent on self-immolation as they provided a very impressive firework display. The most memorable moment of the dis-display came when a large shell burst prematurely in the mortar, spraying the party with a shower of blazing pyrotechnics in glorious technicolor. The brilliance of these colours was only slightly enhanced by the remarks of the firing party as they dodged the debris. The children gave this effort a standing ovation and were bitterly disappointed when the R.Q.M.S. declined to put on a repeat performance.

When the firework display ended, one of the children from the local orphanage lit the bonfire, which quickly caught and burned fiercely; no doubt assisted by the R.Q. surreptitiously secreting a dozen tyres in the heart of the fire and dousing them well with petrol, prior to the arrival of the local fire brigade. The guy had a suitable international flavour, in that it had a German hat and hirsute adornment to match, number two dress jacket and American slacks.

Scottish Supremacy

New arrivals in AFCENT are given a definition of a Dutch man by the Dutch PIO as "a person who can buy from a Jew, sell to a Scot, and still make a profit." This must now be subject to reappraisal as a result of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) George Yule's** recent purchase of a new Viva.

When **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Colin Heaps** took his car to the Vauxhall agent for servicing, he was asked if he knew a Mr. Jewel. This character, it appeared, had purchased a new car and paid by cheque, which he had omitted to sign. Investigation later proved this to be **George Yule;** only a canny Scot would have the gall to pass an unsigned cheque to a Dutchman and have a name which is unprouncable in the local tongue. If George continues his commercial transactions in this vein, we can only assume that he will leave AFCENT a rich man.

Sport

A new interest in rugby has been instilled in the junior ranks of the Squadron since the arrival of **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bert Bowes.** Never has there been so much enthusiasm for this robust sport, or people so keen to suggest games against the roughest teams. Participate? Well, not really, the enthusiasm does not extend to this. Their fervour can be accounted for by the fact that the S.S.M. returns each Monday morning limping, suffering from contusions, abrasions and a general malaise which can only be attributed to the attentions of the opposing pack.

Football

The long-awaited clash of the giants of the AFCENT League took place on 4th November between the Squadron and the German Nationals from Brunssum. This proved to be a hard-fought match with honours very even. The spectators entered into the spirit of the game and the Squadron spoke in hoarse whispers on Thursday. **Sergeant Ray Jeffery** was warned as a spectator for remarks which the referee did not seem to appreciate. This warning seemed to confirm a deep-rooted suspicion by members of the Squadron that if one faculty, namely sight, fails, another, hearing, becomes more acute.

The final score, 2—2, mirrored the quality of the game and the even nature of the sides competing. A general vote from the spectators gave the Oscar to the German Nationals and the Lonsdale Belt to the Squadron. The 90 minutes proved quite conclusively that our team manager, **W.O.I Tom Burke's** constitution is capable of withstanding all the strains of severe hypertension.

The referee, **Sergeant Fred Jones,** R.M.P., must be congratulated for keeping a firm grip on the game, in which feelings ran high.

Departures

A further round of hectic parties have resulted from our recent departures. **Sergeant Bob Williamson,** having failed to be selected for the next Yeoman's Course, decided to take his option and return to civilian life. He set something of a record by managing two farewell parties in one day. We will miss Bob and we wish him success in Barrow-in-Furness.

Lance-Corporals Brian Hirst, John Bakes, John Shires and **Signalman Jock Berrill** combined for a farewell party in one of the local pubs. This was a first-rate function, with plenty to eat, and even more to drink. The party was a competely international affair, with Americans, Germans, Dutch and British, all combined in good spirit to say farewell. A mark of the high esteem with which our members are held locally was the fact that during the party the landlady presented **Brian Hirst** and **John Banks** with brass dinner gongs as a memento of their stay in Holland. **John Shires** and **Brian Hirst** are both destined for a BI Commcen Course, which we are convinced they will pass. **Jock Berrill** is due to savour the delights of Bahrain and **John Bakes** is taking up the hurly-burly of civilian life.

48 Gurkha Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (246) B.F.P.O.1

Visit of Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

AMIDST the excitement of Dashera and an impending typhoon, the Squadron was very pleased to be visited by **General Bradley.** He is not only Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals, but also Colonel, Gurkha Signals.

We were all very pleased that he was able to visit at the time of Dashera, the main Gurkha festival. We were able to show him both the military aspect of our work and the influence of Nepali national life on it.

He first inspected a quarter guard and then met all the officers of the Squadron. This was followed by a tour to see something of the work of each Troop at static displays. **General Bradley** has a wonderful ability both to talk to and encourage soldiers in their work.

He was therefore greeted at the Gurkha Sergeants' Mess Dashera party as a more-than-welcome and very honoured guest. The evening was very enjoyable and was marked by a very polished display of Nepali dancing. The success of this was due, not only to the efforts of the Senior Queen's Gurkha Officer, but very much the individual efforts of each man.

At an informal ceremony, the following morning, **General Bradley** was presented with two silver-laid tea bowls. His



POINT FOR DISCUSSION

The Master of Signals, Major General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. in discussion with Captain (QGO) Prembahadur Gurung, O.C. A Troop—an incident caught by the camera during General Bradley's visit to 48 Brigade Signal Squadron

sincere thanks showed how much he had enjoyed his visit. The only regret we had was that his visit was all too short, but understandably so with the energetic programme that he pursues.

Royal Signals Hong Kong Rifle Meeting, 1970

This is one of the Hong Kong inter-Squadron annual meetings and the one that 48 Brigade Squadron organises. There is also an athletics meeting and a swimming meeting. They are all very welcome, as they afford a chance to meet together and also compete in a worthwhile competition.

This year the weather was fine and the shooting good. The Squadron retained the cup.



HONG KONG RIFLE SHOOTING CHAMPIONS

48 Brigade Signal Squadron's Rifle Team which retained the cup won last year at the Hong Kong Rifle Meeting. *Standing from left:* Signalman Gambahadur Pun, Lance-Corporal Sukbahadur Thapa, Rifleman Birendrabahadur Limbu, Corporal Babarsing Rai, Rifleman Charuman Rai, Rifleman Narbahadur Limbu and Signalman Pahalsing Gurung. *Sitting from left:* W.O.II Sherbahadur Thapa, Major T. C. Livingstone (O.C.), S/Sergeant Motilal Thapa (Team Captain), Captain (Q.G.O.) Bhupal Gurung (S.Q.G.O.), Sergeant Muktibahadur Gurung

Exercise 'Far Fling'

Immediately after Dashera, the Squadron took part in Exercise 'Far Fling.' This was an amphibious exercise, 40 Commando versus 7 Gurkha Rifles. Our job was the provision of umpire and control communications and the establishing of a control headquarters.

The exercise, although good training for the Squadron, was marred by a potential typhoon. 40 Commando had to withdraw and a purely land battle followed, which was not so interesting for us.

255 Signal Squadron (Bahrain) B.F.P.O. 63

THERE are other descriptions as well, but what is Bahrein really like? Everybody knows, or has their own very clear-cut idea of what serving in Singapore, Cyprus, Germany or U.K. is like, but the small island of Bahrein is shrouded in mystery. The reason is fairly simple, you love it or you hate it, so the inevitably conflicting stories of people who have served here leave their audiences confused to say the least.

Shedding a little light . . .

This article is written in the hope of shedding a little light on Bahrein in general and 255 Signal Squadron in particular; it might raise a few memories for past members of the Squadron and give future members a guide as to what lies ahead.

Bahrein and its dependencies are ruled by His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa. It is an island about 30 miles long, 10 miles wide and is situated half-way up the Persian Gulf, about 250 miles north of Sharjah and about 300 miles south of Kuwait.

Most of its area is uninhabited, but it has a large oil refinery, a number of oil wells, a port capable of handling large ocean-going freighters and an international airport, whose runway will soon be capable of landing jumbo jets. It has a very mixed community, which is basically Arab, but with a fair sprinkling of other mid-eastern races—particularly Pakistani.

The chief town—Manama

The chief town, Manama, has a good local market and modern shopping centre, many bargains can be picked up and Japanese electronic goods—Hi Fi, etc.—are extremely cheap compared with U.K.

Bahrein has all three services well represented and situated in Bahrein is the Joint Headquarters for the Gulf Area which includes several places outside of Bahrein itself and this is mainly where 255 Signal Squadron comes in.

255 is the largest independent Signal Squadron in the British Army and has 10 Troops.

Operating Troop

This is the largest Troop in the Squadron. It operates a Joint Message Centre for all Services in Jufair, working into the DCN and handling around a thousand messages per day. As well as achieving a high standard of signalling, the Troop is also very good at football and a photograph is included of the Troop team with some of their trophies.

Field Troop

This is a small, highly mobile force, basically equipped with Rover-borne radios and ready to supply net radio facilities for any contingency within Bahrein Island. It also has an air portable role and can be used in assistance to any military operation within the Gulf area. Field Troop is mainly noted for 'swanning' around the desert and playing hockey, under the guiding hand of **Sergeant Barry Brown.** The organisation is run by **Second-Lieutenant Carl Conlon.**

Line Troop

The 'Hairies' have a busy time here. As well as keeping their darts team in training, they have an extremely complex telephone system, incorporating a 500-line automatic exchange to keep running. The hot, humid climate does nothing to help cable joints and they are kept hard at it. The shop is run by **Second-Lieutenant John Rayner** while the work is done by **Sergeant 'Chippy' Wood** and his merry men.

Airfield Troop

Captain Nigel Wood has just taken over command of Airfield Troop from **Captain Tom Scarff,** who is now on his way to 22nd Signal Regiment. The Troop is somewhat of a private army, being situated away from the main body of the Squadron and working for the RAF at the airport. They are responsible for the lines, telephones and exchange at RAF Muharraq and also for the army camp there. Like Line Troop they are dreading the annual rain and tall stories are told of the chaos caused last time it rained. Included is a photograph taken during a recent visit by **Major-General R. C. Gibbs, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** Commander British Forces Gulf to Airfield Troop. The **General** is talking to **Staff Sergeant Clothier** and **Sergeant Tony Fraser,** while **Lance-Corporals Ian Maclachlan** and **Bert Wright** get on with the work.

Radio Relay Troop

This Troop is responsible for all trunk communications on this island—again a very busy job. Their equipment, for those so technically minded, is HM 314/315 operating in the 'light' frequencies of around four-and-a-half thousand 'meggs,' backed by ATE multichannel carrier equipment. The Troop is run by **F. of S. Dave (Smooth) Potter,** who during his time seems to have developed a great interest in basketball, fishing, Squadron Boat Club and Double Diamond—not forgetting the occasional use of a 'trimming tool.' The Troop are regular participants in anything sporting, and despite their small size put up big performances.

Hamala Troop

Hamala Camp is situated towards the south of the Island—miles from anywhere. This is where the resident Infantry Battalion is kept and Hamala Troop is responsible for their base communication. It is run by **Sergeant John Clayforth,** who has a number of Comcen Operators and Linemen to run the Message Centre and the camp telephones. This is a fairly quiet job compared with the hubbub of the main headquarters.

Comcen Troop

Run by our Traffic Officer, **Captain Ken Bicknell,** this is a small Troop of Training Operators who work with the Royal Air Force in Comcen, Bahrein.

We also have a M.T. Troop, a Tels Workshop run by a R.E.M.E. Warrant Officer, **A.Q.M.S. Shotliff,** and of course the inevitable H.Q. Troop. The Chief Clerk, **Corporal Chris Rogers,** runs what is probably the most overworked part of the Squadron—ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal Len Hunt,** and our delicious civvy-type typist, **Valerie Teague,** W.W.S.T.C.

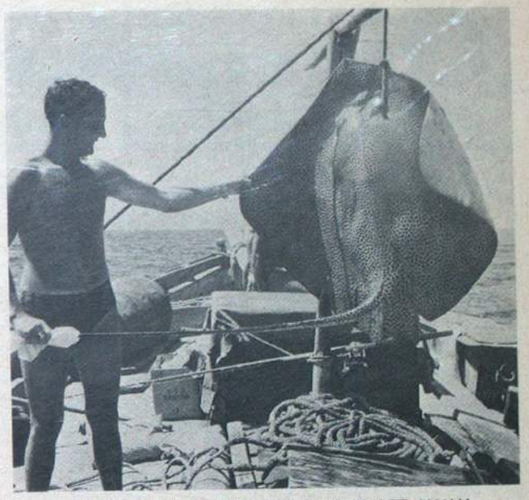
There are two main objections to life in Bahrein. The major one, made by all single men, is the limited quantity of white women around, but as the normal tour here is only nine months this is just bearable. The other objection is the climate, which tends to get a bit sticky during the summer. The average daily temperature is around 105-110 degrees in the shade, and it is not unusual for it to rise even higher. Coupled with 95% humidity, this can be quite exhausting. However, the remainder of the year is quite pleasant.

A wide range of sports and pastimes

To counteract these disadvantages, the island offers a wide range of sports and pastimes. Being close to the sea, there are numerous water sports, including water ski-ing, sailing, sub aqua and fishing. Fishing is very popular out here and good catches can be made off the coast. The Squadron hires a dhow every week and takes the keen fishermen a few miles out to sea. One of the best fish yet caught was a 72lb. leopard ray caught by **Sergeant Ron Desanti** with which he won the S.S.M.'s trophy. The Squadron has a very strong hockey team run by **Sergeant Barry Brown** and also an excellent football team, under the guiding hand (or should I say foot?) of **W.O.II Ernie Withall.** It would take too long to detail all the sports that the Squadron takes part in, but we have a go at anything and always manage to put up a creditable performance.

The 'Outpost Club'

The Squadron has built its own club, 'The Outpost.' This is extremely well patronised and the daily takings are evidence of its popularity. It is at present run by **Lance-Corporal Alan**



THE BIG ONE THAT JUST DID'NT GET AWAY

Fishing is a very popular sport—good catches can be made off the coast. One of the best catches so far was the 72 lb. Leopard Ray caught by Sergeant Ron Desanti with which he won the S.S.M.'s Trophy



OPERATING TROOP SOCCER TEAM

Though the climate tends to get a bit 'sticky' at times, its no obstacle to the enthusiastic soccer team who have put up some creditable performances, and their trophies tend to get more numerous

Left to right, back row: Sergeant Tanner, Signalman Robson, Lance-Corporal James, Rover I. Howes, Lieutenant Greig

Front row: Signalman Jones, Signalman Powell (Captain), Lance-Corporal Wishort

Ewing, who provides a good line in hot dogs and various other foods as a sideline.

There has recently been a change of command in the Squadron, **Major Richard Reynolds** has succeeded **Major John Brian** as O.C. 255 Signal Squadron. **Major Brian's** passing was quite an event in itself—half the Garrison turned out to see his final departure from 'The Outpost'—riding on the back of a particularly vicious and evil-smelling camel.

The backbone of the Squadron

An article about 255 cannot be concluded without a mention of our S.S.M.—**W.O.II Eric Le Quesne.** He is the backbone of the Squadron and takes a leading part in all Squadron activities—but he is probably best known and remembered for his organisation of Squadron fishing trips. He is a keen fisherman himself but has not yet managed to win the 'S.S.M. Trophy'; however, keep trying!

No misgivings about joining us here

And so, to conclude, although it would appear that the days of the British Army in the Persian Gulf are numbered, it is hoped that as many people as possible will get a chance to serve with 255 Signal Squadron. For anybody who is posted here and has any misgivings, you will be joining a first-class unit with a very important job to do and a very good bunch of people to work with.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
B.F.P.O. 53

THIS month, THE WIRE notes Biro gains yet another set of teeth marks. The present writer, having barely set foot on Cypriot soil, at the beginning of the month, was immediately invited to take up pen and write. Therefore, this month's offering consists, to some degree, of the impressions of a newcomer.

Having followed these notes over recent months, one would imagine, and quite correctly, the Squadron to be a far-reaching empire. In many cases, detachments are over two hours' drive apart, and the largest 'encampment,' S.H.Q., which is at R.A.F., Episkopi, numbers less than 50 men. In spite of this, the Squadron appears to manage as full a sporting and social programme as any other—not to mention a little work. This fact is verified by a considerable harvest of plaster casts in evidence at present. Whether these are trophies obtained on the sporting field or the social field is not so clear. The Military Skill-at-Arms meeting has been and gone. **Sergeant MacGilp** and his band of followers battled through to finish eighth and retain their collective sense of humour into the bargain. The Station Commander's Cup is also much in evidence on the sporting calendar. This competition appears to encompass practically every sport in the book, each one being played in turn on a knockout basis. This month was volleyball month. Since the competition is run by the R.A.F. and dominated by them, it is becoming a point of honour that the Royal Signals should win it. However, we have suffered a minor set-back. **W.O.I (F. of S.) Kenyon** (who informs me that he is a star player) and his men had reached the quarter-finals of the volleyball when the aforementioned Warrant Officer decided to place his head in the trajectory of the ball. Unfortunately he failed to remove his spectacles before doing so, and as a consequence, he had to be escorted from the field of play and the game was lost. In spite of this, we are in overall second place.

On the social side, the Sergeants' Mess have foregathered from all corners of the empire for a Mess dinner, at which the officers were admirably entertained. The outgoing C.S.E., **Captain Davies** and his wife were dined out by all ranks on a Cypriot Mezze in Limassol before departing. We wish them success and happiness at the School of Signals.

Finally, we must report that **Sergeant Craine** staggered into engineering control the other day from the top of Mount Olympus to announce the first fall of snow of the winter. It is hoped that reports of the Squadron activities on the ski slopes may follow shortly.

261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
B.F.P.O. 53

Visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant

ON 26th October we were delighted to receive a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., C.B.E.** He was given a fairly rapid tour of the Squadron by the O.C., **Major N. C. Grayson,** but he did manage to meet a large number of the Officers and men both socially and at work, in Episkopi and Akrotiri. He had a word for everyone he met, including **Lance-Corporal Bob Large** who, when asked by the **General** what should be done about the fact that he had been in the Army a long time and had only reached Lance-Corporal, replied: "Well, you could always give me another stripe, sir."

Farewell to Captain and Mrs. G. A. J. Barnaby

During the month we have had to say goodbye to our erstwhile Administrative Officer, **Captain G. A. J. (Barny) Barnaby** and his wife **Mary** who is a serving W.R.A.F. Officer. Inter-service co-operation has been seen at its best because not only do the timings of their postings coincide, they will be working only a few miles apart in U.K. **Captain Barnaby** goes to 33 (V) Signal Regiment in Liverpool which should give him a good excuse to grow some hair. We can reasonably assure 33 Regiment that when they left here by car they were pointing roughly in the right direction. We wish them all the best on their new postings.

. . . and farewell to Major N. C. Grayson

At the time of writing **Major Grayson** is in the throes of trying to get the proverbial pint into a half-pint pot, as he packs his Honda in preparation for his overland journey to his next posting at the School of Signals. He was dined out right royally, by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and a few nights later the Squadron Officers repeated the dose rather more informally at a 'kebab-ing-out' session in downtown Limassol. We all wish him a safe journey and a happy tour at the School. Into the hot seat we welcome **Major B. C. Hodgson** who readers may know is not new to 261. We hope he and his wife have a pleasant time in Cyprus.

A voice from the wilderness

Sergeant Terry Stacey, Commanding Airfield Troop, RAF Nicosia, writes:

For past members of the Troop a word to reassure you that we are still going strong, and for those of you who have never heard of us, a small contribution to put us on the map.

On the sporting side, although we are a very small Troop (nine all souls including myself), or indeed because of it, we enter a team in all the inter-section sports on the station and acquit ourselves very well. We have recently won the Station Commander's Sportsmanship Trophy for the second time in succession. We have no particular gladiators but everyone has a go at everything. **Lance-Corporal George Clarke** is playing really well for the Station soccer team. I look after the station hockey team (men's), and **Lance-Corporal 'Plum' Richardson** somehow talked his way into running the ladies' hockey team —there must be an ulterior motive here somewhere.

Socially, we are reckoned to be good mixers. **Lance-Corporal Forbes Davidson** is on the Roundel Club Committee, **Corporal Rick Christie** and **Lance-Corporal 'Plum' Richardson** are rapidly becoming proficient disc-jockeys on the station Redifusion network, with our backroom boy, **Signalman Bob Deathridge,** doing sterling stuff with his massive tool box as the external engineer.

It's not all play and no work, unfortunately, and we do our fair share particularly with the F.F.R. rapidly approaching. The RAF personnel on the station have been warned about not standing around for too long or they'll get painted.

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Widespread publicity has been given to the acute shortage of funds for house purchase loans, and **would-be** HOME OWNERS who did not make positive plans well ahead found it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

SCHOOL FEES

In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

LIFE ASSURANCE + INVESTMENT

Conventional or Equity Linked Schemes

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£12.10.6 monthly** for those liable to tax at 8/3 in the **£ will give** the family man aged 30 next **immediate family protection** of **£39,360** and an anticipated **cash** sum of **£35,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65.

We can arrange equally attractive Plans where the **accent** is required to be **on investment.** Endowment assurances on a with profit basis and/or linked with unit trust investments in the equity or property market can produce a highly satisfactory tax-free appreciation of capital. Each Plan incorporates full life cover but, more important, is the part it can play in **providing you financial security in retirement.**

For full details, please telephone or write in confidence to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53



THE AMMAN RADIO DETACHMENT OF 262 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Back from Jordan, some wearing Arab headgear, but all with many stories to tell of their experiences. From *left to right:* Corporal George Coles, Lance-Corporal Jim Smart, Lance-Corporal 'Stew' Hibbins, Sergeant Mick Banks, Corporal Paddy Service, Corporal 'Dutch' Holland and Signalman 'Tex' Saul

Squadron Fete

WITH Christmas nearly upon us bringing with it the usual heavy demands on the Squadron P.R.I., it became obvious that an all-out effort should be made to boost the funds. A proposal from the Wives' Club to hold a money-raising fete was quickly adopted by the rest of the Squadron and November saw wives and husbands alike feverishly engaged in making or acquiring attractive items for sale. The fete was held on 25th November, 1970, in the St. George Club, Dhekelia. In addition to a magnificent fancy goods stall attractions included a lucky dip, with a heavily disguised **Corporal 'Snowy' Snowden** as Father Christmas, and various side shows. Despite rather gloomy weather attendance at the fete was good and P.R.I. is now some £150 the richer. A special word of thanks goes to all Squadron wives upon whom the main burden of organisation fell and whose noble assistance made the fete such as outstanding success.

Patrol race—Exercise 'Milisk'

The annual exercise to test non-infantry unit teams in the military skills required for a 24-hour patrol race took place in the Goshi-Troulli training area on 27th and 28th November, 1970.

The Squadron's ten-man team, under the leadership of **Sergeant Mick Stocks,** trained hard for three weeks prior to the exercise and this training was repaid when the team finished fourth out of the nine teams competing.

The patrol race is a very thorough test of military skills and includes day and night marching, first aid, radio communications, an ambush and finishing with an assault course and falling plate competition. Our congratulations go to the team on their competent performance and to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Rod Mathieson** and **Sergeant Frank Salmon,** R.P.C., for all their assistance with the training.

Although they did not win the team put up a very creditable performance particularly at the shooting which earned them a word of praise from **Brigadier Windsor-Clive,** Commander Dhekelia Area, who presented the prizes.

W.R.A.C. success

Not to be outdone by the male element of the Squadron nine members of the W.R.A.C. in Dhekelia set out to walk 20 miles on Sunday, 29th November, 1970. The walk was sponsored by friends with the aim of raising money for the Squadron's children's Christmas party and for W.R.A.C. Christmas activities.

It was a very cheerful group that set out along the Famagusta road to walk to Dhekelia. There were three scheduled stops for refreshments along the route and many well-wishers turned up to encourage the walkers, some even joining in the walk. **Sergeants 'Ollie' Aldridge** and **Bill Kerr** joined in just after the half-way stage and did much to keep spirits high by serenading the girls as they walked. The last five miles were the hardest but with the end nearly in sight only one girl retired, after 14 creditable miles, whilst the rest were kept going by their determination to finish.

Nine exhausted but happy girls were greeted at the W.R.A.C. club room, the finishing point, by a large crowd of friends who cheered them in. In all they had been walking for five hours 40 minutes—a splendid effort. The final sum raised is not yet known but to date £34 has been collected. Our thanks go to all sponsors for their financial and physical support, to **Corporal Christine Thomson** and **Lance-Corporal Jessie Provan,** who suggested the walk, and to all friends who made the venture such an outstanding success. Well done girls!

Obituary

EX-C.Q.M.S. C. P. MARRIOTT

Mr. Cyril P. Marriott, ex-2308738, C.Q.M.S., Royal Signals (formerly of Bushey Heath, Herts.), died at Ronkswood Hospital, Worcester, on 11th December, aged 71.

Mr. Marriott joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1916 at the age of 17, but was discharged from the R.A.F. (as it had become in 1918) as a result of severe injuries sustained in a plane crash. Upon his recovery, he enlisted in R.E. Signals as a despatch rider in 1919, and was among those who formed the necleus of the Royal Corps of Signals upon its formation, on 28th June, 1920. He saw service in Ireland during the troubled years of the early twenties, and was recalled to the Colours from the Reserve immediately upon the outbreak of war in September, 1939, serving with the Royal Signals throughout the Second World War—in France, 1940; North Africa (Algeria and Tunisia) 1942-43, and in Italy, 1943-45.

After finally leaving the Army in 1945, Mr. Marriott worked for many years as a chef at R.A.F., Fighter Command Headquarters at Bently Priory, Middlesex.

Mr. Marriott retained a lively interest in the Corps and was a regular reader of THE WIRE up to the time of his death. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Ruby Marriott.

W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) F. C. AULT

Major G. J. Bevan, M.M., O.C. Scarborough Training Centre writes:

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of W.O.II R.Q.M.S. F. C. Ault, of Scarborough Signal Training Centre. He died in Catterick Military Hospital on 12th November and was cremated at Lawnswood Crematorium on 19th November.

His meticulous attention to detail, skill, patience, tact and loyalty have ensured that he will be remembered by all with whom he served. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Joyce, and his two children.

SERGEANT A. CUSH AND SIGNALMAN G. WILLIAMS

16th Signal Regiment writes:

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of **Sergeant A. Cush,** who died suddenly at the R.A.F. Hospital, Wegberg, on 24th November, at the age of 52. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, son Gerald, and daughter Angela.

Also on 5th December, as a result of a traffic accident, **Signalman G. Williams,** and our deepest sympathy is expressed to his wife, Lynne.

AT THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Signalling through the ages

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V) find a new role

1. Signalman Tony Martin — a fine Roman Centurion
2. Signalman Jack Kelly — dashing World War I D.R.
3. Lance Corporal Desmond Hart (1815 style Sergeant) reports to Staff Sergeant Ernie Cast (1815 style officer)
4. R.Q.M.S. Derek Ayton thoroughly at home with his Boer War helio
5. Officer Cadet Martin Skipworth and Signalman Merry bring things up to date
6. Some of the cast take a bow

[Photos: Courtesy Roy Morris, 19, Donaldson Road, London, N.W.6.













No need for bright sparks to fiddle about with this



Our GA.481 is the only all-solid-state 100 W broadband linear amplifier in full scale production. It covers the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any HF manpack to form a 100 W man-portable or vehicle station.

It measures 12¼" × 12" × 4¾" and operates from its own battery or from a 24V vehicle supply, without the need for a converter. But the big point is that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as it's fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mismatches such as broken or short circuited aerials, there's nothing much to go wrong.

The GA.481 has already been supplied to British and Overseas Armed Forces and is in quantity production. Now.

Redifon Limited,
Communications Division,
Broomhill Road,
London S.W.18.

REDIFON

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation



SENIOR OFFICERS AT 11 SIGNAL GROUP STUDY PERIOD

Standing, left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge, 35th Signal Regiment (V), Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. MacF MacGillivray, C.R Signals N. Ireland, Lieutenant-Colonel M. B. M. Brown, 31st Signal Regiment (V), Lieutenant-Colonel H. Rothwell, M.B.E., 33rd Signal Regiment (V)

Seated, left to right: Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E., (New Commander 11 Signal Group (V)), Brigadier R. H. Borthwick, (at the time Commander 11 Signal Group (V)), Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E., DACOS CANDE SHAPE, Colonel W. N. Land, ERD Deputy Commander 11 Signal Group (V)

11 Signal Group (V)

Annual Training in N.W. Europe

DURING the summer of 1970 the three Signal Regiments of the Group carried out annual camp training in N.W. Europe. This is the pattern followed in alternate years in 11 Signal Group. 31st Signal Regiment based in London, 33rd Signal Regiment whose Headquarters are in Liverpool, and 35th Signal Regiment who are in the Birmingham area, all travelled to the Continent to carry out their roles in support of SHAPE, AFCENT and NORTHAG respectively. Approximately 1,250 officers and men moved with all their vehicles and equipment by various complicated routes to the N.A.T.O. headquarters to which they are assigned. There was hardly a hitch though new anecdotes still continue to be heard at the bar. You may have heard more detailed reports from the Regiments but we would like to add that Group H.Q. was also there in the thick of it all! Training was realistic and Saceur expressed satisfaction with the standard of communications provided during Exercises 'Front Centre' and 'Sigex.' The Vice Chief of the General Staff added his congratulations to those received from N.A.T.O.

55 Signal Squadron reported their recent activities in the October/November issue of THE WIRE. There is no doubt they proved themselves in their new role with Strategic Command during Exercise 'Crystal Palace.'

Officers' Study Period

Each year, in the autumn, most T.A.V.R. units study the results of annual camp, settle the bills and make their plans for the future. In 11 Signal Group we have our annual Officers' Study Period at this time. Last year it was held at the headquarters of 31st Regiment and ninety-seven officers attended. We were delighted to see **Brigadier O. J. Peck,** D.A.C.O.S. SHAPE, **Colonel (now Brigadier) T. G. H. Jackson,** who was then C.S.O. 3 Division, and **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. McGillivray,** C.R. Signals, N. Ireland, who each gave most interesting talks and later joined us for dinner. The newly appointed Honorary Colonel of 33rd Signal Regiment, **Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker,** gave a most thought-provoking after-dinner talk. **Brigadier R. H. Borthwick** was due to hand over command in December and so the officers of the Group took the opportunity after dinner to present the Commander with a farewell gift.

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

Colonel 'Paddy' Evans' Departure

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL **'Paddy' Evans'** last contact with the Regiment was when he was carried from the Mess at Scarborough on a specially constructed mobile 'thunderbox' which was then placed on a locally designed 'chariot' and towed out of the barracks by the Officers. The procession crossed the barrack square to an accompaniment of fireworks including an avenue of rockets. This 'pulling out' came at the end of his 'dining out' at which the Officers of the Regiment had presented him with a silver salver inscribed with their signatures, and he had presented the Mess with a picture of all the senior Officers in the Regiment drawn by himself. He has now handed over the Regiment, lock, stock and baggage, to **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Stewart** who is a Volunteer, and the Regiment now awaits with interest to see what changes there will be with a Volunteer in the chair.

Captain Jack Raw leaves the services

Captain Jack Raw, who has so successfully commanded our detachment at Gateshead for the past three years, is now leaving us. He has had a uniquely varied career in the Services (for details see below in this issue), having served in the

Merchant Navy, the RAF, the Royal Observer Corps and Royal Signals—some of them simultaneously. We will all be very sorry to see him go, and wish him every success in his next service.

Regimental Officers' Ball

The Officers' annual ball was again held in our own T. & A.V.R. Centre at Brambles Farm and was received with even more enthusiasm than last year. Once again we have to thank our Training Major, **Leslie Clayton,** O.C. 'H.Q.' Squadron, **Jim Smiles,** and **Lieutenant Barbara Bailey** and their helpers for all the effort they put in to make this such a successful evening.

'Troop Wedding'

Signalman Brian Uscroft and **Private Christine Gray,** W.R.A.C., who are both members of 745 Troop, were married on Saturday, 21st November, in Hull. They were given a lively 'send off' by their friends in the Troop and the rest of 49 Squadron.

Exercise 'Night Owl'

On a particularly cold and wet November night a number of the Regiment's radio detachments provided a 'check and safety' radio net for the R.A.C.'s International Rally. One of the rally's 'forest sections' took place on the North Yorks. moors near Scarborough, and it was on these bleak and muddy hills that our radio links enabled the rally officials to control the competitors. The net was organised by **Major Jim Malcolm** and it worked well throughout the night, despite heavy radio interference and having to contend with forests of very wet trees.

Retirement of Captain J. H. Raw

Captain Jack Raw, who is about to retire from the T. & A.V.R., has a most unusual record of service; he has been in the Merchant Navy, the RAF, the Royal Observer Corps and the Army—some of them simultaneously!

In March, 1938, he became a Cadet Deck Officer in the Merchant Navy and served on several ships until 1940. His ship was one of those which went to the assistance of the **Athenia,** the first ship to be sunk in the war. He was also present in the River Plate when the **Graf Spee** was scuttled.



In 1940 he joined the RAF as a navigator / air gunner/radar operator and served in U.K. and Middle East Air Force with 454 and 459 Australian Squadrons. He was commissioned in the Middle East in 1944 after having reached the rank of Warrant Officer. He continued as a navigator, and was later employed on mountain rescue in Scotland until he was demobilised in March, 1947. During his service in the RAF he was a keen footballer, rugby player and cross-country runner.

He then joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in January, 1950, as a Flight-Lieutenant Navigator. In 1955 he became a Marine Officer employed as the Captain of an Air-Sea Rescue Launch, until December, 1959, when his service closed down.

He then joined the Army in January, 1960, serving with 50 Division Signal Regiment (T.A.) until it became 34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) in 1967, where he has served up to the present time.

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

In 1952 he also joined the Royal Observer Corps whilst still serving with the R.A.F.V.R., as an Aircraft Recognition Instructor, thus being in the unique position of belonging to two services at the same time; he served with the Observer Corps until 1964.

Unfortunately, being well over the age limit, **Jack** is now due to leave the Regiment after a long period of service to his country. He holds the following medals: 1939/45 Star, Atlantic Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence and War Medals and in addition is in the unique position of holding the T.D., Air Efficiency Medal and the Royal Observer Corps Medal.

OBITUARY

Staff Sergeant Robert ('Paddy') Jamison T. & A.V.R.

Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Jamison enlisted in the RAF in 1943 and qualified as a pilot and was attached to the Glider Pilot Regiment until he was demobilised in 1947 when he joined the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and was employed on flying and radar duties. He transferred to Royal Signals on the disbandment of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force in 1961 and served with 49 (Yorkshire) Signal Regiment T.A.; he continued to serve in 49 (WR) Signal Squadron of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment on the formation of the T. & A.V.R. until the time of his death. He was a G.P.O. engineer in civilian life and a Radio Operator and Line Technician in the T. & A.V.R. He was a loyal and popular member of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. He died suddenly at the age of 45 years on 17th October, 1970. His funeral was attended by a party of his comrades from 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment. Our deep sympathy goes to his wife, Ethel, whose address is 22 Fountains Avenue, Bilton, Harrogate.





[*Courtesy: Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough*

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PADDY EVANS DEPARTS

Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans, M.B.E., hands a photograph of himself to (then) Major R. M. Stewart T.D., on the eve of his departure from the Regiment

40th Ulster Signal Regt. (V) Belfast

Annual FFR Inspection

WE passed through our 'Fervid Fever of Readiness Inspection' with flying colours. A just result for our hard work throughout the year, resulting in consistently high inspections, even though the C.O. insisted that no training time be lost on the preparations. **Major Barker,** the Group Staff Officer, conducted a thorough four-day preliminary, and then **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** the Group Commander, descended on us for two days, visiting all three centres and casting his very keen eye on everything and everybody. He presented T.A.V.R. Efficiency Medals to **W.O.II Chambers** and **Corporal Irvine,** and Champion Shot and runner-up awards to **Staff Sergeant Darrah** and **Corporal Shanks** (see photo).

Recruiting 100 per cent

During the **Brigadier's** visit he spoke to our new recruits' course, all 30 of them, and to 10 brand new recruits who were being attested. It was really nice to be able to report that the Regiment was 100 per cent recruited on the last day of his visit, thanks to a lot of effort by every member of the Regiment during the 12 months.



MUTUAL ADMIRATION

Two "old soldiers" having just received their TAVR Efficiency Medals admiring the Shooting Trophies of two "young soldiers"

From the left: Corporal E. R. Shanks, Corporal R. L. Irvine, Staff-Sergeant B. Darrah, W.O.II J. Chambers

Personality

Captain (Q.M.) 'Reg' Couch

As our young fledglings try their wings **Captain Reg Couch,** our T. & A.V.R. Q.M., looks back on 43 years of continuous service with the Regular and Reserve Army, having enlisted as a boy tradesman in May, 1927. **Reg's** youthful appearance belies his years, though he asserts that his Regimental number is one removed from Kitchener's!

His first posting from boy service was to Northern Ireland in November, 1930, and 1933 found him with the 2nd Indian Division Signals, Quetta. He also served in W.E.S. Cherat and Kohat District Signals during this tour.

He returned to Northern Ireland in January, 1938, and the following year he received special commendation from the Governor of Northern Ireland for his part in fighting a fire at Baronscourt Castle, the country residence of His Grace the Duke of Abercorn.

Following a period of combined operations training in N. Scotland in 1940, Reg joined the 14th Army in India in 1942.



A TRUE CORPS FAMILY

Captain 'Reg' Couch with his two sons, both serving in the Corps

He served at Chittagong and on the Arakan with 15th India Corps.

He returned to Bangalore, India, in 1945 immediately prior to the cessation of war with Japan where he was mentioned in despatches.

After a short leave in the U.K. he joined 101 Force Signals and proceeded to Basra. At the end of operations there he moved by road across country to Port Said, returning to England in 1948; then to Germany with 1st Wireless Regiment from 1948-1951.

In 1951 he was commissioned and posted to S.E.T., Lagos, and the following year he returned home to 50 Division Signals at Darlington. He resigned from the Regular Army in 1955, with the rank of Captain Q.M., and immediately enlisted as a Signalman with 302 Brigade Signal Squadron of 107 (Ulster) Independent Infantry Brigade (T.A.).

On the formation of the present 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment T. & A.V.R., **Reg** became Q.M. and we are proud to record that he is with us still. Our photograph shows **Reg** with his two sons at present serving with the Corps.

50th Anniversary

The troubles delayed our celebrations but we have now made up for lost time by holding an all ranks' dance, an 'At Home' to which the Association and Cadets were invited, a combined Ulster Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' party, and a champagne cocktail party at which all Royal Signals Officers in Ulster were hosts to the elite of Ulster. A really enjoyable time by all, so enjoyable that we have decided to celebrate Ulster's anniversary next year in the same way.

Stop Press

We have just heard that **Lieutenant Brian Patterson** and his very enthusiastic shooting team have made a clean sweep of the non-central T.A.R.A. shooting matches for 1970, which are open to all T.A.V.R. Regiments in the country. The total amounts to five cups, a shield and 48 medals, plus prize money. Details in our next copy. *(See Special Mention column).*

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

Sport

CANOEING

More commendable victories for Corps Canoeists

Lieutenant-Colonel R. D. P. F. Painter, Secretary of Corps Canoeing writes:

The results listed below were achieved by members of the Corps when participating in civilian canoeing competitions held during October/November, 1970, AFTER the 1970 Inter-Services Canoe Championships:

PANGBOURNE LONG DISTANCE RACE, 11th October, 1970.
Class 1A Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow—*third*.
Class 2A Corporal M. J. Bull and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story—*first*.

KENNET RIVER RACE, 18th October, 1970
Class 1A Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow—*first*.
Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink—*second*.
Class 2A Corporal M. J. Bull and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story—*second*.

READING CIRCUIT RACE (15 miles—3 laps of 5 miles each), 1st November, 1970.
Class 1A Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow—*third*.
Class 2A Corporal M. J. Bull and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story—*first* (also broke circuit record and won prize for fastest lap).

LONGRIDGE LONG DISTANCE RACE, 8th November, 1970.
Class 1A Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow—*first*.
Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink—*third*.
Class 2A Corporal M. J. Bull and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story—*first*.
Class 3A Signalman S. W. Sudron—*third*.

EXE DESCENT—15th November, 1970.
Class 1A Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow—*first*.
Class 2A Lance-Corporal R. G. Story and Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink—*second*.
Class 3A Sergeant M. A. Brett—*eighth* (see below).

The following warrant special mention:

READING CIRCUIT RACE.—The Class 2A crew representing the Corps (Corporal M. J. Bull and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story) not only won in their class, but also achieved a new circuit record and put up the fastest time for one five-mile lap in the three lap race.

EXE DESCENT.—This is the last big event of the season in the long distance racing calendar, and the best canoeists in the country participate. It is a 'white water' long distance race over 25 miles of the River Exe, ending in Exeter. This year the river was in spate, and the rapids and weirs to be 'shot' were in a dangerous condition. Many of those competing failed to finish the course. Lance-Corporal Pawlow's win in Class 1A (senior single K1 racing kayaks) was an achievement of considerable note, as was the result of Lance-Corporals Story and Wink in coming second in Class 2A (senior double K2 racing kayaks). Corporal M. J. Bull, Lance-Corporal Story's normal partner in Class 2A, dislocated his shoulder in practice in the wild water the day before the race, and Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink crewed with Lance-Corporal Story as a last-minute change, following this accident. In spite of this, the revised crew finished second in their class against some of the best in the country. Also worthy of mention is Sergeant M. A. Brett, who competed in Class 3A. At a point some two-thirds of the way down the course, the bow of his boat was crushed and over two feet of the stern was broken off while 'shooting' a dangerous weir. Sergeant Brett swam for some distance, towing the remains of his canoe, and then fixed a plastic bag over the open end of the stern of his boat and *finished the course* in 8th position in his class—a very commendable performance.

Corps Hockey

Army v. R.M.A.S.

In their opening match of the season, the Army side, which included Captain Allen, Captain McLuckie and Corporal Havlin, beat Sandhurst 6—1.

Royal Signals v. R.E.M.E.—draw, 2—2

A combination of injuries and duty forced the Corps to field the following side: Sergeant Bowden, Major Gregory and Sergeant Coldwell; Corporal Fox, Lieutenant Barry and Corporal Paterson; Corporal Boardman, Captain McLuckie, Lieutenant Chubb, Corporal Havlin and Major Oehlers.

Some loose marking by the defence in the early part of the game gave the R.E.M.E. an early advantage which had to be contained by several good saves from Sergeant Bowden.

Hard work throughout the side regained control of the match and produced some first-class constructive play, particularly amongst the forwards. During this period Chubb opened the score.

Early in the second half the Corps suffered a severe blow, losing Corporal Boardman, who broke a finger whilst leading the defence out to meet a short corner. This set-back produced even greater efforts from the side and a second goal from Chubb. The loss of Boardman began to tell; R.E.M.E., taking full advantage of their extra man, opened up the play and scored twice to draw the game.

Royal Signals v. R.A.—lost, 1—0

Changes in availability produced the following side: Lance-Corporal Gregory; Captain Carr-Smith and Sergeant Coldwell; Second-Lieutenant Brewin, Lieutenant Barry and Major Gregory; Second-Lieutenant Cook, Captain McLuckie, Lieutenant Chubb, Corporal Havlin and Second-Lieutenant Hutt.

In spite of overnight rain, the ground was firm and the game started with some fast open play. From an early raid on the Corps goal, the Gunner centre-forward scored a good opportunist goal. Recovering from this early setback, the Corps took control of the game and dominated play for the rest of the match. Slow distribution, resulting in wasted chances, enabled the Gunners to hold out and take the match.

Army v. Hampshire

In spite of a very heavy ground, the Army side played well to beat a strong county side 2—1. Captain Allen, Captain McLuckie and Corporal Havlin were included in the side.

Royal Signals v. R.A.C.—won 7—0

After very heavy rain early in the day, the all-weather ground at Blandford dried out and provided a very good playing surface.

To mark his departure from the Corps, Sergeant A. Coldwell captained the following side: Sergeant Bowden; Captain Reed and Sergeant Coldwell; Major Gregory, Lieutenant Barry and Captain Allen; Sergeant Williams, Captain McLuckie, Lieutenant Chubb, Corporal Havlin and Major Oehlers.

Establishing control of the game from the start, the side produced some of the best hockey played this season. First rate goalkeeping by the R.A.C. keeper kept the score down before half-time to one extremely good goal scored by McLuckie.

In the second half Barry took command of the mid-field and created sufficient space for the inside-forward trio to produce some classic interchanging movements. From their play Chubb scored three and McLuckie one. The other two goals were scored by Coldwell from well-taken short corners.

Royal Signals Squash Rackets Championship

The President of Corps Squash Rackets, **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg,** writes:

The first Royal Signals Squash Championship was played at Blandford on the weekend 30th/31st October, 1st November, 1970, and was an unqualified success. A total of 36 competitors entered the tournament (this included three from B.A.O.R. and six from Army Apprentice College). It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm for squash increasing all the time. One of the objects was to select the players who would represent the Corps in the Army Inter-Corps League Championship and in later matches.



SQUASH RACKET FINALISTS
Looking a little worse for wear runner-up Captain M. A. Cornforth (*left*) and winner Captain J. F. Sturr

The following took part in the tournament:

Lieutenant R. C. K. Baynes, H.Q. Army Aviation, Middle Wallop; Lieutenant-Colonel J. Blake, School of Artillery; Apprentice Tradesman Burke, Army Apprentice College; Major T. R. Bushell, 223 Signal Squadron; Captain A. F. Carter, 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment; Captain M. A. Cornforth, School of Signals; Corporal Craig, 30th Signal Regiment; Apprentice Tradesman Dean, Army Apprentice College; Lieutenant L. G. French, Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl; Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, H.Q. Western Command; Sergeant Halliwell, Army Apprentice College; Colonel E. J. Hellier, Ministry of Defence; Corporal D. J. Higginson, 621 Signal Troop; Sergeant Humphries, 30th Signal Regiment; Lance-Corporal W. A. Hutton, 4th Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment; W.O.I Jennings, 30th Signal Regiment; Captain K. B. S. Kent, H.Q. 6 Armoured Brigade; Sergeant Legget, 11th Signal Regiment; Lieutenant G. H. Litchfield, School of Signals; Captain J. H. Lowe, Ministry of Defence; Lieutenant-Colonel I. Macdonald, 28th Signal Regiment; Sergeant J. P. McGovern, 216 Signal Squadron; Captain J. Neeve, 1st Division Signal Regiment; Captain W. A. Price, 244 Signal Squadron; Apprentice Tradesman Rackham, Army Apprentice College; Captain J. Radford, 11th Signal Regiment; Major D. A. C. Randel, Ministry of Defence; Apprentice Corporal Sinclair, Army Apprentice College; Apprentice Tradesman Somerville, Army Apprentice College; Captain J. F. Storr, 8th Signal Regiment; Sergeant M. J. Taylor, 10th Signal Regiment; Lieutenant P. Thompson, 24th Signal Regiment; Brigadier C. E. Tonry, Ministry of Defence; W.O.II Waugh, 30th Signal Regiment; W.O.II (Y. of S.) D. S. J. Wootten, R.M.A., Sandhurst; Lance-Corporal Young, School of Signals.

Detailed results, Royal Signals Championship: Semi-finals: Captain J. F. Storr beat Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier (9-1, 9-1, 9-0); Captain M. A. Cornforth beat Captain J. H. Lowe (9-6, 9-1, 9-3). Final: Captain J. F. Storr beat Captain M. A. Cornforth (9-4, 6-9, 9-6, 9-4).

Plate Competition: Final: Apprentice Lance-Corporal Sinclair beat Captain K. B. S. Kent (5-9, 6-9, 10-8, 9-3, 9-3).

As we go to Press we have heard that the Corps has just won the Inter-Corps Division II Squash Tournament outright, defeating the Royal Engineers, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Army Educational Corps, thereby earning promotion to Division I. A full account of this exciting weekend will appear in the next edition. With a full fixture list, the Corps has only been beaten once this year—by a Dorset County team, which indicates the high standard that has now been achieved.



21st REGIMENT'S ORIENTEERING TEAM
They were runners up in the Army Major Units Championship, 1970
Left to right, standing: Corporal Woodford, R.S.M. Matthews, Corporal Storer
Kneeling: Sergeant McMillan, Sergeant Holden, Corporal Roissetter

Corporal Gerry Jaques of 30th Regiment wearing the R.A.F. Representative Badge. He is believed to be the only soldier to be awarded this badge



Corporal Gerry Jaques, of 30th Signal Regiment, has been awarded a most unusual badge for a soldier. He is believed to be the only soldier ever known to be presented with the RAF Representation badge for his part in the RAF Germany Full-bore Command Rifle Championships last year, when he was serving with 3 Squadron of 21st Signal Regiment attached to RAF Laarbruch.

Corporal Jaques' shooting career began in earnest three years ago when he represented 21st Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R., in the Army Championships. The following year he became the Champion 'B' class shot in B.A.O.R., Royal Corps of Signals and the Army.

This year **Corporal Jaques** has had a highly successful season of shooting with the 30th Signal Regiment team, at the height of which in July he was second in the Services' Rifle Championships of Great Britain.

Association News



BRANCH SECRETARY MEETS G.O.C.
After a Remembrance Day service at the war memorial garden, York, the G.O.C. in C. Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Cecil Blacker inspected the ranks of ex servicemen on parade, accompanied by General Sir Roy Butcher, a national official of the British Legion
Pictured is Mr. Jim Newton, secretary of the York Branch, Royal Signals Association talking to Lieutenant-General Sir Cecil Blacker during an inspection of the standard bearers



Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

RACAL

Due to continued Company expansion vacancies exist for :-

ELECTRONIC TESTERS

Progressive positions for electronic testers engaged on wide range of communications equipment, including transmitters and receivers. Applicants should have technical knowledge equivalent to C. and G. with previous experience of testing communications equipment.

CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

HOUSING AVAILABLE TO MARRIED MEN

Applications enclosing brief details of qualifications and present salary to:—

PERSONNEL MANAGER
RACAL ELECTRONICS LIMITED
WESTERN ROAD · BRACKNELL · BERKSHIRE · ENGLAND

Over a Century-old Partnership...



PARSONS AND PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, W.C.2 · Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill, Lewes and Seaford



Being an army officer isn't all sunshine—

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

1971

W 2	226 wives charity walk
W 4	IEE/RSI function
W 8 57	Red Crescent / Cross op in Jordan
W 9 179	Electrification of Tai-a-Chau
W 10 137	Bahamas ex
W 32 96 490	Ulster W 493 (excellent amount) 492
W 41	Lord Mayors Show
W 50	Sgt wins airgunners "wings"
W 53 133	Pakistan flood relief
W 98	7 Armd Bde prowess at skiing
W 100	PM in Cyprus
W 183	Cresta run 2/Lt Thompson
W 257 260	Ex in Philippines
W 344	First Channel crossing
W 345	L/Cpl Jackie Smith Para girl
W 372 373	Joe Cotterell
W 384	Shiant Is
W 383	30 Regt adopted by Alderney
W	7th Regt sub aqua in Elba
W 424	International canoeing
W 425 428	PM in Catterick
W 440	5 BEM's in Ulster
W 465	Reformed 28 Bde
W 476	Signals entry for Fastnet Race

RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1971 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately eight months are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1971.

SALARY SCALES

During training, with free accommodation provided at the Training School:

Age 21	£848	per annum
22	906	„ „
23	943	„ „
24	981	„ „
25 and over	1023	„ „

On successful completion of course:

Age 21	£1023	„ „
22	1087	„ „
23	1150	„ „
24	1214	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1288	„ „

then by six annual increments to a maximum of £1,749 per annum.

Excellent conditions and good prospects of promotion. Opportunities for service abroad.

Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course, and must have at least two year's operating experience *OR* PMG qualifications. Preference given to those who also have G.C.E. 'O' level or similar qualifications.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1971.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6), Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21491 Ext. 2270.

Hawkes of Savile Row

The British have regularly gone into battle with glory and Hawkes' uniforms. Enough have survived to keep the firm going . . . and on victory parades and ceremonial occasions their splendid Hawkes' uniforms have always lent colour to the occasion.

Hawkes of Savile Row go back to the 1770's. Every year hundreds of people go back to Hawkes to be dressed for the 1970's You'll know our reputation for made-to-measure tailoring but you may be surprised at the extent of our hand-made ready-to-wear range.
Drop in and see both at:

1 SAVILE ROW · LONDON · W1
01-734 0186

12a LONDON ROAD
CAMBERLEY · SURREY
Camberley 63829

Illustrated catalogue sent free on request

THE ROYAL SCHOOL ARMAGH

(Boarding and Day: Direct-Grant: 500 boys)

The Board of Governors reserve each year a quota of Boarding places for Service children.

Details of syllabus, prospectus, etc., from: Headmaster's Secretary, The Royal School, College Hill, Armagh, N.I.

FEES (1970/71) Tuition £85.1.0 per annum.
Boarding £197.8.0 per annum.

Four Boarding (Entrance) Scholarships (values £125, £75, and two of £50) are offered for Open Competition each year in April. Candidates may enter in Group A (under 12) or Group B (under 14).

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings. Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108-9)

February-March 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



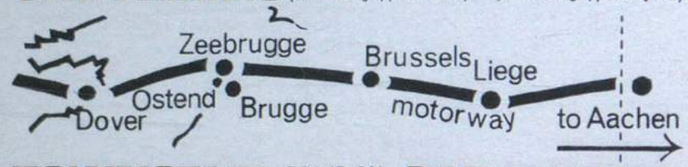
DAILY SAILINGS AT REDUCED FARES TO ENGLAND from Belgium & France to Dover by



● At least 2 **SAILINGS EVERY DAY** from Zeebrugge and up to 4 sailings a day during June, July, August and September ● Reduced fares for British and Commonwealth Forces and dependants, and attached civilians ● Economical catering and bar prices aboard ● Go on the shorter sea crossing at lower rates with your family and car for home leave.

TOWNSEND

CAR FERRIES ZEEBRUGGE-DOVER/CALAIS-DOVER
(Sea crossing approx. 4 hrs.) (Sea crossing approx. 1¾ hrs.)



CARS, CARAVANS, TRAILERS, etc. taken for ONE HALF of NORMAL CHARGE from OCT. to MAY incl.

GET FULL DETAILS FROM

MILATRAVEL Offices, Local Travel Agents, G.S.N. Co., m.b.h., Graf-Adolf-Strasse 12, Dusseldorf 4, Furness Shipping Line, Groenplatts 42, Antwerp, or Townsend Car Ferries Car Ferry Terminal, Zeebrugge or Gare de Transit, Calais. Travel on a British ship by the FREE ENTERPRISE LINE. U.K. Bookings through your nearest Motoring Organisation, Travel Agents or the Townsend offices at:

127 REGENT STREET, LONDON W.1 or P.O. BOX 12, DOVER.

TOWNSEND DRIVE-ON DRIVE-OFF **CAR FERRIES**

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS

BROKERS

Head Office: ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE

Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

YOUR SECURITY AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Male Life 21 next birthday

£10,000 INITIAL COVER FOR ABOUT 10/- per week

Sum Assured		Normal Annual Premium
£500	Endowment, With Profit, to age 65 (Estimated Maturity Value £2,271)	£13 5 0
£1,000	Whole of Life, Non Profit, Assurance	£9 2 0
£5,000	Initial Sum Assured for Family Income Benefits of £250 p.a. for 20 years	£3 5 0
£3,500	Conversion Rights for 25 years	£5 19 0
	Gross Annual Premiums	£31 11 0
	Income Tax Relief (if obtainable)	£5 4 0
£10,000	Life Cover for an Annual Net Outlay of	£26 7 0

NOTE: Rates vary with age and the Plan may be adjusted to suit your needs. An ideal composite plan with conversion rights which may be used for House Purchase.

Telephone **2966** Richmond

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months **£1.20**; *single month,* **10p.**

☆

FEBRUARY/MARCH • 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

The subject of this month's front cover is H.M.S. *Fearless*. Built in 1965 she has, along with her sister ship H.M.S. *Intrepid*, replaced H.M.S. *Meon* as a Headquarters ship thus giving the Royal Navy a much increased amphibious warfare capacity.

Both *Fearless* and *Intrepid* carry a Royal Signals Troop commanded by a Captain with a Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) as Second-in-Command. Total strength 15. The Troop is integrated into the ship's communications department and play their part in manning a number of ship-to-shore radio circuits as well as operating the ship's exchange when in harbour. Both ships are fitted with Skynet facilities thus allowing trouble-free communications back to England from as far away as Hong Kong.

The Troop is formed from volunteers who do 18 months aboard. The posting, needless to say, is a very popular one involving as it does visits to many overseas countries. Relations between the Corps and the Royal Navy have always been most cordial.

THE WIRE would like to take this opportunity to thank the Royal Navy for their goodwill and hospitality to our two Troops and to wish them every success in 1971.

Some 'Wire' statistics

Except during a period in World War II, THE WIRE has appeared every month without failure since 26th February, 1920. Some 560 editions have gone to press over this period.

Over 3,700 copies are despatched monthly, in bulk parcels, to units of the Corps, while over 1,700 individuals have standing orders for THE WIRE. Over and above this, a considerable number of WIRES are taken by T.A.V.R. units, Association Branches, Army Information Offices, Commonwealth Signals Corps, School C.C.F.s and University O.T.C.s.

The maximum number of WIRES ordered monthly by a Regiment is 200 (22nd Regiment) and nine Regiments take upwards of 110 WIRES.

The smallest order by a Regiment is 34.

The maximum number of WIRES ordered by a Squadron is 75 (255 Squadron, Bahrein).

THE WIRE is read in a number of overseas countries, including Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Norway.

One reader has not missed a copy since 1920.

H.R.H. Prince Philip has commented favourably on an article in THE WIRE. Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl Mountbatten, receives THE WIRE every month.

THE WIRE, by Act of Parliament has to be supplied free to the libraries of the British Museum and Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

A copy of THE WIRE has been found in a dentist's waiting room in Georgetown, Guyana—surely the ultimate in world wide penetration!

Inspired by these statistics, you will almost certainly want to increase your bulk order or commence an individual order! Complete the order form on page 58 NOW (individuals) or write in, if a unit.

Congratulatory

The following signals refer to the New Year's Honours:

Major-General Sir John Anderson, K.B.E

"To **General Sir John Anderson, K.B.E.,** from Signal Officer-in-Chief and all ranks, Royal Corps of Signals.

Heartiest congratulations from us all on Her Majesty The Queen's recognition of your sterling services to defence services communications in which we are proud and privileged to play our part. A specially warm message of congratulation comes to you and **Lady Anderson** from all of the Corps who have had the pleasure of serving with you both during your years of devoted service with and to Royal Signals."

Sir John replied informally to the S.O.-in-C. thanking him and all ranks of the Corps for their kindness.

Corporal L Smith

From 39 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron:

For Editor WIRE. Grateful for stop press mention if possible of B.E.M. awarded to **Corporal L. Smith** in New Year's Honours. **Corporal Smith** is an E.D. and has given magnificent service to the Corps and the Army during last two years, particularly in 1969 when he was responsible for power plant throughout Ulster during the many months of continuous deployment.

From our "In" Tray

Air Gunner Badge presented to Corps N.C.O.

Major-General R. D. Wilson, Director of Army Aviation, was the inspecting officer at the Wings Parade on 14th December when he presented air gunner badges to nine soldiers who had completed the first air gunner course to be held at the Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop.

The aim of the course is to teach potential air gunners to locate, identify and engage targets and to assist the pilot in low-level navigation, air photography and control of fire.

The course, which lasts 10 weeks, is divided into two equal phases. The first is devoted to flying when the student does a 'mini pilot's' course which includes navigation, aerodynamics, photography and low-level map reading in a helicopter. This ensures that if the pilot becomes incapacitated, the air gunner would be able to fly the aircraft and land it safely.

Flying training goes on during the second phase, but the period is mainly spent on missile aiming and training on simulators. Students have to a reach a very high standard in armoured fighting vehicle recognition which forms an important part of the syllabus.

The course finishes with each student firing four SS11 missiles on the range.

On completing the course, air gunners are posted to Army Aviation Squadrons in Army Strategic Command and in Germany, where they will become a most important part of a two-man team flying the Army's anti-tank helicopters.

We are happy to report that amongst those receiving badges was **Sergeant Bob Morris** of the Corps. He is being posted to 633 Aviation Squadron of 3rd Division Aviation Regiment.



PROUD MOMENT
Sergeant Bob Morris with General Wilson after receiving his air gunner badge

A war-time Episode

Sir,

The programme 'Codebreakers,' currently being shown on BBC 2 television, is no doubt viewed by some of your readers. It may not be known that some members of the Corps were closely involved in SOE on cipher and radio operating duties.

The recent programme 'Operation North Pole,' shown on Tuesday, 24th November, did not exactly praise the 'London' end of operations in Holland (1942-44). The main point of criticism was that the security check sent by the operator who had been captured was not picked up at base in England. This blame is only attributable to either the receiving operator or decoder—mainly Royal Signals with some FANY operators and 'cipherines.'

All operations in the field had an additional security check. This was merely a simple greeting at the end of the message which would be answered as agreed previously and followed by a pre-arranged innocent remark. In my own case it was: "Is the health of the party good?" Answer: "Yes, but Scotch Whisky is rare here." This check did not appear to have been applied by the Dutch operators.

Each operator in the field was 'finger printed.' His morse sending was recorded and translated onto a graph. The old undulator was sometimes used as a double check. Any operator under duress could drastically change his style of sending which would raise doubts at base. The Q code could be mutilated as to raise further doubts. This technique appears not to have been used by the Dutch Operators.

Both of these means were successfully employed in other theatres of operations.

I do not wish to blame our comrades in the Dutch section but to redeem the Royal Signals and FANY operators at base. Their 'through' attitude raised my morale on one or two anxious moments.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. Hutchison, Captain.
32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V),
21, Jardine Street,
Glasgow, N.W.

25th BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

The 25th meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association has been fixed for 10.30 a.m., Saturday, 17th April, 1971, at the usual venue, 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V), near Hammersmith underground station. This date coincides with the annual Indian Signals Dinner at the Duke of York's H.Q. the same evening.



WELCOME TO THE CORPS
No. 74 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS QUALIFYING COURSE
4 January-13 March, 1971
Back Row (left to right): Second-Lieutenants Durham, Grant, Grey, Griffiths
Front Row (left to right): Second-Lieutenants Jones, Maloney, Mansfield, Niind, Shepherd, Stanners

Catterick Reunion 1971

This will take place on the weekend of 26th/27th June. Owing to rebuilding in the Vimy area and the temporary closure of the Royal Signals Officers' Mess (old H.Q. Mess) accommodation will, of necessity, be limited this year.

It is regretted that there will be no accommodation available for old comrade officers in the small temporary Royal Signals Officers' Mess at Gaza Lines but those accompanying Branches may, if they wish, be accommodated in barrack blocks along with their fellow Branch members. There will also have to be a restriction in the total number of Old Comrades being accommodated and this has been fixed at 500. It is stressed that these are administrative difficulties which the Training Brigade has had to accept and it is only with reluctance that these measures have to be taken.

The White Helmets — as seen through Yugoslav eyes

"In British signals units, there are motorcycle detachments. These are, in other words, motorised despatch riders. From them is demanded exceptional skill in riding any terrain at all times of the day or night and in all weather conditions. In the schools where they are trained, they become outstanding motorcyclists. Even circus performers might envy their skill. A special motorcycle detachment from British signals units demonstrate these skills, or, to be more accurate, gives exhibitions at various reviews, competitions and fairs throughout the British Isles and West Germany where, as is known, the British Rhine Army is stationed in some strength."

(Extracted from the Yugoslav magazine "Front.")

The wheel turns full circle

'Boys' once again in Catterick

WIRE readers will be interested to learn that youth training is to start again in Catterick. In March this year a Troop of Junior Signalmen is to be formed in 11th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp, into which young men aged 16½-17 years will be able to enlist. They will be held in this Troop until they attain the age of 17, and during this period will undergo basic military and other training according to the length of time they spend in 11th Regiment. On reaching the age of 17, they will be posted to 8th Signal Regiment for technical training mainly in the 'B' trades category. It is hoped in due course to lower the age of entry and to enlarge this Troop into a Squadron. These young men are in addition to our other sources of youth entry, e.g. the Army Apprentices' College and the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment.

Looking back over the years many will recall that Royal Signals boys were very much a part of the local scene at Catterick and the days of 'F' Company are still recalled with warmth and affection by many distinguished members of the Corps who served in it. The long tradition of boys serving in Catterick Camp came to a sad end when the Boys' Squadron of the then 1st Training Regiment moved to the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate, in September, 1948. However, this was not to be the last of Royal Signals boys in the Catterick Camp area as a Squadron of boys was re-raised in Richmond Barracks in November, 1949, and moved to Beverley in March, 1950, to become the original Boys' Regiment. Later they moved to their final home at Denbury Camp where they established a great reputation for themselves.

And so the wheel has turned full circle and once again we are to have our own Junior Signalmen at the traditional home of the Corps. All will hope that this is the end of a long journey and that Royal Signals Junior Signalmen will be a permanent feature of Catterick Camp from now on.

THE RESERVE ARMY OFFICERS' BALL

The Reserve Army Officers' Ball will be held in the Rainbow Room, Derry and Toms, Kensington, on Friday, 2nd April, 1971.

Tickets at £3.00 each (single) from:
Captain W. J. Folkes, Royal Signals (T. & A.V.R.), 86 Heathrow, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

The Corps is always well represented at this function which is open to all Officers, both serving and retired.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number or normal Welfare cases assisted financially in December		**50**
Number of Special Christmas grants		**138**
		188
Total amount expended on normal Welfare grants		**£1109 6 3**
Total amount of Christmas grants		**£427 0 0**
		£1536 6 3
Number of clothing parcels sent		**14**
Number of Christmas parcels sent		**65**
		79

One of the Month's Cases

WIDOW of Signalman who served from 1941 to 1946 with the 8th Army. He died suddenly in August, leaving her and their five-year-old child in very necessitous circumstances. The Association made a grant of £65 to pay off the funeral account and other debts, and to help the widow and her child to have a few comforts at Christmas. Clothing and toys were also sent. The widow's letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

I HARDLY know how to begin this letter, I can never ever thank you all enough for what you have done for me. I have been so ill with shock after my husband's death, and everywhere I went for help I only seemed to get the same refusal. I have never asked for anything in my life, but I was so desperate that I had to for my little girl's sake. The S.S.A.F.A. lady was wonderful to me and restored my faith in human nature again. Now I don't feel so alone in the big world, thanks to you and the other wonderful people with you.

Clothing Gifts

Since the beginning of November, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

W.O.II R. Judge, Brigadier and Mrs. C. H. Stoneley, Colonel and Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Miss Wood, F. C. Wilson, Esq., F. Veness, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. L. Akass, J. F. Benson, Esq., Captain P. McNaughton, Mrs. V. A. Heath, Major and Mrs. J. V. Harding, Sergeant Lund, Mrs. J. R. Ashmore, Mrs. Dexter, Sergeant B. Langford, Major I. Simpson, Royal Signals Association (Croydon Branch), W. Osborne, Esq.

Miss Eversley, Mrs. Power, Royal Signals Association (North London Branch), Staff Sergeant and Mrs. N. J. Crowder, Mrs. E. M. Fox, Major G. J. Malcolm, Mrs. M. B. M. Brown, Mrs. C. E. Tonry, Mrs. J. N. Burrell, Lieutenant-Colonel L. V. McNaught-Davis, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Welsford, Major and Mrs. H. S. de N. Rogers, Mrs. Newton, Major D. J. D. McKail, 22nd Signal Regiment, Mrs. N. R. Wheatley, Captain J. F. Bedford, G. J. Feakes, Esq.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during December, 1970:

	£	s.	d.
'White Helmets.' The Royal Signals Display Team	150	0	0
The Wives' Club, 14th Signal Regiment	15	0	0
Huddersfield Branch, Royal Signals Association	5	0	0
The Smith Trustee Company Ltd. for Mr. and Mrs. Stanley ...	10	10	0
J. F. Benson, Esq.	3	0	0
G. W. Cook, Esq.	2	16	0
H. Liley, Esq.	1	16	0
C. A. W. Freeman, Esq.	1	1	0
G. J. Feakes, Esq.	1	1	0
Major R. C. Roberts		14	0
Various small donations		17	0
	£191	15	0

Movements

Officers

Major J. G. Billingham	To	7th Regiment
Captain R. Boden	,,	School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs ...	,,	School of Signals
Major D. A. Brockhurst	,,	H.Q., Gulf
Captain A. Burtt	,,	Army Outward Bound School, Towyn.
Captain (Q.M.) S. J. R. Dunlop ...	,,	H.Q., Catterick Garrison
Major T. R. Eamey	,,	4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieut.-Colonel (T.O.T.) A. C. Earl ...	,,	H.Q., 90 (Signal) Group
Major M. J. Flynn	,,	H.Q., School of Infantry
Major W. B. Foote	,,	H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps
Major B. B. Gallagher	,,	34th Signal Regiment (V)
Major (Q.M.) J. C. Gosling	,,	Reserve Army Training Centre, Scarborough.
Captain K. G. Goulding	,,	School of Signals
Captain T. T. Hallchurch	,,	H.Q., Training Brigade
Colonel D. M. Haslehust	,,	M.A., Rio de Janeiro
Major E. W. Hunt	,,	H.Q., 1st Division
Captain S. Law	,,	A.A.C., Harrogate
Captain C. R. M. Noonan	,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Phippard ...	,,	21st Regiment (as C.O.)
Major D. G. Randall (R. Aus. Sigs.)	,,	School
Captain C. E. Timson, B.E.M.	,,	H.Q., 2 ATAF
Major M. R. Topple	,,	5 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
Major (Q.M.) E. C. R. Wall	,,	11th Regiment (retires 20 Mar.)

W.Os and Sergeants

W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. M. Ferguson ...	To	24 Airportable Bde. Signal Sqn.
W.O.II D. D. Smith	,,	30th Regiment
W.O.II W. McIntosh	,,	16th Regiment
W.O.II E. P. Teehan	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II B. J. Stoddard	,,	13th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. E. Newson ...	,,	31st Regiment (V)
W.O.II E. R. R. Smith	,,	30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. D. Smith	,,	30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Feldon	,,	13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. J. Tunmore	,,	12 Mech. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Staff Sergeant W. T. Yates	,,	14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. E. C. O'Connor ...	,,	22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. A. Paton ...	,,	SHAPE H.Q. Comd and Sp.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. D. Pyke ...	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) N. J. Crowder	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant B. K. Burton	,,	11 Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant P. J. Cadman	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Dunbar	,,	252 Squadron
Sergeant D. R. Heyes	,,	2nd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. T. Nichols	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant B. A. Rice	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant C. Cheetham	,,	39 Airportable Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant R. Cooper	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant D. J. Hambridge	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant J. C. Muir	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Taylor	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant P. G. Rossall	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant D. A. W. Bowden	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant G. C. Blood	,,	20 Arm. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant D. T. Salt	,,	223 Squadron
Sergeant R. W. Townsend	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant M. Paddison		
Sergeant R. J. Butcher		
Sergeant D. I. Gilchrist		
Sergeant G. A. Firth		
Sergeant M. J. Davis		
Sergeant G. A. Letori		
Sergeant W. J. Richards		
Sergeant B. Young	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. Course No. 20
Sergeant D. D. Watson		
Sergeant A. Locke		
Sergeant T. H. C. Cartwright ...		
A/Sergeant J. W. A. Turner ...		
A/Sergeant P. Lord		
A/Sergeant B. A. Foulger		
A/Sergeant M. Campbell		
Sergeant W. Bell	,,	223 Squadron
Sergeant G. Bullen	,,	H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Sergeant T. Griffin	,,	11th Regiment, Depot Squadron
A/Sergeant A. Dunbar	,,	7th Regiment

Promotions

Regimental Duty Roll

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Sen. Roll*	*Old Sen. Roll*
To W.O.I				
Gittens,	J. M.	A/W.O.I	29 May 70	19 Oct. 65
Ramsay,	W. A.	A/W.O.I	30 May 70	21 Apr. 66
McGilvray,	G.	A/W.O.I	27 Jun. 70	3 Mar. 66
Laing,	J. D.	A/W.O.I	12 Jul. 70	1 Nov. 64
Richardson,	C. H.	A/W.O.I	12 Jul. 70	22 Dec. 66
Speight,	C.	A/W.O.I	11 Aug. 70	3 Jan. 67
Todd,	P. W.	A/W.O.I	11 Aug. 70	2 Jan. 67
Jennings,	H.	A/W.O.I	11 Aug. 70	13 Jun. 68
Matthews,	W. T.	A/W.O.I	15 Sep. 70	15 Jun. 68
Breese,	R. C.	W.O.II	1 Oct. 70	10 Jan. 67
To W.O.II				
Bowes,	R.	A/W.O.II	23 Jun. 70	1 Mar. 69
Kingham,	A. E.	S Sgt.	1 Aug. 70	31 Jan. 62
Mathieson,	R. J.	S Sgt.	9 Aug. 70	20 Jun. 68
Kinrade,	M. T.	A/W.O.II	11 Aug. 70	20 Jun. 68
Gray,	L.	S Sgt.	12 Aug. 70	4 Mar. 69
Whalley,	J. M. P.	S Sgt.	12 Aug. 70	1 Sep. 66
Rann,	L. P.	A/W.O.II	12 Aug. 70	19 Jul. 68
Howker,	J.	A/W.O.II	26 Aug. 70	24 Jul. 68
To S Sgt.				
Henry,	G. C.	Sgt.	1 Jun. 70	1 Apr. 57 (C. Op.
Jamieson,	A.	Sgt.	24 Jun. 70	6 Aug. 57 (Tech.)
Hazard,	J. Q.	A/S Sgt.	25 Jun. 70	1 Mar. 59 (C. Op.)
Ridley,	R.	A/S Sgt.	1 Jul. 70	1 Jan. 61 (R. Op.)
Tempest,	J. W.	A/S Sgt.	2 Aug. 70	20 Jul. 61 (Lmn.)
Leary,	A.	A/S Sgt.	11 Aug. 70	1 Mar. 63 (Dvr.)
DE-Lecq-Le-Montais,	K.	A/S Sgt.	22 Aug. 70	2 Mar. 61 (Lmn.)
Donkin,	W. C.	A/S Sgt.	24 Aug. 70	1 Sep. 65 (Dvr.)
Lock,	N. F. A.	Sgt.	27 Aug. 70	1 May 54 (R. Op.)
Caffery,	D.	Sgt.	8 Sep. 70	1 Jun. 59 (Dvr.)
Edwards,	E. O. H.	A/S Sgt.	17 Sep. 70	19 Feb. 61 (ComcenOp)

Foreman of Signals Roll

To W.O.I				
Steeples,	J. P.	W.O.II	1 Jun. 70	18 Dec. 68
Norton,	A. J.	W.O.II	1 Jun. 70	15 Apr. 68
Bumphrey,	C. B.	W.O.II	1 Jun. 70	21 Jul. 69
Holland,	E.	W.O.II	29 Jul. 70	21 Jul. 69
Webb,	C. G.	W.O.II	4 Aug. 70	21 Jul. 69
Stanhope,	J. L.	W.O.II	17 Aug. 70	9 Aug. 65
Kenyon,	M.	W.O.II	17 Aug. 70	10 Jan. 69
Fordom,	G. W.	W.O.II	17 Aug. 70	21 Jul. 69
To S Sgt.				
Cooper,	R.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	30 Jul. 64
Houston,	H. G.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	9 Feb. 65
Gallagher (B.E.M.),	J. R.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	26 Feb. 65
Pettifer,	B. P.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	15 Jan. 66
Young,	J. H.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	9 Jun. 66
Crawley,	T.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	19 Sep. 66
Scriven,	R.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	12 Apr. 67
Brett,	M. A.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	12 Apr. 67
Murphy,	A.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	31 May 67
Lamb,	A. V.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	7 Jul. 67
Brown,	F. C.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	21 Sep. 67
Spearpoint,	G. S.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	13 Dec. 67
Wagstaff,	P. R.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	1 Aug. 68
Scott,	M.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 70	1 Aug. 68

Supervision (Radio) Roll

To W.O.I				
Searle,	F. P.	A/W.O.I	1 Feb. 70	26 Jan. 69
Cooper,	E. H.	A/W.O.I	1 May 70	6 Jan. 67
To W.O.II				
Gayther,	J. F.	S Sgt.	15 Sep. 70	16 Aug. 69

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.I				
Boddington,	D. V.	A/W.O.I	17 Feb. 72	25 Jun. 65
Little,	W. A.	A/W.O.I	3 Mar. 70	3 Aug. 65
Raku,	G. P. T.	A/W.O.I	2 Jun. 70	9 Jun. 67
Abbiss,	B.	A/W.O.I	11 Aug. 70	8 Jan. 66
To W.O.II				
Mahoney,	E. P.	A/W.O.II	10 Jun. 70	4 May 67
Creevy,	J. M.	S Sgt.	1 Jul. 70	21 Mar. 68
Simpson,	A.	S Sgt.	1 Jul. 70	2 Nov. 68
Kelly,	L. J.	S Sgt.	12 Aug. 70	21 Mar. 68
Back,	M. R.	S Sgt.	29 Aug. 70	4 May 67

Chief Clerks Roll

To W.O.I				
Downey,	J. P.	A/W.O.I	11 May 70	6 Jan. 65
To W.O.II				
Sharrock,	T.	A/W.O.II	22 Sep. 70	17 Nov. 67

Technicians Roll

To Sgt.				
Collier,	G.	Cpl.	13 Aug. 69	12 Dec. 66
Lambert,	D. L.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 69	12 Oct. 63
McArthur,	R. J. R.	Cpl.	1 Mar. 70	30 Mar. 66
Wells,	J. P.	Cpl.	13 Mar. 70	15 Dec. 67
Banks,	M.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 70	23 Feb. 67
Pither,	P. D.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 70	29 Sep. 66
Farrow,	S. D.	Cpl.	15 Apr. 70	14 Apr. 66
Gill,	P. A.	Cpl.	21 Apr. 70	21 Jun. 67
Harris,	A. K.	Cpl.	23 Apr. 70	28 Jul. 65
Graham,	P. J.	Cpl.	8 May 70	6 Feb. 69
Clark,	D. L.	Cpl.	8 May 70	10 Dec. 66
McMahon,	M. A.	Cpl.	12 May 70	14 Aug. 65
Green,	R. A. L.	Cpl.	11 Jun. 70	13 Aug. 65
Gent,	R. K. S.	Cpl.	11 Jun. 70	18 Dec. 65
Jasiok,	J. R.	Cpl.	11 Jun. 70	2 Aug. 64
Smith,	D. A.	Cpl.	18 Jun. 70	20 Oct. 67
Thomas,	A. J.	Cpl.	25 Jun. 70	31 May 68
Munn,	M. P.	Cpl.	25 Jun. 70	24 May 67
Firth,	J. E.	Cpl.	17 Jul. 70	27 Oct. 66
Henderson,	W.	Cpl.	24 Jul. 70	1 Jul. 67
Stevenson,	M. A.	Cpl.	24 Jul. 70	19 Aug. 67
Barlow,	P. M.	Cpl.	6 Aug. 70	9 Jul. 66
Leighton,	J.	Cpl.	6 Aug. 70	8 Oct. 66
Haworth,	A. D.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Dewey,	M. C.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Gerrard,	J. J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Logan,	J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Moore,	S. P.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Shrimpton,	C. J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Yeomans,	R. C.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Smale,	M. C.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Chambers,	R.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Ferguson,	R. D.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Parkin,	B. A.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Carter,	J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Bentley,	F. E.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Breakwell,	R.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Edwards,	R. J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Thomas,	P.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Holmes,	S. J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	25 Aug. 66
Critchlow,	G. E.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	27 Oct. 66
Tedstone,	B. L.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	29 Jan. 68
Butchers,	D. L.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	27 Oct. 66
Brice,	J. L.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	1 Dec. 66
Foskett,	R. J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	24 Feb. 67
Green,	J. A. N.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	1 Mar. 67
Kidman,	G.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	1 Mar. 67
Chaloner,	G. F.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	19 Aug. 67
Gray,	D.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	1 Jun. 67
White,	J.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	19 Aug. 67
Williams,	G. T.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	20 Sep. 67
Arundel,	C. A.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	14 Feb. 68
Seaton,	R. A.	Cpl.	12 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Walley,	S.	Cpl.	14 Aug. 70	1 Aug. 68
South,	M. W.	Cpl.	14 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Boyd,	R. W.	Cpl.	20 Aug. 70	20 Aug. 66
Desanti,	R.	Cpl.	20 Aug. 70	20 Aug. 66
Rees,	J. P.	Cpl.	20 Aug. 70	20 Aug. 66
Reynolds,	G. C.	Cpl.	20 Aug. 70	3 Nov. 66
Nicholls,	J. K.	Cpl.	20 Aug. 70	26 May 67
Bancroft,	F. A.	Cpl.	27 Aug. 70	2 Aug. 67
Mockford,	A. C.	Cpl.	10 Sep. 70	10 Sep. 66
Stevens,	D. J.	Cpl.	10 Sep. 70	10 Sep. 66
Welch,	P. J.	Cpl.	10 Sep. 70	10 Mar. 67
Chambler,	K. D.	Cpl.	10 Sep. 70	13 Jul. 67
Norton,	M. T.	Cpl.	17 Sep. 70	10 Mar. 67
Ayre,	J. W.	Cpl.	17 Sep. 70	23 Mar. 67
Canning,	G. W.	Cpl.	17 Sep. 70	27 Feb. 67
Chapman,	A. J.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 70	21 Oct. 66
Harcourt,	J. V.	Cpl.	8 Oct. 70	15 Dec. 69
Fenge,	J. C.	Cpl.	9 Oct. 70	13 Apr. 67
Barrowman,	J.	Cpl.	22 Oct. 70	22 Oct. 66
Hall,	A. J.	Cpl.	22 Oct. 70	22 Oct. 66

Special Operators Roll

To Sgt.				
Thomson,	S. T.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	10 Feb. 67
Bandey,	J. E.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	1 Apr. 65
Robinson,	K. R.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	18 Feb. 67
Willoughby,	A. M.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	19 Jul. 64
Crane,	M. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	20 Jul. 66
Hutton,	J. D.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	20 Jan. 67
Lawrence,	S.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	1 Feb. 66
Phair,	J. R.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	1 Oct. 66
Watson,	R. G.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	17 Jun. 64
Gregson,	K.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	8 Dec. 66
Sykes,	D.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	1 Sep. 68
Robertson,	G. A. R.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	7 Sep. 64
Martin,	D. W.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 70	1 Apr. 65
Manser,	R. J.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	17 Aug. 65
Derrick,	P.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	20 Jul. 66
Sposito,	M. T.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	11 Oct. 61

Telegraph Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Butcher,	R. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	12 Apr. 63
Holmden,	R. J.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	9 Dec. 66
Kitson,	S. M.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	29 Feb. 68
Rouget,	P. R.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	31 Mar. 65
Eason,	B. E.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 70	18 Jan. 64
Miles,	W. V.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	21 Apr. 66
Young,	B.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	1 Aug. 64
Elcox,	D. J.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 70	13 Sep. 64

Clerk/Draughtsman Roll

To Sgt.				
Mason,	C. S.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	19 Oct. 62
Vockings,	D.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	28 Feb. 66
Hornsby,	D.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	31 Mar. 68
Seaton,	H. B.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 Jul. 64
Roberts,	J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 Mar. 65
Weston,	M. I.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 Oct. 67
Lewis,	D. A.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	30 Nov. 68
Belton,	B. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 Jul. 64
Burdes,	P.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	28 Feb. 66
Annear,	A. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	30 Jun. 67
Flint,	W. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	30 Jun. 68
Russell,	A.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	20 Sep. 65
Court,	M. F.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 Dec. 63
Meikle,	H.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	30 Jun. 67
Millington,	A. J.	Cpl.	26 Aug. 70	31 Jul. 68
Bird,	E. G.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 70	31 Aug. 65
Waugh,	J. H.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	25 Jul. 67

Clerk Technical Roll

To Sgt.				
Crannage,	J.	Cpl.	6 Aug. 70	30 Apr. 65
Abson,	M. J.	Cpl.	4 Sep. 70	31 Jan. 67
Hepworth,	J.	A/Sgt.	14 Sep. 70	30 Sep. 65
Maloney,	G. H.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	31 Mar. 69

Communication Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Lund,	J. A.	A/Sgt.	13 May 70	30 Apr. 68
Garland,	G.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	1 Oct. 63
Connor,	F. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	21 Jul. 65
Watson,	W. M.	A/Sgt.	12 Aug. 70	3 Nov. 65
Castle,	M. E.	Cpl.	13 Aug. 70	30 Apr. 68
Hand,	P.	Cpl.	17 Aug. 70	1 Oct. 68
Richards,	W. J.	Cpl.	17 Oct. 70	1 Jan. 69
Haylock,	I.	A/Sgt.	19 Oct. 70	1 Jan. 69

Driver Royal Signals Roll

To Sgt.				
McDiarmid,	A. M. M.	Cpl.	3 Jul. 70	1 Oct. 57
Devlin,	J.	Cpl.	1 Aug. 70	28 Feb. 66
Smart,	M. C. K.	A/Sgt.	12 Aug. 70	30 Apr. 64
Craggs,	G. T.	Cpl.	25 Aug. 70	1 Dec. 60
Strange,	J. A.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 70	1 Sep. 61
Adams,	G. W.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 70	30 Sep. 63
Croot,	J.	A/Sgt.	9 Sep. 70	31 May 65

Electrician Driver Roll

To Sgt.				
Kitchener,	J. D.	A/Sgt.	1 Jul. 70	30 Sep. 64
Tuite,	R. V.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 70	1 Oct. 64
Crook,	R. S.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 70	31 Jul. 65
Gainford,	T. R.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 70	30 Sep. 65
Nicoll,	A. A.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	31 Oct. 67

Lineman Roll

To Sgt.				
Hazel,	T. A.	A/Sgt.	13 Jun. 70	30 Sep. 62
Hothersall,	M. P.	Cpl.	18 Aug. 70	30 Apr. 63
Leggett,	S.	A/Sgt.	1 Sep. 70	31 Dec. 61
Howes,	J. D.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 70	30 Apr. 64

Radio Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Hamilton,	R.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	18 Jan. 64
Jackson,	D. P.	A/Sgt.	27 Aug. 70	1 Dec. 66
Marchant,	L. G. F.	A/Sgt.	11 Oct. 70	1 Jan. 69

Radio Relayman Roll

To Sgt.				
Turner,	J. N.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 Jul .64
Blood,	G. C.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 Dec. 66
Davidson,	J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	30 Jun. 66
Franks,	P. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 70	31 May 66
Beattie,	G. S. H.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	29 Feb. 68
Shotts,	P. S.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	30 Apr. 68
Didon,	W. A.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	30 Jun. 68
Conway,	J.	Cpl.	5 Aug. 70	21 Apr. 61
Vaughan,	A. E.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	25 Aug. 66
Hawkins,	R.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	15 Apr. 65
Innes,	D. A.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 70	30 Nov. 65

Band Roll

To Sgt.				
Sharpe,	R. S.	Cpl.	26 Sep. 70	4 Mar. 60

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roll

Name	*Initials*	*Seniority Date*
W.O.I		
Hammerton,	R. W. J.	23 Jul. 68
Miller,	H.	2 Sep. 68

W.O.II
Gale, P. W. 1 Feb. 61
Inod, E. D. 30 Jul. 61
Edwards, M. J. A. 10 Nov. 61
Brooker, G. H. 8 Apr. 63
Wingate, A. J. 7 Jul. 63
Duke, W. 17 Jan. 66
Stowe, P. D. 31 Aug. 66
Ault, F. C. 31 Aug. 66
Rand, D. B. 7 Jan. 67
Fugill, A. B. 26 Jun. 67

S Sgt.
Moss, J. 10 Oct. 60
Pearson, A. 31 Jan. 62
Bell, W. K. L. 31 Jan. 62
Greenwood, P. E. 31 Mar. 62
Davies, H. G. 12 Feb. 64
Kent, K. D. 1 Jul. 64
Johnson, P. 31 Aug. 65
Richardson, J. A. 7 Sep. 66
Curtis, A. G. 21 Jun. 68
Blackman, G. A. 1 Mar. 69
Perry, R. 20 Jun. 69

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I
Johnson, M. A. 6 Dec. 67
Staniford, R. 10 Feb. 68
Short, R. M. 1 Jul. 68
Cooper, J. 11 Oct. 68

W.O.II
Mainwaring, R. M. 1 Dec. 63

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I
Iverson, P. H. 17 Jun. 69

W.O.II
Forster, R. N. 15 Jul. 66

S Sgt.
Garvey, F. P. R. 14 Mar. 64

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

W.O.I
Jones, R. 6 Feb. 69

TECHNICIANS ROLL

W.O.II
Tucker, L. L. 1 Apr. 59

Sgt.
Stock, P. E. 8 Aug. 55
Hills, W. J. 21 Sep. 63
Drew, D. J. 7 Jul. 67
Saunders, J. W. 12 Jul. 67
Merriman, J. C. 2 Aug. 67
Spooner, F. A. 2 Aug. 67
Edwards, R. C. 24 Aug. 67
Wadey, R. R. 17 Nov. 67
Hall, H. R. 22 Dec. 67
Gorton, J. D. 22 Jan. 68
Hide, W. P. 11 Apr. 68
Howes, A. K. 31 May 68
Boon, P. R. C. 23 Jul. 68
Rookes, G. D. 1 Aug. 68
Lewis, M. J. 2 Aug. 68
Taylor, S. J. 12 Sep. 68
Young, C. F. 6 Feb. 69
Beer, E. C. 26 Sep. 69
Smith, M. S. 14 Nov. 69

SPECIAL OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.
Howse, G. T. 22 Jan. 64

CLERK/DRAUGHTSMAN ROLL

Sgt.
Chadwick, T. M. 29 Dec. 67

CLERK TECH. ROLL

Sgt.
Holland, E. H. 9 Sep. 57
Kent, K. H. 25 Jul. 68
Ridge, C. D. 19 Nov. 69

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.
Andrews, J. A. 1 Feb. 59
Williamson, R. W. 31 Mar. 69

DRIVERS ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

Sgt.
Wood, W. 1 Oct. 57

BAND ROLL

Sgt.
Hewson, K. 2 Mar. 63

INSERTIONS

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

S Sgt.
Oliver, D. 22 Apr. 68 Re-enlistment

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.
Wilmott, N. J. 24 Aug. 68 Re-enlistment

(*Continued on page* 91)

If you can put a 'Yes' in every box, you might just make a RADIO TECHNICIAN in Air Traffic Control

An all-consuming interest in telecommunications ☐

At least one year's practical experience in telecommunications, preferably with 'ONC' or 'C and G' technical qualifications ☐

A highly developed sense of responsibility ☐

Willingness to undergo a rigorous programme of training ☐

Aged 19 or over ☐

To the right man, the National Air Traffic Control Service offers the prospect of an interesting and steadily developing career as a Radio Technician in air traffic control.

The work involves the installation and maintenance of some of the very latest electronic equipment at civil airports, radar stations and other specialist establishments all over the country. Important today, the job will become increasingly vital as Britain's air traffic continues to grow, and prospects for promotion are excellent. Starting salary varies from £1,044 (at 19) to £1,373 (at 25 or over). Scale maximum £1,590 (higher rates at Heathrow). The annual leave allowance is good, and there is a non-contributory pension for established staff.

If you feel you can meet the demands of this rather special job—and you have a strong determination to succeed—you are invited to complete the coupon below.

Send this coupon for full details and application form
To: A. J. Edwards, C Eng, MIEE,
The Adelphi, Room 705, John Adam Street, London WC2, N-6BQ
marking your envelope "Recruitment".

Name.....

Address.....

TWT/FEB

Not applicable to residents outside the United Kingdom

NATCS
National Air Traffic Control Service

The Corps plays its part in East Pakistan Flood Relief

By Major Hamish Mackinlay

Prelude

PEACE and tranquility pervaded the atmosphere that Tuesday morning, 17th November, 1970, as the Inspecting Officer, **Colonel Francis Graham-Bell,** wound up our Annual F.F.R. Parade with a jocular rhetorical question, "Are you really ready to go?" We were—we had to be!

The next day dawned—a Regimental stand-down. While the less energetic members of the Squadron were 'kipping,' their more unfortunate comrades spent the morning tramping through C.K. Tangs or taking their wives to coffee or Tiger beer at the Hilton. All the time, unbeknown to them, 'they' were at work in Tanglin H.Q. By teatime, husbands, fathers, boy-friends were being spirited away—as one wife put it, "They came for him." In short, the Squadron was under orders to move to East Pakistan within 36 hours. This unfortunate country had been hit by a devastating cyclone and tidal wave some days earlier and the British Government were in the process of mounting the biggest external relief effort of all time.

Far East Command, who were mounting the relief effort (Operation 'Burlap'), had delegated the responsibility for the relief ashore to the Commander, 3 Commando Brigade (**Brigadier Pat Ovens**), who had placed at his disposal 249 Signal Squadron.

After continuous meetings punctuated by coffee, sandwiches and arguments (there is never enough shipping to go round), Thursday night and a plan was reached.

Action

A few hours later, **Major Hamish Mackinlay** and **Corporal Tony Meikle** joined a bleary-eyed recce party for breakfast in the Changi Creek Hotel, at that time so beloved of the Royal Air Force—'four-in-the-morning.' A Far East Air Force Hercules whisked them to Dacca where they were greeted on the tarmac by whirring TV cameras and enthusiastic Press men. Chaos reigned. By midnight, however, they were sailing down the Ganges on a borrowed launch for Barrisal and Patuakhali in the disaster area.

Simultaneously, a third of the Squadron under the umbrella of the Royal Marines embarked on HMS *Triumph*, taking with them by mistake a truck that had gone to the Naval base 'just for the ride.'

The Royal Navy, by good luck, had on station both H.M.S. *Intrepid* (LPD) and HMS *Triumph*, a converted carrier. Other ships joined the fleet at sea.

After a trip of some 20 hours, the recce party reached the town of Patuakhali, the seat of the local regional government, where it had been decided to set up the Relief Control H.Q. A quick change of name from recce to tac H.Q. and on with the planning of the operation. This included frequent liaison with the Pakistani authorities, who were in overall charge, and representatives of many international relief organisations.

The main task of the U.K. force was to distribute relief supplies, some of which had been brought by the fleet from Singapore.

With the arrival of the fleet off the Ganges delta on Tuesday morning, the distribution of food and supplies and the build-up of the force ashore got under way. Suddenly the horizon came to life with helicopters and small boats—a welcome sight for hungry families.

The mainstay of the communications system ashore was 3 Commando Brigade Signal Squadron under **Captain Sam Pope,** R.[illegible], whilst HMS *Intrepid* acted as a Command ship at sea. 249, however, deployed detachments at the High Commission H.Q. in Dacca (**Corporal Geoff Williams**) and in Chittagong (**Sergeant 'Mac' Macdonald**) where the crews roughed it in five-star hotels. The other crews ashore were at the sharp end. **Yeoman of Signals Bill Donnelly,** brought in by landing craft, set up the Force Comcen. **Sergeant Sam Kennard** and crew having flown into Dacca proceeded to Patuakhali by courtesy of a Thames Television launch.

Quickly the communication system took shape as more crews came ashore. Those who didn't wangle a trip ashore did sterling work on HMS *Triumph* as loading and unloading parties for helicopters and small craft.



THE COMMCEN CONFER
Left to right: Y. of S. Bill Donnelly, Corporal John McCormick, Corporal John Farrell and Corporal Mick Roberts

Recovery

After a week of flat-out work it was decided to thin out the force and withdraw it completely before Christmas. Gradually, by air and sea, detachments and individuals returned to Singapore. The main party cruised home on HMS *Triumph* where **F. of S. Tony Bateman** showed his versatility when he was appointed ship's R.S.M.!

The final party made it home in time for the first of the Christmas parties after a most enjoyable voyage on *Sir Galahad*.

Our reception in Pakistan had been overwhelming—indeed as one Pakistani put it, "You have achieved as much goodwill by your efforts as in the 200 years of the Raj."

Plenty of initiative here



The picture shows Corporal Martin Hardy, Royal Signals, at present serving with I Artillery Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron who] was gliding amongst the Alps at Zell-am-See, Austria, last Autumn. He spent 5½ hours at 8,000 feet above sea level, and qualified for the duration and gain-of-height 'legs' of his Silver 'C'. As he says, "Why not take up gliding yourself?" Drop him a line at B.F.P.O. 33



A TENSE MOMENT!
Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Lewis 'having a go' with the crossbow. Onlookers Major Vic Impey, Mr. Jaccaud, Captain Don Herring, Sergeant D. L. McIntosh

Presentation of Swiss Crossbow to Royal Signals and Gurkha Signals, Hong Kong

LAST April, a party of Swiss Signal Corps officers, on their way to visit Expo 70, planned to make a short stop-over in Hong Kong. **Mr. R. K. Schneidewind,** Managing Director of Siber Hegner & Co. (Hong Kong) Ltd., who was sponsoring the party during the stop-over, indirectly approached **Lieutenant-Colonel John Hart,** C.R. Signals, Hong Kong, with a view to the party meeting British Army Signals during their short stay in Hong Kong. This was welcomed by **Lieutenant-Colonel Hart,** and arrangements were put in hand to entertain the party on 4th May. The programme commenced with a briefing in H.Q., Royal Signals, on the communications provided and manned by the Corps in the Colony, followed by visits to the Victoria Communication Centre and the Colony POLMIL Headquarters. The party lunched with Royal Signals officers in Victoria Officers' Mess. After the lunch, the party was flown in helicopters to the New Territories. On arrival at Sek Kong airstrip, they were met by **Major Tom Livingstone,** Gurkha Signals, who had arranged a demonstration of the capabilities of Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong. On the return journey, a brief stop was made at the top of Tai Mo Shan—Hong Kong's highest mountain and site of many radio facilities.

Lieutenant-General E. Honegger, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Signal Corps, was the senior member of the party of eleven officers, and expressed his thanks on behalf of all the visiting officers, for the very interesting and informative programme arranged for them.

Within a few weeks the visit had become just a very pleasant memory, and it was with pleasurable surprise that in August, C.R. Signals, Hong Kong (**Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Lewis**) was informed by **Mr. Schneidewind** that a crossbow had been despatched from Switzerland for presentation, as a token of appreciation of the hospitality given to the Swiss Signal Corps officers during their visit.

The presentation was made on 24th November, at the Victoria Officers' Mess, by **Mr. Jaccaud,** the Consul-General of Switzerland. Afterwards, **Mr. Jaccaud** and **Mr. Schneidewind** were entertained to lunch by C.R. Signals, his Staff Officers and Squadron Commanders.

After lunch, the party adjourned to the 30-yard range at Victoria, where **Mr. Schneidewind** demonstrated the cross-bow, and all the officers present tried their hand at firing this ancient weapon.

The cross-bow, which has a suitably-inscribed brass plate, will be displayed at Regimental dinner nights in the Officers' Mess, and it is intended that a cross-bow shooting competition will be included in the annual Royal Signals Rifle Meeting.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH
Royal Signals Association

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Masonic Rooms, Alexander Road, Farnborough, on Saturday, 1st May, at 7.30 for 8 p.m. All enquiries to Mr. A. V. Ient, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants. (Tel.: Aldershot 23658).

They Volunteered for Jordan

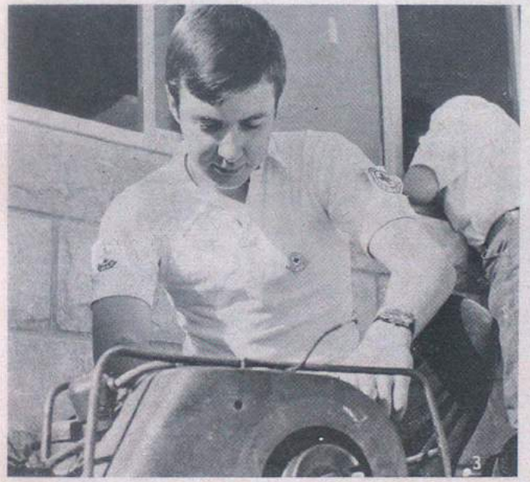
1. **Lance-Corporal E. Gaugh (30th Regiment) no doubt found his work congenial at the German Red Cross Hospital.**
2. **Corporal 'Dixie' Dickson (30th Regiment) had an important job on a control set at contingent Headquarters. He has seen service in Germany and Gibraltar as well as flying visits to Norway and Cyprus.**
3. **Signalman Colin Osborne (30th Regiment) busy on a charging engine. Aged 17 this was his first trip abroad.**



1



2



3

Some thoughts on being attached to a Regular Regiment

By Captain T. D. Straton, Royal Signals T. & A.V.R.

THE fact that this article is being written at all is due solely to the appearance in 'The Wire' last year of articles written by Regular Officers serving with or attached to my Regiment, 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V). Had these articles not appeared, I very much doubt whether I would have had the incentive to write the 'reply,' which gives my impressions on being attached to the Regular Army in the form of 3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment at Bulford Camp. I am grateful to 3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment for this attachment.

A good welcome

The first impression any person gets of a Unit is when, arriving by train at a station still ten miles or so from the barracks, one is either met or is not met. My first impression of the Regiment was, therefore, an extremely good one, as I was met at Salisbury station by none other than **Captain (T.O.T.) Roy Lund** who apparently happened to be the first person other than the C.O. whom the Adjutant met after hearing the time of my arrival. Having reached the Mess just in time for dinner, I had the opportunity of meeting the hard-worked Adjutant, **Captain Helier Exon,** who guessed my name before I introduced myself. Do T. & A.V.R. Officers really look so different? The next morning, a Friday, after meeting the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan,** I was placed in the careful hands of 1 Squadron, whose O.C., **Major G. A. M. Holland,** was kind enough to ask his Troop Officers to make sure that I was shown all that I wanted, and was permitted, to see.

Exercise preliminaries come naturally

As the Regiment was going out on exercise the following Tuesday it was an excellent opportunity to compare a Regular Regiment and my own T. & A.V.R. Regiment in an almost directly comparable situation. The main difference here was that, having had several exercises throughout the summer, the

men knew what work was necessary to be ready for the exercise and could get on with it without having to be told what to do next. With a Volunteer who only takes part in three or four exercises over the whole year, getting ready for the major exercise of the year at camp is an unusual task and, consequently, he does not have the practice which would allow him to get on without supervision. This difficulty will not be overcome quickly as the only time when a Volunteer can spend any length of time and do a full preparation is at annual camp. At any other time, the availability of men and man training days means that the P.S.I.s have to do the bulk of the work.

The day before the exercise started, I was taken out to the site where 1 Squadron was to set up its Commcen. My guide for this trip was **W.O.II (Y. of S.) K. H. Dewis** whose patience in explaining the finer points of the systems used in Divisional Communication was sorely tried. The next day at 06.00 hours the Squadron was on the square ready to move out. (For the following six days 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) was to be compared with 1 Squadron alone since I was with them in the field). This showed up another advantage which the Regular Army have over us volunteers; there was no delaying the start of an exercise because Signalman Snooks was on early shift on the buses or because it was Corporal Bloggs' Saturday morning on. Nor was there a nervous counting of heads to see whether or not there would be enough Tg. Operators to man three or four D11s 24 hours a day, or enough Commcen Operators to operate the Commcen without a close-down during the night. This was luxury—being able to make up shifts in advance and have them actually there when the exercise was under way—I had heard that it happened but to see it actually in operation . . . !

Speed in setting up

On arrival at the chosen site, the thing I noticed was the speed with which everything was set up. The advantage of being able to keep detachments together was obvious, each man knowing what he had to do and getting on with it. The Volunteers have a bit to go to catch up in this respect. However, when **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. Hammonds** announced that he had just saved the telephone exchange from being destroyed by connecting the positive lead from the battery to the negative terminal on the exchange instead of to the positive terminal, I felt more at home.

As the exercise got under way, differences between the Regulars and the Volunteers seemed to diminish. Each man was doing his job to the best of his ability as a soldier to get away with as much as possible, the cooks produced compo that tasted like compo; visitors came and went much the same as they do at a T. & A.V.R. annual camp. Perhaps the biggest difference during this time was the seriousness with which the threat of an attack on the location was taken. Volunteers' exercises tend to be so infrequent that to have an attack mounted during one would upset the routine enough to endanger the success of the exercise and, consequently, do not often occur. Furthermore, so far as 32nd Regiment is concerned, most locations are hutted camps with Camp Commandants who are notoriously averse to thunderflashes being let off in or around the huts. However, on this occasion, the site was in the field or rather on top of Salisbury Plain and there was no one to complain of thunderflashes being thrown—unless there was someone sitting on that thunderbox when the Hampshires blew it up. The fact that only a thunderbox was blown up was due to the excellent defences arranged by **Captain John Graham** and the S.S.M. and manned by any spare personnel who were foolish enough to be hanging around when trenches had to be dug.

Apparently our location, which was attacked by a Platoon of Hampshires early on Sunday morning, was the only one that had not been 'wiped out' and also had the distinction of being the only location to capture 16 prisoners. Though when they heard that being captured meant having a cup of tea and going home they wished they had surrendered earlier.

The final stage was on the Monday, day seven, when the exercise finished. Here both Regulars and Volunteers, when told that it is time to pack up and go home, do so without wasting time. The main difference is probably that, whilst the Regular sorts out his own kit in barracks, the Volunteer often has to leave it at the Drill Hall for the P.S.I. to do tomorrow.

Final comparison

In conclusion, I was impressed by the results of regular practice on exercises leading to familiarity with the equipment, and other members of the detachment, making the establishment of communications generally a lot quicker and more successful. As far as reliability of equipment was concerned we, as Volunteers, would appear to be little or no worse off than our professional counterparts, which is encouraging. The other thing which I took heart from was that one particular link stayed out for hours and hours. Eventually the cause was discovered to be, of course, 'finger trouble'; but it did at least prove that Volunteers are not the only ones who suffer from it. I would also like to mention the Tech. Control-Commcen Command set-up. This in any unit evolves over the years as one idea is used, expanded upon and discarded; but when it is used as often, and has as many new users, as the one at Commcen W, then it is bound to become more efficient more quickly than one in a Volunteer unit. The 'Commcenoply' board (name copyright, I believe, of **Lieutenant J. Pattison**) is one example of this. It is a piece of perspex with circuits drawn in sections on it and holes bored in it into which various coloured pins are placed by Tech. Control on one side and read by Commcen Command on the other. Anybody wishing further details of it need not bother to write to **W.O.I (F. of S.) P. Huntly** because if he has to draw another one he says he will buy himself out!

Once again I would like to thank, through these pages, the officers and men of 3rd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment who so manfully put up with me for a fortnight and even, foolishly, asked me back. I may take them up on it.

Order your personal copy of the Wire NOW!

The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

Please arrange to send THE WIRE to me for twelve months commencing with next issue. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £1.20.

My rank and name is

.....

I wish THE WIRE to be sent to

.....

.....

OR

The Accounts Officer or P.R.I.

..... Regt./Sqn./Tp.

.....

Please reserve a personal copy of THE WIRE for me in the unit bulk order until further notice. I understand this will cost me 10p. a month.

Name and rank

.....

.....

How can you be with it — without it!



280,000 Channel HF SSB Manpack

The B 20 is an extremely versatile all solid-state equipment. It can be used as a manpack or installed in vehicles and light aircraft.

The B 20 HF SSB Station Radio, which has an RF output of 30Wp.e.p., represents an entirely new design concept. The transmitter-receiver weighs only 10lb, and a lightweight station including a 24W/h battery weighs only 15lb. The B 20 uses a fully synthesized frequency control system developed by Plessey specially for this equipment, and which provides 280,000 channels on the frequency range 2-29.99 MHz. SSB is the main mode of communication, but a.m. and c.w. facilities are also provided.

The B 20 will achieve reliable ground wave communications using 8ft whip antennas at ranges in excess of 30 miles. By using vehicle whip antennae distances in excess of 45 miles are possible. Using sky wave, communication over 300 miles is achieved.

PLESSEY Electronics

Military Communications Division

The Plessey Company Limited, Underwater and Communications Divisions, Ilford, Essex, England.
Telephone: 01-478 3040 Telex: 23166



WARRANT OFFICERS, N.C.O.'s– bring your skills and rank to Australia

Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army–or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank and acquired specialist skills. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain–and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain you receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity.

Don't leave it any longer!
Your trade may be included in those available and this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London–or post the coupon for all the facts.

Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name_____

Address_____

_____

_____

Age_____ Married/Single_____

Rank_____ Corps_____

Trade_____

Anticipated Discharge Date_____

**To: Captain J. R. Godwin,
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356**



Recruiting from a Regiment— facing the problems

BY W.O.II D. D. ABERCROMBIE, 14th Signal Regt.

'INTERNAL Recruiting' is about all the average person hears of in the broad spectrum of recruiting. There are Special Recruiters, Army Recruiters and Regimental Recruiters, and without probing too deeply into the whys and wherefores of these mythical beings, we are content to leave these unknown and all-too-often unsung Senior N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers to get on with it. This, then, is our sum knowledge of recruiting.

Recruits—the lifeblood of the Corps

In the early part of last year the S.O.-in-C. sent a letter to all Regiments pointing out the need for recruiting within the Corps. Regimental Commanders were only too aware of the problem, not only of getting recruits of the right calibre, but keeping them. Without recruits, the Corps will drastically run down within five years, for at that time there will be very few junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen.

With this thought uppermost in the minds of far-seeing people, the problem to be solved was to get the recruits. They just don't wait to be picked up; they do not arrive magically at Attesting Officers' desks; they have to be wooed, coaxed, offered incentives and, in fact, given the soft-sell, not flannelled or bamboozled, but given the facts. The answer, then, is to go out and find them.

The smother of advertising—does it help?

The Army as a career has a tremendous amount to offer, but the young man cannot appreciate exactly what; he is smothered in a welter of advertising literature which is all very attractive, and to the 'in-crowd' it's all great stuff. Very little of it actually helps to get the man in through the door of the Recruiting Office.

In 14th Signal Regiment, a team of three was placed at the disposal of C.S.O., Western Command, for a period of six months for the specific task of aiding recruiting for the Corps. The equipment with which the team was supplied were two Land Rovers with C11/R210 and C42 installed. The equipment was later augmented by a slide projector and a vast selection of colour slides showing the Regiment at work and leisure. These slides proved immensely popular, particulary with the younger age group, and prompted many questions from the various audiences.

After attending many shows and carnivals, the team set up at Blackpool for the Royal Lancashire Show for the period 27th-30th July. This time proved to be the most taxing in patience, because of the large number of questions, but at the same time most rewarding, as there were a number of genuine enquiries. These came not only from young men and boys, but also from parents who were seeking information about worthwhile careers for their sons.

A move was then made in the Manchester area, having exhausted the potential of Liverpool, Birkenhead, Chester, Bolton and Preston. Unfortunately this period coincided with the A.C.F. arrangements, who were either at summer camp or preparing to go, this being the highlight of the year's training. Youth Club activities appeared to come to an abrupt halt during the school holidays, many young people either taking on summer employment or having holidays away from their home town. AC10s frequently pointed out the desirability of small teams returning to their areas during the autumn and winter months, when there would be greater scope for talking to young people.

The problem of poaching on others' preserves

Without exception, AC10s and their staffs were extremely helpful to the team, both in administration and local knowledge. However, there was an initial tendency towards a feeling of poaching on their preserves. This, I feel sure, is a singular weakness in recruiting, since we all have the same common goal! But it is understandable that, having built up a recruiting area, any other recruiters encroaching on their prescribed areas are treated with a certain amount of reserve until they have proven themselves an aid to the AC10.

In recruiting bulletins, priorities were given to Corps and Regiments for uncommitted recruits, i.e., recruits who have not shown any preference to a particular Service or Arm, but wish only to join the Army. These priorities were varied at irregular intervals.

How can we make the uncommitted be committed for us in Royal Signals? A young man is influenced in three ways—(a) by parochial ties to his county regiment or through a member of his family; (b) by the first recruiting N.C.O. he sees; (c) finally, through a serving friend.

The young man in Group A often cannot be dissuaded from his original intention. Therefore our energies should be concentrated on the two remaining groups.

Recruiters are all vying with each other, and the first to the post is usually successful. Clearly, only the very best N.C.O.s, young men packing a lot of experience, are good enough.

Appearance means a lot to an impressionable young man, so our ideal recruiting N.C.O. has to be not only experienced and astute, but look like a first class product of Caterham; sadly this is not always the case. (Commanding Officers are extremely reluctant to let their best young men go—'but needs must when the devil drives').

Every Corps man can do his share

Recruiting is not a job for recruiting N.C.O.s alone; we can all do our share. There can be no doubt that the best recruiter is the man on leave, who, by talking of his own experiences and training can readily and almost unconsciously do a good job, but unfortunately we do not appear to do enough in this simple, but most effective form of encouraging new recruits.

At present, the effect of a dip in the birth rate in the pool of eligible young men, coupled with an increase in opportunities for further education, as well as the pulls of industry, is having an adverse effect of recruiting. With a government which favours a military presence a better recruiting climate can be expected.

Finally, if one serving soldier in thirty could, by skilful and honest persuasion, enlist one man in the Corps each year, this would go a long way to solving our recruiting problem and in time a real selection of potential would be within our reach.

Would it not be possible for Commanding Officers to offer some incentive to serving soldiers to enlist genuine recruits into the Corps?

P.S. by C.S.O. Western Command

May I express my gratitude to the Commanding Officer of 14th Signal Regiment for his support in providing the recruiting team. S.S.M. Abercrombie and the other N.C.O.s have been doing a first class job in putting across the Corps image in this Command. My thanks also to 55 Signal Squadron (V) and 241 Signal Squadron for helping with equipment.

The Jungle Book (Part Two)

By Second-Lieutenant Ted Crampton

Volunteer for base duties

THERE came a day during the jungle warfare course, which **Second-Lieutenant Phil Sharman** and myself went on, and of which you heard something in the July issue, when a night ambush had to be laid in a very wet piece of jungle which threatened to get even wetter as night fell. We had already spent two very wet nights out that week, and having no wish to repeat the performance unnecessarily, I immediately volunteered to stay in the defended area to the rear of the ambush position and risk my life by guarding the packs and heavy equipment belonging to the platoon.

A one-man shelter

Two hours before dusk, the Platoon, having been given its orders, trudged resignedly off into the dark damp area of swamp that was to be the ambush location. Silence reigned,

apart from rising wind, which all jungle warriors will know to be a sure sign of a rain storm. Having expected this, I set about making a very comfortable one-man shelter of my own design. The primary objective being that it was waterproof and the secondary that it took the least time possible to construct, with the minimum of effort. To this end, I made use of four very conveniently-sited saplings and set up a record time for the job. The rain duly obliged and I felt very sorry for my compatriots who I knew would by now be well and truly soaking yet again.

Some unkown hero in the ambush decided that the time had come for some action, and so at about 20.00 hours, he sprang the ambush against an invisible and non-existent enemy. The noise created was enough to wake the dead, and I duly awoke, realising that if everything went according to plan 31 VERY wet trainees would soon be clambering up the hillside and milling around the camp area trying to find their packs and put up their bashas in the dark, which, from past experience, I knew to be a hazardous situation for anyone sitting in the middle of it.

Return of the heroes

Phil Sharman was the first to appear, and seeing my ready-erected shelter, made straight for it. Not seeming to understand my protestations that my abode was strictly a one-man affair, he proceeded to ensconce himself, to my considerable discomfort. After a while we managed to achieve some degree of protection from the rain and commiserated with the unknown bodies floundering around us in their attempts to do the same. Suddenly there came a voice from nearby, "Great, this will do fine." . . . Clunk! down came one of the poles of my basha . . . clunk, and another. My pleas were in vain as they were dragged away to support someone else's shelter. Five minutes and a lot of hard work later, I was once again inside a semblance of a basha, only to find that Phil had slept through the entire episode (a not unusual occurrence) and was using my pack for a pillow. Peace descended eventually and I dosed off.

A slight disagreement

Morning came, with the trees still dripping, and the realisation that the scorpion that I had captured the previous day was inside my pack (Phil's pillow) and that it might not now be too well. I woke Phil who, on seeing that it was daylight, asked for a cigarette. Having satisfied his craving, I removed my pack from him and carefully removed the plastic bag containing the scorpion. Much to my relief, it was still alive and kicking. Phil, however, was turning a distinct shade of green and looking far from well. The remarks that followed are unprintable, but the remark that finished the argument was "If you insist on using squatting rights and pinching the household linen, you have no right to complain about the bugs."

Answering their questions

Career Opportunities 1971

After the public response to the first of the opportunities exhibitions, the *Daily Express* once again took it upon themselves to sponsor another nation-wide 'New Opportunities Exhibition,' at London's Olympia. The aim being to provide collectively, under one roof and for the benefit of school leavers, the varying forms of employment offered to them.

By Sergeant Tony Tai of 3rd Division Signal Regiment.

One of a team

Among the representatives of industry, civil engineering, banking, Civil Service, catering, hairdressing, shipping, air travel, nursing, the church, building, television, computers, mining, Liptons super markets and the teaching profession, the combined Services provided one of the largest exhibition stands. It was my job for the eight days that the exhibition ran, to be one of a team of officers and S.N.C.O.s from the three Services, whose function it was, to provide the answers which were asked by school children, their parents and teachers, on Service careers.

All who were being represented by an exhibition stand, had invested large amounts of organisation and money into this direct contact form of advertising, which was to the advantage of the school leaver, in that he or she was able to collect, on a freely provided printed form, first-hand information and facts. In addition, any careers which were of particular interest to the school leaver, could be 'sounded out' there and then.

Of course, all stands took full advantage of showing their hardware, backed up by striking blown-up photographs, closed-circuit television, explanatory progress slides and, of course, 'dolly birds.' Of which the vote for the best pair of legs, by a unanimous Service decision, was given to the Lipton super market stand, but only after many reviews. The hardware provided something for the visitors to look at, to try or play with, and to attract them to various stands.

R.A.F. and R.N. displays caught the eye

For this the R.A.F. provided model 'Spey' jet engines, cut away and covered with perspex, and powered by electrically driven motors.

The R.N., of course, must have its boat, or should I have said plastic boat. It was, in fact, a very large perspex model ship of the latest Protus and Olympus gas turbine driven class, with full size power house control unit connected to the model. The obvious advantage was not having to wait for 'steam-up' before one is able to get under-way. Another feature of the model which was of interest to me, and may be of interest to the non-Navy reader, was the propeller. It was designed to enable the pitch of the blades to be varied from the control house unit, so as to cause speed or direction of the ship to be altered. One could, in fact, go astern without reversing the rotation of the propellers—a remarkable step forward.

'Sky net' too complex?

The Army provided small models of 'Sky net,' and I was there to explain these. Although I felt, as a mere commcen operator, M.O.D. Signals branch ought to know the difference between an operator and a spaceman. My introduction to the 'Sky net' satellite and tracker station came on the second day from an article in *Soldier*. However, as is the case, and was proved at the Olympia Exhibition, the more complex the equipment, the more the unknowing shy away. As a representative form of communications provided by the 'sky net' system, two T100R inter-connected teleprinters were also set up on the stand, and provided an alternative attraction to the complexity of the 'Sky net' satellite and tracker models, especially for those who were learning to type. At a latter stage of the exhibition, 'Sky net' was replaced by an R234 and teleprinter, which was tuned into the commercial networks, such as TASS, French and English Services, and proved a more interesting attraction for the visitors.

If attendances was any indication, then the 120 coach loads of children plus those who came by other means proved the success of the exhibition. The number of pamphlets and leaflets gobbled up and the amount of litter left behind each day would appear to confirm this.

Nairobi — Here we come

By Corporal G. Guest of 9th Regiment

IN late November it was announced that a number of seats were available on a Hercules training flight to Nairobi via Bahrein. The return trip was scheduled to take five days. Sitting in R.H.Q., I watched the applications roll in. Within hours, over twenty names were on the list.

The numbers dwindled, however, as the days went by. Perhaps the rumour, circulated by the Adjutant, **Captain G. J. Barrett,** that not only was cholera vaccination required, but the return air fare, if anything went wrong, was £105, made some people think again! Rumour turned out to be fact, and seven members of the Regiment were finally called forward.

On Sunday, 30th November, we joined up with fellow adventurers from other parts of the island at R.A.F. Akrotiri, and the trip began. Led by the Second-in-Command, **Major M. U. Ryan,** our party, of **Major C. Roberts** (R.A.D.C.), **Staff Sergeant J. Hardy** (Int. Corps), **Corporal Bryant** and **J/T Gilberthorpe** (both R.A.F.), **Corporal D. Morgan** (R.A.D.C.), **Corporal D. Castle** (R.P.C.), and myself, waited in the airport bar . . . where else?

The flight to Muharraq took five hours, where overnight accommodation was provided. Then it was next stop Nairobi, eight and a half hours later.

We were met in Nairobi by the Chief Clerk from the British High Commission, who kindly arranged transport to the Grosvenor Hotel, where accommodation was booked for the whole party. After a meal, it was out on the town until the early hours. Leaving this account where good taste and censor dictate, the next morning started 'bright' and early, at five, with **Major Ryan** demanding gallons of tea before he could possibly go anywhere. He did manage five cups before half-past five, when we left our hotel for the Nairobi Game Park. With cameras clicking, we spent four hours looking at the wild life, being chased by lions, and enjoying the sunshine.

One member of the party was heard to remark that he hadn't seen animals like this since he was a child at the zoo. Personally, I shall always remember seeing the cheetah chasing deer for breakfast. Apparently this is a particularly rare sight in the park. We were all sorry to leave after such a short time, and the afternoon was spent shopping in Nairobi itself (and sampling the local brew).

We flew back the following day, staying overnight in Bahrein, and arrived back at Akrotiri on Thursday evening, to be met by a smiling SBA customs official, who promptly confiscated all the fruit we had brought back!

It was 8,000 miles in five days, and everyone said they would go again, given even half a chance. Thank you to the British High Commission and the Royal Air Force.

Cyprus Military Skills Competition

By W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) G. Morris of 9th Regiment

The Cyprus Military Skills Competition, which is run annually for non-Infantry units, is proving to be a very popular event. It was inaugurated in 1967 and started off as a simple section patrol race, the emphasis then being on speed and fitness. However, subsequent competitions have become more sophisticated, with basic Infantry skills replacing the pure slog.

This year's competition was admirably organised by the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. There were nine phases, which included an inspection of clothing, equipment and weapons, individual tests in map-reading, radio and first aid, two team shoots on the range, and a section assault course test. Also included was the night defence of a patrol base camp and a seven-mile tactical march with ambush.

A Regimental ten-man team included five Royal Signals personnel and five from other arms. Royal Signals were represented by **Corporals Illingworth** and **Watson, Lance-Corporals Bragger** and **Stevens** and **Signalman Ellis**. The other Arms included **Corporals Bishop** and **Marsh** (Intelligence Corps) **Corporal Sayer** (R.A.M.C.), **Private Harvey** (R.P.C.) and myself, who led the patrol.

We trained hard for three weeks prior to the competition, to be held on 26th/27th November, and were not surprised to see our team leading the field of ten teams after six of the phases had been completed. At this stage the competition had developed into a 'two-horse race,' with 48 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., hard on our heels.

Returning from the night base camp and tactical march, the lead had changed in favour of our rivals. Not to worry, we thought, their lead was so slender, we could overtake them on the falling plate competition, which was the final phase. Our shooting on the first day had been far superior to that of 48 Command Workshops, and so the stage was set for a nail-biting finish. Just before the final duel 'Mother Nature' decided to get in on the act, sending down a deluge of rain, thunder and lightning, which temporarily held things up, and so increased the tension.

We shot well in the muddy conditions, but the R.E.M.E. team excelled themselves by levelling our score. They finally beat us into second place with an overall 4030 points to our 3980, a mere 50 points out of a maximum of 5,000 for the whole competition. It was a great contest, which was a little disappointing for us, but look out 1971, here we come!

At the Firefighting School

Some Elementary Training for the Life Hereafter?

Or so thought Signalman Bob Ebrey of 621 Troop (H.M.S. 'Fearless') who writes this article on the hazards, perils, and choking experience of trying to become a fireman.

ON 9th October the Troop was taken down to H.M.S. 'Phoenix,' in Portsmouth, to learn the art of firefighting in Her Majesty's ships. If anyone thinks that the fire brigade earns easy money, I shall be pleased to put him or her properly in the picture, because at the end of the day we felt that we had just received an elementary training for the life hereafter, apart, of course, from the reformed members of the Troop who may yet avoid it.

. . . someone could get seriously burnt

The first part of the day was spent on lectures concerning types of fire, various extinguishers, breathing apparatus, etc., and most of all safety, because if, during the practical sessions which we were later to endure, anything went wrong, someone could have been seriously burned. Then we were clad in PVC protective suits and 'Wellys' and led, or rather dragged, to the two-storey metal buildings where the practical took place.

The first exercise was described—by the Instructors—as a "a fairly simple one." But after we had been told what to do, **Corporals 'Spud' Murphy** and **Derek Brown** were seen attempting to swim to the mainland, but, alas, it was worse to escape from than Alcatraz, and they were quickly recaptured. The exercise consisted of a large fire on the ground floor of the building. Parties of six men at a time went in through the first floor outside door, down a hatch into another room, where they had to grab a fire extinguisher, go into the next room and put out the fire. Now you may say easy! But it was a wood fire which gave off clouds of acrid black smoke, and if you didn't break your neck falling down the hatch, which was totally invisible because your eyes were streaming with tears, you choked. It was, however, pointed out to us by the instructor that there is always fresh air close to the ground—unfortunately it was so close that we were sucking up mud and all kinds of muck trying to breathe. When the fire was out, all that was left to do was to get back outside, and if we thought that going in was bad, the worst was still to come; when we had got to the top of the ladder to the first floor, the smoke was so thick that we couldn't find the exit. There is a limit to how long the average man can hold his breath, which didn't cover the three or four minutes it took to get back to that lovely clean fresh air. After this exercise, incidentally, was the first time we had ever seen an officer of the Corps closely resembling a golliwog, which just goes to prove that they do get dirty sometimes, much to our delight, at the time.

Sheets of flame sweep across the room

Exercise II was a fairly simple affair. There was an oil fire on the ground floor of the building and we entered at the first floor entrance; this time we were given breathing apparatus of the 5665 type, which consists of a face mask and a long breathing tube, rather like a diver's. This helped immensely, we could see and breathe easily. The only problem was that when you trained the foam extinguisher on the fire, if you weren't about two feet from the deck, the sheet of flame that shot across the room would have left you as the R.S.M.'s favourite soldier—haircut-wise that is.

Exercise III took us to dinner—for some who were lucky enough to enjoy it. We started from the roof of the building, going down to the ground floor to fight a very hot wood and petrol fire. Breathing sets, using compressed air, called the D.C.B.A., were given to the fire-fighting party. When we got down to the first floor, the heat and smoke were intense. Using what is called the waterwall method, which is a very wide spray that throws a screen around them, the two hosemen went down to the fire while two more stood above the hatch feeding down the hoses. Going through the hatch it was very

hot and **Alan Smith** managed to get blisters in his ears. But we eventually got the fire under control and 'play' was suspended for lunch.

The packed lunch, provided by R.M.B. Eastney, was excellent, and made us wonder just where all the usual mouldy cheese sandwiches had gone. After lunch should have come a film, but due to the daily power failure that seems to occur in most R.N. shore establishments, we carried on burning.

Corporal 'Spud' Murphy was sporting an impressive moustache . . .

There was only one more exercise before we could wash and go home. By this time **Corporal 'Spud' Murphy** was sporting an impressive black, droopy moustache, which made him look like Omar Shariff. When this was pointed out to him, he spent the remainder of the afternoon posing for imaginary film cameras. The exercise itself consisted of a room completely filled with blazing oil. When the door was opened, the flames came rushing out and filled the room we were occupying, so to protect us we were told to use the water-wall idea. The Instructor told **Signalman Len Oxley** to push his hose through the water-wall, but somehow Len got the order mixed up and stuck his nose through, and if you can picture in your mind a red-nosed pygmy doing a rain dance, you will have some idea of the picture that we were presented with. This commotion caused **Signalman Fred Estcourt** and myself to divert our attentions from the fire to put Len out, which saved him having a shower afterwards, but he wasn't at all grateful. Meanwhile, upstairs, the other members of the Troop were trying to keep the compartment above the fire cool. But due to the dense smoke, **'Spud' Murphy** and **Corporal Dave Higginson** succeeded in keeping each other cool with the hoses, but very little else.

If there is a fire—throw this lot overboard and start putting it out

After this the Navy called a conference and decided that if ever 'Fearless' caught fire it would be of more help to throw us overboard than let us fight it and called it a day. Apart from the fact that the water in the showers was below freezing point, I think we all enjoyed the day very much, and if any local fire brigade should need assistance, they know where to come.

They get around!

Lance-Corporal Brotton, of 30th Regiment, reports from yet another outpost—Caicos Island in the Bahamas:

"I left Lyneham at 02.00 hours on 31st December, and after five hours landed at Lajes, in the Azores, to refuel and change crews. After a rest for an hour, we were on our way once again, this time to Bermuda, and during this eight-hour leg across the ocean, the heating in the hold of the Hercules broke down and we were nearly frozen. (The C.O. sympathises, the same thing happened during his return from Istanbul!). Six hours later the heating came on and we were all boiling. After a brief stop at Bermuda, we left for Nassau, in the Bahamas, on a three-hour flight with yet another crew. At Nassau we had a very hurried meal of soup (?) and ham omelettes, before departing on the final leg of our long journey. Wthin one-and-a-half hours we were landing at South Caicos and were taken to our quarters in the top of a warehouse.

I missed my first signals schedule to Nassau because my boxes had not arrived. During the afternoon I was joined by **Corporal Tivenan,** of 633 Signal Troop from JRS Nassau, with crystals and a new work plan.

Communications have been excellent, with a little traffic both ways. At the present time (3rd January) the local population are having an extended New Year's holiday. Things are just about getting organised here now, and showers, lighting, toilets, kitchen and dining hall are being installed by the engineers. The weather is lovely, with just enough breeze so as not to be too hot . . ."

(Don't rub it in.—Editor).

Satisfied Soldier Scheme

Report by Lance-Corporal George Ballentine, 28th (B.R.) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) Army Careers Information Office, Coatbridge (A.C.I.O.)

Purpose

THE purpose of the 'Satisfied Soldiers' Scheme' was to send soldiers back to their home town to assist their A.C.I.O. There are many ways in which this can be done. The work depends on the size and location of the A.C.I.O. The A.C.I.O. where I was working is one of the smaller branches. It is situated in Coatbridge and serves a population of 80,000. Only a certain percentage of this number are eligible for recruiting, therefore this office has to work that little bit harder in order to have a good recruiting figure. At the moment, the office in Coatbridge is in the running for the Recruiting Shield.

The Office

My attachment to the A.C.I.O., Coatbridge, was from 19th-25th October. My day started at ten o'clock in the morning. The reason for this was that the hour between nine and ten was taken up with answering mail and in this aspect I wouldn't really be able to give much assistance. On the Monday morning I was introduced to the two Recruiting Sergeants, **Sergeant Beveridge,** Scots Guards, and **Sergeant Rice** from the Royal Military Police. The office itself was extremely clean and fresh looking. **Sergeant Rice,** who had just finished a window-dressing course, had all the Army posters set out in a most attractive way. He took great pride in the office and during the whole period I doubt if there was ever anything out of place.

My first task on the Monday morning was to accompany **Sergeant Beveridge** who was delivering various recruiting posters to the shops in Coatbridge. What surprised me was the fact that **Sergeant Beveridge** seemed to know everyone and all the shopkeepers seemed to look forward to his visit. During this time **Sergeant Rice** was in the office. It is the policy of this particular A.C.I.O. to have someone in the office at all times. This is in case a potential recruit comes along; if he found the office closed he might not return. Lunch consisted usually of a pie and a cup of coffee taken in the office. If we were really feeling pleased with ourselves, we would be a little more extravagant and buy fish and chips.

First customer

On Monday afternoon I had my first experience of a potential recruit. I knew in theory what was to be done but this was my first practical test. The person concerned was a boy of 17. Age is one of the important factors because it determines whether the applicant goes into man service or to a boys' establishment. When his age was determined I took down other particulars such as his religion, address, whether employed and whether or not he had a Police conviction. This is very important because, depending on the nature of the offence, an applicant can be, and often is, refused entry. After obtaining this information I proceeded to show the applicant a leaflet which briefly showed all the Corps and the employment within. After discussing the many questions he had, the applicant then took his test. The test consists of three sections, one on general knowledge, on spelling and the last on arithmetic. I read out the examination instructions to the candidate and started the test. This lasts for 40 minutes but generally the applicant finishes well within the time limit. When this particular applicant had finished I took his examination paper and then helped **Sergeant Rice** to mark it. When a result had been reached we could ascertain the Corps to which the applicant was eligible. This candidate wanted to join the infantry and, as he had acquired the correct amount of marks, he was accepted.

We then went through all the branches in the Infantry explaining their role and, if possible, where they were stationed. At this stage, **Sergeant Beveridge** was of great assistance because the Infantry was his speciality. The applicant decided to join the Royal Scots. All that had to be done now was to send the applicant into Glasgow A.C.I.O. for X-rays and a medical. Thus my first day ended rather successfully.

The next morning was spent in the office. **Sergeant Rice** explained to me all the different forms which they had in the office and also explained in detail the different procedure used

(Continued on page 65)

(Continued from page 64)



Lance-Corporal George Ballentine—a satisfied soldier

when a boy wants to enlist. This took some time because when a boy wants to enlist we have to send forms to his parents for their approval.

In the afternoon I went in the Land Rover with **Sergeant Beveridge** to the A.C.I.O. at Hamilton to collect some stationery needed for our office in Coatbridge. I was introduced to some of the staff of the Hamilton office and one person who seemed delighted to see me was the man in charge, a W.O.II in the Royal Signals. He and I had a long chat about various aspects of the Corps. His name, incidentally, was **W.O.II Stein.**

More customers

On returning to the office in Coatbridge I found out that **Sergeant Rice** had had a telephone call asking if he could visit a boy called **John Tomlinson** who, at 15½, was interested in enlisting. Being an 'ex-boy' myself it seemed that this was a chance for me to help the office, so I went along. **Sergeant Rice** and I met at the office on the Tuesday night and from there we travelled in the Land Rover to **John's** house. We had discovered **John's** parents were both dead, so it was his brother who invited us in. We asked **John** which branch of the Army he was interested in and found out he was very keen on going into the R.E.M.E. as a vehicle mechanic. I told him everything he wanted to know about the Army Apprentices College and at the end of the night he was even keener to enlist.

Wednesday passed uneventfully with **Sergeant Rice, Sergeant Beveridge** and myself waiting in the office. I thought Thursday was going to be the same, but around three o'clock we had an applicant. He was a married man, so my part in the operation was to explain to him, as best as I could, the Army from the married man's view. I explained to him that he would be separated from his wife during his basic training. I'm not certain, but I think he was rather pleased about this! He took his test, passed, and after discussing various trades he decided he would like to join the R.E.M.E. as a vehicle mechanic. At the time of writing I think he is now doing his basic training. Friday was my last day and luckily we had an applicant. He took his test, passed, and elected to go into the infantry. He was sent to Glasgow for his medical and as far as I know he's ready to go any day.

A worthwhile week

I left the office feeling quite pleased with my week's work. It was a very interesting week, very rewarding and memorable in the fact that I helped someone choose their future. Many thanks to **Sergeant Beveridge** and **Sergeant Rice** for their help and encouragement, and I will be hoping that the Recruiting Shield goes to the A.C.I.O. at Coatbridge. They deserve it!

UK or European posting?

Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.

Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W2

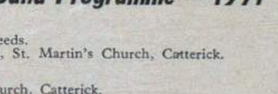
Name..... *Rank*.....

Present Address.....

Tax free for U.K. and then ..... (country)

Tax paid for U.K. only.....(tick)

Delivery Date.....



NATOCARS

Royal Signals Band Programme — 1971

FEBRUARY	
19	Dance Band, Leeds.
23	Charity Concert, St. Martin's Church, Catterick.
MARCH	
14	St. Martin's Church, Catterick.
20	B.B.C. Radio Broadcast, Radio 2.
APRIL	
17-27	Visit Cyprus.
30	Dance Band, Sheffield University.
MAY	
1	Recruiting Parade, Darlington.
4, 5	Fanfare Trumpeters, Maidstone Assizes.
7-10	Alderney.
13	10th Signal Regiment, Open Day, Hounslow.
15	14th Signal Regiment, Worcester, Retreat.
22	Freedom of Richmond.
23 May-5 June	Eastbourne.
31	Gurkha Appeal Fund Fete, Rothbury, Northumberland.
JUNE	
5	Open Day, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.
28 June-4 July	Edinburgh, Princes Street Gardens.
JULY	
5	Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon.
6	Concert, H.Q. Scottish Command, Edinburgh.
9-11	Open Day, 3 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, Bulford.
24	Teesside Trade Fair, Middlesbrough.
25-31	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
AUGUST	
1	Regents Park.
2 - 7	St. James's Park.
15-22	Jersey.
SEPTEMBER	
6-18	York Military Tattoo.
19 Sept.-3 Oct.	Eastbourne.
OCTOBER	
8	Concert with the Treorchy Male Voice Choir, Cardiff.
19-20	Trumpeters, Maidstone Assize.
22	Concert, Eastbourne.
NOVEMBER	
14	Remembrance Day, Richmond (Trumpeters, Blandford).

School of Signals, Blandford Camp Dorset

THE School of Signals Film Unit recently sponsored the last of the present season's charity shows in the Princess Mary Hall at the School of Signals.

The season started with Cottle and Austin's Circus in October when a quarter of the profit was donated to the Film Unit Charity Fund.

The second event was a show in November when entertainment was provided by the Four Seasons Theatre Company with their production 'Showtime.' This company gave two superb performances in Princess Mary Hall of excerpts from popular musicals. The first half of this programme was devoted to individual acts, with the second half consisting of a running excerpt from 'South Pacific.' All the artistes were excellent, but special mention must be made of **Anthony Morris** with 'Reviewing the Situation' from 'Oliver,' and of the superb performances of **Gena Starkey,** soprano, and **Jon Arnold,** baritone. The whole company took part in the excerpt from 'South Pacific' with excellent renderings of 'Bloody Mary,' 'Bali Hai,' 'There's Nothing Like a Dame' and others. The programme was concluded with Goodnight by the full company.

The final Charity Show of the season was held on 20th December when a mammoth three-and-three-quarter-hour entertainment was presented to a packed house. The performers on this occasion were 'The Intro,' with their musical sound from Winchester; the 'Corolandos,' a very lively and lovely trio of female dancers from Christchurch; the 'Durweston Four,' a local, talented, schoolgirl folk group; **Elizabeth Amey,** a local girl of 15 who is a polished performer of magic; the 'Sundowners,' famous musical entertainment from Bournemouth.

'Chas and Grahame,' comedy and music in a new style; 'The Gentle Folk,' a military folk group well known in B.A.O.R.; 'Tony Hoffman,' a cabaret artist with the intimate touch; the 'Wild Country,' a local up-and-coming recording group; **Gena Starkey** and **Jon Arnold** also made a return appearance and again thrilled the audience with their songs. **Jon** was so enthusiastically received that he almost stopped the show.

After the performance the artistes were entertained to a buffet supper and drinks at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the School of Signals.

Due to the generosity of the artistes, all performed free, over £70 was raised for Christmas parcels which were distributed by **Father (Dicky Dyer) Christmas** and **Staff Sergeant Roberts,** to old and needy folk in and around Blandford.



[Photo courtesy E. W. Elms, 18 Bayfran Way, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Dicky Dyer (Father Christmas) and Staff-Sergeant D. G. Roberts pictured with an old lady in Blandford to whom they brought some much appreciated good cheer at Christmas



BLANDFORD CAMP MUSIC AND DRAMA CLUB

The '35th Heavy Dragoons' in full dress uniforms, kindly loaned by the Royal Hussars (PWO) rehearsing for the Club's first Gilbert and Sullivan production 'Patience'

Blandford Camp do Gilbert and Sullivan

The Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club, formed in September, 1969, from military and civilian staff members and their families of the School of Signals and 30th Signal Regiment, together with the sprinkling of Other Arms which comprise the Blandford Station, has recently achieved their most successful production to date, i.e. 'Patience,' the comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Notable in this instance was the smooth combination of 'actors' with the 'singers' who had previously had no stage dealings one with the other, simply performing separately as play-actors or as a choir. In the 15 months of the club's existence, the drama group has performed three plays, all very successfully received, and is currently rehearsing 'Charley's Aunt.' The choir, meanwhile, has given three concerts in addition to assisting with the 'Nine Lessons and Carols Service' in the station church last Christmas and a performance of the 'Crucifixion' (J. Stainer) in Pimperne Church last Easter.

'Patience'—our first joint production—was produced by the station Padre, **Rev. Brian Pugh,** and conducted by the choir's musical director, **Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Inglis,** Royal Signals. Rehearsals began in September and after much effort on the part of all concerned was performed in Princess Mary Hall on 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th December. It says a great deal for the high standard set in earlier plays/concerts that all four performances were fully booked days in advance. It is impossible not to mention individuals, but in doing so it illustrates the international flavour of the present club. Our Canadian exchange officer, **Major Nigel Van Loan,** admirably filled the role of **Colonel Calverley**—once he had overcome his natural (mis)pronunciation of his fellow-principal as 'Dook'! **Major Ron Schuette,** U.S. Army Signal Corps, was stage manager, whilst his wife, **Betty,** was one of the lovely 'Twenty love-sick maidens" on stage. The title role of Patience was played by **Sheila Bidwell,** whose husband, **Major David Bidwell,** R.E.M.E., is the club's business manager. (We wish them both all good fortune in the future—as they leave the School before the turn of the year). The impressive sight of the '35th Heavy Dragoons' in full dress uniform of the 'Cherry Pickers'—kindly loaned by the Royal Hussars—gave no hint (we hope) of the difficulty most of the male chorus experienced in toting around the heavy cavalry swords. (We know now why the cavalryman needed a horse!).

Mention must be made of our 'orchestra'—two grand pianos played by two grand pianists (no pun intended)—**Donald Cox** (the School's principal lecturer) and **Colonel Rex Solly,** so well known in the Corps a while back. To them and to all who assisted in a thousand and one different ways, our grateful thanks.

Hearsay has it that a prerequisite for a posting to Blandford is to have been trained at RADA or the Royal College of Music. Be that as it may, for those who do possess a dramatic or musical voice, and/or have family members who do, there is a continuing need to fill vacancies by postings out from the station.

No need for bright sparks to fiddle about with this



Our GA.481 is the only all-solid-state 100 W broadband linear amplifier in full scale production. It covers the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any HF manpack to form a 100 W man-portable or vehicle station.

It measures 12¼" × 12" × 4¾" and operates from its own battery or from a 24V vehicle supply, without the need for a converter. But the big point is that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as it's fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mismatches such as broken or short circuited aerials, there's nothing much to go wrong.

The GA.481 has already been supplied to British and Overseas Armed Forces and is in quantity production. Now.

Redifon Limited,
Communications Division,
Broomhill Road,
London S.W.18.

REDIFON

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

3rd Division Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

Wives' Club dinner

DECEMBER started quietly, but this was just the lull before the storm. Within no time everyone was caught up in the preparations for the Christmas festivities. The first function being the Wives' Club Dinner which was held in the Sergeants' Mess on Friday the 11th. The ladies arrived at 7.30 p.m. and went into dinner at 8 p.m. While they were enjoying the excellent dinner prepared by the cooks under **W.O.II Geoff Baxter,** the husbands arrived to join in the fun and games which were scheduled to follow. The cabaret put on by the Mess entertainments committee under **W.O.II Arthur Kinson** was highly entertaining, and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Bohannan,** just happened to be the lucky spectator, drawn from the hat, to participate in the show. I'm wondering if **Staff Sergeant Arthur Gaze's** jokes just fitted the occasion, or was it all pre-planned? The evening continued with dancing and merrymaking into the early hours, and all voted it a very good evening.

The next item on the list was the All Ranks' Dance. It was held in the Tartan Badger Club and the dining hall on the 16th. Three bands/disco's/groups played until 1 a.m., which had the Quartermaster looking apprehensively towards the roofs in case they were blown off, but they survived and allowed everyone to really enjoy themselves.

Drinks accepted and returned

The warrant officers and sergeants of the Regiment invited the officers for Christmas drinks in the Sergeants' Mess on the 18th, and the officers reciprocated the invitation to the Sergeants' Mess on the 21st, at which the G.O.C., **Major General G. C. A. Gilbert, M.C.,** presented the Meritorious Service Medal to **Captain Jim McDonald,** and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.II 'Sandy' Black** and **W.O.II Allen Cook.** These were duly 'wetted' at the Sergeants' Mess later that evening. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Christmas draw—120 prizes

On the 19th, the Sergeants' Mess held their Christmas Draw in the Soldiers' Dining Hall, the Mess building being just not big enough to hold everyone; the buffet was absolutely superb, and our thanks for such a wonderful spread once again goes to **W.O.II Geoff Baxter, Sergeant Ian Shanks** and all their staff for doing such a grand job. The draw itself had 120 prizes, and it was nice to see they did not all go to the lucky few this time, although **W.O.I Pete Hutley** managed to win quite a lot. **Sergeant Tony Tai** became the envy of all by winning the 'Weekend in Paris.' Memo, must get some notes for THE WIRE from him on his return. **W.O.II 'Jock' Spiers** and his team are also to be congratulated on the marvellous evening. Thank you.

Christmas dinner

On the 22nd, the Regiment held its annual Carol Service in St. George's Church, Bulford Camp, which was immediately followed by the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner. I'm wondering if it was all that carol singing that made the beer disappear so quickly! At the dinner the Commanding Officer presented the 'Soldier of the Year' Cup to **Lance-Corporal 'Mike' Johnson** of 1 Squadron, the 'Champion Soldier' Cup to **Lance-Corporal Don Pringle,** of H.Q. Squadron, and the 'Champion Squadron' Cup to 2 Squadron. These were duly filled and emptied at least twice each. Our congratulations to you all. The cooks again did a wonderful job and the Regiment raised their glasses to them.

Over the period just prior to Christmas, we had staying with us as our guest **In Pensioner Corporal 'Mike' Stanford.** We hope he enjoyed his visit and will come back again later to see us.

The 23rd came, and at lunchtime the Regiment departed for their well-earned break.

NOTES FROM THE SQUADRONS

1 Squadron

The early part of the month saw 30 men under **Second-Lieutenant Holden** taking part in the Inter Squadron Competition. This raised the standard of fitness of the men, and the final fling was a march and shoot for half the team, and a swim and shoot for the rest. C2 Troop under **Lieutenant Pattison** finished off cutting a giant Corps badge on a hill near Fouant and it has turned out better than all expectations. The approach of Christmas brought the usual festivities. The Squadron held a Christmas party, which nearly started off in chaos, as the children invaded the stage and started climbing up the chimney. Calm was restored through swift action by the Gnomes **Lance-Corporal Cox** and **Signalman Lowther** and Santa—**Sergeant Norris**—made his entrance safely. The Christmas lunch saw a certain Squadron officer joining in eating rather than serving. The short leave finished all too quickly and we started work in a white world. Winter had come to Bulford.

2 Squadron

From 14th to 16th December, personnel from 'Alpha' Troop of 2 Squadron were involved in Exercise 'Ulysses,' which was based at the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop. The aim of the exercise was for us to be the 'enemy' while trainee helicopter pilots practised observation and locating drills. The 'enemy' consisted of **Lance-Corporal (Willy) Willimott, Lance-Corporal (Mac) McNamara, Signalman (Ginner) Jenkins** and **Signalman (Ned) Naylor** of 'Alpha' 1/2, while 'Alpha' 3 contributed **Lance-Corporal (Bob) Burnett, Lance-Corporal (Chris) Ball, Signalman (Dud) Horler** and **Signalman (Scotty) Robertson.**

We arrived at Middle Wallop to be welcomed by several shivering Gunners. We were given the freedom of the camp and then immediately a certain block was put out of bounds. One of the group later found out that it was the W.R.A.C. wing, but we won't mention that. The N.C.O.-in-charge Tactics then asked us if we had brought our No. 2 Dress, because it was their Christmas dinner that night. However, it seems that 'Alpha' 1/2's O.C. had forgotten to tell us. No names mentioned, but for this article we will call him **Lieutenant Paul.**

The day continued fairly smoothly, helicopters flying round frantically trying to avoid the Verey flares we were using to indicate.

At the end of the first day's work we returned to Bulford to collect our No. 2 Dress for the Christmas dinner. One thing that we noticed during the day was that the Gunners were baffled at our parking. Four Rovers parked neatly in line. They they realised that it was 3rd Division H.Q. and Signals that they were looking at.

Everybody went to the dinner, and it was most enjoyable, especially to have a meal served by seniors. After this there was the unit Christmas dance; naturally, we had no civvies, but that did not deter us from enjoying ourselves.

Tuesday almost didn't start for some of us, however, we managed to make our way to the tactics wing alright. It was a very busy day, as we were moving around quite a lot, mostly in the Blandford area.

The pilots were trying methods of getting close to the enemy without being seen until the last possible minute. One of them thought he would be sneaky and come around the trees. However, he must have forgotten that we were 3rd Division and a bit more sneakier, because 'Ginner' saw this and promptly fired a flare. The flare went in the wrong direction, straight for the 'chopper.' Fortunately it missed, but we nearly had roast mutton for tea that night, as the flare almost hit a sheep in a nearby field.

The last day of the exercise, Wednesday, was the most enjoyable, because we had to fire off all the flares we had left, plus smoke grenades. One pilot moving into location didn't know what to do, as about nine flares and six smoke grenades all went off at once. Eventually he managed to drop his underslung load and swiftly disappeared.

We moved back to Middle Wallop in the early afternoon to be dismissed, thanked, and finally return to Bulford. All the lads really enjoyed 'Ulysses' and have immediately volunteered for the next exercise with the Army Air Corps.

The WIRE
Without it—
You're not With it!

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

A Happy Christmas

WHAT to say of Christmas, 1970? The first problem is to remember what *did* actually happen—it was such a whirl. The W.O.s' and Sergeants' ball and draw; the Corporals' one; the Regimental Revue; the children's party, plus separate parties in the Quadrant Club by each Squadron and department; each vying with the others in magnificence; and not a single breathalyser casualty. All in all, a great series of achievements, packed into an amazingly short time.

From all this it is particularly hard to select any names or groups for special mention, because everybody in the Regiment contributed in some way—not least, all those who just did what they were told, in shifting furniture, stores, crates of drinks, scaffolding and the rest, cleaned up, decorated—and then did it all again in reverse. It was the same faces, plus their wives and girl friends, who could be seen between-times enjoying the results of their labours, and obviously it was all worthwhile.

The Regimental Revue—a great success

Looking back, pride of place should probably be given to the Regimental Revue. This was mostly a new venture, and an astonishing success. Last year we put on a few amateur turns to supplement a professional show which the P.R.I. had hired at vast expense, and which, frankly, wasn't worth the money. This year, a small team of optimists, headed by **Major Fred Stork,** declared their intention of writing and staging an entire revue from Regimental resources. Pessimists like your correspondent, and a few others, thought they must be mad, but kept all our fingers crossed.

They amazed us all, and perhaps even themselves, by keeping us laughing almost continuously for nearly three hours. We sat in comfort, round tables, night club fashion, while the drinks and food circulated; the whole stage-management was superb, and there wasn't a second-rate joke anywhere in it.

'Gina,' the Commanding Officer's famous retriever, really did think **Lance-Corporal Broadfield** was calling her, and had to be held down in the wings by half the cast. The Adjutant seemed to enjoy the portayal of all that ceremonial which (we like to think) occupies most of his office hours, and the R.S.M., won the admiration of all by the way he joined in the finale. This was a pretty uninhibited skit on 'This is Your Life—R.S.M. Hill.' It had been a perfectly-kept secret, and he and the audience had no inkling of it beforehand until he was summoned to the stage. Most of us thought he was a big man before, but after seeing him laugh his was through all those scandalous misrepresentations of his record of service, we are now certain of it.

Stars of the show? The producer was **Major David Dudley** (now alas gone); **Major Fred Stork,** the original instigator. We would like to mention all the cast, but space forbids. Perhaps the most memorable were really the new 'discoveries' like **Driver Professor Haley's** First World War German-Soldier-Compere; **Lance-Corporal Robson's** ballads and guitar, and **Lance-Corporal Hall's** unisex hairdresser.

We must also acclaim **Lieutenant Dick Stokes** and his stage-manager's team, who produced a stage and full effects in the gymnasium. Every other act seemed to involve either a bit of foot drill, of Guards-like violence, or a number of heavy falls. It had to be a remarkably strong stage.

And lastly, 2 and 3 Squadron's joint organisation, which cleared away the devastation of the children's party and replaced it within a couple of hours with a comfortable club in front of the stage—an achievement on its own.

Visit to the Orphanage

Following the custom of the last few years, the Commanding Officer **(Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Stonham)** and his family, and a few others, visited a German orphanage in Herford which we have adopted. **W.O.I (F. of S.) Johnson** acted as Santa Claus and distributed four sacks of presents; the Commanding Officer handed over a cheque for 300 Deutschmarks, and the assembled children sang carols very sweetly for us. Afterwards the children took us on a tour of their beautifully-appointed home (you should have seen the immaculate kit layouts in their lockers!).

The German press reported on the occasion very favourably, and all in all, it was a great success, both on a personal and public level. The only person who really had a problem was Santa Claus, whose beard proved to be unbearably hot. It's not often one suffers from prickly-heat at Christmas time in Germany!

After Christmas

Now it's back to the old tread-mill—ski-ing, inspections, PACE, training. A hundred men threw grenades on 8th January without blowing themselves up. C.O.'s inspections are producing a few laughs, for those who can afford them, such as:

C.O.: "Who's in Jones's crew?"
Depressed Troop Officer: "Sir, Jones hasn't got a crew."

* * *

C.O.: "What's this man's religion?"
Rattled Troop Officer: "RC B3, Sir."

* * *

C.O.: "How is the daily ration return kept?"
More Rattled Troop Officer: "Every day, Sir."

* * *

From an Inspection Report: "LOOSE WIVES are to be stapled to the walls and not left lying around offices."

* * *

C.O.: "Why do you have a duplicate wall-chart by your desk?"
Rattled Troop Officer: "To save me getting up, Sir."

Sports and suchlike

Apart from the Regimental ski team, who are having six weeks of hard work-cum-play in Lermoos, Austria, prior to the Divisional Championships, about 50 soldiers will be learning to ski at our Regimentl ski hut near Winterberg. Conditions are hard there, but it's a marvellous opportunity to learn what is still often a rich man's sport.

The hockey team is squaring-up for the Divisional semi-finals against our neighbours, the 3rd Carabiniers.

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

DECEMBER proved to be as busy and hectic as the preceding 11 months of 1970. Our Telecommunications Inspection finished on the 4th. This was followed by the FFR Inspection on the 8th, by C.C. Royal Signals, **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E.,** and his staff from H.Q., Royal Signals, 1st British Corps. Then the Christmas festivities started in earnest, with innumerable parties and hangovers.

In the meantime, Exercise 'Snow Queen' is being run in Bavaria, and regrettably, our valiant rugby team was knocked out of the Army Cup. However, the hockey team is still in the Army Cup Competition and is quietly confident. The cross-country team is also doing exceptionally well. More about these activities below.

Rugby—a good start in the Army Cup but alas 'k.o.'d'

The initial rounds of the Army Cup were particularly easy for us. Results (up to the 4th Division final) were: Preliminary round versus 1 R.H.A., won 83—3; first round, versus 13/18 Hussars, won 48—0; second round, versus 27 Medium Regiment, R.A., won 21—0; semi-final, versus 24 Missile Regiment, R.A., won 28—0.

Nobody was surprised that the 4th Division final was to be played between 1 Welsh Guards and 7th Signal Regiment. It was unfortunate that the two strongest teams in B.A.O.R. had to meet so early in the competition. The final was played on 12th December, on a beautiful crisp winter's day, with the pitch in almost perfect condition.

7th Signal Regiment kicked off in front of a very big and expectant crowd. The B.A.O.R. match of the season had started. The opening minutes were uneventful, but then from the tight on our 25, from a good blind-side movement, the Welsh Guards were over for an unconverted try. The Welsh,

at this stage, were playing beautiful rugby, running the ball, and we were taking a long time to settle down. It wasn't long before the Welsh scored again from an orthodox back movement with their full-back making the extra man. Now '7' started fighting back, a glorious forward rush down the touch-line was stopped only inches from their line; **Lance-Corporal Allan James** made a break and once again was stopped only inches from the line. Then just before half-time the Welsh Guards added to their score with a well-taken drop-goal. 9—0 at half-time. The second-half was far more exciting than the first, both teams throwing the ball around. Several times we went close to scoring, but the Welsh cover defence seemed inpenetrable. In the closing stages of the game the Welsh scored another try, and this time it was converted. Final score, 14—0.

The better team on the day won; if the Welsh Guards can keep up this form throughout the long, hard, German winter, the Army Cup is as good as theirs.

Exercise 'Snow Queen'

As in previous winters, the Regiment is actively involved in Exercise 'Snow Queen.' It started in November and will run through to March. Groups of 20 members of the Regiment are being sent down to Bavaria every fortnight to take part on this ski-ing course.

In charge of the course is **Lieutenant Rick Brown,** who is instructing the cross-country students, and **Sergeant Brian Mumford,** who is dealing with the downhill ski-ing. This year, the accommodation for the course is in the Gasthof Hirsch, at Vorderberg, a small picturesque village a few kilometres south from Kempten. During our stay, invaluable assistance has been given by Marcel, the owner of the gasthof, who has done much to help in the running of the administrative side of life.

Everyone who has been there has had a very good time, to judge from the numbers who want to go again.

Cross-country running

This season the Regiment decided to enter the Westphalia Cross-Country Running League, which consists of teams from various units within a radius of 60 miles of Bielefeld, and is not related to any formation.

Races are run each Saturday; the first took place on 7th November, and the final race is scheduled for 20th February. The venue changes each week, teams taking it in turn to play host, and, in consequence, a greater variety of courses is given to the runners.

We are now at the half-way stage of the league programme and are lying fourth in the table, within, we think, striking distance of third place—the first two places being filled by teams from the Queen's Dragoon Guards and the Royal Irish Rangers.

Sergeant Geoff Chaloner, our Team Captain, trots in regularly in 5th to 9th position and although we have no outstanding stars, the other members of the team ably support him by finishing in the top third of the field (which is often of the order of 220 runners). Special mention must be made of **Sergeant Dave Jolly,** who will be 36 years old this year — almost twice the age of most of the competitors — and has steadily improved his position each week from 75th in the first race to 33rd in the last race. We are certain that his last result was due to someone suggesting the night before the race that he was getting too old and should "hang up his shoes!"

Mercury Slot Car Racing Club (M.S.C.R.C.)

The slot car club was opened up two years ago. After a lot of hard work by founder members, **W.O.II Eric Simpson, Sergeant Alan Benson, Staff-Sergeant Bob Aubrey (R.E.M.E.), Corporal Alan Preston,** and his son, **Paul,** construction of a four-lane scalextric 86ft. track was soon completed. Lap counters, after a lot of trouble, are now in and working. September-October, 1970, was our first official bi-monthly championships. We race F.1., G.T., Sports Cars and production Saloons, all in 1/32nd scale.

Thank you 227 Signal Squadron for a most enjoyable meeting last summer. Hope to see you this year. Any more challengers, home or away.

Stamp Club

The Regimental Stamp Club continues to flourish after nearly three years of existence. Due to postings the organisation has been changing hands recently, but those currently doing most of the work, are **Lieutenant-Commander F. Savage, R.N., Sergeant Brian Harrison, Sergeant Dick Offord, Corporal Steve Smedley, Corporal George Cutler** and **Bombadier Jack Edwards.**

Our activities include the production of an illustrated First Day Cover for every new British commemorative issue, of which, we now have to print 400 each time to satisfy demand.

We also have built up a large approval service which might be of interest to other members of the Corps, especially those unable to attend a Stamp Club.

Regular auctions are another popular activity and we anticipate being able to extend them postally later this year.

For further details on any stamp matter, please write to the Secretary, 7th Signal Regiment Stamp Club, B.F.P.O. 15.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off Parade—16th December

THE Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood,** took the salute when 57 soldiers of 5 and 6 Troops completed their basic military training.

The best recruit of 5 Troop was **Signalman J. M. Smith,** who now goes forward for radio operator training. The best recruit of 6 Troop was **Signalman F. Swan,** a potential com-centre operator.

A special feature of the parade was the presentation of an inscribed sword to newly-commissioned **Lieutenant Fred Orr,** who, until earlier the same week had been Regimental Sergeant-Major of 11th Signal Regiment.

Commissioning of Lieutenant F. M. Orr.

Prior to the sword presentation, on 16th December, the then, **R.S.M. Fred Orr,** had been dealt with at a Sergeants' Mess 'Court Martial.' (See Mess notes).

Lieutenant Orr joined the Army on 8th September, 1949, as a boy, and after three years' service, he graduated from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, as a radio technician, heavy.

He was soon promoted to Corporal, and by 1964 he was commanding a Transmitter Troop in Cyprus as a Staff Sergeant. In April, 1966, he was posted as the Royal Signals Warrant Officer to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He served with distinction for two years at Sandhurst and was then posted as the R.Q.M.S. to 28th Commonwealth Brigade in Malaya. In 1969 he was promoted W.O.I (R.S.M.) to 11th Signal Regiment.

At the end of 18 years 9 months man service, **Lieutenant Orr** has now been appointed to a Short Service Commission in the Corps, and in January, 1971, he will take up his new appointment as a Lieutenant in 9th Signal Regiment.

Children's party

A hundred and twenty children in Helles J.R.C. spelled chaos for ninety adults and tremendous fun for the children. The children's party was held on 5th December and the children, up to eight years of age, were delighted with three hours of games, competitions, a film show and carol singing. The highlight of the afternoon came just after 5 p.m. with the arrival of Father Christmas, Royal Signals, **Major H. A. J. Alexander, M.B.E.,** O.C., H.Q. Squadron, heavily disguised, and the distribution of presents.

Our thanks go to the NAAFI staff who prepared an excellent tea; the members of the Royal Signals Band, who played during the afternoon, accompanying the games and carols; and to (P.R.I.) **Lieutenant-Colonel Reg Atkinson, O.B.E.** (Retd.) and his many helpers for arranging the party and ensuring a memorable afternoon.

Old folks' party

For a few hours on 16th December, the generation gap was well and truly bridged by the Corporals' Mess. Their very kind donation paid for the hire of Richmond Town Hall for the Over 65 Club old people's Christmas party. Amongst those present were the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E.,** and, representing the Corporals' Mess, **Corporal Brian Smith,** the P.M.C.



[Photo courtesy Darlington Evening Despatch

CORPORALS MESS KIND GESTURE

Amongst those present at the Richmond Sixty Five Association Old people's party at the Town Hall were Councillor Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E. (second from left standing) and Corporal Brian Smith

Soldiers' Christmas dinner

On the evening of Friday, 18th December, 240 other ranks watched in amazement (their first Army Christmas dinner for recruits) when the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of H.Q., Training Brigade and 11th Signal Regiment juggled with bowls and soup and plates of turkey as they served dinner. It was commented that the standard of waiting went down nearly as fast as the beer from the corner bar.

Our appreciation must be given firstly to the Messing Officer, **Captain D. J. Daniell,** A.C.C., and his staff, for preparing an excellent meal, and secondly to the members of the Band who entertained us all with lively music throughout the meal . . . hic!

Farewells and welcome

Lieutenant Richard Wilson reached 'somewhere in Surrey' with his Humber 1-ton, his hobby and friend. In his place, as O.C. 2 Troop, we welcome **Lieutenant J. C. Young,** still sporting his Far East sun tan. Other arrivals include **Lieutenant Peter Bowles,** vice **Lieutenant Peter Myatt,** and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. R. Markham.**

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner Night

This month sees the departure, on commissioning, of **R.S.M. Fred Orr.** A dining-out 'ceremony' was held in the Helles Mess on Friday, 11th December. The usual excellent standard of decor and cuisine were, fittingly, the best ever.

Following the loyal toast, **W.O.I Jim Laing** presented to the R.S.M., on behalf of the members, a pair of suitably-inscribed candelabra. After a most sincere and unrehearsed speech of appreciation, **R.S.M. Orr** then made an amusing and witty reply before presenting to the Mess a most unusual statuette of 'Jimmy' some 15 years older than the Corps itself.

The Corps Band then gave a repertoire of solos, followed by three vaguely familiar navels rendering the River Kwai March.

Court Martial

As the magic hour of midnight approached, the R.S.M. was marched in to face a Mess 'Court Martial,' presided over by **S.S.M. 'Bucky' Gill,** flanked by two evil-looking pseudo Cossacks, who bore little resemblance to **S.S.M.s Eddie Cooley** and **Jackie Boyle.** The main witness for the prosecution was a most fetching lady of doubtful repute, alias **F. of S. Geoff Wright.** These must surely be the most hilarious legal proceedings ever, resulting in the accused being fined a total of 90 pints of beer for contempt of court.. The President declared the R.S.M. guilty as charged and banished him to the 'inevitable' side for ever.

Fittingly, the R.S.M. was then dressed in sea-going rig and handcuffed to the mast of a dinghy which happened to be conveniently parked outside the Mess. With the Senior N.C.O.s of the Band, under the direction of **W.O.II Joe Lee,** forming the vanguard of the procession, the R.S.M. was hauled to the guard room by some 60 members manning the ropes. There, under the escort of **S.S.M. 'Busty' Slade,** he was transformed into **Lieutenant F. M. Orr.** On invitation, he returned to the Mess and the evening/night/morning was seen through to its bitter end.

We are all very sorry to see Fred go, he has worked unceasingly for the betterment of the Mess, both in the decor and spirit of what he himself describes as the 'best club in the world.' He has achieved all he set out to achieve, and our loss must certainly be 9th Signal Regiment's gain. "Thank you," say all.

The R.S.M.'s pace-stick now bears the plaque of **R.S.M. John Markham,** who we welcome most heartily, and our best wishes go to both him and his family for a happy and successful tour with the Regiment.

To **Fred** and **Pat Orr**—good luck and god bless.

(The Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association will also miss Mr. Orr and his much-valued advice. Our best wishes go with him.—Editor).

Continuation training in Scotland

Continuation Training Troop holds re-enlistments and soldiers who have completed recruit training and are awaiting trade training. In the Troop, military training is taught by cadre in permanant detachments located at Scarborough and Stirling.

The cadre in Stirling consists of **Lieutenant A. T. B. Kimber, Corporal Kenyon** and **Lance-Corporal Alexander,** ably assisted by the cook, **Private Moughan.**

At Stirling, a variety of outdoor activities are undertaken, which include ski-ing, abseiling, canoeing, hill-walking, camping and orienteering. When the Scottish clouds break, there are standby activities such as .22 shooting, indoor swimming, a variety of indoor sports, and visits to some of the many local places of interest.

The training is organised into a one or a two-week course, and at least two working days and a night of each week are spent in the Grampian Hills.

The detachment is well equipped with mountaineering equipment, and the nights in the hills are spent comfortably, even in poor weather conditions.



CONTINUATION TRAINING IN THE GRAMPIANS

A party returning to base camp prepare to drop below the cloud level at 2,000 feet

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Opto Electronics for example.

Chieftain, probably the most sophisticated battle tank in use operationally in the world today, employs an impressive array of M.E.L. opto-electronic devices. Active and passive sighting systems for the driver, gunner and commander, and a wide variety of instrumentation for the fighting compartment, provide a vital contribution to this formidable vehicle's superior performance under all conditions. In addition, similar systems are being developed by M.E.L. for the new fighting vehicles now coming into service.

M.E.L. has been successfully associated with opto-electronic development for many years, and has now been augmented by the traditional optical skills and expertise of Watson and Ether (Royston) Ltd., resulting in a very powerful and experienced organisation in this important field.

M.E.L. leadership in Defence Electronics also extends to Radio Communication, Reconnaissance Radars, Radio Intercept Equipment, Sonar systems and Microwave systems.

The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd.
Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex,
England. Tel. 0293 - 28787.

M E L



13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

Christmas festivities were wide ranging

CHRISTMAS festivities were off to a very early start, with 1 Squadron's Christmas dance on 14th November. It was a very enjoyable evening and set the standard for the other Squadron dances. H.Q. Squadron's dance followed on 12th December, and then came three performances of the Christmas Show, produced by **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Denis Connell** and **Sergeant Vernon Merrick.** Compered by **Denis Connell,** the show was a great success, and most were amazed at the wealth of talent that the producers had discovered—talents ranging from the fine singing of the Birgelen Church Choir and **Maureen Summers, Jill Merrick, Maureen Goddard, Ann Anderson Vernon Merrick, Pete Goonan, John Pryer** and **Kevin Arriss,** to the comedy of **Val Law, Betty Roberts, Lorraine Wallace** and **Glen Clauson.** Music was provided by The Germs, musical direction by **Derek Waterman,** sound effects by **Mike Pilkington,** lighting by **Neil Dye,** scenery by **Terry Pastore** and props by **Dave Cope.** Mention should also be made of the Birgelen Cubs, who performed well as Diddy Men. We look forward to future 'Mercury Theatre' productions.

Forty orphans from nearby Dalheim were given a Christmas party on 17th December in the gymnasium, with **Corporal John Cole** acting as **Santa Claus.**

2 Squadron held their dance on 19th December, and on Sunday, 20th December, a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in the Regimental Chapel, which had been decorated by the Brownies.

The Children's Party was held on 21st December, and consisted of a film show, party games and tea, and finally Santa Claus (this time **Corporal Bill Guest**) distributed the presents. The party finished according to plan, but with an exhausted and hoarse Santa, who had successfully competed against 270 excited children in order to distribute presents.

The Christmas dinner/dance, on Tuesday, 22nd December, was a gay social affair, where the livers-in entertained the livers-out and their wives. Dinner was served by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, the 'waiters' having been marched to the Junior Ranks' Mess from the Officers' Mess after a few jugs of ale, by **Second-Lieutenant David Dobson.** After the dinner, the 'waiters' were left to clean up one end of the dining hall whilst the diners danced to a vigorous group from Holland called The Tasteful—a very enjoyable evening.

On Christmas morning the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. C. Baldwin,** was awakened by the strains of the bagpipes played by **Lance-Corporal Jim Cruickshank,** and served with 'gunfire' by the R.S.M., **W.O.I Filder** and the three S.S.M.s, **W.O.II Ken Kennington** (H.Q.), **W.O.II Denis Connell** (1) and **W.O.II Tony Orrell** (2). The Christmas Day lunch was served by the Commanding Officer and the 'first eleven.' Boxing Day was fairly quiet until 'The Germs' demolished the calm at the Junior Ranks' Dance in the evening.

On Sunday, 27th December, a twenty-a-side soccer match was played between a combined team from the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and a team from the Junior Ranks' Club. According to the referee, **Major Tom Swan,** both sides played extremely good football, but one wonders how he was able to form an opinion, as he was continually being carted off the field by the teams. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, in spite of the Arctic conditions.

Farewell and a record broken

During the month we said goodbye to our Adjutant, **Captain Tony Seward;** we shall miss him in many spheres. His last achievement was to beat the Sergeants' Mess record for drinking from the farewell glass spoon, which contains 1¼ pints. He improved the record from one to four spoons! (No prizes for working out the amount consumed!).

SPORT

Badminton

The Rhine Area League is in full swing and we are midway up the table. The competition is quite hectic at times, and it seems all our games go to three sets. Our match against the league leaders, Dusseldorf Station, was decided on the last game, and Dusseldorf ran out winners by 5—4, the match finishing at 23.50 hours!

The Regimental Inter-Troop League carries on in fits and starts. The gladiators of 'C' Troop, 1 Squadron, will meet stiff competition from the 'old hands' of H.Q. Squadron. The latter are still undefeated, and at this stage look like being the winners.

Cross-country

December has been a good month for cross-country, as far as the weather is concerned. There have been three meetings—at 28th Signal Regiment, at R.A.F. Bruggen and at 16th Signal Regiment. **Signalman Keith Baker,** of 'D' Troop, 1 Squadron, was placed 13th in each of these three meetings! A special mention for **Corporal John Lamb,** H.Q. Squadron, who joined the team as a stand-in and has supported the cross-country team well for the past 12 months. His determination and team spirit were a good example and great encouragement to team members.

Basketball

The Regimental basketball team, who were Rhine Area League Champions last season, are now lying second in the league, having been beaten only by 16th Signal Regiment. We have high hopes of retaining the league championship.

We are fortunate in having the services of a first class coach (**Corporal Emerson** of the R.A.F.) who puts the team through its paces on the weekly training sessions. Prominent team members include **Staff Sergeant 'Podge' Maunder, S.I. Pete Scales, Sergeant Mick Crane, Corporal Johnny Kirk, Corporal Pete Massey** and **Signal Johnny Bird.** Recently **Signalman Len Bishop** has joined and he should be an asset to the team.

Sergeants' Mess

The highlight of our Christmas activities was the Christmas Draw. **Staff Sergeant Jim Hammond** (Int. Corps) walked away with no fewer than 14 prizes. After collecting them, he promptly gave half of them away! Then to the music of 'Dutch Louie,' he entertained us to a victory dance, which has since been described as 'Hammond Ago-go." Rumour has it that he is now thinking of getting married; after all, what can a single man do with a Teasmaid?

Two days later, a living-in members' dinner was held. Soft music, good wine (the grapes picked by the men of the Regiment) and a nice meal in a party atmosphere left us glowing. Thank you, single members, for your hospitality.

Our most recent arrival is none other than **Sergeant Geoff Biggs,** of White Helmet fame. We also welcome to the Mess, on promotion, **Sergeant Mick Barker** and congratulate **Staff Sergeant George Cox** and **W.O.I Mike Clowser** on their recent elevation.

Arrivals.—Captain C. E. Byrom, Captain P. Ames, W.R.A.C., **Second-Lieutenant D. W. Dobson, W/Sergeant D. Hall, W/Sergeant D. McGurk, Staff Sergeant R. Courtney, Sergeant G. E. Biggs.**

Departures.—Captain A. R. Seward, Sergeant J. Phair.

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

CHRISTMAS is traditionally a festive season but as most readers know it is the month into which we cram three weeks' working time, but two months' work, not to mention enough food, wine and song to see us through until the following year.

Having survived the festivities I suddenly remembered that our normal editor is laying around the beaches of Cornwall and won't have recovered from his frostbite in time to write the now overdue notes! The Christmas programme was quite hectic.

10th December

The 'Wives Clubs,' forsaking all others (including husbands), slipped away quietly for a night out on the town with the girls, which culminated in tasting the culinary delights of a local hostelry.

11th December

Whilst the officers dressed in the same finery that most of them have worn for years, the ladies took the opportunity to wear that new ball gown and drag reluctant husbands to their feet at a most successful Ladies' Night, organised by **Major Peter Hartshorn** and his committee.

15th and 21st December

The parties for the younger generation were held again this year, one for children aged 2-7, and the other for the 8-14 bracket. Both parties were a great success, thanks to **Major Joan Parker** and **Lieutenant Peter Kent,** with **Sergeant Tom Towse** as Santa Claus being second only in popularity to the food provided by **Sergeant Frank Caton.** This year we had ten young guests from a local Dr. Barnardos.

17th December

At the All Ranks' Dance, fancy footwork was much in evidence, not least in **Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Baker** and **Mrs. Baker,** who frequently led the field to music by the 'Jam Preservation.' Much credit for organisation must go to **W.O.II Douglas Livermore** and **Corporal Nicholas Hughes.**

19th December

This evening saw the officers, warrant officers and sergeants gathered in the J.R.C. (for reasons of space) to enjoy a very well run Sergeants' Mess Ball. As a result of this function and the All Ranks Dance, the Adjutant, **Captain Ken Doyle,** has promised to give up Irish Dancing (with bent elbow) and take up ballroom dancing. **Sergeant Frank Caton** and his team must be congratulated on a superb buffet.

For those who think that this was a gentle period I must point out that in and around these functions there were many other good parties, among which was a lunch-time party for our civilian employees and the return matches between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. It is notable that every department/troop had their own celebrations, as could be seen from the sore heads the following day.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Field knots and splicings

ON Saturday, 14th November, the staid halls of the Officers' Mess glowed with colour and sparkled with that ready wit which is the hallmark of a popular wedding's most successful reception.

Our Second-in-Command, **Major 'Dickie' Armstrong,** was successfully matched to **Lieutenant Carol Merrett** (W.R.A.C.). A most apt union of the 'Procedure King' to a potential 'Procedure Princess.' It is understood, if the best man is to be believed, that the initial proposal was conveyed using relay procedure.

The service was conducted by our own Padre, the **Rev. Alec Smith,** in St. James's Church in Bradbury Barracks. The bride was given away by her father, **Mr. Norman Merrett,** who had travelled, with his wife and many of the bride's family, from Belfast for the occasion.

With the bride, **Mrs. Judy Dobson,** the Matron of Honour, and **Katie Pope,** the bridesmaid, completed a most beautiful trio of ladies. **Captain Eric Castle,** unfortunately not quite so beautiful, though decidedly dashing, was best man.

The guard of honour, chosen for their youth and strength of arm, did not contain any field officers. Despite the official explanation that "they looked better and were more complimentary to the bride," it is still considered that the reason was to ensure against a physical assault upon the bridegroom (O.C. 2 Squadron had been heard to deplore the lack of a cutting edge on the Regimental swords). His explanation was that he was only thinking of the cutting of the cake!

The subsequent superb fare (by that master chef, **W.O.II A. Wood**) and refreshments at the reception, resulted in a succession of sparkling speeches, in which the best man earned pride of place, and in the confiscation of many car keys by the guard commander. (As the bridegroom appeared for coffee the following morning, it was presumed, though not admitted, that he had suffered a similar fate!).

The best man's speech, although mostly too risqué to bear repetition in print, did imply that marriage seemed a rather extreme method of gaining two extra 'pips.' It also confirmed that the 'groom had ignored the pamphlet by devising a double 'through you' procedure for his proposal. Needless to say, the host of telegrams and greetings contained many a military pun and witticism.

The bride and 'groom eventually managed to break away from their spirited guests (the champagne was finished anyway). Evading a shower of missiles (rice, highly bulled, small grain) and despite a final abortive attempt at delay, by lifting the rear wheels of a front wheel drive car, they disappeared into a fine November evening and what we all sincerely trust will be a truly happy and successful future.

Captain Pat Crowe—in appreciation

It was with much delight that we heard that for the second time, the Royal Signals Rose Bowl had been won by an officer of the Regiment, this time by **Captain Pat Crowe,** W.R.A.C. The presentation was made by the Signal Officer-in-Chief after a curry lunch in the Officers' Mess during his recent visit to B.A.O.R.

Pat Crowe joined the Regiment on the completion of her 'Q' Course in 1967, and after a time in the Training Wing, undertook the duties of CDSO in the Krefeld TRC. Pat's placid and unflappable nature and profound knowledge of tape relay soon made their mark on all those who worked down the 'hole' or, as some quickly named it, the 'Crow's nest.' Pat was also the Regiment's authority on switchboard operating and, in addition to running upgrading courses, she spent much time in Bielefeld, keeping a watchful eye on that rather troublesome, but much-maligned exchange 'Bielefeld Military.' It is much to her credit that the speed of answering on this exchange has moved steadily towards the top of the charts.

Although signalling was Pat's real love, all good things had to come to an end, and with much difficulty, she was eventually winkled out of the 'hole' to partake of a little administration as O.C. W.R.A.C. Signals at Rheindahlen.

Patricia leaves us on posting to 10th Signal Regment. In saying farewell, we once again congratulate our late CDSO 'extraordinaire' on her most well-deserved award, thank her for all she has contributed to the greater efficiency of the Regiment, and wish her success in her promotion exams, and every happiness in 1971.

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Hari Raya

THE Regiment held the annual Hari Raya lunch on 9th December, and the Malay soldiers of the Regiment enjoyed their lunch served by the Officers, and Senior N.C.O.s sharing a Malay-style buffet, prepared by **Sergeant Yahya,** A.C.C., and his team of cooks. On the evening of 11th December the Hari Raya party was held in the Princess Mary Club. Organised by **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Osman Tasi** and his committee, it was voted the best Hari Raya party in memory; this was only right, as it was regrettably the last one that we shall hold in this Regiment. Highlights of the evening included performances by Malay dancers, and a demonstration of self defence, using real parangs; to see the sparks flying as metal hit metal was really something. The Commanding Officer was presented with a Regimental songkok, which he proudly wore for the remainder of the evening.

Christmas festivities

The Christmas festivities started with a very successful party run by the Wives' Club on 16th December, and over 200 members of the Regiment enjoyed an excellent evening in the Princess Mary Club. This was followed by the Officers' Mess



THE PIRATES OF 249 SQUADRON
They organised all the children's parties

dinner and the Sergeants' Mess draw, both held on 18th December. After the Officers' Mess dinner, the Q.M. (Admin.), **Major Terry Canham,** presented each Mess member with an appropriate little 'gift,' all of which had been begged, borrowed or stolen by the Q.M.'s Department. The result was many a laugh and one or two red faces as the gifts were opened. Typical of the offerings was a specially printed Part I Order for the Adjutant, **Captain Ray Windmill,** which put him on permanent orderly officer for a month!

The Sergeants' Mess draw was also a great success—as usual. The scoop of the evening went to **Corporal Karam Singh,** the Mess Corporal. He bought one ticket, just to show willing, and walked off with a television set. On the next evening there was a Regimental dance in the Princess Mary Club. Once again there were great cries of "Fiddle" at the results of the draw. Prizes were won by the Commanding Officer, **Major Dick Turpin** (who organised it all), O.C. H.Q. Squadron, S.S.M. H.Q. Squadron, and several members of the committee. The ordinary paying customers did, however, get a look in and we would like to congratulate **Corporal Charlie Stewart,** of 249 Signal Squadron, on winning a lady's sewing basket. We look forward to seeing some of his handiwork in the near future.

On 23rd December we held the children's Christmas parties. All the children enjoyed themselves, and a special word of thanks is due to our three Father Christmases, **W.O.I (A.S.M.) Cliff Parkinson, Staff Sergeant John Woodhouse** and **Staff Sergeant Brian Ireland.** The A.S.M., a man of original thought, scorned the usual modes of transport (sleighs, helicopters, etc.) and arrived in a mini-moke. He also lost several pounds in weight under his heavy red cloak—a quick slimming idea for the overweight.

Our last function before Christmas was the soldiers' Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve. The Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s were invited to the Officers' Mess for a few warmers into the bank before the event and at half-past-twelve a large



SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS DINNER
A good time was had by all

number of highly paid and well-lubricated waiters appeared at the Soldiers' Mess to start serving the meal. The tone of the proceedings was raised somewhat by the presence of several charming young ladies from the W.R.A.C. Troop who seemed to enjoy themselves enormously. The traditional dinner was up to **W.O.II Keith Young's** usual high standard and was set off by an excellently decorated banqueting table and best white wine.

A real dream of a meal! The cabaret was provided by **Signalman Powell,** of 249 Signal Squadron—what he actually did must remain a mystery to those who were not there, but it was quite a startling performance!

Wives' Club dinner

In addition to the previously mentioned dance sponsored by the Wives' Club, on 29th December some 44 wives of the Regiment enjoyed an excellent dinner in the plush surroundings of the Singapore Hilton where cocktails in the Soft Spot Night Club preceded the candle-light dinner in the Harbour Grill. The evening was made for many of the ladies present by the unscheduled arrival of one of our young Subalterns. Hoping for a quiet evening's tete a tete with his latest lady friend he found he was placed at the only other table available, right under 44 pairs of Regimental eyes. The officer in question will, of course, be receiving a bill for his annual Wives' Club subscription.

New Year festivities

The advent of 1971 was celebrated in appropriate style in all the Messes in the Regiment. The P.M. Club had what was probably their noisiest evening ever; the committee again must take credit for organising an excellent party. The Sergeants' Mess was likewise filled to capacity, as were most of the members by the time they went home.

The Officers' Mess held a fancy dress party with 'Nursery Rhymes' as the theme, and many weird and wonderful outfits appeared. There were so many Little Boys Blue and Kings and Queens of Hearts that one might almost say that the Mess was full of Blues and Royals! The prize for the best group went to **Captain Max Nutt** and his family, who made an excellent Royal flush—in Hearts, of course.

Sport

On the sporting front we have enjoyed a certain amount of success lately. The hockey team continue their triumphant progress towards winning the Major Units league, and are also through to the final of the FARELF Cup. They recently beat 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment 2-1 in the cup semi-final and in the league they beat 95th Commando Light Regiment, R.A., 1-0 in one of the best games seen in Singapore for a long time.

The rugby team have more mixed fortunes. They narrowly beat H.Q. FARELF 13-11, but lost to RAF Buki Gombak 6-0. **Lieutenant Charles Kemp** is to be congratulated on winning a regular place in the Army team—our first representative for two or three years.

The cross-country team are now training hard for the Area Championships which take place in January. Although the team has been upset by injuries and courses, we have high hopes of doing well in the championships. Our most regular performers are **Captain John Stuart, Lieutenant Charles Kemp, Lieutenant John McLean, Sergeant Phil Lord, Corporal John Moynihan, Signalman John Rushton** and **Signalman Palany.**

Retirement

At the Officers' Mess dinner, **Major Bill Moseley** was presented with a suitably inscribed tankard to mark his retirement from the Corps. **Bill** has been keeping the Corps' flag flying at H.Q. Far East Command, and now is retiring to New Zealand after over 30 years' service. We wish him and his family the best of luck in their new life down under.

New Year's Honours award

Captain Yahya Bin Haji Omar, known as **'Jimmy,'** enlisted in Royal Signals in 1947 and has served continuously in the Corps since then. During his early service he was a drill and weapon training instructor in Penang and at the start of Malayan Emergency he worked as an Exchange Operator with the Royal Artillery. He first came to the Regiment, then known as Singapore District Signal Regiment, in 1955, and was promoted to W.O.II. During his tour he was awarded a C.-in-C.'s

certificate for loyal service in recognition of his work as a L.E.P. Welfare Officer. Later he was posted to 19th Signal Regiment as S.S.M. H.Q. Squadron, and in 1962 was appointed Malay R.S.M. of 18th Signal Regiment.

He was commissioned in 1965 and has ever since been the Malay Captain of 18th Signal Regiment. In the New Year's Honours List he was awarded the M.B.E. in recognition of his outstanding work for the Corps and the Army. The whole Corps will join with us in congratulating **'Jimmy'** on his award.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 42

A memorable year

1970 ended in 21st Regiment as it had started and carried on throughout—hectic, exciting, a lot of hard work and a lot of fun. We think that we can safely say that it was both prosperous and successful.

During the year we took over the RAF Germany Radio Relay System, formed a Squadron to provide mobile communications for the new Harrier force, changed our location and dug more holes and laid more cable than anyone thought possible. We managed to find time to make a major effort in the sporting field which was capped with considerable success, including victory in the Army athletics, winning a number of major Army shooting trophies and coming second in the Army cross-country and orienteering.



HOW CAN THEY AFFORD THE SILVO?

The Signal Officer in Chief admires some of the Regimental Silver during his visit to 4 Squadron. Second in Command, Major John Cox, looks on with the C.O. and Adjutant, Captain Pat Wymbs, in the background

We aso entertained an endless succession of welcome guests, organised a number of adventure training exercises, satisfied (we hope) our bosses on their inspections and trained hard in barracks and in the field. Finally we celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Corps with gusto and pride.

We finished tired, slightly dazed, short of leave and money but with a feeling of achievement. Altogether a memorable year.

The only trouble is that 1971 looks as though it might be even busier!

Recent visits

The Regiment was very pleased to receive the Signal Officer-in-Chief on a flying visit at the end of November. He came to see how the 4 (Harrier) Signal Squadron was getting on and appeared to be pleased with what he found.

Colonel Eric Bardell, Commander 4 Signal Group, also visited us in November to carry out our annual Fitness for Role Inspection. It was actually our second of the year and we hope that this has not set a precedent. Anyway, all went very well on what was esentially a working visit and our Commander was most generous in his remarks.



DANGER! MEN AT WORK

A classic case of 'Too many Chiefs' as Lance-Corporal George Neill and Signalman 'Tiger' Bennet joint a cable at Laarbruch in front of a large audience during Colonel Bardell's recent inspection

Appropriately, our last visitor was **Colonel Johnny Clinch,** Commandant of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, and late Chief Air Formation Signal Officer. He came ostensibly to decimate the bird population of the area but we like to think that he also came to see his many friends in the Regiment. He was certainly successful on both counts.

Exercise 'Snow Queen'

Somehow we have got ourselves involved in an extremely ambitious ski-ing project this winter as part of Exercise 'Snow Queen.' Like many of our more risky adventures, this scheme was conceived and irresistibly advocated by **Captain Hywel Thomas,** who really should be making a fortune selling things in civilian life.

As somehow seems to happen with all his brainwaves, everything has gone very well and we have established what must be one of the best ski huts in Bavaria. Ideally situated in beautiful ski-ing country and surrounded by ski lifts of the right grades, it is spacious and warm. It took a lot of work and self help to get it ready for the season but it is now in full swing.

Six two-week courses of 30 students are planned from December to March and judging by the unqualified success of the first, ski-ing has come to stay in 21st Regiment. We should have well over 150 trained skiers by next season and hope to add a few more trophies to our collection.

Sport

The biggest surprise of the winter sporting season so far is the success of the basketball team. Under the leadership of **C.S.M.I. Stan Woods** and **Lieutenant Tony Hutt** the team is unbeaten this year and going well in cup and league. Teamwork is the key to their success and if they have one more marksman they would have a real chance in the B.A.O.R. finals. Yesterday, they knocked 45th Field Regiment, R.A., out of the Army Cup 41-12; a convincing if low-scoring win against a previously unbeaten side. Apart from **Stan Woods,** the outstanding players are **Corporal Frank Duerden** and **Sergeant Terry Fountain.**

The hockey team began well but were knocked out of the Army Cup after two replays. They concede very few goals but do not score enough.

The soccer team has excellent talent but it takes time to build a team. It lost to the Area winners in the Cup and has held its own in its first season in Division I of the league. The selection of **Signalman Geoff Ruffer** and **Craftsman Brian Saberton** for the B.A.O.R. team was the high point of the season. Unfortunately, **Geoff** recently injured himself in a car crash but he is doing well and should be playing again by the end of the season.

(Continued on page 77)

(Continued from page 76)

The cross-country team are of course doing well. Their training schedule is positively frightening. A typical lunch-time session consists of two one miles (in 4min. 40sec.), two half-miles (in 2min. 10sec.), four quarter-miles (in 65sec.) and a nice six-mile run to finish! Believe it or not all their training is conducted in their own time—during lunch on workdays and on Sunday afternoons.

Season greetings

We wish all the readers (and staff) of THE WIRE a very happy New Year. We have no doubts that it is going to be a full one.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

THESE notes cover the months of November and December when at long last the tempo of the exercise season is reduced. During these months our attention has been directed towards the F.F.R. Inspection, training and, of course, our Christmas festivities. Our mini guardsmen on M.P.C. are once again in full voice in the capable hands of **Staff Sergeant (Dodger) Green,** and the training wing is also fully extended with upgrading courses.

In the period, two of our 'older' subalterns, **Lieutenant Rory Rutherford** and **Second-Lieutenant Bob Dickson,** left us, Rory joins the Inniskilling Dragoon Guards as assistant R.S.O. and Bob is leaving the Service. In compensation, we gain **Second-Lieutenants John Burnage** and **Cedric Burton** from the School of Signals and wish them well with us.

Turning now to sport. Our rugger team was unable to substitute boundless enthusiasm for regular training and were knocked out in the first round of the Army Cup by 8th Regiment R.C.T. Training for next season has already started. Fortunately our hockey team had better luck and we were rather proud of our 3—0 win over 7th Signal Regiment, particularly as we were only able to field ten men for the first half.

In the cross-country league, we go from strength to strength. The Westfalen League is getting just a wee bit sick of only the back view of **Corporal Bill Venus** and **Second-Lieutenant Dick Hoyle;** Bill now has three individual wins to his credit in the last few weeks. Unfortunately for **Mr. Hoyle,** a tree jumped out and hit his car when he was on his way to the last meeting, so he will be out of action for a little while.

Our small but determined band of squash players continue to dominate both the Dortmund and Paderborn Leagues, and their enthusiasm continues to attract new talent.



REGIMENTAL PANTOMIME WAS A BIG HIT

The aged Prime Minister, Count Detergent, holds forth during the bethrothal scene

From left to right: Miss Jenifer Cox, Major Jerry Cox (R.A.M.C.), Major Ronnie Trotman, Staff-Sergeant Tom Stimson, Mrs. Cath Bell, Masters Alan Harris and Stephen Hull, Miss Jill Fortune, Captain John Edgar

Pantomime was major Christmas attraction

And now to the Christmas festivities; the town and city shops are ablaze with fancy lights and decorations, and every Troop, Squadron, Mess, seems to have a party. This year, we even have a pantomime, with a total cast of 42 mums, dads, sons and daughters, and such notorious Regimental performers as: **Major Ronnie Trotman** (The King); **Captain John Edgar** (The Captain); **W.O.I Harry Bell** (Sir Cumference); **W.O.II Bernie Tune** ('Nurse'); **Mrs. Kath Bell** (The Queen); **Tony,** son of **Corporal Tom Cheston** (The Prince) and **Lyndall Trotman** (The Princess), how could 'The Sleeping Beauty' fail to be a smash hit. **Mrs. Eleanor Trotman** produced the pantomime and, at the same time, **Mrs. Aileen Pritchard,** wife of our retiring Second-in-Command, **Major Bill Pritchard,** produced 'The White Sheep of the Family,' a comedy. This was literally an eve of departure task for Aileen and Bill. We congratulate them on a successful production and wish them all the best for the future.

Ladies' Club widens its scope

The ladies of 22nd Signal Regiment are very proud that they have made a complete change in their 'Wives'' Club. No longer does it bear the old name; it is now the 'Ladies Club,' and along with the name, we have changed the whole concept of the club. It is now automatically open to any lady over the age of 16, who is in any way connected with 22nd Signal Regiment. This includes not only all our visiting female relatives, but such people as the single teachers, SSAFA Sister, WRVS, the Church Army, the permanent NAAFI Staff, DOE Ladies and SKC Ladies. All these people work with us and for us, and we feel that they have a right to share our amenities. This, we are sure, is a popular move. Our regular attendance numbers of 60 to 70 more than proves our point.

Meetings are getting more and more interesting, as they are organised, in turn, by the various Squadrons and units, and we go from strength to strength.

The club held a successful Christmas dinner, complete with waiter service by the W.O.s and Sergeants and a cabaret after the meal.

Sergeants' Mess

On Friday, 20th November, the gladiators of the Officers' Mess challenged the Mess to an indoor games night. The evening was a great success, and the officers proved that their 'miss-spent youths' were not forgotten. In spite of bags of enthusiasm, numerous concoctions of 'Mickey Finns' and delaying tactics by **Staff Sergeant Tom Kerr,** the Mess acknowledged their defeat. Everyone agreed that the evening should be repeated in the near future, including a cheerful subaltern who said goodnight to the R.S.M. at least three times throughout the evening.

Finally, we did have our FFR Inspection. On 10th December, **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E.,** inspected the Regiment.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG), B.F.P.O. 35

SO much has happened recently that we can give only brief mention to the numerous festivities that took place during this Christmas and the immediately preceding period.

F.F.R. inspection

It is sufficient to say that the inspecting officer, **Brigadier G. E. Bavin,** was pleased and satisfied with the Regiment, and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macdonald,** congratulated the Regiment on all the hard work. L.S. and G.C. medals were presented to **Lieutenant Jack Cooper** and **W.O.II Ray Baxter;** our congratulations to both.

Wine-making

It is not intended to write here the history of wine-making but we are able to report that the 20 volunteers of 28th Signal Regiment who went grape picking really know how to make wine. **Corporal Pete Higson,** who mothered our soldiers, is reported to have broken into Television with **Corporal Bill Hitchens** and **Signal Mick Welch,** who were interviewed and filmed by U.K. T.V.

Soccer

The final of the Rhine Area Competition was played at Francisca Barracks against our old rivals 16th Signal Regiment whom we beat last year in the same final. It was real cup football and when 16th Regiment scored first the Regiment was hard pressed; eventually we ran out winners 2-1 and so retained the cup won last year. Man of the match was undoubtedly our **Lance-Corporal Tom Reilly.**

Wives' Club

The Wives' Club dance was the first of the Christmas festivities and took place on 3rd December.

Judy Macdonald and **Rena Thompson** led the Wives' Club into the gymnasium to decorate and the results had to be seen to be believed. The main wall was decorated with a Christmas motif and the results were so good that the Corporals' Mess promptly booked the decorations for their dance on 11th December.

The music was provided by the Germs Group and the attendance at the dance was once again outstanding.

The evening was a huge success and set the tone for our other festivities.

Corporals' Club

The Corporals' Club is now flourishing having been given a new lease of life by the Commanding Officer who decided in spite of the new Junior Ranks' Club concept that the Corporals' Club should continue to occupy part of the NAAFI.

Numerous activities have now taken place in the Corporals' Club which have been well supported by the Corporals' and their wives and voted a great success.

The highlight of the year was the Corporals' dance held in the gymnasium on Friday, 11th December. The same decorations, different seating, the same group but still the same success as the Wives' Club dance. The Corporals had slightly more guests and the P.M.C., **Corporal Sam Hackett,** and the P.E.C., **Corporal 'Stew' Williams,** were amazed at the attendance. There was enough supper for everyone, so worried frowns relaxed and the evening was enjoyed by all.

All ranks' dance

This took place in the large heated garage on Wednesday, 16th December. The decorations were provided by 1 Squadron under the able direction of **Lieutenant Jack Cooper;** this decoration was a man-sized job but the place looked super on the night.

The bar was provided by H.Q. Squadron and run by **Sergeant Vic Towler** and **Sergeant John Wales,** with the able assistance of members of the M.T. Troop.

Music was provided by the same group, the 'Germs,' and the highlight of the dance was the results of the P.R.I. raffle when to everyone's surprise the star prize was not won by our able M.C., **S.S.M. Fred Toole.** They kept it in the Squadron, however, as the Second-in-Command of 2 Squadron, **Captain Jim Potts,** won the radiogram.

Another highlight was Rama our Regimental Fire-eater in the form of **Corporal Bill Coltman,** of 1 Squadron, who gave a thrilling display of Yoga and fire eating.

The excellent buffet was again provided by **Captain Tony Hope** and **W.O.II Joe Gomm,** with the able assistance of his cooks.

Men's Christmas dinner

This took place on Friday, 18th December, in the dining hall and was preceded by the Officers being invited to the Sergeants' Mess for the traditional drinks before serving the soldiers' Christmas dinner.

The Officers and Warrant Officers/Sergeants were marched from the Sergeants' Mess to the dining hall by **Sergeant Del Harrod.** They proceeded to serve drink and food to the soldiers and regale them with songs and stories to the delight of everyone.

Children's Christmas party

This took place in two places, the younger children in the gymnasium and the older children in the dining hall.

The organisation and the success of this most important event was in the hands of **Major Peter Thompson** and with the able assistance of his wife, **Rena, S.S.M. Toole** and his wife **May,** and **Staff Sergeant Brian Ellis,** they really made an excellent job of the gymnasium. One end of the gymnasium was



ASKING FOR A THIRD HELPING OF TURKEY?
It looks like it. A moment caught by the camera during the Christmas Dinner at 28th Regiment. In the picture, Captain Rodney Clarke, with (L. to R.) Corporals Gladwin, Jackson and Bowler



THE FLAME SWALLOWER
The Mighty Rama (Corporal Coltham) gets into his act at the 28th Regiment's Christmas festivities

transformed into a castle complete with flying figures of Peter Pan and friends made by soldiers of 2 Squadron who also doubled as pirates, much to the delight of the children.

After tea and films Santa Claus, in the shape of **Major Vic Beckhurst,** arrived on a sledge and, established in the castle, proceeded to give every child a toy. A huge sigh of relief was heard as the last child was given its toy, although our P.R.I., **Captain Colin Riley,** has spare ones ready just in case.

The party was an unqualified success and credit must go to 2 Squadron for their hard work.

Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw

This crowning event of the festive season took place on Saturday, 19th December, and was attended by all Mess members plus the Officers.

The draw was run by **Y. of S. Wilf Little,** ably supported by **S.S.M. Tony Jones.** One could go on and on about the excellent prizes, the superb organisation, the fantastic buffet and these ingredients added up to a terrific night, quite rightly named the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' event of the year.

Officers' Mess

The ladies' night in the Mess, the last of the Christmas festivities, took place on Tuesday, 22nd December.

Once again our P.M.C., **Major Peter Thompson,** did an excellent job and particularly appreciated were the entertaining rhymes attached by **Peter** and **Rena** to the small gifts.

Music was supplied by our disc jockey, **Captain Rodney Clare,** who is getting quite professional at the job.

Thus ended the round of Christmas festivities.

Before ending these notes we would like to particularly thank our Messing staff, under the command of **Captain Tony Hope,** for all the food and buffets that were produced during the Christmas festivities.

They certainly lived up to their reputation as the Army Cookery Champions.

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Winter Training

THE turn of the year is a busy time in the Regiment, and especially for Headquarters Squadron, and the AFM(L) Force Radio Troop, who are now in the West of Norway, carrying out their winter training. The interval between returning from Turkey, in late October, and their departure, in mid-January, allows sufficent time for the preparations and administrative arrangements to be completed. Fortunately, Headquarters Squadron has an experienced team, especially in the Q.M. 'Tech' Department, who resolve all the complications of drawing-up and issues of the winter clothing and equipment. **Captain Dai Rees, R.Q.M.S. John Cummins** and **S.Q.M.S. Frank Gooding** all have their moments of satisfaction and frustration before the process is completed, and some relief until three months later, when the items all have to be returned again. In the servicing bay, **Sergeant Vic East, Corporals Watson, Sealeaf** and **Signalmen Barkess** and **Winter** have worked for many long hours preparing the radio vehicles and Volvos for for arctic conditions, and burning the midnight oil in the Pay Office, **Major Ted Poole, Sergeant Johnson** and the pay staff have put in much practice at converting pounds sterling to kroner.

This year's training includes much more ski-ing than in previous years and, due to the difficulties in accommodation, at the Norwegian School of Signals, the training is taking place at Ulven, near Bergen.

Later in the month, 4 Squadron are going to the Cairngorms for a fortnight's ski-ing from the Rothiemurchus Hut. The prospect for Exercise 'Snowball' is not too optimistic, because there have been record high temperatures in Scotland for January.

Visitors

At the start of January, we have had separate visits from the Chief of Staff, Army Strategic Command, **Major-General R. J. D. E. Buckland, M.B.E.,** and the Commander, South-West District, **Major-General J. K. I. Douglas-Withers, O.B.E., M.C.** Both General Officers saw the Regiment at training, had a briefing in the Mounting Centre, and visited the Messes. **Major-General Buckland** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Sergeant Neil Amos.**

During the visits, 4 Squadron gave demonstrations on EW equipment and in recent weeks the Squadron has given many other demonstrations to Formation Headquarters of Army Strategic Command. 2 Squadron have also been very busy with five courses running in the Regimental training centre, which include two MPC I Courses and a Regimental Signallers' Course, in addition to the normal trade upgrading courses.

Christmas Festivities

Our detachments overseas will be interested to read of successful functions in the Sergeants' Mess, Corporals' Mess and the all ranks' dance. **Major Henry Scott, R.S.M. Henry Jennings** and **W.O.II Baigent** also arranged a children's party and a visit to Bournemouth Pavilion to see the pantomime 'Dick Whittington.' Throughout the month, the cooks, under the direction of the Quartermaster, **Major Ray Rose,** produced a series of sumptuous buffets and curries.



The District Commander, Major-General Douglas-Withers, talks to Yeoman Bland and Signalman Wooff

News from Squadrons

4 Guards Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 17

Change-over of parent division

JUST before the Christmas season had us in its grip of never-ending parties, dances, and gaily-coloured streamers —many of which looked suspiciously like surplus 'scrim'— something happened to the Squadron which must be a significant milestone in its life. It bade farewell to 4th Division and has been taken in 'out of the cold,' so to speak, by 2nd Division—a change which will not make itself felt to the majority of us until the snow has melted and we rush back into the woods, from whence we came, switch on our sets, and find that 'Jock' has become 'Paddy,' or vice-versa, and that he has a few different ideas on how things should be done.

We have, in the meantime, been made very much aware of the change-over by two visits during December. The first was from **Major-General H. R. S. Pain, M.C.,** G.O.C. 2nd Division, on the 7th, and then **Major-General D. W. Fraser, O.B.E.,** G.O.C. 4th Division, visited us on the 16th and boosted our ego with a very flattering farewell address.

1970 — memories sweet and bitter but all have their funny side

We re-opened our Squadron Social Club just before Christmas with a complete internal redecoration, which is a tribute to those unsung heroes who spent many a messy evening inside, hammering, painting and cleaning. At the bar can be heard many stories of the year past, and perhaps a few of the printable memories of 1970 would make interesting reading.

Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Dale, one of our greatest soccer fanatics, has a single, bitter memory of 1970, which he relates in near pain and anguish. Whilst at summer camp in the Moselle Valley, during July, he and the Squadron challenged a group of Dutch holidaymakers to a football match. How we ever lost by two goals to nil is beyond comprehension, but indelibly fixed in **Lance-Corporal Dale's** mind.

Another soccer fan, **Lance-Corporal 'Aggie' Agar,** will remember this as the year that he managed to watch the World Cup Final on television whilst on Exercise 'Summer Sales' in June. And as a punchline, he adds . . . "in colour!"

Signalman Georgie Ford cannot look back with quite the same feelings, because he finds it hard to forget the time that the garage wall suddenly leapt at his AFV 439, leaving some rather large fingerprints! Although he won't admit it, he is believed to have indented for a larger garage door.

Someone else who found himself filling in FMT 3s during the year is **Signalman 'Zoonie' Heggerty,** who had a slight upset in his Land Rover whilst on exercise recce, and found himself, and his vehicle, in an upside-down position waiting

for assistance. He recollects with deep hatred the face of the unknown warrior which appeared at the window, said "no blood?" and then disappeared back into the darkness.

Sergeant Ken Webb found himself even more lonely on Exercise 'Rose Garden,' when he leapt into a field of bulls which were playing havoc with his 27-foot masts, followed, he thought, by a troop of faithful soldiers. His face, seen looking back over his shoulder whilst in mid-field, will take a long time to forget.

That was the same exercise that **Signalman 'Taffy' Mansell** remembers with a red face, when an electrical failure put his AFV 432 off the road and baffled him and two technicians for several hours until a passing lineman suggested the tightening of a loose battery connection.

Lance-Corporal Don Holmes recalls the horror of swimming for his life with his capsized canoe, at summer camp on the Moselle, with a fairly hefty barge bearing down on him. He says that, in the face of almost certain death, the whole of his Army life flashed across his mind and he almost decided to let the barge have him!

A happier summer camp memory is that of **Signalman Mick Toole,** who reminisces on the nights around the camp fire on the banks of the Moselle, playing the guitar and singing 'Michael, row the boat ashore' with a happy group of Dutch holidaymakers. Come to think of it, they had probably just finished their football match!

Signalman 'Mitch' Mitchell and **Lance-Corporal Jimmy Simpson** remember Exercise 'Forefront III' in September, when they were woken from blissful sleep by an angry Sergeant who informed them that they had slept through three 'enemy attacks'—on top of their AFV 432!

And, finally, what about poor old **Signalman Mike Bardell,** who joined the Corps in January, 1970? A happy memory or sad? Well, he did mean to join the R.E.M.E.!

Welcome

We welcome **Lieutenant** and **Mrs. Chris Shuker** and **Second-Lieutenant Mark Riley** into the Squadron, and wish them, and all readers, a happy and prosperous New Year.

London

Teleprinter Maintenance Technician

Teleprinter Maintenance Technicians required to work in Central London for our expanding Service Centre.

Applicants should hold a clean current UK driving licence, be resident within about 30 miles of central London and have good practical experience of 5-unit telegraph machines including maintenance, trouble shooting and installation work. They should also be experienced in the use of Test equipment such as TDMS and Oscilloscopes.

5-day week of 36 hours effective work earning a starting salary of £1325 per annum if aged 27 or over on career salary-scale providing for annual increases, with additional paid overtime. Also eligible for Special Allowance of £84 annually on completion of training. Telephone provided for standby duties. Luncheon Vouchers.

If you have suitable experience and are looking for secure pensionable employment in an expanding organisation write for application form giving brief details of experience, age and present salary to: Personnel Officer (Recruitment), Cable and Wireless Limited, Dept. A101/237, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1, or telephone 01-242 4433 Ext. 211.

Cable and Wireless
worldwide communications

CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES MEANS

SALOON HUNTERS · *WAGON HUNTERS* · FAST GT HUNTERS · *PROVEN IMPS*
THOSE AVENGERS · *RAUCOUS RAPIERS* · SUMPTUOUS SCEPTRES

Discounts up to 17½% from UK basic

- **FAST FOR FORCES** PRIORITY FACTORY HELD STOCKS
- SPECIAL FORCES FINANCE AND INSURANCE SCHEME
- DELIVERY UK OR WEST GERMANY
- MODELS TO OVERSEAS POSTING SPECIFICATION
- TRAINED STAFF WITH YOU IN MIND

That's what Chrysler Military Sales means. Can you really settle for less?

To INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS
Chrysler Military Sales Ltd., Halkin House, Halkin Street, London SW1. Telephone 01-235-6484.
or CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES CORPS., Karlstrasse 16, Frankfurt, West Germany

Send me your free information pack. I am interested in:
For delivery U.K. ☐ W. Germany ☐ Tax paid ☐

Name..... Rank.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone..... Ext.....

5 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. Tidworth (205)

A year's events reviewed

THE last set of notes that the Squadron sent to THE WIRE finished off—"The Saxon Horse is alive and well and living in Tidworth." One day, whoever wrote that will learn not push his luck, if he lives that long. The Squadron has had a rather hectic year, remarkably little of it in Tidworth.

At the start of the year, the training programme looked all set for a busy, but orderly time. In February and March, a large part of the Squadron entrusted itself to the R.A.F. and were rewarded with a trouble-free flight to Cyprus, where they stayed for a month on Exercise 'Winch.' The admin inspection had been squeezed in between the departures of the advance party and the main body.

The remainder of the Squadron spent this period working up for Exercise 'Tallons High,' in B.A.O.R., departing just before the Cyprus element returned. The end of March saw the two groups reunited, with their own 'war stories,' and 'normal' working resumed. The ensuing programme included 'New Envoy IX' (The Aldershot Show), summer camp at Garelochhead, the usual assortment of Brigade and Divisional exercises and, of course, leave.

With 'New Envoy' and the first Brigade CPX behind us, we were well into our stride when, at 09.00 hours, Sunday, 28th June, we were told to move to Northern Ireland as reinforcements for Orangemen's Day. Now, 09.00 hrs. on a Sunday does not find Tidworth at its most crowded and, true enough, a quick count of heads showed that we had no Brigadier, B.M., Y. of S., F. of S., etc. Nevertheless, at 02.00 hours on Monday, the advance party moved off by air. The Squadron was fully established in a tented camp near Lisburn by Wednesday night.



HEAVILY LADEN LAND ROVER
Is this a record? 6 sets in one landrover. The Commander's rover in Belfast carried C42, C11, A41, W15, W30, and Stornophone

Three weeks passed and, with the processions over, the Squadron prepared to move again, but not home. This time the move was to North Belfast to relieve 24 Brigade. As time moved on rumours of our return to Tidworth were legion, the most popular date being 32nd Octembury. Eventually we went non-operational on 7th October and returned by sea the next day.

We then took some overdue leave and returned to the routine of exercises, B.E. tests and all the other delights. We are now preparing for Air Mobility trials which promise to keep us busy next year.

Personalities within the Squadron have changed as fast as locations. **Captain Ken Wright** (O.C. 'A' Troop), **W.O.I (R.S.M.) John Cowe** and **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) John Markham** have already left us and we welcome **Captain Warren Armstrong, Second-Lieutenant Jim Evans, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Brian Cook** and **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) John Kelly.** Due to go in the New Year are the O.C., **Major Maurice Flynn,** and **Lieutenant Tony Whipp.**

For now, all the best for the New Year to all members of the Corps, and remember, the saxon horse is ——; well, we'll leave that out.

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) Colchester

OUR last WIRE notes ended with the Squadron breathing a sigh of relief at the passing of the annual inspection. The report has now been received and it appears that we have done fairly well.

The inter-Troop competition was held during the first two weeks of December. The winners were:

Soccer, 'A' Troop; Smallbore, 'Q' Troop/Brigade H.Q.; Safe driving, M.T. Troop; Turn-out, 'A' Troop.

A special word of consolation should go to 'J' Troop who were second in the soccer, smallbore and safe driving competitions.

The Christmas festivities started with the Panther Club (Corporals' Club) dance on 12th December. 'A' Troop went to Clacton on 16th December for a Christmas party—no one can remember much but all believe it to have been very enjoyable.

The Squadron held a carol service in the Garrison Church on 17th December, followed by the Sergeants' Mess draw on the same evening. This was voted a great success by all, especially by **W.O.I Smith** (R.A.O.C.) who was amply rewarded for a large investment. The all ranks' dance was enjoyed by all those who attended and was probably heard by most of Colchester. The members of the Sergeants' Mess were invited to the Officers' Mess at lunchtime on 22nd December for a little 'Dutch courage' before serving Christmas dinner to the Squadron. An excellent traditional meal, washed down with Long Life, brought work to a close for the Christmas block leave, except for those happy volunteers who organised the children's Christmas party on 23th December.

A most professional Father Christmas almost had us believing in the old tale until a distinct resemblance to **Lieutenant Cliff Walters,** O.C. 'A' Troop, was spotted.

CYPHER VACANCIES

Government Communications Headquarters

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,253.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Applications with full details of qualifications to:

Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone : Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270



THE MARCHING TEAM OF 12 MECHANISED BRIGADE H.Q. AND SIGNAL SQUADRON

They marched 70 miles in two days from Minden to Onasbruck and nearly all managed to complete the march. Team from left to right:
Front row (Sitting): Sergeant Leggett, Lance-Corporal Worth, Lance-Corporal McConnell, Lieutenant Sugdom, Captain Hunt, Corporal Connell, Driver Bacon, Signalman Thompson
Back row (Standing): Signalman Carter, Signalman Francis, Signalman Kirton, Lance-Corporal Owens, Lance-Corporal Jones, Signalman Taylor, Signalman Ross, Signalman Reid, Lance-Corporal Russell, Corporal Gavillet, Corporal Dring, Corporal Hallsworth, Corporal Sykes, Private Kay, Lance-Corporal Cattell, Signalman Bishop, Signalman Wilde, Private Karbanneck

12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. (212), B.F.P.O. 36

WINTER is again upon us in Osnabruck, but this Squadron, for one, has not hibernated, and we have had a very busy month. It started off with the whole Squadron marching a distance of 70 miles from Minden to Osnabruck, across the Wiehengebirge. Nearly all managed to complete the march, which took two days. However, the Squadron is now very used to marching, and our photographs show some of the medals that our marching team have collected this year. The collection is by no means complete, as there are a number which have not yet arrived and many of the team have sent their medals home. Very much to the front in medal collecting are **Signalman Thompson** and **Private Karbanneck,** who are shown looking rather like a couple of Spanish generals.

Survival in our 'Sandgloos'

With the advent of snow, the Squadron disappeared to our local training area in Achmer to build igloos. We rather over-estimated the amount of snow that had fallen, and the igloos finally turned out to be more like 'sandgloos.' The temperature during the night was -17°C. which, we are told by some of the more affluent members of the Squadron, is the temperature of a deep-freeze. However, inside our 'sandgloos' the temperature was only -2°C., and all survived. We particularly congratulated our T Troop, who came out, having finished their day's work, with only one hour of daylight to complete their shelters.

They sweated for these . . .



A couple of Spanish generals? Oh no—just two members of 12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron marching team showing off some of their medals
L. to R: Signalman Thompson and Private Karbanneck

Boxing team now in hard training

The Squadron boxing team is now training hard under the joint direction of **Lance-Corporal Clarke,** R.C.T., and **Lance-Corporal Stevenson,** K.O.S.B., for the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Team Boxing Championships. We fight 20 O.F.P. from Detmold, on 27th January. Most of the team are novices, but we hope that keenness will make up for lack of experience.

.22 Shooting

Under the direction of **Captain Drew,** the Squadron is now also heavily engaged in .22 shooting. We have an inter-Troop league, and the firm favourites at this stage appear to be our L.A.D. ('B' Team) consisting of **Sergeant Ashton, Sergeant Hannell, Corporal Proudfoot, Corporal Little** and **Lance-Corporal Blanchard.** It should, however, be noted that **Corporal Hilton** and **Lance-Corporal Moughton** have been known to sneak across from the L.A.D. 'A' Team to give their 'B' Team some support.

Christmas festivities and exercises

We are only just about recovering from our Christmas festivities. Christmas here was a fairly full period, with every Troop and department having their own party and, of course, in addition, we had the all ranks' dance, the Corporals' Mess dance and our Christmas dinner.

In the Sergeants' Mess draw, the star prize of an extremely large radiogram was won by **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Kelly.** He has now been posted to Sharjah and, as always happens with these things, he had just finished packing his MFO.

Our exercise season commences at the end of February and, looking at our calendar, we are in for a very busy time. We only hope that the snow melts before we start.

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah) B.F.P.O. 64

Change-over of Officers

DURING the last two months three of the four Squadron Officers have traded the sun and sand for a return to their families in the cold north. The Squadron Commander, **Major Frank Smith,** left us to a rousing send-off from the Officers in the newly opened Sheba Hotel in Sharjah, and from the R.Q.'s staff in the Squadron Club. In his place we welcome **Major Tony Edmunds,** and wish him a pleasant six months with 222.

Our tame Air Formation Signaller and sometime F.A.C., **Captain Leslie (Crango) Steane,** has also left us for the delights of Bulford, and **Captain Mike McCann** has gone to join **Major Smith** in 16th Signal Regiment. Their places have been taken by **Captain Howard Culley,** now fully installed as 'Crango Mk. II' in the RAF Officers' Mess, and **Lieutenant Craig Treeby.**

Airfield Troop take to the desert

For the first time in recent history, the Sharjah element of Airfield Troop have ventured outside the air-conditioned RAF Camp and have taken to the desert. In a motley assortment of borrowed and 'cadged' three-quarter-ton Land Rovers they set off in dense fog early one Friday morning for the East Coast. Led by the O.C., **Captain Howard Culley,** they got momentarily lost whilst still in Sharjah town, thanks to the dense fog. Once this cleared, the navigation gave little problem. The journey out was uneventful, if a little bone-shattering, until the Trucial Oman Scouts' Fort at Masafi was passed. The track led through an oasis and into a narrow gorge through the Jebels. It was then that the leading vehicle decided to leave the track at a sharp right-hand bend and try and climb the 2,000ft. mountain in front of us. This was frustrated by a rather large boulder and the wall of the mountain. **Signalman Jim Davies,** driving, attributed this change in route to that unaccustomed element, water from the oasis, on the brake shoes. Luckily the only casualties were a couple of bottles of 'refreshments' in the polar packs.

Signalman Raymond Stephenson, intent on taking a photo of the following vehicles, was unwise enough to stand up in an open Land Rover and was clouted on the head by a low branch for his trouble (yes, they do have the occasional tree out here, and **Stevie** found it!). However, this did not impair his rendering of Irish folk songs and his celebrated Chelsea pensioner act that evening. After two days' rod fishing, swimming and spear fishing, the journey back to camp was uneventful.

The trip was a welcome break from routine, and another is planned for February.



AIRFIELD TROOP ON THE DESERT COAST

Signalman Jim Davies gets breakfast under way while F. of S. Field sets off for a morning swim



SALALAH DETACHMENT

Left to right: Corporal Vince Holt (N.C.O., I.C.), Lance-Corporal Mick Graham, Signalman Jim Davies, Lance-Corporal 'Asprin' Aston, Signalman 'Brummie' White, Lance-Corporal Tony Dubois, Corporal (Now Sergeant) Howard Loates, and Captain Howard Culley (O.C. Airfield Troop) grouped round Charlie Green, the Bondu Bomber

Director of Telecommunications visit

On Thursday, 12th November, the Squadron was visited by the Director of Telecommunications, **Brigadier Brindley.** The Brigadier was visiting as the S.O.-in-C.'s representative and took the opportunity of talking to as many soldiers as possible.

The following day, accompanied by O.C. Airfield Troop, he visited **Sergeant Jim Redgrave** and his detachment at RAF Masirah in the Indian Ocean; the Brigadier seemed to enjoy his visit apart from one occasion when the detachment's Land Rover, which had been awaiting a new clutch for a month, refused to budge in a patch of soft sand. The locals were treated to the sight of **Captain Culley,** in the driver's seat, urging the **Brigadier,** C.R. Signals **(Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson)** and **Major Vic Render** (T.O.T. H.Q. L.F.G.) to push harder.

Christmas and New Year

The Christmas and New Year festivities went off very well, Airfield Troop's billet bar getting second prize from the Station Commander, and a roaring trade being done in both the Squadron Club and the billet bar. In the Donkey Derby on Boxing Day, both **Captain Culley** in the Gentlemen's Handicap and **Lieutenant Treeby** in the Dierra Stakes secured second place after a hard-fought race. **Lance-Corporal John Johnson,** however, landed himself with a mount more inclined to travel backwards instead of forwards.

In the chariot races, the next day, **Sergeant Mick Thomas** drove his team to victory in the first race but the lead horse, **Captain Culley,** was 'nobbled' during the course of the final and we finished third.

Our congratulations must, however, go to our two vehicle mechanics who came first in the Driving Skills Competition held on 28th December, 1970. They were **Corporal Alan Kemp** and **Lance-Corporal Gregg Barr.**

In memoriam

It is with regret that we have to inform ex-members of A.F.S. Detachment, RAF Salalah, of the death on 16th December of Mungus, the troop mascot.

Mungus, the goat, brought a measure of light relief to the otherwise bleak existence experienced at Salalah. His antics were enjoyed by the soldiers and airmen who served here during the short time we had Mungus. He will be sadly missed by all.

Our sympathies are extended to his widow, Minges.

223 Signal Squadron (Radio) Winchester

Visit of the S.O.-in-C.

THE Signal Officer-in-Chief spent most of Monday, 14th December, with members of 223 Signal Squadron (Radio) in Winchester. A special Quarter Guard drawn from all departments was mounted at Bushfield Camp in honour of the occasion. **Major General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** took the opportunity of speaking with every member before setting off to tour the camp. Accompanied by **Colonel A. T. Scott, O.B.E.,** he saw and talked with personnel at their places of work. After drinks in the Sergeants' Mess he joined the officers for lunch.

When the S.O.-in-C. visits—getting the Corps into the local news

An exercise in public relations described by W.O.I D. A. Teesdale, 223 Signal Squadron.

Since our formation in early 1967 we have had our fair share of V.I.P. visitors. However, we have always had the feeling that our final coming of age would be marked by a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief. In consequence, there was great excitement when it was announced that the long awaited visit would take place on 14th December when **Major General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** would spend the day with us.

It is often difficult to put a small, independent unit such as this 'on the map' with the local news media. We have an additional problem in that, being situated in Winchester, any publicity we create tends to be overshadowed by that of our well-established neighbours: The Depot of the Royal Green Jackets and a large and somewhat sprawling R.A.P.C. complex.

Very much new boys in King Alfred's capital city

We hasten to add that these elders of ours have always been generous in giving us a hand over the hurdles of our growing up. Even so, we do find we are very much the new boys in King Alfred's capital city.

General Pentreath's visit then, seemed to be the ideal opportunity to establish our own separate identity in the minds of the local community.

The Public Relations staff at Strategic Command were helpful, but pointed out that what might be big news to us could be pretty small beer to the rest of the world. We would have to compete for space with international, national and big local events. Clutching the P.R. Manual lovingly to our chest we retired to plan our campaign.



THE S.O.-IN-C. MEETS THE QUARTER GUARD

General Pentreath has a few words with Lance-Corporal John Jaggard (second from right) while inspecting the Quarter Guard. At right is Corporal Alex Berkley, third from right is Lance-Corporal 'Steve' Keal and next to him Lance-Corporal Peter Campbell

We were hopeful that the local papers would send along people to cover the 'gate ceremony' — as we were beginning to call the general's arrival. It seemed unlikely that any of them would wish to tramp along behind the official party; so we began to look for a cameraman in the unit.

Our problems were greatly reduced when Public Relations Services agreed to supply film and do the processing for us on the understanding that we produced local-boy stories for them. We decided the occasion did not quite rate invitations to Southern ITV or the new BBC Radio Solent. However, we would include them in any news release made.

Our plan envisaged a three-stage presentation. About three weeks prior to the event we wrote individual letters to the editors or controllers of each medium we hoped to interest. The letter gave no more than a brief outline of what we were planning. We were cunning enough though, to allow a tiny bit of our pride to peep through; just to whet their appetites.

We promised two news releases: a preliminary article incorporating a biography of the general, and a full news item immediately following the visit. To the newspapers we extended our cordial invitation '. . . to send a cameraman to cover the gate ceremony . . . where the general will inspect a Quarter Guard. The arrival is timed for 11.15 a.m.'

A full Press turnout

The next task was to write the preliminary news release based on the general's biography. This we had obtained, together with official photographs, from the Corps Publicity Officer. We allowed this piece to spread to about 250 words, not expecting it to be used verbatim by anyone. Ten days before the visit we dropped these into the post. Copies of the release — less the photographs — were also sent to ITV and Radio Solent.

By this time the administrators had fined down the programme of the visit. It was possible to 'walk through' the programme and pick likely subjects for local-boy stories. These individuals would be introduced to the general by their department heads.

To our dismay, reports of the electricity power cuts began to consume more and more of the diminishing news space. 14th December dawned good and foggy with a lively touch of frost in the air. Our first indication that something was going right came with a press enquiry as to whether the general would be delayed by the fog. He was not then, and we said so. It was just our luck that he lost 30 minutes in the next hour.

At the appointed time we were delighted to discover we had a full press turnout. Even a power-cut as the coffee was being heated to warm up those waiting did not deter them. **General Pentreath** seemed only mildly surprised at the number of photographers present and turned not a hair when they began to swarm round the Quarter Guard.

(Continued on page 85)

(Continued from page 84)

Apart from a jammed camera at a crucial meeting — one which could not be repeated — the rest of the visit went well. Then it was a mad rush to get the film back to P.R. for processing. A brief, one hundred-word statement was prepared for radio and T.V. That was phoned through within half-an-hour of the general leaving. It was just our luck that it coincided with a high-powered announcement from the electricity front.

The result—well worth the effort

But the press did us proud. Based on our comprehensive news release, each paper gave us about 20 standard column inches. The evening had also used our preliminary and the county paper even drummed up one of our local-boy stories from another area edition and ran it in the same issue on the strength of the soldier being quartered in Winchester.

Perhaps the most gratifying result came in the form of a tribute from one of our new-found newspaper friends. **"Blimey," he said, "the Army is certainly beginning to get the hang of helping the Press."**

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

IN December we found ourselves launched into Exercise 'Madding Crowd.' This Squadron exercise had been long promised, and we foolishly thought that a promise it would remain. Our O.C., **Major A. S. McK. Anderson,** however, decided that the signs were auspicious for December, thus the exercise was on.

The aim of the exercise was to practise the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron in the arts of running a radio relay unit, and, we think, to give the officers a week off to improve their golf handicaps.

. . . elevated to higher places

Among those unfortunates elevated to higher places of command, and plusher offices, were **W.O.I (F. of S.) 'Prof.' Kenyon** (O.C.), **W.O.II (F. of S.) John Lee** (C.S.E.), **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Cyril Courtenay** (Second-in-Command), **Staff Sergeant Don Payne** (Q.M.); **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Dave Sugden** and **Len Sant** were detailed to command East and West Troops respectively. **Sergeant Tom Bowman** collected the S.S.M.'s position.

Certain of the officers were designated umpires for the exercise, in particular **Captain Roy Barber,** our Second-in-Command, who busied himself injecting particularly nasty exercise situations into the Squadron routine. Matters that were dealt with by S.H.Q. during the period would have reduced the regular command incumbents to grey-haired old men; amongst the disasters the planners dreamed up were a fire, a bomb plant, sundry communication catastrophes, the odd death, and what must have been bubonic plague in system control.

The highlight of the week

The highlight of the week was a visit to the unit by the Ruritanian General, General M. A. D. Ding, and his subversive Chief of Staff (alias **Captain R. E. Barber**) who tried to poison all ranks with both his warped ideology and filthy cigars.

The exercise closed with a de-brief, at which participants declared that it had all gone rather well; the Squadron and the C.O.'s public fund, both intact, were handed back to the rightful office holder.

On the social side, the Christmas activities opened with a Junior Ranks' Social in the RR Bar, ably organised by **Corporal Ken Humphries,** and at the children's party, **Corporal Alan Coates** fooled all the children into believing in Father Christmas. The annual pilgrimage of Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants to each others messes was enjoyed by all.

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

261 Signal Squadron (Cyprus) B.F.P.O. 53

MUCH seems to have happened in the last few weeks and now that the festive season is almost upon us it might be a good idea to get some of the more noteworthy events into print before they vanish in the alcoholic haze that one usually associates with yuletide.

We have just had a change of command. **Major B. C. Hodgson** is now firmly in the chair having taken over from **Major N. C. Grayson,** who has left us for a slightly more sedate task at the School. The Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s dined **Majors Hodgson** and **Grayson** in and out respectively in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess and a good time was had by all, judging by the eyeballs at work the next morning. **Major Hodgson** rounded off his debut in the Sergeants' Mess by soundly defeating **S.S.M. J. V. Press** at darts for a bottle of the best. **Major Grayson** was last seen a couple of days later in his small Honda, carrying a vast amount of luggage, heading in the general direction of Famagusta. We sincerely hope he managed it without mishap and wish him and **Mrs. Grayson** every success in their new post.

F.F.R.s tend to be dull reading but 8th December was anything but dull for 261 Signal Squadron. The inspection was carried out by **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.,** G.O.C. NEARELF. It involved island-wide coverage by car and helicopter, the G.O.C. insisting on speaking to every soldier he set eyes on, and managed to present five L.S. & G.C. Medals to members of the Squadron as well. The recipients were: **W.O.I (F. of S.) Derek Prime, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Bert Heyes, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Vic Prees, Staff Sergeant Ray Haskell, B.E.M., Corporal Pete Edwards**—not bad for a small unit.



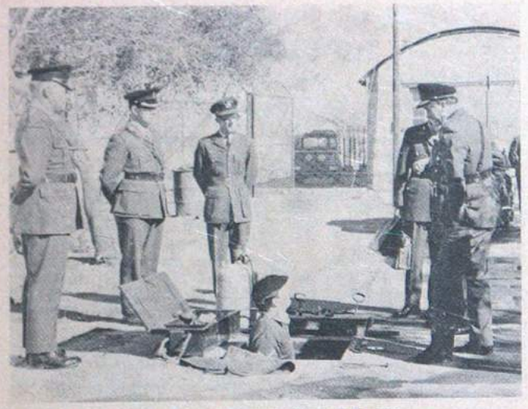
A LOT OF LONG SERVICE HERE!

261 SQUADRON'S L.S. AND G.C. PRESENTATION GROUP

Left to right: W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. V. Prees, Staff-Sergeant R. J. Haskell, B.E.M., W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) A. Heyes, Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C., W.O.I (F. of S.) D. Prime, Corporal P. Edwards

Having left S.H.Q. the G.O.C. went by road to visit Airfield Troop, RAF Akrotiri, commanded by **Captain J. A. Gatward.** Here he met a cross-section of the Troop and held a long and amusing conversation with **Sergeant Danny Flanagan** on the general situation in Northern Ireland. A half-hour flight by helicopter brought **General Holme** to RAF Nicosia to visit the small Troop there, commanded by **Sergeant Terry Stacey.** Having managed to talk to every member of the Troop the G.O.C. then took off for Episkopi. As the helicopter came in to land at Flagstaff House he had a splendid view of the golf course, where it has become obvious to many that he intends to take plenty of exercise.

In the sporting field the Squadron manages to hold its end up very well. **Corporal Ian Gilbert** and his wife **Molly** excelled themselves by winning the Cyprus Open Badminton Mixed Final at RAF Episkopi. **Signalman Mick Howie** and **Bobby Jones,** apart from being the mainstay of the Squadron football team, have both gained places in the Army (Cyprus) team.



IT'S COOLER DOWN HERE, SIR

Lance-Corporal G. Clarke of Airfield Troop, Nicosia, emerging from the cable pit, earns a friendly word from Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C. Others in the picture:
Left to right: W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. V. Prees, Major B. C. Hodgson, Flight-Lieutenant Doherty (R.A.F., Nicosia)

Corporal Paul Clarke has just returned from the Army rugby tour of Malta and still appears to be in one piece.

On the social side the Squadron tombola seems to have caught on very well and on Friday mornings **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Keith Eustace** can be seen sitting behind piles of 5 mil pieces busily counting the P.R.I.'s profits. He has also put in a lot of time and effort in organising the Squadron Christmas draw and has bullied and cajoled people into selling enough tickets to produce some really first-class prizes. The R.Q.M.S. has been heard to mumble that if the F. of S. doesn't shift all the prizes from his office he'll take the damned lot on charge.

621 Signal Troop (LPD)
H.M.S. Fearless
B.F.P.O. Ships

On board at last

AFTER re-forming for four months at Blandford, the Troop finally went on board on 16th December, just in time for Christmas leave. Cur task, until we go to sea, will be manning the ship's telephone exchange and getting the Assault Operations Room up to spec; the latter will be a long job. Painting will be the biggest priority.

Army Acquaint Course

At the end of November and early December, nearly 50 Royal Naval radio operators from H.M.S. 'Fearless' visited Blandford for an Acquaint Course, run by the Troop with assistance from the School of Signals. Apart from Army organisation, they were taught how to use the A13, A41 and C42, and, of course, saw what 'luxury' the Army live in ashore. The R.O.s visited the Corps Museum and even saw the film 'Mercury.' They all seemed impressed, but I regret to say none have volunteered to transfer to the Corps.

Skynet—we have it

Well, it's on board at last. No photographs, as it is identical to the fit on H.M.S. 'Intrepid,' who took the front page of THE WIRE some months ago. Despite its use, it is virtually operated and controlled by 'Greenies' (Technicians to the non-initiated), we may, with their permission, use the speech and teleprinter facilities. Rumours that the flag deck men of 'Intrepid' are all sterile are apparently false, the RADHAZ (radiation hazard) is not that great.

Mess deck—and thanks to 30th Regiment

At last a new mess deck, this time above the waterline, and one less ladder to go down. The decor will have to be changed a bit; naval white and grey is not appealing. Ideas for a fitted carpet and a few decoration have already been put forward.

Farewell and thank you to 30th Signal Regiment for putting up with us during our short stay. Special thanks to Radio Troop of 1 Squadron, who lent us equipment to assist in training, and to **Captain Dai Rees,** the Q.M. Tech., who sorted out our stores.

Invitation

Any Royal Signals Unit who would like to visit H.M.S. 'Fearless,' please drop us a line c/o B.F.P.O. Ships, G.P.O., London.

The Volunteers

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough

Regimental Weekend

ONCE again the whole Regiment came together at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, in December for a weekend of centralised training and pre-Christmas festivities. The trade training itself was very useful; the Regimental training 'system,' organised by our Training **Major Leslie Clayton,** now runs like a reasonably well-oiled machine.

On the Saturday evening we had the traditional Army Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. It was served, and washed up, by the Officers and Sergeants; the organisation of this by O.C. H.Q. Squadron, **Major Jim Smiles,** and the R.S.M., **Brian Overland,** is now very professional. Many of those attending who had been to our previous Christmas dinners said that this was the best; we are all very grateful to our Messing Officer, **Captain Margaret Hope,** for all the preparations, and to our cook, **Sergeant S. T. Hardy,** for all the hard work in the cookhouse.

Having catered for our technical and physical needs we also met our spiritual needs. On Sunday morning the whole Regiment attended morning service at St. Mark's Church, Newby, which is the Parish Church for Burniston Barracks. This is the third year running in which we have all been to this service at St. Mark's and we are most grateful to the Vicar, **Alan Branigan,** and his congregation. The service was specially arranged by the Vicar and our Regimental Chaplain, **Cliff Barker,** and it had a Christmas motif and included several carols. The music was provided by the Regimental Band, under **Staff Sergeant J. L. Beazley,** and the church organ. The sermon was preached by the Assistant Chaplain General for Northern Command, the **Reverend N. S. Metcalf, D.S.O.**

Santa in triplicate

The usual children's Christmas party was held on Sunday, 20th December, and 130 children of members of the Regiment based on Teesside attended. They played games, watched films, devoured copious quantities of cakes, trifle and lemonade (all to the accompaniment of a self-generated adult ear-shattering noise), and were each given a present by a Santa Claus. A novel feature of this year's party was, to speed up the proceedings, the employment of three Santa Claus—a phenomenon which even the youngest children appeared to take in their stride.

Welfare needs Clothing!



35th REGIMENT'S RALLY TEAMS

Left to right: Captain Robinson, Sergeant Ricketts, Corporal Chambers, Sergeant Brenni, Sergeant Rowe, Lance-Corporal Warner

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Birmingham 6

DECEMBER, as the month of good cheer, saw the Regiment getting its full share of social activities, all the Squadrons having Christmas dinners/dances, whilst Regimental functions included a Regimental Officers' dinner night, a Regimental Sergeants' Mess ball, and a children's Christmas party, but amid all these Christmas festivities, training, trade testing, and other activities, some of which are reported below, kept the Regiment locally in the limelight and at full stretch.

Regimental Dinner Night

On 27th November, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge** and Officers of the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) entertained the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Alderman Stanley Bleyer,** and a number of City Councillors at a Regimental dinner, held in the Banqueting Room of the Birmingham City Council House, to return the hospitality extended to them at the time of the Freedom of Entry to the City of Birmingham, which was granted to the Regiment on 12th September, 1970.

Others attending included the G.O.C., West Midland District, **Major-General J. Majury, O.B.E., Brigadier R. H. Borthwick,** Commander, 11 Signal Group, and the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** who celebrated his 50th year as a member of the Royal Corps of Signals during 1970.

After dinner, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge** presented a pair of the 50th Anniversary Royal Signals China Trumpeters, mounted in a glass display case to **Alderman Bleyer** as memento of the occasion.

These now occupy an honoured place in the Lord Mayor's parlour.

Children's Christmas party

The job this year fell to **Captain Barry Bayliss,** and, together with his wife, **Sheila,** provided 100 children from the Birmingham area of the Regiment with films, professional entertainment, pop, cakes, sticky buns, balloons filled with X factors (no prize for guessing who blew them up) a visit to Father Christmas and a Christmas present. The day ended with the departure of the noisy throng, completing the most exhausting exercise of the year.

Sunfield Home for mentally handicapped children

19th December saw the R.S.M. and the stalwarts of 48 Signal Squadron descending on the home to organise a Father Christmas parachute drop by the local sky-diving club and an air display by A.I.R. 70 Flying School. All went well until the cheering, arm-waving children saw Father Christmas miss the dropping zone and disappear over a nearby hill, but the day was saved by **Sergeant Colin McMillan,** who recovered the reluctant Father Christmas in a Land Rover and quickly drove him back to the waiting children.

Recruiting Open Day at 89 (Warwickshire) Signal Squadron (V)

89 Squadron held an open day for radio hams and, despite the inclement weather, it met with some measure of success, as 100 or more radio enthusiasts, looked over the Squadron's equipment, which was presented in a dismounted and military role; they now look forward to having a flood of semi-trained recruits.

High peak rally

For this well-organised event by the Civil Service Motoring Association, we entered three teams. The times for the Land Rover class were, naturally, slightly high, but not impossible. Timing was by T ARGA, and route cards were issued when you started and at certain controls along the route. It was purely plot and bash. The route covered 150 miles over the peak district. It included two selective sections of approximately five miles each, where we had to make the best possible time.

In the last two sections of the first stage, the first five sections of the second stage, which included the selective section, we were impeded by peak mists, which had visibility in parts down to 10 yards, but thankfully, they didn't blanket everywhere. 35th Regiment entries took the first three places in the Land Rover Class, finishing 6th, 9th and 13th overall, which wasn't too bad against civilian cars. Thirty-four cars entered the rally.



AWARDS IN PLENTY FOR 67 (THE QUEEN'S OWN WARWICKSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The occasion at which the above photo was taken was the recent presentation of Territorial Efficiency Medals and Meritorious Service Awards to volunteers of 67 (The Queens Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

Presentations were made by Colonel A. Fender, T.D., D.L. Lance-Corporal A. R. Smith was presented with a tankard by the Squadron as a token of their appreciation for his years of service.

Lance-Corporal Smith has had to retire from the T. & A.V.R. at the age limit

Presentations were made as under:

Territorial Efficiency Medal

Sergeant G. J. Lamb, Sergeant E. J. Sutton

Meritorious Service Awards

Staff-Sergeant D. Smart, Staff-Sergeant R. H. Taylor, Sergeant J. Vere, Sergeant W. V. Bonsell, Corporal A. R. Heath, Sergeant T. Taplin, A.C.C.

In the photograph from left to right are: Lance-Corporal A. R. Smith, Colonel A. Fender, T.D., D.L., Major P. E. D. Birchall, T.D., Sergeant G. Lamb, and Sergeant E. Sutton

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

A vote of thanks

IT seems a long time since we have appeared in print, though the past issue did contain the photographs of the Lord Mayor's Show. Thanks to the Demonstration Team at Blandford, in the form of the redoubtable **Sergeant Fisher** with his merry men, who stayed with us for a week, having lived 'Lord Mayor's Show' in Blandford for the preceding six weeks, the floats were a great success and much envied by all, not least at the moment on the day when the heavens opened, for most of them had roofs.

Public relations

The Regiment had pretty comprehensive P.R. cover around that time with a mention on BBC1 at the Festival of Remembrance, a four-minute 'spot' on Radio London in which our parachutists were talked down by **Second-Lieutenant Simon Evans** (by editing we cut out what some of them felt at having been dropped at 1,250ft. in a high wind over the car park of Aalborg Airport), the Lord Mayor's Show, followed by a 'spot' on the Jack Di Manio programme.

Fitness

Whilst all this was going on we were preparing for our fitness for role inspection which took place on 24th November in London, 25th November in Tunbridge Wells and 1st December in Dundee. The Inspecting Officer was **Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E.,** who kindly 'stood in' for the C.S.O. Southern Command, **Brigadier D. E. Warren,** who went down with 'flu, shortly to be followed by the Commanding Officer. We rounded off this period of activity with an all ranks' dance in Worship Street; there must have been 500 people there, the place was packed to bursting and the noise (music) made conversation impossible. However, that made concentration on the liquid refreshment easier, so all were happy.

Play

The Officers' Mess held the annual ball in December at the Royal Commonwealth Society which was a great success. 'People' in Mess kit could be seen hailing taxis in Trafalgar Square at 3 a.m., to go 'looking for the action,' but the air was too cold so they went home instead.

The usual Christmas festivities took place, the Sergeants came to the Officers' Mess, where they were told of **W.O.II Gwen Murgatroyd's** success at a recent commissioning board, the Officers went to the Sergeants' Mess and then on to the Lynx Club, and the 'season' closed with the children's Christmas party, but this year **Corporal C. J. and Mrs. Shea** only brought eight of their ten children.

The future

The next event is the visit of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs to the Regiment for dinner. This is followed by a trip to Bavaria, but not, we hope, into Garmisch Airport car park; we lose more parachutists that way!

Obituary

Major H. J. Funnell

Jack Funnell enlisted in the Corps in 1924. He was commissioned as an I.P.C. (later T.O.T.) in 1941. He was Deputy C.I.E.M.E. at the Ministry of Supply until 1945, when he joined an L. of C. Signals in Paiforce. He transferred to 4th G.H.Q. Signals later in the same year and commanded the unit for two short periods.

In 1948 he served as Second-in-Command of 18th and 4 Divisional Signal Regiments and Palestine Command Signal Regiment.

He reverted to his substantive rank as a Captain (T.O.T.) in 1948, serving in H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment and 11th Air Formation Signals, doing grand work in the Berlin Air Lift. He was in Signals 7 at the War Office from 1950 until he retired in 1955 to join the Automobile Association as Assistant Communications Manager.

With his specialised knowledge he was able to guide the Association in all spheres of communications and in his early days was primarily responsible for setting-up the national teleprinter tape relay network which currently handles approximately a million messages a year.

He was appointed Manager in January, 1963, and, apart from his valuable work within the AA, he became Chairman of the Mobile Radio Users' Association, and represented them on the Mobile Radio Committee and Frequency Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. He was also a member of the Institute of Office Management, Communications Managers Division.

Jack died on 19th July, 1970. He will be remembered as a man of integrity and forthrightness coupled with a sense of compassion and humour. Above all he was very much a family man and all those who knew him will wish to extend their sympathies to his wife and family in their sad loss.

Corporal Cyril Taylor

J.H.E. writes:

All his old and many friends in the Corps will have learnt with deep regret of the death of ex-Corporal Cyril Taylor, better and always affectionately known as 'Tanky.' He passed away after a heart operation at the Groote Schur Hospital, Cape Town, on 3rd December, 1970, just a year after his retirement to live at George, Cape Province, S. Africa.

A tough and ever-cheerful little Yorkshireman, 'Tanky' joined at Catterick in 1934. Trained as a D.R./Fitter he went from Bulford to Palestine in 1938; then just prior to the outbreak of war he was posted to 11 Section, Paiforce Signals, and with such other stalwarts as Swede' Collins, Alec Hawley, C.S.V. Charles Tebby and Billy Solly made the not-so-comfy trip via the Nile to Nairobi. They were met on arrival by a certain Captain—now retired Brigadier—'Crew' Stonely.

During the campaign in East Africa, 'Tanky' served with distinction and gallantry, travelling some thousand of miles on hazardous D.R.L.S./S.D.S. runs in Abyssinia and Eritrea. Taking his release on his age and service group in 1946 he stayed in Kenya and joined the Express Transport Co., becoming responsible for the organisation and control of all the Army's hired transport. His loyalties and unstinted service to and for this concern earned him a directorship and seat on their Board.

Though small in stature no one could have been bigger in genuine friendship and understanding. Kindness, consideration and unbounded generosity were all part of his make-up.

Those of us who were fortunate in knowing and serving with him mourn his passing and extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Connie, and his son, John, in their saddest and greatest loss.

Association News

Reading Branch comes to life again. Successful inaugural meeting

Mr. D. Greenbrook, who attended the inaugural meeting of the revived Reading Branch of the Association, reports as follows:

"I had the pleasure of attending the inaugural meeting of the Reading Branch of the Royal Signals Association, held at the Dragon Club, Brock Barracks, Reading, on Monday, 4th January. The meeting turned out to be a great success, and the attendance of 44 was due mainly to the hard organising work done by the now-elected Hon. Secretary of the Branch, **Mr. Alan E. Foot.** He must have spent much of his spare time in sending out notices and having these same notices published in local papers over a wide area of Berkshire, Hampshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire. I feel sure that many more would have attended but for the very adverse weather conditions.

The Dragon Club was made available for this meeting, and for future meetings of the Branch, by the O.C. 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V), **Major F. K. Bailey.** He is to be thanked for laying on a most excellent buffet and bar facilities for those who attended.

It was proposed during the meeting that the Branch would meet on the **first Friday of every month** at the Dragon Club, Brock Barracks, Reading, at 8 p.m., and it is hoped that a number of ex-Signalmen who did not see the original notices will read this report and make a point of going along to their next meeting, which will be Friday, 5th March, and support what I consider will be a most successful addition to our list of local branches. The social life of the Branch is going to be very active, with dances, dinners, reunions and visits.

The name and address of the Hon. Secretary of the Reading Branch is: **Mr. A. E. Foot,** 96, Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading, RG6 1AN, and all enquiries about the Branch should be addressed to him."

Hull branch

Hon. Secretary, **Mr. G. A. Soar,** 164, Park Avenue, Hull. E. Yorkshire.

A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by some 60 members, wives and friends of the Hull Branch when they held their annual dinner on 14th January. The dinner was held at the Queen's Hotel, George Street, and **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson,** General Secretary of the Association, was the guest for the evening. After the Royal Toast and a Toast to the Ladies, **Brigadier Hobson** talked about the Association and how it was faring, mentioning in particular the wonderful support given to Corps benevolence by the regular Corps through the Day's Pay Scheme. He remarked on the warm welcome he had received in Hull, as his hotel had caught fire as he left for the dinner and he wondered whether there would be a hotel to return to after the dinner.

Mr. R. L. Stephenson presided and arrangements were in the capable hands of **Mr. G. A. Soar** and other helpers.

LIFE ASSURANCE

ITS FUNCTION. The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

INVESTMENT. Life Assurance, especially Endowment Assurance, is however also the best possible long-term investment, because the money is invested wisely, and partly in "growth equities," by the Life Assurance Company *and* because it is the only form of investment subsidised by the Government. The subsidy consists of Income Tax Allowance on two-fifths of Premiums. For those liable to Tax at 8s. 3d. in the £ this means 16.5%. Thus, a net outlay of £83 10s. a year provides a premium of £100 a year, which is 19.76% increase.

SELECTION. There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

INFORMATION REQUIRED. May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

SURTAX and ESTATE DUTY. Suitable action can greatly reduce the burden. If these problems are at all large let me advise you how to increase your net income AND net estate.

GENERAL ASSURANCES. We also arrange Kit, Motor, Winter Sports and all other Insurances in the best markets.

Brigadier R. T. Williams F.C.I.B. **R. T. WILLIAMS LTD.** Major T. F. Williams F.C.I.B.

2, Duke Street, Brighton, BN1 1DE

Telephone Brighton 28181 (2 lines)

Incorporated Insurance Brokers

Incorporated Life Assurance Brokers

Member of the Services Insurance Brokers Association

Racal manpacks cover most ground

Not only with the greater distances over which they always give reliable communication, but in the wide range of manpacks available.
In the world's widest selection of manpacks from HF to VHF, there is always a Racal-BCC manpack to do the job.
And do it reliably, ruggedly and economically.
Now in use in over 82 countries.
Send for details of the Racal-BCC manpack range

RACAL

Racal-BCC Ltd
Bracknell · Berkshire · England
Tel Bracknell 3244 · Telex 84166



For instance – Minical

■ 2MHz to 9MHz ■ Choice of six pre-set channels
■ S.S.B. voice or C.W. operation ■ 1 watt p.e.p. output
■ Low power consumption ■ Solid-state
■ Lightweight, compact, robust and waterproof

Sport

The Corps wins promotion in Army Squash Rackets League

The President of Corps Squash, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, writes:
The Division II Tournament of the Army Squash Rackets League was held at Aldershot over the weekend 4th-6th December, 1970. The Corps had been in Division II for a couple of years, but had come close to winning promotion last year. Hopes were high this time.

Four matches were to be played over the weekend, R.E., R.A.M.C. / R.A.D.C., R.A.O.C. and R.A.E.C. were our opponents, and would be met in that order. Our most difficult match, we knew, would be against R.A.E.C., and they were the main contenders for promotion. We judged that our only chance for promotion was to win our first three matches by as great a margin as possible, and then to try to hold our own against R.A.E.C.

It was with this in mind that our first matches were played. We beat R.E. by 4-1, and in this match **Captain Storr** excelled himself by defeating **Colonel Elgood,** a well-known former Army player, in three games. Our second match, that against R.A.M.C./R.A.D.C., produced a 5-0 victory. We won the match against R.A.O.C. by 3-2. In this the opposition fielded their team in an incorrect order of merit, thereby depriving us of a 5-0 victory and courting disqualification. Fortunately the overall result was not affected.

It was apparent after this match that the league winner would be the winning team of the Royal Signals v. R.A.E.C. game. R.A.E.C. put out what was their strongest team for many years. It included four former Army players, one of whom was the 1967 Army Champion, and another player who was an ex-Welsh international. The match began well for us, with **Major Pertwee** winning at 2nd string, and then **Lieutenant-Colonel Hellier** beat his opponent with surprising ease. We did not have long to wait for the vital third win in which **Major Randel** beat **Major Protheroe** 3-1. Our other two players, **Storr** and **Cornforth,** both lost, but it should be noted that **Storr** gave **Cooper** a fright by leading him 2-0 before going under to the former Army Champion's brilliant play, and **Cornforth** only went down in the fifth game after a hard fight.

The final result of the match was thus a 3-2 win for the Corps, which was just what was needed to ensure the promotion that had been fought so hard for.

It would be invidious to select out any particular player for his performance, since our win was essentially a team affair, in which everyone imbued with the will to win played his part magnificently both on and off the court.

Next year we compete in Division I, and, to be realistic, the problem will be to stay there. We shall have many top class players against us, and it is important both that our known players try to improve their game further through constant practice, and also that new talent should be discovered, or developed, by means of the game being encouraged at Unit level. I hope that players and former players will give every assistance by encouraging and coaching others.

The Corps Team which competed in the Division II tournament was selected from the following players who are listed in their order of merit: **Captain J. F. Storr, Major L. J. Pertwee, Captain M. A. Cornforth, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, Major D. A. C. Randel, Captain J. H. Lowe, Sergeant M. J. Taylor, Lieutenant L. G. French.**

Subsequently Corps Colours were awarded to **Lieutenant L. G. French** and re-awarded to the other players.

The margin of the Corps win can be seen from the following points table. Total points: 1, Royal Signals 23; 2, Royal Army Educational Corps 18; 3, Royal Engineers 11; 4, Royal Army Ordnance Corps 11; 5, Royal Army Medical Corps 7.

Stop Press

The following players have been selected to represent Northern Command in the Army Inter-zone Squash rackets Competition:

Lieutenant-Colonel F. Parker, H.Q. Northern Command; **Major G. W. Davies,** R.A.E.C., Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate; **Captain J. Storr,** 8th Signal Regiment; **Sergeant A. Halliwell; A/T Corporal A. Sinclair** and **A/T P. Dean,** Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.

Promotions

(Continued from page 54)

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.			
Hughes,	D. A.	27 Jan. 66	Omitted from Blue Book
Wake,	N. K.	23 Apr. 70	Please amend name to read WARE

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	Initials	Rank	New Sen. date	Old Sen. date	
To W.O.I					
Postelthwaite,	R. G.	A/W.O.I	25 Aug. 70	9 Jan. 67	
Howie,	G. A.	A/W.O.I	8 Sep. 70	13 Jun. 68	
Cook,	B.	A/W.O.I	6 Oct. 70	16 Jun. 68	
Bresloff,	R. S.	A/W.O.I	13 Oct. 70	27 Feb. 68	
Common,	F.	A/W.O.I	23 Oct. 70	23 Feb. 69	
To W.O.II					
Bishop,	R. C.	A/W.O.II	28 Aug. 70	5 Mar. 69	
Markie,	C.	A/W.O.II	9 Sep. 70	2 Sep. 68	
Waugh,	A. P.	A/W.O.II	9 Sep. 70	23 Jul. 68	
Balch,	T.	A/W.O.II	16 Sep. 70	17 Feb. 68	
Stoneham,	L. V.	A/W.O.II	2 Oct. 70	19 Feb. 68	
Park,	G.	A/W.O.II	7 Oct. 70	22 Jul. 68	
Horne,	A. F.	A/W.O.II	10 Oct. 70	7 Jun. 66	
Simpson,	B. J.	A/W.O.II	14 Oct. 70	29 Sep. 66	
Smith,	E. R. R.	S Sgt.	24 Oct. 70	27 Feb. 68	
Evans,	K.	A/W.O.II	10 Nov. 70	30 Nov. 61	
To S Sgt.					
Drugan,	A. P.	A/S Sgt.	12 Aug. 70	26 Jun. 63	(ComcenOp)
Childs,	K. A.	Sgt.	13 Aug. 70	15 Oct. 63	(C. Op.)
Stubbing,	M. D.	Sgt.	13 Aug. 70	2 Feb. 66	(ComcenOp.)
Franklyn,	P. H.	A/S Sgt.	13 Aug. 70	14 Apr. 67	(R. Op.)
Eastwood,	R.	A/S Sgt.	17 Aug. 70	21 Jan. 55	(ComcenOp)
Sutton,	J. L.	A/S Sgt.	17 Aug. 70	1 Oct. 57	(Lmn)
Fayers,	T. G.	A/S Sgt.	18 Sep. 70	2 Mar. 61	(Dvr)
Phillips,	J. A.	Sgt.	20 Sep. 70	16 Jan. 64	(RRman)
Milton,	J. F.	A/S Sgt.	21 Sep. 70	7 Jul. 65	(R Op)
Dehdashty,	R. S.	A/S Sgt.	24 Sep. 70	16 Sep. 65	(Clk Tech)
Hughes	D. A.	Sgt.	3 Oct. 70	27 Jan. 66	(Tech)
Greaves,	G.	A/S Sgt.	8 Oct. 70	31 Dec. 56	(ComcenOp)
Phillips,	A. E.	A/S Sgt	11 Oct. 70	31 Jan. 63	(R Op)
Atkin,	R. J.	A/S Sgt.	15 Oct. 70	31 Jan. 63	(R Op)
Phileman,	J.	A/S Sgt.	25 Oct. 70	20 Aug. 63	(Tg Op)
Crawford,	F. J.	Sgt.	17 Nov. 70	26 Nov. 60	(R Op)
Mallabone,	T. H.	Sgt.	17 Nov. 70	29 Jan. 61	(Lmn)

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Good,	R. J.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	30 Oct. 69	(S. Op)
Feldon,	A.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	30 Oct. 69	(S. Op)
Porter	R. G.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	21 Jan. 65	(S. Op)
Smith,	D. D.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	30 Oct. 69	(S. Op)
Courtney	R. J.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	30 Oct. 69	(S. Op)
Etherton,	R. P.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	10 Jul. 68	(S. Op)
Whelpton,	J. W.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	1 May 57	(S. Op)
Newman,	A. J.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	10 Jul. 68	(S. Op)
Haslam,	A. E.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	9 May 68	(S. Op)
Clark,	W. J.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	24 Sep. 68	(S. Op)
Baker,	A. G.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	31 Oct. 69	(S. Op)
Etherton,	D. J.	Sgt.	31 Oct. 70	10 Oct. 68	(S. Op)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.I					
Coxon,	W.	A/W.O.I	18 Nov. 70	15 Jun. 68	
To S Sgt.					
Donaldson,	K. D. J.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	10 Jul. 68	(Tg. Op)

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.					
Robson,	J.	Cpl.	16 Jul. 70	14 Sep. 67	
Kinnar,	R.	Cpl.	16 Jul. 70	14 Apr. 67	
Setchfield,	J. E.	Cpl.	14 Aug. 70	13 Jan. 66	
Atkinson,	B.	Cpl.	14 Aug. 70	20 Jan. 66	
Edwards,	P. J.	Cpl.	2 Oct. 70	17 Dec. 65	
Hill,	A. J.	Cpl.	2 Oct. 70	6 Aug. 66	
Johnson,	M.	Cpl.	8 Oct. 70	17 Feb. 67	
Alderson,	R.	Cpl.	8 Oct. 70	23 Feb. 67	
Woodbridge,	M. E.	Cpl.	9 Oct. 70	16 Jun. 66	
MacMillan,	P. F.	Cpl.	9 Oct. 70	12 Aug. 66	
Everett,	M. R.	Cpl.	12 Nov. 70	12 Nov. 66	

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Beresford,	M. H.	A/Sgt.	25 Oct. 70	7 May 65
Lomax,	A. P.	A/Sgt.	1 Nov. 70	13 May 65
Kirkman,	J. M.	Cpl.	1 Nov. 70	9 Feb. 66

(Owing to pressure on space the remainder of this roll will be published next month).



Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

RACAL

Due to continued Company expansion vacancies exist for :-

ELECTRONIC TESTERS

Progressive positions for electronic testers engaged on wide range of communications equipment, including transmitters and receivers. Applicants should have technical knowledge equivalent to C. and G. with previous experience of testing communications equipment.

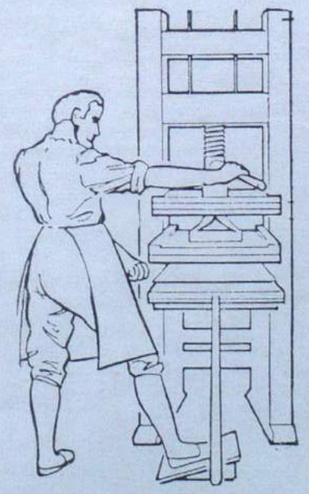
CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

HOUSING AVAILABLE TO MARRIED MEN

Applications enclosing brief details of qualifications and present salary to:—

PERSONNEL MANAGER
RACAL ELECTRONICS LIMITED
WESTERN ROAD · BRACKNELL · BERKSHIRE · ENGLAND

Over a Century-old Partnership...



PARSONS AND PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, W.C.2 · Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill, Lewes and Seaford

PICKFORDS
Removers and Storers

PICKFORDS TRAVEL SERVICE

PICKFORDS

Removals and storage Household removals. Single items. Any size of job. Anywhere in Britain or overseas. Pickfords have the experience. Ask us for an estimate.

Travel service Benefit from our experience when you book holidays, travel tickets, reservations etc. No extra charge when you use Pickfords.

Once you use Pickfords, you'll never go without us

Our address is in the phone book

RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1971 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately eight months are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1971.

SALARY SCALES

During training, with free accommodation provided at the Training School:

Age 21	£848	per annum
22	906	„ „
23	943	„ „
24	981	„ „
25 and over	1023	„ „

On successful completion of course:

Age 21	£1073	„ „
22	1140	„ „
23	1207	„ „
24	1274	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1351	„ „

then by six annual increments to a maximum of £1,835 per annum.

Excellent conditions and good prospects of promotion. Opportunities for service abroad.

Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course, and must have at least two years' operating experience *OR* PMG qualifications. Preference given to those who also have G.C.E. 'O' level or similar qualifications. Exceptionally well-qualified candidates aged from 36-40 may also be considered.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1971.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6), Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21491 Ext. 2270.

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings. Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108-9)

March-April 1971

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

THE wire



RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1971 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately eight months are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1971.

SALARY SCALES

During training, with free accommodation provided at the Training School:

Age 21	£848	per annum
22	906	„ „
23	943	„ „
24	981	„ „
25 and over	1023	„ „

On successful completion of course:

Age 21	£1073	„ „
22	1140	„ „
23	1207	„ „
24	1274	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1351	„ „

then by six annual increments to a maximum of £1,835 per annum.

Excellent conditions and good prospects of promotion. Opportunities for service abroad.

Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course, and must have at least two years' operating experience *OR* PMG qualifications. Preference given to those who also have G.C.E. 'O' level or similar qualifications. Exceptionally well-qualified candidates aged from 36-40 may also be considered.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1971.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6), Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21491 Ext. 2270.

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS

BROKERS

Head Office: ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE

Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

YOUR SECURITY AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Male Life 21 next birthday

£10,000 INITIAL COVER FOR ABOUT **10/- per week**

Sum Assured		Normal Annual Premium
£500	Endowment, With Profit, to age 65 (Estimated Maturity Value £2,271)	£13 5 0
£1,000	Whole of Life, Non Profit, Assurance	£9 2 0
£5,000	Initial Sum Assured for Family Income Benefits of £250 p.a. for 20 years	£3 5 0
£3,500	Conversion Rights for 25 years	£5 19 0
	Gross Annual Premiums	£31 11 0
	Income Tax Relief (if obtainable)	£5 4 0
£10,000	Life Cover for an Annual Net Outlay of	£26 7 0

NOTE: Rates vary with age and the Plan may be adjusted to suit your needs. An ideal composite plan with conversion rights which may be used for House Purchase.

Telephone **2966** Richmond

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months £1.20; single month, **10p.**

☆

MARCH/APRIL • 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

The subject of our cover picture this month is 'Muffin,' the mascot of 255 Signal Squadron, Bahrein.

Purchased by **Sergeant W. A. Kingshaw,** he cost no less than £1.33 and has been taken on as P.R.I. property. His coat bears the shoulder flash of Land Forces Gulf, and he is pictured with his volunteer handler, **Signalman Barker.** Unfortunately, 255 Squadron is due to disband this year, and 'Muffin's' future is not clear. It is hoped to bring him back to the U.K. and present him to a good home with a U.K.-based unit. Any takers?

The great majority of regular soldiers of the Corps contribute to the Day's Pay Scheme. In appreciation of this it is an Association rule that when they leave the Service, provided they have contributed a sum total of not less than £2.50 during their service, they are automatically Life Members of the Royal Signals Association. This applies in practically all cases and there is already a steady stream of Life Members leaving the Corps and moving into civilian life. It is hoped that these Life Members will take advantage of their status and join one of the 47 branches of the Association provided there is one convenient to their civilian place of residence. To facilitate this process, all regular soldiers on leaving the service are notified by Association H.Q. of the name and address of the Secretary of their local Branch if there is one nearby. In addition, under a new policy, personal letters already addressed to soldiers will be sent by Association H.Q. to Branch Secretaries, as appropriate, so that they have only to fill in the details of times and location of Branch meetings, and send the letter on to the addressee. Thus it will be seen that on paper fairly comprehensive steps have been taken to bring Branches and potential new members into touch with each other. While these efforts have succeeded to a certain extent in attracting new blood into Branches there is scope for considerable increase.

From the serving soldiers' point of view there are a number of advantages from Branch membership which will cost him little or nothing. By joining a Branch he will be able to retain the comradeship and spirit of service that has been a part of his life while in the Corps. He has an opportunity of making new friends locally with a similar outlook and background to himself. Often members of a Branch are well established citizens in the local community and can give valuable advice and assistance to a newcomer trying to settle in. Most Branches organise social occasions which can afford pleasant relaxation and a number send a party to Catterick each year for the annual Reunion Weekend where accommodation and meals are free to members at what is recognised as one of the best gatherings of its sort in the country. For those who feel they would like to play an active part there is plenty of scope to serve on Branch Committees where suggestions and new ideas will always be welcomed. All this adds up to something really worth while.

From the point of view of the Branches an influx of new members is essential if they are not slowly to wither away. They must do everything in their power to bridge the gap between them and the newly arrived ex-regular in their Branch area. If possible a Branch member should make a personal visit and an invitation extended to attend some specific Branch meeting or social evening. When a new member does take the trouble to turn up he must be made thoroughly welcome so that he feels he is part of the family and not just a new recruit amongst older soldiers!

If only the two interested parties—the ex-regular and the Branch—can be brought together to an increasing degree then the future of the Association is assured. It will, however, need effort, particularly on the part of Branches.

CHRISTMAS IS OVER!

WIRE readers will have had enough of Christmas events in the last two issues. By March, cold plum pudding is both indigestible and sickly. Accordingly, we have removed all reference to Christmas in unit notes, thus allowing us to go to press with an economical 40-page edition.

Result of 226 Squadron's Sponsored Walk

Presentation in Sheffield Hospital

READERS will recollect that in the January/February WIRE we reported how the Wives' Club of 226 Squadron had raised the remarkable sum of £805. The object of the walk was to help some particularly deserving case known to the Royal Signals Association, and no better one could be suggested than **Dennis Atkin,** an ex-soldier of the Corps who had spent nearly 22 years in an iron lung in a Sheffield hospital.

It was originally thought that this money might be used towards providing a specially-fitted vehicle in which Dennis and other iron-lung patients could be taken out for a drive in the country. In the event, it turned out that just such a vehicle, belonging to the Ministry of Health and Social Security was already in existence, but had not been used for some time.

Arrangements are now in hand by the hospital to check it over and borrow it for use whenever required. It is currently in the London area. It was decided, therefore, to hand over the cheque to Dennis to give him a little capital of his own and with it lessen the feeling that he was so dependant on others. He is investing it and with the interest he will be able to buy the things he likes, such as classical music records, books, and also, from time to time, something for his widowed mother, who constantly visits him.

The cheque was handed over by **Mrs. Janet Young,** wife of **Major Young,** late O.C., 226 Signal Squadron. Readers will recollect that the idea of the walk originated from **Mrs. Young,** and so it was most appropriate that she should hand over the cheque personally at a small ceremony in the hospital, which was given considerable local publicity.



[Photo: Courtesy Sheffield Newspapers Ltd.

Standing, left to right: Brigadier Pat Hobson (General Secretary Royal Signals Association), Mrs. Janet Young, Mr. F. Powell (Chairman Sheffield Branch, Royal Signals Association), Mr. F. Stockdale, B.E.M. (Hon. Secretary Sheffield Branch, Royal Signals Association), in the iron lung, Dennis Atkin

ARMY CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP, BLACKDOWN, 26th FEBRUARY

Tipped to win this event, the 21st Signal Regiment team went down to the 1st Bn. Cheshire Regiment by a narrow margin to finish in second place for the second year running. This was all the more disappointing as they had scored a very creditable win over the Cheshires in the B.AO.R. eliminating stage, where the 21st Regiment emerged as B.A.O.R. champions. However, they showed a clean pair of heels to many formidable rivals in the major units event, in which eleven other teams were competing.

39 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron notched up seventh place in the Minor Units section of the competition and **Corporal Venus** came in second in the individual event. Altogether a good showing on the part of Royal Signals. Perhaps that cup will come our way next year.



ROYAL OCCASION

Major-General Sir John and Lady Anderson pictured at Buckingham Palace after the General had received his recent award of the K.B.E.

FAR EAST RUNDOWN

Well known Corps Regiment disbands

All will be sad to hear of the demise of the 19th Regiment. Below, we reproduce a farewell message from the Corps.

* * *

On the occasion of your Ceremonial Farewell Parade, Signal Officer-in-Chief and all ranks Royal Corps of Signals, past and present, send a message of thanks to all members of our Corps who are serving with or have served with 19th Signal Regiment.

Throughout the 28 years of your existence you have given outstanding service to the Army and to our sister service, the Royal Air Force, throughout the Far East. Your achievements in the provision and maintenance of communications are surpassed only by those in the sporting world.

It would be invidious at this stage to mention individuals or particular bodies of men who from time to time have served with your distinguished Regiment, but I cannot let this occasion pass without a special message of gratitude to all locally enlisted soldiers with whom we, from the United Kingdom, have served and are still serving.

Their devotion to duty, loyalty, long experience and hard work have simplified our task and been an inspiration to us all. On your return to civilian life I send you good wishes and hope that our friendship and association will continue, irrespective of the development of events, throughout the years ahead.

Good luck to you all.

ATTENTION ALL EX-'RATS,' EX-APPRENTICES, EX-JUNIOR LEADERS AND EX-JUNIOR TRADESMEN

All ex-'Rats,' ex-Apprentices, ex-Junior Leaders and ex-Junior Tradesmen will be extremely pleased to hear that **Major (Q.M.) Fred Pavey,** Royal Signals, currently serving as the Staff Quartermaster at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, has very kindly assumed the Secretaryship of the Ex-Rats Association.

Regrettably no trace can be found of the Register, together with the record of members, and it will be necessary to compile these from scratch. This will be a monumental task but an essential one if the Annual Reunion Dinner or similar functions are to recommence. All are requested to write to **Fred Pavey** at the Apprentices' College, Harrogate, giving the following information:

Name ..... Initials .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Record of Boy Service .....

.....

Apprentice Service .....

.....

Junior Leaders Service .....

.....

.....

Junior Tradesmen Service .....

.....

Annual Reunion Would you support?

Preference for place?
(London or Harrogate are possible venues).

Preference for time of year?

Contemporaries: Names and addresses:

.....

.....

.....

.....

24th Annual Reunion of 51 & 52 'R' Spec. Wireless Sections and Type-X

Sir,

These two small Wireless Units and the Type-X personnel (mainly from 5 I.S.) were all within the Sig. Int. 'Y' organisation during the war in the M.E.F. and C.M.F.

The Reunion dinner will be held on Saturday, 8th May, at Bertorelli's Restaurant in Charlotte Street, London, W.1.

The units were in close touch with 103 Spec. Wireless Section and Mobile Section of 2 Spec. Wireless Group, most of whom were well known to us, and we should welcome any who would come along—as some already do.

Our recent attendances average 20 and no doubt would be rather more had we more addresses to contact.

Anyone interested in attending should contact me and I shall be glad to let them have fuller details of the event. I would suggest, however, that it be after 8th April, as I shall be abroad until then.

Yours sincerely,

G. Morgan

19 Parliament Hill,
Hampstead, N.W.3.

Movements

Officers

Major B. W. P. Adams	... ...	To 21st Regiment
Major (Q.M.) G. J. Bevan, M.M.	...	,, 30th Regiment
Major J. L. Botterill	... ...	,, 14th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) V. C. Brown	...	,, H.Q. AFCENT (Comd. & Sup.)
Major P. R. Buchanan	... ...	,, 48 Gurkha Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron as O.C.
Major R. A. Cemm	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Major P. B. Clark	... ...	,, O.C. Airfield Det. R.A.F. Brize Norton
Major P. S. Davis, M.B.E.	... ...	,, M.O.D. (Q (D & T)) as Lt.-Col.
Lieutenant R. H. Farey	... ...	,, 259 Squadron
Captain A. J. Field	... ...	,, Attached R.A.P.C. Trg. Centre
Major J. R. Gibson	... ...	,, 16th Regiment as Lt.-Col. C.O.
Lieutenant G. S. Gordon	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Captain J. Hawthornthwaite	... ...	,, 4 Communications Unit
Captain A. M. P. Howie, B.E.M.	...	,, 30th Regiment
Major J. W. Ingledow	... ...	,, 223 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Knott	...	,, Attached M.G.O. Sect., M.O.D.
Major D. Lycett-Gregson	... ...	,, JATE, Abingdon
Major M. W. Pollard	... ...	,, SHAPE, as Lt.-Col.
Major D. G. Pratt	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain K. Ryding	... ...	,, 35th Regiment (V)
Captain G. C. Saunders	... ...	,, 244 Squadron
Lieutenant J. T. Smith	... ...	,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Captain (Q.M.) D. W. Stanley	...	,, 234 Squadron
Captain M. R. Stephenson	... ...	,, School
Colonel I. G. Swan	... ...	,, H.Q. 3 Division as C.S.O.
Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.		,, 1 Signal Group
Major J. H. Walmsley-Cotham	...	,, 38th Regiment (V)
Major J. Westlake	... ...	,, Staff College D.S. as Lt.-Col.
Second-Lieutenant A. G. Whiddett	...	,, 50 Msl. Regiment R.A. Signal Troop, as O.C.
Lieutenant P. Whitemore	... ...	,, 39 Msl. Regiment R.A. Signal Troop, as O.C.

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.I (Y. of S.) R. G. Coaker	...	To SHAPE H.Q. Comd. & Sp.
W.O.I P. A. Williams	... ...	,, Royal Signals Records
W.O.II L. G. H. Storey	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) D. J. Mortlock	...	,, C.V. H.Q. & Trg. Wing
W.O.II J. Harvey	... ...	,, 48 Gurkha Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant R. P. Edgar	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. R. Heath	... ...	,, 10th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Jamieson	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. D. Bermingham	...	,, London University O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. R. Cole		,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. F. Smith	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. G. Sizeland	...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant R. Cooper	... ...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. J. Sloggett	... ...	,, 252 Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. Hammett	... ...	,, 663 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Matthison	... ...	,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant B. Ashton	... ...	,, 33rd Regiment (V)
Sergeant S. Gair	... ...	,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. R. Jefford Horn	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant N. Valentine	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant H. Blagg	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant K. V. Austin	... ...	}
Sergeant D. C. Bullard	... ...	
Sergeant M. E. R. Catley	... ...	
Sergeant J. S. Cook	... ...	
Sergeant B. N. Douglas	... ...	
Sergeant R. Holmes	... ...	
Sergeant R. Horner	... ...	School of Signals
Sergeant M. J. Killick	... ...	F. of S. Course, No. 32
Sergeant A Kubu	... ...	
Sergeant A. J. Meredith	... ...	
Sergeant G. Rothwell	... ...	
Sergeant P. C. Smurthwaite	... ...	
Sergeant J. J. Spence	... ...	
Sergeant L. Tanner	... ...	
Sergeant H. G. Taylor	... ...	}
Sergeant J. S. Hehir	... ...	16th Regiment
A/Sergeant B. P. McGerty	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Bayne	... ...	,, 252 Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant J. F. Buckett	... ...	,, 35th Regiment (V)
Sergeant D. L. McIntosh	... ...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant D. Hornsby	... ...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. S. Parsons	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant M. F. Court	... ...	,, 262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. Jones	... ...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant G. C. Watkins	... ...	}
Sergeant R. Bates	... ...	School of Signals
Sergeant A. A. Winstanley	... ...	Y. of S. Course, No. 20
Sergeant B. Harrison	... ...	}
Sergeant D. Ballard	... ...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. Roberts	... ...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. J. Crumbie	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant A. D. Davies	... ...	,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Wright	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant T. Large	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant D. Wills	... ...	,, 241 Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. W. Lees	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant K. A. W. Rickard	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant W. S. Matthew	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. M. Whitrick	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. W. Few	... ...	,, 39 Airportable Bde. Sig. Sqn.
A/Sergeant D. J. Elcox	... ...	,, 16th Regiment

REPORT FROM NORTHERN IRELAND



'Devastating views and the doubtful company of the sheep and the wind' sum up the isolation of relay crews from 8 Brigade Signals manning a vital but remote rebroadcast station in Ulster—nor is this duty without certain inherent dangers

Background to a military commitment

Ebrington Barracks has a commanding view across the River Foyle towards Londonderry. The spires and towers of the Guild Hall, Drapers Hall, the Apprentice Boys' Hall, St. Columb's Cathedral and the Magee University buildings are silhouetted in the early morning and evening providing a misty and romantic backdrop to the barracks. The true character of the city is not, however, fully apparent until one drives across the Craigavon bridge. Corrugated iron sandbagged emplacements guard both ends of the bridge whilst foot patrols trudge along its length. An all-pervading air of tension broods over the wet grey streets. Armed guards stand in alleyways and on street corners whilst soldiers peer down into the everyday bustle of city life from rooftop O.P.s. The grim reality of Londonderry is only relieved by the irrepressible cheerfulness and friendliness of the Irish.

Lead in to the present day

This then is the home of Headquarters 8th Infantry Brigade. The Brigade has only been formed for little over a year. It was raised in Bulford from elements of 3rd Signal Regiment in November, 1969, and a handful of Officers and Staff Officers drawn from every corner of the universe. The Headquarters in embryo moved first of all to Chester, and from there to Northern Ireland in January, 1970, the Signal Squadron with it. The Squadron was accommodated at RAF Ballykelly until March, 1970, when it moved into H.M.S. 'Sea Eagle.' On the departure of the Royal Navy, the barracks were renamed Ebrington Barracks, June, 1970, and the Brigade was at home, 'almost.'

In the normal service fashion, we suffered two further internal moves before settling into what we fondly describe as permanent accommodation. Even yet, we are to move into brand new living accommodation, Q.M. department, and 'M' Troop. The Department of the Environment tell us that we shall have this accommodation sometime in March.

Role

Northern Ireland is divided roughly into two areas of responsibility. 8th Infantry Brigade looks after the Western Province and Londonderry, whilst 39th Airportable Brigade looks after the Eastern Province and Belfast. We have by far the greater amount of real estate to look after, but do not have the totally unenviable job of policing Belfast.

A flexible and reliable VHF set-up

One of the unusual features of signalling in Northern Ireland is the fact that both the Northern Ireland command net and the Brigade command nets use the Pye Westminster VHF radio system. The equipment is still the basic civilian equipment as used by police and ambulance services all over the country. It is not modified in anyway for the particular requirements of the services. The system relies on relay and rebroadcast stations for its coverage of Ulster. Static and mobile relay stations are deployed and the end result has been an excellent flexible and reliable system of radio communications. The only snag of course is that the system does rely on its relay stations, and these are as vulnerable as any unmanned rebroadcast station. Our readers will have recently seen just how vulnerable we are in this respect, when they read about the demolition of our Pye cabin on Brougher Mountain together with the best part of the B.B.C. building at the site. 8th Brigade uses three such relay sites; two of them are automatic and therefore unmanned. The third at Slieve Gallion is manned.

Unsurpassed coverage but very, very bleak

Slieve Gallion is the peak of one mountain in the Sperrin Mountain range. Its virtue lies in the fact that its position gives an almost unsurpassed coverage across the Sperrins and good radio communications with Belfast. It is, however, bleak—very, very bleak—as anyone in 'Alpha' Troop who has had the privilege of manning the station will tell you. One hundred miles per hour winds howl round the vehicles and



MOBILE REBROADCAST AT SLIEVE GALLION, JUNE 1970
Lance-Corporal Street on top. Signalman Dinnage does a bit of hammering

shelters during the winter months, and the 'ablutions' have to be restrained from wandering across the peat bogs by guys and pickets. The relay crews man the site for 10 days at a time. The site has been improved almost out of recognition from the very crude beginnings in May, 1970. The Sappers have provided two elephant shelters, our defence Platoon the perimeter wire and defences. A cook vehicle which has an unfortunate knack of immolating unwary cooks, a sleeping vehicle and, of course, the Mobile Master itself completes the compliment. To take the weight of the shelters and vehicles some 60 tons of rubble have been laid. The Squadron labourers who laid this could earn their keep as navvies on any site they could care to choose.

A few basic facts

For those with a penchant for statistics, the following might be of some interest: The petrol generators have so far consumed some 6,000 gallons of petrol; 29,000 miles have been driven on replenishment runs; 19,250 man hours have been worked at the site; 400 gallons of coffee, 460 eggs, 5,000 egg banjos and 2 tons 15 cwt. of meat have been 'scoffed,' together with 2,600 loaves of bread and two miles of sausages.

A permanent station is being constructed on that dread hill and we look forward to the time when we can withdraw with some honour and a great deal of relief from the site, leaving unmanned equipment and aerials to enjoy the devastating views from Slieve Gallion in the doubtful company of the sheep and wind.



PUTTING THEIR HEADS TOGETHER
Major M. F. H. Coleman and R.S.M. R. Meyer confer during a visit to Tac Headquarters

Tactical Headquarters—simple but efficient

However consuming in time and manpower the manning Slieve Gallion is not the main role of 'Alpha' Troop. Their bread and butter is earned whenever the Commander's Rover group or the Brigade Tactical Headquarters are deployed. The Rover group will normally be deployed once or twice a week, taking the Commander, **Brigadier J. A. C. Cowan, M.B.E.,** into the city or into the province to visit units on the ground. Whenever a major operation in the city or the province is in progress, Tactical Headquarters is set up in a school or R.U.C. station. The Headquarters is used to command such normal operations as sweeps and searches, and the major demonstrations and marches.

Tactical Headquarters remains extremely elementary, and boasts none of the frills and refinements of a B.A.O.R. H.Q. Its total compliment of vehicles is two Land Rovers with trailers, a four-ton G.S. vehicle and a couple of attendant minis for the staff. **Sergeant Alcock** looks after this 'lot' and deals with the vagaries of the staff with the patient air of a governess. He is quickly learning that miracles such as producing full meals at three o'clock in the morning are merely stock in trade.

There is the occasional slip-up

One incident, amusing only in retrospect, took place during a certain operation. The Commander left Tac H.Q. to pick up a helicopter on the outskirts of the town. The L.O. had it all arranged. The Commander's Rover drove west to the helicopter, his escort vehicle drove east. The aircraft was in fact to the north of the town but the L.O., in utter frustration, drove south to find it. The Commander's views on the situation were unprintable, and the L.O.'s utterly preposterous. On the Commander's return from his sortie, the helicopter landed inside the police compound to avoid any further confusion. However, when the Commander again tried to leave in the helicopter, it could not take off because the compound was too small. This could not be described as one of the Brigade's better days, but it can, of course, be put down to experience.

(Short unit notes on page 121).

The WIRE
Without it—
You're not With it!

Only a Squadron but they showed their mettle against major units in Division and Army Ski-ing Championships

7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron take their ski-ing seriously. Last season they demonstrated that with hard training and determination they could more than hold their own against major units three or four times their size. Once again they have shown the 'Goliaths' of the langlauf world just what a 'David' could do as the following account shows:



7th ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON SKI TEAM
Left to right: Signalmen Elliott, Madsen, Corporal Bassey, Second-Lieutenant Bevan, Signalman Houchen, Corporal Dillon-White

Once again we are able to report the end of a successful season for the Squadron ski team. As in previous years we have been able to compete with the major Langlauf ski-ing units in the Army on an equal basis.

Our team remained unchanged except for a new team captain, **Second-Lieutenant Martin Bevan,** who joined the Squadron in November and after a brief first visit of only 12 hours departed to join the remainder of the team in Norway (to learn to ski).

Training in Norway

As in previous years the Squadron recognised the need to send the team to Norway for its training. Although involving a lot of extra expense the results over the years have shown that Norway offers the best conditions for Langlauf training. Nordseter, near Lillehammer, provided excellent country over which to train and reliable snow conditions for the whole of our seven-week stay. Also in training at Nordseter were our two British Biathlon team members, **Corporal Sean Dillon-White** and **Signalman Doug Elliot,** who were able to provide the team with a great deal of professional advice and encouragement.

The 1 Division champions

After an enjoyable Christmas and New Year we left the delights of Norway feeling that the seven weeks' training had not been in vain. Following a brief stop at Soltau, during which **Second-Lieutenant Bevan** actually managed to clock up 24 consecutive hours in the Squadron, we assembled at Mittenwald along with 30 or so other unit teams.

Once again we were able to show the 'Goliaths' of the Langlauf world just what a 'David' could do. Our major success was in the 15km. race where the team came 2nd. Individual placings in a field of over 200 were **Signalman Elliot** 3rd, **Corporal Dillon-White** 6th, **Signalman Madsen** 17th and **Signalman Houchen** 23rd. In the 4 x 10km. relay we were placed 4th in a field of 30. Our British team members training made itself felt in the Biathlon event where 2nd place went to **Corporal Dillon-White** and 3rd place to **Signalman Elliot.** With 6th place out of 29 in the patrol race we finished the championships having come 4th overall in the Division.



FITNESS AND DETERMINATION
Signalman Berni Madsen came first in the biathlon individual 'A' event at the Army meeting held at Oberjoch

The Army Championships

Without respite we continued onto the Army Championships at Oberjoch. We showed our colours in the 4 x 10km. relay, greatly helped by **Signalman Elliot** ski-ing the second fastest time of the day. During our stay in Norway the whole team spent a great deal of time practising the ski-ing and shooting combination required for Biathlon. The practice was well rewarded for in the Biathlon 'A' individual event **Signalman Berni Madsen, Corporal Mal Bassey** and **Signalman Pete Houchen** took 1st, 2nd and 4th places respectively. **Signalman Madsen** went on to compete in the National Open Biathlon and came an extremely creditable 17th in a field of British National team and other international standard competitors.

Our major victory came in the Biathlon team relay events which once again was divided into an Open and an 'A' event. We entered two teams of three, our full strength. Our Open team, consisting of **Corporal Dillon-White, Signalman Elliot** and **Signalman Madsen** came 1st, beating 39 Msl. Regiment, R.A., by three minutes to win the Duke of Wellington's Regimental Trophy. It is of interest to note that this is the first time that this trophy has not been won by a Royal Artillery team. The 'A' race proved to be as exciting as the Open and **Second-Lieutenant Bevan, Corporal Bassey** and **Signalman Houchen** finished 2nd, ten minutes ahead of their nearest rival.

The finale of the championships came with a very hard patrol race in which we came 8th. In the military combination of events we came 7th overall. We were particularly pleased with our results as in the Army Championships we were the only Minor Unit competing out of 28 teams.

Ski-ing for the year is not quite over as **Corporal Dillon-White** and **Signalman Elliot** have returned to Norway for further training. We all hope that **Corporal Dillon-White** will get a place in the British National team to go to Finland for the World Championships in March, and we wish **Signalman Elliot** the best of luck as we hope he will be entered as a Junior individual in the World Championships.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

AIR FORCE SERVICE AUSTRALIAN STYLE

Learn a trade with the Royal Australian Air Force

This is a unique opportunity for you (if aged between 18 and 34 years) to settle in Australia, be well paid while learning a trade and become completely skilled in a job that appeals to you. Imagine 17 jobs of completely different character each offering the opportunity to acquire the training and experience necessary to fit you for lucrative appointments in civilian life if you should, at the end of the 6 year engagement, decide to leave the Royal Australian Air Force in Australia. Weekly rates of pay *during training* are £20·16 gross. All married Airmen receive an additional non taxable allowance of £6·05 per week.

	Weekly Gross Salary After Training	
Training Vacancies	**Single**	**Married**
Airfield Defence Guard	£20·68	£26·73
Air Defence Plotter	£24·73	£30·78
Airframe Fitter	£28·10	£34·15
Clerk	£23·07	£29·12
Clerk Administrative	£26·43	£32·48
Clerk Equipment Accounts	£28·95	£35·00
Clerk Supply	£26·43	£32·48
Dental Assistant	£24·73	£30·78
Electrical Fitter	£28·10	£34·15
Engine Fitter	£28·10	£34·15
Instrument Fitter	£29·80	£35·85
Radio Technician	£30·61	£36·66
Security Guard	£24·73	£30·78
Steward	£21·50	£27·55
Supplier	£24·73	£30·78
Surface Finisher	£25·58	£31·63
Telegraphist	£30·61	£36·66

Many SKILLED AND NON-SKILLED vacancies also exist for suitable men aged between 18 and 42 years—ENQUIRE NOW!

FREE PASSAGE TO AUSTRALIA IS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON ENLISTMENT.

If you are within 6 months of terminating your present employment, post this coupon to:—
RAAF Careers Officer, Australia House, Strand, London, WC2B 4LA or Telephone 01-836 2435 ext. 433, 419 or 491.

Name .....
Address .....
I would like training as .....

REMEMBER—THE RAAF SETS THE PACE IN WORTHWHILE CAREERS

The Prime Minister visits 259 Squadron, Cyprus



1. He met Captain Barber and smiled . . .



2. He met Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Sant, and smiled . . .



3. But W.O.I (F. of S.) Kenyon baffled him!

On his way to Singapore for the Commonwealth Conference, the Prime Minister stopped off in Cyprus for a short time. While there he visited 259 Squadron as the photographs show.

259 Squadron have had such an influx of distinguished visitors recently that they are constrained to write as follows:

Are you a VIP? . . . Like a few days in the sun? . . . Taking up or relinquishing an important appointment? . . . Join the 259 Visitors' Club!

* * *

Our visitors' book at present reads like a page out of Who's-Who, and is thicker than the Squadron nominal roll.

During this season we have already entertained the **Rt. Hon. Edward Heath, M.P.**; the C.G.S., **General Sir Geoffrey Baker, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.**; the Adjutant-General, **General Sir John Mogg, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.**; **Air Marshal Sir Derrick W. Hodgkinson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.,** A.O.C.-in-C., Commander, B.F.N.E., Administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas, **Major-General M. Holme,** G.O.C. NEARELF, **Brigadier Windsor-Clive,** Comd. Dhekelia Area, **Colonel MacLellen,** Col. G.S., **Colonel Harris,** Head of Secretariat, **Colonel Sylvester-Bradley,** Comd. 3 Signal Group, **Group Captain Farquharson, D.F.C.,** Station Comd., R.A.F. Episkopi. All of whom were treated to a conducted tour of our small unit. So book early for your own visit, as our programme for 1971 is already filling up.

Promotions

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt.				
Harding,	T. T. F.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 70	15 Feb. 57
Wright,	G. A.	Cpl.	5 Nov. 70	31 May 67

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Lord,	P.	A/Sgt.	20 Oct. 70	31 Mar. 69
Keenan,	A. E.	Cpl.	5 Nov. 70	18 Jun. 64

LINEMAN ROLL

To Sgt.				
Marshall,	R. C.	Cpl.	13 Oct. 70	30 Sep. 65
Jobes,	K.	Cpl.	1 Nov. 70	31 Oct. 64

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Large,	T.	A/Sgt.	28 Sep. 70	21 Oct. 66
Urry,	P. R.	A/Sgt.	15 Oct. 70	1 Jan. 69
Shuttleworth	V.	Cpl.	11 Nov. 70	3 Feb. 67

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

		Sen. date
W.O.I		
Pearce,	T. A.	6 Oct. 66
W.O.II		
Brooks,	R. E.	31 Dec. 63
Pedder,	J. C.	6 Feb. 64
Turner,	A. B.	28 Jan. 69
Nock,	C.	30 Jul. 69

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I		
Coxon,	J. A.	23 Jan. 70

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS

S. Sgt.		
Chick,	R.	13 Dec. 67

(*Continued on page* 101)

(*Continued from page* 100)

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.			
Gilbert,	F.		8 Feb. 62
Rex,	D. E.		6 Jun. 66
Osborne,	D. M.		12 Apr. 67
Vallance,	A. D.		31 Oct. 67
Egan,	K. D.		30 Nov. 67
Lafferty,	A. P.		1 Aug. 68
Brown,	T. J.		1 Apr. 69

SPECIAL OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.			
Hollowell,	A. A. J.		1 Jan. 70

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.			
Harbord,	B. V.		21 Jan. 65

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.			
Cousins,	R. E. C.		10 Jan. 69

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS
RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.				
Bryam,	E.		31 Feb. 62	Please amend name to read "BRYAR"

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
To W.O.II				
Holmonroyd,	F. G.	S Sgt.	7 Nov. 70	2 Oct. 65
Loveday,	F. J.	A/W.O.II	14 Nov. 70	17 Feb. 68
Holdsworth,	H.	A/W.O.II	17 Nov. 70	31 Mar. 66
Harding,	C. G.	S Sgt.	2 Dec. 70	23 Jun. 68
Duffy,	O.	S Sgt.	14 Dec. 70	19 Jul. 58
To S. Sgt.				
Green,	A. T.	Sgt.	26 Jun. 70	1 Sep. 59 (R. Op.)
Ridley,	C. A. J.	Sgt.	4 Nov. 70	20 May 64 (Tg. Op.)
Richardson,	K.	Sgt.	7 Nov. 70	20 Apr. 65 (C. Op.)
Guest,	T.	A/S Sgt.	10 Nov. 70	16 Jan. 67 (R. Op.)
Robinson,	T. H.	Sgt.	14 Nov. 70	1 May 54 (Comcen Op.)
Irvine,	D. M.	A/S Sgt.	22 Nov. 70	2 Mar. 61 (Lmn.)
Goss,	W. T.	A/S Sgt.	17 Dec. 70	24 Apr. 66 (Lmn.)
Pope,	F. C.	A/S Sgt.	17 Dec. 70	30 Jun. 66 (Ed.)

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

To W.O.I				
Berriman,	M. J. S.	A/W.O.I	28 Sep. 70	23 Oct. 67
Paterson,	D. C.	A/W.O.I	1 Oct. 70	3 Jul. 64

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.				
Ryan,	J. T.	Cpl.	18 Jun. 70	3 May 67
Illingworth,	J. R.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 70	3 Jul. 68
Turner,	I. E.	Cpl.	17 Sep. 70	17 Sep. 66
Roberts,	G. J.	Cpl.	15 Oct. 70	28 Oct. 67
Selby,	P. I.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	16 Dec. 66
Taylor,	H. G.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	16 Dec. 66
Clark,	R. M.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	16 Dec. 66
Jennings,	J.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	26 Jan. 67
Davis,	M.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	16 Mar. 67
McDonald,	A.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	16 Mar. 67
Holland,	A. P.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	24 May 67
Johnstone,	D.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	5 Jun. 67
Lee,	A. R.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	15 Oct. 66

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt.				
Haston,	A. M.	A/Sgt.	22 Nov. 70	4 Mar. 59

DRIVER ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

To Sgt.				
Wilson,	M. W.	Cpl.	1 Dec. 70	28 Feb. 62

LINEMAN ROLL

To Sgt.				
Stokes,	R. J. C.	Cpl.	17 Nov. 70	1 Mar. 60
Souley,	J. G.	Cpl.	22 Nov. 70	12 Sep. 61
Holmes,	T.	A/Sgt.	25 Nov. 70	29 Feb. 64

RADIO RELAYMAN ROLL

To Sgt.				
Rigby,	D. C.	Cpl.	2 Oct. 70	2 Aug. 67

DELETIONS
REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.I		
Turner,	J. G.	1 Jan. 68
Cowe,	A. J.	17 Jan. 68
Ient,	J. E.	18 Feb. 68
Alfred,	A. S. R.	2 Mar. 68
MacDonald,	G. S.	4 Mar. 68
Thom.	V. F. M.	2 Sep. 68
Mears,	A. D.	7 Jan. 69
Orr,	F. M.	23 Jun. 69
Robinson,	E.	1 July 69
W.O.II		
Green,	J.	19 Feb. 65
Curtis,	D. N.	26 Aug. 69
S/Sgt.		
Atkins,	T. H.	18 Aug. 66
Kirk,	W. J.	1 Oct. 68
Canale,	T. E.	19 Jun. 69

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROLL

W.O.II		
Rowbotton,	N.	23 Aug. 62
Hawkins,	P. D.	1 Jan. 63
Hunt,	A. J.	22 Feb. 64

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I		
Kent,	P. B. R.	21 Jun. 67
S/Sgt.		
Campbell,	C.	21 Jul. 66
McDermid,	S. C.	4 May 67

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.		
Mullett,	R. A. F.	18 Mar. 66
Thorpe,	G.	12 July 67
Coldwell,	A. W. T.	14 Dec. 67
Dodd,	A.	28 Jun. 68
Clarke,	S. A.	9 Sep. 68
Hawley,	D. J.	1 Apr. 69

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

Sgt.		
Hammill,	T. A.	25 Mar. 60
Barnes,	B. R.	12 Nov. 64

DRIVERS ROYAL SIGNALS

Sgt.		
Tambling,	P. J.	1 Jul. 59
Potter,	T. W.	12 Nov. 60
Walker,	R.	30 Sep. 61
Hutton,	G. F.	19 Dec. 63
Gibney,	R.	19 Aug. 65

LINEMAN ROLL

Sgt.		
Jones,	E. E.	1 Dec. 55
King,	M.	1 Aug. 59
Cush,	A.	1 Jun. 59
Kybert,	L. C.	28 Feb. 62
Freeman,	R.	2 Aug. 66

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT
REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.II			
†Millington,	A. B.	30 Dec. 66	Please delete,†

WEDDING

Lance-Corporal A. C. Jeanette of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, Arnheim Barracks, Aldershot, to **Miss Barbara Hornby,** of Eskdale Drive, Dalton-in-Furness, Lancs. (ex-W.R.A.C., 1 Training Company, P.L.S., W.R.A.C. Centre, Guildford). At St. Mary's Parish Church, Dalton-in-Furness, Lancs., on Saturday, 27th March, at 1.30 p.m.

BAOR.....?

—If you are arriving soon, or are here already, and interested in a new:—

TRIUMPH UP TO 15% OFF! '71 FAMILY MODELS Toledo £584 1500 £732 2000 £986!

OR LIST PRICES SLASHED!

PEUGEOT ALL '71 MODELS DISCOUNT PRICES FROM ONLY £646!

Then for details of U.K./Germany Delivery, Specifications, Nato Prices, H.P., 'Partex, Call, 'Phone or Write to:

Mr. P. BRENNAN DUPLEIX
of **WALTER HAGEN & CO., GmbH**
415 KREFELD
Pestalozzistr.—WEST GERMANY
or **TELEPHONE KREFELD 28311** (10.30-12.00 hrs. preferably)

IMPORTER — SOLE DISTRIBUTOR
(We have Agents in the U.K. too)



WARRANT OFFICERS, N.C.O.'s– bring your skills and rank to Australia

Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army–or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank and acquired specialist skills. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain–and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain you receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity.

Don't leave it any longer!
Your trade may be included in those available and this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London–or post the coupon for all the facts.

Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name_____

Address_____

_____

_____

Age_____ Married/Single_____

Rank_____ Corps_____

Trade_____

Anticipated Discharge Date_____

**To: Captain J. R. Godwin,
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356**



Climbing Europe's Highest Mountain

N.A.T.O. Army assault of Mont Blanc

By Lieutenant
M. W. H. Roberts,
Royal Signals

EVERY year, the British Army sends an expedition to Italy to climb in the Mont Blanc region of the Alps, as guests of the Alpini, the Italian Army's Mountain Corps. I was fortunate enough this year to be a member of this expedition of 60 soldiers, although my little previous experience of rock, snow and ice climbing had been limited to Scottish mountains. During the four weeks in Northern Italy, one week was spent ski-ing and the remainder climbing. This is an account of our ascent of Mont Blanc (4,807m.), the highest mountain in Europe and nearly four times higher than anything we have in Britain.

Some time previous to our arrival in Italy, in early July, someone had the idea that it would be a 'touching' gesture if representatives of all the mountain troops in NATO were to climb Mont Blanc from different routes and meet on the top, to the whirring of TV cameras, speeches, and back-slapping. Not being aware of this, **Major Jon Fleming** (The Parachute Regiment), our expedition leader, accepted the invitation of **General Gallarotti**, who, in a magnanimous gesture, had invited us to send a party of four to carry out this historic climb, as part, and as guests of the Alpini, who were representing the Italian Army. By some quirk of fate, I was selected as part of the team along with **Sergeant Jim Martens** (Canadian Forces), a climbing instructor in the outback of Canada; **Sergeant 'Taff' Jones** (L.I.) (from the Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Folkestone), and, of course, **Jon Fleming**, who was just back from the Himalayas.

Putting on a brave show and joining in the singing

At midday, Saturday, 17th July, we met up with the Alpini party in our camp at Plan Veni and boarded their trucks for the crawl up the valley to Lake Como. The day was beautifully warm, and all the Italian tourists waved as the Alpini roared their hearts out singing their melodic mountain songs. I felt a little uneasy, as I had never climbed anything as high, or even half as high before, and had no idea what was in store. I knew that as the climbs were so long, it would take two days, and we would spend the first day at a hut called the Gonella Refuge. So, accordingly, I was well laden with three days' food, and the usual climbing list—ice axe, crampons, rope, etc. Everyone else looked remarkably confident, so I put on a brave face and tried to join in the singing.

Avalanches poured off the glacier

Too soon the two trucks stopped and we were on our way in single file, with the British and Italians moving together. However, contrary to the Alpini, in their mountain uniform, we were very conspicuous in our gaily-coloured clothing—the only uniform we carried were our berets (including my Royal Signals 'Jimmy') which were to make a brief appearance on the summit—we hoped!

Our route lay over the bottom of the Miage Glacier, then a three-mile trudge along the glacier before climbing to the Gonella hut, where we were to sleep . . . or so I thought. By this stage, the glacier walk, the sun was very hot, and I watched in amazement as avalanche after avalanche poured off the higher peaks. This is quite normal and why we walked up the middle of the glacier! Soon we came to some deep crevasses and so we roped up together in groups of four. This was followed by a climb over rock and snow to the red and yellow-painted hut, and we reached it just as the sun was going down. Being at 3,012m., we were above the freezing level, and so all our water required melting buckets of snow. The hut, perched on the edge of a ridge, had not been occupied since the previous year, so we started on a virgin page of the visitors' book. Somebody mentioned a midnight reveille, but I thought they were joking, but I was wrong, we were leaving the hut at 00.30 in order to climb on hard snow and avoid the heat of the day and the consequent avalanches. The Alpini were preparing their kit, including a very interesting mixture of coffee and red wine in leather, Spanish-style, squeeze bottles. They saw our curious eyes and gave us some of their new army equipment—sachets of cognac. Before going to bed, at 8 p.m., an Alpini showed us a pice of metal purporting to come from a crashed aircraft, and he pointed in the direction of Mont Blanc.

The 'White Lady' glistening under a full moon

True to my thoughts, the noisy shouts of excited Italians woke us at midnight and we blundered our way to the kitchen to discover someone had 'had' our coffee water. So we made do with a bottle of vino and oatmeal biscuits. By now, the stamp of cramponed feet had ceased as everyone was roping up on the ledge outside the hut. This was one of the deepest impressions left with me from Italy. Here we were, perched on this mountainside, getting up at a time most people were contemplating bed, and looking up towards Mont Blanc, the the 'White Lady,' glistening under a full moon and a cloudless sky shimmering with a million golden stars. We could see our target, and she looked magnificent.

So we started on the climb, barely needing the head-torches strapped to our helmets, so clear was the night and so perfect were the snow conditions. The two most experienced Alpini led the way, marking crevasses with flags and cutting ice steps when necessary. The night was warm, and soon we were shedding our orange anoraks, which were later to cause much attention. Up and up we climbed, with Jon leading our rope, making belays when necessary, but the climbing was not technically hard, only physically exhausting, especially as we moved towards 15,000ft. and began to feel the effect of altitude and lack of oxygen. Slowly, but steadily, we climbed on to the Col des Alg Grises, then along a snow crest to reach the shoulder on the Bionnassay Ridge. The next traverse was a very narrow ridge about half a metre wide, but being dark, I did not see the 1,000 metre drop on either side until the descent. This ridge was corniced, meaning it had a lip of snow (very dangerous to walk on—so they say!) and then via the Dome Du Gouter to the Col Du Dome. We

(*Continued on page* 104)

CYPHER VACANCIES

Government Communications Headquarters

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,253.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Applications with full details of qualifications to:

**Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone : Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270**

(*Continued from page* 103)

were now nearing the Vallot Refuge at 4,362m., where we were to meet the other parties, and then at 06.00, the sun rose quickly on a magnificent scene. There was the Vallot hut, and to the N.E., in the Chamonix direction, we could see several groups of soldiers silhouetted on the pink snow by the rising sun. Mont Blanc was being kind to us (this was the second fine day and was to be the last for another week). Behind the hut, we saw the final slopes rising majestically to the summit, 500 metres above. The Vallot hut was like Piccadilly Circus as we gathered there; there were Italians, Germans, French, Argentinian, Canadian, English, Welsh, Scots—everyone but the latter group being dressed in best 'bib and tucker,' whilst we donned our orange anoraks and berets.

Overwhelmed by the view

Time was getting on, and so the ascent continued together. To our horror, as we climbed up the narrow ridge for an hour-and-a-half climb, the German TV Association mounted in an Allouette helicopter, decided that orange was a little more colourful than khaki, and so we became victims of a definite attempt to blow us off the ridge. On the summit were more cameramen, landed by helicopter, so whilst the leaders celebrated by having their 'photos' taken, we, the 'Plebs,' presented plaques, etc., and then let ourselves go on a bottle of whisky and some wine which miraculously appeared. Speeches and celebrations were short, as it was 08.30 by the time we reached the summit, and we had to think about the descent and avalanches. Tired as I was, I was overwelmed by the view—so perfect was the morning that we could see France, Italy and Switzerland as if they were at our feet. However, down we descended, collecting three Alpini from the Vallot Hut, who had been suffering from altitude sickness, and after a very fast descent, were back at the Gonella Hut, where we had spent the previous night. Looking back at Mont Blanc, we saw the weather breaking and decided to carry on down to the base camp. At 18.00 we were back, having had hardly any rest all day and quite badly sunburnt, despite using layers of glacier cream.

By now the weather had broken and the cloud was closing in. Alas, in the storms that followed, eight climbers died, including two who were on the summit six hours after we left. We were lucky, the 'White Lady' was kind to us.

Postscript

During the exercise, in order to keep in touch with the Wimbledon results, **Lance-Corporal D. Smith** and **Signalman D. Middlecoats** provided us with a very reliable and efficient rear link back to the U.K., which was much appreciated by all. The remainder of the exercise went very well, with another 12 climbers of our party reaching the summit of Mont Blanc a week later, whilst the remainder either went ski-ing at 10,000 feet or did some rock-climbing or, and this was more the case, went sunbathing at the swimming pool in Aosto!

Here's an interesting and unusual job

'Inspector' of Signals

Contributed by Command Public Relations Officer, Singapore

'INSPECTOR' **Charles Bumphrey,** of the Royal Corps of Signals, checks over a small generator for use by Iban tribesmen in longhouses deep in the jungle of North Borneo.

Wait a minute . . . 'Inspector' in the Royal Signals?

The explanation is very simple, **Charles Bumphrey** is serving on secondment to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, the defence force of the oil-rich sultanate State of Brunei in north-west Borneo. He is a Warrant Officer Class One, Foreman of Signals, whose technical training makes him the key man in the State-wide system of police communications.

Spending a lot of time with jungle tribes

"When I arrived I found that I was to operate with the police force, helping them keep their radio network in working order," said **Mr. Bumphrey.** "I operate from their headquarters



'INSPECTOR' OF SIGNALS
W.O.I Foreman of Signals, Charles Bumphrey

near to the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, and spend a lot of time up-country with the jungle tribes.

"As I have always to work with the police, I was given a police uniform and the rank of 'Inspector' because the police force has no equivalent rank to that of Warrant Officer."

Mr. Bumphrey, accompanied by three policemen, travels by boat and dug-out canoe to reach the Iban longhouses, where a solitary constable keeps radio watch to report any breaches of the peace, and the movements of tribes and would-be insurgents across the ill-defined jungle border with East Malaysian state of Sarawak. Counter-insurgency is still a problem in Sarawak and the Sultan's forces keep a close watch on developments near their borders.

"I spend about three days up-country carrying out maintenance on the Pye Single Side Band 125 T High Frequency equipment, checking over their generators and carrying out routine tests," said **Mr. Bumphrey.**

'Inspector' Bumphrey has been in the Royal Signals since he joined up as a Boy soldier in 1948.

"Just call me 'Mister'"

Now aged 38, he is married and is accompanied in Brunei by his wife **Luzia.** Their 16-year-old daughter **Karola** is at school in Singapore.

"We have 18 months to go to complete our two-and-a-half year tour," said **Mr. Bumphrey.** "We both very much like our life here and my work is both unusual and interesting."

He smiles when his British colleagues in the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment look at his shoulder boards with the two gleaming stars of his Inspector's rank.

"Just call me 'Mister,'" he says.

British Soldiers at work on Mosel grape harvest

Report by P.R., H.Q., B.A.O.R.

IT is during November every year that the vintners of Germany's Mosel Valley tackle the hardest part of the very arduous business of producing wine. With sometimes his entire family in tow, plus any extra help he can find, the vintner bends his back to the Mosel's steep, one thousand-foot riverside vineyards and harvests his valuable crop—acres upon acres shrouded under the valley's famous Riesling grapes.

They are picked by hand—a job as backbreaking in nineteen-seventy as it was when the Romans first planted their own hardy vines in the Mosel's grey slate soil two thousand years ago. The Roman garrisons and forts which were the birth-



TOUGH BUT ENJOYABLE WORK
Signalman Richard Henderson of I Artillery Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron busy picking grapes on the Mosel. After shift work in the Commcen he found grape harvesting a welcome change albeit the hours were long and the work tough

places of most of the Mosel's riverside towns of today produced their own wine from these hills. They were an army of occupation, yet they introduced to the region an industry which today is thriving on a world market that every year consumes well over a quarter of a million gallons of the renowned white wines.

It is a healthy industry, but its books are balanced by the sweat of the vintners upon whose back it rests. A middle-sized wine producer in the Mosel Valley will produce from an average crop about 8,000 bottles. They say, as a rough guide, that one bottle equals the produce of one vine. So he will own something like 8,000 vines, and his harvest is a culmination of twelve months spent nursing each and every 'stock' that grows from slopes often so steep they are uncomfortably close to the vertical.

His harvest is crucial. If he picks too early, he may miss a surprise period of sun that could work wonders for grapes whose juice is destined for a market that will buy only the best. If he waits just a little too late, his precious vines could be lashed by the sudden rains of a bad autumn, or crimped overnight to a reduction in value by a frost that no one forecast.

It is a job that requires patience, stout boots, hands unfeeling to numerous cuts from careless clippers, and, above all, stamina.

In the Bernkastel and Trittenheim areas of the Mosel at present are a large number of young Britons who, by now, know well just what is required of a vintner. Men of the British Army of the Rhine, they number around 300, and they are continuing a tradition whereby British soldiers serving in West Germany annually volunteer to spend some of their leave from the Army to assist the Germans with their harvest.

As an exercise in Anglo-German relations, it cannot be bettered—a harassed, overworked vintner can use all the extra muscle he can find, he is very grateful to get it. And as a change for Infantrymen, Gunners, Cooks or Signallers, straight from a series of spartan NATO exercises, back and forth across the flat lands of Northern Germany, it pays dividends. So everybody is happy with the plan, which was started by the British Army of the Rhine some ten years ago.

For these men, the work is a dramatic change from soldiering. But do not try to tell them that a change is as good as a rest. After working fifteen hours a day for a fortnight, they might not believe you. True, the vintners show their appreciation in a realistic way, but in an ancient industry where mechanisation or automation is still at a minimum, these soldiers take a little time to get used to carrying 100lb. hods of grapes on their backs. And they are working on slopes steep enough almost to guarantee a broken bone, should they slip on the soil whose rough slate gives the Mosel wine its characteristic metallic bouquet.

Living with the vintners in their own houses, the young soldiers are treated as one of the family by people whose friendliness and hospitality is a legend of Germany. Some lasting friendships result, and it is not unusual to find the same soldiers as guests in the same houses at Christmas time.

Working harder, as they cheerfully admit themselves, than they have ever worked before, these young British soldiers have received an insight into the wine business that is unique to outsiders. They have picked and carried and pressed, and they have seen vast mounds of grapes crushed of their juices that in a year or two will look very different and probably be expensive. Whether or not they will still prefer their beer is a debatable point, but they will surely know a bottle of 1970 Mosel when they see it.

News from Regiments

It's a sporting life at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

GAMES and out-door exercise are an important feature at Harrogate as the following notes indicate:

College rugby tour of B.A.O.R.

The party met on Harrogate Station at 11.30 hours on Tuesday, 15th December, 1970. All travelled to Portsmouth where overnight accommodation had been arranged.

Early on Wednesday morning we reported to RAF Thorney Island flight control and soon we were aboard an Andover aircraft in-bound to Wildenrath. There we were met by **Major John Cox,** ex-Officer i/c Technical Wing of the College. Transport was provided by his unit to Moenchen-Gladbach station, whence we travelled by train to our destination, Herford.

07.30 hours, Thursday, found us travelling again—this time to play 4th Royal Tanks at Hohne. We arrived at 11.00 hours, and then followed a conducted tour of the unit. We were all tremendously impressed with the Chieftain tank and other vehicles put on display for our benefit.

The game started at 14.30 hours and within a minute we were leading 3-0, through a try scored by **A/T. Roberts.** Unfortunately our play fell away badly, and at half-time we were losing 13-3. The forwards had played superbly and the three-quarters had missed at least four tries through poor finishing. In the second half we fought back to 13-11 through a try by **Corporal Ba'ding,** converted by **A/T. Abbott,** and a penalty by **Abbott.** Again the pack played superbly and the three-quarters poorly. For the last quarter of the game, we were encamped on the opposition's line, but just could not score.

After the game we were shown tremendous hospitality by 4 RTR and, travelling back to Hohne Station to catch our train, we really felt that Christmas had arrived as the snow began to fall.

On Friday, we had a free day and 4th Division Signal Regiment, our hosts, laid on transport to Bielefeld where we were able to do our Christmas shopping. That evening we spent

a quiet couple of hours in a typical German hostelry, entertaining the locals with songs.

On Saturday, we travelled to Sennelager for our match against 39 Missile Regiment. We were a bit apprehensive as they had just lost to the Welsh Guards in the B.A.O.R. semi-final. Fortunately, we had got the 'travelling-tiredness' out of our systems and the whole team combined well to bring off a comfortable victory by 26 points to 5. Tries were scored by **Captain Thomas, A/T.s Abbott, Kite, Sandford** and **Roberts,** with **Abbott** converting four and also kicking a penalty.

In the evening we entertained **Captain Bill Bowen,** Royal Signals, who had been the officer detailed to look after us. He had done a splendid job and all arrangements—travelling, accommodation—went very smoothly. We presented him with a plaque to commemorate an extremely enjoyable tour.

Playing or accompanying the team were: **Sergeant Harris, A/T. Hagen, Captain Thomas, A/T. Corporal Thompson, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Price, A/T. Sergeant Stockdale, Corporal Balding, A/T. Gilder, A/T. Sergeant Crockart, A/T. Abbott, Lieutenant Parker, A/T. Sergeant Kite, A/T. Roberts, Sergeant Thomas, A/T. Lance-Corporal Sandford, A/T. Lance-Corporal Graham, W.O.I Griffiths, A/T. Vincent, Captain Bowen** and **Sergeant Wringe.**

Hockey

For the first time in history the College has survived the first round of the Army Junior Hockey Cup when, on Saturday, 30th January, at Harrogate, they beat the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl, by 3 goals to nil—and had four disallowed!

The game was played in dreadful conditions—bitterly cold, a near gale and driving sleet on a waterlogged pitch—which the boys did extremely well to master. They would be the first to admit their debt to the skilful coaching and encouragement of **Major Bob Edwards,** who took over as chief coach only last term.

The team consisted of **Apprentice Tradesmen Flintham, Corporal Worth, Corporal Cross** (captain), **Hammett, Birrell, Jarvis, Best, Ardern, Wright, Tillman** and **Groom.**

It is unfortunate that the captain of College hockey, **A/T. Lance-Corporal Kenneth McKinney,** is just three weeks too old to be eligible for the Army Junior Hockey Cup.

In the second round we are due to play J.T.R., Troon, at Harrogate, on Saturday, 20th February.

Association Football

For the first time the Permanent Staff XI have entered this year the Army Minor Units Association Football Cup. They have done well in the 'preliminaries' so far, beating 7th Field Squadron, R.E., and 11th Signal Regiment in the first and second rounds. In the Command semi-final they beat 17 Squadron, R.C.T., last year's winners of the Command Cup. In the Command final at Imphal Barracks, York, on Wednesday, 10th February, we play 224 Signal Squadron. Team from: **Sergeant Bob Ardern, Sergeant Tom Steele, S.I. Jim Morris** (captain), **S.S.M. Bill Grierson, Corporal Alan Barker, Corporal Bill Fuller, Corporal Brian Kenyon, Sergeant Ted Appleby, Sergeant Dave McGurk, Staff Sergeant Jimmy Akehurst, Corporal Ron Knight, Sergeant John Groves.** Trainer/manager is **Sergeant Ken Sixsmith,** the Provost Sergeant, and Officer i/c College soccer is **Captain Ian Reading,** Royal Signals.

(**Stop Press:** The Permanent Staff XI won 5-1).

Badminton

The Northern Command stage of the Army Junior Badminton Championships this year proved to be an all-Harrogate affair. In the final rounds, held at Imphal Barracks, York, on Friday, 29th January, results were:

Singles: A/T. Sergeant Roy Sinclair beat **A/T. Lance-Corporal Charles Wilson.**

Doubles: A/T. Sergeant Roy Sinclair and **A/T. Lance-Corporal Charles Wilson** beat **A/T. Simon Greatrex** and **A/T. Philip Neale.**

Basketball

College teams this year have repeated their successes of last. In the Zone Final of the Army Junior Basketball Major Units Championship, held at Harrogate on 30th January, the College team beat J.T.R., Troon, 102-28. In the Minor Units Zone Final, Penney Squadron beat Junior Soldiers' Wing, Scottish Infantry Depot, 48-21.

Both teams now go forward to the Army Junior Basketball Championships, to be held at Aldershot at the end of February.

Sub Aqua Club

On 17th January the College Sub Aqua Club were hosts for the first meeting of the Northern Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs (NORFED) 'Octopush' competition which was held in the College pool. Seven clubs from all over the North took part in the competition, which lasted all day. The final was won by Southport in a play-off versus the Pennine Club. The College team was unplaced. The event was organised by **Mr. Derek Shearsmith,** Diving Officer of NORFED, ably assisted by **Sergeant S. E. Graham,** who is the College Diving Officer.

On 31st January, we had our first outdoor dive of the season in the local gravel pit. It was not quite necessary to break the ice, but an exhibition of attempting to walk on the water was given.

7th February brought a day's diving at Lake Windermere for a party comprising **Sergeant Graham, Sergeant Hanrahan, Sergeant Greaves, A/T. Hagan** and **A/T. Corporal Travers.** The water was clear and the bottom is of silt, which makes for excellent training dives, and so, despite a water temperature of 38° and a surprising lack of life in the lake, all enjoyed another pleasant day.

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

What happened in January?

After six weeks' hard training in Austria, our Regimental team did well to come seventh overall out of the 28 entered. In the biathlon event (a tough flog across country, followed by a shoot), they came fourth out of the same 28.

The team comprised: **Second-Lieutenant Emslie, Corporals Henry Hunt** and **John Steer, Lance-Corporal Johnny Goodfellow** and **Signalman Bernie Benford.**

Back in Herford, it's been all go of a different kind—inspections. We have news for those of our readers who believe all that stuff that MOD (Army) pushed out a few years ago about the new-style annual inspections being relaxed cheery affairs, all over in a day or two. Don't believe a word of it! In the last couple of months we've had a tels inspection (BRUIN), a tels inspection (non-BRUIN), a vehicle inspection, an arms inspection, instruments inspection, catering inspection, Command Secretary's inspection, CRAOC's inspection and security inspection. They all said we were doing fine, especially the vehicle and tels inspectors, who were particularly flattering.

All we have to deal with now are CREME's inspection, the pay inspection, the medical, education and G Staff inspections —and (nearly forgot) the actual FFR inspection, by the CRA.

To say that this keeps us busy is the understatement of the year. Of course, we haven't forgotten our communications. Immediately after the vehicle and tels (non-BRUIN) inspections, we loaded for Exercise 'Radiant Glow,' and your correspondent is now writing this in the sig ops vehicle at half-past midnight (ZULU), in between answering two BRUIN telephones and a remote handset on the Divisional guard net.

We've managed to keep our end up in the sporting field, though it hasn't been easy. The cross-country team got an honourable position half way down the list in the Divisional meeting. The hockey team got to the Divisional semi-final before losing narrowly (2—1) to our neighbours, the 3rd Carabiniers. The squash team are playing the same neighbours in the Divisional final in three days' time.

We have bade a reluctant farewell to **Major Erroll Hunt,** who was with us a full two years as O.C. 2 Squadron—almost a record for these days. He has gone to 1st Division as S.O.2 (Signals)—lucky them.

Welcome to **Major Terry Eamey,** who came from H.Q., B.A.O.R. (or was it NORTHAG?) in his place. Having quickly mastered the essential difference between a FFR vehicle and FFR inspection, he should have no further difficulty in leading 2 Squadron to fresh triumphs.

Finally, we must admit that January has brought its little quota of misunderstandings. The Adjutant's proposal, made in his usual ringing tones, that the ladies of the typing pool should "provide some crumpet in the afternoons," produced a sensation, even in our unshakable orderly room; and the following excerpt from H.Q. Squadron orders made us fear that the last C.O.'s inspection might have proved too much for the gallant Major in the Royal Tank Regiment:

> ***WARNING ORDER***
>
> "H.Q. Squadron has been allocated the gas chamber on Wednesday, 17th February, 1971 . . ."

Talking of H.Q. Squadron reminds me that a team of our splendid cooks (**Sergeant Brian Anderton, Lance-Corporal John Fleming** and **Private Dave Kennedy**), who gained fourth place in the Divisional cookery team competition. **Sergeant Anderton** says fourth is not much good (out of over 20 entries); but as we haven't entered at all in previous years, we reckon he's much too modest.

7th Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

THE last few weeks have seen the Regiment in and out of Barracks on various exercises big and small, and it is amazing how many 'cobwebs' have to be blown away after the break from exercise routine during the Christmas and New Year periods. The Commanding Officer is ensuring that we quickly revert to a professional approach by unexpectedly popping up in odd places. Why is it that he always sees the flat tyre or dirty windscreen before we do?

Hockey success

Despite exercises, we still continue to take sport in our stride, and the hockey team are well to the fore. We thought we were through to the semi-final in the Divisional stage of the Army Cup, but were then informed that we must play an additional round against the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. The match was played on 27th January and we emerged winners by 3 goals to 1. The semi-final was played on Saturday, 6th February, against 1 Royal Horse Artillery and was a hard-fought, exciting game, resulting in a goalless draw after extra time. We are hoping to be successful in the replay on our own ground later this week.

Sub-Aqua Club—are they mad?

The Sub-Aqua Club continues to flourish and training of new members is continuing with the incentive of a two-week expedition to the Mediterranean island of Elba in July.

The club's most recent dive took place in the Blauersee just south of Hannover one chilly Saturday afternoon. The Blauersee is only 30 feet deep at its deepest point and quite safe for training dives. This particular dive, however, was undertaken by experienced divers only, as there happened to be ten inches of ice on the surface. **Staff Sergeant Mick Lowe** managed to smash a hole with a sledge hammer and **Staff Sergeant Pete Clifton, Corporals Tom Wilson and Matt Mathews** slid under the surface at the end of a safety line.

The proceedings had by this time attracted a large crowd of the local populace who speculated that the divers must be looking for a body, and the expressions on their faces had to be seen to be believed when they were informed that the mad Englishmen were diving for fun. The divers surfaced after 17 minutes below the ice and after a quick rub-down and a nip of 'schnapps' were as good as new and enthusing over the remarkably good visibility in the water under the ice.

Cross-country runners qualify for B.A.O.R. Championships

We have managed to achieve third place in the Westphalia League—albeit only one point ahead of the fourth team, but with only one more race to complete the table, we are hoping to hold our position.

Whilst the hockey team was giving battle at Detmold on 6th February, the cross-country team, captained by **Sergeant Geoff Chaloner,** journeyed to Hamelin for the Divisional Championships. The members of the team excelled themselves and were runners-up to our league rivals the Royal Irish Rangers, and qualify to go forward with them to the B.A.O.R. Championships on 16th February. The host unit for this race is 21st Signal Regiment, and with two Signal Regiments in the last eight in B.A.O.R. we hope that at least one of us qualifies to compete in the Army Final. Good luck 21st, we will be close on your heels!

By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen
Hatters



FOR INSPECTION

You are probably now wearing an H. J. Service cap, the *best quality* cap made today—but how are you 'hatted' off-parade? Our new fully illustrated brochure for ordering by post shows our comprehensive range of hats and caps to suit *every* occasion. Send for your free copy by filling in the coupon below.



REGIMENTAL CAPMAKERS TO YOUR CORPS

THE 'BURGHLEY'
One of our dual purpose felt hats. In rough finish Brown or Green. Price 104s. + 7s. p.p. £5·20 + 35p p.p.

Herbert Johnson (BOND STREET) LTD.

38 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1
Tel: 01-629 7177.
Civil and Military Hatters.
40a London Road, Camberley. (Wednesday, afternoons only).

Please send me 'The Complete Guide to Headwear'

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____



VICTORY SMILES

8th Regiment badminton enthusiasts dominated the Northern Command Championships winning the men's team event, the ladies' singles. (W.O.I Stead), the mixed doubles, (Lance-Corporal Snape and W.O.I Stead), and the ladies' open doubles, (W.O.I Stead and Sergeant Austin)
Standing, left to right: Sergeant Cotterill, Lieutenant Heasman, Signalman Rukbahadur Pun and Signalman Omparsad
Seated, left to right: Lance-Corporal Snape, Sergeant Austin, W.O.I Stead and Private Farnworth

8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Operation 'Full Circle'

IT was bound to happen! Our Quartermaster General (for the unitiated—**Major Geoff Furtado,** Q.M. (Gen.)) finally had to move half the Regiment back into Gaza lines in the middle of January. Some of you will remember the old 24th Regiment moving out of Gaza in November, 1967. It is not true, however, that draft orders for the move back from Gaza to Vimy had already been written.

Exercise 'Felcat'

The winter part of our twice-dearly exercise, designed to reveal to the Commanding Officer most of the things most of the cadre wish he didn't see, took place on 24th January. Starting in thick fog and darkness the 16 teams set off to try and find the various hazards arranged for their entertainment. Fortunately most of the D.S. found where they should have been before any of the teams arrived, though one team leader is still not convinced that he was given the wrong grid reference on purpose. By the time lightness dawned all was going well for most people. After an excellent hot meal at mid-day, provided in the field by **Captain John Dowd** (who unfortunately leaves us this month—good luck **John**!), the exercise proceeded into phase 2. Our Commander visited us during this phase, driven by our new B.M., **Major Bob Benbow. The Brigadier** tried out one or two of the hazards and at this point there should have been a photograph of him disappearing into the mist over a ravine in a bosun's chair. Unfortunately the photographer must have been as thick as the mist. As darkness once again descended on the moors it was deemed that No. 7 team, with **Staff Sergeant Brett** and **Sergeant Innes,** both of 1 Squadron, had succeeded better than anyone else.

Sport

Due to space we can only report one or two highlights. We were knocked out in the quarter-finals of the Army football by Q.O.H. by 1-0. **Corporals Hunter** and **Gill** won the Northern Command inter-unit table tennis championships and now go forward to the Army championships.

2 Squadron—Contributors for the month

Such a large Regiment of seven Squadrons with some 1,480 men should be engaged in enough activities to fill its own supplement to THE WIRE. This being the case we have decided that each Squadron in turn be given the opportunity of contributing, and this month 2 Squadron takes the chair.

2 Squadron is responsible for training radio technicians, radio relay technicians, linemen, radio relay men, and our basics group, under our tame R.A.E.C. Officer, teaches sums to everyone. We also look after the many overseas students who come for technician training.

Sport is prominent

Life is not all beer and skittles, however. We have sport as well! The Squadron is well represented in sporting circles, in fact some members seem to spend possibly more time sporting than working. This month we are highlighting badminton and soccer. The Northumbrian District badminton championships were held recently and three members of the Squadron played prominent parts. **Sergeant Cotterill** in the Regimental team championship, together with **Signalman Omparsad Chhetri** (an

(*Continued on page* 109)

(*Continued from page* 108)

ex-Gurkha Signals technician) who became the Singles Champion, and who then partnered **Signalman Rukbahadur Pun** (a Gurkha on a basic technician course) to take the inter-unit doubles title.

These same three went on to compete in the Northern Command championships at York where the Regiment won the team championship, **Signalman Omparsad** was runner-up in the single championship and **Signalman Omparsad** and **Signalman Rukbahadur** were runners-up in the doubles championship.

For soccer we have **Lance-Corporals Pete Halstead** and **Mick Boorman** regular representatives of the Regiment and the Corps sides. **Lance-Corporal Boorman** should, if all goes to plan, be playing for the Army before too long.

Other interests embrace ski-ing

Besides their technical and trade training, courses are given a certain amount of military and adventure training. This training is the responsibility of **Lieutenants Nigel Pullman** and **'Sandy' Lovatt,** and the former has recently returned from a ski-ing trip with trainees to 'Darkest Kingussie.'

Nigel is a notorious 'keep away from the Regiment' fanatic, normally sailing, ski-ing or skiving, so his suggestions that he should take a course ski-ing in Scotland were granted with much laughter. However, for the soldiers' sake and much to everyone's surprise, he got his own way and off he went.

The party consisted of 12 trainees, the troop officer and Sergeant, two instructors, **Lance-Corporal 'Leapy' Lee** of our own P.T. staff and **Corporal Garnett,** R.C.T., from the Garrison Transport Unit. Inclusion of the last-mentioned member also provided a driver and useful liaison with the wheel providers. In addition they were extremely lucky to have that expert in the culinary art, **Private Plevey,** A.C.C.

The departure of the group caused much ribaldry in the camp as at the time we were experiencing unusually mild weather. The pundits shook their heads and claimed that if it was hot in Catterick it was hot everywhere.

They do claim that there was snow in the Cairngorms when they arrived but admit that a certain amount of time was spent swimming and skating at the Aviemore centre.

The party was not without its dramas, **Signalman McMullen** injured his ankle and limped off to see the local quack; the intrepid **Lance-Corporal Lee** led his class off down the mountain side in the later part of one afternoon but the techniques of stopping had not been fully mastered. The result was that those in charge gradually became concerned at their disappearance, as other skiers returned home and the lifts stopped. Fortunately, however, shortly after he set off to search, the tired and bedraggled class reappeared, skis on shoulders, having climbed up the hill just in time to take the last lift down.

And then, of course, there was Exercise 'Felcat'

Such physical rigours are not inflicted on trainees alone. We have just witnessed one of the traditions of Catterick, Exercise 'Felcat' umpteen intended to exercise the Cadre of the Regiment.

The exercise took the form of a competition. There were parties of eight led by S.N.C.O.s, or in some cases J.N.C.O.s, and each party had to visit certain locations on Feldom training area. At each location they performed tasks requiring physical or military skills. Examples of such were, climbing ropes and scramble nets, crossing bottomless chasms in bosuns' chairs, assembling weapons and navigating across the moors. The 2 Squadron teams were lead by **Sergeant Allen, Sergeant Wilmott, Sergeant Hall, Sergeant Esdale, Sergeant Vallance, Sergeant Cotterill, Sergeant Franks** and **Corporal Shaw.** The results at the end were a little uncertain but 2 Squadron seemed to have 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th places, which was a good effort.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off Parade—8th January

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. I. Fraser-Orr, the A.A. and Q.M.G. of Northumbrian District, took the salute at the pass-off parade of 2 and 4 Troops. A special guest at the parade was 'Miss Red Alert'; details of her visit appear below.

Signalman Michael Wilton, from Blackpool, was the best recruit in 4 Troop; he goes on to trade training as Commcen Operator.

Signalman Brian Nevols achieved best recruit in 2 Troop; he goes on to train as a Telegraph Operator after participating in the satisfied soldier scheme with the A.C.I.O. in Pinchley.

'Miss Red Alert'

'Miss Red Alert' was the title won by **Miss Marjorie Wood** in a contest organised for the benefit of Cancer Research in Sheffield. As part of her prize she paid a visit to Training Brigade. When visiting the Regiment she watched the pass-off parade, talked to recruits from Sheffield afterwards and had lunch with the inspecting officer at the Officers' Mess.

Pass-off Parade—22nd January

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Burrell, R.H.F., G.S.O.1 Northumbrian District, took the salute at the pass-off parade of 3 and 8 Troops.

The best recruit in 3 Troop was **Signalman Robert Sharp,** a potential lineman. **Signalman Geoffrey Haworth** was the best recruit in 8 Troop, also destined for lineman training.



PASS OFF PARADE OF 3 AND 8 TROOPS
Lieutenant-Colonel Burrell passing through the ranks

Football

The Regiment had an exciting match with 7 Squadron, R.E., at Ripon in the Minor Units Northern Command competition. It was a draw at the final whistle five-all, with **Lance-Corporal F. Mudie** scoring a hat-trick, and the game went into extra time, the final result remaining five-all. The replay took place at Helles Barracks, which proved a thrilling spectacle; a goal in the first half by the Sappers, the only one scored, took them through to the next round.

Hockey

We were hoping to tell you that we had reached the final of the Northern Command section of the Army Cup but after extra time we lost the opportunity by one goal. Nevertheless, the league is going very well this year, only dropping four points to 8th Signal Regiment's 'A' team.

Ski-ing

In January, Continuation Training Troop took advantage of any snow that fell in the Stirling area and preparations are now being made for more ski-ing, weather permitting. Meanwhile in Catterick regimental cadre, potential officers and recruits have been using the dry slope for ski training. This training has borne fruit; **Lieutenant Peta Bradbury,** W.R.A.C., our Assistant Adjutant, recently attended the B.A.O.R. Army Ski Championships at Alpbach, Austria, and returned with bruises and a cup, as Army Women's Services' Ski Champion!

Departures and Arrivals

We say farewell to **Major D. A. Brockhurst** who has handed over command of 1 Squadron to **Major R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.** We wish him every success and happiness in his new posting in Bahrein.

We welcome **Lieutenant P. J. Bowles** who joins us as a recruit troop commander. Although **W.O.II F. E. Slade** has not left us yet we should like to congratulate his successor, **W.O.II G. C. Harding,** on his promotion and wish him every success in his new appointment as S.S.M. of the Recruit Training Squadron.

Births

We congratulate **Lance-Corporal and Mrs. David Rodgers** on the birth of a son.

Operation 'Aroseek'—by Potential Officer Troop

The aim of the exercise was to locate, photograph and return with evidence of a crashed aeroplane. We were given the approximate location as in the peak district, somewhere just north of the start of the Pennine Way.

On 4th January the leaders, **Brown** and **Stabler,** left Catterick by Land Rover and the rest of the party followed in a coach.

Base camp was set-up at Doctors Gate on the Snake Pass. A small party was sent out to do a preliminary search, the rest of the Troop being fully occupied digging snow holes.

After a rather eventful night, where the roof of one snow hole ended up resting on the chests of the occupants, the main search parties were sent out. Two parties sallied forth into the snowy wastes and raging blizzards of Bleaklow Moors (no exaggeration!). The wreckage of an aeroplane was found in the afternoon. Most of the wreckage was unfortunately covered by snow but the wings and three of the engines could still be seen. This was examined, prodded, photographed and even a couple of 'bits' were broken off (they now adorn Potential Officer Troop study). The parties then returned to a celebration feast of compo.

A second search was planned for the morning of the 6th for we knew the approximate whereabouts of a German fighter of second world war vintage. This search unfortunately was cut short and we broke camp on the morning of the 7th, to return to Catterick.

13th Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 40

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Private David Haywood, R.P.C., on Saturday, 16th January, 1971, in Wegberg Hospital.

The quiet month?

FOLLOWING the hectic social activity which is synonymous with Christmas, it is generally hoped that January will be a quiet month, the period when batteries are recharged to meet the challenges ahead. However, with the F.F.R. Inspection looming and new projects demanding attention, there has been an air of briskness and much activity in Mercury Barracks.

Indoor activities

Despite this, it hasn't been 'all work and no play.' Eight regulars of the Border Inn set themselves the task of getting as high a dart score as possible in a period of nine hours. The first dart was thrown at 14.00 hours and at 23.00 hours the team had reached the creditable score of 735,228.

Although somewhat weary after their endurance test the team, consisting of **Corporals 'Paddy' Sweeney,** A.C.C., **'Jock' Fairley, 'Barney' Barnett** and **Sid Goddard,** Royal Signals, **Lance-Corporal 'Butch' Harvey** and **Ken Cartwright,** Royal Signals, **Craftsman Wally Walters,** R.E.M.E., and **Private John Coulthard,** R.P.C., were delighted with their performance. Announcing the final score, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. C. Baldwin,** congratulated the players on their effort and thanked the many helpers, soldiers, W.R.A.C. and wives who worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of the venture.

It is quiz time again, but this time we are looking for the 'Brain of Birgelen.' Sixty-four entries were received for this popular competition which is now in full swing guided by our two quiz chairmen, **S.S.M. Ken Kennington** and **S.S.M. Tony Orrell.**

Following their successful Christmas Revue the Mercury Players are busily rehearsing for their Easter production, 'Blithe Spirit,' which is being produced by **Mrs. Armstrong.**

Sports

The Regiment won their third sporting encounter with a neighbouring Dutch Army unit. Although our opponents were very young and fit, we beat them in basketball and shinty, but for the third consecutive time lost at volleyball.

The hockey team maintain their challenge in the Rhine Area hockey league and are currently joint leaders. The team is well balanced with age and youth and the scene is set for a thrilling finish to the competition.

The round ball and oval ball exponents have not had much to enthuse over during January because the grounds in the area have been out of bounds due to the weather. However, both teams did manage to get one match played, the soccer team taking two points from 28th Signal Regiment whilst we lost the rugger to the Rheindahlen Rhinos.

We regret that the Rhine Area basketball trophy will not grace the Sergeants' Mess this year as, after a hard-fought duel, we lost to 12th Air Defence Regiment in the first round. **Corporal Pete Massey** and **Lance-Corporal Tony Bird** were the outstanding players in the Regimental team.

Signalman Rideout continued to show his prowess as a cross-country runner when he was placed fourth in the Rhine Area cross-country championships. The Regiment was placed fifth in the team championship.

A swimming pool at last!

The Regiment has always wanted a swimming pool. It now looks as if we shall get one this year; in fact, the target date for swimming is the end of May. We are busy exploring ways of raising money, and hope that any Regiments who hear from us on this subject will respond favourably!

Sergeants' Mess

This month saw the virtual completion of the Mess entrance hall and serious work begun on the bar (other than drinking!). There is no truth in the rumour that the bar has become the Mess hobbies room—although it may look like that! We are racing against the clock to get the bar completed in time for our Regimental guest night on 19th February.

The outgoing Mess committee had their farewell dance on 23rd January and we all enjoyed an excellent evening. Our thanks to P.E.C. **Staff Sergeant Frank Kendall** and his committee, and we hope their successors will be as good.

On 27th January we held a farewell party for **W.O.II Laurie Storey** and his wife **Irene.** They have left to go to 9th Signal Regiment after a stay of four years. We shall miss these two popular members.

This month we welcomed new arrivals **W.O.II Tom Cooper** (on a return trip!), and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Allan Tomlinson.** We also welcomed **Sergeant Bill Webster,** Intelligence Corps, and congratulate him on his promotion into the Mess.

Marriage

On 30th January, at Kinghorn, Scotland, **Signalman Peter O'Hara,** of 'A' Troop, 1 Squadron, to **Lance-Corporal Gina Steven,** of 'W' Troop, 2 Squadron. We wish them all the best of luck for the future.

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Home —79p each plus 8½p post
Abroad—70p each plus 8½p post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals £1.50
Pace Sticks ... ...

ERNEST GOODRICH
Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites
44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERS, GARRARD AND COMPANY LIMITED, LONDON



To mark the occasion

Throughout history man has recorded famous events and his own great achievements. For two hundred years Garrard have captured the splendour of the military in finely worked models of silver and gold.

We offer you the unrivalled skill of our designers and craftsmen, and the personal service that is the hallmark of Garrard, in the creation of a model which will remain a permanent reminder of your own great occasions.

GARRARD The Crown Jewellers
112 REGENT STREET, LONDON W1A 2JJ. Tel: 01-734 7020

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

Busy, but fairly quiet, at Worcester

THE beginning of the New Year has found the Regiment hard at work in Worcester. Apart from 'Alpha' Troop, in Nassau, most of the radio detachments are, for a change, back in U.K. Advantage has been taken of this rather unusual situation to have a really good spring-clean and prepare ourselves for a whole series of forthcoming activities which, very appropriately, commence with the annual Fitness for Role inspection early in February. After this—and assuming we are deemed to be 'fit for our role'—it is virtually non-stop activity as troops and detachments move in and out of U.K. for the rest of the year; but of these events, more details as they happen.

Thus it is, with the realisation that reams of reportage on matters administrative is extremely boring to those not involved, coupled with the Editor's behest to reduce routine contributions, that this month's chapter of the 'Happenings of the Fourteenth,' is somewhat shorter. However, space should be given to the following story, which shows, once again, how a little bit of thought and effort—on the part of a Warrant Officer of this Regiment—in circumstances whereby it would have been just too easy to say 'no," made a little boy happy, and at the same time produced a story that was fully reported throughout a whole syndicate of newspapers. KAPE indeed, and at its best—but let **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Ray Bishop** give his own narrative:

The story of a hat

8th November, 1970, was a bitterly-cold day as those of the Regiment who paraded around the war memorial outside the Cathedral in Worcester will testify. Yet, for one spectator, **Master David Spiller,** aged all of three years, the temperature did not matter, all that interested him were the soldiers, and above all, the very smart blue peaked caps that they wore. From that moment onward, the main aim in this little chap's life was to own a soldier's hat. He even asked his dad to write to Father Christmas for one for him.

Mr. Spiller, who served from 1942-1947, first with the Black Watch, then the Artillery, before finishing his service as a Staff Sergeant in the Sappers, and is now the headmaster of Perdis-



(Photograph: Courtesy of Berrows Newspapers)
'BEST RECRUIT 1970'
Master David Spiller receives his Corps Cap from Father Christmas with, *from left to right,* Mrs. Spiller, John and David (being supported by Father 'Tom Towse' Christmas) Mr. Spiller and W.O.II R. Bishop

(*Continued on page* 113)

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Reconnaissance Radar for example.

M.E.L. designed, developed and now manufacture the Q-band 'sideways-looking' radar which enables the Phantom to fulfil its exacting reconnaissance role. The high-definition pictures received are equivalent to first-class photographs, but can, of course, be obtained under night and cloud conditions when results would be unobtainable with conventional optical cameras.

This equipment meets NATO requirements and is in quantity production as the world's only completely successful system of its type.

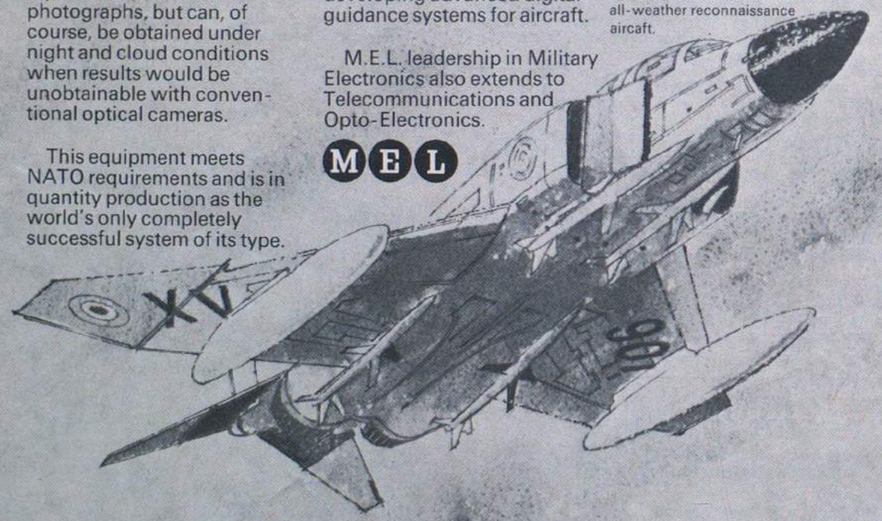
It is currently being evaluated by Commonwealth and Foreign Governments.

M.E.L., world leaders in microwave intercept systems, are also actively engaged in developing advanced digital guidance systems for aircraft.

M.E.L. leadership in Military Electronics also extends to Telecommunications and Opto-Electronics.

MEL

The M.E.L. Equipment Co Ltd, Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.



The Phantom is equipped with M.E.L. Q-Band Radar in its NATO role as an all-weather reconnaissance aircraft.

(*Continued from page* 111)

well School in Worcester, searched the local shops for an Army cap, but there were none to be had. With Christmas drawing ever nearer, and the situation becoming desperate, he rang 14th Signal Regiment to see if we could advise him of a likely source.

Without revealing too much how it was done, the problem was quickly solved and things began to happen. Young David was invited to our barracks and Santa Claus, in the splendid shape of **Sergeant Tom Towse,** of the L.A.D. (who happened to have driven up on his sledge for the Regimental children's party, also on that afternoon) presented an excited lad with his very own soldier's hat, complete with 'Jimmy.' To keep the peace in the family, Father Christmas was also able to produce a present for David's older brother, John.

Thus it was **Mr. Spiller** achieved his aim, the Press got a story, the Regiment improved even further its image, and young David, who started it all, got his cap. All of which can't be too bad.

Personality parade

Arrivals.—Welcome to **Major S. J. Lockett,** from M.O.D. to become O.C. 2 Squadron; **Captain C. R. M. Noonan,** from 233 Squadron to be Technical Adjutant; **Captain J. M. Sweetman,** from the School to 'T' Troop; **Captain J. E. Varney,** R.E.M.E., from Technical Group, R.E.M.E., to 'P' Troop; **Lieutenant G. J. Thomas,** from 4th Regiment to 'B' Troop; **Captain C. D. Evis,** from 4th Regiment to H.Q., 3 Squadron; **W.O.II A.** Yates, from A.A.C., Harrogate, to H.Q. Squadron.

Departures.—Farewell and thanks to **Captain R. J. L. Midd'eton** to MAD (EQD); **Captain P. J. Brunton** to 4th Regiment; **Captain C. R. Dolby,** R.E.M.E., to Technical Group, R.E.M.E.; **Captain T. T. Hallchurch** to H.Q., Training Brigade; **Lieutenant R. J. Lees,** WFR, to 1 Bn. WFR; **Second-Lieutenant J. D. Ambrose** to 24 Missile Regiment Signal Troop; **W.O.II D. Livermore** to H.Q., R.A.F., Cyprus.

19th Signal Regt.

c/o G.P.O. Singapore

By Captain J. H. Roberts

THE end-of-year festivities started with Deepavali on 29th October, followed by Hari Raya Puasa, on 30th November, and finished with Chinese New Year on 28th January. Somewhere in the middle came Christmas. Although the period was by definition a happy one for the Regiment, all celebrations were overshadowed by the sad fact that each festivity was to be the last in the Regiment. We also had our last Administrative Inspection.

And then it's Chinese New Year

After a short breathing space, Chinese new year celebrations started to hit the scene. The party, which was due to be held at the plush Ming Court Hotel, was quickly cancelled when the management remembered that their premises were booked for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference. **Captain Lai Sin Wah** rose to the occasion and arranged, in record time, an alternative venue at the Oasis Theatre Restaurant Nite Club. The Chinese soldiers and and civilians of the Regiment hosted the officers and their wives to a magnificent ten-course dinner, introducing them to such rituals as lacing small bowls of shark's-fin soup with liberal quantities of brandy, amid the luxurious surroundings, which included a cabaret and non-stop dancing.

Special mentions

We would like to make a special mention of **Liz Verity,** our S.S.A.F.A. Sister, who has recently left Changi for Germany. While she has been here she has regularly looked after the health of our LEP families at the Regimental LEP Clinic. On her departure, she was presented with a Regimental plaque and our thanks and good wishes go with her in her new post.

Congratulations to **Staff Sergeant John Roberts,** A.P.T.C., who left the Regiment in mid-1970. He has been awarded the Air Commander's commendation for meritorious service for his work with youth in Changi, and particularly the Regimental judo club.

Congratulations also to **Lance-Corporal Sharaani,** of Changi Troop. He has just been awarded the 'Sportsman of the Year' Trophy, and has gained Army and Combined Service colours for athletics and has been Regimental captain of the basketball and volleyball teams. This was a well-deserved award, hotly contested by **Sergeant John Harvey** and **Lance-Corporal Johnny Gumbs.**

Motor sports—and we make our mark

Under the enthusiastic leadership of **W.O.II (A.Q.M.S.) Fred Mills,** R.E.M.E., rallying and competitive motor sports have become both a popular and successful activity in the Regiment.

In the last six months, teams, in Land Rovers, tuned and specially kitted out, have been entered in five major national and international events in Malaysia and Singapore. There has been the 'odd hiccup' as in all the best-laid plans. One evening the Orderly Officer received a telephone call from a rubber plantation executive, who refused to give his name, saying that one of the Regiment's Land Rovers was in an irrepairable condition at the side of one of his plantation roads. The Orderly Officer, determined to assist the unfortunates, went into long rigmaroles of phone and counter-phone and eventually despatched the recovery crew to go to the fifth road on the left in the twenty-seventh rubber plantation on the right of the road from God-knows-where. Before he could return to sleep, confident that he had done his best to help, the Land Rover, obeying Sod's law implicity, returned to camp. An ancient, immobile, rusting Rover had been bought for a pittance by the crew and cannibalised for spares. The comments of the recovery team, whilst doubtless unprintable, may safely be disregarded, for as far as we know, they are still careering round a rubber plantation somewhere in West Malaysia.

Over the Christmas period the Regiment entered teams in the Singapore road safety rally and Singapore Motor Sports Club auto tests. The results of the latter are still awaited but in the road safety competition the Regiment achieved excellent results. Out of ten vehicles entered we gained overall first prize and four other prizes in a field of about 100 vehicles altogether. First prizewinners were **Lance-Corporal Ismail bin Hassan** and co-driver **Signalman Ibrahim,** both of M.T. Troop. No mean feat as those who have driven in Singapore well know.

Arrivals and departures

The Regiment extends a hearty welcome to **Captain 'Andy' Spillane** who joins us after a flying tour in B.A.O.R. A fond farewell to **Captain Gordon Issom** who leaves both the Regiment and the British Army shortly to join the Australian Infantry. We wish both him and his wife every happiness and the best of luck in Australia. Farewell and good luck to one of our Chinese Officers, **Captain Vincent Loke,** who has recently returned from U.K. after his T.E. course. He is the first of our L.E.P. officers to leave on redundancy and he is now an executive with an avionics firm in Singapore.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 42

A QUIET start to the year—no one making far-reaching plans anticipating the difficulty of getting from A to B in deep snow. In fact the little snow we had over Christmas disappeared during the first week in January and has not been seen since! As I write it is a lovely spring day outside —I have an idea we will probably suffer in March!

There were a lot of grateful soldiers on Exercise 'Wintex' —the main activity of the month—who were able to spend the two weeks in the field in comparative comfort.

Exercise 'Wintex'

The unit was deployed at full stretch for two weeks. All seemed to go well and our customers satisfied. 4 Squadron were deployed with 4 (Harrier) Squadron RAF personnel for the first time, working into 'Bruin' with simulated aircraft in close support of the simulated ground forces.



18 PAIRS OF HANDS AND THE TASK IS EASY!
Linemen from 33rd and 35th Signal Regiments (V) enjoying a stay with 21st Regiment, make the job of laying and terminating a length of 100 pair cable look comparatively easy

Over for the exercise were linemen from 33rd and 35th Signal Regiment (V). As their tasks were minimal we were asked if we could find them something to do. Eighteen linemen, under **Captain Hill's** from 33rd Regiment, were given a project which they completed at RAF Bruggen. It consisted of laying and terminating a length of 100 pair cable—from the photograph it looks like 100 pair submarine cable! They said they enjoyed their stay and went away with a firm impression of life on an airfield with Phantom aircraft.

The 35th Regiment party of four linemen laid a 10-pair cable at RAF Laarbruch.

Snow Queen

The good weather has its drawbacks and when it comes to those who want to ski, snow is one of the essentials! But the camp is going strong and a lot are getting their first experience at the sport.

The Regiment entered a team on the spot at the 2 Division Ski Championships held in the area. In a special competition for visitors they surprised everyone (including themselves) by winning the prize for the best Alpine team, beating an experienced French team in the process. **Captain Thomas** came 14th in the open slalom event. Perhaps next year will see the Regiment seriously competing in open competitions, the nucleus of a team certainly exists.

Sport—All set for B.A.O.R. final

The basketball team are continuing their successful run and have now clinched the Rhine Area league title. They have reached the semi-final of the cup and must have a very good chance of going on to the B.A.O.R. finals. They have still won every match that they have played this season.

The cross-country team recently won the Rhine Area Championships in fine style, scoring only 43 points to 208 points by the second team. They now go forward to the B.A.O.R. Championships on our own course at Wildenrath on 16th February full of confidence and very fit. Congratulations to **Corporal Mick Gue, Sergeant 'Mac' MacMillan** and **Sergeant George Holden** on filling the first three individual positions.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O 16

Cross-country running—A runner with a future

EVERY Saturday afternoon throughout the winter months, between eight and twelve members of the Regiment run about five miles over rugged and gruelling countryside. These officers and men represent the Regiment competing against other Regimental teams for top places in the Westphalia Cross-Country League. Captain of the team, **Second-Lieutenant Dick Hoyle,** who ran for R.M.A., Sandhurst, has maintained, with **Sergeant Maxi Springer,** a high standard of training, with the result that the team now lies sixth in the league, of twenty teams competing. The star of the team is **Corporal Bill Venus,** who is present B.A.O.R. champion. He generally succeeds in leading the field home. A runner with a great future is **Signalman Roger Frampton** who, running in his second season only, invariably finishes amongst the leaders. With only two races to go, and the team now very strong, it is hoped to improve the league position and for a margin of success in the Divisional Championships.

Badminton Club

When old soldiers with time in jungle stations get together, the talk usually turns to tales of the 'Ulu,' Satay sticks, and how hot the curry was at Zam Zams. However, a recent grip session produced the fact that a hard core of feathered friends existed in the unit, and so, under the guidance of **Captain (Q.M.) David Neale,** our Signals Badminton Club was born.

Pitched in right at the deep end, and in our very first match (or possibly to gauge our strength) we played the current league leaders and cup holders, Sennelager Garrison. After a very hard-fought match, the win, draw or lose was decided on the very last set, when **Second-Lieutenant J. F. Burnage** was narrowly beaten, to make the final result 8—6 in our opponents' favour. A very satisfactory result for us and a good blooding in our new sport.

Our team was a fair cross section of rank and age: **Second-Lieutenant J. F. Burnage, Signalman Robertshaw, Staff Sergeant Pfeiffer, Sergeant Howells, Lance-Bombardier Collins (R.A.), W.O.I (R.S.M.) McGilvray, Miss Lynn (Glanville (B.F.E.S.), Captain (T.O.T.) R. C. Boulter, Mrs. Barbara Boulter.**

Sergeants' Mess News

Anglo-German relations were further improved last month in the football match which took place between the Mess veterans and Borrusia Lippstadt. About the same vintage as our own bunch of 'eager beavers,' but obviously much more experienced as a team, our visitors wore us down to a 2—1 defeat. Our Chief Clerk retired of old age midway through the match and then spent half his time chatting with the 50-year-old German goalkeeper!

The entertainment continued in the evening, when the teams and wives attended the social and dance in the Mess; language presented no barriers or problems, with the noise of the group beating off the walls, it was all sign language anyway.

1 Squadron—Parade of Squadron Personalities

As this is 1 Squadron's first public appearance, perhaps the best approach to the Commanding Officer's 'request' to write this week's column is to introduce you to a few personalities and let you see how the Squadron is organised.

Our 'Intrepid Leader' is one **Captain John Dawson,** who, if I may quote him, has been here a lifetime! He was Squadron Captain before taking over from the last Squadron Commander, **Major Tony Hill,** who left us for the higher echelons of Bielefeld. John has recently been promised a change of environment, namely, a posting to the School of Signals in the U.K. He is busy trying to get over the shock of returning to the U.K., with a vicious attack on the squash ladder. I feel certain he is going to do himself an injury. If he doesn't, the C.O. might just do it for him! The C.O. is also a squash fanatic and believes the top of the squash ladder goes with the job! He's absolutely right, of course!

Assisting our intrepid leader, or so he claims, is **Captain Peter Pearson,** sometimes mistaken for the unit dog-handler. He is followed everywhere he goes by his irrepressible Yorkshire bull terrior—'Tiger'!—which having done at least four exercises, eating eight Milky Ways belonging to the Traffic Officer on one, qualifies as a 'war dog,' we reckon! Completely independent (Peter calls it mutinous), 'Tiger' can be seen at any location where there is likely to be food. The only place the dog will not follow his master, is on to the rugby field, where anyone with any sense stays well away from him anyway. Peter is about to get married! This is the subject of some discussion throughout the Squadron—are 'Tiger's' days numbered, etc.!

The Squadron is Sergeant-Majored by 'Mr North East' himself, **W.O.II Bill Forest** (W'or Bill). It is currently rumoured that the Regimental Traffic Officer, **Captain John Culbert,** is



ROUGHING IT IN THE SNOW
1 Squadron personalities—Lieutenant Andrew Gale and Captain Peter Pearson

busy reading 'Larn Yersel Geordie,' by Scott Dobson, so that he may talk to the S.S.M. without an 'interpreter.'

A wary eye is kept on the S.S.M. by the Squadron 'old soldier' and S.Q.M.S., **Staff Sergeant Ron Barber.** If you want it, he'll get it! It may take time, but he'll get it!

We have one rather unique claim to fame. At the moment, serving with the Squadron are German soldiers from 7 Fernmelde Battalion, also located in Lippstadt. They are training with us, and it is always interesting to know how the other half lives. From both points of view, that is. Things seem to be going well, both socially and professionally.

What's a Squadron without its 'hairies'—linemen to the uninitiated! Led by **Staff Sergeant Tony Pfeiffer,** who is the only member of the Royal Signals whose uniform appears to be a track suit. This man is almost as fit as he is old! No offence meant and I hope non taken, as Tony happens to be an excellent boxer. In fact he will do anything that spells exercise and fitness.

The three Troops of the Squadron are commanded by **Second-Lieutenant Cedric Burton, Second-Lieutenant Stewart Davies** (about to be a father), and **Lieutenant Andrew Gale,** who always wanted to be a motor mechanic. Andrew is very ambitious and wanted to be a 'two-car family.' He made it, but unfortunately can only get one going at a time. **Cedric Burton** hasn't been with us long, but is settling down quite well. According to the Adjutant, he is already a very-experienced Orderly Officer.

Well, there we are then, the personalities of the Squadron, and I use the term personalities very loosely. We all know that the Squadron depends on its soldiers—the team as we like to call them; all so much part of the team it is very difficult to single individuals out. They are hard-working, probably because they belong to the most exercised Regiment in the Corps area. We keep them at it by telling them they are training for a war with 3 Squadron.

Stop Press

A Special Mention for Corporal Venus

The B.A.O.R. cross-country champion, **Corporal Bill Venus,** has once again been demonstrating what a fine cross-country runner he is. His latest successes were a first in the 4th Division cross-country championship, and he was first home in the B.A.O.R. individual cross-country championship. He has also been selected to run for the Army (U.K.) team.

Late news just in, is that he came second in the Army individual championships at Blackdown.

UK or European posting?
Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack
* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem
Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.
Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W3
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... (country)
Tax paid for U.K. only ..... (tick)
Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS

In Civilian Life

Enjoy Service and Comradeship in the BRITISH LEGION

Your service to Queen and Country needn't stop when you leave the Forces. The British Legion has as much interest in and responsibility for young ex-servicemen and women of today as it has for those of two world wars and looks to them for its leaders of the future.

British Legion · 49 Pall Mall · SW1



LOOKS LIKE A GOOD EVENING AT OPENING OF THE GOLDEN AXE CLUB!

Around the table clockwise from bottom right: Signalmen Quirk, Lee, Turnbull, Corporal Rennie, Corporal Vaughan, Signalman Wright, Lance-Corporal Cunnion, Corporal Tate, Lance-Corporal Britten, Signalmen Dagger, Buckley, Moore

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG), B.F.P.O. 35

Training—in the field and on the ski slopes

SINCE 1st January the Regiment has spent 18 days in the field on major communications exercises. For part of this time we were joined by volunteers of 35th (S.M.) Signal Regiment (V) who provided W.R.A.C. commcen operators and some linemen reinforcements for Exercise 'Wintex.' The exercises went extremely well; 'be flexible' was the watchword.

The annual ski-training exercise, 'Franski,' started with a party of 20 men, under the leadership of **Captain Dennis Bees,** departing for Murnau, in Southern Germany. They will take a two-week course, designed by trained instructors of the Gebirgsfernmelde Bataillon, who provide the Regiment with accommodation and training facilities every year for a period of six weeks. Meanwhile, the rest of the Reigment is busy preparing for the annual vehicle inspections (both national and NATO) due to start in late February.

Semi-final of B.A.O.R. football reached

The Regimental football team is shortly to play in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. stage of the Army Cup against 32 Engineer Regiment. It will be our sixth game in the series and promises to be hard fought; it was at this stage, against the same team, that the Regiment was beaten 4—3 last year, after giving away a penalty in the final minute of the game. Much credit is due to **C.S.M.I. Combe** for the hard work he has put into team training.

In the badminton world, Signalman Abdullah has recently won the B.A.O.R. individual plate.

On 19th January, at 1830 hours, the new Junior Ranks' Club, 'The Golden Axe,' was opened. Area representatives



AT THE OPENING OF THE GOLDEN AXE CLUB

Left to right: Mr. L. R. Rodway (N.A.A.F.I. Regional Manager), W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) W. K. Hammond-Haley (R.Q.M.S. Administration) Major (Retd.) H. W. Newsham (Q.M. Administration), W.O.I (R.S.M.) B. Turner (R.S.M.) and Lieutenant-Colonel I. Macdonald (C.O.)

of NAAFI and DOE were present for the opening, which took place exactly one year from the start of construction. With its subdued lighting, comfortable furniture and background music, the club is much appreciated by the Junior Ranks of the Regiment.

30th Signal Regiment

BLANDFORD CAMP

AMF(L) Force Radio Troop in the Norwegain snow

AT the time of going to Press 68 soldiers of the Troop, under command of **Captain Ian Crouch,** are having another successful training period in Norway. The Troop are based at Ulven, near Bergen, and are in constant touch with Blandford by radio. Much of the period has been spent living in the field but the snow for their ski-ing has not been as plentiful as the Troop would care for; however, conditions are more suitable in the training area at Kvanskrogen. At the beginning of February there was a considerable improvement when the temperature dropped to minus 12.5° C. and driver training was able to start using the tracked vehicles. Later in the month the ski-ing was hampered by Force 6 winds but the only injuries amounted to the occasional sprained ankle, some minor blisters and vehicles trapped by the drifting snow. The Troop, having made a satisfactory recovery from this buffeting, are now carrying out a five-day exercise prior to their return by L.S.L. at the end of the month.

1 Squadron — Getting more and more integrated with the Navy

Although the Squadron have a strong tendency to develop their association with the Navy as a result of the frequent 'Jocomex' exercises the emphasis this month has been on air-portability exercises. **Lieutenant John Thewlis** and **Lieutenant Jack Fiskel,** of 4 Squadron, attended courses early in January and without delay set about a series of exercises with radio detachments of all types. Unfortunately the R.P.L. booked for the journey to the Isle of Wight for Exercise 'Solent' was cancelled and the Squadron will have to manage with the British Rail ferry from Lymington instead. We are keeping our fingers crossed as far as the helicopter is concerned and trust that the RAF will not find some other urgent need in the meantime.

The only excursion during this month with the Navy has been a journey by **Lieutenant 'Pim' Meaning, Yeoman 'Nipper' Wright, Sergeant 'Jock' Edmonds,** to Scotland aboard H.M.S. *Galatea;* the remainder of the ship's journey was to the Arctic Circle for fishery protection duties and that contingency has not come our way yet. During the week-long voyage the detachment assisted the crew with radio duties on shift and established a radio link with Blandford as well as firm friendships in all wardrooms. The prospect remains bright for a voyage with the latest guided missile destroyer H.M.S. *Antrim* in the near future. **Captain Rollo Rumford,** O.C. 621 Ship Signal Troop, is well land-locked on a course at the Junior Staff College at Warminster. However, we have maintained a strong interest with H.M.S. *Fearless* during his temporary absence, and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Co'onel I. M. Rose,** recently attended the re-commissioning ceremony at Plymouth.

Further afield in the Caribbean area there are urgent preparations among the detachment in Anguilla who are due to 'rotate' at the end of February whilst on Turk and Caicos Island. **Lance-Corporal Brotton** is maintaining excellent communications with J.R.S. Nassau on his SR 123.

2 Squadron — M.P.C. I experts

The Training Centre, under command of O.C.2 **Major Bob Rowland,** has just completed a M.P.C.1 course of 34 candidates. The pass-off parade was taken by Station Commander, **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley.** The training programme was considerably assisted by the mild weather at Blandford during January and a high standard was achieved on this large course. We were particularly pleased to have so many units represented and hope that future courses will be of such varied representation. In addition to the driver, radio operator and telegraph operator courses being held at the moment we are also running a regimental signallers' course for 1 D.E.R.R. and 1 Q.O.H. The regimental signallers will also be attending the Squadron Camp on the Isle of Wight and we hope to give them a varied final week to their programme.

4 Squadron — Postal strike stops ski-ing expedition, but all is set for March

The Squadron have had an unfortunate attempt to carry out ski training and were caught half-way to their destination in Scotland at the time of the postal strike. However, **Major Tom Blashill** succeeded in arranging for the Rothiemurchus hut during March when there is likely to be more snow on the Cairngorms, so it has been to their ultimate benefit. The Squadron have maintained a keen interest in the sporting activities of the Regiment and we were particularly pleased to have **S.S.M. Tony Waugh** for the Regimental hockey match against School of Signals which the Regiment won 2-0. The Squadron are also leading the inter-Squadron football and have been unbeatable so far. The Regimental team is also showing better form, having won the recent games against R.N. Portland and School of Signals.

Mayor's reception

Former members of the Regiment will be interested to note that we continue to maintain very cordial relations with the local council. During the month the officers of the Regiment attended a special reception given by the Mayor, **A'derman G. L. Lane,** in Blandford Council Chambers. A photograph was presented to the Mayor to mark the occasion of the 10th Anniversary March Past.

News from Squadrons

1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron B.F.P.O. 102

THE advent of 1971 brought the appearance of a new O.C. This was followed very quickly by a short message which, roughly translated, meant 'Where are THE WIRE notes?' Thereupon it was decided that the time has come to make our presence known once again.

It is with much regret that we have said goodbye to **Major David Lycett-Gregson** and his wife **Nora.** They have departed to Abingdon and the A.A.T.D.C., where long-lost memories of an 'Edward Bear' course will have to be recalled. We would like to thank **Nora** for all the hard work she put in as the Station Wives' Club treasurer. Her presence will be sorely missed on the several committees which were enlivened by her enthusiastic support. They leave here with our best wishes for the future.

Herewith welcoming **Major Peter Davies** and his wife **Julia.** They have soon made their presence felt. It is a bit much when we all have to train to keep up with the O.C. We hope they will enjoy their time in this outpost.

Our turnover since Christmas continues at the normal fast pace. We have said farewell to **Corporal Charlie Mitten, Lance-Corporals 'Choggie' Rogers** and **Dave Hughes** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Ellis.**

As replacements for this 'motley crew' (Ritter misses you!) we have been joined by **Lance-Corporal Ray Garner, Signalmen Colin Ager, 'Jock' McKechnie** and **Robert Purvis.**

Our sporting activities continue to be assorted

In the sporting field our activities continue to be assorted if not very spectacular. The soccer team, under **Sergeant Gerry Garland,** drew a game last month! The hockey side were unfortunate to lose 2-3 to 7/11 O.F.P. in the first round of the 1st Division competition. Since this match there have been several games within the Squadron under the guidance of **Lieutenant Les Fox** and **Staff Sergeant Eddie Hamilton.** Rugger is a bit of a stretch for our small unit, but a few friendlies have been played. The basketball team struggle on in the 1st Division league, where they have even managed a couple of victories.

A Flying Visit

It is nice to know that Hildesheim is still marked on the maps in high places. On Friday, 20th November, we were most pleased to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.** He had a look round our Squadron lines and then joined the N.C.O.s in our club for a couple of

beers before lunch. The S.O.-in-C. recognised some old friends and surprised a few with his memory. He was then given lunch in the Station Officers' Mess, where the Messing Officer (our own **Lieutenant Les Fox**) had excelled himself. All too soon the Beaver arrived to take our guest home; we hope he enjoyed his 'flying' visit.

Christmas activities started, for most of us, with a Squadron social in the gymnasium. This excellent evening was very well laid-on by our S.S.M., **W.O.II Sam Bedwell.** The author managed to escape for three weeks to England at this point, thereby missing Christmas morning gunfire and the rugby match on Boxing Day.

We have just been visited, five days after the new C.O. sat in the chair, by the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.** Our visitor arrived just before lunch and inspected a quarter guard which was ably led by **Sergeant Mick Davison.** Our new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier T. L. Moroney, O.B.E.,** kindly entertained the C.S.O. to lunch, after which the General was shown the Brigade H.Q. operational vehicles set up and working. He spoke to many of the operators, giving them a chance to baffle him with their 'patter.' This was most evident in the case of **Signalman Pete Scott** (Lmn.) who was 'G' Ops. driver for the afternoon and became an instant expert on the layout of the vehicle, radio remotes and security safes as well as his own telephones. At this point the visit speeded up. The plane taking the C.S.O. to Rheindahlen was unable to fly from Hildesheim. This necessitated a quick trip to Hannover and the shortening of the programme by 45 minutes. All departments were, however, still visited, and the farewell cup of tea in the Sergeants' Mess was most welcome. We trust the Army Air Corps allows us more time for any future visit.

After the quiet of winter we are looking forward to getting out and about again. It is hoped to include news of our basketball venture in the 1st Division Championships next time, if we get there.

Stop Press: It is heard that **Signalman 'Jock' Clayton** wants to come back to us after his trip to Bahrein. Come home **'Jock,'** all is forgiven!



TWO MINDS WITH BUT A SINGLE THOUGHT?
Brigadier Stanier and Lance-Corporal Cartledge examine the contents of an AFV 439

20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (200) B.F.P.O. 41

Annual FFR Inspection—rusty beer cans but the report was good

ON 17th November last year the Unit underwent its annual Fitness for Role Inspection by the Brigade Commander. Despite many weeks of careful preparation it was a cold, early start (04.30 hours) to ensure that everything was up to the required standard (that little bit extra special).

At 09.00 hours the Commander, **Brigadier J. W. Stanier, M.B.E.,** emerged from his Headquarters. He was accompanied by the Brigade Major, and the B.E.M.E. dressed to kill in overalls and armed with a hydrometer and a number of large spanners. The Inspection was on.

He first inspected a very well-drilled and turned-out, multi-cap-badged Quarter Guard under **Staff Sergeant M. D. Lynn,** R.C.T. After this he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to **W.O.II M. E. Beadle,** R.A.P.C., and **Corporal D. A. Hadland,** Royal Signals, in the warmer atmosphere of the O.C.'s office.

Meanwhile, back on the windswept Brigade Square, the two communicating Troops, 'A' and 'B,' stood lined-up in front of their vehicles, 'Alpha' Troop with all its C.E.S. equipment laid out down to the last spare fuse, and 'Bravo' Troop completely kitted out ready for war. 'Bravo' Troop was the first to be inspected. The tidy scene quickly became a shambles when the Commander opened the inspection with a shout of 'Gas.' Soon after this the Commander had men running in all directions changing wheels, checking kit, starting generators and cookers, laying telephones, opening up radios and erecting antennae. Troop Commanders and Troop Sergeants hovered anxiously, not knowing what they were going to be asked to do next! Finally, the square became the scene of a spirited hockey match between the two Troops with considerable spectator participation. **Y. of S. Noon** made sure of a good Confidential Report by borrowing 12 extra hockey sticks from a neighbouring unit in eight minutes flat. It was rumoured that the Second-in-Command, safe in the Orderly Room, was offering a crate of beer to the team that placed a hockey ball through the Brigade H.Q. window.

The Inspection continued through the more static elements of the Squadron until we ended up at the door of the Sergeants' Mess ready for a well-earned drink. Suddenly, the Commander dived behind the Brigade block near the perimeter fence and asked the R.S.M. what he thought about the pile of 20 rusty beer cans below his office window. The R.S.M. was speechless and we acknowledged that the Commander had scored a game call. We found out later that the Commander had seen the beer cans a fortnight previously and had sworn the Brigade H.Q. staff to utter secrecy; so much for integration! On that note the Inspection ended. Later we received a very good report which made all the hard work put into the preparation for the Inspection by all ranks well worth while.



AND THEN HE SAID 'ALL OUT FOR HOCKEY PLEASE'
The Brigade Commander tests reactions during his F.F.R. inspection. Corporal Hardman, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Noon, Brigadier Stainer, Sergeant Story (with finger poised), Major Verdon and W.O.I (R.S.M.) Dunmall, B.E.M. (partially obscured)

The Ham Club

After getting off to a slow start last November, the membership has now settled down at five.

Instruction is given two evenings a week with the aim of getting two members through the R.A.E. in May. This will bring the total number of qualified members with their own callsign up to three and will enable us to apply for a club callsign.

At the moment we are operating on a Heath Dx 40 and **Y. of S. Allan ('Key Happy') Chapman** has had several quite good QSOs on 80 but no real Dx or 'rare ones' yet.

The Club also has a 90 watt KW 2000 which is being repaired. This should produce much better results when working. If anyone has got a Kilo-Watt Linear to give away, we would gratefully accept it!

Sports parade

The Squadron has taken an active part in basketball, football, cross-country, rugby and hockey during the last few months.

The basketball team is at present heading the Detmold League which includes major and minor units. We are also progressing in our attempt to retain the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Basketball Cup. The football team did well in reaching the Divisional semi-final, where we lost to 65 Corps Sp. Squadron, R.E., after extra time. We are also leading the Detmold Garrison Minor Units League. The cross-country team has competed regularly in the Minor Units Westphalia League and at present lies in second place. Recently we won the Brigade Minor Units Cross-country Trophy but lost the Divisional Cross-country by a narrow margin when **Corporal McNeilly,** our star runner, sprained his ankle while lying a good second to the famed **Corporal Venus. Corporal McNeilly** is to be congratulated on being the individual winner of the Brigade cross-country meeting. The hockey and rugby teams still flourish, though intermittently due to shortage of players.

Hellos and Goodbyes

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our new Communications Captain, **Captain I. W. Morris,** and O.C. 'Bravo' Troop, **Lieutenant R. J. Holmes,** and his wife **Anne.** Also to newly promoted **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Dunmall** and his family.

Best wishes go with the departure of **Captain C. E. Byrom** and his wife **Val** to 13th Signal Regiment as Adjutant, and **Lieutenant R. G. Heaney** who is now believed to be studying golf at Cambridge University. (He has been sighted several times by the Editor busy studying at Hankley Common Golf Club!).

We are shortly due to lose our Administrative Officer, **Captain B. D. Norman,** 9/12th Lancers, and Q.M., **Major A. F. Prevett,** 14/20th Hussars, to whom we wish fond farewells in advance, and welcome in their place **Captain J. Corrigan,** 16/5th Lancers, and **Captain H. O. Bailey, M.M.,** Q.D.G.



A 21st ANNIVERSARY IS CELEBRATED (See notes)
To mark the occasion soldiers of 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron and 657 Aviation Squadron marched through the town of Soltau. It was to mark the 21st Anniversary of the arrival of Headquarters 7 Armoured Brigade in Soltau. Brigadier L. W. Gingell, O.B.E., took the salute and with him on the dias was the Burgermeister. This was the first occasion that British troops had marched through the town since the end of World War II

7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (207), B.F.P.O. 37

21st Anniversary

THE history book says that 7th Armoured Brigade was formed at Mersa Matruh in September, 1938. It fought in the Western Desert as part of the 7th Armoured Division—The Desert Rats. From the end of 1941 until September, 1942, the Brigade fought in Burma and formed part of the defence of the Assam Border. After two years of Garrison duty in Iraq, Syria and Egypt, 7th Armoured Brigade entered Italy in April, 1944. Fighting up through the country, it entered Austria in June, 1945.

In October, 1947, 7th Armoured Brigade moved to Germany, first to Bad Lippspringe and then, in December, 1949, to its present location, Soltau.

Our formation sign has been the Jerboa—The Desert Rat—since its adoption in early, 1940. Our older readers may rest assured that there is no more proudly worn formation sign in the Army today.

Sunday, 6th December, 1970, marked as nearly as possible the 21st anniversary of the arrival of Headquarters 7th Armoured Brigade in Soltau. To commemorate the occasion a guard comprised of members of the Squadron and 657 Aviation Squadron commanded by the O.C., **Major T. Rigby,** marched behind the Band of the Queen's Own Hussars to the St. Johannis Kirche. There the guard was inspected by **Bürgermeister Lindloff** and the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier L. W. Gingell, O.B.E.** After the inspection in front of a large congregation in the church the Bürgermeister and Brigade Commander made short speeches and exchanged pewter salvers on behalf of the town and Brigade. This was followed by a combined service conducted jointly by the Pastor of the church and our own Padre. The service was followed by a march past on our way back to barracks. The parade was particularly noteworthy in that it was the first time that British troops had marched through the town of Soltau since the end of World War II.

The Squadron is still housed in the Reitschule. There have probably been few changes in the barracks since the predecessors of the present Headquarters and Signal Squadron arrived 21 years ago. We are sure you older readers would still be able to find your way about.

Other news

November to January always seems to be taken up with inspections of every conceivable type and Christmas activities. Sufficient to say that we thoroughly enjoyed all our Christmas celebrations and suceeeded in keeping half a pace ahead of all our inspectors. The visitors we were particularly pleased to see were the C.S.O., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** C.C. R. Signals, **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E.,** and, for Christmas, **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Bishnuparsad Thapa.** We succeeded in providing a Chieftain, 432 and Stalwart for the latter's visit and hope that he enjoyed his visit to the snows of Soltau.

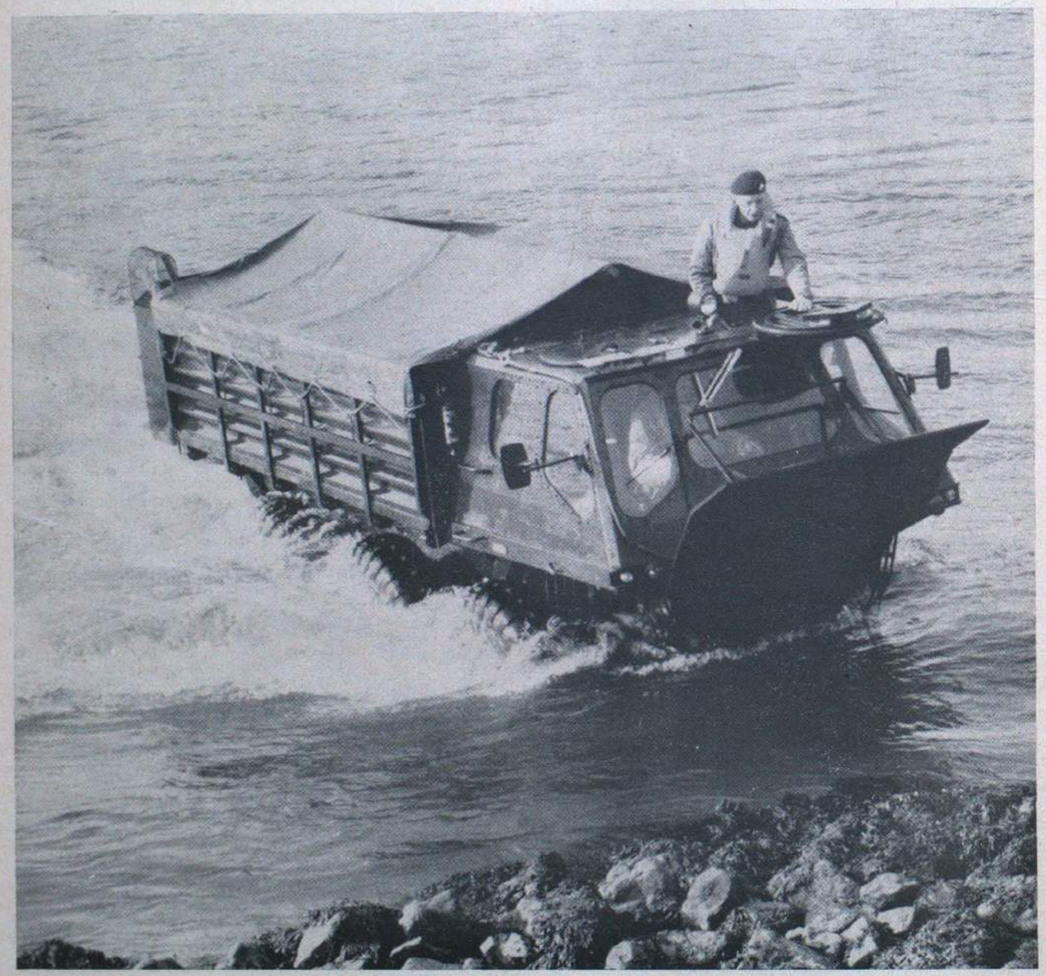
In the sporting world, we were second in the Brigade Orienteering Meeting, first in the Brigade Minor Units Cross-Country, and lost in the semi-final of the Divisional Minor Units Football to our friends in 11 Brigade. By the time these notes are published, we will know how our ski team have fared, but not how **Corporal Sean Dillon-White** and **Signalman Elliot** have done in the World Biathlon Championships in Finland.

ALVIS LIMITED COVENTRY ENGLAND

ALVIS

stalwart

the tough amphibious load-carrier
from the Alvis family of fighting vehicles



8th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron, Londonderry

OBITUARY

Signalman John Mitchell died under tragic circumstances whilst at home on leave in Conisborough, Yorkshire, on 5th January. It is with a profound sense of loss that we mourn his death.

John Mitchell was a founder member of 8 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, joining on 18th November, 1969, from 3rd Signal Regiment.

He was a very popular figure in the Squadron and a splendid all-round sportsman. He was a keen soccer, rugby football and basketball player.

He was 22 years old at the time of his death and it is very sad indeed that this fine advert for the Corps should be taken from us in the prime of life.

Arrivals and departures

WE said goodbye to **Captain Johnnie Fielding** and his wife **Sheila** just before Christmas. **Captain Fielding,** who had been with the Squadron from the date of its inception, left us for the rarified atmosphere of R.M.C.S. and a place on the staff course. The prodigious amount of work that he got through, and his unceasing efforts on behalf of the Squadron, will long be remembered. **Captain Chris Blessington** and his wife **Sorel** have joined us in their place.

Second-Lieutenant Andrew Whiddett, another 'original,' is also shortly to leave us. He is due to go to 50 Msl. Regiment, R.A., and the best of luck. **Second-Lieutenant Alan Hutt** steps in as O.C. 'Alpha' Troop in his stead.

(See feature article on page 96)

11th Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (211) B.F.P.O. 29

Visits

SINCE our last notes we have had the honour of a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.**

The S.O.-in-C. did a tour of the Squadron lines, meeting most of the men and seeing them at work on their day-to-day role of maintaining their vehicles and equipment. After the inevitable drink in the Sergeants' Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess, the S.O.-in-C., before his departure after lunch, addressed the Squadron in the Scarf Club on current developments in the Corps.

We enjoyed having him and felt privileged that we were the only Brigade Squadron to have shown him around on his recent visit to B.A.O.R.

Departures

Our most notable departure has been the Commander of 11 Armoured Brigade, **Brigadier T. M. Creasey, O.B.E.,** who has left us to move to the Imperial Defence College. We saw him off from Kingsley Barracks in grand style. A party of Sergeants pulled his staff car around the barracks, led by the Band and Pipes of the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders, with the route lined by soldiers from the Squadron.

He was a formidable and demanding commander, who insisted always on the highest standards. He gave us a hard time, but paid us our finest compliment before he left, when he told the Squadron: "I have required you to live and work hard in the field, and this you have done whilst maintaining a high standard in movement, camouflage and battlefield discipline, in addition to your normal tasks."

We have also said farewell to our popular Second-in-Command, **Captain Colin Brown.** He has departed to ASD 2(a) in the Ministry of Defence and we wish him every success in the future. His successor, **Captain Sam Cowan,** is the man writing these notes. I will only say that his initial reaction to his first experience of soldiering in B.A.O.R. was exactly what his many friends predicted.

Farewell also to our R.S.M., **W.O.I Alec Cave,** who has left for the warmer climate of Australia. We thank him and his wife for all the hard work they put in here and wish them all the best for the future.

Arrivals

We of course welcome our new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier R. M. Carnegie, O.B.E.,** formerly Commanding Officer of Queen's Own Hussars, and our new R.S.M., **W.O.I F. R. Gardner,** from 229 Signal Squadron, Berlin.

Football

The Squadron footballers have been upholding the good name of the Squadron in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Soccer Cup. We won the 1st Division trophy by beating 225 Signal Squadron in a very good final. On our way to the final, no result was more satisfying than our semi-final victory over our old rivals from 7 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron by 2—1.

We have now qualified to meet 4th Division Aviation Regiment in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Trophy. It is unfair to mention personalities, but our two 'strikers,' **Lance-Corporal Keith Hudson** and **Corporal Bob King,** our two midfielmen, **Sergeant Mick Stone** and **Corporal 'Paddy' Parkhill,** and the two men in the middle of the back four, **Corporal Alan Cunningham** and **Lance-Corporal Nigel Gillett** deserve a special mention for their efforts.

Rugby

The Squadron team have been having a very good season under the captaincy of **Corporal 'Taffy' Crook.** The first results of the season were most promising, with extremely rewarding wins against all of our garrison units, 20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, and a tough draw to 7th Signal Regiment. In the B.A.O.R. Major Units Challenge Cup, the team beat 45th Medium Regiment, R.A., only to be beaten by 39th Missile Regiment, R.A., in a very hard home game. At the present time, all our players are looking forward to the weekend in Antwerp, where they will meet 'The Bulldogs.' A special mention of thanks must go to winger, **Lance-Corporal Jack Sandham;** scrum-half, **Corporal 'Happy' Barnett;** props, **Signalmen Joe Ashton** and **Bob Spring;** and hooker, **Lance-Corporal Bill Wilkie,** for their powerful playing in all matches.

Cross-country and orienteering

On Wednesday, 9th December, at the Brigade Cross-Country Championships, the Squadron team won the Minor Units Trophy for the fourth year running, and were placed third in the overall competition.

Lance-Corporal 'Fedro' Algar, team captain and trainer, has succeeded in holding together a strong and determined team in a very short time. With old hands like **Signalman 'Chilly' Chilcott** placed 11th, **Signalman Emmerson** placed 18th, and **Signalmen Paul Neale** and **Paul Greenwood** following closely behind, and promising runners **Signalman 'Lofty' Loughlin, Signalman Stevie Fisher, Signalman Andy Boase,** and **Sergeant 'Birdie' Peacock** making up the points.

We are now looking forward to the Divisional finals, where we meet **Staff Sergeant Harry Escott** and his 'wonder boys' from 7th Armoured Brigade once again.

A team consisting of **Corporal 'Brummy' Smith, Lance-Corporal 'Pedro' Algar** and **Signalman 'Eyes' Greenwood,** entered for the Brigade Orienteering Championships, held at Lubbecke in December and won the Minor Units Trophy and were placed fifth overall by beating 12 major unit teams. A week later, **Corporal Smith** and **Lance-Corporal Algar** entered a night event for the first time and came sixth and seventh respectively, competing against a field of experienced entrants.

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation



AIRFIELD TROOP 222 SIGNAL SQUADRON
TROOP HEADQUARTERS AND SECTIONS BASED AT RAF SHARJAH, JANUARY 1971
In front: Bobby—Troop Mascot
Seated left to right: Sergeant Loates (from Salalah), Sergeant Thomas (Troop Sergeant), Captain H. A. Culley (O.C.), Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Field (2/I.C. and S.W.S.), Sergeant Reynolds (Line Section), Sergeant White (Exchange Section)
Standing left to right: Lance-Corporal Clarke, Corporal Johnson, Lance-Corporal Regan, Signalman Brown, Lance-Corporal Lightfoot, Signalman O'Hagen, Lance-Corporal Furber, Corporal Thompson, Corporal Evans, Lance-Corporal Brannigan, Lance-Corporal Rigley, Signalman West, Lance-Corporal Langstaff, Lance-Corporal James, Corporal Sedgebeer

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah) B.F.P.O. 64

THE past months have been so busy it is not a question of what to write for THE WIRE, so much as what to leave out. As Radio Troop are so fond of putting their photograph in THE WIRE, Airfield Troop start these notes with a troop photograph instead. The two items included this month are an account of Exercise 'Arabian Night' by Radio Troop, and an account of the Deira-Sharjah road race by **Corporal Clint Mogg.** It ought to be mentioned that this race was organised by the RAF, who entered 10 teams, and that local athletic clubs also took part.

Exercise 'Arabian Night'—two good rebro sites made comms. solid

This exercise was a straight joust between 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rangers and the Abu Dhabi Defence Force and was closely umpired by C.L.F.G. staff. The Squadron's responsibility was to provide VHF communications for the umpires in an area largely covered in jebels and deep wadis to the north-east of Burami. This sort of country could easily have become a communicator's nightmare, but after an aerial survey prior to the exercise by the O.C., **Major W. E. A. Edmonds,** it was possible to find two good rebro sites. Both of these sites were on the top of jebels and only accessible from the air. **Sergeant Brown** (255 Signal Squadron) was destined to command one site for the duration of the exercise on the crest of a steep-sided jebel barely large enough for six men and their sets. It is now believed that he got over his former vertigo. The commander of the other rebro site was our own **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Jim Kelly,** who had only arrived out here a week previously to take over a guaranteed desk job. The Yeoman became famous for his demands for more food and cooking utensils. It became increasingly obvious that he must have been very spoilt in his former B.A.O.R. Brigade because he was very annoyed when his demands were not forthcoming. (He was later presented with a ladle by members of the Sergeants' Mess).

Meanwhile, back at the umpire headquarters, the rest of the Squadron was lanquishing in a canvas camp of vast proportions, which had taken the pioneers some four days to set up. Needless to say, all worked hard and produced good communications which worked satisfactorily except for the occasion when the RAF contingent decided to turn up their power on their fading communications. This naturally enough resulted in breakthrough on all nets and telephones.

Dining out—Squadron representatives enjoy meal with local Ruler

During the final stages of packing up after the exercise, the local Ruler in Mahadha extended an invitation to the O.C. and a few others to dine with him. The Ruler proved to be quite a young man with good command of English, much to the relief of the other three guests, **Captain Treeby, Second-Lieutenant Conlon** (255 Signal Squadron) and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) McGregor.** In their honour the Ruler had laid on a magnificent fudle complete with young goat. The meal was eaten in Arab style, sitting on the floor and eating with the fingers of the right hand—not an easy thing to do, especially when eating rice. Contrary to popular belief the eyeballs are not the selected delicacy but the brain, and this, of course, was offered to the guests, some of whom were not happy with the idea but put on a brave face. After the meal and coffee, **Second-Lieutenant Conlon** finally mastered the art of stopping more coffee being served. The Ruler was presented with a Squadron plaque as a token of thanks for such overwhelming hospitality.

Deira-Sharjah road race—10-mile relay won by Corps runners against tough opposition

On 5th February 222 Signal Squadron accepted an invitation by the RAF to take part in a relay race from Deira to Sharjah, a distance of approximately 10 miles.

After a lot of blackmailing and 'arm twisting,' a team of six runners was formed. The team consisted of **Signalman Jeff Watson, Lance-Corporal 'Jesse' James, Corporal Clint Mogg, Lance-Corporal Pete Leach, Lance-Corporal John Johnson** and **Lance-Corporal Mal Heaney.**

The race started at 15.30 hours on a 'sunny' day. On the first leg **Jeff Watson** won his leg, handing over to **'Jesse' James** who, considering his running ability and the fact he was running against two RAF station runners, did well to hand over to **Clint Mogg** in third place. Due to strong running by **Clint Mogg, Pete Leach** started off second and true to form, with his head down, 'dug in' to win his stage of the race. It was during the next leg that we thought we had said goodbye to the tankards and beers, as **John Johnson** was seen 'staggering' up the road carrying the baton as though it was a log, eventually handing over to **Mal Heaney** in second place. After closing the gap and overtaking the leader, the beers were once more in sight and stayed so for the rest of the race, the time of the race being 58 minutes 16 seconds.

12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. (212), B.F.P.O. 36

THE Squadron, having just been through its F.F.R. inspection, has concentrated for the remainder of the month, before the exercise season hits us with a vengeance, on sport. Some of our sporting activities are outlined below:

Boxing

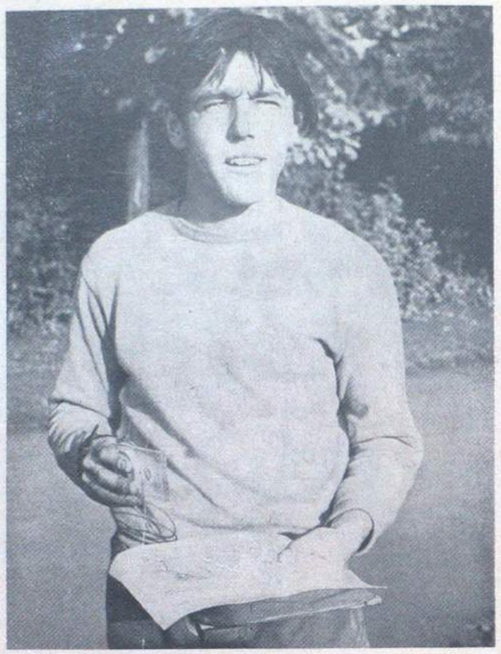
The Squadron won the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Minor Unit Team Boxing Championships against 20 Ordnance Field Park in Osnabruck on 27th January. We are now due to compete in the finals against British Forces Antwerp later this month. In the semi-final the team consisted of **Lance-Corporal Clark**, R.C.T., **Signalman Warrilow, Signalman Reid, Signalman Brady, Lance-Corporal Stevenson, Corporal Nelson** and **Signalman Blackburn.** The contest was won by six bouts to two bouts and the team put up an extremely good effort. We wish them all the best in the finals.

Cross-Country/Orienteering

Our team came third in the 2nd Division Minor Units Cross-Country Championships this month and they narrowly missed coming second. A number of the cross-country team are also keen orienteerers and our photograph shows **Signalman Mathews** finding his way in one of the competitions.

Ski-ing

By the end of 'Snow Queen' courses we shall have had 20 junior ranks taking part in downhill ski-ing. We have just waved goodbye to a party of 25 members of the Squadron who have left for Bavaria to take part in a Squadron langlauf adventure training exercise which will last two weeks. The exercise has been jointly organised by **Lieutenant Sugdon** and our Adjutant, **Captain Keir,** W.F.R.



WHERE NOW?
Signalman Mathews map in hand orients himself while orienteering

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Visit of the S.O.-in-C.

THE S.O.-in-C., **Major-General P. F. Pentreath,** accompanied by C.S.O., B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield,** visited the Squadron on 24th November. The guard of honour prepared by **S.S.M. Bert Bowes** acquitted themselves well in spite of the lack of formal drill parades in this international environment. During his inspection of the guard he spotted a familiar face in **Corporal Tom Stephenson,** who had served with him previously, and they exchanged a few words.

The schedule for the visit was rather tight but we managed to fit in a tour of the mobile communications centre facilities. During this the S.O.-in-C. met a number of the international personnel serving in AFCENT, and took the opportunity of having a quick chat with them.

The British Officers and Senior N.C.O.s had coffee with the visitors and the Generals seized the opportunity to have a brief informal chat with all members.

Sport—Wives take the field

Our major sporting event of the year was the soccer classic between 227 Amazons (Squadron wives) and the Sergeants' Mess.

Mrs. Valerie Robinson and the O.C.'s wife **Maureen Morgan** selected their team with skill and cunning which would have done credit to Alf Ramsey and Jack Solomons. Their training methods which transformed shy, attractive wives and mothers into goal-lusting, bloodthirsty Amazons, must have won the envy of St. Trinians.



THE SMILING LADIES OF 227 SQUADRON . . . ALIAS THE FIGHTING 'AMAZONS'

They challenged the Sergeants Mess to a soccer match and the result is best left to Unit notes to describe! In the photo the Amazons from left to right:

Back row: Eve Goulding, Sharon Parry, Daphne Heaps, Mary Grant, Mary Bell, Joan McGimpsey

Front row: Valerie Robinson, Maureen Morgan, Doreen Whitfield, Sonia Robson, Elizabeth Clark

(*Continued on page* 125)

(*Continued from page* 124)



DISCUSSION WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR
Major-General P. F. Pentreath (S.O.-in-C.) during his visit to 227 Squadron discusses international supply problems with Sergeant Al Ford, U.S. Army, whilst Captain Detlef Frels, Germany Army and W.O.I R.S.M. Tom Burke look on

An unsuspecting **R.S.M. Tom Burke** accepted the challenge and envisaging a social occasion agreed to provide a bar whilst the wives produced home-made cakes, etc. He now realises that medical aid, embrocation, armoured support and comprehensive insurance must come first for any future meeting.

Lieutenant Alan Pearce, in a weak moment, agreed to referee and turned out resplendent in Mess jacket, bow tie and kilt; we believe the tartan was Clan Ger. As a strong gust of wind playfully fluttered his kilt revealing dainty blue issue P.T. shorts, one of our Scots was heard to remark, "He must be a bluddy Sassenack."

The whistle transformed dainty feet, well-turned limbs, and beautifully varnished nails into lethal weapons. Our male members were convinced that Ghengis Khan and his hordes had crept onto the pitch whilst they were not looking. **Sergeant Jeff Williams,** doing a graceful Georgie Best, was soon entertaining the crowd with some very artistic sinuous gyrations across the pitch after a rather innocuous tackle; searching interrogation failed to reveal where he was injured but he showed a marked reluctance to mix it with the opposition on recovery. **Major Bill Morgan** was soon blinded by a well-placed handful of dust and the goalkeeper, **Sergeant Bert Gent,** was slightly handicapped by being tied to the goalpost.

The men could find no answer to the robust play or latest innovation in soccer tactics whereby the ladies pair off and whilst one holds the opposition the other scores.

The teams expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of impartiality on the part of the referee by rolling him in a large puddle of mud. **Lieutenant Alan Pearce** announces with regret that he is no longer accepting invitations to formal functions and that he has also retired from active refereeing. As a result he has a comparatively unused kilt for sale.

The wives finally decided to bolster the male ego and magnanimously settled for a 3-3 draw. With the rapid advance in communication techniques we feel sure that some of our husbands will manage to speak to wives before Christmas, 1971.

Optimism

Signalman 'Yorky' Trollope showed the kind of faith that moves mountains when he bet his old Morris Oxford 'banger' against a brand new Volvo on Rotherham beating Leeds United. Whilst we laud his loyal support and local fervour we can only assume that he will be walking on his return from leave.

Congratulations

To **Lance-Corporal Bob Morley** and **Miss Lucie Johanna Maria Tommard** who were married here in Maastricht on 4th December. We wish them every success and trust that his wife will not get inveigled into joining the wives' football team before the honeymoon is over.

Also to **Corporals Lou Stephens, Dave McGimpsey** and **Alex McDonald** on their elevation to Sergeant. Our Mess members commend Records on making them up in bunches as it leads to a really worthwhile party.

Departures

December saw the departure of our executive officer, **Captain Rex Stephenson,** to the School of Signals for instructional duties, and the arrival of his relief, **Lieutenant Jon Ingram.** We trust that a comprehensive guide to carnival time was included in the handover.

Mrs. Paula Smailes, our typist, has now left in preparation for starting her own unit. Her replacement, **Mrs. Sharon Parry,** is now getting into the swing of things. Our Chief Clerk, **Sergeant John Stout,** is experiencing a brief flush of power before she takes over the reins of command.

(Notes arrived too late for inclusion in previous issue)

The Volunteers



VOLUNTEERS FROM 32nd (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) ON EXERCISE
Major-General Armitage (G.O.C. Northumbrian District) talks with Lance-Corporal Martinez (N.C.O. i/c Teleprinter room) during a visit

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) Wanstead

Under new management

CONSEQUENT upon the departure of **Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway** to Royal Signals Records and the assumption of command by **Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D.**, several other changes in senior management of the Regiment have taken place. **Major P. J. Hart, T.D.**, has relinquished command of 45 (Essex) Signal Squadron (V) and has become Second-in-Command of the Regiment. His place at 45 Squadron has been taken by **Major D. Fuller,** E.R.D., on promotion, who has moved from the neighbouring 54 (East Anglia) Signal Squadron (V) in which he was Centre Commander at Norwich. He claims to be one of the most travelled Volunteer Officers in the Corps and his latest appointment will continue to add significantly to his already impressive mileage because he will now travel regularly from Woodbridge, Suffolk, to 45 S.H.Q. at Brentwood.

Simultaneously **Major D. Latham,** E.R.D., has relinquished command of H.Q. Squadron at Wanstead and has assumed the duties of Regimental Planning Officer, a new appointment at R.H.Q. The new H.Q. Squadron Commander is **Major W. Quain, T.D.**, previously Centre Commander at Ilford and formerly with the Essex Regiment (Territorials). The Regiment has also welcomed two new members of the Permanent Staff —**Sergeant F. Black** and **Corporal C. G. Bellamy.**

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D.

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet is the first Volunteer C.O. of 36th Signal Regiment following three-and-a-half years as Second-in-Command to two Regular C.O.s — **Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith, M.B.E., D.C.M.,** and **Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway.** Prior to that he was Second-in-Command of 54th (E.A.) Signal Regiment, T.A., which was one of three T.A. Signal Regiments from which 36th Signal Regiment was formed. He joined the T.A. in 1948 after full-time service, first commanding the Signal Troop of 305 (Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, R.A., subsequently becoming Second-in-Command of 89 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron and then a Squadron Commander in 54th (East Anglia) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Visit of Signal Officer-in-Chief

Prior to Christmas we were very privileged to receive a 'no-fuss' visit from the S.O.-in-C., **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** accompanied by 12 Signal Group (V) Commander, **Brigadier A. J. Jackson.** After arrival at R.H.Q. Wanstead he was briefed by the Commanding Officer and, following supper in the Officers' Mess, visited elements of R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron. Afterwards he travelled to 45 Squadron H.Q. at Brentwood where he saw trade training in progress and then spent a short while in the Soldiers' canteen before departing, where he complimented all ranks on the fine job they were doing.



VISIT OF S.O.-in-C.
Left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel Prophet, Brigadier Jackson, S.O.-in-C., Lieutenant Cassanet and Sergeant McDonald

T.A.V.R. Association Football

For the third year running 44 (Cinque Ports) Signal Squadron (V) have won the Southern Command final of the T.A.V.R. Challenge Cup. In the final they defeated 210 (Surrey) Squadron R.C.T. (V) from Redhill by 5-0 and are proceeding to the national quarter-finals.

In the Southern Command semi-final a remarkable score of 19-3 was achieved by 44 Squadron. At first this was mistaken for a rugger score but it did seem to indicate certain shortcomings in defence until it was learnt that the three goals conceded included a generously awarded penalty and an own goal. The unlucky victims were 215 Squadron R.C.T. (V) from Grays.

Good luck to 44 Squadron in the national rounds!

38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Sheffield

Coming along nicely

APPREHENSIVE we were, volunteers all, who presented themselves in mid-November, in Sheffield, to that mixture of psychiatrist/con-man, **P.S.I. Sergeant Garrod.** From the newest recruit to the most experienced of officers, **Training Major John Ingledow** (now why is it that typewriter ribbons always unwind as soon as he takes over the machine!), we had all come for 15 hourly sessions of instruction, using a Sight and Sound Course, in the mysterious art of typing. After 15 days each, of some 12 hours' duration, **Sergeant Garrod** was able to assure the owner of an abortive piece of typing that it was 'coming along nicely.' Many thanks to **Sergeant** Garrod. We hope that the typrewriter it was our pleasure to present him with will be a pleasant reminder of all his hard work.

Meanwhile, the recruiting team was very active. A whole-day conference was organised by the Second-in-Command, **Major P. Revill,** for all Squadron recruiting officers. The editor of '*The Morning Telegraph*,' a local college lecturer in journalism, and (from the angle of youth) a 19-year-old addressed the meeting. The Army Careers Information Staff popped in for a flying visit and found the conference so interesting that they stayed all day. Following this, the November exercise at Scarborough was visited by reporters and photographers from the local newspaper who thoroughly enjoyed themselves trying out NBC clothing, and gave a full and well-balanced report of our activities for local readers.

Boats everywhere

Can it be connected with the recent periods of non-stop rain? Or is it merely due to their proximity to Manchester? The visitor to our Blackburn Squadron can see no less than three boats in the area. Close questioning shows that the real reason is forward planning for annual camp which, this year, will be at Scarborough. With such a flotilla, extra mural



DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS
Captain Brook, 46 Squadron administrative officer, prepares to 'rule the waves'

activities promise some excitement. One of the re-fitters, patching a leak some three feet long by a foot wide, wonders if installing a radio set could make them an official duty location to spend the whole exercise. Although he still awaits some sort of answer, one thing is certain, the view through that leak will certainly qualify any incumbent for field conditions.

Actively engaged in soccer shooting and running competitions, athlete recruits are welcome in our 93 Sporting Squadron.

Congratulations to the 64 Squadron football team, which has again been successfully in action, winning the Command final of the T. & A.V.R. Cup, 5—2, against 103 (Newcastle) Field Squadron R.E. at York.

They come and go

In February we shall say farewell to **Major Ken Pilley,** O.C. H.Q. Squadron, who retires after over 20 years' service as a volunteer. H.Q. Squadron will miss his calm control of their very varied duties. They will also loose **Sergeant Woodhall,** of R.E.M.E., another long serving member, and Regimental armourer for some years.

Coming in are **Second-Lieutenant Skipper,** to 87 Squadron; **Second-Lieutenant Lea** to 46 Squadron, and **Second-Lieutenant Fleming,** breaking new ground as the first W.R.A.C. in that last refuge of the strong, silent signaller 64 Squadron. (Misogynists beware!).*

* Adjutant's comment: As it was **Second-Lieutenant Fleming** who penned these notes, that warning is perhaps significant.

39th (City of London) Signal Regt. (V)

Expansion

THE Regiment started its planned expansion on Wednesday, 3rd February, with the reopening of the old Light Infantry Drill Hall in Banbury. The opening ceremony took place in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, **Colonel J. B. Thomson, T.D., D.C.L.,** the Mayor and Mayoress of Banbury, **Councillor** and **Mrs. Harold Heath,** and the Vice-Chairman of the East Wessex T.A.V.R.A., **Colonel J. L. Ashton, D.L.**



'YOU PUT THE SIGNAL IN THERE AND IT GOES ROUND AND ROUND'
Captain Julian Webster explaining some equipment to the Mayor and Mayoress of Banbury Councillor and Mrs. H. J. Heath

Support

The Drill Hall, tailor-made to our requirements by a generous T.A.V.R.A., was packed with about 300 people, of whom 100 were the leaders of local industry, all of whom have pledged their support.

We are delighted to report that by Saturday, 6th February, we were in the process of signing on 20 recruits, a few of them with previous military experience, an ex-Royal Signals Regular Subaltern, who shall remain anonymous until he finally decides (quickly, we hope), and an ex-Regular W.R.A.C. Corporal R.M.P. on a type 'R' engagement (W.R.A.C. Records willing).

The Team

The Squadron Commander is **Captain Julian Webster,** who can only be described as indefatigable; with a journey of 63 miles before he can even start the Squadron work, he will be on Phyllosan *before* he's 40. The rest of the Regiment wish him good luck, we need '70' from Banbury, we're sure he'll get them.

W.O.II Brian Higgs, B.E.M., and **Sergeant Peter O'Mahony,** late S.A.S. and Blue Nile Expedition, have been towers of strength in the build-up to the opening, and a lot of the credit for its success must go to them.

Our Annual Visitor

On 12th February, The Lord Mayor, **Sir Peter Studd, M.A., D.Sc.,** came to the Regiment with the Aldermanic Sheriff, **Mr. Hugh Wontner, C.V.O.,** and the Sheriff, **Mr. Peter Gadsden, M.A., J.P., C.C.** There seemed to be mayoral groups everywhere for the Mayors of Hackney, Tunbridge Wells and Banbury were also present, this surely must be a Regimental record—the only one missing was the Provost of Dundee!

On his arrival, the Lord Mayor was greeted by the Mayor of Hackney, **Councillor Charles Hegerty,** and the Commanding Officer; he inspected a guard of honour and then joined the remainder of the guests in the drill hall. Amongst the guests were **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** Signal Officer-in-Chief; **Major-General H. E. N. Bredin, D.S.O., M.C.,** Director of T.A.V.R. and Cadets, and **Major-General W. N. R. Scotter, O.B.E., M.C.,** Chief of Staff, H.Q., Southern Command, together with the Chairmen and Secretaries of all three Southern T.A.V.R. Associations with which the Regiment is connected.

The Lord Mayor, together with the Sheriffs, visited the Lynx Club and the Sergeants' Mess before attending a guest night in the Officers' Mess. The wee sma' hours saw a gradual departure of those who seemed to enjoy themselves; those we know enjoyed themselves are still there (we think).

Work

In case any reader might think that social activities are more numerous than the military ones, let us say that whilst all the above was going on there have been two Regimental exercises, and normal training, with doubled attendances. We like it here, why not join us?

Canoe Polo Championships, 1971

Corps Canoeists become Champions

Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. D. F. Painter, Secretary, Corps Canoeing, writes:

The 1971 National Canoe Polo Championships were held at the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace on 6th and 7th February. These championships were part of the National Canoeing Exhibition which is held each year at Crystal Palace under the sponsorship of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (C.C.P.R.).

The Royal Signals Canoe Club entered a team in these championships. The team is known as the 'Spartans' and consisted of: **Lieutenant M. E. Harrison,** team captain; **Sergeant E. G. Bell, Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow, Lance-Corporal R. G. Story, Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink.**

All team members are on the posted strength of the School of Signals.

The Corps team successfully negotiated the preliminary rounds, the quarter-finals and semi-finals and, after a very close game in the finals, succeeded in defeating the other finalists (Pangbourne C.C.) to become National Canoe Polo Champions 1971. (The final was a drawn game after extra time, but the 'Spartans' were awarded the championship on best goal average).

Sport



THE COLLECTORS

Some of the trophies won by the Royal Signals Canoe Club during the 1970 season. Included in these are Inter-Service and Army Championship Cups and awards and cups and awards for many civilian competitions at international and national standard. In the photo:

Back row (left to right): Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. D. F. Painter, Secretary, Brigadier J. R. Cubberley, President, Lieutenant M. E. Harrison, Team Captain

Front row (left to right): Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow, Corporal M. J. Bull, Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink, Lance-Corporal R. G. Story

HOCKEY

Royal Signals (Singapore) hold unbeaten record in local services league

The Corps League for the season 1970-1971 consisted of nine teams, namely:

Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Marine Commando, Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, R.E.M.E., Combined Corps, Brigade of Gurkhas and the Army Department Police.

Having been beaten by only one point in the 1969-1970 season and having lost further players due to the rundown, we were pleased to welcome **Lieutenant J. F. Stuart, Lieutenant I. Noble** and **Corporal Hunter,** newcomers to the island.

On 2nd October, 1970, a Corps Trial match was played against RAF Changi, followed by a friendly game against a local Sikh team named Khalsa.

The season opened on 23rd October, 1970, against the R.C.T. Although we were winning 2-0 at half-time, the R.C.T. came back strongly and equalised, making the final score 2-2.

On 6th November, 1970, the game against the Gurkhas proved a hard, fast game which we won 5-0, and was followed with the game against the Combined Corps on 13th November, 1970. As in previous years, the Combined Corps gave us a good, sportsmanlike game, which we won 5-1.

The game against the R.A.O.C. on 27th November, 1970, was hard fought until the final whistle. Somewhat weaker than last season, they nevertheless played good, fast hockey and never gave up the attack, though they failed to score. The final result was a win to us of 3-0.

On 11th December, 1970, we met R.E.M.E. who, having always given us a good game in the past, lived up to their reputation and strongly contested the game until the final whistle. The score of 1-1 midway through the second half reflected the evenness of play and only minutes before the final whistle did we manage to score the winning goal, to win 2-1.

The Royal Marines proved our toughest match of the season on 8th January. They played fast and rugged hockey throughout and maintained a high standard of sportsmanship. They were unlucky not to have scored on two occasions though we won 3-0.

On 22nd January we met the Army Depot Police who last season beat us 2-0 and caused the vital drop of one point which cost us the Corps shield. Again we had a hard game against a team which utilised the wings to full advantage. Our goal was under constant pressure from fast and clever forwards during the first half, but we rallied in the second and avenged our previous defeat with a win of 2-0.

With this game in hand and only one more to play we were now undefeatable, our nearest rivals being three points behind.

The final game against the Royal Engineers was played on 5th February. Last season they had strongly contested our league position and had held us to a draw. Again they gave us a hard game and were ever dangerous. A high standard of hockey was played throughout by both sides though we had the edge in front of goal. The final score, a win to us of 4-2, put us well out in front of our nearest rival.

We had played 8 games, won 7, drawn 1, goals for 26, goals against 6, and were awarded the Corps Shield for the season 1970 1971.

Corps Colours for the 1970-1971 season were awarded to: **Lieutenant I. Noble,** 17th Signal Regiment; **Lieutenant J. F. Stuart, W.O.I (F. of S.) Howie, Sergeant Sardul Singh, Corporal Sidek, Lance-Corporal Beh, Signalman Idris,** 18th Signal Regiment; **Sergeant Prior, Sergeant How Eng Choon, Corporal Hunter. Signalman Tam Lak, Signalman Sharifuddin,** 19th Signal Regiment.

CORPS HOCKEY

Royal Signals v. R.M.C.S. Draw 0-0

Departures, injury and availability produced a rather new-look side for the first match of 1971 as follows:

Sergeant Bowden; Captain Carr-Smith and **Major Gregory; Captain Allen. Lieutenant Barry** and **Second-Lieutenant Cook; Lieutenant Oddie, Corporal Havlin, Lieutenant Chubb, Captain Boyle** and **Sergeant Williams.**

In spite of the changes made and the gap between matches the side settled quickly and began to threaten the Shrivenham goal. Failure to convert the opportunities created allowed Shrivenham back into the game, producing a fast, open first half.

Throughout the second half the Corps were in complete control of the game, keeping play entirely in the Shrivenham half. Unfortunately a combination of inaccurate shooting and desperate defence prevented any score.

Royal Signals v. R.C.T. Won 5-1

Once again availability forced the Corps to field a very different side as follows: **Sergeant Bowden; Lieutenant-Colonel Blake** and **Second-Lieutenant Cook; Captain Stewart, Corporal Havlin** and **Captain Day; Lieutenant Oddie, Major Gregory, Lieutenant Chubb, Major Last** and **Sergeant Williams.**

In spite of all the changes in players and positions the side settled quickly and took control of the game. Three goals, in quick succession from **Chubb** and **Last** (2), forced the R.C.T. to rearrange their side, preventing further scoring in the first half.

Facing a side concentrating entirely on defence the Corps side worked hard to keep the ball moving and open up gaps in the defence. Players' efforts were rewarded by further goals by **Last** and **Williams.**

A late breakaway by the R.C.T. caught the defence too far up the field to prevent a well-taken goal.

Royal Signals v. R.M. Lost 0-1

Fortunately increased availability enabled the Corps to field a side as follows:

Sergeant Bowden; Captain Carr-Smith and **Major Gregory; Captain Storr. Lieutenant Barry** and **Second-Lieutenant Cook; Lieutenant Oddie, Corporal Havlin, Major Oehlers, Lieutenant Chubb** and **Sergeant Williams.**

The match started at a terrific pace with play evenly balanced. An early slip by the defence gave the Marines the one chance they needed to score. Recovering from the setback the side fought back and by half-time had taken control of the game, missing several chances.

Throughout the second half the Marines concentrated on defence, surviving eight short corners and many other near misses to take the match.

CORPS SOCCER

R.E. 3; Corps 2

This match was played in appalling conditions and it rained throughout the game. It is to the credit of both teams that they both contributed in full to an exciting game. The conditions meant that both defences were liable to make mistakes.

The Corps opened the scoring in the twelfth minute with a well-taken header by O'Rorke after a good run by Borman. By half-time Sappers had scored twice.

McKee equalised early in the second half. The Sappers went ahead again ten minutes later. Press as the Corps did, the equaliser they deserved, never came.

R.A. 3; Corps 2

Played 24 hours after the Sapper match, this was a game that should have been won. The Gunners, having drawn 48 hours before with R.E.M.E., and the breaks, and the Corps failed consistently to capitalise on the chances that came their way. The R.A. scored in the sixth minute and again in the 42nd minute from a penalty.

They added a third in the second half. The longer the game lasted, the more apparent it became that the Corps needed one goal to settle them down. It did not come, and through frustration, as the game wore on, it progressively looked less and less likely in coming.

R.E.M.E. 3; Corps 1

Having lost their two games earlier in the week, it was most encouraging to see the way in which the Corps team settled into this match against a strong and experienced R.E.M.E. team.

The first half produced some extremely good football. The Corps scored first through Halstead, and this gave them just the start that they needed. They had the ball in the net a second time, only for it to be somewhat surprisingly disallowed. Had this counted, the game could well have gone our way. As it was, the R.E.M.E. team scored three goals before the end of a very good half. The second half proved something of an anti-climax. The conduct of the team in the game was most creditable.

Late Soccer Result

Played Wednesday, 24th February.

Hull University 3; Royal Signals 2.

Association News

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in January	42	
Number of clothing parcels sent	23	
Amount spent in grants and loans	£862	5 6

One of the Month's Cases

EX-SERGEANT, 12 years' service. He has been unable to work for the last five years, owing to chronic ill health. He and his wife live in their own house, which was very badly in need of extensive repairs. The Association made a grant of £180 to enable this essential work to be carried out. His letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

"I WOULD be glad if you would convey to your Committee my most grateful thanks for their generous assistance. It has lifted a great load from my mind. Is there anything I can do to help the Royal Signals Association? There must be something I can do to show my gratitude. My wife and I thank you with all our hearts."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January, 1971:

	£	s.	d.
Officer Commanding 224 Signal Squadron (Radio Training) ...	15	15	0
Officer Commanding 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V) ...	2	12	0
Major D. A. Brockhurst	2	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. N. Solly	2	0	0
Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., D.L.	1	5	0
C. W. Holmes, Esq.	1	5	0
Colonel J. F. Longfield	1	0	0
Captain I. C. Double		15	0
Major A. A. Goodanew		12	0
Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E.		12	0
Captain J. W. Fricker		10	0
Major R. M. Bircumshaw		10	0
Various small individual donations		10	0
	£29	15	0

Obituary

MAJOR-GENERAL RALPH ERNEST VYVYAN, C.B.E., M.C.

Ralph Vyvyan, son of the late Captain H. R. Vyvyan, Devonshire Regiment, some time Chief Constable of Devon, was born in 1891 and died on 31st January, 1971. Educated at Stubbington and Exeter, he was Captain of Cricket and a rugger colour at Sandhurst. He was commissioned in the Worcestershire Regiment in 1910 and served in India up to 1913, arriving in France with the 2nd Battalion of his Regiment in August, 1914. In 1915 he was seconded to R.E. Signals, joining 14 Divisional Signal Company. He then raised 57 Divisional Signal Company and took them to France in 1917, where he won the M.C. and was Mentioned in Despatches.

In 1918 he became an instructor at the School of Tactics at Staff College, Camberley. This school was set up in mid-1918 to teach open warfare. In early 1919, he returned to Belgium in command of 55 Divisional Signal Company until its demobilisation, and was then given command of the Midland Divisional Signal Company in the Army of the Rhine.

He was an instructor at the School at Maresfield, when he transferred to Royal Signals in 1920. His next overseas tour was as O.C. Malaya Signal Section in 1924. On promotion to Major, he joined 1 Divisional Signals at Aldershot from 1926-30.

In 1931 he commanded 3 Indian Divisional Signals, and in 1932 became C.S.O. Eastern Command India. In 1935 he was promoted Colonel and held the appointment of C.S.O. Western Command, India, during the tenure of which he received the thanks of the Viceroy for the fine work by Signals in Baluchistan after the Quetta earthquake. In 1938 C.S.O. Western Command was directed to take over Eastern Command as well!

He started the Second World War as C.S.O. Northern Command, India, where operations in Waziristan and Kohat were still going on, and in 1940 was appointed S.O.-in-C. in India, becoming, in addition, Director of Signals, India, in 1942. This entailed extensive travel in India, Burma, Ceylon and Iraq. He was responsible for the enormous expansion of the Indian Signal Corps, where the lack of British reinforcements demanded great acceleration in the policies of training Indians, not only as Signals Officers, but in technical trades. He left India in 1945 and retired in 1946. He had held the M.B.E. since 1932 and was promoted to C.B.E. in 1944.

During his retirement, he served the Royal United Service Institution as Editor, 1950-57, and Registrar of the Museum 1948-58. He was for three years Chairman of the committee set up in 1950 to plan the inauguration of the Royal Signals Institution and was the first chairman of the Council.

Ralph Vyvyan was a most charming and even-tempered man. He did not worry easily. He told his staff what to do and then let them get on with it without interference. He played a great part as a batsman in making the Corps name in cricket while at Maresfield and was a Free Forester. He was heir presumptive to a baronetcy created in 1645. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, Ann, who survives him.

His son, John, served in the Corps during the 1939-45 War in India and Burma.

The parallel careers of Major-General Vyvyan and Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips were the subject of an article in the newspaper SEAC, during the 1939-45 War.

Both came from the Worcestershire Regiment.

Both seconded to Army Signal Service during First World War when both commanded Divisional Signal Companies.

Both were instructors at Signal School, Maresfield, in succession.

Promoted to Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Colonel on the same dates.

Both C.S.O., Northern Command, India.

Both simultaneously Directors of Signals in the Second World War.

BRIGADIER L. C. C. HARRISON, M.C.

Leslie Harrison, elder son of Sir Charlton Harrison, C.I.E., educated at Cheltenham and the 'Shop'; joined the Corps in 1927 with 15 'Q' Course. He served with 'A' Corps Signals (India) from 1928-31 after which he commanded a brigade signals of 4th Indian Division in the Burma rebellion. He was awarded the Military Cross, the first such award to a Royal Signals Officer, and mentioned in despatches.

He was again on active service in Palestine from 1936-38 when he was appointed Adjutant of 'A' Corps Signals.

In 1941 he was an instructor at the Staff College, joining the War Office as a G.S.O.1 the following year. In 1944 he commanded 1st Armoured Divisional Signals in Italy and then, in 1945, 5th Divisional Signals in North West Europe. By V.E. day he was C.S.O. XXX Corps.

From 1946-48 he commanded 7th Armoured Divisional Signals in Germany and then spent three years as Chief Instructor, Wireless Wing, R.A.C. Centre. In 1951 he became secretary of Far East Defence Secretariat. On his return to England in 1954 he was appointed Deputy Director of Quartering which he relinquished on being selected for the Imperial Defence College in 1956. His last appointment was O.S. Representative on the Defence Research Policy Staff. He retired in 1959 and then worked with Rank Xerox Ltd.

Leslie Harrison was a man of many talents; as a young officer he played cricket for the Corps. His first 'vehicle' was a large powerful Indian motor cycle and he became an outstanding driver. Subsequently, he learnt to fly and when commanding 1st Armoured Division Signals in the Western Desert he frequently piloted his divisional commander in a captured Storche aircraft.

After the war in Singapore he built himself a large and fast motor boat. When he retired he took up art and achieved success as a portrait painter.

In 1933 Leslie married Margery, daughter of S. C. Mould, Esq., C.I.E. He died on 27th January following a car accident and our deep sympathy is tendered to his widow and their sons, and to his brother James who followed him into the Corps, also to become a Brigadier.

MAJOR C. E. FIELD

News has recently been received of the death last October of Major Charles Euston Field, from his daughter at 11 Cranley Gardens, Shoeburyness, Southend-on-Sea. He was a well-known personality in the earlier days of the Corps and a number of our retired readers will probably know him. He served at the later end of World War I and transferred into R.E. Signals in 1919, joining Royal Signals in 1920. After a spell in Aldershot he served in 'A' Corps Signals, India, up to 1933.

At the beginning of the war he was R.S.M. at S.T.C., Prestatyn, but by December, 1939, he was granted a permanent commission as Lieutenant (T.M.O.). War service saw him in such theatres as Sicily and Italy. After the war he served in East Africa and at the Royal Signals O.C.T.V. After a long spell in the Eastern Command Signal Regiment he retired in 1956 in the rank of Major.

A soldierly and well-liked personality he had a wide circle of friends by whom he will be much missed.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife and family.

COLONEL J. G. CHRISTOPHER, T.D.

His very many friends will be saddened to hear of the recent death of Colonel J. G. Christopher, T.D.

'Chris,' as he was generally known, had a distinguished career as a Territorial soldier. Joining up in 1928 he served in the 47th Division Signal Regiment where he soon caught the eye of his C.O., Colonel 'Chip' Vigers, and was put up for a commission which he passed in his stride. At the beginning of hostilities in 1939 he went overseas to Belgium with the London Corps Signals. After a period as C.O., War Office Signals, he was posted to India on the staff of the then S.O.-in-C., General Ralph Vyvyan, and later General Colwyn Vulliamy. Here he took on the duties of G.S.O. I Signals and was a member of the W/T Board. He was a popular member of the staff and a keen horseman, when he could find any spare time.

At the end of the war—still very much a T.A. man—he joined again when the T.A. was reactivated, finishing up as C.O. of the 23rd (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment during the period 1950-53.

In 1953 he left the T.A in the honorary rank of Colonel—a popular and much respected personality.

He was a strong supporter of Corps activities, being a Life Member of the Association and having served on the Council of the Royal Signals Institution from 1953 to 1962, where he made a very valuable contribution during the formative years of the Institution. He also made his mark in the business world, joining Thorn Electrical Industries after the war and rising to the appointment of deputy to Sir Jules Thorn whom he would have succeeded as Managing Director if ill-health had not forced an early retirement.

Both industry and the Corps have lost in 'Chris' a person of much integrity, charm and kindness, who fully merited the respect of all who came to know him.

Our deep sympathy goes to his wife and daughter in their sad loss.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. R. V. COOKE, B.A.

'Tommy' Cooke, of Dalicote Hall, Bridgnorth, entered the Corps in 1926, having been educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. From 1928-31 he served in 2nd Division as Brigade Signal Officer, 4th Guards Brigade. He always said that this appointment was not made on merit, but was because he spoke the language. This was followed by four years as Adjutant of the Middlesex Yeomanry, and three years as Adjutant of the Depot Battalion.

He served for a short time in the B.E.F. and then moved to Norway, where he spent the last month before the British Force was withdrawn.

In 1944-45 he was SOI (Signals) SACSEA, in Kandy. In 1946 he became C.R. Signals 82nd (West African) Division in Burma. He retired in 1951.

'Tommy' died on 19th January, 1971, and is survived by his wife, Joan, to whom he was married in 1949. We offer our sincere condolences to Mrs. Cook and his son and daughter.

W.O.II A. NICOLSON

THE WIRE learns with regret of the death of W.O.II A. Nicolson, who died suddenly at his home, 17, Accacia Avenue, Eastcote, Pinner, on 27th February.

W.O. Nicolson spent many years in the Corps and he was a well-known and liked personality. He was well known at one time as a motor-cyclist.

For some years he was with 38th Signal Regiment (V), Sheffield, but since his retirement he had been living at Pinner. To his wife and family, the deepest sympathy is expressed.

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT - - each 12/9

U.K. inc. P. Tax - „ 14/1

(Postage Extra)

T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY

Nr. DONCASTER

Order your personal copy of the Wire NOW!

The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

Please arrange to send THE WIRE to me for twelve months commencing with next issue. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £1.20.

My rank and name is

.....

I wish THE WIRE to be sent to

.....

.....

OR

The Accounts Officer or P.R.I.

..... Regt./Sqn./Tp.

.....

Please reserve a personal copy of THE WIRE for me in the unit bulk order until further notice. I understand this will cost me 10p. a month.

Name and rank

.....

.....

.....

How can you be with it — without it!

Catterick Reunion 1971

This will take place on the weekend of 26th/27th June. Owing to rebuilding in the Vimy area and the temporary closure of the Royal Signals Officers' Mess (old H.Q. Mess) accommodation will, of necessity, be limited this year.

It is regretted that there will be no accommodation available for old comrade officers in the small temoprary Royal Signals Officers' Mess at Gaza Lines, but those accompanying Branches may, if they wish, be accommodated in barracks blocks along with their fellow Branch members. There will also have to be a restriction in the total number of Old Comrades being accommodated, and this has been fixed at 500. It is stressed that these are administrative difficulties which the Training Brigade has had to accept, and it is only with reluctance that these measures have to be taken.

25th BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

The 25th meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association has been fixed for 10.30 a.m., Saturday, 17th April, 1971, at the usual venue, 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V), near Hammersmith underground station. This date coincides with the annual Indian Signals Dinner at the Duke of York's H.Q. the same evening.



Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:

Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

HOME OWNERSHIP

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

SCHOOL FEES

In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

LIFE ASSURANCE + INVESTMENT

Conventional or Equity Linked Schemes

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£12.67 monthly** for those liable to tax at 39p in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next birthday **immediate family protection of £39,360** and an anticipated **cash** sum of **£35,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65. This particular **Plan** is extremely flexible and **unique** in that it can be made to **mature** in part or total at an **earlier** age **or** be adapted to **provide an income** on retirement from the Service, **e.g. at age 55.**

For full details, please telephone or write in confidence to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD, 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings. Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108-9)

RACAL

Due to continued Company expansion vacancies exist for :-

ELECTRONIC TESTERS

Progressive positions for electronic testers engaged on wide range of communications equipment, including transmitters and receivers. Applicants should have technical knowledge equivalent to C. and G. with previous experience of testing communications equipment.

CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

HOUSING AVAILABLE TO MARRIED MEN

Applications enclosing brief details of qualifications and present salary to:—

PERSONNEL MANAGER
RACAL ELECTRONICS LIMITED
WESTERN ROAD · BRACKNELL · BERKSHIRE · ENGLAND

Over a Century-old Partnership...



PARSONS AND **PRINTING**

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, W.C.2 · Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill, Lewes and Seaford

April-May 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for:-

Convertible Whole Life · Education Endowment · Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust · Retirement · House Purchase · Security for your Family

General Insurance for:-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR TEMPERANCE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
FORCES BROKERS

Offices: ALBANY CHAMBERS · MARKET PLACE · RICHMOND · YORKSHIRE

Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

INCORPORATED MORTGAGE BROKER—FEDERATED INSURANCE BROKER

YOUR SECURITY AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Example: Male Life 25 next birthday

£13,300 INITIAL COVER FOR **£0·73 per week**

Sum Assured		Normal Monthly Premium
£ 1,000	Equity Linked Endowment Policy, to age 65 (Maturity value assuming a growth rate of 5% per annum £3,107 see notes)	£1·58
£ 1,800	Whole of Life, Non-Profit Policy	£1·54
£10,500	Initial Sum Assured for Income Benefits of £350 per annum to age 55, INCLUDING initial conversion rights of £5,250	£0·62
	Gross Monthly Premium	£3·74
	Income Tax Relief (if obtainable)	£0·58
£13,300	Life Cover for a net monthly outlay of	£3·16

NOTES.
1. Two Policies would be issued.
2. The Maturity value of the Equity Linked Endowment is based on the value of the units purchased up to that time but even assuming the growth rate is only 3% per annum the value above would still be over £1,900 well in excess of the total net outlay for the entire scheme.
3. The Whole of Life policy may be converted to an Endowment (with or without profits) on any policy anniversary subject to a minimum term after conversion of 10 years.
4. Under the Whole of Life policy there is an option to effect on each of the 3rd and 6th policy anniversaries an additional Whole of Life or Endowment for up to half the original sum assured irrespective of your state of health at that time.
5. Subject to satisfactory proposal no medical evidence of any kind will be required.
6. Irrespective of Health in the future the Income Benefits may also be converted to a Whole of Life or Endowment for a sum not exceeding half of the total amount of Benefit outstanding at the time.
7. The Equity Linked policy is at present subject to long term capital gains tax of 20% on profits only.

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months **£1.20**; *single month,* **10p.**

☆

APRIL/MAY • 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Owing to a last-minute 'let-down' we have been unable to publish our usual colour front cover picture. We are, however, very pleased to feature a black and white photograph of the Corps in action in a faraway place. Our cover picture shows **Signalman Manser,** a Telegraph Operator of 249 Signal Squadron, helping with the provision of vital radio communications during the operation in which a British Task Force from Singapore provided relief for cyclone-torn East Pakistan last November.

Despite the end of National Service some years ago and a rundown of the Corps since then, THE WIRE has held its circulation figures remarkably well. Compared with January, 1963, WIRES supplied in bulk to units in January, 1971, actually show an increase of 60 and comparable figures for WIRES ordered by individuals show an increase of 280 over the same period. We are glad to be able to say that during this period, 1963-1971, we have never approached the S.O.-in-C. with a view to him asking units to consider stepping up their monthly orders for THE WIRE. We would prefer to try and sell on our own merits.

This all sounds very fine but there is no room for complacency. With the rundown in the Far East we shall lose the much-valued support of two major Regiments to be followed by smaller units in the Gulf. These soldiers no doubt will be deployed elsewhere and in theory the units to which they are posted should be able to raise their WIRE orders accordingly. But will this happen? A further point is that although near to the top of the league for sales of Service magazines we are bettered by several other Corps of similar size to our own. It is not in our tradition to be second or third to others and on this score alone it behoves us to make efforts to increase orders for THE WIRE.

Many years ago it was said that as a matter of Corps loyalty the Corps magazine should be purchased as follows:

Officers and W.O.s	100 per cent
N.C.O.s	50 per cent
Signalmen	10 per cent

If these figures were applied today our circulation would increase by several thousand. If added to this, T.A.V.R. units (who are given good coverage in THE WIRE) saw their way to stepping up sales THE WIRE would be in a much stronger position to deal with steeply rising printing and postal charges.

Sympathetic? Then complete one of the appropriate order forms included in this WIRE **NOW.**

Serving Soldiers read this!

A new structure for Soldiers of the Corps

Here is advanced information of a reorganisation affecting both promotion and trade that will be of interest to all soldiers of the Corps — something that will be well worth your while to study carefully

The current structure

IT is ten years since the introduction of the current Royal Signals Soldier Structure, and during this time, although the Structure itself has changed very little, there have been many external changes. Perhaps the most important is the continuing, ever-increasing rate of technological changes. and the resulting introduction of new telecommunication techniques and methods. This, in turn, has enabled communications to be provided over longer distances with greater reliability and greater traffic carrying capability; it has also resulted in the wider tactical dispersal of Royal Signals units on the one hand and ever-increasing centralisation of control on the other hand. Another important change has been the reduction in the size of the Regular Army, but this has not been accompanied by an entirely comparable cut in commitments. All these changes highlight the absolute necessity to use each man to the limit of his capabilities and potentialities. To some extent, this has been helped by the progressive increase in national education standards during the past decade, and this trend should be accelerated by the raising of the school leaving age.

For these, and other reasons, changes are now necessary in the Royal Signals Soldier Structure, but it is emphasized that no changes will be made for the sake of making changes. The old Structure has served us well. It was introduced in 1961, when the end of National Service was in sight and it was necessary to provide a Structure suitable for an all-Regular Corps. It introduced the Royal Signals trades much as they are today, except for the evolutionary contraction of the six technician trades to three, in 1967. It introduced merit as an important factor in the selection for promotion to senior N.C.O. and Warrant rank. It introduced the Yeoman of Signals, our highly-successful traffic supervisory appointment. It introduced MPC at Class III, II and I as a means to raise individual military training standards. And so on. In short, it established a framework within which the high professional standards which nowadays we take for granted, were achieved: it was not always so!

The proposed new structure

Against this background, last year, the Signal Officer-in-Chief made proposals in the Ministry of Defence for a new Royal Signals Soldier Structure. Final approval of these proposals is currently awaited.

The aim of this article is to give advanced warning to all ranks on the main features of the proposal. It is emphasized that the new Structure has not yet been fully authorised, and this is the principal reason for describing the main features, rather than the detail. Full details will be circulated as soon as final agreement is received. Separate instructions will also be circulated regarding the application of parts of the Structure to the T. & A.V.R. and W.R.A.C.

Promotion

There are two main features here.

Firstly, it is intended that in future the Regimental Duty (RD) promotional roll should start at W.O.2, and not at Staff Sergeant, as at present. All the existing RD Staff Sergeant posts will be distributed fairly between individual trade promotion rolls, so that in future promotion on single trade rolls will be from Signalman to Staff Sergeant and not stop at Sergeant as at present. This will enable better use to be made of experience and qualifications in the selection of N.C.O.s to fill Troop Staff Sergeant posts and will also ensure greater equality of opportunity for promotion between trades.

At the same time, it is hoped progressively to establish a better balanced number of N.C.O. posts by rank in each single trade, so that speeds of promotion can be improved.

Secondly, merit as an important factor in selection for promotion will be introduced for junior ranks. This means that merit will now play an important part in promotion for all ranks—from Signalman to W.O.I. This feature will start with effect from 1st April, 1971, in advance of other aspects of the new Structure.

Neither of these features will affect the present system of time promotion to Sergeant for technicians or to W.O.2 for Foremen of Signals, or for Bandsmen.

Trades

In addition to Supervisory Appointments, it is intended to form four groups of trades—the Electronics Group, the Telegraphist Group, the Combat Group and the Administrative Group—as follows:

Supervisory Appointments	
Regimental Duty	No change, except that the roll will start at W.O.2 instead of Staff Sergeant.
Foreman of Signals Yeoman of Signals Supervisor Radio Chief Clerk	No change
Electronics Group	
Terminal Equipment Tech.	No change, except for name (from Tech. TE)
Radio Technician Radio Relay Technician	No change except for names (from Tech R and Tech RR), but it is probable that these two trades will be combined on an evolutionary basis into one trade during the mid-70s.
Telecommunications Mech.	A new tradesman, whose main tasks will be to construct, maintain and repair lead and plastic-sheathed multicore cable routes (UG and OH); and to install, maintain and repair telephone installations, manual telephone switchboards distribution frames and intercomm systems. Additionally, at Class I, he will carry out routine maintenance on automatic exchange apparatus.
Telegraphist Group	
Special Telegraphist	A new name for the Special Operator; no other change.
Radio Telegraphist	A new name for the Telegraph Operator: small changes only.
Data Telegraphist	A new tradesman, whose main tasks will be to receive, process and transmit signal message traffic and ADP data, using physical despatch systems, voice, facsimile or teleprinter operation. Additionally, at Class I, he will operate audio/visual displays, data processing and data transmission equipment, control telegraph systems and carry out traffic analysis.

(The trade of Cipher Operator will become obsolete in due course. Selected R Teleg and D Teleg will be trained in cipher duties).

Administrative Group	
Clerk Technical Clerk R. Signals	Minor changes only
Combat Group	
Combat Radioman	A new tradesman whose main tasks will be to establish and maintain radio and radio relay communications, to operate associated systems equipment and to pass signal message traffic using voice (but not morse). He will also drive light vehicles.
Combat Lineman	Based on current lineman trade, but excluding UG and OH and some other items. He will also drive light vehicles.
Combat Powerman	Based on current ED trade, but with greater emphasis on central power and as a 'trouble-shooter' for all R. Signals power plants. Driver to HGV standard.
Combat Driver	The full-time driver. Driver to HGV standard.
Combat Signalman	A new trade roll (with a promotion structure to Staff Sergeant as in other trade rolls) for men with specialist skills who are required in such small numbers as not to warrant separate trade rolls, e.g., Draughtsmen, Regimental Police, Medical Orderlies, A.I.P.T.s, and many others.

(All Combat Group soldiers will be taught courier duties and employed on these duties as required by unit commanders).

Bandsmen — No change

Trade Training

There are three levels of trade proficiency in the Army—the inexperienced tradesman (Class III), the experienced tradesman (Class II) and the highly-skilled (Class I) tradesman.

In future, in R. Signals, the Class III and II phases will be treated as complementary parts of Initial Training. Basic Training to Class III standard will be achieved by means of a formal course at the Training Brigade, at the end of which the soldier will still be inexperienced in his trade and require some supervision. This will be followed by Continuation Training in a working unit, where the soldier will be given on the job training in the equipment and role of the unit, and gain practical experience. By the end of 12 months in the working unit, if the soldier is assessed as experienced in his trade and capable of working without supervision, then he will be classified at Class II. In most cases, the effect of this will be that the soldier will achieve Class II much earlier than at present.

Class I level will be achieved by means of a formal course at the Training Brigade. Because the old upgrading courses from Class III to II will cease, it will be possible for soldiers to achieve Class I much earlier than at present.

In addition to basic training in a trade, it is intended that in future all R. Signals soldiers will be taught basic signalling skills during basic training, as follows:

Carry out first aid on an electric shock casualty.
To connect up, operate and use service field generating equipment.
To pass short messages over a field radio link using appropriate voice procedure.
To operate a telephone switchboard.
To lay and test short field cable routes.

Military Training

Because of the ever-increasing dispersion of R. Signals units into remote and often isolated detachments and into communication localities, it is necessary to increase the emphasis in military training on the defence of such detachments and localities. It is intended, therefore, that the current Military Proficiency Certificates (Class III, II and I) should be replaced by the following qualifications:

R. Signals Trained Soldier. — Achieved during recruit training by re-alignment of the basic syllabus.

Detachment Commanders' Course.—A new course to be taken at senior Lance-Corporal level, aimed at training junior N.C.O.s to command a detachment and to deploy a detachment or section in defence of a communications site.

The syllabus of the Staff Sergeants' Course will also be revised to give less emphasis on administration and more on platoon tactics related to locality defence.

Education

It is Army policy that the old Army Certificates of Education (ACE 3, 2 and 1) should be replaced by an Education for Promotion Certificate (for promotion to Sergeant) and an Education for Promotion Certificate (Advanced) (for promotion to W.O.2). This wll be effective from 1st April, 1971.

Pay

The banding of the four new trades (Telecommunications Mechanic, Data Telegraphist, Combat Radioman, and Combat Powerman) will not finally be determined until full evaluation by the Joint Services Job Evaluation Team can take place in working units, possibly in 1973. In the meantime, in order that the new trades may be introduced, provisional bandings will be authorised, and it is hoped that some, at least, will be in Band 2. Quite apart from this, the proposed advancement in time of Class II and Class I will permit the attainment of higher pay earlier than at present, as also will faster speeds of promotion. Furthermore, nothing in the new proposals will affect the right of every soldier to go on to the higher Scale B and C rates of pay for committal to six and nine years, respectively.

Conversion

Detailed plans have been prepared for the conversion of soldiers from old trade, MPC and ACE qualifications to the new structure, and these will be published as soon as the new Structure is finally authorised. It is hoped that the date of introduction of the new Structure may be 1st July 1971 (except where otherwise stated above), although obviously not all conversion or new courses will start on that date.

Conclusion

This article serves only to give advance warning of the main features of the new Structure it is planned to introduce, subject to obtaining the necessary Ministry of Defence authority.

As stated initially, no changes will be made for the sake of making changes. Some changes are essential and unavoidable, others are desirable in the interests of providing enhanced career prospects and pay opportunities for all Royal Signals soldiers. Full details of the new Structure and the conversion plan will be issued as soon as the final authority is received.

Watch your notice board!

From our "In" Tray

The late Major J. M. Hewson

Sir,

Could you please express through THE WIRE my sincere appreciation of and thanks for all that our many friends in the Corps did, by providing a memorial to my late husband, **Major J. M. (Big Jim) Hewson,** Royal Signals, in St. James' Garrison Church, Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld.

The money subscribed was sufficient to provide not only a very beautiful rich brocade altar pall, but new choir stalls, communion rail and a flower stand as well.

My thanks are also due to 16th Signal Regiment for making it possible for me, accompanied by John and Julian, to attend the dedication of the memorial in St. James' Church on Sunday, 3rd January.

During the past 18 months our friends have done everything possible to help us, and I, therefore, through THE WIRE say a very sincere "Thank you" to all concerned in the Corps.

I am now a Housemother at Wells Cathedral Junior School and I hope that when any of our many friends in the Corps are near Wells, they will make a point of visiting us.

Yours sincerely,

Jane S. Hewson.

3 The Liberty,
Wells, Somerset.
Tel.: 2117 ext. 35.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in February, 1971	7
Amount spent in grants and loans	£179.74

One of the Month's Cases

WIDOW of Signalman, wartime soldier, who died in 1950. She suffers from very severe rheumatoid arthritis and has had many years' treatment, in and out of hospital, and has just had a further long period in hospital, following pneumonia. Because of her disabilities, the normal convalescent homes available under the National Health Service, are not really suitable for her, and the Association made a grant of £45 to enable her to go to a special home for three weeks in order to build up her strength again.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during February, 1971:

Mayor of Richmond	£10.00
O.C., 49 (W. Riding) Signal Squadron (V)	£1.05
C. K. McKenna, Esq.	£1.05
M. E. Holdsworth, Esq.	£1.00
Contributions totalling £52.20 were received from the following in memory of the late Colonel J. G. Christopher: Lieutenant-Colonel M. B. M. Brown, J. Boyd, Esq., Brown Bros. (E. G. Spearing), Cryselco Ltd, (V. G. Perry), Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, O.B.E., Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Elec. Electronic Ind. Ben Association, Thorn Social Club, the Misses E. and G. Galtrey, Mrs. M. T. Mann	£52.20
	£65.30

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

Despatch Rider's Dinner

In 1937 the Despatch Riders' Motor Cycle Display Team of what was then the 1st London Divisional Signals (T.A.) (City of London Signals), was selected to represent Royal Signals by giving the Display at the Royal Military Tournament at Olympia. At that date this was the first time that a Territorial Army Unit had given the afternoon and evening performances throughout the whole of the two-and-a-half weeks' duration of the Tournament. The members of the team 'lived-in' at Olympia, together with the Regular Forces participating in the Tournament.

The team was fostered and encouraged by **Brigadier H. R. Firth** who, in those days, was our Adjutant and who in more recent times was for some years the Secretary of the Royal Signals Association. It was trained and led by the late **Jack Angell,** a well-known Royal Signals 'personality' of those days who will doubtless be remembered by many ex-Royal Signals personnel.

In remembrance of those days a number of ex-members of that team, who are also members of this O.C.A., hold a Reunion Dinner at Eastbourne every two years. The sixth such Dinner, to which all other members of the O.C.A. are invited, is to be held there on 8th May, 1971, and judging from the previous Dinners a thoroughly enjoyable time is anticipated.

Full details of the dinner, which is to be held at the Pier Hotel, from **J. Law, Esq.,** 67 Baldwin Avenue, Eastbourne (Tel. 0323-30803).

Can you help?

Sir,

I am making a series of models of equipments and vehicles as used by the Royal Engineers Signal Service and the Corps from 1914 to the present day.

I am currently planning a draught cable wagon as used until 1937. My knowledge of this, and other equipments, is not enough to produce anything near an accurate model. I wonder, therefore, if any reader has any photographs, plans, sketches, information, etc., which I could use to assist in the production of this model.

I would also like similar material of other vehicles, equipments and field activities in preparation for further models. I would also be grateful for photographs of uniforms worn by members of the Corps since its formation; this would include ceremonial, number 1, normal and working dress for the various trades, periods, countries in which the Corps has served, uniforms of the various nationalities who have served with the Corps or under its command and of course the Corps Musicians.

All communications will be acknowledged and would any person sending material please say whether they wish it to be returned or not. All material not returned will be offered to the Corps Historian when information has been extracted.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony J. Murphy,
Life Member Nr. 7375.

52 Ashburnham Road,
Hastings, Sussex.

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

'The Wire' is always eager to receive items of Corps news of interest to its readers. If short, such items can be sent in by telephone or signal even after the closing date for written copy. So let us hear about anything that may be of interest—sporting successes, unusual feats by individuals, news of retired members—anything that you think should be in 'The Wire.'

Be newsminded and keep us informed (Tel. No. 01-730-4129).

We hate to say:

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

Seeing the world at the Army's expense

Exercise in the Bahamas— a story from 14th Regiment

By Lieutenant Graham Thomas

When I arrived in 14th Signal Regiment, Worcester, last November, I was greeted with the remark: "You have arrived at just the right time. You are to take your Troop to Nassau, in the Bahamas for a three-week exercise, here are the details . . . ."

A quarter of the way round the world

So it was that at the same time as taking over my new Troop and getting to know the men in it, I was preparing to move a quarter of the way round the world. In the event, I was well supported by the Troop, thus the organisation and preparation went ahead very smoothly.

I had been told that during the exercise my Troop would be administered by the Royal Marines, so before leaving England, I went down to Plymouth to meet **Major Peter Waters** and other members of 'G' Company, 41 Commando, who would be exercising in the Bahamas at the same time. It was re-assuring to find them quite unaffected by the thought of operating so far from home, and I gathered a great deal of useful advice to help me with my preparations.

Just the weather to go abroad

It seemed, on 4th January, as though England was summoning all her winter resources to bid us farewell. It was cold, wet, snowy, icy, foggy, and altogether just the sort of weather to be leaving for the West Indies. At R.A.F. Lyneham, the ATLO met us and, having informed us that we really did need 17 copies of the flight manifest, he swiftly arranged the loading of the first chalk of our D13 detachment and whisked us away to the comfort of the Route Hotel. At about one o'clock in the morning we took off for our intermediate destination in the Azores. When we arrived there, some four hours later, it was somewhat warmer than it had been in England, but it was raining even harder. We stopped only briefly, to breakfast and refuel, and then took off again.

Over the Atlantic

As we climbed out over the Atlantic, we commented that the aircraft was pleasantly warm. Then it began to get hotter and hotter, until it was like a sauna bath. The heating system had run amok and, as a result, we had to go back to the Azores. It took 24 hours to repair the fault, then we were under way once more. This time all was well, and after ten hours of flying over the apparently empty Atlantic, we finally put down in Nassau. We were met by our advance party in the shape of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) F. Gadman,** who had flown out a week earlier. He took us to our exercise location at Oakes Field, which turned out to be dry, dusty, and liberally sprinkled with empty 'Coke' cans.

Communications to U.K. well established

We had a while to wait before the rest of our detachment arrived—they had 'transport problems,' too! The Britannia with half the detachment on board was a day and-a-half late in taking off—due to snow and ice at Brize Norton. They experienced a short delay in the Azores and, to cap it all, they then made an overnight stop in Bermuda, caused by strong adverse winds. They tell us they had a very enjoyable stay in a hotel there. Our last aircraft, another Hercules, took off on time and arrived in Nassau as expected—the fates obviously felt it was time Air Support Command got a break. We should mention that through all our trials and tribulations, we were very well looked after by the R.A.F. Once everything had finally arrived in Nassau, we quickly set up for the first phase of Exercise 'Lawsuit,' during which we communicated back to England for five days. Communications were, perhaps, a bit shaky to begin with, but they quickly improved as the operators gained experience on this long link of some 7,000 kilometres.

Delights of Nassau

Meanwhile, off-duty hours were being spent sampling the delights of Nassau. These fell roughly into two categories: for the simpler souls, there were the pleasures of the beach, with sun, sea, white sands and palm trees, also the colourful local straw market and the waterfront with its fish market and mountains of conch shells. The beach, of course, did not only offer a place to sunbathe, for those who had masks, fins and schnorkels with them, the swimming was superb. The variety of shapes and colours of the fish and the coral was really a sight to see, and there could be no better souvenirs of the exercise than some of the beautiful sea-shells that were found.

For the more sophisticated palates, the night life was more of an attraction. In the first few days many returned with lurid tales of the delights of this and that club or bar. It was, however, noted that as time went on and wallets became thinner, they tended to resort more frequently to the police canteen, where drink could be had at a sensible price, if you could stand the noise of the policemen playing dominoes.

Dominoes can be very noisy—Bahamian style

I had always considered dominoes to be a sedate, restful game—Bahamian dominoes is, however, rather different. A domino which is to be played is brought right over the head to crash down on the table with full force. Loud exclamations accompany this vigorous play. **Corporal P. J. Slavin** had an interesting experience for, when he was invited to play, he declined to play in the local fashion, but placed his dominoes quietly and precisely on the table without a word. Within five minutes, the three Bahamian policemen with whom he was playing, were also playing in this inhibited style. It didn't last long, however, and at the next game they were soon playing with their usual exuberance.

Escorts to English Ladies' Cricket Team

Our local contact in Nassau was the Resident Naval Officer, **Commander T. G. Butler.** He was very kind and helpful to us, and sorted out a number of small administrative problems. He also arranged a rather interesting extra curricular duty for **Foreman Gadman** and myself at one stage. The English Ladies' Cricket Team was visiting the Bahamas and we were invited to help to entertain them. For our pains, we suffered a great deal of leg-pulling and not very tasteful jokes about lady cricketers. We wish to refute these jokes entirely; they were a very charming and delightful bunch of girls whom we thoroughly enjoyed looking after. It was quite a day, in fact. We met them from the boat and took them to **Commander Butler's** home to have lunch. We then escorted them to Government House for tea with His Excellency the Governor. After that there was a quick-change act before zooming off to the Nassau Yacht Club for cocktails, and the evening ended up at the Golden Dragon Patio Restaurant. It was a very good day, indeed, and we hope the Ladies' Cricket Team enjoyed it as much as we did.

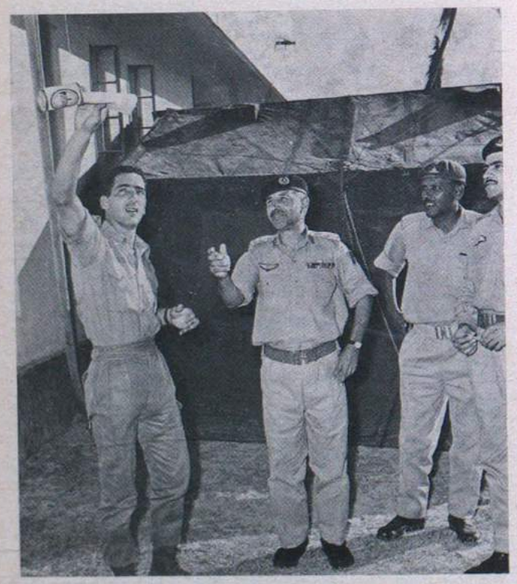
Through to Malta—but stretching it a bit

The second phase of our exercise was to work to Commcen Siggiewi, in Malta. This commcen is operated by the R.A.F., to whom we sent a liaison team comprising **W.O.I (F. of S.) J. M. M. Dunlevy** and **Sergeant S. Saunders.** We also had a representative in Malta with us in Nassau. This was **Corporal M. R. Butler,** a native of the Bahamas, though he had not been home for 18 years. His local knowledge was very useful to us, and during the course of the exercise he was able to find time to have a long weekend so that he could go and visit his family in Freeport, on Grand Bahama Island. All things considered, the communications with Malta were not bad; after all, it is 8,700 kilometres, which is a little further than the D13 is accustomed to working. We didn't quite work round the clock, but we did manage several hours' communications each day.

Home again—and a few more brown knees

Nassau is an interesting place, even if somewhat expensive. I am sure that the whole detachment enjoyed their short stay there. We certainly could not complain about the weather. Anyway, there a few more brown knees in the Troop now than there were before Christmas. We look forward now to an exercise in the South of France in the summer. Join 14th Signal Regiment and see the world indeed!

East Pakistan Flood Relief. The Corps was there



TECHNICAL BREAKTHROUGH

Watched by incredulous Pakistani liaison officers, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Donnelly of 249 Squadron routes a message to a roof top radio terminal by means of a Double Diamond beer can and string—a new form of 'skynet'. 249 Squadron played an important part in the E. Pakistan cyclone relief operations

Winter in Norway, but they had to look for the snow

30th Regiment's AMF(L) Radio Troop enjoy 5 weeks in friendly Norway

WINTER training in Norway was based at Camp Ulven, approximately 15 miles south of Bergen. We departed from Marchwood on L.S.L. *Sir Geraint*, on 16th January. Experienced hands of the previous year were busy searching for receptacles to be used when we reached the North Sea but all were pleasantly surprised because the voyage proved to be the smoothest anyone of us had experienced in an L.S.L.

800-mile radio link works well

We were disappointed at finding no snow when we reached Norway but soon had recce parties out looking for it. For this exercise we worked our own admin. link back to Blandford, a distance of 800 miles, using a C11 SSB R210 in Norway and a D11/R234 at Blandford. On 19th January we opened up and after sorting out teething troubles the first day, the circuit worked schedules very well on S.S.B. without interruption for five weeks and in Norway we used a 12ft. twin V for much of the time.

Into the snow

Snow was found eventually about 50 miles from Ulven, at a place called Kvamskogen. This is a favourite ski-ing area for the people of Bergen. We moved into a ski hut which slept 40, so the odd-20 who didn't get a bed slept in two Swedish tents which we pitched outside. We rotated the troop so that we all had a turn in the tents.

Ski-ing the order of the day

When it came to the turn of the Officers and S.N.C.O.s it was a toss-up whether to sleep on the benches of the room set aside for the combined Mess or brave **F. of S. Terry Brabon's** snoring or be uncomfortable in the tent. For your correspondent's part, the tent won the first night. We were able to use the hut on two separate occasions.

For the first period of 10 days at Kvamskogen, we concentrated mainly on ski-ing during the day. Consequently the troop was split into three ski-ing groups, those who could, those who had and those who couldn't. **Lieutenant Chris Grant** instructed those who could, and we had two Officers from the Norwegian army to instruct the others. During the evening we had several lectures on survival given by **Lieutenant Chris Grant** and the Norwegians. Most people retired early since five and-a-half hours' ski-ing a day is very enjoyable, but also very tiring.

Farewell party

For the second period of a week, we concentrated more on troop training, in Volvos, on snow shoes and radio exercises. The highlight at the conclusion of this period was a party which we held in the hall of a local village. This was very successful and the question asked was, why we hadn't given one earlier?

PERSONAL NEWS

For personal news such as movements, promotions, obituary announcements, please see special news section at the end of THE WIRE.

Passage to Cyprus



BOUND FOR A NEW HOME

"Brigand of Changi" a 7 ton Corps Ketch has left the tropical waters of Singapore for a new berth in the blue Mediterranean at Cyprus. All will wish her good sailing in her new home

The shipping of Corps yacht 'Brigand of Changi' from Singapore to Cyprus called for much planning and Service co-operation but all went well, as the following account tells—

At a meeting of the R.S.Y.C., he'd in London, it was decided that 'Brigand of Changi' would be transferred from 18th Signal Regiment in Singapore to 3 Signal Group in Cyprus. From that time the saga of Brigand's passage began.

Historic background

To recapitulate a little on the history of *Brigand:* she is a seven-ton Bermuda-rigged glass-fibre ketch, purchased in 1968 from funds provided by 18th Signal Regiment, 237 and 249 Signal Squadrons, plus grants from the Nuffield Trust and the Singapore District Welfare Fund. The purchase was negotiated by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. G. Anderson,** who commanded 18th Signal Regiment at that time. She is 30ft. in length, has four berths, with comfortable fair weather sleeping for an extra two in the cockpit. It is fitted with a Volvo diesel auxiliary engine. Under the terms of purchase, it was stipulated that she would be available for charter to all British forces in Singapore Island, and as a result, she has been very well used and has given considerable enjoyment to a large number of Service people.

Throughout her stay in Singapore, she has been moored at the Army Yacht Club, and 18th Signal Regiment have been responsible for her administration and maintenance, plus the provision of boat's husbands, notably **Sergeants Eouzan** and **Farr.** Although restricted for cruising purposes on normal insurance to a 50-mile radius of Singapore, she has been sailed extensively up both coasts of West Malaysia, visiting Kuala Trengganu and Penang, some 600 miles north on the east and west coasts respectively. In addition, numerous cruises have been made to the islands off Mersing, some 100 miles from Singapore. Although not originally built for racing, when fitted with a spinnaker and mizzen staysail, she has been successfully sailed in several passage races.

Courses open

There were three courses open, when the appreciation of the move to Cyprus was initiated by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild,** Commanding Officer, 18th Signal Regiment—to sail her; to ship her by civil means; or to move her by Service means. All the experts advised against sailing—too expensive and hazardous for a yacht of her type, and no one available who could skipper her. The cost of a civil passage (the Italian Lines quoted £655 from Singapore to Italy) was out of our reach, though this would have meant keeping her in Singapore until late 1971. Air freight, by returning Hercules during Exercise 'Bersatu Padu,' was considered, but this meant leaving Singapore in mid-1970. Finally, a passage by R.F.A. *Hebe* was decided on, even though this meant leaving Singapore in January/February, 1971, before the local regatta season.

A study of the requirements for moving *Brigand* by R.F.A. was made using a simple 'critical path analysis' technique.

A cradle was essential

Task number one was the provision of a suitable cradle in which she could rest whilst in the hold of *Hebe*. 54 Maritime Workshops, R.E.M.E., located at Pulau Brani were approached and their shipwrights slipped *Brigand* and produced a template of her hull shape. From this template, a shipping 'chock' type of cradle was manufactured. No provision could be made for a test fitting of *Brigand* into the shipping cradle on Pulau Brani, and complete reliance had to be placed in the craftsmanship of the shipwrights. In the event, the confidence was justified, for when *Brigand* was lowered into the cradle in *Hebe's* hold she fitted perfectly.

Lifting slings a problem

Task two was the production of slings for the various lifting processes involved in the move of the vessel to Cyprus. Investigations were made, and after a number of possible solutions were discarded, 54 Maritime Workshops completed negotiations with the Sembawang Shipyard, Singapore, for the manufacture of suitable lifting slings. Estimates for both these tasks were obtained from civilian sources, and the charges quoted by them were astronomical and beyond our means. As a result, we are indebted to R.E.M.E. for their co-operation and help in this matter.

Preparing 'Brigand'

The next stage was to prepare *Brigand* herself for the journey, and the ship's husband (**Sergeant G. H. Farr**) along with his mandores (**Hamid** and **Abdulla**) put in a tremendous amount of work and time on this task. To unstep the masts required the vessel to be taken to 10 Port Squadron, R.C.T., whose equipment, in the form of a 23-ton crane, was made available for this purpose. After this operation, *Brigand* had to be towed back to the Army Yacht Club, where she underwent a refit and her paintwork completely renovated. Finally, a board of officers, including an R.C.T. Marine Engineer, pronounced her in 'mint' condition.

A hazardous tow

Arrangements were then made to moor Brigand at H.M.S. *Terror*, so that she would be readily available for loading into *Hebe* when called forward. The tow of some 60 miles from the Army Yacht Club to the naval base was accomplished with the help of 33 Maritime Regiment, R.C.T., who supplied a G.S.L. (*Uriah Heap*) which, incidentally serves as the C-in-C.'s launch. Leaving the A.Y.C. at 05.30 hours, the saga of the tow lasted until 16.30 hours, when *Brigand* arrived safely in the naval base—rough seas, high winds, plus the fact that she was without sail, made for a most unpleasant passage. In fact, for those who know the waters around Singapore, when the tow had reached Changi Point, the R.A.F. launched a helicopter of the Air Sea Rescue unit to ascertain if help was required. *Brigand* must have given concern when seen without masts or rigging in such heavy seas.

Loading on to Fleet Auxiliary

On 29th January, a message was received that *Brigand* was to be loaded into *Hebe* on Wednesday, 3rd February. Another tow had to be arranged from H.M.S. *Terror* to the naval base dockyard, where *Hebe* was lying. The lifting was completed by members of the Sembawang Shipyard who, although inexperienced in lifting this type of yacht, carried out the task expeditiously and efficiently. *Brigand* fitted perfectly into her cradle in the hold, with two MFO packing cases, containing her auxiliary equipment alongside her.



LOWER AWAY
'Brigand' successfully slung

All's well in the end

R.F.A. *Hebe* sailed from Singapore on Friday, 5th February, with *Brigand* safely stowed in her hold. A fine co-operative effort, for which we are indebted to many good friends in the naval base, R.C.T., R.E.M.E. and H.Q., Singapore Area. Particular credit is due to **Sergeant Farr** and his team of mandores, who did most of the work to make sure *Brigand* was in tip-top condition. We wish her good fortune, safe in the knowledge that she will give as much enjoyment to the members of the Corps in Cyprus as she has done to those in Singapore.

God bless her, and all who sail in her!

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Home —84p each plus 10p post
Abroad—74p each plus 10p post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals £1.50
Pace Sticks ... ...

ERNEST GOODRICH
Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites
44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY

"... Just a few very young chaps, a responsible attitude, minimal supervision and pride in their equipment and jobs ..."

"JIMMY" PROVIDES THE GOODS

A Caribbean impression by Captain G. W. Giles of 633 Signal Troop

Miami International Airport, January, 1971

Temperature 80°F.	...	Glad I put my suit on
View of local talent	...	Very good!
View of my suitcases	...	Not so good. They went to New York by mistake.

Wish I was leaving Miami for home in 55 minutes instead of for Nassau. Been on the road for two weeks now around the parish, and after two weeks out of the same suitcases, my friends are beginning to think crumpled shirts are coming into fashion. Never mind, three or four days in Nassau should see everything done. There's the usual admin and interviews, as well as trying to buy another car for the det to replace the smashed-up one, and seeing the estate agent about the rent of the single chaps' flats. Oh yes, and seeing that the stuff off B.O.A.C. tomorrow gets through customs. With a bit of luck, and a lot of help from **Sergeant Bob Parry** and the boys in Nassau, I'll be through with 'shop' by Saturday night and be home by Sunday evening. The usual O.C.'s conference in the Montagu Hotel bar on Saturday evening should clear up the last points. Must remember to remind the manager of the Gleneagles Hotel that we need the Palm Pool for the A.C.E.I. at the end of next month, with no bikini-clad tourists to distract the candidates—they distract the invigilator, too, but we have no office accommodation, so we have to make the best of local resources.

Yes, home on Sunday, to Belize, on the mainland of Central America, in the heart of the Caribbean basin. See if Bobbie and the children still remember me, and see what **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Tom Adams** and the boys have been up to while I've been away again. They keep tabs on me during my travels, so I know there have been no disasters, but it occurred to me last week whilst in Kingston, or was it in Puerto Rico, or in Antigua, or maybe in Anguilla, that although we have a regular unit out here in the Caribbean, most of you don't know much about us. . . . Our fault, I know.

We handle all military communications in this part of the world, Duplex R.T.T. rear links back home, ship/shore, air/ground, H.F./V.H.F. Infantry communications in British Honduras (that's the 'Belize' I mentioned before), communications to U.S. Forces, daily 'Ham' contacts on hurricane disaster nets, and more besides. ALL are daily regular routine, not just mentioned here because they happen once in a tour. Everyone is on their toes because all circuits are LIVE and if the duty operator doesn't contact a Hercules before it is round the top end of Cuba on its way in, or loses communication with an Infantry patrol, there is trouble with a capital 'T.' In British Honduras **Lance-Corporal Clive Copestake** and his T.G. operators also keep the traffic flowing in and out of the country, **Corporals Nigel Cox** and **Tony Tait** put it in 'groups of five,' **Corporal John Sture** keeps the D11s, C11s, C42s and the several other 'funny' or 'civvy' rigs that we run in good order, and '**Barney**' (**Signalman Bargna**) keeps the batteries full of volts and the generators stable. Of course **Y. of S. Tom Adams** keeps his beady eye on all this, and other communications besides when he's not out fishing or diving that is.

It's a good life in B.H. The whole Garrison depend on 'Jimmy' for their life's blood, and 'Jimmy' provides the goods, every time, with just a few very young chaps, a responsible attitude by all, minimal supervision, and pride in their equipment and jobs. Yes, we do need volunteers, but if you're not well above the standard of your trade (Class II), or can't work responsibly without supervision, don't bother to volunteer, because you won't last.

Our Nassau detachment under **Bob Parry,** with **Corporals Mick Tivenan, 'Scobie' Beesely, John Rich** and the boys have a hard time living off the local economy. The single chaps share a few apartments with their own swimming pool, in this 'millionaires' playground.' They buy and cook all their own food in their own kitchen and are forced by circumstance to mingle with hordes of well-stacked young tourists. The poor pads struggle along on their £70-£75 a week, and yet still manage a weak smile when I visit them each month. As a detachment they run the Joint Relay Station in Nassau, and never let ANYONE down with their communications. You can set your watch when Nassau comes up on frequency.

Although the Anguilla detachment (from 14th and 30th Regiments), under **Staff Sergeant Danny Lamerton,** get good 'WIRE cover' from their parent units, we are all in the same business here in the Caribbean, and Danny and his boys do a fine job and give good service to the Anguilla Force.

It might sound all peaches and cream out here, and although off-duty life is very, very pleasant, work is demanding, and always comes first. In B.H., crouching in the swinging tail of a five-seater single engine Cessna aircraft (regular occurrence), holding down an A13HP with one hand, and trying to pound a key with the other, life looks and feels pretty bloody for a T.G. operator, but it's all part of the Caribbean game.

Our best wishes to you from the bottom of our sun-tans and our duty-free beer, and let's be seeing a few of you out here.

Faraway Places!
Unusual Jobs!
Let us have that story NOW!

A faraway place and an unusual job—Royal Signals with 33rd Maritime Regiment

By Captain P. R. Brewis

RECENTLY, 33 Maritime Regiment, R.C.T., moved from Pulau Brani to the mainland of Singapore. Their move ended a British presence on Pulau Brani which dates back to 1859, with the building of a coaling depot for naval vessels.

33 Maritime Regiment has a variety of ships—Landing Craft (LCT), Ramp-Powered Lighters (RPL) and General Service Launches (GSL). Included in the LCTs complement are two Royal Signals soldiers who man the ship's radio back to base.

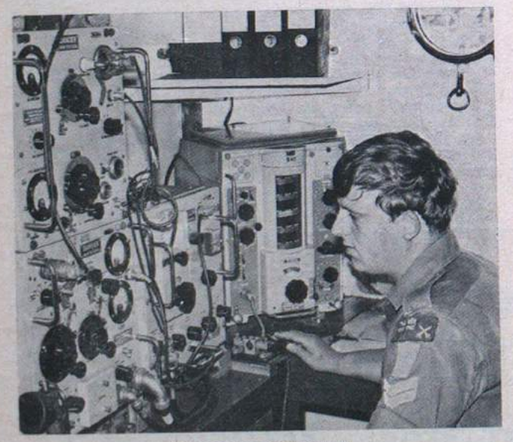
The Move

The move from Pulau Brani to Tanjong Berlayer, on the southern shore of Singapore Island, necessitated the services of 1 Squadron, 18th Signal Regiment. The Maritime Regiment's shore base radio had to be re-sited. **Captain Roy** Lidstone, the T.O.T. with 1 Squadron, spent many frustrating hours with **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Arthur Brittenden** in sorting out the problems of resiting the radio room in the precincts of an old fort. The difficulties of siting dipoles, and enfeeds on a pinnacle jutting out on the exposed southern shores, required the technical expertise of Royal Signals personnel and the ingenuity of DOE (MPBW that was!).

The men and equipment

Now a very effective link is operating once again, manned at both ends by Royal Signals operators. At the shore base are seven Royal Signals locally-enlisted personnel, supervised by **Sergeant Baharudin.** Normally, a four-way shift is in operation whenever an LCT is away from base. In the radio room, the LEP soldiers man the D11 as transmitter and a Marconi receiver. As a back-up they have Marconi Fulmar and Guardian.

The link works well. There are two British soldiers to each LCT. On H.M.A.V. *Arakan* are **Corporals Alec Jones** and **'Geordie' Bird,** and H.M.A.V. *Antwerp* has **Corporal 'Sandy' Patience** and **Signalman Frank Drake** — naturally a true-blooded Devonian.



SEAGOING CORPORAL
Corporal George Bird operates the admiralty set on H.M.A.V. Arakan

The job on board requires a little more than just operating the ship's radio which, incidentally, is a Murphy transmitter and an Admiralty set (B40) for receive! They find themselves employed for much of their time as the ship's clerk, with all the clerical duties of a small orderly room.

However, they do put to use their Signals training as morse operators. The radio link is mainly CW, and when the speed gets a little much for them there is always the Aldis lamp!

The motley selection of radio sets between the newly-installed tower radio room and the ships provides guaranteed communications from ship to shore, from places such as Penang, Langkawi, Brunei and Tioman (east coast of Malaysia).

Tailpiece

With the re-siting just completed, we hear that 33 Maritime Regiment is to close down in March/April. Our job is never done. No doubt we shall now be asked to dismantle the installation.

A Naval Occasion

To familiarise themselves with joint procedures and ship-to-shore radio links W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Wright, Lance-Corporals Bird, Coleman, Nation and Signalman Coulthard of 30th Regiment were fortunate enough to be attached to H.M.S. 'Antrim'—a guided missile destroyer—during a voyage to Rotterdam and back. Yeoman George Wrights reports as follows:

A warm welcome

We were invited to accompany the vessel on her first trip outside local waters carrying out two Jocomexs to the Regiment. I received a signal from *Antrim* informing us to be at Kings Stairs Portsmouth Docks by 19.00 hours 23rd February. We were actually picked up after a long, cold wait at 19.45 hours by a small coaster carrying the ship's order of 100 five gallon barrels of beer. *Antrim* was anchored down the spit ready to be greeted by the Ship's Communications Officer, **Lieutenant B. Adams,** and Chief Radio Supervisor **D. Bignell.** My small party was quickly whisked below to the communicators' Mess for a meal and a bed space. I was escorted to the Chief Petty Officers' Mess aft known as 'Q' Mess, where I was greeted by 10 other C.P.O.s who made every effort to welcome me aboard. I sat down to a meal and swopped many old tales with beer close at hand. I soon found every thought of my landlubber ways had been met, my bed (standee) was turned down and made, ready for me to turn in.

Allotted duties

The next day found us in the offshore waters of Portland. We all gathered together in the main communication office, where the C.R.S. introduced us to the duty watch and then proceeded to conduct us all around the communications equipment. After this everyone was allocated a watch with **Lance-Corporal Nation** as Technician being sent to the ship's workshops. I heard he repaired faults on two RX awaiting repairs.

30th Regiment loud and clear

On Thursday, 25th February, the first Jocomex was to take place and the ship being so new was very much out to test all her various types of equipment. To my great delight, right on time, 30th Signal Regiment came through QRK5 loud and clear. *Antrim* communicators were very pleased and the exercise settled down to a working link for the 24-hour period. Occasionally **Lance-Corporal Bird** or **Signalman Coulthard** took over the link and carrried on showing a closer link in joint working. During the rest of the voyage to and from Rotterdam we were all shown the missile room and launcher, the magazine where they stored, maintained and generally prepared for firing. A visit to the missile operations room was extremely informative and we were shown this ship carried. Later, we visited the upper deck to see what the seamen are responsible for and were demonstrated how a lifeboat is prepared, what it carries and how it is launched. A visit to the bridge was another interesting stop.



30th REGIMENT GO TO SEA
Colonel Winn talks to a rating from H.M.S. Antrim and Yeoman George Wright

Immaculate tidiness and cleanliness

Perhaps the department which captured everyone's attention was the visit to the main Operation Room, nick-named 'Little Houston,' and so it could be, every item aboard the vessel is controlled at some stage from this dimly lit multi-coloured room. Everywhere we went we were so impressed with the immaculate tidiness and cleanliness of every department, also the immense interest everyone had especially to show us their particular responsibility.

Parading with the ship's company

During our approach to Rotterdam we were asked to fall in with the ship's company and parade on the Flag deck with all the other communicators as we slowly steamed into port. At Rotterdam we all in turn saluted the Officer of the Day and asked permission to go ashore, and after spending a pleasant but expensive weekend on shore we were ready to sail again on Monday, 1st March.

Excellent voice link—and farewells all round

On the way home another Jocomex took place with Blandford which was better than the first. This exercise gave us excellent voice communications all the way. The Gunnery Officer remarked, "If only they would request gun fire support, this circuit would be just the thing." By Wednesday morning, 3rd March, we were alongside in Portland Docks saying our farewells. It was an extremely worthwhile visit, and many odd procedure differences and questions sorted out or resolved. The voyage gave us a closer understanding of the problems of our respective service and made for smoother links between us and the Royal Navy.

Green Beret Signalmen

REPORT FROM SIGNAL SQUADRON, HEADQUARTERS, 3rd COMMANDO BRIGADE ROYAL MARINES, SINGAPORE

Unique

THESE notes summarising the last third of 1970 come from a British Brigade Signal Squadron having only five members of the Royal Corps of Signals on its strength. We claim this to be unique.

In September, the Squadron went to Brunei for Exercise 'Summer Frolic.' The Joint Headquarters was set up in a gleaming new police headquarters near Brunei Town. The message centre, however, was located in the changing rooms of an adjacent drill shed. On the first day, while initial problems were being ironed out, a British police inspector, immaculate in grey shirt and khaki shorts came striding across the square. He deflated our momentary awe by introducing himself as **F. of S. Bumphrey,** seconded to the Royal Brunei Police. As we had left our own F. of S. behind, it was reassuring to have him there.

For **Major R. Frost** (Royal Marines) and **Corporal Dawson,** it was a final return to an area where they had served together during Confrontation. Both have now returned to U.K., and **Corporal Dawson** will soon be hanging up his green beret for the last time. Another two-tour green beret veteran still with us is **Corporal Ricky Wight.**

Pass the Commando Course and win a Green Beret

Green Beret? It is part of Royal Marines policy that attached Army ranks should pass the Commando course at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, and wear the green beret, though there are occasional exceptions. There is a small, but steady turnover of personnel, so if you fancy something different—and the Royal Marines, though they face many of the same problems as Royal Signals, are different—keep an eye on your unit notice board. You may have a chance of proving yourself on the commando course and serving with the Marines yourself.

Business with pleasure in Malaysia

We entered October with a new Brigade Commander, and a new Squadron O.C., **Captain S. Pope** (R.M.). This meant a trip across the Causeway to Malaya to demonstrate and test the Brigade Headquarters. It also provided Tech (TE) **Corporal Frank Cashen** with a chance to test some Naval equipment unfamiliar to Royal Signals, which the Marines will be using in future for communications with the Navy.

In November, the Squadron went on a business-with-pleasure trip to the Cameron Highlands. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Paul McGinn** found his way to the top of 6,000ft. high Bukit Beremban and reported that both the view and the climb were breathtaking.



DO ANY OF THESE FACES RING A BELL?
Left to right: Corporal Ricky Wight, Corporal Frank Cashen, Sergeant Martin Bienvenu and Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Paul McGinn on board H.M.S. Simbang, Singapore

To Pakistan at short notice

Shortly after our return, part of the Squadron was given 24 hours' notice to board H.M.S. *Intrepid* and sail for cyclone-devastated East Pakistan. Of the Royal Signals five, only **Sergeant Martin Bienvenu,** the Cipher Sergeant, went along. 249 Signal Squadron ran a message centre at Patuakhali, but the actual communicating was done by the Royal Marine signallers. They manned stations at the Forward Craft Bases, set up on the complicated waterways of the Ganges Delta, and were responsible for the Patuakhali end of the busy rear link to H.M.S. *Intrepid.* **Sergeant Bienvenu** attached himself to 661 Signal Troop (LPD) on *Intrepid* and ran the embarked force message desk, seeing no more of Pakistan than the dust on people's boots. . . . They also serve who only float and wait.

School of Signals, Blandford Camp Dorset

The School's Open Day for local schools

As part of the policy of 'Keeping the Army in the Public Eye,' and specifically to interest local public schools in career prospects of Royal Signals officers, an 'Open Day' was held at the School of Signals on 11th February.

Headmasters and Careers Masters were invited to spend a day at the School to listen to presentations, meet young officers attending courses and to see the facilities for training and accommodation for students.

The following attended: Bryanston School (Headmaster, **Mr. F. G. R. Fisher;** Careers Master, **Mr. W. E. Potter**). Canford School (Deputy Headmaster, **Mr. R. E. Wigmore;** O.C. C.C.F., **Lieutenant-Colonel D. Shorland Ball, T.D.**). Clayesmore School (Headmaster, **Mr. R. McIsaac;** Careers Master, **Captain J. Tilden**). King's School, Bruton (Headmaster, **Mr. R. C. Davey;** Careers Master, **Mr. B. R. Cousins**). Milton Abbey School (Deputy Headmaster, **Mr. D. R. Briggs;** Careers Master, **Captain C. D. Townsend**). Sherborne School (O.C. C.C.F., **Major J. Riley**).

The visit started with talks on 'The role of the Services in the 1970s,' by **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie,** and 'Royal Signals and the Army,' by **Colonel Derek Williams.** After lunch with the Commandant in the H.Q. Mess, the visitors met and talked with a number of young officers, and then visited laboratories and classrooms. They saw a number of operational detachments from 30th Signal Regiment. The visit ended with a 'Quiz and Discussion Period,' chaired by the Commandant, Brigadier John Cubberley. The visitors were extremely interested in all they saw, and obviously enjoyed the day.

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

The end of the ski-ing season—great fun for all concerned

At least we had plenty of snow to end the ski season. The last fortnight's course in our hut near Winterberg was the only one which never had to search for the stuff, and like their predecessors they all learned to ski. **Second-Lieutenant Ian Bingham** reports:

"On 15th February, 13 eager volunteers set off for ski instruction at Winterberg.

At the end of the first week **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Douggie' Douglas, Lance-Bombadier 'Shuggie' Neill** and **Signalman 'Bugs' Turner** proved to be able skiers whilst at the other end of the scale **Lance-Corporals 'Chic' Greig** and **Arthur Hedgley** still searched for the secret of how to remain upright once they donned skis. During the second week they achieved the breakthrough and were soon seen hurtling down the slopes with great aplomb. The second week also saw other improvements. **Signalmen 'Lofty' Needs, 'Johnnie' Johnson** and **John Deas** showed tremendous progress while **Q.M.S.I. Sid Tye** put in many hours of practice. This paid off when he took third place from the more fancied skiers in the end-of-course race.

Other highlights were **Lance-Corporal Pat Webb,** and **Signalmen 'Mitch' Mitchell** and **Bob Hay** announcing that after much research in their own time (as well as the downing of five bottles) that tea was about the best thing available to go with Bacardi! Also, the sight of **Second-Lieutenant Bingham's** snow ploughing to a halt, with his face in the snow and his skis flaying wildly in the air, brightened the mist-shrouded hillside.

At the end of the course everyone was in full agreement that the course had been great fun and that a vote of thanks should go to **Staff Sergeant Frank Ward** for running the administration side there so well."



IT'S DANGEROUS AND IT'S TOUGH!

4 Division skiers on the gruelling Langlauf course during the Divisional Ski meeting

From left to right: Lance-Corporal Johnny Goodfellow (22), Signalman Bernie Benford (23) and Corporal "'Enry" Hunt (24)

EXERCISE 'RADIANT GLOW' HAS ITS MOMENTS

A cuckoo in the nest

This was the whimsical name chosen by our jokey S.O. 2 Signals (**Major David Anthonisz**) for our first Regimental communications exercise of the year. The Commanding Officer wisely decided to take some leave at the time, and let **Major Anthonisz** and the Second-in-Command, **Major Mike O'Connor,** get on with it.

Having had a changeover of nearly 50 per cent of the Officers in the Regiment since the last exercise season, and a great many soldiers as well, 'Radiant Glow' produced its quota of minor dramas and comic turns as all good exercises should. We kicked-off by competing with Corps H.Q. for the same village. 'Higher authority' apparently doesn't have any system to check if two lots of chaps are having different exercises on the same bit of ground. After an exchange of old-world courtesies between **Major O'Connor** and **Sergeant Slater's** line party from 7th (or was it 22nd?) Signal Regiment, Rear Division was glanced neatly to leg and came to rest in what they said was a much nicer village anyway. (Over some of the intervening play we draw a polite veil—suffice to say that several people learned a lot).

Hill-top luxury

The Commcens of 1 Squadron lived, as is apparently their habit on these occasions, in sumptuous style in their hill-top resorts. Life there seemed to revolve mainly round the tented restaurants and vast meals provided by **Sergeants John Andrews** and **George White,** the administrative N.C.O.s, and their cooks. Indeed, it proved impossible to persuade **Major Jimmy Golding** even to contemplate a tactical plan which involved a move before breakfast nor one that could not be completed in good time for luncheon. (The Second-in-Command and S.O.2 are working on it though).

Lieutenant Malcolm Emslie, Sergeant Cliff Moore and other experts in 'Bravo' Troop found out how many drums of Quad a C70 would actually work through; and **Lance-Corporal John Petrie** (who had managed to spare a couple of days from the football field) and his gang showed just how fast a good line detachment can lay across country at midnight.

B.F.B.S. announcer savours local atmosphere

An additional attraction of the exercise was a visit from **Miss Sandi Jones,** our favourite Announcer-Bird from B.F.B.S.

(*Continued on page* 145)

(*Continued from page* 144)

The Adjutant, **Captain Martin Lance,** appointed himself chaperon, thus ensuring that he joined the exercise late. She visited the Commcens, and recorded several interviews and requests for records. It was a pity that we couldn't tempt her into Signal Operations at Main Division—we were ankle deep in a particularly noisome manure-heap at the time, surrounded by cows, whose chief aim seemed to be the addition of yet more manure. This, of course, is quite normal for Signal Operations (no more jokes of that sort please) but was too much for one accustomed to the studios of Cologne. We did not blame her; and anyway, what sensible girl wouldn't rather stay out with the soldiers than entrust herself to R.H.Q.?

Football—and it's four-a-side

Back in barracks we plunged straight into a new pastime (apart from a lot of hard work preparing for the F.F.R. Inspection)—a four-a-side football competition, played in the gymnasium. After a fortnight's hard evening play, the new Tye shield (named after our P.T.I., **Q.M.S.I. Tye,** A.P.T.C.) was won by the L.A.D. team captained by **Craftsman 'Ginger' Marshall.** This, we reckon, was a special triumph for the L.A.D., for that organisation must have worked more overtime hours than any in the Regiment in preparing for the annual vehicle inspection, plus doing their full share of drill, N.B.C. training and other pre-F.F.R. business. Their win was well deserved, though 'A' Troop were worthy runners-up.

The Regimental team continue to do well, being now in the quarter-finals of the Ferries Cup.



4 DIVISION FOOTBALL FOUR-A-SIDE WINNERS—AND THE RUNNERS-UP

Back Row: L.A.D. (*Winners*) Craftsmen Peerless, Marshall, Lord and Skuphan

Front Row: 'A' Troop (*Runners-up*) Signalmen Cleary, Heelan, Jones and Needs, Signalman Briers (Referee)

Conventions and such like

At this time of year in B.A.O.R. all the best people have study periods and conventions to discuss and learn about all sorts of complicated things, like bigger and better antennas, and what to do with your user handbooks.

At least, those were among the subjects discussed with animation at our Regimental Signals convention, which was attended by about 70 visitors of other Arms and Corps, from Armoured Regiments to O.F.P.s. C.C.R. Signals was kind enough to attend, together with **Lieutenant-Colonels C. G. Ridley** and **J. F. Blake,** the Royal Signals representatives at the R.A.C. School and the School of Artillery respectively.

The Traffic Officer, **Captain John Davies,** also held a custodian Officers' convention the week before.

Both conventions were a great success and undoubtedly did a lot of good. Those who made them possible—from the chiefs who planned them to the indians who built stages, moved furniture and picked up bits of paper beforehand—all deserve a large pat on the back.

Inspections—and we can stick our chests out

When writing last month's WIRE notes we may have forecast good reports for annual Tels and Vehicle Inspections. The actual reports, when they arrived, took even us by surprise, however, with their praise. Our vehicles and servicing system were apparently the best seen by the inspection team anywhere this winter. A lot of credit for this must go to our L.A.D. under **Captain Mike Greenstreet,** and our fully integrated R.C.T. M.T.O., **Captain Bill Green** (who's a good fly-half, too); but they would be the first to give credit to every soldier, driver or not, who cleaned, scraped, painted—and then cleaned again.

2 Squadron's radio got a similar report.

The Bishop of Croydon's visit

On 26th February we were honoured with a visit from the Bishop of Croydon, who is also Church of England Bishop to the Forces. He called in the middle of the morning, between seeing the 3rd Carabiniers and 7th Signal Regiment at work; so we gave him coffee in the Quadrant Club and introduced him to a selection of soldiers, to whom he chatted. He was very charming and easy to talk to, and we much appreciated his interest in us.

Arrivals and departures

We have been spared any further changes among the Officers, beyond those already reported in these pages; but this correspondent is ashamed to confess that he has fallen far behind in reporting movements to and from the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

We have said farewell to **W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. Ferguson** (whose name at one time appeared almost every month in these notes under one heading or another), **W.O.II (B.S.M.) J. Dunn,** of H.Q. Squadron (to whom we wish all good fortune in civilian life), and **Sergeant L. Tanner** (from 1 Squadron to a Foreman's Course).

We welcome (belatedly) **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Kelly** from 216 Signal Squadron (Para Brigade), **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) M. J. Smith** from 22nd Signal Regiment, and **W.O.II (B.S.M.) R. W. Anderson,** R.A., to H.Q. Squadron.

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

Hockey—stirring game against 3rd Carabiniers leads to B.A.O.R. semi-final

THE hockey team continues to fight its way through the Army Competition. Having drawn 0—0 against 1 R.H.A., away, at Detmold, in the 4th Division semi-final on 6th February, the replay, at home, on 12th February, resulted in a further goalless draw, after extra time. It was not until the second replay, on a neutral ground, on 18th February, that we triumphed, after a hard-fought match, the only goal being scored by the left-winger, **Signalman 'Billy' Whale.**

Without a break, we were faced with the 4th Division final against 3rd Carabiniers, on 20th February. Battered, but not bowed, from our marathon four semi-finals, we prepared for the coming battle determined to win, having been 4th Division runners-up in the past two season. Almost till the middle of the second half, the match was a 'cliff-hanger,' the Carabiniers never releasing the pressure and twice taking the lead, but at this stage, fitness and team spirit took over and, having evened the score at 2—2, **W.O.II Hierlehy** (A.P.T.C.) led the final attack with a brilliant solo goal, beating four defenders before calmly placing the ball well out of the goakeeper's reach. From then on it was all 7th Signal Regiment, and the final score was 5—2. We now go on to meet the winners of 2nd Division in the B.A.O.R. semi-final.

Cross-country running—team work their way up to 3rd in league

The season has now come to an end, and our team can look back on what has been a successful first season in the Westphalia League. The last race in the league table was run on Saturday, 20th February, with 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment and ourselves acting as joint hosts. We came third and clinched our final position in the table as third out of 25 teams—the first two places being filled by the Royal Irish Rangers and the Queen's Dragoon Guards, Divi-

(*Continued on page* 147)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army



AN ENCOURAGING SEASON FOR 7th REGIMENT'S CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM
Rear, left to right: Sergeant Dave Jolly, Lance-Corporal Bob Francis, Lance-Corporal P. J. Probin, Major Doc Watson, Sergeant Paddy Ryan, Lance-Corporal Mick Lee
Front, left to right: Lance-Corporal Ian Simpson, Signalman Paddy Atkinson, Sergeant Jeff Chaloner, Signalman Birdie Burdis, Signalman Ginge Lawson

sional champions for 1971 and 1970 respectively. At the beginning of November, we were ninth, and have slowly worked our way up to our final position.

On 16th February, we competed in the B.A.O.R. Championships at Wildenrath, and must congratulate our hosts, 21st Regiment on their fine win, and wish them every success at Aldershot later this month. We finished sixth overall, and, having reached the B.A.O.R. stage for the first time in many years, are determined to be there again next year, and to improve our result, so 21st Regiment must look to their laurels.

The Navy joins 7th Regiment

At the end of January, a Job Evaluation Team was visiting the Regiment and they wanted to see **Yeoman Coole,** of 6 Squadron, on exercise. One member of the team, **Captain Douglas-Morris,** R.N., saw, with great delight, the Squadron 432s and asked if he might drive one of them. **Corporal 'Robbie' Moore** gave him a quick lesson on the controls and off the Captain went, disappearing into the woods. Both he and the 432 arrived back unscathed.

8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

Quite a Regiment

SOMEONE asked the other day, "Where is 8th Signal Regiment and what does it do?" The simple answer to this is—"Catterick, and anything and everything." However, to be a bit more precise, the Regiment currently occupies some 242 buildings covering 269 acres in eight different lines (Messines, Vimy, Kemel, Baghdad, Loos, Aisne/Ypres, Gaza and Jaffa) in Catterick Camp. It trains all Royal Signals trades, less clerks and special operators, and looks after the Royal Signals Display Team (O.C. White Helmets please note). Apart from trainees, the biggest problem is finding a cadre signalman, of whom there are only two out of a cadre strength of 423. We won't name them in case the R.S.M. finds out who they are.

Sport

Our hockey team is currently doing well, having just won the Northern Command finals by beating A.A.C. Harrogate 3—0, and now move to the next stage of the Army Cup. Apart from **Corporal Peter Havlin,** who is a Combined Services' and Army player, seven other members are current or one-time Corps players. Our judo team has reached the Army Championships, having failed to find any opposition in this part of the country. Our basketball team won the Northern Command Championship, but were knocked out in the zone final.

Royal Signals Display Team

In January, the Royal Signals Display Team returned to Olympia for the first time in 22 years. During the Royal Tournament in 1949, the hall was filled with the roar of motorcycles and flying dust, but in 1971, all that could be heard was the purr of electric motors as members of the public cautiously manoeuvred motorcycles around a very muddy trials track. The boot, for once, was on the other foot. The Display Team transported 20 tons of the Yorkshire Moors to Olympia and then allowed the public to ride over it on battery-driven motorcycles; 3,000 people rode over the course in the ten days of the Outdoor Holiday Show. Many finished a little wet and bruised, others scraped round, but the team had compassion on a few and gave a helping hand. In this photograph, **Lance-Corporal 'Lofty' Price** seems quite pleased to assist **Miss Jackie Parnell** of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire.

(Continued on page 149)

Uniform quality

always in a Gieves ready-to-wear



Appointed Tailors and Outfitters to the Royal Corps of Signals

g Gieves

27 Old Bond Street, London, W.1

1 High Street, Camberley

Bath Brockenhurst Cambridge Cheltenham
Chester Chichester Cranwell Dartmouth
Edinburgh Harrow Leicester Plymouth
Portsmouth Weymouth Winchester Malta

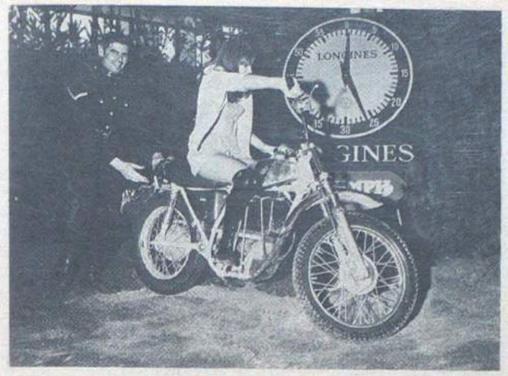
White Helmets — Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team

ENGAGEMENT LIST

Date	Engagement	Location	Booking State
April			
24	Tournament	Beaconsfield	Alloc.
25	Open Day, WRAC Centre	Guildford	Alloc.
May			
1	May Festival	Stoke-on-Trent	Alloc.
5	Bailey Organisation Show	Monte Carlo	Enq.
8	Donkey Derby (2nd choice)	Cleckheaton	Enq.
10 - 14	Open Day, 10th Sig. Regt. (one day only)	Hounslow	Enq.
15	Donkey Derby (1st choice)	Cleckheaton	Enq.
19 / 20	West Midland Show (K)	Shrewsbury	Alloc.
22	International Spring Festival	Birmingham	Alloc.
26 / 29	Balmoral Agricultural Soc.	Ireland	Alloc.
30	Round Table	Kinross	Alloc.
31	Derbyshire Agricultural Show	Ilkestone	Alloc.
June			
1	International Spring Festival	Birmingham	Alloc.
5	Open Day, Apprentices' College (K)	Harrogate	Alloc.
12	At Home, Catterick (K)	Catterick	Alloc.
13	Lancashire Miners' Gala	Leigh	Alloc.
19	Sports and Open Day, B.P. (15.00 hours).	Sunbury-on-Thames	Alloc.
19	Town Show, Newham (20.00 hours)	London	Alloc
23 / 24	Lincolnshire County Show	Lincoln	Alloc.
26 / 27	Town Show	Hillingdon	Alloc.
July			
3	Menwith Hill, U.S.A.F.	Menwith Hill	Enq.
3	School Open Day, Moorside	Manchester	Alloc.
4	Hook Gala	Goole, Yorks.	Alloc.
6 / 10	Tattoo (K)	Colchester	Alloc.
14	Highland Night	Dunoon	Alloc.
16 / 18	Birmingham Army Display (K)	Birmingham	Alloc.
21	Round Table	Conway	Enq.
22 / 24	Manchester Show	Manchester	Alloc.
26 / 29	Practice Days	Cardiff	Alloc.
30 - 7	Searchlight Tattoo	Cardiff	Alloc.
August			
1	Free day in Cardiff		
2 / 7	Searchlight Tattoo	Cardiff	Alloc.
14	Amphill Cheshire Home	Ampthill	Alloc.
20	Crewe Carnival	Crewe	Alloc.
21	Town Gala (14.00 hours)	Warrington	Alloc.
21	Crewe Carnival (18.00 hrs. or later)	Crewe	Alloc.
22	Richmond Festival	Richmond	Enq.
24 / 25	Playweek	Eston, Teesside	Alloc.
27	British Timken	Northampton	Alloc.
28	Town Show	Harlow	Alloc.
28	British Timken (22.00 hrs.)	Northampton	Alloc.
30	Town Gala	Watford	Alloc.
31	Centenary Celebrations	Rotherham	Alloc.
September			
2	Bucks. County Show	Aylesbury	Alloc.
3 / 5	Army Display (K)	Blackburn	Alloc.
11	Military Tattoo	York	Alloc.
13 / 18	Military Tattoo	York	Alloc.
19 / 26	Spanish Grand Prix	Barcelona	Enq.
19	Hednesford Hills Raceway	Cannock	Enq.
20 / 29	Assembly, Berlin Tattoo	Berlin	Alloc.
24	Catterick (Vimy)	Catterick	Enq.
30- 2 Oct.	Berlin Tattoo	Berlin	Alloc.
30- 2 Oct.	World Ploughing Champs.	Somerset	Enq.

Abbreviations used—

Enq. Any firm enquiry for the services of the Team
Alloc. Allocation of a date to an applicant.
(K) A military show or display financed by the Army (KAPE)



OLYMPIA INCIDENT!

A helping hand from Lance-Corporal 'Lofty' Price of the Royal Signals Display Team. The occasion, the Outdoor Holiday Show at Olympia when the team transported 20 tons of good old Yorkshire muck and then allowed the public to ride over it on battery driven motorcycles

Report from 5 Squadron

Chain of Command

The order came . . . 5 Squadron to write notes for THE WIRE for the month of February. Delegation came into its own. Each of the groups within 5 Squadron—notes or else! Dvr/ED Group winced. Training Officer went on leave, but to no avail—notes or else! Delegation. Herewith notes, after the Training Officer had his say.

There are two groups for training purposes. The driver group and the educated driver group (normally known as ED). The latter as seen in the eyes of ED instructors. Many variations on the 'E' side are mentioned by the driving crew, but not printable. There is no need to go into training detail, as sufficient of the Corps are only too well aware of the happening.

Important occasions recently

Very little worth mentioning. The Training Officer is no longer invited out on exercises. On the last two exercises visted, two traffic accidents. No more invites.

Births? None to note. The nearest being the M.T.O., who nearly had kittens after a spate of traffic accidents which began to eat into his 'Vehicles on Road' state.

Losses? Equipment nil, but manpower a few. The military increment who were posted in in November, 1969, for 12 months, are gradually leaving, but for those still with us, not quickly enough. That opinion is theirs and not ours. They have performed a sterling job with little reward. Our thanks go to all.

Take-over bids? Sergeant Gerry Flake, whom many drivers must know or remember, is often heard mentioning that many of the driving instructors are ex-7th Signal Regiment. The Training Officer often mutters, "Good lad, ex-1 Div. you know."

Proposed Moves? As many may know (and for those who don't, it is suggested you purchase THE WIRE until the great announcement appears) the move into the new Trade Training School is on, BUT not for 5 Squadron. Plans are in hand to commandeer many of the huts around Hungry Hill, thus centralising the lecture rooms, etc. The 'D's on the buildings have once again been painted out, and the lino-layers are in. Who knows, we may still be in situ' in 1980.

The ED instructors, **Sergeants Platts, Graham, Lewer, Wray, Figg** and **Williams,** have now organised themselves a preparation room. Very capable indeed for preparing tea and coffee. Who knows, they may be able to produce lesson plans of the same standard as the former?

Shortly, the driving instructors, **Sergeants Jones, Craggs, Ryan, Dewar** and **McDiarmid,** ably assisted by **Corporals Benbow, Oakley** and **Rockett** will have their own stable, tastefully decorated, it is hoped. One will not know where to go for a decent cuppa. Friviolity aside, and conditions far below the normal standard, they all combine to produce a very good end-product.

Farewells

We are all of us used to movement, people coming and going. However, it is unusual for a young officer to retire in order to grow his hair long and paint. **Geoff Vaughan** decided he had the urge and the ability to paint. He made the opportunity and has now left us for Cyprus, where he hopes to emulate Picasso and make a fortune with a brush and palette knife.

On Friday, 15th, **Geoff** and **Paddy,** his charming wife, were given farewell drinks in the Mess, and the C.O., **Colonel W. A. Sykes,** presented **Geoff** with an inscribed tankard and wished them the best of good luck in their new life—a sentiment echoed by all who knew them.

We also bade farewell to **S.S.M. ('Duke') Cairns,** who went to Military Training Group for his resettlement course; **Sergeant ('Paddy') Black,** who has gone south to Kent; **Corporals Baughan** and **Mobbs,** who have joined 'Civvy Street.'

Quiet life

All in all, a very quiet life, but if we do have any news, rest assured, you will read about it in future editions of THE WIRE. Finally, the word for the month: Delegation UGH (and not those attending a trade fair).

9th Signal Regiment (Radio) B.F.P.O. 53

The Corps at sixes and sevens

NO, we weren't in a tizzy on 24th February, but we were the hosts for the Royal Signals (Cyprus) seven-a-side rugby and six-a-side hockey competitions. Both the rugby and hockey trophies were won by 2 Squadron of the Regiment by defeating 3 Squadron 16 pts. to 8 at rugby, the scorers being **Corporal Ian Roulston,** R.A.F., (2 tries), **Corporal Andy Nex** (1 try, 2 conversions) and **Signalman Jim Leivers** (1 try) for 2 Squadron, and **Corporal Nev Smart,** Int. Corps (1 try), **Sergeant Bill Mayling,** Int. Corps (1 try), and **Sergeant Dave Wilson,** Int. Corps (1 conversion), for 3 Squadron, and 259 Signal Squadron 1—0 at hockey, the winning and only goal scored by **W.O.II Fred O'Brien.**

Mrs. C. O. Bound, wife of Commander, 3 Signal Group, presented the prizes at the close of the competitions.

75 years in the Corps

On 19th February, 1946, three young men left the comfort of their homes to join the Royal Corps of Signals as boy entrants. For those who can't count, that was over 25 years ago, and they haven't served together since, until meeting up at IX. Who are the mystery men who have just celebrated their silver wedding to the Corps? **R.S.M. Bill Smith, F. of S. John Walke** and **Sergeant Lindsey Smith.** Congratulations to you all, and may the next 25 years be as happy!

NEARELF boxing championships

Saturday, 28th February, saw the Regiment acting as hosts for the Army (Cyprus) Boxing Championships. The Rawson Hall was packed to overflowing by a very appreciative and partisan audience. The standard of boxing, from a layman's point of view, seemed very high indeed, especially as the majority of contestants were novices. Hearty congratulations go to **Signalman 'Taff' Strange,** of 2 Squadron, who did excellent demolition jobs on his two opponents to become the Army (NEARELF) Novice Welterweight Champion. **Signalman Jim Leivers** on being runner-up in the novice light heavyweight class and **Sergeant Jim Hendry** (Int. Corps) who was runner-up in the novice light middleweight class.

'European Cup' Final

The final of the Sergeants' Messes 'European Cup' was played on the Regimental pitch at Mercury Barracks between IX and the Royal Green Jackets from Polemidhia. The line-up for the kick-off was:

Sergeant John Morgan, Sergeant Jim McCormick, W.O.II Bob Hope (captain), Sergeant Clive Honor, Sergeant Pete Allison, Sergeant Bill Corrigan, Sergeant Ron Bloye, Staff Sergeant Ian Sleightholm, Mr. David Cooper, Sergeant Trev Ryan and Sergeant George Hardman.

The final score was 3-1 to IX. **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon,** Commanding Officer of IX, presented the cup to **Sergeant Ron Bloye** after praising both teams for their play and their very sporting performance. Lunch was served in the Mess and the children were treated to a film show while the fathers recounted the game over a pint. Roll on next year, and a possible hat-trick.

Sub-aqua expedition to Gan

A party led by **Major David Bird,** 14/20 Hussars, will be leaving for Gan in March. Accounts of the trip will be reported in full in our next edition.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

SINCE our last contribution to THE WIRE, we have had two Pass-off Parades. The first was on 5th February, when **Lieutenant S. D. Galpin** took No. 1 Troop for their final parade. The visiting inspector officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barry,** Chief Instructor, A.A.C. Harrogate, whose critical eye was pleased with the standard of the parade.

Signalman R. G. Braven was the best recruit and is now undergoing training as a Special Operator. At the second pass-off parade, on 19th February, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Cattermull,** Commanding Officer, 32nd Signal Regiment (V) was the Inspecting Officer. The Troop which passed off was No. 7, under command of **Lieutenant P. J. Bowles. Signalman D. Pescod** was chosen as best recruit and he is now undergoing training as a Communication Centre Operator.

Farewells

We would all like to say farewell to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) 'Busty' Slade,** who leaves the Army after 22 years of loyal service to join the ranks of the civilians. We wish him well in his new life, and hope that his studies of British Law and British Constitution stand him in good stead in his new employment.

Welcome

During the last month we have had our fair share of postings in and out. 'Welcome to the Regiment' goes to the following: **Sergeant J. Bonnet,** who has strengthened our soccer team; **Corporal D. Stevenson,** who hockey skill is an asset to the team; and lastly, to **Lance-Corporal D. Harrison,** now settled in at recruit training.

Special welcome

Back from 'Civvy Street,' **Corporal G. Harper,** who found his work as a Prison Officer uninteresting. **Corporal D. Ballentyne and Corporal A. Croft,** who found they missed the comradeship of the Corps.

P.O. Troop and 'Bogle Stroll'

This somewhat curious title was given by Manchester University students to their 54-mile charity walk. A conversation with the training major of the local O.T.C. resulted in 11th Regiment being invited to walk. Ten men from P.O. Troop, with **S.S.M. Harding** giving excellent training, made up the team. On Friday, 26th February, at 11 p.m., in Lancaster, on a mild night, the team set off. The pace was steady and relentless, and despite unexpectedly fit student efforts, the team made headway. The going was easy, and weather conditions, though blustery, were good. **Sergeant Smith,** of P.O. Troop, gave support, with welcome hot soup at checkpoints and generally helped tired marchers. Team members arrived in Manchester early on Saturday afternoon, tired but elated. About £60 was raised for the charity fund.

SPORT

Soccer

On 9th February, the Regiment played against the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at home. The game was very entertaining, but we lost 3—0. However, two stalwarts arose from the match, and they were **Sergeant J. Bonnet,** who played in goal. His many magnificent saves have earned him the nickname 'Stone Wall.' **Lance-Corporal G. Hedges** also played an excellent game in defence.

Squash

The Regimental squash team has done well this year. The team has reached the final of the Northern Command Competition, beating 8th Signal Regiment 3—1. The team meets A.A.C. Harrogate in the final on 24th March.

MARRIAGE

Our best wishes for the years to come go to **Lance-Corporal A. J. Crabtree,** who married **Miss Susan Biggs,** of Richmond, Yorkshire, recently.

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

The FFR

OUR annual FFR Inspection took place on Wednesday, 17th February, and in the absence of **Brigadier G. E. Bavin,** the inspection was carried out by **Colonel D. A. Gilchrist,** Deputy Commander, Rhine Area. The Colonel showed a particular interest in the junior ranks' dining hall which, by coincidence, was being judged for the Rhine Area dining room competition. The results of the competition have not yet been published, but **W.O.II Joe Kavanagh,** our chef, is confident that he has pulled it off for the second year running. After a very full day, the Colonel left well satisfied, we believe, with all that he had seen in the Regiment.

Brain of Birgelen

The final of the 'Brain of Birgelen' Quiz took place in the JRC on 23rd February. The early rounds had eliminated many worthies, and the final line-up before Quizmaster **S.S.M. Tony Orrell** was **Signalman John Sinden, Lance-Corporal Glen Clausen, Corporal Bill Guest, Sergeant Paul Scottorn, Sergeant Mick Pilkington, Mr. Colin Holman, W/Sergeant Brenda Parkin** and **Mrs. Elsie Armstrong.** After an exciting competition, **Mrs. Armstrong** emerged as the 'Brain of Birgelen, 1971.'

Close association with Royal Australian Signals

During the last 15 years, 13th Signal Regiment has enjoyed a close association with the Royal Australian Signals, and the sound of 'The Strine' (the distinctive and informal Aussie dialect) has become part of our daily lives.

Since 1955, the Regiment has had Royal Australian Signal Liaison Officers, either on direct attachment to, or closely associated with us, and past members of the Regiment may remember **Major 'Col' Cattanach,** O.C. 2 Squadron, 1 Wireless Regiment, 1955-1957; **Major Kent Whyte,** O.C. 12 Wireless Squadron, 1957-1959; **Major Jim Gaylard,** attached 30th Wireless Squadron and 13th Regiment, 1959-1961; **Captain Alan McDonald,** 13th Regiment, 1962-1963; **Captain Peter Murray,** 226 Squadron, 1963-1964; **Captain Steve Hart,** 225 Squadron, 1964-1966; **Lieutenant Dennis Livingston,** 13th Regiment, 1965-1966; **Captain Errol Poultney,** 13th Regiment, 1966-1967; **Major Trevor Richards,** 13th Regiment, 1967-1969; **Captain Herbie O'Flynn,** 13th Regiment, 1969-1970.

26th January, 'Australia Day,' is a date which is never allowed to pass unnoticed at Birgelen. This year, despite the cold and the remains of the snow, the day began with **Captain Mike Thorne** getting us out for some 'boomerang drill.' In the evening, all we 'Up Abovers' were entertained at a 'Shindig' by the 'Down Unders,' during which it was obvious that our knowledge of Australia and its customs leaves much to be desired.

We shall be very sorry when **Captain Mike Thorne** and his charming wife, **Robin,** leave us to return to Australia next month. Sadder still is the news that Mike will be the last Australian Signal Officer to serve on direct attachment to the Regiment, because his successors will be attached to units in the U.K.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!



AUSTRALIA DAY 1971

Captain Mike Thorne and Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Baldwin seen with some of the plaques and mementoes presented by Royal Australian Signal Officers who have served with the Regiment



"BOOMERANG THROWING BY NUMBERS—TWO"

Captain Mike Thorne giving instruction to Lieutenant-Colonel Baldwin and Second-Lieutenant David Dobson (our O.C. Training Wing) in Boomerang Drill, Lesson 2. The Drill Book says "With the body and shoulders held in right direction, lean back drawing hand with boomerang behind head. Take aim which is 45 deg. into oncoming breeze and approximately 30 deg. upwards and away from the ground"

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess—Drawing the first pint in our well-known club

February has seen the completion of our by now well-known bar. Despite last-minute panics, late into the 16th February, it was ready for the Rhine Area Deputy Commander to pull the first pint at lunch-time on the 17th, during the FFR inspection. Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Denis Connell, W.O.II (Y. of S.) John Morrison** and **W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Alan Smith,** and these three stalwarts duly 'wet' their medals in the evening celebration.

Two days later we had a Regimental dinner, when **Major John Milford,** O.C. 3 Squadron, and practically all his seniors came down from Berlin. We are still trying to work out how the Squadron managed to work with all the 'management' away! However, we had a splendid evening, which eventually terminated with **Sergeant Dave Palmer** having breakfast with the 3 Squadron lads before they left the Regiment at 08.00 hours! His excuse was that he was afraid to go home in the dark!

We welcome **W.OII Brian Stoddard** from 9th Signal Regiment. We also welcome and congratulate **Sergeant Mick Dolan** on his promotion into the Mess.

18th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

AFTER the exacting days of our last Christmas in Singapore, it may have been reasonable to expect a comparatively uneventful January. Not so! The following passages would seem amply to illustrate the immense variety of activities still to be found in Service life overseas—during a 'quiet' month.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting —Singapore, 13th-22nd January, 1971.

Corporal Archie Teasdale's daughters, **Linda** and **Diane,** have enlarged their collection of autographs considerably. During the Commonwealth meeting, **Corporal Teasdale** was acting as courier for the Prime Minister's staff, and his daughters persuaded him to act as an autograph-hound.

The centre of activities, as far as 18th Signal Regiment were concerned was the Hotel Malaysia, one of Singapore's most luxurious. Here, in the presidential suite, **Mr. Edward Heath** and **Sir Alec Douglas Home** made their home and conducted the affairs of the nation throughout the meeting. The Regiment also assisted in the installation of a 5/20 PMBX. This was manned by eight W.R.A.C. girls, working in pairs, for the ten critical days. The most fortunate were **Privates Carol Thomson** and **Diane Rhodes,** who were invited to a champagne party, given by the P.M. before he left for U.K.



AFFAIRS OF STATE

Signalman P. Walker, red despatch case in hand, smiles at Lance-Corporal Zainuddin Bin Yahya, Land Rover driver, while on duty during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference at Singapore

(*Continued on page* 153)



WARRANT OFFICERS, N.C.O.'s– bring your skills and rank to Australia

Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army–or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank and acquired specialist skills. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain–and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain you receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity.

Don't leave it any longer!

Your trade may be included in those available and this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London–or post the coupon for all the facts.

Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name_____

Address_____

_____

_____

Age_____ Married/Single_____

Rank_____ Corps_____

Trade_____

Anticipated Discharge Date_____

To: Captain J. R. Godwin,
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356



(*Continued from page* 151)

Corporal Teasdale was assisted on his courier duties by **Lance-Corporal Norman Mitchell, Signalman Pete Walker** and **Signalman Steve Hurst.** One of their biggest problems was to evade the hands of inquisitive world press men who haunted the hotel foyer.

The locally-enlisted personnel also played their part. They laid the cables and installed the telephones in the hotel rooms and drove the courier vehicles. They also operated a radio link between the hotel and the conference hall (down town Singapore). This link played a vital role in the passage of transport information that assured that the delegates were at the right place at the right time.

No function is ever complete without PA. **Lance-Corporal Jim Smart** was given this task at the residence of the British High Commissioner. Also working on the conference were **Corporal 'Jock' McKenzie** and three stalwarts of Systems Troop, who manned a switchboard in the High Commission.

Accompanying one of the congratulatory letters after the conference was a signed portrait of **Mr. Edward Heath,** so we must have done alright.

The Glorious 20th January

There have been few days in the month when there was nothing of consequence for someone in the Regiment, but 20th January held something for nearly everyone. In the comparative cool of the morning, we held a Regimental parade during which **Brigadier D. W. V. P. O'Flaherty, D.S.O.,** Commander, Singapore Area, presented the champion squadron lance to 249 Signal Squadron; Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Charlie Froggatt, Staff Sergeant Mohd. Zain, Sergeant Ralph Gilmore** and **Corporal Yusof Bin**



CHAMPION SQUADRON WERE REALLY SMART ON PARADE
249 Squadron led by Captain Les Waumsley march past after the award of a Lance on becoming champion squadron in 18th Regiment

Abdullah; his warrant to **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Jimmy Lee** and the Commander FARELF's Testimonial to **Mrs. Monica Chan.** Pundits among the spectators reckoned it the best parade for some time, but they may have been influenced by the charm of **Mrs. Chan,** who was by far the most attractive recipient of an award for many years.

Later that evening, **Brigadier O'Flaherty** was the guest of the officers at a Regimental dinner. Both he and our C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Hild,** were introduced to the cut-throat intricacies of croquet. **Major Charles Bushell's** uncanny nack of being at hand with the hockey cup, full of the C.O.'s champagne, whenever he was roqueted (pronounced 'roakayed,' and is like being snookered, only worse) didn't exactly help his game, and it is understood he went round twice to the Brigadier's once.

Sport—Stop Press

A separate account of the Regiment's unbeaten hockey record, which includes winning the Far East Cup and the Singapore League, appears elsewhere.

We congratulate **Captain Charles Kemp** on gaining an Army (Far East) Rugby Cap.



BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE
Corporal Boulby (H.Q. Squadron) and Lance-Corporal Hawey (249 Squadron) mix it at unit novices boxing

Fisticuffs

Earlier in the month, the dying art of self-defence, western style, was temporarily revived during the inter-Squadron novices' boxing competition. The preliminaries on the first evening were reputedly the best, but the finals, the following evening, produced some excellent bouts and were enjoyed by the many spectators present. 249 Signal Squadron thumped their way to win the team event, **Lance-Corporal Edward Sooria** achieved the quickest knockout, **Corporal Pete Boulby** won the best fight of the competition and **Signalman John Swain** is still looking for one classically extracted tooth.

Entertainments

The Chinese Year of the Pig is celebrated on 26th/27th January, 1971, but our Chinese other ranks decided to throw their party a little earlier in the month, presumably—and wisely—to spread the load. Many guests, representatives of all races in the Regiment, attended and thoroughly enjoyed, a ten-course Chinese meal, an unexpected Chinese wedding reception, and late night dancing in the Katong Happy Night Club. The thanks of all guests go to **R.Q.M.S. 'Jimmy' Lee** and his committee, who so well organised this last function of its kind.

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Regimental farewell for the Group Commander

THE annual fitness for role inspection was carried out on 11th March by **Colonel E. J. Winn** who was also paying his final visit to the Regiment upon relinquishing his appointment. He was accompanied by **Major 'Dick' Carroll** and we were fortunate to have a splendid spring day for the occasion. The sun shone steadily as the Squadrons set about their training and demonstrated their various talents in carrying out the numerous signal tasks which jointly constitute the role of the Regiment.

The Group Commander presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **W.O.II G. M. Baigent** and **Corporal W. Cameron** before carrying out an extensive tour of the Regiment. After the inspection of the cooks who prepared the lunch in field conditions **R.S.M. Jennings,** the Warrant Officers and Sergeants entertained **Colonel Winn** to lunch in their Mess. The afternoon programmme consisted of further visits to see

more training and departments of Headquarters Squadron before the final drive past of the Regiment's 140 vehicles on the airstrip. Finally and after a very long day we were especially pleased to see **Colonel Winn** return for a dinner night to complete a very memorable occasion for us all.

Regimental re-organisation

Following the changes a year ago which placed all administrative trades and technician reinforcements in Headquarters Squadron, all the operator trades in 1 Squadron and the Linemen and Training Centre in 2 Squadron the Regiment have now amalgamated 3 and 4 Squadrons. The establishment is now rewritten based on our experience during the past 12 months and just to confuse the pre F.F.R. Inspecting Officers the changes were put into effect without delay on 1st March. With O.C. 3 Squadron in Norway and O.C. 4 Squadron being far enough away in Thailand the opportunity seemed too good to miss.

The 'Gentlefolk'

Members of the Regiment branched out recently into the field of entertainment when our Folk Group entered the Army Music Group and Singer Competition. The Gentlefolk, consisting of **Lance-Corporal Peter Ferns, Signalman Brian Smith** (both from 2 Squadron) and **Sergeant Michael McBride. Lance-Corporal Ferns** also entered as a solo singer and both he and the group were chosen for the Southern Command finals on 5th March. Unfortunately they just missed being selected for the Army Finals, but they are nevertheless to be congratulated on a very good attempt.

Lunar humour

Always keen to comment and kept abreast of current events, we enclose this illustration from **R.Q.M.S. Don Crisp** which really is the end.



READING SOMEONE ELSE'S WIRE?
WHY NOT GET YOUR OWN COPY?

UK or European posting?
Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack
* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem
Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.
Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W4
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*
Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*
Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS

Life Assurance
Policies Covering War Risks
for:
Children.
Convertible Whole Life.
Death Duties.
Education Endowment.
House Purchase. Retirement.
Unit Trust and Share Purchase by Endowment



EVERY INSURANCE INCLUDING
Officers' Kit. Europe 75p per £100
World wide £1·25 per £100. Household Effects.
Hospital Schemes (33⅓% Group discount — Officers and retired Officers).
Personal Accidents. Personal Liability.
Motor Competitive rates for New and Old Cars.
Home and Foreign Policies.
Bloodstock, Camera, Caravan, Golf, Gun, Holidays, Hunter, Transit, Television, etc.

B. E. THOMPSON & CO. LTD.
INCORPORATED INSURANCE BROKERS
11, KING STREET, RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE
Telephone No. 2308.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Exercise 'Wintex'—an unqualified success

THIS was the largest exercise involving AFCENT for some considerable time; involving both staff procedures and planned communication incidents. From a communications point of view, the exercise proved to be an unqualified success, as personnel proved themselves capable of coping adequately with a heavy volume of traffic, frequent teleprinter conferences, and planned circuit outages.

One major benefit, from the Squadron's point of view, was the rapport which developed between staff and operating personnel involved on conference circuits. These conferences stretched from Norway, on our northern flank, to Naples, in the south.

T.A.V.R. Reinforcements impress

A noteworthy feature was the manner in which our reinforcements, flown in from 33 Signal Regiment, T.A.V.R., slotted smoothly into this strange international environment. Within a very short space of time they were indistinguishable from the regular members of AFCENT. Their professionalism, competence and enthusiasm did much to build a new respect for the volunteers; the Squadron will be delighted to be reinforced any time in the future by men of this calibre.

Socially, they proved themselves capable of holding their own with all nationalities, and proved that previous visits had prepared their palates for the piquant flavour of Amstel. In their final night in Maastricht, they staged a very commendable drink-in. This was well attended by members of all nationalities serving in AFCENT, visible proof of their popularity and the respect they had earned.

Lighter moments

The exercise, of course, had its lighter moments. When **F. of S. George Yule** arrived at the Amby pick-up point to commence picking up the PTT circuits, he found the field a hive of activity with diggers and graders. After a few words with the site manager, he discovered that the field in which the pick-up point is sited had been sold for development. He tells us that the exercise was pure war, with diggers and graders weaving frantically in and out of his micro-wave antenna stays.

Foreman Yule's exercise was further enlivened by helicopters which kept dropping in to enquire the whereabouts of mobile H.Q. He was rather nonplussed when a pilot remarked: "I saw your camouflage, so I dropped in to ask the way." The standard direction was, "See that dish on the top of the antenna . . . fly in that direction about 40 kilometres until you see a dish pointing towards it and then you are there."

Yeoman Tony Jackson, having organised a conference for one of our American Generals, gave him a short 'commercial' on arrival by announcing: "The circuit has been prepared, your conferee alerted, and is present on the circuit." He was completely deflated when the General laconically replied "big deal."

Yeoman Colin Heaps developed a pet aversion during the exercise to a senior staff officer who decided to practice typing in between items of a SACEUR-CINCENT conference. He seems to have the stuffy, formal idea that conferences between senior commanders are sacrosanct and should not be interspersed with short bursts of "Now is the time, etc."

Parking 10-ton tractor/trailers a feat

Corporal Al Grant demonstrated once more his inimitable ability to fit a quart into a pint pot as he manoeuvred ten-ton articulated tractor/trailers into a space barely large enough to accommodate them. The finished configuration, all neatly lined up, with little more than a cigarette-paper between vehicles, suitably impressed our Executive Officer, **Lieutenant Jon Ingram.** This was the 'exec's' first exercise and, having planned the layout on paper, he had then handed it over to Al for execution. Rumour has it that Al's ability to manoeuvre these giants, stems from having a very comprehensive range of Dinky toys as a child.

'Blood' sport—10-pin bowling a lethal pastime?

The Squadron has recently come to the startling conclusion that ten-pin bowling is not the quiet, amiable game it appears to be. Realisation has dawned that courage, fortitude, co-operation, and complete disregard of human frailty, are essential requirements for this demanding sport.

Sergeant Chris Morris proves this point by his experience whilst bowling in a recent AFCENT League match. At a critical stage of the game, Chris took his place on the alley intent upon making a strike. Purposefully, he ran up, oblivious to the deathly hush of the crowd, every fibre of his being concentrating on bowling with deadly accuracy. His left leg swung up to balance his body as his right arm and the ball swung back. Alas, co-ordination was lacking, the ball struck his left ankle before being released, to career ineffectually down the gully. Chris is now affectionately referred to as 'Hop-along,' as he hobbles around camp on his fractured left ankle. He is also unique in the fact that he is the only bowler in the AFCENT League playing regularly in cricket pads.

Dramatic exit through plate-glass window

Sergeant Ray Jeffreys has proved himself to be an extrovert with a flair for making a spectacular departure. Having recently bought a new Renault, he returned the car to the agent for minor adjustments. On going to collect the car, Ray found it parked just inside the showroom window. With nonchalance, he leapt in, glanced over his shoulder to ascertain he was clear to reverse, pressed the starter with a flourish, and drove through the plate-glass window. Both he and his car were unscathed; the agent suffered a fit of apoplexy and is still incapable of giving his views on the matter. Ray recommends it as an experience which even transcends dropping the mother-in-law's best tea set. If any unit has a spare 2½-metre sheet of plate glass and requires a spectacular display for open days, fetes, etc., the O.C. is prepared to lend 'Daredevil Ray,' with Renault, free of charge.

Appreciation

The twenty Dutch orphans who were invited to the Squadron Christmas party, recently expressed their appreciation in six well-written and beautifully illustrated notes. These, unfortunately, were in Dutch and lose impact on translation. They fully approved of the boisterous British method of celebrating. **Corporal Charlie Peach** bridged the language gap and ensured maximum participation on their part. Their obvious enjoyment was a source of pleasure for all concerned in the organisation, and made it all seem well worth while.

234 Signal Squadron (Malta), B.F.P.O. 51

Suppression . . .

IN common with all other scribes, I have been bidden to curtail my pen; you are therefore asked to imagine here a four-inch story about whatever subject you really find most interesting—I couldn't have written it anyway (thanks, Editor, for the let-out!).

Secession . . .

A sad moment for all of us in Malta was the departure of our C.S.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell.** By some mystical formula, his appointment has disappeared—another victim of the 'rundown.' He was well and truly dined-out by the Squadron Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, and he and his wife, **Joy,** were dined and danced out by the Officers of



[Photo by Signalman J. Camilleri

MILITARY PROFICIENCY COURSE, 1971, 234 SIGNAL SQUADRON (MALTA) STUDENTS WITH INSTRUCTORS

Left to right:

Back row: Signalman Ellis, Corporal Eley, Corporal Manwaring, Corporal Gash

Third row: Corporal Parker, Corporal White, Lance-Corporal Whelan, Corporal Rowland-Jones, Corporal Vantor, Signalman Vine, Signalman Spiteri, Corporal Littlewood, Signalman Taylor, Corporal Wyatt

Second row: Corporal Privitera, Sergeant Duff, Lance-Corporal Farrugia, Corporal Shail, Signalman D'amato, Signalman Camilleri, Signalman Grixti, Corporal Liddell, Signalman Attard, Corporal Hawes, Sergeant Zammit, Sergeant Messenger

Seated: Sergeant Hunt, Sergeant Hamilton, W.O.II (S.S.M.) C. Busuttil, Captain Williams, Major Hewson, Captain Cotton, Captain Macklin, Staff-Sergeant Smoker, Sergeant Harwood and Boots

Signals Branch and the Squadron, at the United Services' Club, Marsa. At the time of writing, they are somewhere in Italy enjoying a well-earned holiday, en route for U.K. We thank them for all they have done for the Corps and ourselves in Malta, and wish them a happy tour in Taughton.

Substantiation and—

We held our annual Military Proficiency Course in February, and congratulate all who attended and achieved their goal. They had a trying pass-off for, just as **Brigadier P. S. Ward, C.B.E., A.D.C.,** Commander, British Troops, Malta, arrived to inspect them, the heavens opened up to deliver a hailstorm (yes, this is Malta!). They had a successful parade after the storm had passed, although perhaps we are not too keen to say that the top student was not from Royal Signals—he was **Corporal Liddell,** R.A.O.C.—to him, well done!

Subversion

We seem to have trouble with ships at least once a year. This year, in February, it was the S.S. 'Spica,' which dropped two anchors in the Grand Harbour during a storm—right in the prohibited anchorage. We lost all 330 pairs across the harbour in seconds. O.C. Line Troop, **Captain Mike Macklin,** at once set out for Blandford (to attend a course, or so he said), and his Second-in-Command, **W.O.II Joe Grech, B.E.M.,** devised a new means of communication based on the carrier pigeon—a carrier octupus (because of its high traffic handling capacity!).

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.



[Photo by Signalman J. Camilleri

PRESENTATION TO THE LAST C.S.O. BRITISH TROOPS MALTA FROM THE OFFICERS OF 234 SIGNAL SQUADRON MALTA

Left to right: Captain M. J. Macklin, Captain (T.O.T.) B. R. Moxon, Captain (Tfc.) J. H. Cotton, Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell, Major A. M. Hewson, Captain E. G. Williams, Lieutenant-Colonel (rtd.) T. G. Tucker M.C., Captain (Q.M.) A. V. K. Ward

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
B.F.P.O. 53

Tornado gives all a good pounding

SUNDAY, 21st February, saw a mini-tornado hit Cyprus. Fortunately, its path was very narrow. The Squadron's radio relay system emerged unscathed from this whirlwind, which was more than could be said for the O.C.'s house; local rumour has it that he has been taking someone's name in vain. The Sergeants' Mess also took a severe pounding, the roof being reduced to a skylight; members now attend functions complete with umbrellas and raincoats. Fortunately, the open roof keeps the beer cool.

A really sporting lot

On the sporting side of life, the Squadron is doing well in the Station Commander's Cup, which consists of some 20 teams participating in 13 sports, ranging from cricket to cross-country, squash to shooting and, less usual, table tennis. In the latest event, our basketball team achieved maximum points by eliminating all competitors. The overall position of the Squadron in this nine-month competition is at present second.

One may gauge the enthusiasm for sport which is current in the Squadron by referring to the injuries list. In the broken wrist league are **Second-Lieutenant A. R. Lee** and **Sergeant Tony Lowry.** Also in evidence are **Lance-Corporal Pat Massingham** (broken ankle) and **Sergeant Harry Hetherington** (broken finger). It is due only to the poor ski-ing conditions on Mount Olympus this winter that we are unable to boast any broken legs or dislocated knees.

In case we create the wrong impression by over-enthusing about our list of 'battle wounds,' let us also regale the readers with some of the more usually considered successes on the sports field. **Sergeants Mcgi'p** and **Luis** have played Army hockey (Cyprus), and the former has also been a member of the Corps teams. **Sergeant Harrison** and **Corporal Back** are representative basketball players, and finally, **Sergeant Lowry** plays regularly for the Cyprus Army Rugby side (broken wrist permitting).

Squadron get-together

The avid reader (if there should be one) of previous notes will have gathered that we are a far-flung Squadron, and it is therefore a welcome occasion when we all manage to foregather for a social event. Recently, the Officers, W.O.s, Sergeants, and respective wives, were pleased to have the new Commander, 3rd Signal Group, **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** to dine at Dhekelia. This necessitated a drive of some 70 miles for the occasion by many of those present. This in no way diminished the pleasure of the evening, which was enjoyed by all.

The Volunteers

33rd (Lancashire & Cheshire) Signal Regiment (V) Huyton, Lancs.

IT has often been said that a day to a volunteer is like a week to a regular soldier. Time flies and there aren't enough weekends in the month.

1970—a glance back

1970 was a hectic and eventful year with our successful annual camp in Europe as the high point. In November, we said farewell to our Honorary Colonel, **Sir Eric St. Johnston, C.B.E., Q.P.M.,** who retired as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and then went to Australia to advise the State of Victoria on Police matters. The choice of his successor was obvious to those of the Regiment who had been on previous exercises with AFCENT. **Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C.,** was, until his retirement recently, Deputy Commander, Allied Forces, Central Europe. He was a great supporter of '33' in the early days of our asssociation with H.Q. AFCENT — his interest and encouragement were an inspiration to us all. We were pleased and proud when he accepted an invitation to be Honorary Colonel which has recently been approved by Her Majesty the Queen.



HONORARY COLONEL RETIRES

Colonel Sir Eric St. Johnston presents a Goblet while the C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel H. Rothwell gives a silver plate. 2IC Major Lawson and R.S.M. Mercer look on



"HIS INTEREST AND ENCOURAGEMENT WERE AN INSPIRATION"

Our new Honorary Colonel, Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker, chats with Captain Murray and Major Speigelberg

1971

This has started with a bang, in more ways than one.

T.A.V.R. beauty competition

Knowing our 'lassies' and seeing the challenge offered by the T.A.V.R. magazine, we planned to enter in a big way. A local camera club responded to a request for assistance as did the local Technical College for hair stylists—a beauty assistant helped with the make-up. The local Press gave us support and our challenge was made.

Mum's Army

Clive Dunn (Lance-Corporal Jones of Dad's Army) came



"MUM'S ARMY MEETS DAD'S ARMY"
Private Megan Rich and Private Helen Goldberg give Lance-Corporal Jones a "kiss"

to Liverpool to open his new show. The local Press asked if we would 'make a gesture' of welcome to Liverpool. This we did by providing a 'Guard of Honour' with our W.R.A.C. 'Mum's Army' as they were described in one of our local papers.

H.Q. (Support Squadron)—Huyton

It was a sad day when **Major Rodney Stables** had to retire for health and business reasons. He had been a stalwart supporter of the Regiment since its formation. Known as **Major 'Rembrant'** because he always kept his Squadron 'in the picture.' His enthusiasm and sense of humour will be missed by all ranks. The Squadron is well recruited, particularly so since we have formed our Support Troop—trained by the R.S.M. They now provide defence support for our Commcens, R.R. sites. Our Regular Q.M., **Captain Johnnie Johnston,** and his colleague **Captain (Q.M.) Wilf Roscoe,** T.A.V.R., have formed a formidable 'Q' Troop who are always there when wanted. 'M' Troop with a thick (pardon the expression) scattering of regular Technicians, have done some sterling work on technical projects under **W.O.II F. of S. Goodwin.** Two technicians, **Sergeants Pattern** and **Spence,** are shortly to start their F. of S. training.

42 Squadron (Commcen)—Manchester

Not the strongest, numerically, of our Squadrons, it is developing well now that Radio Relay (C41) has arrived. **Captain Arthur Nolan** is forming a Troop with aims of full establishment by the end of the year. 42 Squadron is the only T. & A.V.R. Squadron in Manchester where the Corps flag is flown —and in more ways than one.

59 Squadron (Commcen)—Liverpool

This the largest Squadron is equally balanced between Liverpool and Everton supporters, hence we never get 100 per cent turnout during the football season. Slight re-organisation has given them a task of forming a line troop which they should complete by annual camp in June. The Commcen and Technician contributions from this Squadron were well received in H.Q. AFCENT in January when they joined AFCENT Mobile Commcen on a winter exercise.

80 Squadron (Trunk)—Chester

This Chester Squadron has been tasked with forming a Commcen Troop and under the guidance of ex-regular Y. of S. **Staff Sergeant Toll,** they have every chance of being 'operational' by annual camp. The ex-Cheshire Yeomanry element of the Squadron hope, as do we all, that approval will be given shortly to the inclusion of 'Cheshire Yeomanry' to its title. This sound communicating Squadron has a very healthy (in more than one way) R.R. Troop, commanded by **Captain Jonathan Baldwin.** 'Flexibility and speed of movement' is its motto. In addition 80 has strong A.E.R. connections.

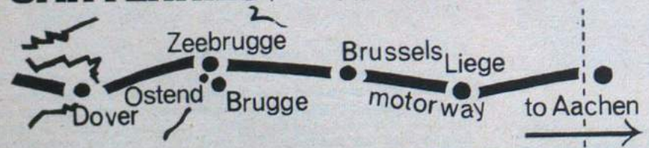
DAILY SAILINGS AT REDUCED FARES TO ENGLAND from Belgium & France to Dover by



● At least 2 SAILINGS EVERY DAY from Zeebrugge and up to 4 sailings a day during June, July, August and September ● Reduced fares for British and Commonwealth Forces and dependants, and attached civilians ● Economical catering and bar prices aboard ● Go on the shorter sea crossing at lower rates with your family and car for home leave.

TOWNSEND

CAR FERRIES ZEEBRUGGE-DOVER/CALAIS-DOVER
(Sea crossing approx. 4 hrs.) (Sea crossing approx. 1¾ hrs.)



TOWNSEND DRIVE-ON DRIVE-OFF **CAR FERRIES**

CARS, CARAVANS, TRAILERS, etc. taken for ONE HALF of NORMAL CHARGE from OCT. to MAY incl.

GET FULL DETAILS FROM

MILATRAVEL Offices, Local Travel Agents, G.S.N. Co., m.b.h., Graf-Adolf-Strasse 12, Dusseldorf 4. Furness Shipping Line, Groenplatts 42, Antwerp, or Townsend Car Ferries Car Ferry Terminal, Zeebrugge or Gare de Transit, Calais. Travel on a British ship by the FREE ENTERPRISE LINE. U.K. Bookings through your nearest Motoring Organisation, Travel Agents or the Townsend offices at:

127 REGENT STREET, LONDON W.1 or P.O. BOX 12, DOVER.

No need for bright sparks to fiddle about with this



Our GA.481 is the only all-solid-state 100 W broadband linear amplifier in full scale production. It covers the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any HF manpack to form a 100 W man-portable or vehicle station.

It measures 12¼" × 12" × 4¾" and operates from its own battery or from a 24V vehicle supply, without the need for a converter. But the big point is that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as it's fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mismatches such as broken or short circuited aerials, there's nothing much to go wrong.

The GA.481 has already been supplied to British and Overseas Armed Forces and is in quantity production. Now.

Redifon Limited, Communications Division, Broomhill Road, London S.W.18.

REDIFON
A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES MEANS

SALOON HUNTERS · *WAGON HUNTERS* · FAST GT HUNTERS · *PROVEN IMPS*
THOSE AVENGERS · *RAUCOUS RAPIERS* · SUMPTUOUS SCEPTRES

Discounts up to 17½% from UK basic

- **FAST FOR FORCES** PRIORITY FACTORY HELD STOCKS
- SPECIAL FORCES FINANCE AND INSURANCE SCHEME
- DELIVERY UK OR WEST GERMANY
- MODELS TO OVERSEAS POSTING SPECIFICATION
- TRAINED STAFF WITH YOU IN MIND

That's what Chrysler Military Sales means. Can you really settle for less?

To INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS
Chrysler Military Sales Ltd., Halkin House, Halkin Street, London SW1. Telephone 01-235-6484.
or CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES CORPS., Karlstrasse 16, Frankfurt, West Germany

Send me your free information pack. I am interested in:
For delivery U.K. ☐ W. Germany ☐ Tax paid ☐

Name..... Rank.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone..... Ext.....

LIFE ASSURANCE

ITS FUNCTION. The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

INVESTMENT. Life Assurance, especially Endowment Assurance, is however also the best possible long-term investment, because the money is invested wisely, and partly in "growth equities," by the Life Assurance Company *and* because it is the only form of investment subsidised by the Government. The subsidy consists of Income Tax Allowance on two-fifths of Premiums. For those liable to Tax at 38.75%, this means 15.5% abatement. Thus, a net outlay of £84.50 a year provides a premium of £100 a year, which is 18.34% increase.

SELECTION. There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

INFORMATION REQUIRED. May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

SURTAX and ESTATE DUTY. Suitable action can greatly reduce the burden. If these problems are at all large let me advise you how to increase your net income AND net estate.

GENERAL ASSURANCES. We also arrange Kit, Motor, Winter Sports and all other Insurances in the best markets.

Brigadier R. T. Williams F.C.I.B. **R. T. WILLIAMS LTD.** Major T. F. Williams F.C.I.B.

2, Duke Street, Brighton, BN1 1DE

Telephone Brighton 28181 (2 lines)

Incorporated Insurance Brokers
Incorporated Life Assurance Brokers
Member of the Services Insurance Brokers Association

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

Officers' Training Weekend

ONCE again we held a Regimental Officers' Training weekend in the Zetland Hotel, Saltburn. Forty-four officers and officer cadets of the Regiment attended, so we took over most of the hotel. Fortunately, the comfort of the hotel, the excellence of its food and service, and the lack of responsibility for men, which Squadron officers normally have on a training weekend did not produce too relaxing an atmosphere. The training, which was organised on this occasion by the Second-in-Command, **Major Ron Fawcett,** consisted of lectures, demonstrations, a TEWT (or SEWC—Signal exercise without communications), problems answered in syndicates and a presentation by junior officers and officer cadets, based on the answers to the 'homework' we had set them. Its main objective was to prepare Subalterns and Captains for their impending promotion exams, and undoubtedly succeeded in this aim. The TEWT, set by **Major Peter Halsey,** was particularly valuable.

Visit by G.O.C.-in-C.

The G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, **Lieutenant-General Sir William Jackson, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** visited the Regiment at Brambles Farm T. & A.V.R. Centre on a drill night. We were flattered to learn that we were the first Volunteer Regiment that he had ever visited. The General toured the centre, saw our equipment, and met and talked to as many members of the Regiment as possible. His visit happened to coincide with the start of our recruiting campaign, and he was being shown our recruiting 'stand' when a new W.R.A.C. recruit was being 'signed-on.' He was photographed with the recruit by a reporter from the local paper: caption in the paper next day—'Girl recruit meets a real General on her first day in the Volunteer Army!' The General was also interviewed by a reporter from Radio Teesside, and the interview, in which the General answered questions on the T. & A.V.R., this Regiment and our recruiting, was broadcast next day. We can now recommend Generals as excellent Regimental recruiters!



GENERAL AIDS RECRUITING DRIVE
Lieutenant-General Sir William Jackson, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., talks to Miss Linda Hewitt who is signing on during 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) recruiting drive

Recruiting Campaign

The Spring Recruiting Campaign is now well under way, and our 'stand,' ably organised by the R.S.M., **W.O.I P. B. Overland,** should attract any potential recruit who sees it. We are trying to recruit for particular trades and have aimed our recruiting handouts at typists (for Comcen Ops.) HGV drivers (for Drivers, Royal Signals) and radio servicing engineers (for Technicians).

Dining-out

The hotel provided an excellent meal for our dinner night, which was very right and proper, as we dined-out **Major Leslie Clayton,** our Training Major, who, in addition to all the other improvements he has made in the Regiment during his three years with us, has done so much to improve the cuisine of the Mess. He is not only leaving the Regiment, but also the Army and the country, as he leaves soon, with his family, for Adelaide, South Australia. We will miss his youthful enthusiasm, his sense of humour and, above all, the way he played such an active part in so many of the Regiment's activities, in addition to doing the job of Training Major so well. In saying his farewell to us, he told a number of stories about his period in the Regiment (most of which we did not believe!) and told us how he had come to really enjoy working with this 'un-military animal,' the Volunteer. We wish him and his family all the very best for their new life in Australia, and welcome **Major Brian Gallagher,** from Catterick, who is his replacement.

We also dined out **Captain Eddy Whaley,** who has to leave the Regiment for business reasons. He had commanded 50th Signal Regiment's LAD for six years, but on the reorganisation in '67 had the good sense to transfer to Signals.

The 'T. & A.V.R. Colonel' for our area, **Colonel Carr-Ellison,** joined us for part of the weekend, and at the end of the dinner he conducted our Band playing the Regimental March of his old Regiment, the Northumbrian Hussars.

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Birmingham 6

Exercise 'Wintex'

JANUARY saw 33 men and women from the Regiment spending two weeks out of camp training in B.A.O.R., exercising our role of communication support to NORTHAG. It became apparent on their return that the Regular units were most impressed by the enthusiasm and determination shown by our Volunteers.

FFR

During February we had our fitness for role inspection, ending with a visit from **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,**



C.O. VISITS
Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge visits 58 (Staffs.) Signal Squadron. With him are Major K. R. Smith the Squadron Commander and Major F. Eve, P.S.O. of the Squadron

Commander, 11 Signal Group who, travelling over 500 miles, visited all the Squadrons during their early Troop exercises, seeing our Volunteers, both in the field communicating and in their classrooms.

Oslo Rally

The rally run by the Stockport Motor Club, starting and finishing in Llangollen, North Wales, covered 270 miles of roadwork, mainly on track and second-class roads. Our three Regimental teams once again kept the Regiment in the prizes by finishing second, third and fourth.

Birmingham Safe Driving Competition

The above competition was held on 4th February, under the auspices of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, assisted by the Birmingham Road Safety Committee. Twenty teams entered, each of four drivers. This Regiment entered two teams, all Volunteer soldiers. Out of a possible 300 points, the leading results were: Car and Motor Cycle, Advanced Drivers' Association, 289, first; 35th Signal Regiment 'A,' 284, second; 35th Signal Regiment 'B,' 283, third.

35th Regiment teams were: 'A' Team—**Sergeant R. L. Ricketts, Sergeant D. M. E. Brenni, Corporal D. H. Manders, Corporal A. Warner.** 'B' Team—**Staff Sergeant B. A. P. Redmond, Sergeant K. R. Hudson, Corporal J. Chambers, Corporal J. L. Payton.** (Non-competing captain—**O/Cadet R. C. Harris**).

Sport



18th REGIMENT'S SUCCESSFUL HOCKEY TEAM

Standing left to right: Captain G. Oakley (Hockey Officer), Major P.C. Tripp, Lieutenant C. W. Collier, Staff-Sergeant G. Johnson, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E. (C.O.), W.O.I J. N. Howie (Captain), Staff-Sergeant J. M. W. Richardson, Captain J. F. Stuart

Kneeling: Sergeant D. J. Le Carpentier, Sergeant Sardul Singh, Lance-Corporal Beh, Corporal Sidek, Lance-Corporal Lionel, Signalman Idris

18th Signal Regiment win Far East Hockey

By Captain Geoff Oakley

A VERY full and successful final hockey season in 18th Signal Regiment is nearly closed. During the season we have not lost a single competitive game, and at the time of going to press, have won both the Army (Far East) Cup and the Major Units League—the latter with a goal score of 29 for, with only 1 against. Currently, we have reached the semi-finals of the Major Units Cup. In addition to this, we contributed six or seven players to the Royal Signals (Singapore) side, which won the Corps League Competition.

Within the Regiment, we have also had very successful inter-Squadron and inter-Troop Competitions, including six-a-side tournaments, which have given as much enjoyment to the 'non-gladiators' as to the spectators.

However, the highlight of the season must be the winning of the Army (Far East) Cup. This thrilling, hard-fought, sporting game, played on 22nd January, resulted in a win for 18th Signal Regiment, beating 95 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, by 3—1.

As 18th were undefeated up to this final stage of the season, and already having the Major Units League title 'under our belts,' we were quietly confident, and yet knew that we faced a team of high standard players who would be extremely fit.

The sun was shining gloriously, the Meiktila pitch was in perfect condition, and a very welcome crowd of supporters made a perfect setting for the game.

The game started with some good, end-to-end, open play, and our hopes were soon raised when **Idris** practically threw himself at the ball in a desperate attempt to score.

The first break-through came after 20 minutes when, from a penalty corner, a sizzling shot from **Howie** went straight to the back of the net. Two minutes later, he Gunners levelled the score. Almost immediately, **Howie** collected a rebound off the Gunners' goalkeeper and pushed the ball into the goal.

The second half continued with some excellent hockey, which was thoroughly appreciated by all spectators. **John Howie,** playing an ideal captain's game, marshalled his players and gradually the Signals teamwork, using the 1, 3, 2, 4 formation, took control of the game. The 18th's inside-forwards, or front-runners, **Sidek** and **Idris,** gave a scintillating display of speed, stickwork and teamwork, and were a constant threat to the Gunners' goal. One flick by **Sidek** was superbly saved by the goalkeeper.

Three minutes from the end, **Idris** crowned a great game with a good dribble through the defence and a reverse stick-shot, which gave the goalkeeper no chance, and the cup went to the Regiment.

After the match, the Army (Far East) Cup was presented to the skipper by **Mrs. Hild,** wife of our Commanding Officer.

It is difficult to single out individuals in a team that played so superbly well, each and every player producing that bit extra for the occasion, but special mention must be made of the captain, **W.O.I John Howie,** who, after captaining the Regimental Cricket XI to success in the Singapore Army Cricket Cup last year, completed the double with this first-class victory. The Regimental Hockey Officer, **Captain Geoff Oakley,** has finally relented and has agreed to allow the skipper to resume 'hockey at the halt' on the Warren Golf Course when the team return from their tour to Hong Kong.

As a result of this win, the Regimental team go to Hong Kong in late February to contest the Delhi Cup. On this tour, the Regimental team, assisted by two reinforcements, will play a series of representative games as the Army (Singapore) Team.

Headquarters, Land Forces, Hong Kong. B.F.P.O. 1

An all-Corps Seven-a-Side Soccer Final—54 teams eliminated

The Army annual seven-a-side knockout football competition recently took place in Hong Kong, with 56 service teams participating. Royal Signals were strongly represented by teams from 48 (Gurkha) Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, 253 Signal Squadron and 252 Signal Squadron.

After the preliminary rounds had been completed, all three teams from the Corps were through to the last eight. However, the draw for the quarter-finals paired 48 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron against 253 Squadron and resulted in the former being eliminated at this stage. 252 Squadron took on the pride of the Irish Guards in their match, and after a hard game, emerged winners by the odd goal.

The semi-final pairings now read: 252 Signal Squadron v. 1 Royal Welch Fusiliers 'A'; 253 Signal Squadron v. 50 Command Workshops.

Both Signal Squadrons were at this stage equally determined to make it an all Royal Signals final. 252 Squadron match the 1 R.W.F. in skill and stamina, and with five minutes remaining,



252 SQUADRON, WINNER OUT OF 56 TEAMS

Left to right: Captain J. J. Elliott, (Team Manager), Sergeant Holmes, Lance-Corporal Laws, Sergeant Forrester (Captain), Lance-Corporal Hartley, Major R. F. Hills, (O.C. 252 Signal Squadron), Sergeant Fraser, Corporal McPhee. Lance-Corporal Speight (missing) now with 22 Signal Regiment



253 SQUADRON — RUNNERS-UP IN A HARD FOUGHT FINAL

Front row, left to right: Sergeant McFarlane, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Newell, Lance-Corporal Bates, Major Pickard, Signalman Lea

Back row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Brierley, Signalman Darnell Corporal Bell, Corporal Crosby

a well-taken goal by **Lance-Corporal Dave Hartley,** clinched the match for 252 Squadron. 253 Squadron, however, had to pull out all the stops to eliminate the Workshops by the odd corners.

The final match was well up to expectations, with neither side giving an inch. With four minutes to go to the final whistle, 252 Squadron led by two corners. At this point it was either team's game, when **Sergeant Tony Forrester** captain of 252) gathered the ball on the half-way line and scored a superb goal. This proved to be the end for 253 Squadron, and try as they did, the goals would not come, leaving 252 worthy winners.

A FEW MISGUIDED IDEAS ABOUT SACCONE & SPEED.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply French wines.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply the expensive vintages.

And now for the truth.

Saccone & Speed supply a wide range of excellent French wines.

Saccone & Speed also supply a superb selection of expensive vintage wines.

But what a lot of people don't realise is that we supply a whole range of surprisingly good quality inexpensive wines.

So if you don't feel like forking out for a Latour '49, we can always do you something nice for under a pound.

SACCONE & SPEED LTD.

In association with

Charles Kinloch & CO. LTD.

KINLOCH HOUSE,
17 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON NW10.

Corps Sports Results

Squash Rackets

Royal Signals 3; R.M.C.S., Shrewsbury, 2.

Played 23rd February.

This was a close, friendly match, with the result depending on the last match played. It was a satisfying result, in that the lower strings all won their matches, which indicates strength in depth.

Playing for the Corps: **Captains Cornforth, Lowe, Garton, Webster** and **Lieutenant French.**

Hockey

Three Corps Players help Army side to draw.—With three Corps players in the Army hockey side — **Captains G. A. Allen, P. Havlin** and **J. G. M. McLuckie**—the Army managed to get a one-all draw with the Civil Service at Aldershot on 10th March, the Army equalising with a last-minute penalty. After a poor recent run, the Army showed signs of developing into a fair side, and all the Corps players were prominent in the game. Amongst the forwards, **Captain McLuckie** was one of the best, showing great thrust and skill.

Rugby

Sergeant L. Cairns, of the Corps, was in the Army rugby side which defeated the Civil Service by 23 points to 15.

Corps 27 pts., 90 (Signals) Group, R.A.F., 9 pts. Played 8th March.

Corps 24 pts., R.M.A., Sandhurst, 6 pts. Played 10th March.

Corps 22 pts., R.C.T. 8 pts. Played 12th March.

Award of Honorary Corps Colours

At a recent meeting of the Royal Signals Games Club, the rules regarding award of Corps Colours were amplified by the following amendment to Corps Memo No. 26 (Rules of the Royal Signals Games Club):

"41.c. To members of the Corps for services of an outstanding nature other than active participation in a particular sport, for example, as a referee, umpire, judge, or in the administrative capacity. These colours are Honorary Corps Colours, and as such are to be recommended for initial award only."

The committee endorsed the Chairman's initial list of awards as follows:

Colonel T. H. C. Grigg (C.S.O., Western Command). For services to rugger and squash, as President of these sports.

Major G. S. Massey (C.S.O. Branch, Strategic Command). For services to soccer as manager of the Army XI, 1967-70.

Major (Q.M.) S. G. Barnes (Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl). For services to hockey as an inter-Service and county umpire.

Major (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall (Headquarters, Catterick Garrison). For services to hockey as an inter-Service and county Umpire.

Colonel (Retd.) J. P. North (Headquarters, Training Brigade Royal Signals). For services to Corps sport as Secretary of the Royal Signals Games Club.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Obituary

Brigadier Sir Lionel Harris, K.B.E., T.D., M.Sc., F.I.E.E.

As we go to press the sad news of the death of Sir Lionel Harris became known. A much-liked and respected personality in Corps T.A. circles before the war he rose to positions of high importance during it.

Sir Lionel enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in 1915. He found that a soldier was better paid and less hard worked than a young farmhand grubbing up tree roots. In his autobiographical 'Signal Venture' he explains that his attachment to Signalling came about because it was preferable to square bashing in the Infantry.

Too late for Gallipoli he stayed in Egypt and arrived in France with the 5th Australian Divisional Signals in 1916, where he spent the rest of the war. He studied electricity from Army manuals while on watch in buried cable pits under shell fire. When resting he lay on the billet floor and studied by candlelight.

He was commissioned into Royal Signals (T.A.) in 1926 and served in the B.E.F. 1939-40. In 1944-45 he was Chief of Telecommunications at Supreme Headquarters in North West Europe. On his return to the G.P.O. in 1945 he was to be Director in Scotland, Controller of Research and finally Engineer-in-Chief. He found time to be an inspiring Colonel of his old regiment, the 44th (Home Counties) Signal Regiment (T.A.). Sir Lionel wrote:

"I think everyone should join the Territorials or some equivalent; especially those who would not like the life."

He will be much missed by a host of friends both in the Post Office and in the Corps. Our deep sympathy goes to Lady Harris and her son Ray in their sad loss.

Congratulatory

Brigadier C. C. Fairweather,

C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.

A MAN who has given a lifetime to the Territorial Army retires as Chairman of the North of England Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association on the 8th June next. **Brigadier Claude C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.,** was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals and joined 50th (N) Divisional Signals (T.A.) in 1928.

In 1932 when commanding the Company in Middlesbrough, he became a member of the North Riding Territorial Association and remained a member for 36 years, and its Chairman for 10 years, before its amalgamation with the counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Northumberland and Durham, to form the North of England Association, with headquarters in Durham in 1968. Brigadier Fairweather then became the first Chairman of that Association. He is member of the T.A.V.R. Advisory and Executive Committees and of the Council in London. In addition, he was a member of the Duke of Norfolk's Working Party which negotiated with the last government on the reorganisation of the Reserve Army. He is now seeing the results of six years' work, as the present government is increasing the size of the T.A.V.R., much to his delight. The North of England Association has been given the task of raising a number of the new Regiments and Companies, and recruiting has already started

Brigadier Fairweather had a distinguished war record with the Corps. He considers the most interesting part of his career was as Chief Signal Officer to the late **General Orde Wingate,** in connection with the 'Wingate Expedition,' behind the Japanese lines in Burma, for which he received the O.B.E. From full Colonel, he was promoted Brigadier on his return to India after the expedition, and was appointed Chief Signal Officer of 34 Indian Corps.

(*Continued on page* 165)

(*Continued from page* 164)

On his return to civilian life in 1947, **Brigadier Fairweather** immediately started to resuscitate the Territorial Army and has continued to work for it ever since.

After retiring, he will still maintain his interest in the T.A.V.R., as he is to remain Honorary Colonel of 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V) (with headquarters at Brambles Farm), on whose behalf he received the Freedom of Teesside in 1969.

His Chairmen colleagues from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales feel that his record will take a lot of beating, having served 39 years as a member of an Association and 21 years in office as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He is to be 'lunched-out' at the R.A.F. Club in London.

Movements

Officers

Captain G. A. Allen	... ...	To 12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie	...	,, MOD D124A
Lieutenant-Colonel M. B. M. Brown		,, H.Q. School of Signals
Lieutenant R. J. Brown	... ...	,, 632 Troop
Major R. C. Bryson	... ...	,, MOD Signals 36A
Lieutenant J. F. Budd	... ...	,, 262 Squadron
Major D. M. A. Burridge	... ...	,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Burrows	...	,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt. (as C.O.)
Major A. R. Bushell	... ...	,, 222 Squadron
Lieutenant W. I. Buxton	... ...	,, 7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Major J. D. Cathcart	... ...	,, H.Q. UNFICYP
Lieutenant A. J. Clark	... ...	,, J.T.R., Troon
Lieutenant C. W. Collier	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Lieutenant K. G. Danby	... ...	,, 4/7 D.G.
Captain J. R. Dawson	... ...	,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant C. G. F. Day	...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Dowell	...	,, School of Signals (as Colonel)
Captain R. A. Ellis	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain R. C. Etheridge	... ...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Lieutenant J. J. C. Finch	... ...	,, 223 Squadron
Lieutenant J. H. Fisher	... ...	,, 253 Squadron
Lieutenant L. G. French	... ...	,, 255 Squadron
Lieutenant R. A. J. Gardner	... ...	,, 14th Regiment
Lieutenant F. J. Garrod	... ...	,, 5 Airportable Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Captain B. W. Giller	... ...	,, 8th Regiment (as Major)
Captain J. Graham	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant D. K. Hadden	... ...	,, 1 RTR
Captain J. A. Hood	... ...	,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regiment
Lieutenant R. H. Hoyle	... ...	,, 4 RTR
Captain A. N. De V. Hunt	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain R. B. Ingram	... ...	,, 28th Regiment (as Major)
Captain G. A. J. Issom	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (HS) retiring
Captain I. E. Kerr	... ...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King	... ...	7th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) N. Lane	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant T. H. Laycock	... ...	,, 71st Regiment (V) (as Captain)
Major F. C. Lettin	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Major G. J. K. Mackintosh	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Lieutenant D. R. Marks	... ...	,, 222 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell	... ...	,, H.Q. S.W. District
Second-Lieutenant C. H. Moody	... ...	,, 225 Squadron
Lieutenant P. J. Myatt	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Lieutenant P. A. Neale	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Newman		,, R.S.M.E.
Lieutenant B. T. O'Connor	... ...	,, School of Signals
Major P. D. Parker	... ...	,, H.Q. Westco
Major R. Pickard	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel R. Pope	... ...	,, MOD Signals 39
Captain J. Radford	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Rahilly	... ...	,, MOD Q(Org)b
Major C. J. Rayner	... ...	,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant J. C. O. K. Rayner		,, School of Signals
Lieutenant R. F. Rutherford	... ...	,, 5 Inniskilling D.G.
Second-Lieutenant P. M. Sharman	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant J. D. Stokoe	... ...	,, H.Q. B.G.L. of C., Dharan
Lieutenant D. Strudley	... ...	,, 9/12 Lancers
Lieutenant J. F. Stuart	... ...	,, 260 Squadron
Major J. T. Treglown	... ...	,, 5 Signal Group
Major P. A. Treseder	... ...	,, H.Q. Wales
Captain D. J. Walden	... ...	,, 28th Regiment
Major R. K. Ward	... ...	,, 11 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant A. D. Whipp	... ...	,, Defence A.D.P. Trg. Centre
Captain D. G. O. White	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant P. M. A. Whittaker	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Major K. A. C. Wilson	... ...	,, 224 Squadron

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

W.O.I P. A. Williams	... ...	To Royal Signals Records
W.O.II A. P. Horne	... ...	,, 19 Airportable Bde. Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II H. A. C. Meekings	... ...	,, 4 Gds. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II R. J. Judge	... ...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.II C. Binks	... ...	,, 31st Regiment (V)
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. J. Cook	...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.II J. E. Taylor	... ...	,, 71 Regiment (V)
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. C. Lee	... ...	,, 9 Regiment
W.O.II J. M. Haydon	... ...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Staff Sergeant (Sup (R)) P. J. Bannier	...	,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. V. Bamforth	...	,, 222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant F. Laverick	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. A. Downie		,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. B. Mullins	...	,, 38th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) C. J. Field		,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Smith	... ...	,, H.Q. 1 Signal Group
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. N. Gelling		,, 20 Armd. Bde. Sig. Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. V. Forth	... ...	,, Trucial Oman Scouts
Staff Sergeant R. Paterson	... ...	,, 222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. J. McLoughlin		,, SHAPE H.Q. Comd. & Sp. (BE)
Staff Sergeant F. Nutter	... ...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant V. H. Irons	... ...	,, 260 Sig. Sqn. (ACE High Stn. Stenigot)
Sergeant J. White	... ...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. E. Matthison	... ...	,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant D. B. Vallance	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Bash	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant W. J. Summers	... ...	,, Jungle Warfare School
Sergeant N. C. Hall	... ...	,, 252 Squadron
Sergeant D. Kay	... ...	,, 19 Airportable Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant G. E. Cort	... ...	,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant N. Hill	... ...	,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant M. J. Taylor	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant D. L. Edwards	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant R. Gaffney	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant D. C. Gorton	... ...	,, 653 Troop
Sergeant J. M. C. Young	... ...	,, 610 Troop
A/Sergeant J. D. Lycett	... ...	,, 225 Squadron
A/Sergeant A. Campbell	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant A. A. Nicoll	... ...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. Webster	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant R. Devey	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant D. McGimpsey	... ...	,, 8 Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant R. Boulton-Lear	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant C. M. Eastland	... ...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. V. Miles	... ...	,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant W. J. Thomas	... ...	,, 12 Mech. Bde. Sig. Squadron
Sergeant H. J. A. Homewood	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant W. Gray	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant A. F. J. Curnow	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant A. McDonald	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant G. M. Lumley	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant G. C. Northey	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant W. G. G. Williams		,, 16th Regiment
A/Sergeant R. C. Gordon	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
A/Sergeant M. D. Davison	... ...	,, 39 Airportable Bde. Sig. Sqn.

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	Initials	Rank	New Seniority Dates	Old Seniority Dates	
To W.O.I					
Knight,	R. F.	A/W.O.I	8 Aug. 70	5 Jan. 67	
Bunstan,	K.	A/W.O.I	1 Dec. 70	17 Aug. 66	
Smith,	R.	A/W.O.I	15 Dec. 70	9 Jul. 64	
Noble,	P. A.	A/W.O.I	15 Dec. 70	26 Feb. 68	
Dunmall,	M. J.	A/W.O.I	1 Jan. 71	29 Apr. 69	
Bell,	H.	A/W.O.I	1 Jan. 71	28 Jul. 66	
To W.O.II					
Wallace,	W. G.	A/W.O.II	9 Dec. 70	2 Sep. 68	
To S Sgt.					
Patch,	D. W.	A/S Sgt.	19 Sep. 70	18 Feb. 63	(C Op)
Piper,	J. W.	Sgt.	4 Dec. 70	24 Jul. 63	(Tech)
Cosser,	R.	A/S Sgt.	5 Dec. 70	28 Nov. 63	(Dvr R Sigs)
Finch,	R. A.	A/S Sgt.	15 Dec. 70	26 May 66	(R Op)
Cornforth,	J. W.	Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	7 Jul. 65	(Comcen Op)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.II					
Kelly,	R. C.	S Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65	
Benson,	W. L.	S Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Cadman	P. J.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	10 Jul. 68	(C Op)

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Name	Initials	Rank	New Seniority Dates	Old Seniority Dates	
To Sgt.					
O'Dare,	T. R.	Cpl.	25 Jun. 70	10 Mar. 67	
Lennon,	J. T.	Cpl.	16 Jul. 70	25 Jul. 68	
White,	D A.	Cpl.	17 Sep. 70	17 Sep. 66	
Worthing,	C. R.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 70	14 Feb. 68	
Webb,	D. E.	Cpl.	29 Sep. 70	10 Feb. 61	
Walcott,	K. O.	Cpl.	22 Oct. 70	28 Jul. 65	
Abrams,	G. M.	Cpl.	22 Oct. 70	20 Apr. 67	
Harmsworth,	S. J.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	30 Mar. 66	
Newman,	J. M. M.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	23 Apr. 65	
Scott,	C. R.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	28 Aug. 65	
Thompson,	L. W.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	1 Jul. 66	

White,	R. J.	Cpl.	9 Dec. 70	7 Dec. 66
Dowie,	F.	Cpl.	11 Dec. 70	21 Sep. 68
Carratt,	A. L.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	3 May 67
Sewell,	B. J.	Cpl.	18 Dec 70	18 Feb. 65
Halfpenny,	A. M.	Cpl.	18 Dec. 70	16 Dec. 66
Graham,	G. W.	Cpl.	21 Jan. 71	21 Jan. 67

CLERK DRAUGHTSMAN ROLL

To Sgt. Benson,	A.	A/Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	31 Jan. 67

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt. Sinon,	A. C.	Cpl.	1 Jan. 71	31 Mar. 67

DRIVER ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

To Sgt. McGimpsey,	D.	Cpl.	1 Dec. 70	31 May 66

ELECTRICIAN DRIVER ROLL

To Sgt. Reynolds,	M. F.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	30 Apr. 68

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

		Seniority Date
W.O.I Windebank,	I. P.	4 Mar. 66
Wood,	D.	3 Mar. 68
S Sgt. Allison,	J. S.	1 Jul. 59
Franklyn,	P. H.	13 Aug. 70

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.II Spear,	D. G.	5 Dec. 63

CHIEF CLERKS ROLL

S Sgt. Underwood,	H. P.	1 Jan. 68

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgts.		28 Nov. 59
Stickley,	H. C.	13 Dec. 67
White,	P. R.	8 Feb. 68
Parkinson,	C.	26 Nov. 68
West,	K. J.	6 Feb. 69
Matthews,	J. M.	30 Apr. 69
Durban,	A. I.	

LINEMAN ROLL

Sgt. Kingham,	E. J.	2 Mar. 61

FORCES U.K. TRADE-IN SCHEME

If you are to be posted overseas soon and wish to dispose of your present car, we will give you a high trade-in figure now against any future purchase.

FOR FULL DETAILS FILL IN THIS COUPON

NAME_____ RANK_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

_____

MAKE OF CAR_____ MODEL_____

MILEAGE_____ WHEN FIRST REGISTERED_____

COLOUR_____ EXTRAS FITTED_____

_____

LHD ☐ RHD ☐

CONDITION

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Ghastly ☐

✳ Don't worry about HP settlements outstanding Purchase Tax liabilities or import duties, Weir Lodge will settle them all without any fuss or bother.

WEIR LODGE

WEIR LODGE GARAGE LTD.

Bridge Road, Chertsey, Surrey Tel: 09328 64264/62047

Training Brigade — Upgrading Courses For April

1/55	Commcen Operator	II-1	27 April '71 - 23 July '71
1/31	Electrician Driver	II-I	27 April '71 - 2 July '71
2/22	Radio Operator	III-II	27 April '71 - 9 July '71
2/04	Commcen Operator	III-II	27 April '71 - 9 July '71
2/41	Lineman	III-II	27 April '71 - 22 July '71

Association News

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: **Mr. J. J. Goggin,** 211, Whitchurch Road, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, SY1 3DB.

As a result of a write-up in the *Shropshire Star*, a social evening was arranged in the club room of the Old Shawbirch Inn on Thursday, 25th February. Some 30 people attended and a good time was had by all; members of 610 Signal Troop being well represented. It is hoped that this will be the first of many get-togethers in our effort to accumulate a bigger membership of the branch from the new Telford area.

CARDIFF BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: M. H. Jones, Esq., 42 Cartwright Lane, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 4NN.

Socially, the fortunes of this Branch have improved recently after a depressing run of poorly attended functions. Our Armistice and New Year dances were quite successful and helped to recoup most of the losses incurred with previous events. We followed with another success in the St. David's dance and smelling the sweetness of success we hastily announced our intention to hold an 'Easter Bonnet' dance.

Much of this has been due to the efforts of a small but hard-working core in the persons of **Jack Woodyatt, Tom Jones, Don Gould, Glen Stevens, Vic Parkin** and **Frank (do anything) Johnson.** We are most grateful for all they have done.

During the St. David's dance our Branch President, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl,** made Honour Member Awards, granted by the Central Committee, to **Messrs. Jack Woodyatt, Fred Court, Glen Stevens** and **Morgan Jones.** All have worked hard to keep this Branch active, all except **Morgan** being Founder members of Royal Signals. We all agree that the honour paid our worthy Hon. Secretary, **Morgan Jones,** is most richly earned. He has laboured mightily for us. It is a proud occasion for us and gives a feeling of immense pleasure.

Our surviving Associate Member, **Arnold (Jock) Douglas,** is to be congratulated upon achieving Presidency of the Cardiff Caledonian Society.

Again we record our appreciation of the tremendous amount of vital work carried out by our two Welfare Officers, **Ted Dalziel** and **Don Gould.** They have been under considerable pressure of late and it is pleasing to know they are ready and willing to perform these essential duties without demur or hesitation.

We are now getting down to the serious planning for our concert of 8th October with the Corps Band and Treorchy Male Choir. This will be a very great occasion for us and the setting of the Cardiff City Hall should lend a great deal to the atmosphere and dignity of this grand function.

Lieutenant-Colonel Curl is giving us tremendous help and guidance and is most enthusiastic in his desire to make this a most memorable occcasion.

Calling Lieutenant-Colonels Cleland and Ramsbottom

Before closing we would wish to give two messages to past Presidents of this Branch. First a thank you to **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Cleland** for his very kind letter of congratulations to the new Honour Members, secondly a request to **Lieutenant-Colonel F. Ramsbottom** to note the date of our concert. This was a dream we shared after our first concert. We have pulled it off and we hope you will be able to join us, together with **Mrs. Ramsbottom.**

Corps in Singapore Show the way in Safe Driving



THE SAFEST DRIVERS IN SINGAPORE

Men of 19th Regiment virtually scooped the prizes in the booster road safety campaign in Singapore, and Lance-Corporal Ismail Bin Hassan (third from the left in the photo) of 19th Regiment won the top award

The War Memorial Village, Lancaster

The War memorial Village, Lancaster, North Lancashire, was founded in 1918 as a 'Permanent Memorial' to the Fallen of the 1914-18 War, and the securing of a decent home for some of the Comrades of the Men who have passed beyond.

This Memorial subsequently became extended to include disabled ex-members of H.M. Forces of the 1939-45 World War, and now to include any country where H.M. Forces may be engaged on peace-keeping missions, etc.

Westfield, built on a private estate, and controlled by the council, the War Memorial Village, comprises 70 houses, eight bungalows (for severely disabled) and six flats.

The general standard of accommodation includes houses with two to three bedrooms, at rentals decided by the council, which are less than would be paid for a comparable corporation house.

It has been decided for FUTURE POLICY that:

"The War Memorial Village will be available for ex-members of H.M. Forces (the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force) who are disabled through war service, or otherwise than from active service duties, or who find themselves in necessitous circumstances."

An Applicants' Registration List is maintained by the Secretary for the consideration of available tenancies, as and when these occur, the FINAL SELECTION for each vacancy being decided by a personal interview of the applicant and his wife before a selection committee of the council, the War Memorial Village.

Any ex-Serviceman (married), qualifying under the foregoing conditions, and who is desirous of consideration for inclusion on the waiting list, should, in the initial instance, write to: The Secretary, The War Memorial Village, Westfield House, West Road, Lancaster, Lancs., giving brief particulars of qualifications, etc.

If considered as a suitable applicant, the Secretary will then forward the official registration form for completion and return, but further correspondence will *not* be entered into.

No personal visits or telephone calls should be made, neither should anyone re-apply who has made a previous application.



ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

TIES		Crested Tankards	£3·50 / £4·50
Silk	£1·50	Silk Blazer Badges	£0·85
Terylene/Crimplene	£0·90	Gold Wire Blazer Badges	£3·00
Crested Terylene	£1·35	Wall Shields	£2·00
REME Institute Ties	£1·35	Car Badges	£2·10
Crested Cuff Links	£3·50		

Items made to your own design (by quotation)

U.K. Post Free Overseas Post Ties/Badges 10p

Other items 25p

Sharps

17 GABRIELS HILL
MAIDSTONE 56666/7

CYPHER VACANCIES

Government Communications Headquarters

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,253.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Applications with full details of qualifications to:

Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone: Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

216 Parachute Signal Squadron
Aldershot

(Received too late for this edition but inserted by an indulgent and sympathetic Editor)

THE Squadron has been very busy in the first two months of 1971 with a variety of tasks ranging from Public Duties to Standby for the Postal Strike, plus a unit move to B.F.P.O. 801 as the reserve Brigade Headquarters in Northern Ireland. This move was especially welcome, since it is the first chance that we have had to work as a complete Squadron away from Aldershot since 1964.

Public duties

The Squadron provided four complete guards at the Bank of England during January. Each consisted of one officer, one sergeant, one corporal, one lance-corporal and eight signalmen. The main problems were avoiding getting lost within the Bank as opposed to preventing anyone from getting into the area. Rumours have been circulated concerning **Staff Sergeant Gordon Haughie,** who was invited to dine with his troop officer at the Bank, and on his return trip woke up at Portsmouth Station in Mess Kit at 01.30 hours. He claims that he had to catch the milk train back in the morning to be on time for the Squadron road run!—still in Mess Kit!

Postal strike

Half the Squadron spent the early stages of the postal workers' strike on 24 hours standby to take over duties in London. Meanwhile, the M.T. Troop had to look around for a few vehicles in case of a call-in, owing to the troop being well into its programme of preparation for P.R.E.

Move to Northern Ireland

In February, with less than three weeks to go until the annual P.R.E. and Admin. Inspections, the Squadron was put on 24 hours standby to move to Northern Ireland. The whole Squadron was confined to Aldershot over the weekend, and a successful all ranks' dance was held in the Churchill Club. Once again the 7th Parachute Regiment, R.H.A, discotheque excelled themselves in trying to burst our ear-drums.

The order for our move to Ireland came on the following Monday and within 24 hours the advance party had its feet on Irish soil. Two days later the main body of the Headquarters was on board the *Ulster Queen* sailing for Ireland. We had a few problems, such as the 4-ton Bedford which was too heavy for the crane to lift onto the boat! Generally, though, the move was well executed.

The Headquarters was allocated a disused factory in Lurgan, Co. Armagh, which on our arrival had no hot water, no cooking facilities, no heating and the ground floor was rat infested. However, we have seen great changes since we arrived here. One of the first things to be set up was the P.R.I. canteen, with draught (local brew) Guinness on tap. Billet rooms have been allocated on floors 5 and 6 of a skyscraper, but this means we can keep some of our fitness without the need for Squadron road runs until the lifts are working!

Public Relations

We have been heartily welcomed by the local population of Lurgan, and for our trade at the shops — the 'coin op' launderette must have increased its trade about four times! We have also made good contacts with local football and rugby clubs in Lurgan and Portadown. The soccer team beat the Goodyear Factory 13-0 in our first match, but a combined Brigade Headquarters Rugby team lost 19-6 to Portadown.

SPORTS

Boxing

Our move to Ireland has thrown aside high hopes for new sporting achievements in the Squadron. The Boving team trained and captained by **Corporal Jim Coffey** in the Army Minor Units (U.K.) semi-final beat the Home Postal Depot 4-3 in a very exciting match which produced many surprises and a few unexpected results and everything depended on the last bout. We have heard recently that the final, which was due in February, is now to be held in October, when we will meet 1 Parachute Logistic Regiment.

Cross-country

Our cross-country team has not been without its successes either. A flash of red hair passing the factory was **Corporal Doug Baikie** leading the 'pack.' Although the Brigade is no longer part of 3rd Division, they still allow us to win their sports trophies. This was the first success of the cross-country team this year, where we narrowly beat Heavy Drop Company, who have won the Army (Minor Units) for the past two years. The final result was 68 points each, but the win was given on the position of the last man. The South East District event has also been held this year. Several despairing supporters who stood on the route of the three-lap race were doing some quick mathematics and were convinced that all was lost! However, owing to the disqualification of the Parachute Regiment Depot, we sailed in to win fairly comfortably. We look forward to our first event in the Northern Ireland Championships.

Airborne Signallers Reunion

We were pleased to welcome **Brigadier J. A. Ward-Booth, O.B.E.,** the new Brigade Commander, to this successful biennial reunion and we were delighted to see that so many old friends from Northern Ireland and B.A.O.R. were able to spend the weekend with us. The dinner was held in the W.O.s'/Sergeants' Mess, Headquarters 16 Parachute Brigade.

A young signalman of 8th Regiment comments on Adventure Training

"It was a dull, wet winter Catterick Monday, when we assembled at the Military Training hut to prepare for a trip we were to make to the Lake District. We set off mid-morning leaving mist-shrouded Catterick behind us and heaved a sigh of relief—no work for a week. We passed over bleak, windswept moorland, and our hearts took a plunge as thoughts of mountain walks and cold nights welled up in our minds. We arrived at Pooleybridge and set-to erecting tents and making camp. The view from the camp site was one of snow-capped mountains with Lake Ullswater in the foreground. Having set up camp, we split into groups and wandered off to explore the areas surrounding our camp site and the lake beyond. If nothing else, this exploration discovered the local pub. On arriving back at the camp site, we found, to our utter amazement, the evening meal was being cooked by **Sergeant Smith** and **Lance-Corporal Craggs,** who obviously doubted our culinary talents.

In the morning we began our uphill walk to Patterdale Lodge, that was to be our refuge for the Tuesday night. The afternoon was spent learning the basic techniques of snow-climbing—a wet, uncomfortable experience for most of us. I wonder how anyone could possibly want to spend their spare time doing this for a hobby, let alone challenge the icy slopes of the alpine mountains, where one's life is in danger. Our stay at the lodge was not to last long, for the next day, due to bad weather, we returned to our camp site, which had started to feel more like home. This time, it was our turn to cook the meal, and quality was sacrificed for speed and hunger. After an unexpected good night's sleep and hearty breakfast of 'compo bangers' we assembled the equipment necessary for pot-holing. Pot-holing! A soldiers' love for 'terra-firma' can go too far. We had to walk about two miles before arriving at a rather small, insignificant hole in the ground, which we were told was 'the entrance.' The hole looked black and unfriendly. It was decided that I would be the first man through the entrance. I was duly lowered down by rope, and with mixed feelings, I watched the grinning faces of my friends disappear as the hole got smaller. Their turn was to come. My feet eventually landed on what felt like soft grass. It somehow felt too soft and too spongy for grass. A torch was lowered and, to my horror, I saw that I was standing on a dead sheep. I decided to say nothing and wait for the rest to sample this delight. This soon wiped the grins from their faces! A few dark hours of crawling and scraping our way and we emerged into brilliant sunshine. An experience indeed.

On the Thursday night we sampled the local beer and chatted about the trials of the past few days. The next day was set apart from packing and loading, then home for the weekend."

RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1971 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately eight months are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1971.

SALARY SCALES

During training, with free accommodation provided at the Training School:

Age 21	£848	per annum
22	906	„ „
23	943	„ „
24	981	„ „
25 and over	1023	„ „

On successful completion of course:

Age 21	£1073	„ „
22	1140	„ „
23	1207	„ „
24	1274	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1351	„ „

then by six annual increments to a maximum of £1,835 per annum.

Excellent conditions and good prospects of promotion. Opportunities for service abroad.

Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course, and must have at least two years' operating experience *OR* PMG qualifications. Preference given to those who also have G.C.E. 'O' level or similar qualifications. Exceptionally well-qualified candidates aged from 36-40 may also be considered.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1971.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6), Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21491 Ext. 2270.

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill, Lewis and Seaford

HOME OWNERSHIP

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

SCHOOL FEES

In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

LIFE ASSURANCE + INVESTMENT

Conventional or Equity Linked Schemes

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£12.67 monthly** for those liable to tax at 39p in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next birthday **immediate family protection of £39,360** and an anticipated **cash** sum of **£35,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65. This particular **Plan** is extremely flexible and **unique** in that it can be made to **mature** in part or total at an **earlier** age **or** be adapted to **provide an income** on retirement from the Service, **e.g. at age 55.**

For full details, please telephone or write in confidence to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

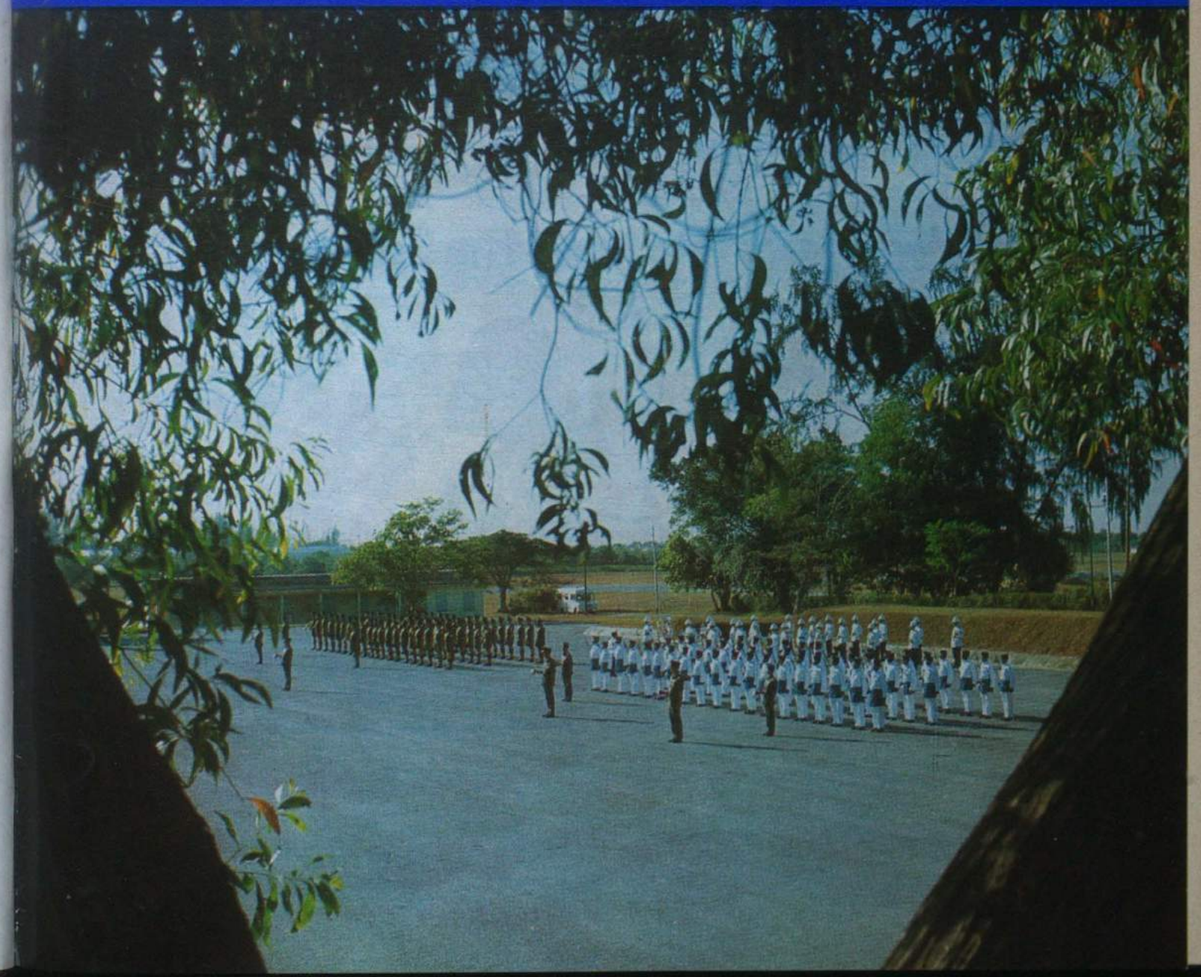
Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

May-June 1971

THE **wire**

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for:-

Convertible Whole Life — Education Endowment — Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust — Retirement — House Purchase — Security for your Family

General Insurance for:-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR TEMPERANCE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

If you've decided to leave the Services, think of a career at IBM



Today IBM computers and data processing equipment are becoming essential to the running of industry, science, government and commerce. And no manufacturer can operate without customer engineers.

Many of our most successful customer engineers have come from the forces, so the field is wide open to you. And it could be your opportunity to move into the world's fastest-growing industry

There are now over 340 customer engineers who joined IBM straight from the Navy/Army/Air Force. Most of them had experience in either electro-mechanisms, servo-systems or electronic-electric controls. And now some are technical specialists and some are managers.

There are several different jobs within Customer Engineering. The Data Recording group are responsible for servicing and maintenance of the entire key punch and verifier range of machines, also data collection systems and Teleprocessing terminal units. The Data Systems group covers basic punch card handling equipment, such as card sorters, tabulators, interpreters, calculators and small models of computer systems. The General Systems group covers medium and large scale computer systems. Whilst, the Program Support Group is responsible for problems that occur in IBM programming systems, involving the diagnosis and solution of these problems using a large amount of documentation (e.g. core dumps, program listings etc.)

Whichever group you join you will be given a first class training.

Salaries are excellent, IBM offers many fringe benefits such as a non-contributory pension scheme, free Life Assurance and an excellent career.

If you are under 40, like the idea of joining the fast-growing computer industry and are due for release during the next 18 months or after a short-term commission, why not find out more about IBM? Send a brief resumé of your technical career and personal details to Mr. D. J. Dennis, IBM United Kingdom Limited, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W.4. Quoting reference S/90671.

IBM

In the past year we have visited a number of Service Units to give a short presentation on Customer Engineering in the computer business, followed by a question and answer session. We would be pleased to arrange to visit your station if there is sufficient interest and your commanding officer agrees. Please discuss this with your Resettlement Officer or Station Education Officer in the first instance so that we can make arrangements through him.

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months **£1.20;** *single month,* **10p.**

☆

MAY/JUNE • 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We publish this month a picture of the parade held by 19th Regiment on the occasion of their farewell ceremonies. We are indeed glad to pay a tribute to a Regiment which has, over so many years, rendered stalwart service to the R.A.F. and upheld the good name of the Corps. At the same time, it is sad that this Regiment has had to become a casualty of the Far East rundown—particularly in the manner it affects many locally-enlisted soldiers who have served Royal Signals so well (see article on page 176).

SITREP on 'The Wire'

As a result of our recent plea, the size of WIRE contributions from our long-suffering but kind unit correspondents has now decreased to more manageable proportions and THE WIRE is in a much sounder state financially.

Alas, offsetting this has been the almost incredible increase in postal charges. As an example, the cost of despatch of individual WIRES for one month has gone up from £29.50 to £47.20, an increase of over £200 in a whole year. Do you wonder that where possible we include individual WIRES in the unit bulk parcel?

The object of this Editorial is really to help our correspondents — particularly unit correspondents—with what they send into THE WIRE in order to save both themselves and ourselves trouble. So back to basics.

Please get your notes in as early as possible, certainly by the 12th of the month. Last-minute articles can only get hasty attention from the Editor and may lack presentation as a result, as well as driving the Editor even more round the bend than he already is. Remember, despite increased charges, the post is slower these days.

Please send in good, clear, black and white photographs on glossy paper. Colour prints are a nuisance and will not reproduce so well in black and white.

Please get clearance to print from professional photographers, newspapers and such like if you want us to publish professional work. We will give them a courtesy mention but we do not normally pay for photographs.

Please do not try and design your own layout and text for THE WIRE. It seldom fits when it comes to 'pasting up.' Leave it to us. We will do our best.

Please caption photographs fully and legibly, giving rank, Christian and surnames of any individuals. We like to use Christian names in our Corps family magazine—this applies to articles also.

Please only use capital letters at the beginning of words where they are justified—not Parade Ground, Ration Store and such like.

Please remember there is no restriction on the length of general interest articles—only on unit notes. Unit notes often contain general interest stories which the Editor is obliged to extract and build up as separate articles in their own right. Send them in separately. We will mention the unit in the presentation.

(Continued on next page)

Please remember that only high-grade colour photographs with sharp definition and strong constrasting colours can make the front cover. They cost over £100 to process, so we must be careful! On the other hand, do please send in anything you feel may stand a chance.

Please go easy on cartoons. Only send them in if they are really well executed and are likely to amuse all our readers, not just those in the know in the unit. They are expensive to print, requiring a block to be made.

Finally, please, nothing more of Christmas after the 12th January each year!

From our "In" Tray

Remembering Freddie Spearpoint

Sir,

In THE WIRE of December/January, you reported the retirement of **Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint.** I must take as read all Freddie's military history prior to July, 1936, when an enthusiastic Recruiting Sergeant in my home town of Truro, Cornwall, arranged for my move all the way to the Corps Depot Battalion, Catterick Camp, and I finally settled down in a Kemmel Lines hut. Freddie came into my life during my recruit days and, in spite of competition from Sergeants Hatton and Vigurs, became my 'favourite' drill instructor (although he did penalise me for not having a properly-filled water-bottle during an evening reporting parade). However, nothing daunted, I collected the Squad Whip and completed my technical training as electrician-fitter. During 1937, and after a brief stay in Aldershot, I was posted to India. Although originally destined for Kohat, my journey ended at the S.T.C. (I), Jubbulpore, where I spent some time on the strength of the W/T station. However, my slight musical ability enabled me to join the unit dance band as pianist, doubling on accordion, under **Ben** (saxophone) **Collett.** It was here that Freddie burst upon the scene with a "we must have a concert party" bee in his helmet (pith). And a concert party we certainly did have.

Freddie produced, acted, and even sang! The programmes warned of the risks, but we played to full houses. I can say, without fear of contradiction, that everyone concerned thoroughly enjoyed working with him. Inevitably, with the passage of time, we all went our separate ways, and eventually I found myself called to the first post-war Territorial camp at Lepe, Hampshire, to provide the music for a concert party produced by—dare I say it?—Freddie—and our late Colonel-in-Chief witnessed our musical extravaganza during her visit. Some years later I was at Penhale Camp, where Freddie was doing the quartermastering, with his quite charming way of winning volunteers, he soon had a concert party formed, and somehow managed to have the training programme modified to release the cast for rehearsals. The shows were as well produced as ever, and well received by mixed audiences. Remember 'Anything you can fill, I can fill better,' Freddie? Yes, these were really great times. I have all the faces clearly in mind, but names are too numerous to mention. I would like to thank all concerned for those happy days, and in particular wish Freddie and his charming lady—one of our front-line girls—every possible good fortune for the future.

Jim Walke.

(Association Life Member No. 5990)

13, Southbrook Place, Micheldever, Hants.

Chairman of T.A.V.R. Association

News has just come through of the appointment of **Colonel B. R. Wood, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.,** Honorary Colonel of the 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V), to the Chairmanship of the Greater London T.A.V.R. Association.

Brigadier Claude Fairweather, Honorary Colonel of the 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) is Chairman of the North of England T.A.V.R. Association, and **Colonel Geoffrey Dicker,** Honorary Colonel Commandant Royal Signals, is Chairman of the East Anglian T.A.V.R. Association.

Thus, of the 13 T.A.V.R. Associations in the U.K., three are now chaired by ex-T.A. Royal Signals Officers. This is indicative of the high reputation which the Corps has always held in the Reserve Army and which is so evident today in the excellent Regiments and Squadrons that comprise the Royal Signals element of the T.A.V.R.

3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

Our 20th all ranks' Reunion Dinner is to be held at the Victory Ex-Services' Club, London, on Saturday evening, 5th June.

Club members who have not received their usual letter and any other ex-members of the Regiment interested should contact **Major K. N. Smartt,** Imber, Millway Road, Andover, Hants.

Our 21st Anniversary Reunion will be held in July, 1972, and, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, is scheduled to be held at Bulford. It promises to be a gala occasion—watch for further details in THE WIRE next year.

Clothing

Since the beginning of the year, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Evans and Miss Evans, Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. N. Lyons, Major-General C. E. Page, Major D. J. D. McKail, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stockdale, A. Walsh Esq., Mrs. R. Tipler, Mr. and Mrs. N. Church, Mrs. J. St. C. W. Robinson, Major G. W. Young, Mrs. B. Torrie, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Phippard, Mrs. M. B. Brown, Mrs. J. A. Baker, Captain J. Potts, Colonel and Mrs. I. G. Swan, Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. Hone, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, 6th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq., Mrs. E. Cush, J. N. K. Billett, Esq., Major J. H. W. Roake, Mrs. C. Rodgers, Colonel and Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Anonymous donor from Taunton, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr, Mrs. Newson, Sergeant B. Langford, W.O.I and Mrs. J. H. Laurence, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. A. Horner, Mrs. M. Willway, Mrs. M. Christopher, Major C. R. C. Bunce, Major M. H. Priestley, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow, Major E. F. Prockter, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. D. Le Febvre.

CATTERICK REUNION, 1971

This will take place on the weekend 26th/27th June. Owing to extensive rebuilding in the Vimy area and the temporary closure of the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, it is much regretted that accommodation and feeding arrangements have had to be restricted and, depending on the number of members attending, it may not be possible to provide meals for non-members, e.g., wives and families. Individuals wishing to attend who do not belong to a Branch should write NOW to Association H.Q. for attendance instructions and proforma. Branch members should apply through their Honorary Secretaries. Early application is strongly advised.

Address to the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association

By BRIGADIER C. E. TONRY, O.B.E., B.G.S. SIGNALS

'The Wire' has pleasure in reproducing below, an address made by the B.G.S. Signals to Branch Representatives of the Association at their Annual Meeting on 17th April, 1971.

In his talk, Brigadier Tonry gave an up-to-date survey of Corps affairs in general and what he said will be of undoubted interest to all our readers, both serving and retired.

THE Signal Officer-in-Chief asks me to convey to you his regret that he is unable to be here himself today, but on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week, he is host to about a hundred commanders and communicators from all three Services and civilian agencies at Blandford for his biennial exercise, 'Quicksilver.' Today is therefore occupied by some essential rehearsals. He sends you his best wishes.

If one looks at last year, 1970, and this year, 1971, one could perhaps say that in 1970 we set the seal on our first 50 years of existence, and perhaps marked time a little while we celebrated, renewed old associations, and basked in the glow of friendship from our colleagues throughout the Services, industry and overseas. 1971 has just a touch of Monday morning about it—the harsh competitive realities of life are still there—we cannot stand still, and there's lots and lots to be done. I will therefore only look fairly quickly at the past and devote most of this talk to explaining in greater detail what we have in hand for 1971 and the years immediately ahead.

Corps Jubilee Celebrations

You will probably have attended one or both of the two major events co-sponsored by the Royal Signals Association and the serving Corps. The first of these took place at Salisbury and Blandford on 21st June, where, after a service of rededication at Salisbury Cathedral, an open day was held at the School of Signals. The second, at Catterick, took place on 28th June.

The serving Corps is well aware that a large number of individual Branches held their own very successful celebrations, and they note with great pleasure and pride the obvious vitality and vigour of the Association.

Military events at unit level took place throughout the world.

Her Majesty The Queen graciously suggested a visit to the Corps by a member of the Royal Family, and H.R.H. The Princess Anne visited the Corps at Blandford on 5th June. This visit, which we understand was thoroughly enjoyed by Princess Anne, was organised by the School of Signals, aided by Royal Signals units of Strategic Command.

The Corps Band was resident at the Royal Tournament in 1970, and the Master of Signals took the salute on 24th July. This was the last official duty of **Major-General Sir William Scott,** before he handed over as Master of Signals on 3rd August, 1970, to **Major-General Peter Bradley.**

The Corps made its first appearance at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on 7th November, 1970, where, in the presence of H.M. The Queen, a series of representative tableaux were shown.

Finally, in our Jubilee Year, a joint meeting took place on 10th December at the I.E.E. in London, attended by the Royal Signals Institution and the Institute of Electrical Engineers. A learned paper, produced by **Lieutenant-Colonel Ball,** Royal Signals, was presented by the S.O.-in-C., and many nice things were said by the President of the I.E.E. about the Corps.

All of these events have been reported in THE WIRE, and all of you here today have no doubt read about them.

Sporting Activities

You will also have heard and read of our great successes in the sporting world in 1970. 21st Signal Regiment won the Army Major Units Athletic Championship, last won by a Regiment of the Corps in the early 50's, and, after winning the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championships, came second in the Army Cross-Country Championships in U.K. last month. This is the first time for many years that a Royal Signals unit has done so well in athletics.

The achievements of our Corps shooting team in winning the Methuen Cup, against all major Corps of the Army and Commands of the R.N. and R.A.F. in 1970 cannot be left out of any review of the year, and our canoeists have been so successful that there are hopes that the Corps may have some representation in the British Olympic Team.

All these successes, plus many others, across the full range of what the Army calls extra-curricular activities, do much to show all three Services that we are a Corps that 'takes part.' The effects of this, both tangible and intangible, are so beneficial to the present and future image of the Corps that the S.O.-in-C. has directed me publicly to express his gratitude to all Chairmen, Secretaries and members of Corps and unit teams whose blood, tears and sweat—mostly sweat—make these achievements possible.

Now to look at some current and future problems.

Recruiting—the past

Recruiting is still Corps domestic priority No. 1 and will always—repeat always—be so. Having said that, I am glad to be able to tell you that there was an improvement in 1970. However, it is impossible to get a clear picture by looking at one year in isolation, and the proper frame of reference is is the last decade.

In 1960 and 1961, the end of National Service was in sight, and it was well known that there would be an enormous shortfall in the all-regular Corps. This led to the massive programme of help in 1962, 1963 and 1964. When this help stopped, there was a dramatic drop in the number of recruits taken into the Corps in 1965, and this continued into 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969. Had this trend carried on, we should have had a NIL intake by the end of 1972! However, as you know, in 1969 we took this problem firmly by the collar and started a self-help campaign, together with another dose of help from the Army during the winter months of 1969/70. Since then we have managed to keep the flow going, but not quite enough to break even. In fact, during 1970, there was a net decrease of 159 in the strength of the Corps: but, of course, this was better than the decrease of 285 in 1969, and much better than the decrease of 974 in 1968. In terms of our intake of adults and maturing juniors, expressed as a percentage of the Army intake, 1970 was our best year since 1964.

That is the good news. Now for the bad news.

Because of the massive intakes in the early 60s, which I mentioned earlier—this is why it is essential to look at recruiting over a long time span—we are faced in 1971 with the 1962 intakes reaching their nine-year points and the

1965 intakes reaching their six-year points. Unless we can persuade large numbers of these men to prolong, we are faced with a large run-out which will have to be made good by stepping up our recruiting efforts even more. We are determined to get recruiting and run-out on to a steady basis: we must get away from the peaks and troughs of the last decade. We hope to break even in 1971, after that things should be easier.

We want every bit of help from the Association—and this means all of you and your members—that we can get. This is a main message from the serving Corps to the retired element. Please try to send in our direction every good young man that you can.

Recruiting—the present

So what are we going to do about it? In our view, there is no one single dramatic action which will solve the problem. Certainly, the attitude of the Government to the Armed Forces and their place in society—as restated in this year's Defence White Paper—will help to improve recruiting: but I am talking here, more about our own Corps efforts. In short, our policy is to maintain steady pressure all along the line in a variety of actions which may be small in themselves in terms of recruits, but which cumulatively are significant. We retain the initiative by keeping as many irons in the fire as possible, but always with some in reserve, ready to insert if the need arises.

At this point in time, we have three new measures which we are about to initiate. The first one is our proposed new Royal Signals Soldier Structure, which I shall be talking about later. This should most certainly improve Regimental internal recruiting. The second is the new Vimy Trade Training School in Catterick. This is a winner, and it is to be officially opened by the Prime Minister on 24th September, 1971. It is better even than we were hoping for, and dead on time. The stardard of workmanship, for this day and age, is excellent and needs to be seen to be believed. This new School will become a focal point for visits from schools, colleges and other training and academic establishments, for both boys, students, teachers and headmasters. It is very photogenic, and we shall make all the recruiting capital that we can out of these twin pillars—the New Trade Structure and the New Trade Training School.

The third of the three initiatives I mentioned is that we are taking boys again in Catterick. A Junior Signalman Troop has just been formed and we hope to produce a steadily increasing flow of juniors into man service. This will in part help to offset the disaster of the closure of the J.L. Regiment in Denbury in 1967. Harrogate, with its magnificent new buildings, is steadily filling up, and we are increasing our output from the Junior Tradesmen's Regiments at Rhyl and Troon. One result of our increased involvement is that the S.O.-in-C. was asked to take the pass-off parade at Rhyl on Easter Monday!

Centralised selection

Centralised Selection of recruits in the Army has been running as a pilot scheme for over a year, but in July goes nationwide. In future with the temporary exception of Scotland all recruits will go to the new C.S. Centre at Sutton Coldfield near Birmingham. Here they will be briefed on types of employment in the Army, their aptitudes, etc., tested and based to a large extent on their own wishes they will be allocated to Corps. This will in no way prevent a man enlisting in the Corps of his choice but will ensure across the board that round pegs are slotted into round holes. Provided we get our fair share from the system—we almost are at present, but this has not always been so—then obviously we go along with the system. It makes the direct results of self-help recruiting more difficult to assess, but it in no way relieves us of responsibility in this direction. This is why I am making the point—recruiting is still our Corps domestic priority No. 1. This is why we want your help—you are after all very much part of the Corps, and we know that you are as much interested in the future of the Corps as in memories of the past.

Future—New Soldier Structure

You will see full details of this published in the April/May issue of THE WIRE.

The Manning Situation

Soldiers: The trained soldier strength of the Corps is currently 7.9 per cent short of the manning requirement, compared with 7.7 per cent at this time last year.

This deficiency cannot be evenly spread between units because of theatre manning priorities, laid down by the military operations staff, and because some 5 per cent of our manpower is required in small establishments whose size-role do not permit any undermanning. In practice, therefore, high priority areas such as Northern Ireland are 100 per cent manned, whilst lower priority, but still very important, units are up to 14 per cent deficient.

This situation is expected to improve significantly early next year when the rundown in FARELF and the Gulf is completed, provided that we can maintain and improve our recruiting effort in all areas.

In this age of sophisticated communications equipment, manpower continues to be the Army's and the Corps' most precious commodity. The deficiency which I have described is placing a considerable strain on units and the soldiers themselves, who are being asked to work longer hours and undertake additional tasks. This situation must, however, only be temporary, otherwise we will no longer be able to boast one of the lowest wastage rates in the Army.

It is accordingly the S.O.-in-C.'s policy to ensure that new commitments are offset by compensating economies, whilst maintaining the strength of the Corps at about its present level, which is 9 per cent of the Army total.

Officers: During 1971, the Corps is additionally faced with an officer shortage, though this is not as serious as the soldier shortage.

The requirement is to recruit/obtain this year an additional 37 young officers in the age bracket 20 to 23 years, the majority of whom should be of the Special Regular Commission Category (S.R.C.), and the remainder of the Direct Short Service Commission Category (D.S.S.C.).

It is hoped that a significant number of the S.R.C. officers can be found from soldiers within the Corps. If you know of any suitable young men, either in the Corps or in civilian life, who may be interested, my staff would like to be advised.

Rear Link Communications

In December, 1970, the Standing Committee on Army Organisation reviewed the question as to whether Royal Signals should take back the commitment of providing rear links for R.A.C., R.A., R.E. and Infantry units. After a thorough examination of the manning situation in Royal Signals and the other Arms concerned, the Committee decided that the R.A.C. and R.E. should continue to man their own rear links after April, 1973, subject to review in 1972, and that the question of the manning of R.A. and Infantry rear links should be re-examined in early 1971. Which ever way the decision goes as regards these latter two Arms, at least a year will elapse between the time the decision is taken and its actual implementation.

Meanwhile we have Royal Signals officers attached to most Armoured units (not so much to help in communicating as to learn the facts of life in other Arms, and to gain a sound tactical background) and some Infantry A.P.C. battalions. We are retaining a Royal Signals Sergeant Operator in all R.A. Regiments and Infantry Battalions.

Order of Battle and Operations

1970 saw events which will have important repercussions on the Army and the Serving Corps and I hope you will bear with me as I recount them and their significance.

First. On June 18 a Conservative administration was elected and examinations of plans to retain a presence in the Malaysian/Singapore area were put in hand. As stated in Parliament the planning of the rundown in that area had proceeded too far to be reversed and in any case a multinational force was felt to be the right answer. As a result of this reasoning a Commonwealth Brigade Group sized force with support naval and air forces was decided upon. This force is composed of Australian, New Zealand and British elements and the Royal Signals' contribution will consist of approximately one-third of the brigade signal squadron and in addition a technical manpower contribution to the static communications system which will need to be set up in Singapore to manage all elements, maritime, air and land, of the force. All married soldiers will have their families with them.

Second. Also as a result of the general election there was an immediate examination of the possibility of expanding the T.A.V.R. and recruiting has started to raise 20 new T. & A.V.R. infantry battalions and one Armoured Car Regiment. The impact of this expansion on the Corps has not been large and amounts to about a Squadron's worth of T. & A.V.R. Royal Signals spread throughout 13 Signal Group (V) who will provide the necessary knowhow to organise the up-to-date communications system for use by the battalions. This is surprisingly inexpensive in manpower when one equates 20 infantry battalions to two Divisions. The secret is that these battalions will be using an area V.H.F. communications system similar to the one we have installed in Northern Ireland and which requires expertise only at the repeater stations.

Third. The command structure of the Home Army has just finished being studied in probably the greatest depth since Cardwell. The new structure with only one General Headquarters and a reduction from 12 to 10 District Headquarters has posed many command and control problems, some of which remain unsolved. The reorganisation when it comes on 1st April, 1972, will have a profound affect on the Command Structure of the Corps in the U.K. C.S.O. Southern Command will become C.S.O. G.H.Q. U.K.L.F. and in so doing will bring under his control all Royal Signals formations and units, both regular and reserve, in the U.K. with the exception of the Training Brigade and the School of Signals.

It has been decided that because of the international flavour of the instruction at both of these establishments and because, in particular, of the introduction of the New Trade Structure, the control of both of these establishments should remain in the M.O.D. with the S.O.-in-C.

In Northern Ireland the continued troubles have necessitated three signal squadrons where before only two very small squadrons existed.

In Anguilla we still provide the external communications for the British Force based there.

In Cyprus in addition to our own British commitments we provide both communications staff and a Signal Troop for UNFICYP.

In Jordan we deployed a communications team in support of the international medical aid needed as a result of the Fedayeen uprising and the efforts of our signallers there earned high praise not only at home but also internationally.

When the coastal plains of East Pakistan were inundated by a cyclone the co-ordination of the British communications for the relief forces ashore was left in the hands of the Corps and 249 Signal Squadron also provided a communications team of both British and Gurkhas whose efforts were largely instrumental in providing the swift co-ordination for the disaster relief effort.

New Pay Code

The New Pay Code has been in operation for a year, and in general it has been accepted as being a better system than the previous Grigg formula.

The only major change which has been made since its introduction is that the Separation Allowance has now been increased to 40p per day to provide compensation for the personal and emotional disadvantages of separation. It is also payable for separation in the same country including the U.K.

It was mentioned last year that there were one or two anomalies in the New Pay Code, and that we were hoping to put these right. They are:

(a) Senior N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers had their pay levels decided by a job evaluation exercise using a factor plan designed for Corporals. The need for evaluation at the rank of Sergeant and above has now been recognised, and a new study is under way. This should be completed in time for implementation by April, 1972, when the next two-yearly pay review is due. The factor plan in the new evaluation takes into consideration not only the training and skills of the senior N.C.O., but also the managerial skills required in these ranks.

(b) We were not happy about the banding of our trades as they were assessed for the new Pay Code but it is no good asking for reassessment of trades which should be replaced before long. We hope that our new proposals will help to put the banding right as well as increasing efficiency and job satisfaction.

A new system of assessing Local Overseas Allowance is being introduced this year which aims at giving a fair rate to each serviceman depending on his rank, on whether he is married or single, on how many children he has and on whether his wife is with him or not. This scheme will be introduced progressively throughout overseas Commands, and some overseas stations should be operating it by the end of 1971 and the remainder during 1972.

Finally, regarding retired pay and pensions, the Government announced in the House of Commons on 17th March, 1970, that they would introduce legislation this season with the following features:

(a) Provision to maintain the purchasing power of public service pensions by a system of biennial reviews.

(b) All pensions which began before 1st April, 1969, to be examined to bring them up to an equitable base line from which the biennial reviews can start.

I would stress that these provisions have only been stated as an expression of the Government's intention—let us hope that they will come to pass. A working party is also undertaking an assessment to make a more definite link between military salaries and pensions.

Clansman

Within the next two years we expect to see the introduction into service of the first of the new Clansman radio equipments. This will be the smallest of the family, the manpack VHF set known as the PRC350. It has had extensive user trials and is extremely well liked by all who have had the opportunity to use it.

It will be followed into service at intervals over a period of three-four years by the other six members of the family, so that we shall end up with a range of radios much lighter, more reliable and giving a far better service than any Army has ever known.

MALLARD and BRUIN

Many will have seen from the press that the U.S. Congress were unable to provide funds for a number of projects including MALLARD. This was to have been the new area communication system for the late 1970s which we were developing with our American, Canadian and Australian allies.

With this American decision, we now have to reshuffle our own plans for a system which will eventually take the place of BRUIN. This has been a setback, not a disaster.

As you know, the BRUIN system has now been in service with 1 (BR) Corps since 1968 and has helped vastly to improve the image of the Corps, providing as it does an unrivalled communication service to Commanders and their staffs. But, like every one of us, its working parts begin to get old and we have to find ways and means of rejuvenating it until the next generation takes over. In this, the prowess of our technicians and engineers comes to the fore, both in maintaining, repairing and devising improvements.

Future—ADPS

In his address last year the S.O.-in-C. said that we were undoubtedly keeping abreast of developments in the Communications-Electronics field and in some cases we provide the spur. This remark is indeed true of our deep involvement in the use of computers, not only for communications switching but also in automatic data processing (ADP). With foresight the Corps installed its first computer at the School of Signals, Catterick, in 1962, and this was employed to pioneer the technique of computer assisted radio frequency assignment in which we still lead the field. This machine was also used for instruction, not only to the Corps but to the Army as a whole and the other two Services.

In 1968 a fast, modern computer was installed at the School in Blandford, with all the latest input and output devices and more recently the Army's first on-line data link became operational between Blandford and Wilton.

This computer centre has since formed the hub of the present Defence ADP Training Centre. In 1970 the S.O.-in-C. became the equipment sponsor for all Field Army Command and Control ADP systems. Currently these projects, which are designed to automate staff tasks, are TRENCHARD (H.Q. Air Support Command, R.A.F. and H.Q. Army Strategic Command), HAIG (at H.Q. B.A.O.R.) and WAVELL (at H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps) which will probably extend forward to Brigade

H.Q. Our Corps has provided members of the study and design teams engaged on these projects and we are helping to analyse the staff problems and write the programmes for the computers. We shall be completely responsible for manning the two systems in Germany and will share this responsibility with the R.A.F. in TRENCHARD. All data transmission requirements of the Army are the S.O.-in-C.'s responsibility and we provide certain facilities for the other two Services.

Some history was necessary to set the ADP scene but from what I have said, you will gather that the future possibilities for our officers and men to gain experience and play a useful part in this advanced technology are considerable.

Conclusion

From all this you can see that what I said at the beginning about there being lots to be done is quite true. The next two or three years should see the fruition of many long-laid plans leading to great efficiency, better communications, and better use of officers and soldiers.

We have just one more hurdle to jump, and if we make that we shou'd go on from 1972 to a comparatively easy run round the track. That hurdle is the ever-present manpower shortage which will get worse before it gets better. From July to December this year, the need to provide officers and soldiers for new commitments, just before we are released from old ones in the Far East and Gulf will yet again challenge our versatility, adaptability and endurance to the full.

The S.O.-in-C. has asked me to say that he is, as ever, confident in the ability of the Corps to meet this challenge and to emerge with the high reputation we have rightly earned in the first 50 years of our existence, still unsullied as a firm base for the future.

CORPS WOOLLEN TIES

Available from Association H.Q., but now at the increased price of 63p, due to the wholesalers increase to us.

CYPHER VACANCIES

Government Communications Headquarters

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,253.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Applications with full details of qualifications to:

Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone : Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

RADIO OPERATORS

DO YOU HOLD

PMG II *OR* PMG I *OR* NEW GENERAL CERTIFICATE

OR

HAD TWO YEARS' RADIO OPERATING EXPERIENCE?

Looking for a secure job with good pay and conditions?

Then apply for a post with the Composite Signals Organisation. These are Civil Service posts, with opportunities for service abroad, and of becoming established, i.e., non-contributory pension scheme.

Specialist Training Courses (free accommodation) starting January, April and September, 1972.

If you are British born and resident in the United Kingdom, write NOW for full details and application form from

Government Communications Headquarters,
Recruitment Officer,
Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL52 5AJ.
(Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270).

UK or European posting?

Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

*** Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid *3 years to pay *All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem**

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K. Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land

Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W5
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*
Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*
Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Being an army officer isn't all sunshine—

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

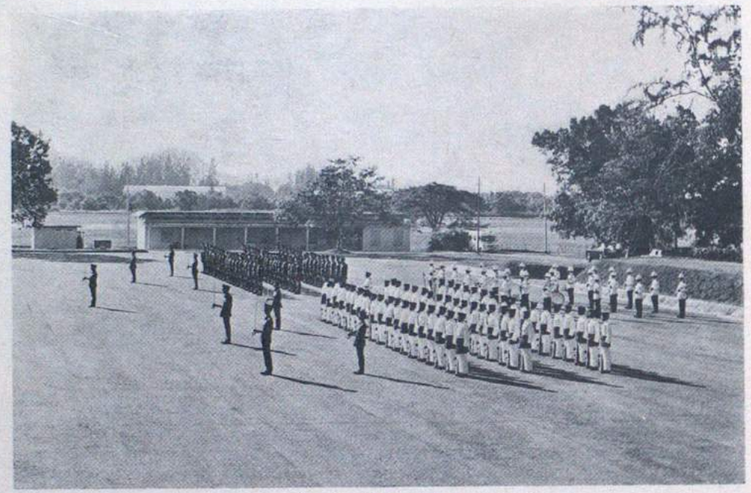
For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

19th Regiment Hold Farewell Ceremony

One of the casualties of the Far East run-down will be the 19th Signal Regiment, R.A.F. Changi, Singapore. Over many years it has rendered stalwart service to the R.A.F. The Regiment has always numbered a large proportion of locally enlisted soldiers in its ranks who have given loyal and willing service to the Corps. For them the occasion will be particularly sad for the Regiment was their life.

All will join 'The Wire' in a salute to them for what they have done and in wishing them well for the future.



The Parade formed up

Final disbandment in November

Although the Regiment does not finally disband until November this year, the nature of the rundown is such that by that time there will be very few British and no Locally Enlisted soldiers left in the Regiment. It was therefore decided to hold a Farewell Ceremony at a time when there would still be sufficient men to make a worthwhile parade and Wednesday, 31st March, was the chosen date. In a shift-working unit, the normal routine must go on and this again produced a limiting factor, together with the problem of getting men into Changi from the outstations for the rehearsals and the parade itself. It was decided to form two Squadrons, one British and one of Locally Enlisted soldiers, each 53 strong.

Distinguished guests at farewell ceremony

The meteorological forecast proved correct and it was a very bright and hot morning. **W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. Speight** gave the order "Quick march" and the Regiment, with the British in olive green and the Locally Enlisted soldiers in ceremonial dress, marched on to the Station parade ground, R.A.F. Changi, preceded by the band of the Australian Army Force playing 'National Emblem.' Some 200 official guests, families and friends of the Regiment seated in the shade of awnings saw the parade handed over to the Adjutant, **Captain M. L. P. Brock,** on the dot of 08.16 hours. Officers on parade with the British Squadron were **Major A. P. Fielding** and **Captains W. Roper** and **J. H. Roberts,** and with the L.E.P. Squadron **Major J. G. Harry** and **Captains Wan Jalil bin Ahmad, M.B.E.,** and **Lai Sin Wah.** The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert,** took over the parade and awaited the arrival of the V.I.P. guests, the Station Commander, **Group Captain and Mrs. A. D. A. Honley,** the Commander Singapore Area, **Brigadier D. W. V. P. O'Flaherty, D.S.O.,** and the Commander Far East Air Force, **Air Vice Marshal and Mrs. N. M. Maynard,** to whom compliments were paid.

S.O.-in-C. represented

The Reviewing Officer, **Colonel D. A. Polley, O.B.E.,** representing the Signal Officer-in-Chief, arrived with **Captain M. J. M. Alden** as his A.D.C., and received a general salute. After the inspection and the advance in review order, the Regiment marched past to the Royal Signals march. The Commanding Officer made a short address welcoming the guests and briefly recounted the history of the Regiment and its associations with the Royal Air Force and the service of the Locally Enlisted soldiers. **Colonel Polley** then addressed the soldiers on parade, making particular mention of the high standard of turnout, bearing and drill.

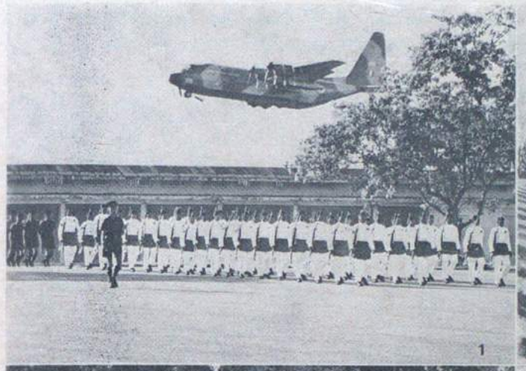
Tribute to locally enlisted soldiers

Then followed the highlight and main theme of the parade, the tribute to the Locally Enlisted soldiers. Led by **Captain Wan Jalil,** the L.E.P. Squadron slow-marched to the strains of Auld Lang Syne between the British Officers and soldiers at the present and the spectators standing and saluting, and finally, as the music died away, off the square. It was an emotional moment for all, especially **Captain Wan Jalil,** for he was one of the first to join the L.E.P. ranks in 1947. As he said after the Parade, "I was the first to open the door and the last to close it." It is an interesting fact that on the day of the parade the strength of Locally Enlisted soldiers in the Regiment was 190. Their aggregate of service totalled 1,820 years.

The parade concluded with the British Squadron marching off in quick time. Afterwards the guests, officers, warrant officers and sergeants gathered in the married families' club for a reception, and the junior ranks were given refreshments at the China Sea Beach Club.

It was a sad but nevertheless very dignified occasion and a fitting end to the Regiment's 28 years' service in the Corps and to the Royal Air Force. We shall continue, however, to appear in 'The Wire' until our final disbandment in November.

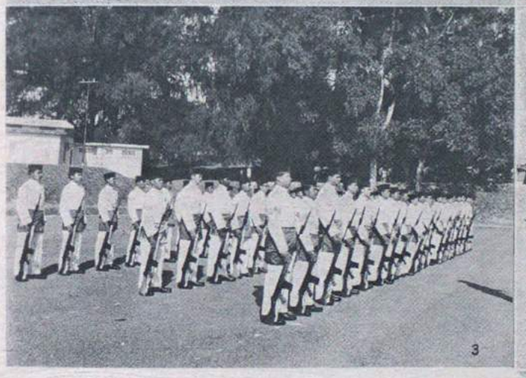
Regiment's last big parade



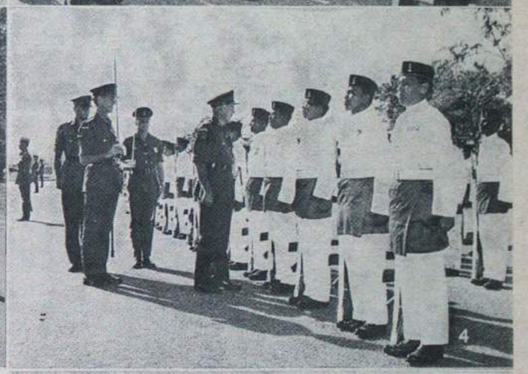
1



2



3



4

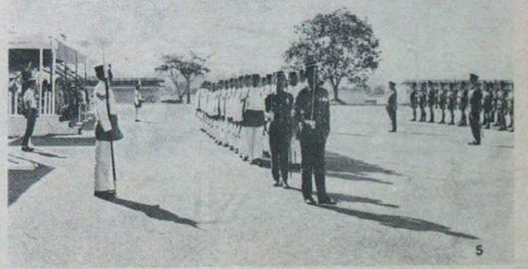
1. **The Regiment marches on parade. An outward bound Hercules flies overhead symbolic of the specialised role played by the unit over so many years.**

2. **The Reviewing Officer has a word with Corporal Gask of the British Squadron.**

3. **The LEP Squadron awaits the arrival of the Reviewing Officer.**

4. **The Reviewing Officer inspects the LEP Squadron.**

5. **The LEP Squadron marches past in slow time while the British Squadron presents arms.**



5

THE GENERAL VISITS

Pictures taken during a recent visit of General Sir Mervyn Butler, I.C.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Army Strategic Command, to the 30th Signal Regiment. The General arrived by helicopter and spent the day visiting detachments on training at Blandford. He showed the greatest interest in all he saw as the photographs indicate



CHEERFUL OCCASION
Sergeant Dave Smith of the A.M.F. (L) Force Radio Troop sharing a joke with the Army Commander and Captain Eddy Hampson



AIR PORTABILITY DEMONSTRATED
Sergeant Ken Griffith, Yeoman Bill Coxon of Light Radio Troop demonstrate the airportable stores for a three man S.R. A41, S.R. A13 and S.R. A16 detachment



MEETING WITH A UNIT SPORTSMAN
"Well, it was like this, Sir" . . . Sergeant Willie Henderson of E.W. Troop and the Regimental Football Team meeting the Army Commander



HAVE RADIO—WILL TRAVEL
Corporal Geordie Hamer, John Conroy and Geoff Gough with an airportable S.R. C11/C42 mounted in its container. Lance-Corporal Gough, on the right of the picture, recently returned from six weeks on detachment at Grand Turk Island Bahamas and is now off to Cyprus for six months

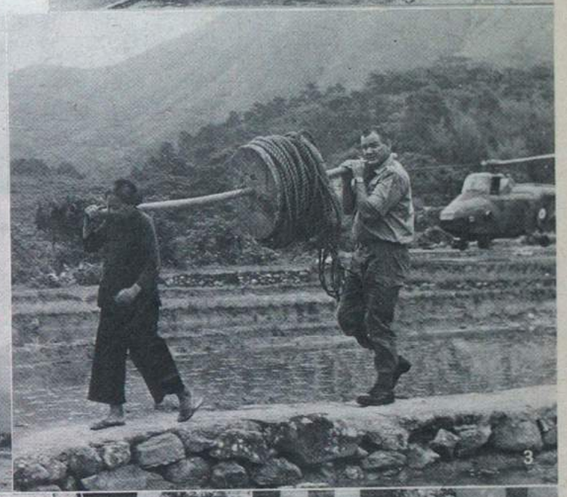
A REWARDING AND WORTHWHILE TASK

253 Squadron instal electric light in a remote Hong Kong village and discover pleasure in the simple life of the locals as well as making a host of friends





2



3



4



5

1. **Tai Long, one of the villages in which electric light was installed. Note distribution pole and street light.**
2. **All stores had to be lifted in by air. Corporal Steve Alexander and Lance-Corporal Pete Watson deal with a load.**
3. **After the airlift stores had to be manhandled to the site. Beefy Staff-Sergeant Dick Sizeland found it quite an effort. The lady in front took it in her stride with a smile.**
4. **Of course, friends were made—particularly with the children. Corporal Terry Mann goes 'Chinese' to the delight of his young friends.**
5. **The work is completed and the official 'switching on' ceremony takes place before a distinguished audience. Switching on is Brigadier H. C. Illing, M.C.; on his left O.C. 253 Squadron, Major M. J. Pickard.**

To Commemorate the Corps Fiftieth Birthday

'JIMMY' TAKES ITS PLACE AMONG THE FAMOUS FOVANT BADGES



The Corps Badge stands 200 feet tall—and the width of the scroll 80 feet from tip to tip

The History of the Fovant Badges — and how the Corps Badge was cut

By Lieutenant I. C. Pattison, Royal Signals

TEN miles west of Salisbury, on the A.30 London to Exeter Road, lies the village of Fovant, which ex-Servicemen of the 1914-18 War will remember, first as a training camp and later as the Demobilisation Centre through which so many passed on their way back to civilian life. Cut in the chalk downs overlooking this road are a number of Regimental crests which prove of great interest to passing motorists.

Six of the badges, those of the London Rifle Brigade, the Post Office Rifles, the Devonshire Regiment, the Y.M.C.A., the 6th Battalion, The City of London Regiment, and the Australian Imperial Forces, were cut during the 1914-18 War. The badges of the Wiltshire Regiment and the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry were cut in 1950 and 1951 respectively, whilst the last badge, that of Royal Signals was added in 1970 by 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Corps.

The coming of the camps

With the outbreak of war in August, 1914, and the need to find accommodation for the new Army, the authorities took over many thousands of acres of agricultural land in the country for training camps, amongst these being Fovant. And, very soon, what had once been good farming land, had become a network of huts, parade grounds and metalled roads. The two rifle ranges were laid out, with the downs forming a natural background, and finally, a single-track railway line linked up the camp with the main line at Dinton, some three miles to the north.

Many thousands of men from Regular and Territorial Regiments, and troops from Australia, carried out their training here before going into action on the Western Front. At the end of the war, the camp became one of the largest demobilisation centres in the country. It was not until the early 20's that the camp was finally deserted, leaving behind a tangled mess of foundations and roads. Today, one sign only remains—the badges.

The badges are cut

The idea of cutting their Regimental badge in the chalk hillside originated in 1916 from the London Rifle Brigade. Volunteers were called upon to do the work, and their efforts proved so successful that other units soon followed their example.

There were many difficulties to surmount for, apart from the steep slope, the hillside was in the danger zone of the rifle ranges, which were in almost continuous use. During the summer months, the men had to get up before sunrise and work from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. In spite of this, there was seemingly no lack of volunteers.

Of the original badges, the 6th City of London Regiment is probably the largest, with an overall height of 150 feet.

It is impossible to give a complete list of all the units that cut out their badges, for many of the smaller ones have completely disappeared through neglect. Including the three badges, there are a total of nine badges at Fovant.

Between the wars

With the departure of the troops, the badges began to become overgrown with weeds and turf, but many of the Regiments paid local workers to keep their particular badges in good condition. In particular, the Australian Government paid an annual sum for the maintenance of their badge, that of the Australian Imperial Force.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, maintenance work had to cease, for the authorities wished to be camouflaged as being a potential landmark for enemy aircraft. It was during this time that many of the badges became too overgrown and damaged to restore.

Restoration work begins

After the war, members of the Fovant Home Guard Old Comrades agreed to restore the badges of the 6th City of London Regiment and the London Rifle Brigade. By the end of 1949, the six badges had been restored.

Early in 1950, members of the Association decided to cut out the badge of the Wiltshire Regiment—the cap badge that they had worn during the war as members of the Home Guard.

(*Continued on page* 181)

(*Continued from page* 180)

In 1951, the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry requested that their badge should be added and, as many of the parishioners of Fovant had served in this Regiment, it was agreed to accede to their request. Due to their position as number one in precedence among the Regiments of 'Cavalry Yeomanry,' their badge was cut in the position of honour, on the 'right of the line.'

Royal Signals comes to Fovant

In recent years, the Fovant Home Guard Old Comrades' Association—now re-styled as the Fovant Badges Association—have had more and more difficulty in keeping the badges in good condition. In 1969, a working party was sent by 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment to clean the badges, and this was followed in 1970 by a similar party from 30th Signal Regiment.

Because of this interest by units of Royal Signals, the Association agreed to allow the Corps badge to be cut to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Corps.

The site is chosen

The task eventually fell to 'Charlie Two' (Radio Relay) Troop of 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and was carried out from start to finish solely by that Troop. The badges were situated in two definite groups of four, and it was decided to cut the Corps badge in the centre, thus joining the groups to form one array of badges. The centre position was the best site, anyway, for the tall, narrow badge, as the hill on both ends of the badges sloped away.

Work begins

The first step was to take a copy of the badge and reproduce it as large as possible. (The Royal Signals Institute can be proud to know that the badge on the front cover of their magazine, being the nearest to hand at the time, was used as the model).

This was 'blown-up' to an overall height of 14 inches, and then squared-off into half-inch squares. The squares were reproduced on the ground as 6ft. squares, using wire and pegs. These squares covered an area of some 169ft. by 90ft. This work was begun in the middle of October.

The next step was to transfer the detail from each half-inch square on the diagram into he corresponding 6ft. square on the ground. This was done with white mine tape, using 6in. nails every 18in. to keep it down.

When the whole outline was completed, it was viewed critically from the road. At this stage, it could be seen that small adjustments would have to be made to allow for the change in the angle of slope. The main adjustment was made to the crown, which had to be lengthened by half.

This finally gave the badge an overall length of 200 feet, and a width of 85 feet at the widest point, i.e. from the two extreme ends of the scroll.

The hard work starts

The period of laying out the outline only took four days, and about four or five men were employed. The next step was to make a narrow cut around the badge, following the tape, so that a permanent outline would exist. The tape was then removed.

Starting from the top, the turf was then removed. This was by far the most difficult task, and was done section by section at a time. Each section was then filled in with chalk dug from pits.

Contrary to popular opinion, it was not just a case of removing the turf to reveal white chalk underneath. The chalk had to be dug from deep pits some distance away and carried in buckets along and down the steep slope to the badge.

A total of three pits were dug, well away from the badge itself, and then filled in, using some of the turves. The remainder were used to fill in old holes on the hillside left by previous cleaning parties.

There were virtually no snags, from start to finish. Work had to stop from time to time for various Regimental exercises and other commitments, and it was in early December that the badge was finally completed.

Throughout the entire operation, the only tools used were buckes, spades and pick-axes. On average, a daily party of ten to twelve men completed the badge in about twenty working days.

The completed badge, intentionally, does not contain any internal detail, but is completely filled in with chalk, thus giving a much better effect. The only exception to this is the motto '*Certa Cito*,' which can easily be read from the road.

TALES FROM THE DESERT

Exercise 'Easy Rider'

A report from 222 Signal Squadron

Airfield Troop take to the desert for a Famex. Famex means 'Familiarisation with living in the desert' exercise and this time Airfield Troop got more familiar with what can go wrong in the desert than they bargained for as the following account shows:

A difficult start

Five vehicles left Sharjah on 12th February to try a more difficult crossing of the jebels to the east coast. The first part of the journey to Manama went well and from there the party travelled along the edge of the jebels or mountains to try and find a narrow wadi through to Tayibah in the middle of the range. After certain problems with navigation, the track was blocked by a large sand-dune. After all the Land Rovers had failed to get even half-way up, **Captain Culley** led his Troop somewhat fearfully at 180 degrees in the direction he wanted to go, out into the Red Sand Sea to try and find a way round. This was eventually accomplished and the party entered the wadi that would lead them through to Tayibah. At times the rocks in the wadi made it necessary for everyone to walk whilst the Rovers nearly fell over in their attempts to get over them. Eventually Tayibah was reached only to find the rear differential on one Rover had seized. A call for recovery was made and the radio wagon was left with the casualty whilst the rest pressed on to Diba with a manpack A13.

Gear Lever parts from gearbox

Just as the east coast came in sight, the O.C.'s driver, **Lance-Corporal 'Brummy' White**, entertained everyone by waving his gear stick in the air. With three wagons carrying the personnel and kit of four and one stuck permanently in third gear they arrived at Diba.

The destination was Ras Dadnah, some 12 miles along the coast. This final part of the journey was in some ways the most difficult. The track over the jebels along the coast is extremely steep in places and the O.C.'s wagon had to be hauled up each slope, and another wagon lost its brakes and had to be eased down each downhill stretch. Eventually camp site was reached at which the oil feed pipe on the O.C.'s vehicle burst and the wagon was left on the beach whilst another recovery call went out.

Things continued in the same vein next day. **Lance-Corporal Brannigan** became the first casevac with back trouble and a storm brewing put any chance of a 'chopper' flight to us out of the question. One bright point was that the C11 vehicle joined us in the afternoon, having seen the first casualty back to camp in front-wheel drive. The Sheik of Dubai's brother had been kind enough to stop at Tayibah and disconnect the seized rear differential on the broken-down vehicle.

The worst sandstorm in recent years

That night, Saturday, the storm really got going. Whilst they were having the worst sandstorm in Sharjah in recent years, the tide turned Ras Dadnahs' three miles of beach into a large lake, the broken vehicle and the O.C.'s frame tent narrowly escaping being swept away.

Radio Technicians

Overseas

Cable and Wireless is a forward-looking international Company, specialising in the engineering and operation of computerised systems, radio, cable, satellite earth station and telephone systems.

We require staff aged about 25-35 (who must hold a valid driving licence) to undertake a tour of duty on overseas radio stations on technical watchkeeping duties which include circuit attention to radio-telephone and telegraph circuits, and television transmissions.

Applicants must have had substantial experience of fault-finding, adjustment and overhauls of one or more of the following multi-channel wideband systems: UHF, microwave, tropospheric scatter, or satellite communications. City and Guilds telecommunications examinations or an HNC (Electronics) would be an advantage but are not essential.

Employment offered on a two-year contract basis initially, with excellent prospects of renewal or of established pensionable service afterwards. Attractive salary and allowances. Free passages for staff and family (who normally accompany overseas) and free fully furnished accommodation overseas.

Write for Application Form giving brief details of experience, qualifications, age and present salary to:—

Personnel Officer (Recruitment),
Dept. A158/372,
CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED,
Mercury House, Theobalds Road,
London, WC1X 8RX.

CABLE AND WIRELESS
WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS

The next day whilst **Captain Culley** anxiously examined the Rover and found a new site for a 'copter' to land, his frame tent started cartwheeling across the beach into the rocks. Having rectified this, **Lance-Corporal 'Twiggy' Wheatley,** a new and somewhat thin arrival, collapsed with heat exhaustion on a completely cloudy day.

By the afternoon the storm had died down and 78 Squadron R.A.F. flew a VM and spares in to the Troop and the two casevacs out. The repairs took very little time and the journey back was surprisingly uneventful.

Return invitation declined

F. of S. Ron Keasey from Bahrein was with us as someone had said that Famexes were a pleasant break from routine. However, he politely declined an invitation to come on the next Famex in May.

Exercise 'February Frolic'

By

Sergeant K. Ashton, 222 Signal Squadron

With no real alternative ways of a change in routine, exercises are very popular with the Squadron. However, when it transpired that O.C. Radio Troop **Captain C. R. Treeby** preferred walking over jebels to leisurely drives through the bondu, attitudes did change somewhat. Nevertheless, 12th February found **Captain Treeby, Lance-Corporal Forman, Signalman Gamble** and myself in a rather draughty Wessex surrounded by about 200 pounds of kit and wondering what we had let ourselves in for.

The aim of the exercise was to cross the Oman mountains from west to east making use of wadi's where possible. The start point was Khulaybiyah, a small Bedu encampment, and the finish Khawr Fakkan, a small fishing village on the east coast.

The helicopter landed us at Khulaybiyah at about 09.00 hours and after a rather apprehensive look at the formidable mountains surrounding us, we set off.

Hair-raising, but the view was good

The maps of the area are rather vague to say the least but we found our first wadi with little trouble. Our first difficult stage was crossing from one side of the range to the other. Here there were no wadis to aid us, just a steep gradient of broken rocks which was very hard to climb, the task not being made easier by our rather heavy packs. After a rather hair-raising time we reached the top and were rewarded with a view of peaks and wadis stretching as far as the eye could see. The descent was slow but easier going, the packs being lowered by rope down the steepest drops. Once back down amongst the wadis the progress became easier but rather hotter, frequent stops having to be made to cool down in the small bits of shade available.

About an hour before last light, we called a halt and after a good meal we spent the night burrowed into the softest ground we could find.

Our main worry next morning was lack of water, but after a rather dry few miles before lunch we were relieved to find a cool clear spring as if by magic. For the next few miles we were accompanied by a small but fast-flowing stream, a great morale booster as well as a good water bottle filler. Just as we thought the worst was over the stream dried up and we joined a larger wadi with no shade at all. The last three hours of light proved hard going and we were all glad to settle down for the night about five miles from the coast.

'Mad dogs and Englishmen'?

The last part of the march was completed the following morning. We must have made a strange sight to the local arabs as we emerged from the mountains. They all obviously thought we were quite mad.

Except for a few aches and pains and of course blisters, we were none the worse for our travels. A lot was learnt about travelling on foot through some of the worst country I have ever seen especially the problem of conserving enough water to last any amount of time.

"When I stopped I was not fully aware of what had happened — I felt as if my stomach was still at the top"

Riding the Cresta

By

Second-Lieutenant Graeme Thompson of
11 Brigade Signal Squadron

Graeme Thompson started as a complete novice on the world-famous Cresta Run at St. Moritz and clocked up a first time of 78 seconds in a crazy, scrambling, beginner's rundown. Four weeks later a hardened and much more experienced rider he achieved a very respectable 49.86 seconds. Despite a scarred nose, a ruptured kidney and some considerable expense, he considers this is THE SPORT. Read his vivid impressions of "riding the Cresta."

"Right, lie down with your belly on the seat, hands on the sides, elbows in, legs slightly apart, dig your toes in, look up, you're off, good luck!" These were the coaching words, brief as they may seem, given to me as I embarked on what must have been the longest, most terrifying 78-second trip of my life. That was the time it took me to slide nearly half-mile downhill in a bumpy, twisting slot of very slippery ice.

Speeds of 80 to 85 m.p.h.

So this was the Cresta Run—the first toboggan run in the world, built in the Cresta Valley between St. Moritz and Celerina in 1884. It is a specially built ice surface which softens in the afternoons when the temperature rises, and can only be used in the cold, crisp mornings. It is approximately three-quarters of a mile in length, has a drop of 514 feet and 10 corners or banks, all of which are named. The banks are in three groups—upper, middle and lower. Near the top are Curzon, Brabazon and Thoma, followed by the Junction Straight where beginners start. Rise, Battledore, Shuttlecock and Stream come next. Shuttlecock, the most notorious bank, is the safety valve where riders going too fast fly out of the run at speeds between 30 and 40 m.p.h. to land in a bed of hay and snow. The lower banks are Bulpetts, Scylla and Charybdis. After Charybdis is the famous Cresta Leap where speeds of 80 to 85 m.p.h. are achieved by good riders.

The Run is ridden prone, bearing no relation to bobsleighing, on metal toboggans, called skeletons, which weigh about 70 pounds. There is no steering gear, so weight and strength are used instead. As I found out the hard way, one cannot merely get down and be driven. It is every man for himself and self-drive all the way. To protect the rider, a crash helmet, goggles, elbow and knee pads and hand guards are worn, and to brake and steer, boots with spiked toe-caps are used.

Terror!

For my first ride, I was instructed to take it easy, with toes dug hard into the ice all the way, and look around. Hard as I tried though, everything was passing so quickly that terror seized my mind, and all that I wanted to do was to reach the bottom in one piece. Even when I finally stopped in Celerina I was not fully aware of what had happened, and I felt as if my stomach was still at the top of the Cresta Leap.

On my second and third rides I began to gain more confidence, and was able to look ahead into the bends, so that on the fourth attempt I was allowed to take my feet out of the ice up to the first bend, and then dig them in hard again in order to slow down for Shuttlecock. Alas, hard as I tried yet again, I was not skilled enough to take this bend at such speed, so out of the famous Shuttlecock I flew, complete with 70lb. burden. It is said, however, that you have not ridden the Cresta until you have experienced a fall at Shuttlecock, so to prove my capability, I managed to do it five times in two weeks, plus a nasty fall on the finishing bank!

Sueeess at last

Well, as they say, practice makes perfect, and after 18 rides I was managing sprint starts, hand changes and most of the other risks one can take on those lethal machines, and each ride became faster and more exhilarating, until it reached the stage where one could not see any possible way of going faster. By this time in the season, however, the continental experts were setting up times of 46 seconds.

Then, one day, for no apparent reason, everything feels absolutely perfect and your time given at the bottom—49.86 seconds! Two more rides like that and you are allowed to ride from the top, but then, that's another story . . .

After four weeks, then in what must be the ultimate in winter resorts, I had suffered a lot of money, a ruptured kidney and a scarred nose, but I had found the most exhilarating and reliable cure for an early morning hangover!

FOR TELEVISION — RENT OR BUY
LATEST MODELS

D. & G. MANSELL

6, FINKLE STREET,
RICHMOND, YORKS. Tel. 2024.

Also all Domestic Electrical Appliances

Our Record Dept. contains the largest selection of records in the district, also sheet music and musical instruments.

FARAWAY PLACES !
UNUSUAL JOBS !
WHY NOT WRITE YOUR STORY FOR "THE WIRE"?

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF VISITS CYPRUS

Report from 3 Signal Group



1. **Technical Discussion**—W.O.1 (F. of S.) Kenyon explains the organisation at engineering control—hub of the island's wide radio relay system operated by 259 Squadron. Also present (*left to right*) are: Major Alec Anderson (Squadron Commander), Lieutenant Smith (A.D.C. to S.O.-in-C.), Captain Peter Prichard (C.S.E.) and Sergeant Stevens (Duty controller)
2. **Personal Contact**—The S.O.-in-C. has a friendly chat with W.O.2 (F. of S.) Lee, about to leave on promotion, and Sergeant Joglekar, station commander Episkopi radio relay terminal
3. **Lighter Moment**—Mr. Balatin Hussein B.E.M., foreman of trades, explains how the T.O.T.'s security cage achieved local horticultural fame

The S.O.-in-C. **Major-General P. F. Pentreath** visited Cyprus from 29th March to 1st April, 1971.

During his brief stay of four days, the **General** managed to visit all units of 3rd Signal Group, in addition to meeting many R.A.F. personnel, with whom the Group works very closely.

Units 'doing the honours' included:

H.Q. 3rd Signal Group, Commander, **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.**
9th Signal Regiment, C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon.**
259 Signal Squadron (R.R.), O.C., **Major A. S. McK. Anderson.**
261 Signal Squadron (A.S.), O.C., **Major B. C. Hodgson.**
262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus), O.C., **Major S. W. Read.**
F.S.S. (Ace High) Cape Greco, Station Commander, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Morris.**

Whilst in Nicosia, the **General** called on C.S.O. UNFICYP, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ranft,** and met members of 644 Signal Troop, commanded by **Captain G. M. Finney.**

Highlights of the tour included trips to R.A.F. Akrotiri (Airfield Troop, 261 Signal Squadron) where **Major-General Pentreath** saw one of the R.A.F.'s largest operational airfields in action, and to 9th Signal Regiment (with its many cap badges) where **Staff Sergeant Cosser** was presented with the L.S.G.C., after 21 years' service in the Corps.

A very full programme was rounded off in local style with **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** and the officers and wives entertaining **Major-General Pentreath** to a farewell Kebab Supper in Limassol.

With H.M.S. Mercury

Living with the Royal Navy — and liking it!

By Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ross

HAVING been with the Royal Navy at H.M.S. *Mercury* for 12 months, I now find time to write to THE WIRE.

A little bit of history on this draft (posting). There have now been three Yeomen of Signals at *Mercury*. **W.O.I Leach** (now Mr.), **W.O.2 'Enri' Higgins** (now Londonderry) and myself. We are on an exchange posting with the R.N. Chief Radio Supervisor at the School of Signals.

Contrary to my first thoughts, when I discovered I was coming here, I now find I do enjoy it. Never having had any experience with the Navy, and to be told that you are to join their Signal School as an instructor, is somewhat unnerving.

'Baiting'—one of the Navy's little idiosyncrasies

I soon came across one of the Naval indiosyncrasies—'baiting.' Whilst minding my own business, swotting an R.N. publication, I heard in the background all sorts of remarks about the Army, the Royal Signals, Yeomen of Signals, then about me. Well, after about ten minutes of this continual barrage of insults, the 'pongo was up,' jacket off and ready to do battle, only to find all the C.P.O.s and P.O.s rolling on the floor with laughter, and at the same time reeling in their fishing lines, having just caught a whopper. Needless to say, I don't 'bite' any more and am becoming quite good at 'baiting' myself.

Ceremonial Divisions come round about once a month, and the brown uniform helps set off the colour scheme. After my first divisions there were so many complaints about the



A HANDSHAKE FROM THE ADMIRAL

Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ross gets a handshake from Admiral Sir Peter Hill-Norton, G.C.B., Chief of the Defence Staff. A photograph taken in the C.P.O.'s Mess H.M.S. Mercury

'pongo' stamping feet (a pause of two-three behind everyone else) and chaps being punched by swinging arms, that I now comply with Naval drill. As unusual as it may seem, it does go against the grain not to bend the knee till the thigh is parallel with the deck.

My main functions in life are running the football sweep, the pools syndicate (well employed), and the latest—collecting coins, foreign and old, cigarette coupons, etc., for the King George Fund for Sailors.

Overcoming many problems in a simple, efficient manner

The job—quite serious now—is indeed interesting. The Navy have many problems, which they overcome in a simple, efficient manner. I instruct in automatic telegraphy, which covers Tape Relay, Tare/Autodin, Ratt Broadcasts (communications from shore to ship), Ratt Ship Shore, Maritime Rear Links (extending the DCN to ships at sea, including via Sky net) and two other inter-ship Ratt organisations. At first I was convinced I would never understand it myself, let alone teach it. I did, however, crack it just before it cracked me. One of my first problems with classes was convincing 'Jack' that although I am a 'Brown Job,' I did know what I was about when it came to instructing on ship side Ratt.

H.M.S. *Mercury* is undergoing great changes, and new buildings are shooting up all round. There are close ties between H.M.S. *Mercury* and the School of Signals. I often find myself being asked some very interesting questions on how we work and how we sort out some of our problems. I also take every opportunity to scotch the idea that we communicate only by field telephone and D10, and regard this as being an important part of my job (enlightening the 'Matelots').

All Messes in *Mercury* buy 'The Wire'

Note for Units/Messes: H.M.S. *Mercury* publish a magazine called 'The Communicator,' which is not unlike our WIRE. It comes out three times a year, and the annual cost, complete, is 54p. Any unit or mess which is interested in learning a bit more about the Senior Service would find this a useful and interesting magazine. All messes in *Mercury* buy THE WIRE. If interested in 'The Communicator,' just drop me a line.

C.-in-C. Swiss Signal Corps shows lively interest in the work of the Corps

Visit of Lieutenant-General Hönegger to 2nd Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment

On Wednesday, 24th March, **Lieutenant-General Hönegger** of the Swiss Army paid a visit to 2 Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment in the field accompanied by the C.S.O. (B.A.O.R.) **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E. Lieutenant-General Hönegger** was first of all entertained to morning coffee in the Officers' Mess where he took the opportunity of meeting the Officers of the Regiment. Suitably refreshed he was then taken for a tour of the Regiment deployed as for war.

He took a lively interest in all aspects of the Regiment's work and managed to visit elements of all three Squadrons, taking especial interest in the somewhat mysterious workings of our old friend 'Bruin.'

Leaving the windswept location that was Commcen Foxtrot the party moved back to the Officers' Mess where, after being wined and dined in the accustomed manner, **Lieutenant-General Hönegger** presented the C.S.O. with a Swiss-made 9m.m. pistol.

Soon after this the visit came to a conclusion and we all returned to our duties much impressed by the knowledge and interest shown by our distinguished visitor.

All the best people read 'The Wire'!



Lieutenant-General Hönegger Commander-in-Chief, Swiss Signal Corps accompanied by Major-General D. R. Horsfield pauses to read an article in 'The Wire' about his visit to Hong Kong last year

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Distinguished visitors

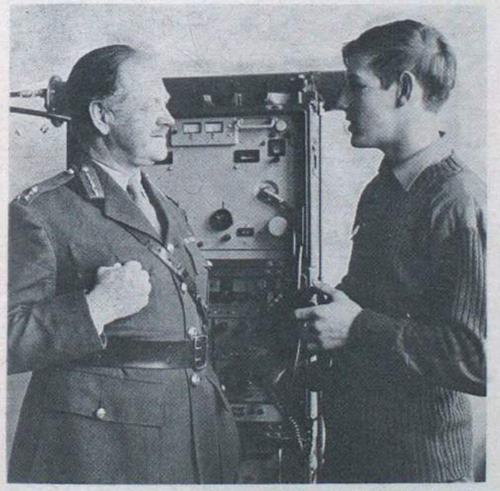
THE period since our last notes has been notable for the number of V.I.P. visits to the College and for the sporting successes achieved both by individuals and in team events. In the latter sphere, indeed, our P.R.O. tells us that one leading provincial newspaper was hesitant to record the winning of yet another cup, in case the local 'villains' got ideas!

The three principal visits came within the space of seven days, and began with the F.F.R Inspection on 12th March. This was carried out by the G.O.C. Yorkshire District, **Major-General R. M. Somerville, O.B.E.,** who must have liked what he saw because he extended his visit by two hours. As we had hoped, he failed to find any skeletons in our cupboards, and we later received 'a good chit.'

After the weekend to recover our breath, we were pleased to receive a visit from the Director of Army Education, **Major-General H. H. Evans, B.A.,** on 15th/16th March.

Major-General Evans is no stranger; apart from having visited the College in his former capacity of Chief Education Officer, Northern Command, he was born in Harrogate — 'Local boy makes good' indeed!

During his visit, **General Evans** made an exhaustive—though not, we trust, exhausting—tour of all aspects of College life. On the Monday evening he was entertained to supper in the Officers' Mess by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Furniss, M.A.,** R.A.E.C., the Senior Education Officer, and R.A.E.C. Officers and Civilian Lecturers at the College.



[*Photograph by Captain R. E. Buckee, R.A.E.C.*

A WELCOME VISITOR

Major-General H. H. Evans, Director of Army Education, with A/T Alan Harding, whose father is Sergeant Clerk (Tech.) in R. Signals, serving with 4th Division Signal Regiment

On 18th March we were honoured by a visit from the Chief of the General Staff, **General (now Field Marshal) Sir Geoffrey Baker, G.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., A.D.C.**

During his two-hour visit, the C.G.S. was shown a representative cross-section of College life, and charmed us with the great interest he took in what he saw and those whom he met.



[*Photograph by Mr. Stockley*

NEW SOCIAL CENTRE OPENED

Unveiling of plaque commemorating the opening of 'Jimmy's' Club by General Sir Geoffrey Baker

One of the highlights of the visit was when the C.G.S. very kindly opened 'Jimmy's' Club, the College's new social centre. Our photograph shows the General unveiling the plaque, made to commemorate this event.

This was a memorable visit—and a very memorable visitor: we trust that the General enjoyed his few hours away from the M.O.D. as much as we enjoyed having him.

Exhibition—'Your Technical Army'

This exhibition, mounted by Royal Signals and R.E.M.E., was held in the Bull Ring, Birmingham, from 15th to 20th March.

A party from the College, consisting of **Captain W. G. Lidster, B.E.M., Lieutenant I. Oddie, Sergeant D. C. Pugh, A/T Corporal Cross, A/T L/Cpl. Dullaghan, A/Ts Peacock, Innes** and **Degg,** accompanied by a Civilian Instructor, Mr. John Stockley, displayed a D11 station to the public, and operated a link back to the College.

Several thousand young men and women visited the show, and our apprentices favourably impressed a number of more experienced recruiters.

The exhibition was opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and the G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command, **Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.** In the course of the exhibition, the G.O.C.-in-C. exchanged messages with the Chief of the General Staff during the latter's visit to the College on 18th March. His signal read:

"The Royal Signals and R.E.M.E. team and I, surrounded by the youth, beauty and brains of Birmingham, send you every good wish. Public response to this exhibition is most encouraging."

The C.G.S. replied: "Thank you for your kind message. I received it also surrounded by youth and brains, but regret possibly less beauty."

The Instructor's comment: "I thought we'd got rid of C.G.C. Shouldn't it be M.K.S. now?"—we include for good measure, and in the hope that *all* our readers will understand it.

Hockey—young team nearly pull off final

The final of the Army Junior Hockey Cup was played between the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, and the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Artillery, on the ground of Loughborough College of Physical Education, on Saturday, 3rd April. It resulted in a win for the Royal Artillery by 3—2.

At the start, the Gunners—much the more experienced side—were noticeably quicker to the ball and went flat out for an early goal. The College, however, although looking distinctly shaky, survived, and after 15 minutes took the lead through a good goal by their centre-forward, **A/T Tom Wright.**

The Gunners were quick to retaliate: after forcing a penalty corner, their centre-forward and captain, **J/R.S.M. McIntosh,** found the net with a hard, rising shot. There followed a ding-dong struggle, but half-time found the College a goal in arrears, from a penalty stroke by **J/Gnr. Goode.**

In the second half, a series of all-out attacks by the College was repelled, and the Gunners increased their lead through a breakaway goal, again by **J/R.S.M. McIntosh.**

Further sustained pressure by the College led to the best goal of the match, when a swift interchange of passes left the Gunners flat-footed and **A/T Tillman** finished an excellent movement by neatly placing the ball in the goal on the wrong ' side of the 'keeper.

For the last 15 minutes, the College pressed continuously, but the Gunners had learnt their D.F. tasks too well, and the College were unable to break through.

And so, as the racing men say, we fell at the last hurdle—but it was no small feat to have come thus far. Indeed, there is no record of our having survived even the first round in previous years. That we contrived this year to reach the final—and that with 22 goals to our credit and none against—is its own comment on the efforts of **Major Bob Edwards** and his enthusiastic young eleven, of whom seven had never held a hockey stick in earnest until six months ago.

Team: **A/T P. F. Flintham; A/T Corporal R. W. Worth, A/T Corporal I. Cross (captain); A/T N. J. Hammett, A/T K. E. Birrell, A/T P. J. Jarvis; A/T K. Best, A/T W. Ardern, A/T S. M. Wright, A/T K. Tillman, A/T L. Groom.**

Basketball—and a nail-biting final

In the Army Junior Basketball Championships, held at Aldershot at the end of February, the College team retained the cup which they won last year.

In the qualifying round, we had a comfortable enough win, beating J.T.R. Troon by 102 points to 49. But the closing stages were pretty nail-biting affairs. In our first game—against Arborfield—the first time we took the lead was with our last basket, which gave us victory by 47—46.

The next match was full of interest, for it was against Chepstow, who had beaten us in the annual winter games earlier in the season. However, we reversed that result and beat them by 84-40.

In our final round we were matched with the Junior Leaders' Regiment, R.E., who had also won their two previous games, to give themselves, like us, four points. So we both had, literally, everything to play for.

By half-time we were trailing by 22 points, and it looked like 'curtains' for us. With five minutes to go, we had reduced the gap to ten points; with 60 seconds left, we were still six points behind; in the last half-minute we scored, to reduce the deficit to three; with seconds left, we were within one point of the championship. Literally as the time-keeper's finger approached the button to sound the final horn, we scored again, took the lead for the first time, and kept the cup.

Team: **A/T Sergeant Anderson, A/T Sergeant Hughes, A/T Rudd, A/T Corporal Pritchard, A/T Lance-Corporal Moore, A/T Jackson, A/T Johnson, A/T O'Donnell, A/T Tedby, A/T Lance-Corporal Turnbull.**

During the season, three of our apprentices—**A/T Sergeant Anderson, A/T Corporal Pritchard** and **A/T Jackson**—have regularly represented the Army Junior team. A fourth—**A/T Tedby**—has been added for the match against the Royal Navy (Junior) on 3rd April.

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22

WE are more than glad to see the spring here as we have had a very busy winter. We have had P.R.E. and tels. inspection and a Fitness for Role Inspection over the January, February and March period.

Exercise

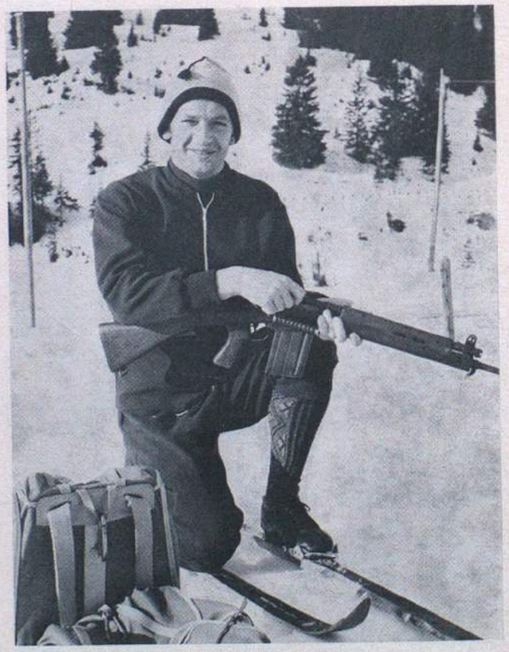
Exercise 'Ravens Ridge' came with the Ides of March and left 'not quite' the lamb. It was a most enjoyable exercise and all the many new faces learnt a great deal—they had to! During the exercise we were visited by just about everyone but we enjoyed their visits and we hope they did. We were particularly pleased to see **General Pentreath** and **General Horsfield** again and more than honoured to let **General Hönegger** see the Regiment deployed (see separate article).

SPORT

Ski-ing

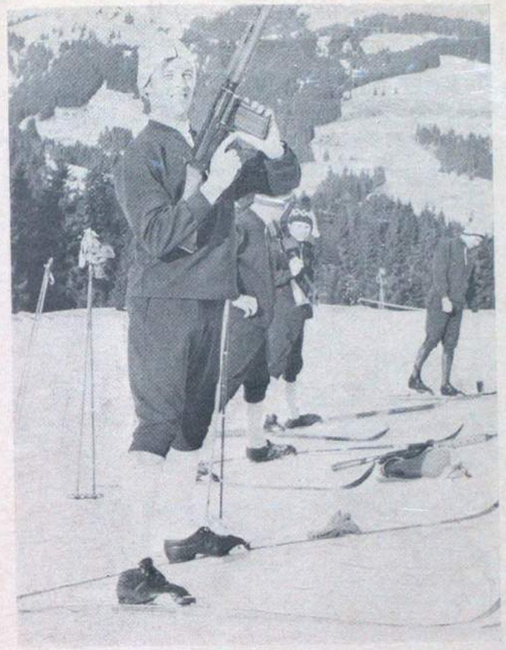
It was with sadness that we had to close the ski hut on 9th March but all good things have to come to an end. The ski team were particularly sad to leave as they made a large number of friends in the village of Petersthal.

The team consisted of **Second-Lieutenant Neeve, Corporal Thomas, Lance-Corporal Harris, Lance-Corporal Fox, Lance-Corporal Dilworth. Lance-Corporal Harris** and **Lance-Corporal Dilworth** are both unit ski instructors—in fact **Lance-Corporal Harris** is almost a Bavarian as he married a local girl last year. Both **Dilworth** and **Harris** instructed the 150 students who went through out Exercise 'Snow Queen' ski hut.



THIS IS THE LIFE (1)

Lance-Corporal Harris of the 2nd Division Signal Regiment is a keen skier and a proficient unit instructor too. A wonderful time can be had enjoying winter sports at the Army's expense



THIS IS THE LIFE (2)

Corporal Thomas in the foreground finds winter sports exhilarating as do Lance-Corporals Dilworth, Fox and Harris in the background

Canoeing

We would like to congratulate **Corporal Bingham** and **Lance-Corporal Hebdon** on the award of their Army Canoeing Colours. Both canoed for the Corps and Army last year.

Rugby

On 26th February we met 1 WG in the B.A.O.R. semi-final of the rugby and lost 29-3 on a very windy day. It is of interest to note that 1 WG met 7th, 2nd and 1st Signal Regiments on their way to winning the Army Cup. It is also of interest to note that four Russian Officers watched the game and asked many many questions about the game of rugby football.

3rd Division Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

The size astonished all

THE end of February saw us setting up for Exercise 'Pale Echo' on Tangmere airfield. The weather was generally kind to us, but very cold; this no doubt accounted for the swift movement of everyone between tents. The exercise was in our J.F.H.Q. Role, which we had not done for quite a long time, and the size of the complex astounded everyone who saw it for the first time.

Through the annual mill—with success

We returned from the exercise on 4th March and immediately started to prepare for our F.F.R. on the 22nd. All stores, offices and barrack rooms were critically inspected and prepared for the Staff visits, extra coffee was purchased so as to ensure they never went dry, and the Regiment prepared itself for the hundreds of questions and problems.

The big day dawned, and the Inspecting Officer, **Brigadier O. G. Pratt,** Commander 5 Brigade, arrived. He toured the camp looking into everything and at everybody, visited the Regiment passing through the R.C.T. air movements team being checked for an air portable move, went out to the ranges to see a squadron completing its battle efficiency tests, and a lot more items too numerous to mention. The Brigadier's visit to the Regiment ended by lunch with the Officers in the Officers' Mess, and judging by the smiling faces in the afternoon it seems the inspection went well; no doubt the written report will confirm this impression when it is received.

Volunteers are required . . .

In 2 Squadron the usual call went out, "Two volunteers are . . . (faces on parade showed gloom and apprehension) . . . required for switchboard duties in Norway." "Eh, what, where?" came the cry from the assembled 'Alphaites.' Names were drawn from '**Siggy**' **A. C. Brown's** grotty beret and **Signalmen Peter** and **Beynon** were despatched to H.Q. for briefing and kitting out. This is what **Signalman Beynon** had to say about the trip:

"**Signalman Peter** and I arrived in Bergen on 7th January by LSL *Sir Geraint* and then entrained to Voss, a town in the heart of the fjords. We were attached to the Logistic Support Battalion AMF(L) who were on a three-month winter warfare exercise. Our task was to operate the internal switchboard on Bomoen Camp which is eight kilometres outside Voss.

Voss is a popular ski resort, and was well subscribed with learners from all parts of Europe. Unfortunately our busy schedule enabled us to fit in very little ski-ing, but we did have a go!

One experience I shall never forget was a trip to a training area in the mountains acting as co-driver. The road to our destination was covered in ice and snow, and a 300-foot sheer drop on the driver's side did not help my nerves any, and when I drove on the return journey the drop looked even greater!

Our tour lasted six weeks, and we were relieved by **Lance-Corporal Willimott** and **Signalman Barnes** fresh out from Carter Barracks. I returned to the U.K. on an R.A.F. Britannia aircraft, leaving **Signalman Peter** marking time for a week, a slight over indulgence at the last night's farewell party delaying his departure."

Lighter moments with 'Alpha' Troop

The month of February has been unusually busy, H.F. trials, Jocomex's, C42 No. 3 new harness training and trials (oh, for those long-promised battery switches!), the Commanding Officer's inspection of everything, and we mean everything! C.O. to Troop Officer, "How many men in your Troop?"

"Sixty-nine, Sir."

C.O.: "How many were on parade this morning?"

O.C. Troop: "Twenty-two, Sir, about the usual number."

C.O.: "Where were the rest?"

O.C. Troop. "Five on course, three education, etc., etc."

C.O.: "That makes a total of seventy-six, how do you explain that?"

O.C. Troop: "Well, Sir . . . "...

Later, C.O. says to **Signalman Allen** of rebro troop, "Show me how that vehicle fire extinguisher works." **Allen** grabs said extinguisher and makes to strike and set it off, C.O. ducks for cover! "No," says C.O., "just pretend and point it away from us!" **Allen's** face shows disappointment, "Too much let's pretend," he mutters.

March promises to be even busier, if that's possible! Visits, inspections, new vehicles, vehicle spray teams, combat teams, three exercises and something called an Annual F.F.R.

Personality news

Sergeant Eddie Kellett has left us for a tour at R.M.A.S. as an instructor. Sorry to lose you, '**Ed,**' and all the best of luck at Sandhurst. We said Hullo' to **Sergeants Pete Cain** and **Geoff Shergold. Sergeant Chris Bartlett** is still with us but is due posting soon. Rumour has it he doesn't want to go! 1 Squadron congratulated **Signalman Heenan** on the birth of a son, and also **Lance-Corporal Shaw** on his marriage to **Miss Monica Kearns** (another lamb to the slaughter).

Second-Lieutenant Holden and a party of 20 men went to Okehampton to help Tonbridge School C.C.F. at their annual camp. They gave a working demonstration of some technical

equipments, and acted as enemy on their exercise on Dartmoor. All went well except that **Signalman Freeman** fell into a 'bog'; this added a delightful aroma to our camp, and the cadets had no difficulty in smelling us out, literally.

Finally we have actually had people looking at our barracks who, we are told, are the next occupants, so it looks like we really might be moving at long last. All Corps rifle shots will find it most strange, looking for the ranges from a new direction!

7th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 15

Arrivals and departures

MARCH saw the departure from the Regiment of many familiar faces and the arrival of an equal number of new faces. The Second-in-Command, **Major John Cathcart,** has left for the warmer climate of Cyprus where he is to join UNFICYP. He is replaced in R.H.Q. by **Major Dawson Pratt** who has joined the Regiment from the School of Infantry. We have also said goodbye to **Lieutenant Alan Kennedy,** to 11th Signal Regiment, and **Lieutenant John Finch** to 233 Signal Squadron. A warm welcome is extended to **Major Roger Cemm,** the new O.C. 4 Squadron, who has arrived from H.Q. Army Aviation Centre, and to **Second-Lieutenant Nick Mansfield** from his 'Q' course at the School of Signals.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have had so many departures during the past month that it was necessary to hold a 'departure party.' In fact this developed into a combined departure, arrival and promotion celebration. Sixteen members of the Mess have recently been promoted to higher rank and they were permitted to share the cost of drinks consumed on this occasion. Best wishes go to the following on their promotions and appointments:

W.O.2 T. Cushen to be R.S.M. of 6th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, **W.O.2 J. Roberts** to be R.S.M. of 14th Signal Regiment, and **W.O.2 R. Judge** to be R.S.M. of 3rd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

We also say farewell to **W.O.2 R. Coole, Sergeant A. Kubu, Sergeant H. Taylor, Sergeant A. Curnow, Sergeant B. Harrison** and **Sergeant J. Bamford,** R.E.M.E. In their places we welcome **Staff Sergeant J. Field, Sergeant N. Valentine, Sergeant D. Wright, Sergeant A. Dunbar, Sergeant B. McGerty** and **Staff Sergeant J. Wall,** A.C.C. **W.O.2 R. Judge** is to be congratulated on the award of his L.S. and G.C. Medal.

Hockey

After our hard-won battle in the 4th Division Final, reported in the last issue of THE WIRE, the Regimental XI met the 2nd Division finalist in the B.A.O.R. semi-final. This match was scheduled to be played by 15th March but was subsequently delayed. In the interim period the team travelled to Rheindahlen to meet a Combined Services' side, with a resultant 1-1 draw after a hard match, and consolidated their position in the 4th Division Major Units League by winning their way through to the League Final which has yet to be played. The new date set for the B.A.O.R. semi-final was 29th March at Herford. The game was against 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment from Berlin and although the sun shone it was the only happy note in a day which will be long remembered as one when the Gods deserted us. The Cheshires produced an experienced, well-balanced side and the stage was set for a first-class match. Within the first few minutes **Sergeant Thorburn** broke through and scored only to have the goal disallowed, and this was immediately followed by a solo run by **W.O.2 Hierlehy,** A.P.T.C., who, having beaten four defenders and the goalkeeper, shot just wide of the goal. To set the seal on the match **Sergeant Thorburn** hit the upright with a shot which had the goalkeeper going the wrong way. Right against the run of play the Cheshires scored from a loose ball in the 'D' and half-time saw us 1-0 down.

Early in the second half the Cheshires were awarded a penalty bully and made no mistake in increasing their lead to 2-0. We fought back and **Yeoman Hurn** broke through to bring the score to 2-1. From this moment on the Cheshires' goal bore a charmed life. The upright was hit twice and time and time again attacks were pressed home, the goal being missed by the narrowest of margins on numerous occasions and many fine saves being made by the Cheshires' goalkeeper. The Cheshires were completely on the defensive and the tension almost unbearable, but try as we might the equaliser just would not come. On the final whistle we had lost to a Cheshires' side who had stood their ground against everything we could throw at them. Team spirit and the will to win have been the hallmark of this year's team who have had such a successful season but, regrettably, postings and redundancy will thin the ranks very quickly. Before they go it would be appropriate to record their names: **W.O.2 Hierlehy** (A.P.T.C.) (since selected for the Army B.A.O.R. side) and **W.O.2 Cairns,** both of whom are posted to Bovington Camp, Dorset; **Lieutenant Saunders,** posted to 11th Signal Regiment, Catterick; **Sergeant Thorburn,** leaving the Services, and **Corporal Weaver** posted after attending course in the U.K. **Captain Clark, W.O.2 Loveday, Craftsman Welch** (R.E.M.E.), **Lance-Corporal Durkin, Staff Sergeant Hurn** and **Signalman Whale** will remain to form the nucleus of next season's bid for the Army Cup.

Shooting

In the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Small Bore Championships the Regimental team finished runners-up to 1 L.I. From a possible score of 3,200 1 L.I. scored 2,995 and the Regiment scored 2,984, only 11 points behind the winners. Our team in this competition was **Captain G. V. Raynor, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Kitchen, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hassall, Sergeant Bell, Corporal Barratt, Corporal Cadwallader, Signalman Barker** and **Corporal Turner,** R.E.M.E. The driver and mascot was **Lance-Corporal Fisher.**

Squadron news

4 Squadron welcome their new O.C., **Major R. Cemm.** His introduction to the Squadron is reported as being hectic—in his first 16 days in the Regiment he took part in 11-day exercise, took over a quarter, fetched half his family from Gutersloh, returned to the U.K. to hand over his last quarter, collected a son from boarding school and drove a very vintage car carrying two tons of kit back to B.A.O.R. No doubt his ability to move at this pace is a direct result of his recent tour with the Army Air Corps.



6 SQUADRON IN THE WINTER SNOWS
Photographed during Exercise "Fresh Breeze" were, *left to right:* Major N. G. P. Ansell (B.M.), Brigadier N. T. Bagnall, M.C. (C.R.A.C.), Major Chris Storey (O.C., 6 Squadron) and W.O.2 Jack Howker (S.S.M., 6 Squadron)

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Reconnaissance Radar for example.

M.E.L. designed, developed and now manufacture the Q-band 'sideways-looking' radar which enables the Phantom to fulfil its exacting reconnaissance role. The high-definition pictures received are equivalent to first-class photographs, but can, of course, be obtained under night and cloud conditions when results would be unobtainable with conventional optical cameras.

This equipment meets NATO requirements and is in quantity production as the world's only completely successful system of its type.

It is currently being evaluated by Commonwealth and Foreign Governments.

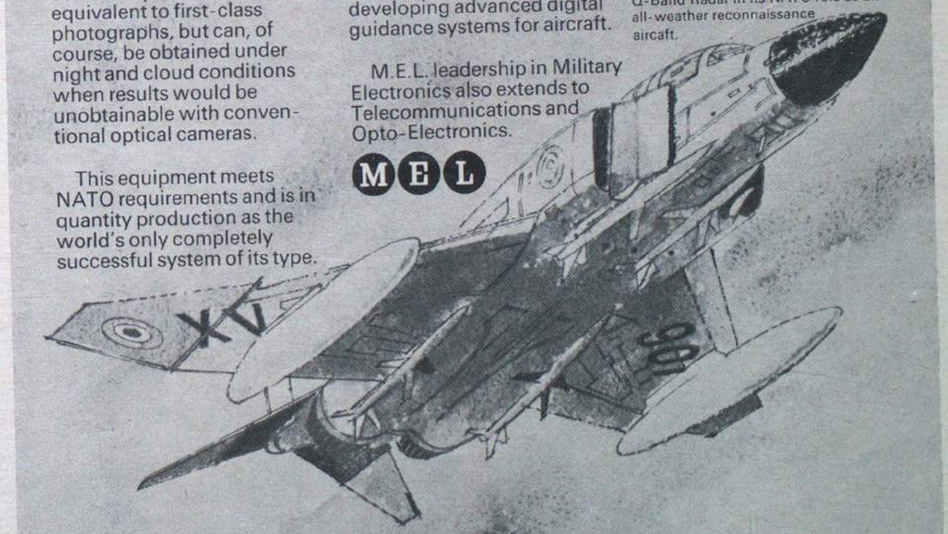
M.E.L., world leaders in microwave intercept systems, are also actively engaged in developing advanced digital guidance systems for aircraft.

M.E.L. leadership in Military Electronics also extends to Telecommunications and Opto-Electronics.

M E L

The M.E.L. Equipment Co Ltd, Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.

The Phantom is equipped with M.E.L. Q-Band Radar in its NATO role as an all-weather reconnaissance aircraft.



8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

C.V.H.Q. R.E.M.E. Motor Cycle Trial—Staff Sergeant Fayers selected for British Army

On Saturday, 20th March, 1971, the Regimental Motor Cycle Trials team, consisting of **Captain Gordon Davies, Staff Sergeant Tom Fayers** and **Signalman Tom Mitchell,** departed, hopefully, for Bordon to take part in the C.V.H.Q. R.E.M.E. Trial which, for the first time as an Army event, was run on the lines of the International Six-day Trial. The team was accompanied by its manager, **Captain Sid Howard.**

The trial started in good weather, although the preceding days had seen torrential rain, and the going over the course was extremely difficult. The course consisted of a number of cross-country stages and special tests, all against the clock. Typical of these stages would be: Lap two, stage three, 21 miles cross-country in 58 minutes. Entrants for the event included several international class riders including civilians on competition machines, and the teams included the Metropolitan Police and the Royal Marines.

Staff Sergeant Tom Fayers was third overall, which was a very fine performance and one that will stand him in good stead for the Scottish Three-day Trial when he will, once again, ride for the Army. Stop Press: **Staff Sergeant Fayers** has just heard that he has been selected to represent the Army in all the major International Motor Cycle Trials for 1971 including the Welsh and German Trials.

The team did not fare so well, and the famed Longmoor took its toll on the machines with **Signalman Mitchell** retiring after various troubles and **Captain Davies** failing to make the time in the final stage. The Regiment will be fielding a team in a conventional Army trial, again in the Bordon area, in May, and we wish them well.

Trade Training School achieves commendable results

As the principal task of this Regiment is trade training, we intend to comment on training matters from time to time.

Our picture shows **Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman,** Officer Commanding the Trade Training School, presenting a slide rule to **Lance-Corporal L. S. Lawton** as the best student of Basic Radio Relay Technician Course A9-1, which ended on 8th March, 1971. **Lance-Corporal A. P. Craddock** received a set of drawing instruments for achieving the most progress during his course. Radio Relay Basic Technician Course A10-2 achieved a new 'high' which we hope is the pattern for the future. Of 16 students, 14 left as Class II Technicians and two as Class III. Credit for this is mainly due to the hard work of **Captain Jim Storr,** their Course tutor.



[Courtesy Frank Roberts

BEST STUDENT

Lance-Corporal L. S. Lawton wins a slide rule as best student on his course. Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman makes the presentation

Rugby 1970/71

In anticipation of amalgamation, the teams of 8th and 24th Regiments combined for the start of the 1970/71 season. For many weeks throughout the season we have fielded two XVs, but with mixed fortunes.

We lost to A.A.C., Harrogate, in the second round Army Cup and to our old foes, 1 D.W.R., in the semi-final of the Northern Command Cup. We have, however, achieved victories over all other services' sides in the district.

By the end of the season we will have played 48 games. If you are scheduled to come to the Regiment in 1971/72 and are keen on rugby, there will be plenty of opportunity for you to play.

Hockey 1970/71

The hockey season which has just ended has been a full one. We have had mixed success. Having won the Northumbrian District Six-a-Sides, Northumbrian District League, Northumbrian District Knock-out Cup, Northern Command Inter Unit, we were beaten 2-0 by C.A.D. Kineton in the final of the Northern Zone Army Cup.

Profiles

We would like to mention, over the next few issues, members of the Regiment who are not of the Corps, but 'peculiar' to 8th Regiment and its training. **Captain G. C. Speight,** R.A.E.C., joined his Corps in 1948 and until 1961 was one of that now-departed, but much-lamented, body of men, the 'Schoolies.'

His first tour of duty was in Malaya where he spent three years with the Green Howards. In 1951, being considered sufficiently 'bloodied' by the most turbulent days of the Malayan Emergency, he was sent to the Apprentic College, Harrogate, to take charge of the Science lab.

In 1954 an understanding R.A.E.C. Records Office sent him to Korea, and, in 1955, back to Malaya for a further two years.

Those must have been the halcyon days of his service, for in 1957 he began a yet unfinished stint in training establishments which, apart from three years, has been spent entirely with Royal Signals.

George Speight was commissioned in 1961 and until 1967 was responsible for O.N.C. training at the Apprentice College, Harrogate.

In 1967 he arrived at 8th Regiment to take charge of the mathematical instruction of all technician courses. He was not to remain long as our tame 'Wrangler' for, after only a few months, he was appointed Group Supervisor, Basic Group, thereby becoming responsible for the teaching of subjects not normally the concern of the R.A.E.C. It says much for **George Speight's** interests and versatility that no one now thinks of him as anything other than Signals born-and-bred. Whether or not he would consider this a compliment is arguable. But on occasions a certain note of pride creeps into his voice when he is able to say of some Officer, Warrant Officer or Sergeant: "He was one of my boys."

There are a lot of **George Speight's** boys all over the world, and most of them are Royal Signals.



MANY WILL REMEMBER HIM

Captain George Speight has helped in the instruction of many soldiers of the Corps both at the Army Apprentice College and now at Catterick

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

THERE were two pass-off parades during the March period. The first was held on 5th March when 4 Troop were inspected by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Lidsey,** 1 Q.D.G., Commanding Officer 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards. The parade was held on a parade ground which had to be hastily cleared of snow beforehand, but no one froze in the cold which followed. Best recruit was **Signalman T. J. Thomas** who has now started training to be a Radio Relayman.

6 Troop had their parade on a very wet day on 19th March and were inspected by **Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Huxtable, M.B.E.,** 1st Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding). The rain luckily ceased a few minutes before the parade started and this did not mar the occasion. There were two best recruits in this large Troop, **Signalman K. Raistrick,** 'A' stream, and **Signalman C. C. Letchford,** 'B' stream.

It's a family life alright

Amongst the new recruits arriving at Darlington station on the afternoon of Wednesday, 24th March, were no fewer than three brothers from Huddersfield. Twenty-four-year-old **James** who is married with a nine-month-old son is trying for the clerk technical trade. Brother **Robert** (22 years) also married with a two-year-old daughter said that they decided to enlist quite separately, but when discovering one another's intentions thought it somewhat noteworthy, if they all paid their visit to Huddersfield A.C.I.O. together on 19th March. **Robert** is hoping to become a radio operator. Seventeen-year-old **Christopher** hopes to be a driver Royal Signals and like his brothers, with nine years' army life ahead of him, feels quite confident of outdoing the other two.



SOLDIERS THREE

Arriving at Darlington to join the Corps are James, Robert and Christopher Breslin

Farewell to the C.G.S.

The retiring C.G.S., **General Sir Geoffrey Baker,** paid his final visit to Catterick on Friday, 19th March, and Training Brigade Royal Signals said farewell in an informal way.

It poured with rain all morning during 11th Signal Regiment's Pass-off Parade, and we had visions of the C.G.S. saying goodbye to a select few inside various offices, but fortunately somebody kept the clouds at bay for the brief half-an-hour that the C.G.S. was with us.

All elements of the Training Brigade were represented on the square at Helles Barracks in an informal parade, and the C.G.S. was able to meet and talk to us. The White Helmets, led by **Captain Barry Rowe,** performed one of their new 1971 acts for the benefit of all to watch (schoolboys from schools in the West Riding were visiting the same day, and so not only did they see the Royal Signals but the 'head' of the British Army as well). Schemes Troop 8th Signal Regiment were there to show off their equipment while the Royal Signals Staff Band played marching music for No. 55 Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course drilled by **Staff Sergeant Gerry French** to demonstrate the immaculate footdrill they had learnt during their course! The C.G.S. made a point of talking to the majority of the course which meant that he met a good cross-section of senior N.C.O.s of the Corps. **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** Brigade Commander, then invited the C.G.S. to take the salute at a march/drive past. **W.O.I (R.S.M.) John Markham** formally asked if the parade could march off, and led by No. 55 R.S.S.C. the Training Brigade bade farewell to the C.G.S. As the C.G.S. left the Band played 'Auld Lang Syne' and his car was escorted out of Helles Lines by the White Helmets. We then told the weatherman to rise from his prayer mat!

Squash

Regimental squash this season has been extremely successful with the Regimental team reaching the final of the Northern Command team championships. On their way to the final they defeated strong teams from 1 D.E.R.R. and 8th Signal Regiment and we are confident of defeating our old rivals from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, in the final. This was not to be however, and the team, represented by **Captain John Radford, Captain Mike Carson, Lieutenant Peter Morgan, Sergeant Derek Legott,** and last but by no means least **Captain Brian Swift,** R.A.E.C., were defeated 3 games to 2.

In the Northern Command Squash Championships, **Sergeant Derek Legott** reached the semi-final of both the open and soldiers' competition. **Captain John Radford** succumbed eventually in the final of the open plate competition.

In the Catterick Garrison League both Regimental teams are doing well, placed first and second in the League at the present time. Farewell must also be said to John Radford who has led the team successfully and well during the last two seasons. We wish him success in his new job.

Rugby

Since the New Year fortunes for the rugby fraternity have been somewhat mixed. Two wins against Stockton, Winlaton Vulcans and 8th Signal Regiment have been outweighed by heavy defeats inflicted by Gosforth Falcons, Roundhay and A.A.C. Harrogate. As the playing strength of the Regiment has been rather slim results have not in fact been too bad and some of our other reverses have been the result of our own bad play rather than the excellence of our opponents. After two-and-a-half seasons we say farewell to our intrepid **Captain Peter Brooks,** who has undoubtedly learnt much during his reign and has become renowned in rugby circles throughout the North East for his flamboyant approach to playing at fly-half. His successor, **Lieutenant Chris Enright,** will no doubt carry on the good work along with other newcomers, **Corporal Dougie Ballantyne, Captain Brian Swift, Lieutenant Graham Gordon.** Our congratulations also go to **Lance-Corporal Ricky Johns** on his recent marriage; we wish him well.

Welcomes

We should like to welcome the following to the Regiment: **Captain Brian Swift** our new education officer from 3 A.E.C., **Lieutenant Graham Gordon** from 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment and now commanding 1 Troop, **Second-Lieutenant Martin Reid** and **Second-Lieutenant Roger Perrot** on attachment prior to attending their Royal Signals Officers' Qualifying Course at Blandford, **Sergeant Roger Parsons** from SHAPE, our new Legal Sergeant. Welcome also to the very latest members of the Regiment: A new son for **Captain John Radford,** daughter for **Sergeant Derek Leggott** and a son for **Corporal Len Kenyon.**

Farewells

Au revoir to **Captain Peter Brooks, B.A.,** who has moved down the road to 3 A.E.C. and **Lance-Corporal R. G. Broad** now a Sergeant A.P.T.C., and **Corporal R. Gartside** to 30th Signal Regiment.

13th Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 40

The social scene

WHERE did March go? It seems to have been a quiet month and so, heeding the recent strictures of The Editor, we have decided not to enquire too deeply! We have, however, finally found our 'Brain of Birgelen.' Sixty-four contestants entered, and after several weeks of intellectual activity on their part, **Elsie Armstrong** (wife of **Sergeant Ray Armstrong**) emerged as a worthy winner. Also in the social sphere we have a very successful 'Any Questions.' The panel consisted of: **Mrs. Christine Nice, Mr. John Russel** (Assistant Controller B.F.B.S., Koln), **Mr. Wain Rowan** (NAAFI District Manager), **Dr. Eugene O'Neil** (our Locum tenens) and **Corporal Bill Guest.**

The panel ably parried or answered a variety of questions on the important topics of today, and we had an enjoyable evening.

Sports bulletin

The cross-country season ended recently. We competed in the R.A.F./Rhine Area League and the local International Cross-Country League, which is organised by a neighbouring Royal Nederlands Army Unit. Although our final placings in the Leagues are not yet known, we feel we have had a successful season. **Signalman Mick Rideout** has distinguished himself, particularly in the International League. He has usually been placed second, being beaten only by the German Air Force champion. We hosted the International League Meeting on 9th March, and the competition was stiff. The Regiment emerged equal third, with **Signalman Mick Rideout** in his usual place.

Triple L.S. and G.C. at F.F.R.

The Deputy Commander of Rhine Area **Colonel D. A. Gilchrist,** accompanied by **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. C. Baldwin,** inspected the Quarter Guard and presented the L.S. and G.C. medal to our three stalwarts during our recent F.F.R. As our regular readers will know, the recipients were aware of their responsibilities and the Sergeants' Mess had a very enjoyable evening!



ALL VERY CORRECT AND ALL VERY SMART
Colonel D. A. Gilchrist, Deputy Commander of Rhine Area, accompanied by the Officer-in-Charge Lieutenant-Colonel Baldwin, inspects the Quarter Guard of 13th Signal Regiment

Bowman of Birgelen

Our Archers have recently achieved one of their ambitions by being elected into a Provincial Dutch Archery League. This League consists of 30 teams within the Province of Limburg. It is divided into four groups: Superior, 'A,' 'B' and 'C' division. The team has a difficult task ahead but is prepared to work hard to gain promotion. To give some idea of the standard our team has to achieve: the best team in the League last year scored, in the three matches, 1,486 points out of a total possible score of 1,800 points! This means that each arrow of 180 must score at least eight points from ten every time! Our next meeting is a friendly contest at Echt in Holland. For this meeting the team will be: **W.O.I (F. of S.) Harry Saxton, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob Phippard** (captain), **Corporal 'Sandy' McGhee** (R.P.C.), **Private John Coulthard** (R.P.C.), **Sapper 'Taff' Holman** (R.E.) and **Master Paul Saxton.**

Sergeants' Mess

Earlier this month we said farewell to **Sergeant Dave Bullard** and his wife **Gaye,** both very popular members of the Mess. We wish them well in Blandford where **Dave** is attending a Foreman's Course. **Sergeant Jim Sherwin,** Intelligence Corps, has also left us. **Jim** has been claimed by 'Civvy Street' and has returned, like the prodigal son, to his native Colwyn Bay to assist in his father's business. If we have 'any old iron' we all know where to head for! A sad loss to the Mess and our best wishes go with him.

Congratulations to our latest promotions, **Sergeants George Hedge** and **Paul Grocott,** who traditionally pushed the boat out on their first evening in the Mess.

Arrivals

Staff Sergeant A. Feldon, Staff Sergeant P. Finnigan, Sergeant R. E. Watson, Sergeant M. Taylor.

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

Spreading the foul disease

THOSE who read last month's WIRE will remember that a Troop of this Regiment under **Lieutenant Graham Thomas** recently exercised in Nassau in the Bahamas. This visit was by no means the first by members of this Regiment so to mark our appreciation of the great welcome and assistance we have received, from many people and agencies whilst on these exercises, we sent some Corps plaques to record the stay on the island. There is no doubt that these plaques were enthusiastically received but little did we realise how 'catching' they were—but let the following extract from a letter of thanks to the Commanding Officer speak for itself:

Nassau, 1st March, 1971.

Dear Sir,

I was truly delighted to receive the plague last week. It will serve as a fond reminder of a group of men who proved themselves excellent diplomats of the mother country.

We recently had similar pleasant social and recreational sporting contacts with a group of Marines and Signals men.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

* * *

Change of organisation

As the result of both the demand for immediate officer and man-power cuts throughout the Corps and after a couple of years' practical experience, the Regiment has, almost overnight, reduced from three to two radio squadrons.

For those not familiar with the old and new organisations the following detail will be of interest.

Organisation until 31st January, 1971

H.Q. Squadron, Admin., M.T. and 'Q' Troops; 1 Squadron (Medium Radio), 'A' and 'B' Troops (2 x D13 each), 'C' Troop (2 x D11); 2 Squadron (High Power Radio), 'D' and 'E' Troops (1 x E21 each); 3 Squadron (Satellite Radio), 'S' and 'T' Troops (1 x UK/TSC-500 each), 'M' Troop (Tels. Wksp.).

Organisation from 1st February, 1971

H.Q. Squadron, Admin., 'M,' M.T. and 'Q' Troops; 1 + 2 Squadron (Identical), each one Medium Radio Troop (2 x D13), one High Power Radio Troop (1 x E21), one Saellite Radio Troop (1 x UK/TSC-500).

Thus saving some three officers and some 28 men who will either be posted or not replaced when posted at the end of their current tour.

This new organisation is not without some small disadvantages but these are more than evened out by such advantage factors as producing two identical squadrons (perfect for administrative chores, demonstrations and sports, etc.) and the enforced widening of the specialist knowledge of the rather unique equipment of the old 2 and 3 Squadrons.

EXERCISE 'VIOLIN'

This domestic exercise was the first to be carried out under the new organisation of the Regiment. The two D13 Troops, lately 1 Squadron and now one each from 1 and 2 Squadrons, were deployed on a 'warming-up' exercise. One Troop was sent to Barry Budden in Scotland and the other to Blandford.

'Alpha' Troop, 1 Squadron, report successful exercise bar some breaks in communication occasioned by 'Bravo' Troop, 2 Squadron

We recently visited sunny Blandford to take part in Exercise 'Violin'—an exercise planned to carry out tests on specific frequencies, to give our new operators experience of the equipment and to have an extensive traffic phase.

The distant end was at Barry Budden where our sister Troop, 'B' of 2 Squadron, manned the D13 there. As the Troop had now left the Squadron for the lower reaches of 2 Squadron we had some misgivings as to their ability to keep up to our standards of communications; however, in the event, they were not too bad. At Blandford it was wet and windy (is it ever anything else there?) but this misery was largely dispersed by the many kindnesses and help we received from the O.C. of 1 Squadron, 30th Signal Regiment, **Major M. J. H. Williams,** his Sergeant-Major, **W.O.2 D. W. L. Crisp,** and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, **W.O.I H. Jennings.**

The Troop Foreman of Signals **Staff Sergeant F. Gadman** built a bi-conical mono pole aerial for the exercise and was determined to try it out. Unfortunately, he did not get a lot of opportunity for, by the time he had got his 'invention' erected, a sloping vee had been constructed and was thumping out signals for those who cared to listen at Barry Budden. Having so quickly established communication, the commcentre were reluctant to give up the circuit to the Foreman. However, after much charm and—it is rumoured—not a little threatening, **Staff Sergeant Gadman** was allowed to have his way and proved (to his satisfaction anyway) that his aerial was a working proposition. Generally a most successful exercise with the few breaks in communication being due to equipment and aerial faults at Barry Budden where, it is claimed, the wind blew the aerial down—we suppose it was put up correctly in the first place—but then of course they are in 2 Squadron now.

'Bravo' Troop, 2 Squadron, report successful exercise bar some breaks in communication occasioned by 'Alpha' Troop, 1 Squadron

Exercise 'Violin' was Regimental sponsored exercise between SR D13 detachments located in Scotland and Dorset. This Troop set off for the frozen north by road and by courtesy of our supporting R.C.T. company. After staging overnight with the Depot Squadron at Catterick we arrived as dark was falling at Barry Budden. The camp is but a collection of huts on the windswept north shore of the Tay estuary—the best thing that could be said for it is there is plenty of room for aerials with no natural obstructions. Trees, for example, could not survive there. The antenna trials and traffic phases of the exercise went extremely well though there were some exciting moments. The first night saw severe winds at Blandford causing the aerials there to collapse, thus breaking communications (if only these 1 Squadron people could put up aerials properly). The next night we were blasted by a howling gale which threatened to blow away the cabins, let alone the aerials, but we survived and the only breaks in communications were caused by 'Alpha' Troop at Blandford trying out some home-made aerial. The following night the Troop were startled into thinking that world war three had started for we came under heavy attack from a T. & A.V.R. battlion who, on their own exercise, mistook our aerial lights for some beacon of their own. Fortunately, through a combination of the use of blank and pretty awful marksmanship, we are uninjured.

The next day, the Troop had to fight a heath fire which had been caused by a model aeroplane crashing. The speed with which it spread was terrifying. The head of the civilian fire brigade was horrified when **Sergeant K. D. Barsby** informed him that the SR D13 station, the aerial field and the generator fuel store were in the path of the fire.

So the exercise ended, we of 'Bravo' Troop being justifiably pleased with our efforts on the exercise. The traffic time was good and perhaps, when 'Alpha' Troop have brushed up a little, will be even better on the next such exercise.

Regimental Editor's note

It is pleasing to be able to record—as is shown in the above two reports on the same exercise—that even in this super-modern, go anywhere, 14th Regiment, respect is paid to such great and well established Corps traditions that, in all breakdowns of communication, the responsibility is that of the other end. As for the fire—alas the Troop report ceases as abruptly as quoted. It is not clear whether the fire terminated the exercise or a hasty retreat was made. Did 'Bravo' Troop escape?—See next month's chapter of this thrilling serial.

Personality parade

Arrivals. Welcome to: **Major J. L. Botterill,** from 10th Regiment to become O.C. H.Q. Squadron; **Lieutenant R. A. J. Gardner,** from 11th Regiment to 2 Squadron; **W.O.I J. K. Roberts,** from 7th Regiment to become R.S.M.; **Staff Sergeant H. Ryall,** from 21st Regiment; **Staff Sergeant A. Leary,** from 31st Regiment (V).

Departures. Farewell and thanks to: **Major P. B. Clark,** to Depot Held Strength; **Major J. E. Parker,** W.R.A.C., to retirement; **Captain I. E. Kerr,** to 2nd Regiment; **W.O.I D. H. M. Rumsey,** to 10th Regiment on commissioning; **Staff Sergeant C. V. Forth,** to Trucial Oman Scouts; **Staff Sergeant A. Jamieson,** to 7th Regiment; **Staff Sergeant R. Paterson,** to 222 Squadron on promotion; **Staff Sergeant K. O. Davis,** to 21st Regiment on promotion; **Sergeant R. Bates, Sergeant T. H. C. Cartwright, Sergeant P. C. Smurthwaite,** to School of Signals; **Sergeant V. S. B. Johnson,** to A.C.I.O., Liverpool; and **Sergeant N. C. Hall,** to 252 Squadron.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

Double shuffle

HAVE you ever wondered what it must be like to be one of the 52 cards in a pack? If you joined 22nd Signal Regiment, at the moment you would get a fair idea! As the saying goes, "It's all happening." The 'dealer' in command has shuffled, cut and played his new hand, known as 4 Squadron. Commanded by **Captain John Barrett** this five-card trick is responsible for all the T.E.V.s 'A' and T.E.V.s 'B' in the Regiment. It's a winner too as you will see from the Exercise 'Ravens Ridge' report below. But like all 'thinking' card players the 'dealer' kept a little extra up his sleeve. A blink of the eye, a flick of the wrist and **Major Hugh Bonaker** found himself commanding 1 Squadron, **Captain John Dawson** having left us for the School of Signals. The Squadron expressed their opinion that **John** had been ACE, by presenting him with an inscribed tankard. We wish both he and his wife **Valerie** the best of luck at Blandford. **Captain Tom Scarff,** dealt from the bottom of the pack, from lines in Bahrein, has found himself plunged into the realms of 'Bruin,' as the new Operations Officer.

At the other end of the scale we say goodbye to one of the Jokers in the pack—in the nicest sense—**Signalman Hel'iwell. Helliwell** is a mild, seemingly tiny soldier, not the smartest in the Regiment but somehow in spite of his size one who manages to manoeuvre three-tonners into impossible positions. Always perky in spite of much micky taking, we will miss him and wish him luck.

The cross-country and athletics pack are going to suffer as we are also losing **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** to 4 RTR. However we welcome **Second-Lieutenant Shepherd** as the turnover continues.

Visit of Officer i/c Records

It's always very easy to come out with all the stereotyped phrases reserved for comments on official visits but there is no

doubt that very many soldiers of the Regiment were impressed by the honest, candid and professional approach made by **Colonel Masser.** Straight talk, clear presentation and a bit of humour, held the interest of a packed cinema. A very useful visit indeed.

Do you smoke?

The 'Regiment' has stopped smoking! By that I mean it has at last received with great ceremony its 'Security Incinerator.' It was with great sadness that we finally put aside the 'Oil Drum.' **Lieutenant Brian Adcock,** custodian 3 Squadron, has bought himself a comb again in the belief that his hair and eyebrows may now grow.

Exercise 'Ravens Ridge'—and we field the largest of Commcens

The peace and quiet of the area immediately surrounding Churchill Barracks was shattered very early on 15th March, as the first elements of the Regiment moved out, to meet the annual challenge of the C.C.R. Signals exercise. As we pulled through the main gate the whole Regiment was tuned to tackle anything that the Brigadier may task us with. Spirits were high and being a well-exercised Regiment all were confident that their oft rehearsed drills would cope.

It was in anticipation of an interesting 12 days ahead that the convoys reached out for their initial locations. It wasn't long before these were reached, communications established and the Regiment slipped into overdrive. We were fielding 4 Squadron for the first time, a new concept, with the Squadron Commander, **Captain John Barrett,** playing a keen-eyed 'mother hen' to all the T.E.V.s 'A' and 'B.' **John** had an exceptionally busy time with his area of responsibility covering an almost immeasurable square kilometerage. However the exercise qualified the wisdom of the decision to form 4 Squadron. 3 Squadron, the previous 'mother hen,' certainly had enough to do, coping with Commcen Uniform, which is surely now the largest Commcen in the Corps area. At one time during the exercise its connections ran into double figures! Run by a Commcen Command consisting of only three officers, life became exceedinly difficult, as it moved up the contours into the bad weather, mist, mud and the dreaded ice. Masts refused to budge, vehicle engines dampened to the big ends the move of Uniform was a 'ginormous' task. With no second Commcen in support it's a large feather in 3 Squadron's cap that communications were out for only a few hours. Drive was the order of the day. One officer was seen to be transferring the heat of his body to a Clark mast in liquid form! It worked; down it came leaving a rather astonished Radio Relayman, puzzled as to how an Officer could retain his dignity in such a 'technical' pose!

The highlight of the exercise was of course the visit of the S.O.-in-C.—we had managed to recce ourselves into a Schloss owned by the 'Graf Spee' dynasty. We had everything, imposing entrance, staircase, bath and that luxury of luxuries a flush toilet.

The **General** started his visit at the R.C.P., where he met **Captain (T.O.T.) Ray Boulter, Captain (Traffic) John Culbert, Operations Major Hugh Bonaker** and Operations Designate **Captain Tom Scarff. Ray Boulter** we claim to be unique, working permanent nights, Commcen Command Uniform claim he has invented a new language Moggilese.' They claim that from 3 a.m. he 'Moggles' continuously.

After visiting R.C.P. and Commhead November the S.O.-in-C. was entertained to lunch by the Officers and Seniors in the Schloss.

Finally, the exercise finished with the C.O. being entertained along with other C.O.s to dinner at main 1st British Corps. Also attending the dinner was a group of civilian scientists, one of whom asked **Colonel Cooper** if his Regiment actually had a barracks to return to or did we live in the field all the time! No comment!

The WIRE

Without it—
You're not With it!

28th (BR) Signal Regiment
(NORTHAG), B.F.P.O. 35

Farewell to Colonel Mischke

IT is difficult to believe that, at the end of three years with the Regiment, for the second time only am I attempting to process WIRE notes through the censor! However, as fish and wildfowl take leave when I take up rod and gun, so do my fellowmen when it comes to amassing material for publication! Necessity being the mother of invention and with the adoption of certain package productivity agreements such as leave passes suspended, black and white television only being allowed, Sergeants' Mess expenditure reduced to four figures for one month, the material has come forth!

On 12th March the Units comprising NORTHAG Signal Support Group held a parade to bid farewell to **Colonel Mischke. W.O.I (R.S.M.) Brian Turner** was parade R.S.M. for the occasion and managed to get everyone to manoeuvre more or less in formation. When dealing with German, Dutch, Belgian, and your own men all cavorting to a Belgian band, those immortal words "In your time" feature very prominently and the occasion was deemed a success.

2 Squadron S.H.Q. won the inter-Troop quiz. This contest proved a great success and we are grateful to **Captain 'Robbie' Burns** and **R.S.M. Brian Turner** for all the research and time they gave to this event.



FAREWELL TO COLONEL MISCHKE

Colonel Mischke accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel I. Macdonald inspects the guard comprised of: (r. to l.) Lance-Corporal Clark, Signalman Morris (158), Signalman Carver and Signalman Smith (171)

Exercise 'Franski'

Oberammergau is an international winter ski resort in South Bavaria at an altitude of 950 metres. This picturesque mountain village of wood carvers and sculptors, is not only the site of the world-famous Passion Play every 10 years but is also the location this Regiment chooses for Exercise 'Franski' each year. This year, 60 all ranks in three parties of 20, spent a fortnight in the Bavarian Alps learning how to ski.

The first party, commanded by **Lieutenant Chris Greig,** departed Francisca Barracks by coach at 22.00 hours on Saturday, 16th February, for the 460-mile journey to South Bavaria. After travelling throughout the night they arrived at Werdenfelsen Kaserne, Murnau, early on Sunday morning. This is the home of the 8th Mountain Signal Battalion of the German Army, commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel Hafke,** who were our hosts for the duration of the exercise. Monday morning was spent in fitting each man with ski boots and skis and went quite smoothly until **Craftsman Elliott, R.E.M.E.,** mentioned his size 14 feet. After a search of all the stores in the battalion, a pair of ski boots were eventually found to fit him. Then to the



CLANG!

Corporal Bissett and Signalman Patterson meet while ski-ing!

slopes and down to the serious business of mastering the intricacies of snow ploughs, stem turns, etc. The instructors — soldiers provided by the battalion—were very patient and after a fortnight's tuition turned out quite proficient skiers. **Signalman McMahon** was standing at the bottom of the slope, minding his own business, when someone crashed into him. Result — a badly twisted ankle and a foot encased in plaster for the remainder of the fortnight. During the exercise weekend visits were made to places of interest in the area, the monastery of Ettal was one of the places visited. Founded in the 11th century it is famous for its Ettalic Liqueur, distilled in the monastery from the roots of mountain plants 'Enzian.' Schloss Linderhof and Schloss Neuschwanstein, near the medieval town of Fussen, both built by mad King Ludwig of Bavaria, proved to be very interesting. Visits were also made to nearby Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Having returned to camp we find the Regiment well represented in R.A.F. Hospital Wegberg, with **Captain Denis Bees** and **Lieutenant Roger Howard** nursing their injuries. It is said that at 10.00 hours on 7th March a furious outburst almost caused an avalanche but for the audio frequencies of Welsh. At this time **Captain Bees** (Ski-ing Officer) crashed to the ground and sustained a shoulder injury. He will be impossible to live with on his return to duty as it is rumoured he has had 100 copies made of his X-ray plate showing his 3in., 2 BA, countersunk screw which now holds him together. What with these injuries plus **Sergeant Skillicorn's** shattered incisors the exercise has left its mark.

Catering Competition

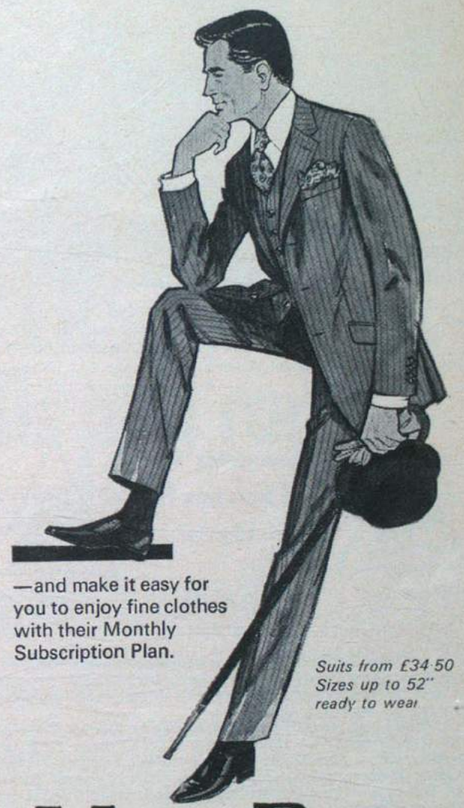
Having been the Army Champion Cooks for two years in succession our soufflés have temporarily sunk and we have had to hand back one shield but retain the Rhine Area trophy. **Corporal Bob Skinner,** however, attained best of class in the B.A.O.R. Table d'honneur with his *Truites de Riviere Glacees Andrea*—and this at his first attempt ever.

CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required

by the WELFARE SECTION

Moss Bros would like you to take the credit for being well dressed



—and make it easy for you to enjoy fine clothes with their Monthly Subscription Plan.

Suits from £34·50
Sizes up to 52"
ready to wear

Moss Bros

Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8JB
(near Leicester Square station)
Lime Street, E.C.3 and Branches
And now Au Bon Marché in Paris

Moss Bros are buyers of Army, Naval and R A F Swords, Sporting Guns, Fishing Rods and Tackle, Saddlery, Ski Equipment, Golf Clubs and everything that men wear.

Official tailors to the Royal Signals



The soccer team of 19 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron which has not lost a match so far. Much of the team's success has been due to the inspiring efforts of W.O.I. D. G. Thomas *(third from left, front row)* **who has now left the unit**
In the photograph, left to right, back row: **Corporal Clark, Signalman Aldous, Signalman Roe, Driver Ellam, Corporal Cloak**
Front row: **Lance-Corporal Walton, Lieutenant C. J. Walters, W.O.I (R.S.M.) D. G. Thomas, Major P. S. Reader, W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. M. Sanderson, Lance-Corporal Langley, Signalman Cochrane**

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) Colchester

ONCE again it is time to inform you that 19 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron still exists. It has been a busy time in the Squadron since the Christmas festivities ended.

In January the Brigade Staff were exercised in a CPX and casualty clearing exercise. For the latter the squadron provided 50 stretcher bearers who demonstrated to the Field Ambulance how the job should be done.

In March the Squadron seemed to live at Hawley Common. The month began at Hawley with 'A' Division CPX and finished with a team under the DAA-QMG running the Staff Logistic Demonstration. Our linemen under **Corporal Hawtin** laid line to each stand in record time and reeled it in, in half the time allocated.

The demonstration was a great success and special mention should go to **Corporal Mullen** and **Private Haines,** our two cooks, who did a marvellous job with their No. 1 burners.

Visits

This month we were visited by **Major-General D. W. Scott-Barrett, M.B.E., M.C.** The camp changed shape overnight for the visit under the expert supervision of our new R.S.M.

Training

This month sees the end of the Regimental Signallers' Class I course. Students from various infantry battalions have lived with us since 1st February and been instructed in all manner of electronic wonders by 'A' Troop, 'M' Troop and 'J' Troop, supervised by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Wall.**

M.T. Troop have also been fully occupied, especially as several R.C.T. drivers have been risking life and limb as driving instructors for 2 Royal Anglian.

The White House Staff spends early Monday and Friday mornings at fitness training—not in camp, but at Roman Way, out of sight. The remainder of the squadron do circuit training and physical jerks in camp, with nothing to hide. It is surprising how many odd fellows turn up from administration nitches!

Sport

Our sporting energy has been concentrated on football this season. The team under the captaincy of **W.O.I Thomas** hasn't lost a game so far. The team was sorry to lose its captain, but is carrying on the good work under **Signalman Aldous.**

Arrivals and departures

We said goodbye this month to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) D. G. Thomas,** who has just received his commission. We are about to lose **W.O. (R.Q.M.S.) E. T. A. Webster,** who is to be R.S.M. of 7th Signal Regiment. We are sorry to see these two personalities go, but we wish them and their families all the best for the future.

We welcome to the Squadron **W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. M. Sanderson** and **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) A. F. Horne,** and wish them a pleasant stay at Colchester.

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Home —79p each plus 8p post
Abroad—70p each plus 8p post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals £1.50
Pace Sticks ... ...

ERNEST GOODRICH
Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites
44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY



WARRANT OFFICERS, N.C.O.'s— bring your skills and rank to Australia

Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army–or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank and acquired specialist skills. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain–and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain you receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity.

Don't leave it any longer!
Your trade may be included in those available and this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London–or post the coupon for all the facts.

Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name_____
Address_____
_____
_____

Age_____ Married/Single_____
Rank_____ Corps_____
Trade_____
Anticipated Discharge Date_____

**To: Captain J. R. Godwin,
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356**

223 Signal Squadron (Radio) Winchester

Change of command

MAJOR John Ingledow has now assumed command of the unit from **Major Tony Bushell. Major Ingledow** joins us from 38th Signal Regiment (V) based in Sheffield. He says he is looking forward to his tour of duty in Winchester as he has never served in this part of the country before. He is married with three young children.

With the departure of **Major Bushell** to warmer climes—he is to command 222 Signal Squadron during its run-down in Bahrein—late March and early April have been somewhat hectic. Dinners and get-togethers have been the rule rather than the exception with both Messes and the J.R.C. competing to see who could exhaust the **Bushell** family the most!

Members of the J.R.C. were very pleased when **Major and Mrs. Bushell** collected one of the raffle prizes at their farewell Disco Dance. The committee insist there is no truth in the rumour that it was a fiddle!

An amusing incident occurred when the Sergeants' Mess dined him out. In responding to the President's speech of farewell, **Major Bushell** mentioned that he strove for brevity in any speech he made. "Yes," came an anonymous rejoinder from somewhere down the table, "Come in! Guilty! Get out!" **Major Bushell** likes a joke on himself better than most; so he just hooted with laughter.



APPRECIATION

Major A. R. Bushell receives a farewell token from the Sergeants Mess presented by W.O.2 (S.S.M.) C. Meredith. On right is Captain S. Brice

Mad scientist

We must tell you about our mad scientist. One of our technicians, **Corporal Brian Furlong,** no doubt inspired by a recent T.V. programme about a chap who made a 'bomb' hunting for money on a Bournemouth beach, decided to build himself a metal detector. The end-product, while it didn't detect metal, did pick up Radio 4 with ease. Oddly enough, it was particularly good on religious programmes. The Boss, **F. of S. Norman Collier,** is convinced it has something to do with a recent Christian Leadership course **Furlong** attended.

Orienteering

The clarion call of 'To the woods' carries no ominous undertones for the unit orienteering team. Recently formed, this determined little group comprising **Corporals Dereck Scott** and **Mick Skinner,** and **Lance-Corporals Tim Axtell, John Jaggard** and **Fred Simpson,** led by **Staff-Sergeant David Etherton,** has been into the surrounding countryside often. The sight of them all dashing madly about clutching maps and compasses has become a common one.

They put up a very creditable performance in a non-competitive event at Aldershot and are about to make a foray to Sandhurst where an R.C.T. sponsored event takes place on 7th April.

Fitness for Role Inspection

9th February saw our annual Fitness for Role Inspection under our belts for yet another year. The Chief Signal Officer, Strategic Command, **Brigadier Proudman, M.B.E.,** gave us a careful going over and pronounced himself satisfied with the result. For a change we were not knee-deep in snow and, instead of a raging blizzard like last year, the day was only overcast with occasional drizzle.

Visitors

On 16th March **Colonel Winn,** Commander of 1 Signal Group, spent the day with us saying his farewells. The unit was, in many ways, sad to see him go as he has proved a good friend to us in the past.

Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E., having assumed command of 1 Signal Group, paid us a visit on 6th April.

The social whirl

Despite the general claim that the first quarter of the year is pretty dead, the Messes and the Andromeda J.R.C. continued with their social whirl. The Andromeda had itself several well-attended dances and also a stag, cabaret night.

The Sergeants' Mess managed to time a visit to the Courage Brewery to coincide with a potential beer-famine caused by some form of industrial action there. The return journey proved quite hilarious.

A games evening, Sergeants versus Officers, Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants, proved that the younger generation have agile minds—and bodies. The Sergeants won.

Jolifications to welcome **Major and Mrs. Ingledow** are expected throughout the rest of April.

SPORT

Squash rackets

Royal Signals v. Royal Army Education Corps. Result: Royal Signals won 3-2. **Captain Cornforth** lost to **Cooper; Captain Lowe** lost to **McManus; A/T. Dean** beat **Protheroe; A/Sergeant Sinclair** beat **Reese;** and **Lieutenant Baynes** beat **Naylor.**

This was a friendly match played at Chelsea Barracks. The teams had been selected in order that the match would be a close one, and this is how it turned out, the result depending on the 5th string's match which was the last game played.

It was the first time that **Dean and Sinclair,** both of A.A.C., Harrogate, had played for the Corps and they performed well. They were up against experienced players, but they stuck to their task and won. In a few years' time both could be good players.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Carnival

IN common with the Rhineland, Maastricht and the province of Limburg celebrates carnival. This is a revelation, as staid Dutch burghers cast off all inhibitions and surrender to Bacchus. Festivities during this period tend to make the permissive society resemble a church fete.

Our British members thoroughly approved and joined in with enthusiasm. So much so that **Corporal 'Barney' Harris** and **Signalman 'Yorkie' Trollope** were still nursing sore heads a fortnight later. **Sergeant Ken Hornblower** is now an authority on carnival songs and still sounds as if he has a bad attack of laryngitis.

S.S.M. Bert Bowes found a pub with 100 per cent male clientele; very strange during carnival. He reports that he left with all haste when they insisted in calling him dearie and requesting the next dance.

(*Continued on page* 201)

(*Continued from page* 200)

Lieutenant Alan Pearce attended the Maastricht Policemen's Carnival Ball and to the surprise of everyone was released at the end of it.

The roseate hue which was once common to all eyes is now subsiding whilst everyone counts the days to the next one.

Military Training?

The O.C. **Major Bill Morgan** has recently returned from the N.A.T.O. Staff Officers' Advanced Weapons Orientation Course organised by the Americans at Oberammergau. Quite fortuitously, this course missed the famous passion plays but coincided with the Munich carnival. The only response elicited by queries on the carnival is an enigmatic smile and the reply, "It was a very interesting and worthwhile course."

Our **S.S.M. Bert Bowes** has obviously taken a page out of the O.C.'s book and acquired some American films on weapons and fire power, which he has been showing to the senior N.C.O.s. Whilst the weapons concerned were of larger calibre than those normally used by our members, it has certainly given them an appreciation of what is available, and how they can be most effectively used. Our seniors were most enthusiastic and look forward to further training of this nature.

Sailing

Having survived the 1970 sailing season our intrepid **R.Q.M.S. Colin Johnson** is now busy refurbishing the squadron dinghy ready for the start of the 1971 season. Although his frequent excursions to the sub aquatic do not seem to have damped his enthusiasm for the sport, they have certainly influenced his approach to it.

He has decided that the portion of the boat most frequently seen should be as near perfect as possible. As a result of this decision the underside of the hull has a glass-like, high gloss finish. It is also embellished with the words 'Help, Hilfe, Hulp Aide,' in brilliant scarlet letters. This caters for the cosmopolitan sailing community which frequents Ohe En Laak, and ensures that regardless of race they will realise that **Colin** is submerged once more and requires assistance. Another innovation is individual throat sprays for helmsmen; this is designed to stave off laryngitis and ensure that they cry out "Capsize" in clear dulcet tones.

Karate

The squadron now has a thriving Tae Kwon Do karate club with an enthusiastic membership of 15. This club was formed in April, 1970, by **Corporal Les Martin,** our leading exponent of the far from gentle art. The sports demands a large degree of agility, co-ordination and energy. **Les,** through his association with a local Dutch club, has obtained the services of **Fritz Van Duinen,** a first dan (Black Belt). Under his tuition the club has managed to produce one Brown Belt, **Les Martin;** two Blue Belts, and five Green Belts. **Graham Heaps,** the 14-year-old son of **Yeoman Heaps,** now has his Blue Belt and is intimidating his father; demands for increase in pocket money now prove no problem. The club also has a husband and wife team in **Signalman 'Taff' Farry** and his wife, Sharon; since joining the club they have had a partition fitted down the centre of the bed to ensure that neither partner does the other an injury with an involuntary karate chop during the night.

The club's youngest member is **Craig Carr,** eight-year-old son of **Rick Carr,** our R.E.M.E. Sergeant. No doubt club membership will continue to grow as a result of the publicity the club is now getting around AFCENT.



THE NOT SO GENTLE ART OF KARATE

Corporal Les Martin of 227 Squadron, the unit's leading exponent of karate, gets a high kick placed in his midriff by Black Belt Fritz Van Duinen of a local Dutch Club, under whose tuition the unit's Karate Club now hold many belts and its popularity is increasing

Hard sell

Mrs. Sharon Parry, our recently acquired squadron typist, has recently introduced a new approach to the mundane task of clerical duties. **Lieutenant Alan Pearce** went into the office last week and asked her for 'Regulations on Civilian Employment.' **Sharon** searched the library to no avail, then smiling brightly she said, "I'm sorry sir, we haven't got it; will you take something else? We've got a copy of Games and Sports in the British Army." Whilst the remainder of the office staff derive endless amusement from this unique and helpful attitude, it appears to do very little for **Lieutenant Pearce's** hypertension.

240 Signal Squadron, (Northern Command) York

AMONG recent excitements in the Squadron in recent months have been Exercise 'New Deal,' the national postal strike and that refined form of torture known as the Annual Fitness for Role Inspection. Needless to say the last gave us more worry than the other two tasks put together.

During the postal strike our driving fraternity consisting of **Corporal Allan Wagstaff, Lance-Corporal Dave Ferris, Signalman Graham Russell** and **Jim Colville, Privates Chris Thom** and **Audrey Burston** put in a total of 24,480 miles operating a skeleton SDS between our Command H.Q. and the three Districts. No weekends for five weekends and no accidents either which says much for their driving skill and attention to the job in hand.

Colonel Basil Hayles, C.S.O. Northern Command, carried out his inspection of us on Friday, 5th March, and was pleased to present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Corporal Derek Fowler,** our one and only Technician T.E. We in fact call him our Technician G.P. because he seems to be called upon to repair anything that happens to break down from T100s to ancient steam radios. His use of his 18-pound sledge hammer has a magic touch and everything seems to work alright after his ministrations.



Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O. Northern Command, presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Corporal Derek Fowler of 240 Squadron, York

Fire

It is sad to record that the Club House of the York Branch of the Royal Signals Association no longer exists, having been burnt out during the afternoon of 29th January, 1971. The Club situated in Wenlock Tarrace was very convenient to this Squadron H.Q. in Imphal Barracks and was well known to past and present members of the unit. We record this unfortunate happening because, whilst we had no direct concern or held official status in its organisation or administration, members of the Squadron have in a private capacity assisted considerably in its running, and were still doing so. Furthermore, it was a most satisfactory venue in which to hold the occasional Squadron function, and being Royal Signals owned, had the feeling of being 'ours.' It was unfortunate that the fire was well advanced before being discovered and being of wooden construction very little was saved; we regret its demise.

Ace high

Our two outstations continue to flourish and we hear little from them except when they are in trouble or want some travel claims signing. We say goodbye shortly to **Sergeant Donald Shrives** who is on his way to Cape Greco (unfortunately this is not one of our outstations) and also bid farewell to **Sergeant Russ Hickman** who also is deserting us for the wilds of Cold Blow Lane.

W.R.A.C. notes

Our W.R.A.C. staff at the moment consists of **Lance-Corporal Jan Bebbington, Privates Jenny Wrigglesworth, Carol Freeman, Sue Sorby, Jane Downie, Rosemary Wilson, Chris Thom** and **Sandy Sugden.** We recently bade a sad farewell to **Audrey Burston** who we hope is enjoying her new station directly under the London Airport Flight Path, and we welcome **Private Diane Durrent** from training. Another goodbye was recently waved to **Erica Trevor** on her way to 'Honkers,' shortly to be joined there by **Sue Sorby.**

Canine obituary

Many of our readers will be sorry to learn of the death of 'Sambo' at 15 years of age, a dog of indeterminate breed and great character who belonged to our O.C. **Major Sinclair.** 'Sambo' started life in Fontainebleau and was apparently first owned by a **Colonel Hamilton** of the R.E. He then passed to **Major Aubrey Rawson** of 227 Signal Squadron who handed him over in 1961 to **Major Sinclair.**

'Sambo' served in 227 Squadron, 16th Regiment, 47th Signal Regiment (The Middlesex Yeomanry), 31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment, H.Q. Northern Command and finally this Squadron. He was a much-travelled animal having visited nine countries between 1961 and 1965. He received many amusing tributes in his lifetime, perhaps the most famous being the special lamp post provided for him by Line Troop (?) of 'B' Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry, which was placed in the middle of the square at annual camp at Nesscliff in 1966 and was just discovered before the C.O.'s parade one morning. In his turn 'Sam' distributed his favours 'without partiality, favour or affection' and the front wheel of the G.O.C.'s car was just as likely to receive his blessing as was the rear wheel of the ration storeman's bike! R.I.P.

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

Why not do so now!

PICKFORDS
Removers and Storers

PICKFORDS TRAVEL SERVICE

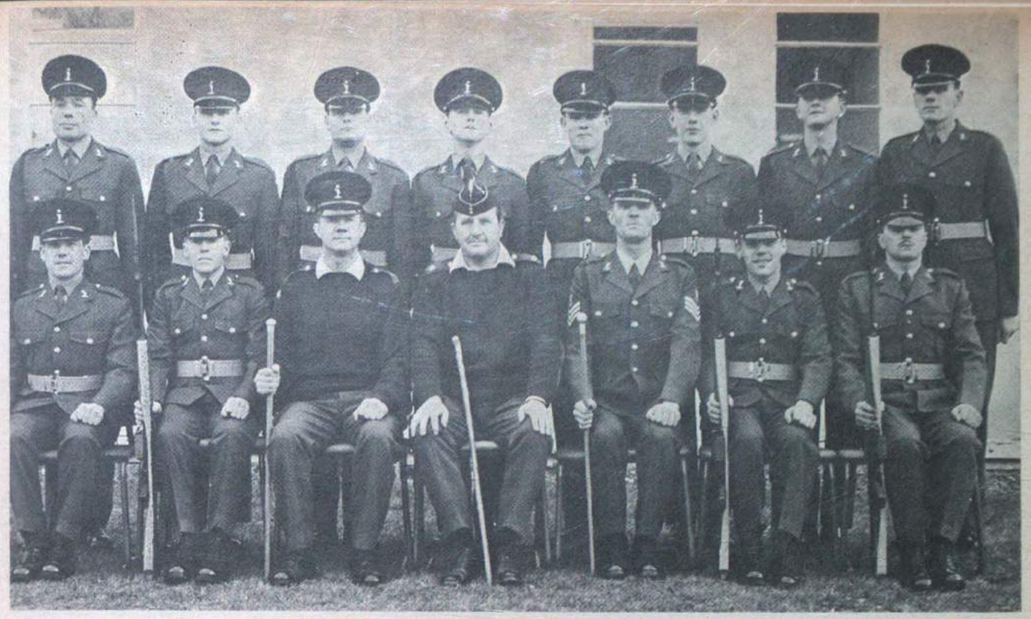
PICKFORDS

Removals and storage Household removals. Single items. Any size of job. Anywhere in Britain or overseas. Pickfords have the experience. Ask us for an estimate.

Travel service Benefit from our experience when you book holidays, travel tickets, reservations etc. No extra charge when you use Pickfords.

Once you use Pickfords, you'll never go without us

Our address is in the phone book



VERDICT—A MOST SUCCESSFUL M.P.C. III COURSE

Staff and pupils on a recently held M.P.C. course in 244 Signal Squadron which was considered the best ever held by the Squadron

Left to right, back row: **Signalmen Hicks, Morgan, McIlveney, Widdall, Loughton, Asher, Chambers and Thornton**

Front row: **Signalman Roderick, Signalman Parkin, S.S.M. Whalley, Major W. D. A. Poole, Sergeant Lockwood, Signalman Deeks, Signalman Hollingsworth**

244 Signal Squadron (Air Support)

R.A.F. Benson, Oxfordshire

O.C.	... ...	**Major W. D. A. Poole**
Second-in-Command	...	**Captain W. A. Price**
Admin. Officer	... ...	**Captain (Q.M.) J. McGlynn**
T.O.T.	... ...	**Captain (Q.M) D. D. Clarke**
O.C. 'A' Troop	... ...	**Captain R. M. Yolland**
		Captain G. C. Saunders (desig.)
O.C. 'B' Troop	... ...	**Captain L. S. Hood**
2 i/c 'B' Troop	... ...	**Lieutenant R. H. G. Elford**
Wing Ops.	... ...	**Lieutenant O. M. Lewis**
B.A.S.O.	... ...	**Flight-Lieutenant J. Lawton**
R.Q.M.S.	... ...	**W.O.2 B. L. Brewer**
S.S.M.	... ...	**W.O.2 J. M. P. Whalley**
Y. of S.	... ...	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. C. T. Tasker**
		W.O.2 (Y. of S.) F. C. McLoughlin

We live around

WHEN we last appeared in print, in the October/November, 1970, edition, we were preparing to move from R.A.F. Tangmere, on the West Sussex coast. During November, we did it—in superb style—with a little help from our friends.

Our present location is R.A.F. Benson—along the A.423, between Henley-on-Thames and Oxford—at least that's where S.H.Q. and our Troop working area is; our living accommodation, however, is widespread. We are well represented at R.A.F. Bicester, R.A.F. Abingdon, Wantage, Didcot and Chalgrove; we have a few members in Reading, and some of us actually live at Benson. With our very full exercise programme, we could be seriously troubled, being dispersed so widely (over a 30-mile radius), were it not for the fact that we are supermen and we have the able assistance of our R.A.F. Benson hosts; the fact is, we enjoy life.

The reason why

We have had many enjoyable occasions these last few months, what with exercise play in Cyprus, Italy, Malta, Sicily, Sardinia, Turkey (to name-drop but a few) and we've been hither and yon in the U.K.; we've even been flown into Tangmere, a disused airfield on the West Sussex coast! And in between times we've had a string of visitors and inspectors, including **Capitaine Paul Pescaud** (French Army Signals) and **Major Seitan Yousef Ammari** (Royal Jordanian Army Signals). Paul will be remembered by the friends he made in the Corps when he attended a NATO course at the School in the mid-1960s. **Major Ammari** was in this country for the first time, so we made sure his weekend itinerary took in the Palace, the Tower and the several other tourist attractions of London; **Captain Leigh Hood** and **Lieutenant Hugh Elford** were his guides—they're considering laying on tours for all—to Cyprus, Italy, Malta, Sardinia, etc. Perhaps with a bit of help from our own bird men, Captain Bill Price (fixed-wing pilot), **Captain Graham Saunders** (helicopter pilot), **Flight-Lieutenant Jim Lawton** (R.A.F. pilot), **Leigh Hood** (glider pilot, with a couple of height records to his credit), and **S.S.M. Joe Whalley** (free-fall enthusiast); Joe would be our high-jack bouncer. "Come with me, sir, we don't want your sort on board our aircraft."

Distinguished visitors

Colonel (now Brigadier) T. G. H. Jackson paid us a farewell visit on his departure from 3rd Division, and we shall miss him; we were able to welcome his successor as C.S.O., **Colonel I. G. Swan,** on 16th March, when he accompanied **Major-General G. C. A. Gilbert, M.C.,** G.O.C. 3rd Division. This was the first time we have been visited by our Divisional Commander, so we made the most of it.

General Gilbert flew into Benson in an Army Alouette II helicopter (when in Rome, etc.) at 10.30 hours, with **Colonel Swan,** and was met on arrival by the Station Commander, **Group Captain U. L. Burberry,** and the Squadron Commander, **Major W. D. A. Poole.** From the moment the General arrived, until his departure after lunch, the visit went like clockwork (cliché stuck in so that we could add, stupidly, 'everybody ticking,'—Joe said if anybody uses a gag around here in future it will be him—so we left ours out) and everybody involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The happy picture enclosed is typical of all the pictures taken during the visit; it shows the General with **Signalmen Rab Young** and



A VISIT THAT WENT WITH A SWING

Major-General G. C. A. Gilbert, G.O.C. 3rd Division looks in on A.T.O.C. Commcen. Signalman 'Rab' Young has no inhibitions while Signalman 'Pedro' Gomez is busily occupied. Captain Leigh Hood "listens-in"

'Pedro' Gomez, in the ATOC Comcen. (**Captain Leigh Hood,** normally a whiz-kid, appears to be still recovering from his stint as a tourist guide).

We showed the General round our working accommodation, and the Squadron deployed in its several roles, around the training areas on the airfield, including our Mobile Air Op Teams, under **Flight-Lieutenant Colin Hardie.** We included the ATOC on a JOCOMEX, and TACP with Diamond 5 radio village (with the TGRI 26058 station), the BASOCs (TS *and* OS), and the MAOTS—and **General Gilbert** emerged still smiling, so we took him into the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess for a well-deserved drink, and some informal chat with the Squadron stalwarts before lunch in the Officers' Mess. The General left us at 14.15 hours to keep another appointment, but **Colonel Swan** stayed on to give us the chance to get to know him.

Party time

At Benson, our **R.Q.M.S., Brian Brewer,** has installed himself and his stores in a self-contained compound about half-a-mile from S.H.Q., just outside the station (and next to the pub!). And it happens that there are ready-made club rooms in one wing of the stores building. We were a bit slow off the mark, but in time to welcome our new C.S.O., **Brian Brewer,** and **Sergeant Jim Brown** and their merry men turned the club rooms into a club—a 244 Signal Squadron Club—and 16th March saw its inauguration, with a reception for **Colonel Swan** by the Squadron officers and senior ranks and their wives. **Sergeant Fred Lima,** our catering wizard, provided an absolutely splendid buffet and **Sergeant 'Moyshe' Nichols** ran the somewhat makeshift, but nonetheless excellent bar. (Two more copies of THE WIRE sold). The reception was a great success, of course. The Colonel stayed on longer than he at first planned, and he enjoyed it; we too, so much so, that we had another go very soon afterwards. This time it was a farewell party for **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Peter McLoughlin** (till Peter left us, we had two **McLoughlins,** Peter and Colin, **Corporal John McLaughlin, Lance-Corporal John McLaughlan** and **Lance-Corporal Ian McLachlan**—and to the 'Sassenachs' amongst us, that's a lot of Maclocklens, but we like 'em). Sorry as we were to lose Peter, it was a swinging party. The picture enclosed shows **'Smoothy-Toothy' Peter McLoughlin** receiving a superior briefcase to match the supreme posting, to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. The chap on the left of the picture is **'Happy-Hairy' Jim Brown,** and in the background, smiling as usual, is our very own **O.R.Q.M.S. Dennis Barlow,** a veritable fount of useful information—and patience.



JUST WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. J. McLoughlin receiving a farewell gift on his departure from 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support). Presentation made on behalf of officers and senior ranks by Major W. D. A. Poole

Hello, Goodbye

During the past few months we have said goodbye also to: **Sergeant Mick Abson,** to 30th Signal Regiment; **Corporal Bill Pettie,** to Cyprus; **Sergeant Jim Hehir,** to 16th Signal Regiment; **Squadron-Leader Guy Pearce,** to H.Q., Air Support Command; and we are soon to lose **Captain Mike Yolland** to 21st Signal Regiment at Adjutant. Good luck to them all. We welcome **Signalmen Ken Hicks, Philip Holehouse,** the two **Trevors, Loughton** and **Mockford, David Thomas; Lance-Corporals Bob Naylor** and **Vic Wade; Corporals John Baker** and **Tony Claffey; Captain Graham Saunders,** and last, but by no means least, **Flight-Lieutenant Jim Lawton.** Glad to have you with us. **'Scouse' McKittrick'** knows where you can get your copy of THE WIRE.

M.P.C. Course

During March we heard a lot of chat about 'bending the elbows and the knees,' and such-like, around the Squadron, arising from one of the ever-popular MPC III entertainments people like the S.S.M. and **Staff Sergeants Alan Burt, Jim McElvogue** and **Sergeant Wally Lockwood,** lay on with gay aplomb. A photograph of the most successful MPC course 244 Signal Squadron have held, so far, is enclosed. It was taken outside S.H.Q., and shows, from left to right (back row), **Signalmen Hicks, Morgan, McIlveney, Widdall, Loughton, Asher, Chambers** and **Thornton;** (front row), **Signalmen Roderick, Parkin, S.S.M. Whalley, Major W. D. A. Poole, Sergeant Lockwood, Signalmen Deeks** and **Hollingsworth.**

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

THIS month, two events within the Squadron are worthy of mention. However, since spring is now very definitely with us, it is appropriate to first comment on this winter's ski-ing in the Middle East.

Ski-ing—and in the Lebanon too!

The ski-ing in Cyprus has not been outstanding. The ski-ing area on Mount Olympus is at 6,000 feet, and in these lattitudes one can never be certain of snow throughout the winter. There are two slopes with mechanical lifts, and only one of these was useable for most of the winter. However, the Squadron has several keen skiers, and full advantage has been taken of the fact that the facilities are conveniently close (an hour's drive from S.H.Q.) and that the weather is usually ideal.

Certain members of the Squadron, namely Mountain Troop, are not quite so enthusiastic about the snow, since during a severe winter they are virtually buried alive at the top of the mountain and re-emerge in March, when the snow melts.

Representatives from the Squadron have also been ski-ing in the Lebanon. The centre of winter sports in the Middle East is at The Cedars (7,000 to 10,000 feet) this little-known ski-ing area is extensive; there are few other skiers; there is fresh powder snow; and the sun is very strong. We found conditions in late February to be ideal. During the same trip, an excursion was made further inland to Baalback (Biblical city of Baal) where one can buy from the market such widely-varying commodities as a kilo of hashish or a fresh cow's head (at least it is advertised as fresh).

Shooting—Corps meeting keenly contested

To return to events in Cyprus, the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting aroused some interest. The Squadron team, **W.O.2 (S.S.M) C. J. Courtenay, Sergeant D. J. MacGilp, Sergeant D. J. Stevens, Corporal M. J. P. Collins, Corporal B. Law, Corporal A. Grohs, Corporal A. J. Brown** and **Corporal G. M. Morgan,** won the rifle competition and were second in the LMG. Overall, we were beaten by 1 Squadron, 9th Signal Regiment. Although our total aggregate scores were higher, the total of our positions in individual competitions was not. The team therefore decided that revenge would be taken in the falling-plate competition. The judges indicated that we had won, but alas, one plate had turned sideways and not fallen. A re-shoot was ordered and we were beaten. In fact, 1 Squadron was subsequently defeated in the final. However, they were worthy overall winners of the day. **Corporal Brown** earns a mention here, also as the winner of the Pool Bull. (Incidentally, he and **Corporal Morgan** have just left Mountain Troop as volunteers —it is rumoured that they have been affected by the altitude—for the new Gan Island Signal Troop).

S.O.-in-C. visits

Finally, we must record the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief between 30th March and 1st April. He toured Squadron Headquarters and the terminal in Episkopi and then paid flying (literally) visits to other terminals at Olympus, Troodos and Cape Greco.

How We have kept out of the Limelight — And why

CAMOUFLAGE is an art. Even the most astute and practised unit would feel blessed to stay unnoticed, even for the duration of an exercise.

By Corporal J. P. P. Flynn, of 653 Signal Troop, Manorbier, Pembrokeshire.

653 Signal Troop has managed to stay unnoticed since 1964, when the unit was first formed, and believe me, that is by no means easy. Staying unnoticed doesn't just happen, it takes diligence and untrammelled teamwork to keep 30 enthusiastic and intelligent young professionals out of the public eye.

The answer is, of course . . .

One might ask, why did the Troop's exciting secondment to the Swiss Navy never gain national acclaim? The answer is, of course, we never sent one. Or, why was the Troop's Foreman of Signals (**Staff Sergeant Mike Truran**) not mentioned in despatches for his ingenious design of the world's first carnivorous robot? The answer is, of course, he never made one. Or, why is there not here shown, a photograph of our display of trophies? The answer is, of course, we have never won one.

Monday, 1st March, 1971, was a fateful day, and a turning point in the history of this unit, when the Troop Commander (**Captain Clive Arthur**) gathered his men around him and bravely declared that he was going to expose himself (just like that!).

And here follows the exposé

The Troop, which is a detachment from 260 Signal Squadron, was formed in 1964, and has since served to supply communications for the Thunderbird II (SAM) system with Heavy Branch, The Royal School of Artillery, at Manorbier, Pembrokeshire, South Wales.

The Troop consists mainly of radio relay men, who operate the B70 No. 2, incorporating the 1+4 No. 2 multiplexers, and the usual entourage of 'hairies,' 'fairies,' 'shinies," etc. Our environment is second to none. Here, in the Pembrokeshire National Park, we enjoy some of Britain's most beautiful countryside. The serenity is broken only by the incongruous sound of the R.S.M.'s voice as he 'persuades' his squad of 'hot-footed' gunners to 'get it together' in preparation for our forthcoming annual admin inspection.

The year ahead promises to be a very busy one for every member of the Troop. As well as our usual practice camps, radio exercises and a short visit to Germany, with regret, we are to desert Manorbier and join the remainder of the Royal School of Artillery, at Larkhill, in Wiltshire.

So there you are, at last the truth is out. Sooner or later we are bound to get the recognition that we deserve. Perhaps during the coming year there will be even more startling facts to be revealed about 653 Signal Troop (SAM).

Sport

Corps Rugger Succeses

Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, President of Corps Rugby, writes:

Forty-two players, including ten from B.A.O.R., assembled at Blandford for the Corps Trials which took place on 6th March. From these, a touring team of 25 was selected for the tour.

The first match took place at R.A.F. Cottesmore on 8th March against 90 (Signal) Group, R.A.F., in front of a fair number of spectators, including **Air Vice Marshal Durkin,** A.O.C. 90 Group and **General Pentreath,** the S.O.-in-C. We were also very pleased to have the support of 224 Squadron from Loughborough. The Corps put on a splendid display of open rugger and scored eight tries, five by the wings **Garton** and **Fisher. Cairns,** who had played for the Army against the Navy on the Saturday, led the pack well and inspired the forwards to great heights. **Wright** had a particularly good game at full-back, being effective in attack, as well as defence.

Result: Royal Signals 27 pts; 90 Group 9 pts.

Conditions were ideal for the match against R.M.A., Sandhurst two days later. Sandhurst were quickly in their stride, getting possession in the line-out and scrums and handling well. But soon the Corps forwards came into their own and gave the backs many chances. Both **Captain Bill Backhouse** and **Sergeant Geordie Gainford** were in great form at half-back, and the backs took full advantage of their chances with some very determined running. In the second half, particularly the Corps team, played really exciting rugger, and only some very fine tackling prevented a higher score. Tries were scored by **James, Gainford, Wright, Zoing, Garton** and **Melhuish. James** also converted three.

Result: Royal Signals 24 pts.; R.M.A., Sandhurst, 6 pts.

The last game, against the R.C.T., took place on 12th March at Blandford, in front of a fair crowd. We were particularly pleased to see the **S.O.-in-C.** again. R.C.T. fielded an experienced and strong team and tested the Corps defence in the first half-hour, but then the Corps pack began to take control, and a break by **Zoing** put in **Garton** for the first try. This was followed by **Cairns,** after a long pass from **Backhouse,** and **James** went over after a very determined run, following a move initated by **Melhuish.** The final try came as a result of a splendid passing move among the forwards and a determined break by **Haldane** with a beautifully-timed pass to **Zoing,** who went over near the flag.

The R.C.T. team never gave up, and in the last few minutes pinned down the Corps side on their 25, but the defence held out.

Result: Royal Signals 22 pts.; R.C.T. 8 pts.

Corps Colours were awarded to the following players for the season:

Awards.—Captain C. Garton, School of Signals; Captain R. P. Gravestock, School of Infantry, Warminster; Captain C. Melhuish, 7th Signal Regiment; Lieutenant J. D. Fisher, 253 Signal Squadron, Hong Kong; Second-Lieutenant C. L. G. Wright, 3 Div H.Q. and Signal Regiment; Sergeant M. Davis, 216 Para Signal Squadron; Sergeant A. Derbyshire, 8th Signal Regiment; Sergeant D. A. Rogers, 30th Signal Regiment; Lance-Corporal D. Higgins, 7th Signal Regiment; Corporal I. Haldane, 16th Signal Regiment; Lance-Corporal A. James, 7th Signal Regiment; Lance-Corporal B. Mulley, 244 Signal Squadron; Signalman P. Lee, 7th Signal Regiment.

Rewards.—Captain W. H. Backhouse, School of Signals; W.O.II R. Block, 30th Signal Regiment; Sergeant I. Cairns, 36 (E) Signal Regiment T.A.V.R.; Sergeant D. Pilbeam, School of Signals; Sergeant R. Gainford, 30th Signal Regiment; Sergeant K. Zoing, School of Signals, Sergeant S. Drika, 30th Signal Regiment.

Warmest congratulations to all of them, particularly Sergeant **Cairns,** who was also awarded Army Colours.

My thanks to all who took part in our trials and all those who helped in one way and another to make this one of the most successful tours the Corps has had. Success was due, not only to individual abilities, but to the spendid team spirit which has shown itself, both on and off the field, and which has developed under **Captain Backhouse's** leadership.

B.A.O.R. Hockey

On Sunday, 14th March, Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) in preparation for the Inter-Corps Tournament in May, played the Royal Armoured Corps (B.A.O.R.). The result was a win for Royal Signals by 5—1. The game was scrappy at first, but improved as the players settled down and got to know each other's play. The match was distinguished by the way **Second-Lieutenant Brewin** and **Lance-Corporal Luckett** snapped up half chances to score five goals between them.

The team was: **Lance-Corporal Gregory** (20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron); **Major Nice** and **W.O.I Cooper** (13th Signal Regiment); **Major Verdon** (20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron); **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Hayes** (2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment); **Staff Sergeant Scott** (16th Signal Regiment); **Signalman Hooper** (13th Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal Kirkham** (2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal Luckett** (13th Signal Regiment); **Second-Lieutenant Brewin** (4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment) and **Captain Dickinson** (28th Signal Regiment).

Basket Ball

Corps win knock-out final

From School of Signals, Blandford Camp:

A team consisting of five players from the School of Signals and two players from 30th Regiment played the following games in the above K.O. final and won the S. Dorset K.O. Pool Trophy. This is the second time in three seasons that a side from Blandford Camp have won this trophy.

Game 1: Royal Signals, Blandford, 53, Conquerors 44.
Game 2: Royal Signals, Blandford, 39, Herons/Phantoms 37.

Sporting successes notified by H.Q. Army Strategic Command

Cross-country

Winners of 3 Division Minor Units Cross-Country Championship, 216 Para Signal Squadron.

Winners of South-East District Cross-Country Championship, 216 Para Signal Squadron.

Winners of Northern Ireland Cross-Country Championship, 216 Para Signal Squadron.

In this championship 216 Para Signal Squadron were in the first six places of the Minor Units. **Sergeant Dougie Baikie** won the overall Regular Units Cup for being the first man home.

Unfortunately, owing to being sent on emergency tour to Northern Ireland, 216 Para Signal Squadron was unable to compete in the Army Championship. This was won by 16 Para Hy Drop Company, R.A.O.C., who were runners-up to 216 Para Signal Squadron in the 3 Division competition.

Association football

Sergeant Peter Smurthwaite (14 Signal Regiment) played for the British Army against the Royal Navy on 10th March, 1971, and against the Royal Air Force on 24th March, 1971. He scored the second of the Army's two goals against the Royal Navy. (The Army won both games by a score of 2-0).

Major G. S. (Pat) Massey, British Army Team Manager, has been appointed Combined Services U.K. Team Manager for their tour to Gibraltar, 12th-16th May, 1971.

Personal Affairs

Obituary

Major (I.P.C.) F. J. Dowie, M.S.M.

Major 'Fred' Dowie passed away at Salisbury on 4th April after a short illness, aged 73.

'Fred' enlisted in R.E. Signals on 4th November, 1915, and served in France with that Corps until the end of World War I.

He remained in R.E. Signals until transfer to Royal Signals on the formation of the Corps in 1920, and was active in Corps athletics and rugby football during those days.

It is interesting to note that about 1920, there were three brothers Dowie then serving in Royal Signals.

Major Dowie was commissioned as I.P.C. on 29th August, 1939, was employed in Southern Command, and later served with the Allied Planning Commission in Washington D.C.

On retirement in 1951 Major Dowie remained with Royal Signals and was employed under C.S.O. Southern Command as an R.O.

He is survived by his wife (Ann) and daughter (Pamela) to whom our sincere condolences are extended.

Major E. L. Wade

Mr. H. E. R. Stevens, Hon. Secretary of the Northern Ireland Branch, Belfast, writes:

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Major Edward Lancelot Wade, who passed away on 16th March after a long illness. 'Lance,' as he was known to a very wide circle of friends, was a Life Member of the Northern Ireland Branch. He joined the Corps in 1922 and had a varied and successful career. He had a great love of horses and was always chosen to ride the leading horse in exercises in the old cable wagon days. After obtaining a commission, he served with T.A.R.O. from 1937 to 1947.

He leaves a widow and one son, to whom great sympathy is expressed.

Address: 'Meskeen,' Church Road, Dundonald, Belfast.

Major Sidney Wort, M.B.E.

It is with regret that we record the death of Major Sidney Wort, M.B.E., who passed away suddenly at his home at 16, Fitzmary Avenue, Westbrook, Margate, Kent, on 15th April, at the age of 67.

Major Wort enjoyed a varied and successful career and was well-known in certain Corps circles. He joined the Army at the age of 21 and served for several years in Baghdad; later he was at the War Office. He also served at Chatham and at the C.S.O.S. Beaumanor Park, Loughborough. During the war he was at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, later returning to Beaumanor Park to take up his duties as Deputy O.C.

He retired over three years ago and sincere sympathy is expressed to his widow and daughter in their sad loss.

Ex-Sergeant T. Hill

Mr. J. Birchall, Hon. Secretary, Manchester Branch writes:

The branch deeply regrets to record the death of Mr. Tommy Hill, who passed away on 30th March. Mr. Hill (ex-Sergeant) served in the Royal Naval Air Service during the last war; later he served with the Paratroop Regiment, T.A. He then joined Royal Signals T.A., in which he served until 1967. Still keen to keep up his association with the Forces, he then took up duty with the A.C.F. for a couple of years. Always a keen and efficient soldier, he carried these attributes with him into civilian life and he made a great number of friends who will sadly miss him; and this applies especially to the Manchester Branch of the Association. As a mark of their respect, members of the branch acted as pall bearers at the funeral: these were Messrs. J. Birchell, G. Harrison, A. Larkin, Preston, Gallagher, G. Ibberson, L. Brinicombe, H. W. Young and W. Potter. Many Post Office employees were also present, paying their last respects to a well-liked colleague.

THE WIRE and the Branch wish to offer sympathy to the relatives of the deceased.

M.O.D. BOUND!

11 BRIGADE H.Q. & SIGNAL SQUADRON REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

The most newsworthy event of the past month has been the change of command in the Squadron. It was with very much regret that we said farewell to **Major Gerry Corden** and his wife, **Anne,** who have gone off to the M.O.D.; we thank them both for their efforts over the past two years and wish them both every success in the future.

We give a warm welcome to our new Officer Commanding, **Major Roy Ward,** who has joined us from Rheindahlen; we hope that he and his wife, **Margaret,** will feel at home with us here in Minden.



Major Corden, appropriately dressed, starts his journey to the M.O.D. from Kingsley Barracks, Minden. Driving is Signalman Peters and Signalman Smythe is vehicle commander

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON (SHARJAH) B.F.P.O. 4

Arrivals.—Lieutenant D. Marks, Second-Lieutenant M. R. S. Stanners, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) R. Patterson, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. V. Bamforth.

Departures. — Captain H. A. Culley, W.O.2 S. Brown, Sergeant J. White, Sergeant J. R. Redgrave.

Promotions.—To Sergeant, Corporal J. Watson, Corporal J. Harper.

(*See articles on pages* 181 *and* 182)

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Agar	...	To B.M.M., Libya
Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs	...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt. as C.O.
Lieutenant T. J. Cantle	...	,, 37th (W. & W.) Signal Regt. (V)
Captain C. W. Collier	...	,, 16th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant C. P. Conlon	...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major D. L. Copeland	...	,, 32nd (Scottish) Sig. Regt. (V)
Captain L. J. Crouch	...	,, H.Q. 8 Infantry Brigade
Captain C. G. Cruickshank	...	,, School
Captain H. A. Culley	...	,, 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major P. A. Dally	...	,, 71st Signal Regt. (V) as C.O.
Captain P. J. K. Dickinson	...	,, 30th Regiment
Lieutenant G. N. Donaldson	...	,, School
Lieutenant R. G. Drake	...	,, School
Lieutenant G. H. Goodman	...	,, School
Captain (T.O.T.) J. E. Grigsby	...	,, 252 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant D. G. Halliburton	...	,, 244 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant R. N. C. Harrison	...	,, School
Lieutenant D. M. Hetreed	...	,, 3 Div. Avn. Regt. (665 Avn. Sqn.)
Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. Hone	...	,, R.M.C. of S. as Colonel
Lieutenant O. M. Lewis	...	,, 7th Regiment
Major T. C. Livingstone	...	,, 225 Signal Squadron
Captain T. C. McCoy	...	,, 255 Signal Squadron
Major R. A. Macheath	...	,, H.Q. L.F. Gulf
Lieutenant G. Meakin	...	,, School
Lieutenant C. D. Melhuish	...	,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant I. A. Noble	...	,, H.Q. B.G. L. of C., Dharan
Colonel A. Pagan, M.B.E.	...	,, Comdr. Brit. Forces, Antwerp
Lieutenant S. J. Raynor	...	,, 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt. (1st Com.)
Lieutenant C. Riley	...	,, School
Major P. J. Rowland	...	,, M.O.D. ASD1/5
Major M. U. Ryan	...	,, School of Infantry as Lt.-Col.
Lieutenant R. J. Sanders	...	,, 11th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant D. W. Sharpe	...	,, 13th Regiment
Lieutenant (Tfc.) C. A. Smith	...	,, 13th Regiment (1st Com.)
Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Stonham	...	,, 11th Regiment
Captain G. W. Tacey	...	,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Taylor	...	,, H.Q. 2 Signal Group
Lieutenant A. B. Truluck	...	,, 48 Gurkha Bde. Signal Sqn.
Captain (Q.M.) A. V. K. Ward	...	,, 16th Regiment
Lieutenant R. F. Whitehead	...	,, 1 R.G.J.
Captain D. A. Williams	...	,, School
Captain R. M. Yolland	...	,, 21st Regiment

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.I D. G. Ellen	...	To 4 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.I H. W. Cage	...	,, 242 Signal Squadron
W.O.I W. P. Smith	...	,, 37th Regiment (V)
W.O.2 A. Bramhall	...	,, 9th Regiment
W.O.2 E. T. A. Webster	...	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.2 C. D. Jones	...	,, 40th Regiment (V)
W.O.2 T. Magowan	...	,, 10th Regiment
W.O.2 D. Jones	...	,, 31st Regiment (V)
W.O.2 F. Williams	...	,, 12 Mech. Bde. Signal Sqn.
W.O.2 M. G. E. Hall	...	,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.2 P. J. Harris	...	,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. B. Cairns	...	,, R.A.C. Centre
Staff Sergeant R. Wade	...	,, 20 Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Staff Sergeant M. Mullin	...	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. M. Charles		,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. McMullen		,, 38th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. J. Thornton		,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant A. J. T. Burt	...	,, Junior Tradesmen Regt., Troon
Sergeant H. A. Gilchrist	...	,, 255 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. C. White	...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Ingram	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant P. Allison	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant R. C. Yeomans	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant M. C. Stocks	...	,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. D. Vince	...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant J. Davidson	...	,, 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant A. C. Derbyshire	...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant G. W. Adams	...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant A. Lackie	...	,, 39th Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. N. Turner	...	,, Recruit Selection Centre, Sutton Coldfield
Sergeant J. C. Redgrave	...	,, 227 Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. S. N. Bartlett	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Craig	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant M. W. Watson	...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. A. Brown	...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. C. Farrelly	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant G. W. Hogue	...	,, 225 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. N. Rice	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant B. Langford	...	,, 30th Regiment
A/Sergeant R. B. Lecouilliard	...	,, 30th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. G. Banham	...	,, 12 Mech. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant J. W. H. Martin	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant A. C. Sinon	...	,, 39 Airportable Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant L. R. Jukes	...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant M. F. P. Little	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant W. E. Tuplin	...	,, 21st Regiment

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Seniority Date*	*Old Seniority Date*
To W.O.I.				
Martin,	T. M.	A/W.O.I.	14 Feb. 71	17 Aug. 66
Maher,	J.	A/W.O.I.	24 Feb. 71	23 Feb. 68
To W.O.2				
Driver,	J. T.	A/W.O.2	16 Dec. 70	1 Sep. 66
Farmer,	G. T.	S/Sgt.	16 Dec. 70	22 Jun. 67
To S Sgt.				
Topliss,	G.	A/S/Sgt.	3 Dec. 70	1 Mar. 62 (Dvr.) (R. Signals)
Swaine,	R.	A/S/Sgt.	10 Dec. 70	1 Jun. 65 (Lmn.)
Thurgood,	M. A.	Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	2 Apr. 62 (E. D.)
Palmer,	M. J. L.	A/S/Sgt.	3 Feb. 71	28 Feb. 62 (R. Op.)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.I				
Goodman (B.E.M.)	R.	W.O.2	1 Mar. 71	1 Dec. 69
To W.O.2				
Gardner,	J.	S/Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65
Kitchen (B.E.M.)	C. W.	S/Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65
Falconer,	A. D. F.	S/Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65
Allen,	S. W.	S/Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65
Goodwin,	D. G.	S/Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65
Sugden	D.	S/Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.2				
Frost,	R. M.	S/Sgt.	19 Nov. 70	22 Oct. 61
Graham,	J. B.	A/W.O.2	8 Dec. 70	4 May 68
Mansfield,	R. W.	S/Sgt.	8 Feb. 71	13 Dec. 67

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

To W.O.2				
Burgess,	J. L.	A/W.O.2	29 Jan. 71	21 Sep. 65

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.				
Palmer,	J. V.	Cpl.	25 Jun. 70	12 Dec 66
Moore,	C.	Cpl.	14 Aug. 70	12 Aug. 66
Shepherd,	J. F.	Cpl.	27 Aug. 70	27 Aug. 66
Mackenzie,	T. W. F.	Cpl.	24 Sep. 70	17 Oct. 68
Thorpe,	E. C.	Cpl.	15 Oct. 70	15 Apr. 66
Izzard,	B. T.	Cpl.	15 Oct. 70	3 Feb. 68
Hedge,	G. T.	Cpl.	12 Nov. 70	22 Aug. 66
Bryant,	D. E.	Cpl.	13 Nov. 70	16 May 67
Higman,	W.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	11 Nov. 66
Resoun,	B. M.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	23 May 68
Drika,	S.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	2 Jul. 65
Pearson,	N.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	16 Sep. 65
Hilton,	G. J.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	11 Nov. 66
Scott,	D. M.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	16 Dec. 66
Davies,	I. W.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	14 Mar. 67
Murphy,	T. M.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	12 Jul. 67
Usher,	D. B. P.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	12 Jul. 67
Coatesworth,	K.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	13 Nov. 65
Richardson,	B. W.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	4 Apr. 68
Sly,	B. R.	Cpl.	19 Nov. 70	9 Sep. 65
Stout,	E.	Cpl.	9 Dec. 70	12 Aug. 66
Hardy,	M. F. R.	Cpl.	11 Dec. 70	1 Jul. 67
Storer,	R. A.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	16 Dec. 66
Philpott,	R. W.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	16 Dec. 66
Blowman,	C. M.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 70	27 Jul. 67
Staden,	N. B.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	12 Aug. 66
Gibbons,	F. L.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	21 Jun. 67
Loates,	H. H.	Cpl.	21 Jan. 71	21 Jan. 67
Vincent,	J. P.	Cpl.	21 Jan. 71	18 Feb. 67
Halloway	A.	Cpl.	12 Feb. 71	12 Feb. 67

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Foulger,	B. A.	A/Sgt.	4 Nov. 70	26 Feb. 66
Shergold,	J. P.	A/Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	20 Jul. 66
Campbell,	M.	A/Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	17 Sep. 66
Watson,	M. W.	Cpl.	26 Nov. 70	1 Oct. 66
Briant,	R. C.	Cpl.	1 Dec. 70	20 Feb. 64

CLERK/DRAUGHTSMAN ROLL

To Sgt.				
Stout,	J.	A/Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	31 Jul. 67

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Innes,	J. S.	A/Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	30 Sep. 67
Sherwin,	T. W.	A/Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	4 May 65
Ellison,	T. J.	Cpl.	26 Nov. 70	25 Feb. 66

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Palmer,	D. P.	A/Sgt.	14 Nov. 70	1 Feb. 67
Hardware,	G.	Cpl.	15 Nov. 70	9 Mar. 63
Lingard,	J. R.	A/Sgt.	19 Nov. 70	1 Jan. 69
Spencer,	P.	Cpl.	26 Nov. 70	1 Jan. 69
Battisby,	J. V. K.	A/Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	3 Jun. 66
Harvey,	C. E.	Cpl.	2 Jan. 71	3 Nov. 69

ELECTRICIAN DRIVER ROLL

To Sgt.				
Hosey,	R. M.	A/Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	30 Apr. 64
Burnett,	M. G. S.	Cpl.	1 Jan 71	30 Sep. 68

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Davey,	M. C.	Cpl.	17 Nov. 70	14 Dec. 65
Emmerson,	P. M.	Cpl.	15 Dec. 70	20 Jul. 66

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Seniority Date*
W.O.I		
Cave,	A. E. W.	7 May 69
S/Sgt.		
Banyard,	B. G.	31 Oct. 61
Baxter,	R.	2 Mar. 69

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgts.		
Parvin,	N.	1 Dec. 56
Leitch,	J.	3 May 65
McKay,	R.	18 Oct. 67
Pilbeam,	N. A.	13 Dec. 67
Edmondson,	D.	19 Jul. 68
Jones,	J. G.	9 Jan. 69
Ambrose,	W. C.	21 Mar. 69
Sinclair,	P. A.	1 Apr. 69
Lloyd,	B. J.	19 Dec. 69

SPECIAL OPERATOR ROLL

Sgts.		
Bagnall,	K. A.	18 Apr. 67
McPartland,	M. B.	18 Apr. 67

(Owing to pressure on space, some of the Promotion Roll has had to be held over until next month).

Dorset Branch, Royal Signals Association

From **Sam Henwood**, Hon. Secretary, Dorset Branch, Royal Signals Association, c/o H.Q., Blandford Station, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

16th April, 1971, was the occasion of our fourth annual dinner, held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals, by kind permission of **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley**, Commandant, School of Signals, when 88 members and friends sat down to an excellent dinner. Amongst our guests wer **Mr. Arthur Hambleton, O.B.E., M.C., Q.P.M.**, the Chief Constable of Dorset/Bournemouth Constabulary, and **Mrs. Hambleton, Brigadier J. R. Cubberley** and **Mrs. Cubberley, Brigadier Pat Hobson, D.S.O.** (General Secretary, Royal Signals Association), **Miss Mollie Hyde-Parker** (Welfare Officer, Royal Signals Association), **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. J. R. Ellis**, and **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. I. M. Rose.** After the Loyal Toast, which was proposed by our Treasurer, **Mr. Percy Wilcox**, 'the Branch' was proposed by our Chairman, **Mr. Bob** Simpson, to which **Brigadier Pat Hobson** replied. **Sam Henwood** then proposed a special toast to **Brigadier John Cubberley,** this being the last occasion that he would dine with the Branch as Commandant of the School of Signals; the local Branch of the Association will certainly miss him. A small gift was presented to him, to which he replied. The President, **Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.,** then proposed 'Our Guests,' to which **Mr. Arthur Hambleton** most suitably replied—and if you should ever think that a Chief Constable has no sense of humour, then it can only be said that you have obviously never met **Mr. Arthur Hambleton.** This was also an occasion to say goodbye to **R.S.M. Sam Raynor,** who has done so much to help our local Branch. The R.S.M. leaves us on being appointed to commisisoned rank. We extend to **Mr.** and **Mrs. Raynor** our very best wishes for the future. We eventually retired to the bar, which was placed at our disposal, and the tinkling of glasses and cheerful laughter went on to about 01.30 hours.

A wonderful evening was had by all!

BAOR.....?

—If you are arriving soon, or are here already, and interested in a new:—

TRIUMPH '71 FAMILY MODELS UP TO 15% OFF! Toledo £636 1500 £781 2000 £1089!

OR

PEUGEOT LIST PRICES SLASHED! ALL '71 MODELS DISCOUNT PRICES FROM ONLY £646!

Then for details of U.K./Germany Delivery, Specifications, Nato Prices, H.P., 'Partex, Call, 'Phone or Write to:

Mr. P. BRENNAN DUPLEIX
of **WALTER HAGEN & CO., GmbH**
415 KREFELD
Pestalozzistr.—WEST GERMANY
or **TELEPHONE KREFELD 28311** (10.30-12.00 hrs. preferably)

IMPORTER — SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

(We have Agents in the U.K. too)

RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1971 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately eight months are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1971.

SALARY SCALES

During training, with free accommodation provided at the Training School:

Age 21	£848	per annum
22	906	„ „
23	943	„ „
24	981	„ „
25 and over	1023	„ „

On successful completion of course:

Age 21	£1073	„ „
22	1140	„ „
23	1207	„ „
24	1274	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1351	„ „

then by six annual increments to a maximum of £1,835 per annum.

Excellent conditions and good prospects of promotion. Opportunities for service abroad.

Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course, and must have at least two years' operating experience *OR* PMG qualifications. Preference given to those who also have G.C.E. 'O' level or similar qualifications. Exceptionally well-qualified candidates aged from 36-40 may also be considered.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1971.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6), Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21491 Ext. 2270.

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND **PRINTING**

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes

Lloyds Bank will obey all your standing orders.

Lloyds have been the Serviceman's bank for generations. We know a great deal about the Services; particularly when it comes to money.

We can give you advice on any financial matters, such as saving, investments, insurance–specially important if you're being posted overseas.

And we'll take care of your regular bills by banker's order.

In fact, whatever the standing order, we'll obey.

For full details of all our Services to the Services, post off the coupon or contact your local branch.

Lloyds Bank looks after people like you

To: Mr D. P. Gardiner T.D., Services Liaison Officer, Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London SW1
Please send me full details of all your services.

NAME

RANK

ADDRESS

L44

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

June-July 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for :-

Convertible Whole Life · Education Endowment · Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust · Retirement · House Purchase · Security for your Family

General Insurance for :-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR TEMPERANCE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

UK or European posting?
Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen : forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.

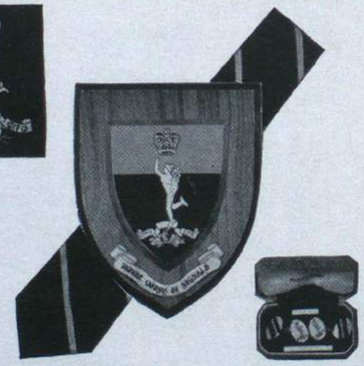
Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* w6
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*
Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*
Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS





ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

TIES		Crested Tankards ..	£3·50 £4·50
Silk	£1·50	Silk Blazer Badges ..	£0·85
Terylene/Crimplene ..	£0·90	Gold Wire Blazer Badges	£3·00
Crested Terylene ..	£1·35	Wall Shields	£2·00
REME Institute Ties	£1·35	Car Badges	£2·10
Crested Cuff Links ..	£3·50		

Items made to your own design (by quotation)

U.K. Post Free Overseas Post Ties/Badges 10p
Other items 25p

Sharps

17 GABRIELS HILL
MAIDSTONE 56666/7

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months £1.20; *single month,* 10p.

☆

JUNE/JULY • 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 6**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We are happy this month to pay a tribute to all members of the W.R.A.C. serving with the Corps. Our cover picture, which shows the telephone exchange at H.Q. South East District, Aldershot, typifies the useful and efficient service provided by the W.R.A.C. in so many of our communication centres.

In the picture the girls are under the supervision of **Sergeant M. Catchpole** (seated at the desk). Assistant Supervisors are **Corporals Garrett** and **Louth**—the latter at the far end of the exchange.

We have devoted pages 212 and 213 to more photographs and an account of W.R.A.C. activities in N. Ireland. We are grateful to H.Q. 2 Signal Group, under whom the girls come, for providing the material for this tribute.

A salute to the R.S.M.

A feature of this WIRE is that notes from three Regiments (9th, 14th and 28th) describe in some detail farewell ceremonies in connection with the imminent posting of their R.S.M.s. It is a pleasure to read of the high regard—and indeed affection—in which these key men were held in their various units. Over a span of many years the Regimental Sergeant Major in the British Army has always been a personality regarded by all with respect, often tinged with a certain amount of awe. Junior soldiers and junior officers alike went in fear of his censure—politely or not so politely put to fit the case. Commanding Officers, foolish enough to disregard his advice, did so to their regret. Senior N.C.O.s were immediately conscious of the great man's presence when he entered the Mess. Truly a figure of authority—perhaps a little aloof, even a little lonely, but the backbone of the Regiment.

Times are changing and so, too, are soldiers and their outlook. The modern R.S.M. sensing this has adapted himself accordingly with the skill that has always been the hallmark of the holders of his office. His bark has moderated, he is a little less the stern authoritarian, his approach is more to lead than to drive. The results are manifest when we read how three of our Regiments feel about their R.S.M.s. Still the backbone of the Regiment he fits in admirably in the modern context. It would, however, be remiss if we stopped here without a reference to 'Mrs. R.S.M.' She too plays a most effective and valuable role in Regimental life so much so that a posting of her husband is invariably a double loss to the Regiment!

It is indeed a pleasure for THE WIRE to be able to pay this small tribute to the modern R.S.M. and his lady—we have much for which to thank them.

* * *

Thank You!

We would like to thank the 19th Regiment, shortly disbanding, for a particularly nice gesture. Included in a donation of £300 to our welfare funds was the sum of £100 to go to THE WIRE in appreciation of the services rendered by it to the Corps and the Regiment.

From our "In" Tray

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF RECEIVES SPECIAL HONOUR

The Signal-Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** has been appointed a Companion of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. This is an unusual (and senior) grade of membership; there are currently only 83 Companions in a total I.E.E. membership in excess of 63,000, and the majority are very well-known figures in the electronic industry.

Fisher Polo Ground, Tidworth

Sir,

It gave me much pleasure when the other day at the pavilion of the Tidworth Polo Club, beside the 'Fisher' polo ground, I read a plaque announcing that:

"This Polo Ground
was made by
2nd Cav Bde
12th R Lancers
14/20th Hussars
15/19th Hussars
17/21st Lancers
'E' Troop, Cav, Sigs
Aug 1923 - June 1925"

We are rather too unassuming in Royal Signals and it was good to see our Corps listed among such famous Regiments.

There is another plaque on that pavilion. It reads:

FISHER GROUND

This ground is named after
General Sir Bertie Fisher
who when Commanding
the 2nd Cavalry Brigade in 1922
organized a party of
officers and soldiers
to make the ground

I wonder who was in 'C' Troop in those days and whether any of your readers remember working on the Fisher Ground. It must have been quite a task. If any of them read this let me tell them they did a first-class job; it is an excellent ground in a really beautiful setting. If anyone can remember who commanded the Troop at that time, I would be interested to know.

Yours faithfully,
D. L. Sylvester-Bradley,
Colonel.

H.Q. 1 Signal Group,
Wilton,
Salisbury, Wilts.

From 249 Signal Squadron (FARELF)

Presentation of a Royal Signals Plaque to Mr. Simon Le-Lievre

MUCH involved with the Corps in the Far East has been **Mr. Simon Le-Lievre,** Press Officer in FARELF Public Relations Office.

We took pleasure in presenting him with a Royal Signals inscribed plaque on behalf of the S.O.-in-C. on 24th April. This event took place at a typical Corps celebration, a 249 Signal Squadron 'Tankard do' in Calcutta Camp—unfortunately the last of its kind. In presenting the plaque, **Major Hamish Mackinlay** commented on the number of exercises and operations **Simon** had covered with the Squadron; not forgetting his other activities for Royal Signals in the Far East. At home, his efforts in promoting 'Local Boy' stories and the like, have gained considerable publicity for the Corps.

Mr. Le-Lievre, in reply, thanked the S.O.-in-C. and members of the Corps for a gift "he would always treasure," and through those present, wished to be remembered to his old Corps friends.



"Of course, this one is not full grown yet, Sir ..."

Captain C. N. Armitage, M.B.E., shows Brigadier Peter Prescott, M.C., Commander 51st Infantry Brigade (Hong Kong) sections of underground cable. It was all part of a demonstration laid on during the annual inspection of 253 Squadron

Indian Signals Association

Brigadier F. J. Allen writes:

The 24th Annual Reunion took place at the Duke of York's Headquarters Club on 17th April, when 130 members and guests, including 30 ladies and two of our own Chelsea Pensioners, sat down to dinner.

The Master of Signals, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley,** was the Guest of Honour and made a wonderful speech. It was a most enjoyable and inspiring evening.

Our membership is now 344, an increase of 14 during the year. **Brigadier Freddie Allen,** our President for 10 years, hands over to **Major-General Richard Moberly,** a very popular and worthy successor.

Gurkha Signals on Everest Climb

One Gurkha Officer and two Gurkha N.C.O.s of the Gurkha Signal Regiment accompanied the recent International Expedition to Mount Everest.

The Expedition Joint Leader **Colonel Jimmy Roberts** has sent the following signal to **Major-General Derek Horsford,** Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas. Quote—"On conclusion of expedition please pass to the Major-General the thanks of expedition for making available the services of **Captain (Q.G.O.) Surendravikram Gurung, Sergeant Shyambahadur Pun** and **Lance-Corporal Lilbahadur Gurung** of Gurkha Signal Regiment as radio operators. During three months of varying fortunes which brought us up the unclimbed south-west face, and close to the summit of Mount Everest, one unvarying and vital factor was the excellence of radio communications between Base Camp and Katmandu. Thank you very much for your help and backing."

EMPLOYMENT

The Association has details of two appointments as follows:

Racal Communications Ltd. Post Design department suitable for senior technician.

Standard Telephones and Cables. Data Equipment and Systems Division. Suitable for experienced traffic officer or Yeoman of Signals.

Full details from General Secretary.

WESTERN COMMAND IN THE NEWS

A Corps Occasion in Chester

Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, C.S.O., H.Q., Western Command, writes:

On Sunday, 25th April, a Soldiers' Sunday Service was held in St. Mary-in-the-Walls Church, Chester. In addition to the Army Commander and members of the Staff of H.Q., Western Command, a large contingent from the Corps, with their families, attended the service. This comprised the C.S.O. and his staff, the O.C., and personnel of 241 Signal Squadron, Regular and Reserve Army personnel of 11 Signal Group, with their Commander, **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson,** and members of the Chester Branch of the Association, with their Chairman, **Mr. Lavis Jones.** Among the visitors was **Mr. Rowley Hill,** who was serving on the North West Frontier of India 54 years ago.

The sermon was preached by the **Reverend Charles Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D.,** Rector of Leek Woolton, Warwickshire, who retired as Chief Signal Officer in Western Command ten years ago. The crowded church heard a magnificent sermon, most appropriate to the occasion, delivered in the stirring and straight-forward manner which those who served with Charles remember.

Subsequently, all met together in the 241 Squadron Club—'The Gentlemen's Rest'—for drinks and an excellent curry lunch. Thanks and appreciation are due to **F. of S. Allen** and the members of 241 Squadron for making all the arrangements and doing all the work.

It must be a long time since so many present and former members of the Corps worshipped together in Chester.



A DAY THEY WILL REMEMBER

Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command presented W.O.I (G.S.M.) A. A. 'Mick' Hopewell, Royal Signals, and Sergeant J. Hopkins, R.A.P.C., with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on the 17 March at a ceremony in H.Q. Western Command attended by their families and friends. W.O.I Hopewell, who is now Garrison Sergeant Major in Chester, was formerly R.S.M. of 9th Signal Regiment in Cyprus

Third of a series sponsored by
H.Q. 2 Signal Group

Communication Centres of the U.K.

H.Q. WESTERN COMMAND

COMMCEN Chester is co-located with Headquarters Western Command in the pleasant Queens Park area of the old historic city. Constructed in 1937 the H.Q. building overlooks the east bank of the river Dee.

Staffed by Western Command Signal Regiment until the formation of 241 Signal Squadron in 1961, the Commcen was a Major Relay Station during the COMCAN era. It now serves the Headquarters and also guards on a 24-hour basis for some 11 other scheduled Army terminals throughout the command area, from Preston in the north to Cardiff in the south.

Civilianised to a large extent since 1955, our photograph shows supervisory staffs of the nine position manual telephone exchange and the message centre. One of our telecom operators, **Mrs. Barbara Newman,** has many stories to tell of former days, having served in the centre as **Corporal Barbara Pallett,** A.T.S., from 1945-1947.

Six W.R.A.C. Commcen operators form a valuable relief pool for the civilian manned telephone exchanges and TASS terminals throughout the command. These girls live out of the proverbial suitcase, especially in the summer months when holidays are at a premium. They form a vital link in the command communication set-up.



AN EFFICIENT TEAM

The supervisory staff Communications Centre, Chester. *Left to right:* Mrs. Pat Carroll, Mrs. Pat O'Gorman, Mr. Roy Meyrick and Miss Dorothy Temple

W.R.A.C. on and off parade

The young ladies of the W.R.A.C. are an integral part of the Corps in its daily work. They perform with charm and efficiency a variety of useful duties mainly in our Commcens. 'The Wire', as a tribute to them, is happy to feature below some shots taken by various units in the U.K. showing the Corps' young ladies both on and off parade.









1. **Private Diane Rimmell (241 Squadron) engrossed on TASS operator duties in the Chester Commcen**
2. **Private Jane Downie (240 Squadron) gives the camera a smile in the York Commcen**
3. **Private Valerie Wainwright, Lance-Corporal Jane Johnson, Private Ann McGhie and Corporal Sandra Ball relax in the 10th Regiment's Bruno Club**
4. **Later the same evening Lance-Corporal Jane Johnson, Lance-Corporal Sandra Rogerson, Private Diane Senior and Private Christine Evans feel a little refreshment is not out of place**
5. **Lieutenant Ruth Pearce and Lance-Corporal (now Corporal) Drew Robertson discuss a routine problem in the Edinburgh Commcen**



THEY'RE A LIVELY LOT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

W.R.A.C. of 223 Signal Squadron very much on their toes

We're not 'harping' about our work but . . . it's all go in Northern Ireland!

FROM a quiet backwater to a mainstream in full flood! In three months, from June 1969 to August 1969, vast changes took place. The numbers in the W.R.A.C. Signal Troop of 233 Signal Squadron almost doubled. The switchboard changed from a three-position PABX with about 170 subscribers to a four-position PABX with 302 subscribers. Early this year the exchange became the joint service switching centre for Northern Ireland and an ever-increasing number of P.W.s now come through it. The frame room has spread its tentacles and now takes over an entire lower floor wing of Headquarters Northern Ireland. There are 30 locality exchanges connected to the board instead of a previous total of 10. Our telegraph network in the Commcen has expanded enormously also. We are nearly at the stage of having to double-bunk our teleprinters! To add to this the Troop had several of its members replaced at short notice in March when it was ruled that only over 18s could serve in Northern Ireland. Despite this hectic activity we still find time to play sport!

Playing the game

During the past year the Signal Troop have taken part in a variety of sporting activities. **Sergeant Norma Hunter** won the ladies' singles and ladies' doubles in the Northern Ireland table tennis championships and **Lance-Corporal Nerys Owen** and **Lance-Corporal Jenny Jones** were the runners-up. **Lieutenant Jane Dyer** managed to attend the W.R.A.C. ski-ing course at the Rothiemurchus Lodge in the Cairngorms, and, as you can read from the following, we did try our best to support the W.R.A.C. in their netball and badminton championships. We have also tried our hand at camping!

The Headset Trio plug sport

For the first time in six years the W.R.A.C. in Northern Ireland entered the W.R.A.C. Inter-Zone badminton and netball held at Aldershot during the middle of February. **Lieutenant Jane Dyer, Lance-Corporal Nerys Owen** and **Lance-Corporal Jenny Jones** helped to make up the numbers in the netball team and form half of the badminton team.

Practice beforehand had been limited as the gymnasium had become the sleeping quarters of some military policemen and our netball posts had been requisitioned for their washing line. The fact that the outside court had been taken over as a car park also didn't help their cause! They were, however, determined to make a good impression even if they couldn't play brilliantly, so they knitted themselves out with some smart new track suits.

As they knew that their chances of winning anything were pretty slim the girls had decided that they would enjoy the change of scene and accept defeat graciously. In fact, throughout, they played incredibly well and gained the most tremendous support from the other W.R.A.C. Units. Strains of "Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate . . . " and "We love you Ireland, Oh yes we do . . . " resounded throughout the gym. So great was the noise that one couldn't even hear the bounce of the ball. Their welcome everywhere was beyond belief and it was said that if Northern Ireland had managed to turn up then they would expect to see Singapore at the next competition! The fact that they actually won a netball game was a mammoth achievement in itself and boosted their morale sky high. What's more—they didn't even come bottom!

Making the 'moist' of it at Lough Erne, or discomfort in tents

The April showers of this year turned the Emerald Isle into a sea of mud during the weekend that the Signals girls decided to go camping! We thought that we had kept the date a secret but obviously higher authority knew! Anyway, just to comfort the Staff who sometimes moan about our switchboard, it rained solidly all the time.

However the more adventurous of the girls were undeterred by the weather and made no effort to have the weekend cancelled. **Lieutenant Jane Dyer, Corporal Judy Collins, Corporal June Morgan, Lance-Corporal Nerys Owen, Lance-Corporal Jenny Jones** and **Private Gerry Hopcroft** set off for Castle Archdale camping site on the banks of lower Lough Erne with an enthusiasm which amazed everybody! Fortunately our tents had already been erected by the A.Y.T. who were also spending some time there. We tried to forget about the rain and cold as we busily set about cooking the most enormous dinner on our smart, new, Grillogaz. The afternoon activities amounted to a walk around the area and as we all got soaked to the skin it was decided that we would spend that evening in one of the public houses in Enniskillen, just to dry out, of course! We selected the liveliest and were serenaded by a couple of Irish lads before finishing our evening with a delicious meal of fish and chips.

Surprisingly we managed to get some sleep on Saturday night and prepared ourselves for Sunday by consuming one of the best breakfasts for some time — **Corporal Judy Collins** and **Lance-Corporal Nerys Owen** were the chefs. By the time we emerged from our tents the A.Y.T. had gone back to Lisburn and left us with a Sergeant and an Army landing craft plus a 33 h.p. engine. Despite the conditions we were eager to explore around some of the islands of the Lough. Just to complete the weekend the engine broke down and the craft was seen being carried away by the rough waves. **Lieutenant Jane Dyer** was mentally preparing herself for her court martial when a small speed boat was seen tearing towards the craft to save the day! Needless to say we all returned to Lisburn with at least our enthusiasm undampened and eager for the next camping weekend.



AT WORK IN THE EXCHANGE
Standing: Lance-Corporal Nerys Owen
Sitting, left to right: Private Chris Lowe, Lance-Corporal Gwen Atkins, Private Dawn Reynolds

COMPLIMENTARY

A special thank you to the attractive and cheerful young ladies who looked after the guests so well in the Bruno Club after 10th Regiment's recent Retreat Ceremony!



Welcome to the Corps

RECENTLY COMMISSIONED INTO THE CORPS—OFFICERS OF 73 'Q' COURSE

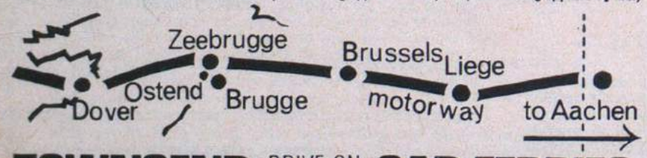
Back row, left to right : Second-Lieutenant Cory, Second-Lieutenant Day, Lieutenant Doody, Lieutenant Elford, Second-Lieutenant Heath
Front row, left to right: Second-Lieutenant Neeve, Second-Lieutenant Rayner, Second-Lieutenant Reid, Second-Lieutenant Sharman, Lieutenant Symmons

DAILY SAILINGS AT REDUCED FARES TO ENGLAND from Belgium & France to Dover by



TOWNSEND

CAR FERRIES ZEEBRUGGE-DOVER/CALAIS-DOVER
(Sea crossing approx. 4 hrs.) (Sea crossing approx. 1¾ hrs.)



TOWNSEND DRIVE-ON DRIVE-OFF **CAR FERRIES**

● At least 2 SAILINGS EVERY DAY from Zeebrugge and up to 4 sailings a day during June, July, August and September ● Reduced fares for British and Commonwealth Forces and dependants, and attached civilians ● Economical catering and bar prices aboard ● Go on the shorter sea crossing at lower rates with your family and car for home leave.

CARS, CARAVANS, TRAILERS, etc. taken for ONE HALF of NORMAL CHARGE from OCT. to MAY incl.

GET FULL DETAILS FROM

MILATRAVEL Offices, Local Travel Agents, G.S.N. Co., m.b.h., Graf-Adolf-Strasse 12, Dusseldorf 4, Furness Shipping Line, Groenplatts 42, Antwerp, or Townsend Car Ferries Car Ferry Terminal, Zeebrugge or Gare de Transit, Calais. Travel on a British ship by the FREE ENTERPRISE LINE. U.K. Bookings through your nearest Motoring Organisation, Travel Agents or the Townsend offices at:

127 REGENT STREET, LONDON W.1 or P.O. BOX 12, DOVER.

Corps Band visits Cyprus



WHERE ARE THEY ALL GOING?
The Corps Band countermarching during a Retreat Ceremony in Cyprus creates an unusual effect

The Corps Band visited Cyprus from 17th April to 28th April—we think for the first time ever.

After receiving news of the impending visit last November, members of H.Q. 3 Signal Group set about the task of organising a varied programme to cover the whole island and to enable as many Servicemen and their families as possible to see our fine Corps Band.

Absent—half the Band instruments

When the Band finally got here there was panic for a few hours, when it was discovered that half of the instruments had not arrived. Fortunately, the next aircraft arriving at Akrotiri brought in the remaining instruments.

A great boost to Corps prestige

The highlight of the programme was the Playing of Retreat ceremony on 19th April at Happy Valley, Episkopi. Much effort had gone into the organisation of this ceremony, the brunt of which was borne by 259 Signal Squadron. Some 300 official guests were invited, including the visiting Under Secretary of State (Army), **Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith,** the C.-in-C., **Air Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.,** the G.O.C. NEARELF, **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.,** Commander UNFICYP, **Major-General D. Prem Chand,** and many local Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot dignitaries.

Throughout the whole tour of the island, the Corps Band gave magnificent performances and was loudly acclaimed by all who saw and heard it. Without doubt, this visit certainly put Royal Signals on the map in Cyprus. The plaudits are still coming in.

During their brief moments of 'rest,' members of the Band were busy having photographs taken for local boy stories and cramming in sightseeing tours.

We sincerely hope that **Captain Keith Boulding** and his merry musicians enjoyed their trip to Cyprus. For our part, we were most grateful for the rare opportunity of seeing them in Cyprus and for enhancing the Corps image in Cyprus. Come back soon!

The R.E. Wireless Signals (1914-1918) Association hold last Reunion Dinner

THE Wireless Training Centre and Draft Depot R.E. (Signals) was formed at Worcester in 1915 with **Major Handley** in command and **Lieutenant R. Priestley** as Adjutant. It remained there until the autumn of 1917 by which time it had grown to 2,200 officers and men. The people of Worcester and its neighbourhood took kindly to the 'Sappers' and many lasting friendships were formed.

In 1934 a reunion dinner at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, marked the formation of the R.E. Wireless Signals (1914-1918) Association and from then on the Association held an annual dinner. At first, these dinners were held in Birmingham since that city was the centre of the railway system of the British Isles. Before long a general desire was expressed to hold the dinners in Worcester. The Mayor of Worcester kindly allowed the Guildhall to be used and, coming as a guest to our first dinner there, was so impressed by the keenness and comradeship which he found that he told the assembled company that they would be welcomed there annually if they would like to come. The invitation was gladly accepted. **Major R. Priestley,** who returned from Australia about this time, became President following a very warm welcome.

He had been Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University and came home to take up a similar post at Birmingham University. He was knighted while in office.

Starting with an attendance of 300 in 1934, members gradually fell off with the passage of years. For some time 100 or so could be relied on to attend but more recently time has taken its toll and many of the old comrades still alive are too old to travel. In order to keep numbers up wives have been invited for some years. This year some 80 old comrades and wives attended.

Presentation of plaque to the Mayor of Worcester

The event was as enjoyable as ever but the committee had decided to make this the last dinner. **Sir Raymond** is now 82 and finds it difficult to get about, and less and less old comrades are able to travel. Members felt that they could not let the occasion pass without marking their affection for the city where they trained. Accordingly, after the toast to 'The City of Worcester' (proposed by **Alderman R. Jolliffe, J.P.,** and



(Courtesy: Birmingham Post and Mail)

Major J. A. Cooper, one of the Vice-presidents, holding the plaque which he designed, commemorating the founding of H.Q. R.E. Wireless Signals in Worcester in the early days of 1914-18 war. The plaque was presented to the Mayor of Worcester in recognition of the support given by the City

responded to by the Mayor, **Councillor L. T. Warner**) the President presented to the Mayor a plaque. On this, beneath the arms of the Royal Engineers (monogram GRV) was a tablet engraved as follows:

"This tablet records the founding of the Headquarters of the Royal Engineers Wireless Signals in the City of Worcester in the early days of the First Great War (1914-1918)."

"From this City trained wireless engineers left and served with distinction in every theatre of war."

"Until 1971 the survivors held an annual reunion in this hall marking their affection for the City and its citizens."

We produce, by courtesy of 'The Birmingham Post,' a photograph of the plaque together with its designer, **Major J. A. Cooper, E.R.D.**, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association.

Later in the proceedings **Colonel Max Holdsworth, M.B.E., T.D., D.L.**, proposed the toast of 'The President and members of the Royal Engineers Wireless Signals (1914-1918) Association.'

This was responded to by **Sir Raymond Friestley, M.C., M.A., D.Sc.**, who in the course of his speech told his hearers that he was giving to each old comrade a booklet entitled 'Wireless Memories round and about the first World War including an Adjutant's view of the Wireless Training Centre at Worcester 1915 to 1917.'

This humorous booklet will continue to dispel, for a long time, much of the regret of R.E. (Signals) Old Comrades that they are not to meet again at Worcester.

Editor's note

Sir Raymond Priestley and his brother-in-law are among the few survivors of Captain Scott's last expedition to the South Pole.

The committee were: Hon. Secretary, **Mr. W. G. Taylor**, 24 Victoria Square, Droitwich. Members: **Messrs. P. T. Elesmore, J. Pearce, A. H. Ward** and **H. G. Wrenn.**

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in April	**41**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**39**
Amount spent in grants and loans	**£1,172.86**

One of the Month's Cases

LANCE-CORPORAL, who served as a regular soldier from 1939 to 1947 and was a prisoner-of-war in Germany for five years. He is now very severely incapacitated with chronic bronchitis and unable to work. His wife tries to keep things going by doing a part-time job, and there is one child at school. The Association made a grant of £71.00 to clear rent arrears and to pay off in full a Hire Purchase commitment, thus reducing the family outgoings by £1.00 a week. His letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

MAY I take this pleasure in thanking the Committee for the wonderful grant of £71.00. I am real proud to be a member of an Association such as the Royal Signals and the esprit de corps that shines. As you know I am in ill health and house-bound and the future looks grim, but I am still able to keep my head up and chin in, thanks to the Committee for that generous grant.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March, 1971:

Officer Commanding, 9th Signal Regiment	£5.00
Winchester Archery Club (through O.C., 223 Signal Squadron) ...	£3.00
Mrs. M. T. Mann (in memory of her husband Major P. R. Mann)	£3.15
K. J. Williams, Esq.	£1.75
R. N. Houston, Esq.	£1.00
F. A. A. Randall, Esq.	75
R. S. Dorward, Esq.	75
F. Winter, Esq.	53
J. Cochran, Esq.	53
Major M. Gordon Wilson	50
H. G. Smyth, Esq.	50
J. Lothian, Esq.	50
Various individual donations	£1.50
Total ...	£19.46

HALT!

the depreciation of your Savings

CHECK WITH SERVICE BROKERS

THE INVESTMENT SPECIALISTS

1 SERVICE BROKERS will assist you with expert knowledge – and Without Obligation

2 Investment! Protection! House Purchase! School Fees! etc. SERVICE BROKERS take it all in their stride

On the Command

"FALL OUT"
FALL IN

with SERVICE BROKERS the Service Specialists

SERVICE BROKERS

INCORPORATED MORTGAGE BROKERS

30b Market Place, Richmond, Yorkshire
Telephone Richmond 2435



SOME OF OUR YOUNG FRIENDS
Junior Agents relax with Lance-Corporal Anderson and Sergeant Lees at 22nd Signal Regiment

Catch 'em young and rear 'em

By W.O.1 J. E. Taylor, late of 10th Signal Regiment, now R.S.M. 71st Signal Regiment (V)

AT nine o'clock on a cold but bright Easter Monday morning on the Regimental square at 10th Signal Regiment there congregated around **Major J. G. James, M.C.**, and the author a number of pressmen and 17 schoolboys, Junior Agents of the 'Evening Mail' en route to 22nd Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R.

Junior Agents

What is a Junior Agent? He is a newspaper boy with a difference. He is the last link of a chain which delivers newspapers direct from the publisher to the reader. He works on a commission basis and his motto is 'Service.' This system has been adopted by the 'Evening Mail' and other British newspapers after having been successfully introduced in the U.S.A.

Why are these boys visiting a Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R.? They have won a competition organised jointly between the C.S.O.'s Branch, Southern Command, and the newspaper. Each J.A., some 600 in all, qualified as an entrant, the 17 selected boys answered correctly eight questions relating to the Royal Signals and methods of communication and wrote the best essays on 'What do you consider the role of the Royal Signals in the Army today?'

The first taste of Army life for the J.A.s and their escorts, area sales supervisor **Mr. Peter Garland** and reporter **Mr. Chris Goffey,** was a late tea/early breakfast at Churchill Barracks, Lippstadt, at 01.30 hours Tuesday, 13th April. Unlike the resident soldiers who help themselves, this meal was served to them by **Major M. S. Wilson Brown** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Trevor Mullord** who had waited up to greet the boys. Here a special mention for **Sergeant Bill Lees** who met the party at Dusseldorf and accompanied us throughout our stay (I was supervising Warrant Officer).

Welcome

Seventeen excited J.A.s rose from their beds somewhat noisily on Tuesday morning according to R.H.Q. located on the floor below. **Lance-Corporals Keith Anderson, Chris Illingworth** and **Keith Fairningham** were to be their guides and were allocated six, six and five boys respectively.

Their programme began at 14.00 hours with a welcoming address by **Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. W. Cooper,** Commanding 22nd Signal Regiment. **Lieutenant-Colonel Cooper** recalled his school days and wished every boy a pleasant and interesting stay with the Regiment. This was followed by a conducted tour of the Regiment by which time dinner was ready to be served.

Initiation

Wednesday. In beautiful sunshine the J.A.s were given a conducted tour, with demonstration and explanation, of the technical and operational vehicles used in the field, and at 14.00 hours **Major Ronnie Trotman,** Second-in-Command, explained, lectured and talked to them at length about the British Army and in particular the set-up and role of the Corps. On Wednesday evening the J.A.s were given the freedom of the miniature range and although only two boys had fired previously the results were extremely good. The best shot (first time out), **Kevin Leach,** scored 85, only one less than the author, and he was presented with a crystal ashtray bearing the insignia of the 22nd Signal Regiment by **Captain P. M. A. Whittaker,** Second-in-Command of 2 Squadron.

Application

Thursday. The opportunity to operate the equipment seen yesterday was given to the J.A.s in the form of a mini exercise set up especially for them.

Friday. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the Chief Clerk had arranged a football match between the boys of the Regimental Youth Club and the J.A.s. The delicacy of Thursday had gone and the ferocious battle which took place between 09.00 hours and 10.30 hours ended in a 2-2 draw.



DEAD EYE DICK
Captain Whittaker presents junior agent Kevin Leach with a crystal ashtray as best .22 shot

International flavour

At 14.00 hours the J.A.s visited the local Bundeswehr Fernmeldebataillon at Lipperland Barracks. Greeted by Second-in-Command **Major Schneider** they were then welcomed by the Commandant, **Oberstleutnant Storck.** The Commandant expressed his delight in having this opportunity to show the Britische Zeitungsjungen his Regiment and to entertain them to coffee and cake in the Officers' Mess to conclude an interesting afternoon. This visit was covered by the German Press, Lippstadeter Tageblatt 'Der Patriot' which contained photographs and a special article.

Lieutenant-Colonel Storck spoke of the good relations between the Fernmeldebataillon 7 and the Signal Regiment at Churchill Barracks, of **Major Wilson Brown** and the soldiers escorting the young Britons. "The co-operation between the British and German Units," **Lieutenant-Colonel Storck** said, "is of decisive importance to the security of Western Europe."

Seeing the local sights

Saturday. The Mohnetal is situated south of Soest and this was our destination on Saturday. Armed with a picnic lunch we set out in pouring rain to view the spectacular Mohne Dam.

Sunday. A perfect day and at 10 o'clock the party set out on an interesting tour of the area. The first stop was at the natural rock formation, the Externsteine, standing some 30 meters or so high near the village of Horn. Continuing on an hour later we entered the Teutoburger Walde near Detmold and the J.A.s ate their lunch at the foot of Hermannsdenkmal. The third stop, mid-afternon, was at Erlinghausen's Segelflugplatz (glider airfield). The boys displayed an enormous interest in watching the gliders and light aircraft in the high wind, and our stop was extended. Finally, with the coach windows tightly closed, the party entered the Grosswild Safari at Stukenbrock with its lions, elephants, bison, llamas (delighting in cheese sandwiches) and a host of other wild animals and birds.

With the Luftwaffe

Monday. And back to the serious business of soldiering. The 21st Rocket Battalion of the Luftwaffe entertained the J.A.s today. They were instructed in the various types of radar, the computers and tracking equipment but much more interesting for the schoolboys a turn on the low-level air defence machine gun (with blanks, of course). Security did not allow the boys to enter the rocket area but for their convenience the rockets were elevated and could be seen.

On Monday evening the return match with the Youth Club took place; football at its best and at which the J.A.s excelled, winning by three goals to one. Goals from **Stephen Grant, Brian Vicery** and an own goal.

The Corps in action

Tuesday. With the Regiment in the field it was an opportunity to show the Junior Agents the Corps in action and on their 180 miles round trip they visited two field set-ups. Decidedly disappointed and not knowing what 'Z' time was they viewed the first complex, at Stuckenberg near Bunde, with pangs of hunger and ate their first meal, all-in stew and potatoes, at 14.00 hours Junior Agent time. Final farewells were said to **Major Wilson Brown** and his staff who had so ably entertained us and whom we would not encounter again on this trip.

Two metres high

At the second location, on the Dorenberg near Bad Iburg, we were greeted by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bernie Tune** (known by local friends in Lippstadt as 'Zwei Meter Hoch' (two metres high)). Towering about the J.A.s **Mr. Tune** read out the menu for the evening meal from whence the boys were conducted round the complex with **S.S.M. Tune** explaining all as they went. The J.A.s were astounded to find a cook rolling out pastry on a table in the wood.

With the Gunners

Wednesday. The Junior Agents have had an insight into the workings of the Corps and to end their full and exciting 10-day tour something different. No. 6 Battery of the 27th Medium Regiment, R.A., set up for them, and a group of A.C.F. boys from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, two self-propelled guns and a command post.

Shopping and farewell

And finally at 14.20 hours a shopping expedition to Lippstadt, indeed both the first and last opportunity that time had permitted in the comprehensive programme the Regiment had drawn up. We, the escorts, hope that the Junior Agents of the 'Evening Mail' have enjoyed their trip. It was a pleasure meeting them all. **Major R. A. Trotman** said as we departed at 05.00 hours on Thursday, 22nd April: "We have enjoyed having you with us and we would not hesitate to welcome you again." I am sure I speak for all the J.A.s and newspaper staff when I say, "Thank you 22nd Signal Regiment, and, Sir, we would love to come again."

Footnote: In memory of the 10 days spent with the Royal Signals in B.A.O.R. each of the Junior Agents was presented with a blue beret bearing the Corps Badge mounted on the 1 (BR) Corps Formation Sign.

A FEW MISGUIDED IDEAS ABOUT SACCONE & SPEED.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply French wines.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply the expensive vintages.

And now for the truth.

Saccone & Speed supply a wide range of excellent French wines.

Saccone & Speed also supply a superb selection of expensive vintage wines.

But what a lot of people don't realise is that we supply a whole range of surprisingly good quality inexpensive wines.

So if you don't feel like forking out for a Latour '49, we can always do you something nice for under a pound.

SACCONE & SPEED LTD.

In association with

Charles Kinloch & CO. LTD.

KINLOCH HOUSE,
17 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON NW10.



WARRANT OFFICERS, N.C.O.'s– bring your skills and rank to Australia

Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army–or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank and acquired specialist skills. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain–and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain you receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity.

Don't leave it any longer!

Your trade may be included in those available and this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London–or post the coupon for all the facts.

Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name_____

Address_____

_____

_____

Age_____ Married/Single_____

Rank_____ Corps_____

Trade_____

Anticipated Discharge Date_____

**To: Captain J. R. Godwin,
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356**



A fishing story from Singapore

Colonel Prabhu goes to sea

By Captain A. F. Carter, Gurkha Signals

COLONEL **Prabhu Narsing Rana** and his wife are old friends of Gurkha Signals from the days when the office the Royal Nepalese Liaison Officer was in Rasah Camp, a stone's throw from our old home, Sikamat Camp. We then moved to Singapore and the Colonel moved with H.Q., Brigade of Gurkhas, to Hong Kong, and we saw no more of him until . . . down at the jetty at Tanjong Belayar lay an R.C.T. launch, and off shore, in the channel between the mainland and Blakang Mati Island, 200 yachts were sweeping away eastwards towards Changi. Another R.C.T. launch appeared, towing a dismasted GP14 and, having shed its charge, docked alongside its sistership. A Brigadier with a black eyepatch was firmly in command of this launch. Apparently one of the three propellers on his craft had dropped off and he now eyed our boat singularly and speculatively. I said "Good morning Brigadier. We have two wives, two officers (British), three officers (Gurkha), a Nepalese Colonel, six Gurkha children and two babes in arms coming aboard with food and fishing rods, please join us."

The Brigadier said he would get a helicopter

The Brigadier said he would get a helicopter instead, and left with his family, just as the proof of my words arrived in the form of an overloaded Land Rover containing the Gurkha element. When the balance of the party had arrived and bodies had been stowed in every corner, our worthy Malay skipper switched on his three engines, one after the other, and we moved off after the C.O.

In one of two hundred yachts

Perhaps I should explain at this point that the C.O. and a large Swedish sailing colleague of his were in one of those 200 yachts. The fleet had been sailing, tacking and reaching for some seven hours already at this point, and the boats were well strung out. But we had a clue. Ours was the only boat with a red mainsail, crewed by a Swedish Consul-General and a C.O. We caught up with the rear of the fleet, and rather sooner than expected, spotted our quarry. Amidships our launch, **Colonel Prabhu** looked happy enough for a man who comes from a country where only its soldiers and diplomats have ever seen the sea. We closed on a red-sailed boat waving and shouting encouragement. The C.O. would need more than encouragement if he was that far behind after only half the race. Being polite seafarers, we had closed on the boat downwind, so as not to take its wind.

We steamed away in confusion

A bored individual looked under the boom after a while to see what all the noise was about. He was neither the Swede nor the C.O., and we steamed away in confusion. The next three boats with red sails were all 'red herrings,' and by now the fleet was thinning out. There were, however, one or two left, and one of these had red sails either at the front or back. We approached more cautiously this time, and no cheer went up until the C.O. was positively identified, looking slightly more tousled than his norm. We followed in their wake for some distance until the dinghy suddenly turned left and our skipper declined to follow, saying that it would be much too rough for our 40ft. launch travelling across the wind in that direction. It was midday, and at this stage the C.O. appeared to have little opposition; **Colonel Prabhu** was really beginning to behave like an old sea dog, although the Head Clerk had become strangely silent. Plaintive cries for food were beginning to be heard. Our coxswain said that he knew of a secluded island beach nearby where we could picnic. One hour later we came alongside a wooden pier jutting from a kampong-crowded mud flat. Hunger precluded the lengthy search for the perfect spot which usually accompanies a picnic. We spread ourselves on the pier at the feet of uncomplaining locals who were waiting for their ferries. They were obviously used to such curious behaviour from the coxswain's passengers.

Fishing rods appeared amongst the Gurkha officers, and fortuitously, a customer appeared right on cue at the end of **Colonel Prabhu's** line. Only one other fish was caught, by the Head Clerk, but it was respectfully much smaller.

Showing a lamentable lack of faith in the Colonel's fishing ability

The picnic over, we embarked once again, this time to try a little deep sea fishing. The launch anchored in many fathoms of water, and whilst **Colonel Prabhu** was called to the bow to gaze at some ancient defence works, a furtive attempt was made to burden his line with a monster carp, previously purchased in the market as an insurance against total failure. So great was the dead weight of this dead fish that when it was thrown into the sea the line broke. All we had achieved was to display lamentable lack of faith in the Colone's fishing ability, the measure of which he had already demonstrated.

After the loss of the great fish, and to the relief of the ship's crew, we decided to head for home. The return journey was as enjoyable as the earlier part of the trip, and **Colonel Prabhu** appeared to be none the worse for his experience. We found out the next day that the C.O. had been in real danger of winning the GP class for a time, but honourably saved himself at the last moment by withdrawing a protest when it looked too much like succeeding. He also preferred not to sit down for the next 24 hours or so, so his wife tells us.

Signals Wing, The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

STAFF LIST

Chief Instructor	**Major D. J. Milton**
R.S.M.	**W.O.I P. W. Todd, B.E.M.**
R.S.M. Designate	**W.O.I J. M. Haydon**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 D. S. J. Wootten**

We get about

THE working life of the Signals Wing has continued as normal since our last notes appeared. Apart from the local instruction at Sandhurst, exercises take us regularly to Norfolk, Wales, France, Germany and Cyprus, while **Signalmen Davenport** and **Campbell** were surprised, on reporting for duty, to be sent to the Far East for a couple of months.

Channel next?

Major David Milton, who is the Academy Swimming Officer, recently organised a sponsored swim in aid of the Camberley and District Mentally and Socially Handicapped Children. As he felt duty bound to enter, the members of the Wing sponsored him for just over £2 per length, and he promised to try for "at least four lengths"; he finally gave up after 12 lengths!

It was pleasing to know that the total collected from this event, well over £400, was sufficient to finance the Society's special school for a six-month period.

Entertaining and battle efficiency

The Wing Senior N.C.O.s carried out the task of entertainments within the Sergeants' Mess during the spring term. This was a most successful venture, which has got the Wing off to a good start with the new Academy Sergeant-Major, **W.O.I Ray Huggins** (Grenadier Guards). **Staff Sergeant Tom Guest** successfully performed as P.E.C. and **Sergeant Roy Jennings** and his technicians built a first-class discotheque, which has been very well accepted.

We completed the battle efficiency tests (to Sandhurst standards!) as a squad, without even feeling it, thanks to the continuous programme of fitness training that **Mr. Todd** has organised throughout the winter. Early morning sports are hard, but they make the working day easy in comparison!

Signals Wing — The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst — April, 1971



Top, left to right: Lance-Corporal A. Epthorp, Signalman G. Hickey, Corporal A. Birkett, Corporal W. Pedder, Lance-Corporal M. Giradot, Signalman J. Newton, Signalman A. Hodgson, Signalman W. McCormick

Centre, left to right: Corporal D. Dodd, Corporal W. Collyer, Signalman D. Plumb, Signalman G. Campbell, Signalman G. Devonport, Signalman V. Edwards, Sergeant J. Tunney, Sergeant B. Doughty, Sergeant E. Jennings, Corporal P. Dalton, Signalman M. Hughes, Lance-Corporal R. McLeod, Corporal G. Boast

Bottom, left to right: Sergeant P. Robinson, Sergeant M. Sully, Sergeant W. House, Staff-Sergeant T. Guest, W.O.2 (Y.O.S.) D. Wootten, W.O.I (R.S.M.) P. W. Todd, B.E.M., Major D. J. Milton, Royal Signals, Mrs. V. W. Smith, Colour Sergeant (S.) P. Rowse, R.M., Staff-Sergeant (Y.O.S.) J. Meehan, Sergeant D. Bowden, Sergeant E. Vickers, Sergeant D. Jackson

Do-it-yourself electricity

The Lorraine County Primary School, Camberley, which caters for the education of a large number of the children of the Officers of the R.M.A.S. and the Staff College, was half destroyed by fire last year. The extensive damage resulted in the children being put on 'part-time' schooling. The County Council hastily erected four temporary classrooms, chalet type, but had trouble laying on electricity. Our Chief Instructor, **Major David Milton,** then offered assistance and two of our technicians, **Corporals Dodd** and **Birkett,** installed temporary lighting and heating for the rooms, under the direction of **Sergeant Jennings.** Whilst their efforts have been very much appreciated by the Headmistress, '**Doddy**' and '**Al**' **Birkett** were not 'top of the pops' with the children, who were able to return to full-time schooling.

Good relations with schools

One of the many varied instructional commitments undertaken by the Signals Wing is the training and examination of College Cadet Forces. Three such colleges are at present under instruction—Eton (**Sergeant 'Des' Jackson**), Charterhouse (**Sergeant 'Mick' Sully**) and Wellington (**Sergeant Eddie Vickers**). Each college has a Signals Platoon of eight to twelve students and, by fostering good relations with these Platoons, we hope to tap this wealth of possible Royal Signals candidates. A very enthusiastic Army scholar will be joining the Corps when commissioned.

Personality parade

Some notes on individuals may make the Corps aware that they're still around. **Jim Tunney,** the Corps rugby player, is a well-liked (feared?) instructor, whose fitness is an example to all our youngsters. **Corporal Barry Archer,** who is now recovering from rheumatic fever, continues to play a quiet, efficient part in all Academy activities. His services as a soccer referee—like all our qualified men—have been much in demand. **Signalman Vic Edwards** regularly plays for the Academy Staff Soccer XI and has recently represented the Corps. As one of the few soldier members of the 'Edward Bear' Club, he has a status above the ordinary good chit!

That man from Eastney . . .

For our 'foreign' readers, **Colour Sergeant (S) Peter Rowse,** our man from Eastney, continues to uphold the honour of the Royal Marines; '**Floater**' or '**Marine Boy**' is our liaison expert with the Post Office for all telephones and lines, and looks after the ladies in the exchange, in addition to instructing. Although he has been at the Academy for almost two years, his references to cabins, bunks, stand-easies and going ashore, and our insistence on calling them rooms, beds, and so forth, still occasionally lead to confusion! To give **his** views of **us,** we've allowed him to add a few sentences.

. . . and his point of view

There are some 40 all ranks in the Signals Wing, and all but one wears the 'Jimmy'—I am the odd one—I wear the 'Globe and Laurel.' One might say an odd combination, but both Corps have had close contact for many years, and there are exchange postings, one of these being the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Having seen draft chits (postings?) for nearly two years, I offer the following up-to-date news on some of the Senior N.C.O.s.

Staff Sergeant Tom Fritz Guest and **Sergeant Jim Tunney** are both in need of wigs. At the moment, their pates are glowing well in the chilly spring weather! **Sergeant Bill House** has converted to the very high-neck shirts—says he keeps getting a rash! **Sergeant Barry Doughty** was very annoyed when the Navy did away with 'the tot' and has sulked ever since. One could say a lot of things, but to summarise in a few words . . . it's a pleasure and an honour to be working with such a good Corps.

Mrs. Smith in line for L.S. and G.C.?

With all this talk of personalities, it would be quite wrong not to mention **Mrs. V. W. Smith,** now known to almost all officers in the Corps through her years of service with the Wing. She is still going strongly and providing a clear link of continuity through all the comings and goings. She attended a promotion board recently, but if it means moving away, the odds are she will stay with us.

A posting here can be recommended

In conclusion, although the above notes indicate that we spend our time sporting, or 'living it up,' we have, in fact, had a very full military training programme, and our instructional staff, well supported by the Signals MT Section, have been fully stretched throughout the year in order to fill our commitments. At the same time, we have managed to get everybody on at least one course, in order to further their qualifications. So, if you get posted to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, be prepared to work hard, play hard, and get yourself well qualified—it's a most satisfying tour of duty.

Arrivals and departures

We say hello' to **Sergeants Kellett** and **Bowden, Lance-Corporal Shalliker** and **Signalman McCormick,** and farewell to **Sergeant John Bayne** (now in Hong Kong), **Lance-Corporal Hatton** (now with 20 Armoured Brigade), **Corporal Windsor** and **Lance-Corporal Eatwell** (both to civilian life).

News from Regiments

3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, Bulford Camp

THE annual F.F.R. inspection has been and gone with the usual attendant sighs of relief. Everything appeared to go well on 'the day" (dare I say as usual) and everyone looked forward to a well-deserved long weekend.

After that April appeared to be a fairly quiet month in the Regiment with the accent on weapon training and range practice in preparation for the Regimental Skill at Arms meeting which took place from the 19th-23rd. The weather was very kind for the first four days but the L.M.G. pairs and falling plate competitions had to be fired off in appalling weather on the final day. There was one consolation, however, it rained just as hard on the G.O.C., **Major-General G. C. A. Gilbert, M.C.,** who kindly presented the prizes, as it did on the competitors. Despite the weather some very creditable results were obtained.

1 SQUADRON

Cyprus has its attractions

During April C2 Troop sent a detachment of seven men under **Second-Lieutenant Cook** out to Cyprus to take part in radio relay trials. They were extremely well looked after by 9th Signal Regiment and were pleasantly surprised to find that they were not worked too hard. They all returned brown, full of the joys of summer, to be met by a cold Bulford and snow.

Seven applications for service overseas resulted from that trip so one assumes it was not only successful but very enjoyable. How sympathetic are Records these days?

The remainder of the Squadron have had to be content with settling down to the long slow grind of preparing for the forthcoming U.E.I.

2 SQUADRON, 'A' TROOP

Annual F.F.R. inspection the emphasis will be on airportability . . . weigh all vehicles, radio sets, prepare batteries, lower electrolyte levels, three-quarter-full petrol tanks, manifests, dangerous cargo, etc., etc.

Finally a pre-F.F.R. check . . .

Moments of humour

One lot flew and set up on Salisbury Plain simulating a foreign country. Later the C.O. was inspecting, he opened a D11 Airtech container and found a body inside, inspecting retinue stepped forward, looks of horror, rapid excuses to C.O. The body was one **Signalman Ingleby,** alive and well, gonking. "Well done," said the C.O. "All on exercise should sleep when they are able," inspecting retinue showed relief . . .

Lance-Corporal Evans of 1 Squadron preparing to decam looked up and got a message right in the eye. "B— rooks," he yelled, "not only that it's a hot one!"

F.F.R. completed, good report all round, big sighs of relief.

Meanwhile the airportability of battery electrolyte had been examined. Bottles, stone, one pint; screw stopper, asbestos washer, etc. Bottles indented for, Q.M. receives, S.Q.M.S. hand/take-over going on, week later bottles received by S.Q.M.S., signs out to Battery shop, battery shop N.C.O. away on duty. 'M' Troop won't release keys without authority. Authority obtained, shop opens, no bottles! Battery shop N.C.O. duly returns, "Those bottles are in another store," he says. Finally, 10 minutes before they are required, we have them, flap off!

Norway and now Denmark

Lance-Corporal Willimott, Lance-Corporal Bodimeade and **Corporal Taylor** are at present learning all about waterproofing Mk. II Land Rovers then will be practising wet landings before going to Denmark. **Lance-Corporal Willimott** has only just returned from a long detachment to Norway and it just had to work out that he and his detachment were one of the only three available due to excess of man management.

Odd jottings

Staff Sergeant Goodman is losing still more hair arranging recruiting visits for field detachments all over South West England between exercises; meanwhile sport and troop training continues at a hectic pace. 'Alpha' Troop holds its own at basketball, volleyball, cross-country — well done **Signalman Parry** of Rebro Troop. They say he even stopped to tie a shoe lace, listen to the first cuckoo (or was it the S.Q.M.S.?) whilst on the run!

Signalman Scarll accompanied **Lieutenant Schofield** on the Devizes to Westminster canoe race and paddled extremely well. Unfortunately they were sunk by a speeding cabin cruiser after 70 miles of sustained effort in bad weather. **Signalman Scarll** because of his prowess as a canoer has of course gone on posting to 200 Hovercraft Squadron R.C.T.

For the month of May we have one Divisional exercise, communications for 'Ten Tors,' a sponsored walk comms coverage, a major gunnery exercise, annual U.E.I. and several one-week internal courses; a fairly quiet month!

The WIRE— *Now 50 Years old*

Without it—
You're not With it!

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Being an army officer isn't all sunshine—

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:

Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Change of Commanding Officer

APART from minor details like the Easter break and a CPX or two, the main thing about April was that we said farewell to our Commanding Officer and greeted a new one. Most of us who have more than a year or two's service have come to realise that commanding a Regiment is hard work; but surely there can be absolutely nothing so exhausting as handing one over. **Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Stonham** was dined-out of the Officers' Mess—departing at 01.00 hours in an armchair on the top of **Signalman Jim Hurrell's** 432 — then dined-out by the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess; then drunk-out (I hope that's the right word) by the Corporals' Mess (complete with fanfare trumpeters from our Carabinier friends down the road); not to mention a visit to the Oberburgermeister and a few arduous lunches at Corps H.Q. and Brigades. Finally, he was towed to the gate in a Land Rover on Monday, 3rd May, and had various contraband items removed from his car by the Regimental Police under **Sergeant Black,** who had obviously had his suspicions for some time.

After all that, at the risk of repeating ourselves, we wish **Colonel Stonham** and his family every happiness—and even a bit of a rest—in the more rarefied air of the Ministry of Defence.

Surprisingly enough, the daparting C.O. seems to have found time in between social occasions to explain how things work (or are supposed to) to his successor **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Burrows.** At any rate, the latter is already displaying a disconcertingly clear understanding of who we are and what we ought to be doing—disconcerting anyway to those who, like your correspondent, thought they could remain unnoticed for a few halcyon weeks.



CR SIGNALS FAREWELL

Lieutenant Colonel R. L. Stonham is towed to the Barrack Gate by a fully-integrated team (how many cap-badges?)

Change of R.S.M.s, too

Not content with changing Commanding Officers, we are about to do the same with R.S.M.s. **R.S.M. A. R. Hill** has not yet left us, but he is in the process of handing-over to **R.S.M. M. G. E. Hall,** who has joined us from 21st Signal Regiment. We wish **R.S.M. Hill** and his family every good fortune in their next posting to 37th Signal Regiment (V) in Bristol. **R.S.M. Hall** has, we understand, already been pledged to keep us up to the mark on marching past in slow time, among other things.

Exercises

We had a Divisional H.Q. CPX to help while away the time. It was enlivened by a visit from a party of M.P.s (NOT the Fuzz—they are with us always, wearing those charming red-topped hats—but Members of Parliament). We understand they were favourably impressed, but we couldn't tell for certain as both we and they had to wear respirators for much of their visit, which made conversation and even recognition a little difficult. However, as far as I know no one made the mistake of shanghai-ing one into a vehicle crew, and none of us got carried back to Parliament in their bus.

Anyway, it was generally voted a good exercise, M.P.s, 'crash' moves, Noddy-suits and all.

In case anyone should be getting over-confident (or just because they fancied another few days in the country) the Bruin Boys of 1 and 3 Squadrons, plus a few others, plunged off to the woods again in the first few days of May. Can't think what they find to do out there.

Sporting events

We had a highly successful Regimental athletics meeting on 6th May. 1 Squadron won the inter-Squadron points competition very convincingly and there were a number of promising individual performances as well. Space precludes the mention of more than a couple, but **Lance-Corporal Bernie Polden's** 1500 metres in 4 minutes 8.4 seconds easily broke the previous best time in the Regiment, and **Corporal Raymond Randle,** a new arrival from 227 Signal Squadron, cleared 10 feet in the pole vault.

Staff Troop won the tug-of-war for 3 Squadron after an initial check from the heavies of the L.A.D. **Gunner Brian Milne,** the Staff Troop team's trainer, is obviously a force to be reckoned with.

We fielded two teams in the Divisional rugby seven-a-sides, which acquitted themselves honourably against some pretty stiff opposition and (which is more important) enjoyed themselves. We take off our hats, as so often before, to 7th Signal Regiment as deserving winners.

The Motor Sports Club

We have in the Regiment a particularly thriving motor sports club, with a membership which includes many welcome friends from our neighbours, 7th Signal Regiment. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Driver** (aptly named), the publicity member, reports:

The Regimental Motor Sports Club is well into its third season and goes from strength to strength. New members joining the club more than take care of the exit of old members on posting. In fact there are so many members joining from other Units in the area that it now tends to be more of a garrison club.

The reason for its popularity is that the club genuinely caters for the family motorist with the accent on tricky navigation rather than high average speeds in the rallies promoted. Most of the events take place on Sunday afternoons which is another reason for their popularity. All the events count towards the champion driver and navigator of the year competition.

This year (as a well established, leading B.A.O.R. club) the club is also promoting more events to interest the more experienced B.A.O.R. rallymen. A recent 150-mile event attracted 45 entrants from all over Northern Germany.

The current club champion driver is **Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith** of the Q.M. Tech. department. He was presented with his trophy at a very successful club dinner night held at the end of last season.

Personalities of the club are: **Captain Lee Tilson** who is the club chairman, **W.O.2 Brian Sanders,** R.E., club secretary. Two old stalwarts who are members of long standing and still putting in a lot of hard work towards the success of the club are **W.O.2 John Driver,** publicity member and treasurer, and **Sergeant 'Geordie' Moore,** competition secretary.

Sailing

As part of our general reluctance to allow anyone to stay still in the same spot for more than a few seconds, we had two boat-loads of sailors on the Baltic lately. **Second-Lieutenant Tim Bushell,** a qualified second mate (among the various odd things we call him from time to time) took the first lot, comprising **Second-Lieutenant Allan Griffiths, Lance-Corporal Terry Low** and **Signalmen Jim Woolley** and **John Ianson.** They all survived, and qualified as trained hands (**Lance-Corporal Low** as a second mate). **Second-Lieutenant Griffiths** stayed on for a second course to qualify as a second mate, accompanied by **Sergeant Bill Fleet, Lance-Corporal Mick Tasker** and **Signalman Alan Clarke,** who also qualified as hands. Our next plot is to train some more dinghy-sailors on the Mohne See.



FAREWELL AND A BUMPER MUG-FUL

Left to right: W.O.2 (F. of S.) Falconer, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) M. E. Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Birtwhistle, O.B.E., Sergeant R. Clarence, Sergeant G. Maple, W.O. 2 Cockcroft

7th Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Departure of a popular Commanding Officer

THE main event of the month was the departure of **Lieutenant-Colonel Archie Birtwistle. Colonel Archie** has been in the Regiment more than four years. He brought the Bruin Squadron from the School of Signals in 1967, from the Squadron he moved into the Second-in-Command's chair and for the past two years he has been our Commanding Officer.

Colonel Birtwistle was given a send-off which was fitting to both the occasion and the length of time he had been in the Regiment. He was dined out by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess when **R.S.M. M. E. Wilson** and 120 Mess members sat down to dinner. The climax of the evening was the presentation to the Colonel of a bronze statuette of 'Bruin.' A week later the Officers' Mess held their farewell dinner and once again the Colonel was carried and dragged from the Regiment in ceremonial style.

On the Colonel's last day in the Regiment, 27th April, we held a Regimental parade to pay our respects to our departing Commanding Officer. More than 700 officers and men were on parade accompanied by the Band of the 3rd Carabiniers. The parade took the usual form of general salute, inspection, a talk by the Commanding Officer, prayers and the Corps Collect by the Padre, march past in line, advance in review order and march off. During the parade L.S. & G.C. medals were presented by the Commanding Officer to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) M. E. Wilson, W.O.2 R. Cockcroft, (F. of S.) A. Falconer, Sergeant R. Clarence** and **Sergeant G. Maple.** The parade included a mounted drive past by 6 Squadron in their FV 432s and FV 439s. They drove past in line abreast and looked really impressive.

After the parade there was a rush to the Sergeants' Mess for drinks—guess who was paying? Some 30 minutes later **Colonel Birtwistle** was taken from the Mess and put aboard Bruin Mark L00—a huge model of a bear which had been made under the eagle eye of our A.S.M., **W.O.1 R. Atherton,** and piloted slowly to the gate along a route lined by cheering soldiers. The Band of the 3rd Carabiniers led the procession playing 'Auld Lang Syne' and the Corps March.

We would like to thank **Colonel Archie** and his wife for all the hard work they put into the Regiment during their long stay here.

We extend a warm welcome to our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King,** and his wife. We hope they have a happy and successful tour with us.

8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

S.O.-in-C.'s visit

WITH the F.F.R. Inspection satisfactorily behind us, the Easter break gave us an opportunity to catch up with ourselves. On 22nd April we were visited by the S.O.-in-C. who included during his tour a visit to the new Trade Training School. We hope the S.O.-in-C. was impressed with all he saw going on. The S.O.-in-C. also saw the R.S.D.T. press show which included the presentation of white helmets to the new members of the team.

Sport — golf

April is always the month when golf comes into its own. On 23rd April we had our Regimental meeting. The weather was most unkind and it poured all day; nevertheless this did not affect an excellent turn-out and when the figures were finally deciphered at the end of the day **Mr. Ted Pulleyn** turned out as a handsome winner of the Hellier Cup. On 29th April we had the Northumbrian District Spring Meeting and once again the weather was not kind. **Captain Don Reed** won the individual scratch cup, the 'A' team won the Inter-Unit Scratch Competition (the Curragh Cup) and the 'B' team won the Inter-Unit Handicap Competition (the McEwan Younger Cup). We are now looking forward to the Northern Command Meeting and the first round of the Army Cup which we have entered for the first time.

Canoeing notes

Canoeing is the one sport in 8th Signal Regiment which is proving too popular. The Regiment has an established Adventure Training Canoeing Section and has recently branched further out into the competitive field. This is very popular but until more equipment is available potential canoeists have to be turned away. Canoeing around Catterick is good. The River Swale is an ideal training ground. When the Swale is in spate, novices can paddle 14 miles downstream in 1½ hours. The Telemark Canoe Club (8th Signal Regiment) has had some recent competition success. **Signalman Allan Moran** on an E.D. Upgrading Course was placed 4th in the slalom boat class of the national ranking Tees white water race. In the Swale white water race, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mike Brett** of 1 Squadron was placed 1st overall and **Corporal Chris Fielding** of 'M' Troop was placed 2nd in the Slalom boat class.

The eventual aim is to provide a training and coaching back-up to the Royal Signals Canoe Club, enabling a student at 8th Signal Regiment to obtain training in any branch of canoeing. Already adventure training and white water facilities are available, Eskimo rolling has been taught at the Army Apprentice College at Harrogate and a mould is nearly ready to produce the first racing kayak. Canadian techniques are also proving popular, particularly with **C.S.M.I. Norman Springhall.**

Introducing 1 Squadron

The Squadron of the Regiment, in the humble opinion of the Admin. Officer, it consists of a small S.H.Q. and a fairly large instructional staff both military and civilian. Command of the Squadron is in the hands of **Major Peter White** who, between buying a house, laying on the Brigade Recruiting Display and dispensing justice with an impartial air, still finds time to attend to the creature comforts of his students. Admin. Officer **Captain Ken Hadfield** is like all Admin. Officers: his problems are fire, tug-of-war, wives and anything the students care to name.

The only Troop Officer at the moment for close on 300 men is **Doug Pawlow,** horseman of note, and a fitness fanatic. Who is S.S.M. of this outfit you may ask? Who else but that cheerful man manager **Roy Aldous** — football enthusiast, fanatical Squadron supporter, he still has never been seen giving cigarettes away; doesn't believe in it he says.

We deal entirely with technicians (wouldn't accept anything less, I assure you) from basics, young tender and red-faced to the real old soldiers. Upgraders, I could write for hours in reverent silence, at the service, rough postings and general experience of these 22-year-olds. They grip anyone who is

foolish enough to listen. All technicians know that funny place on Whinney Hill, which **Captain Don Reed** controls, and it is not true that behind that fence there is a nine-hole golf course. **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Steeples,** in between running to Bahrein and other luscious spots (only when he is out of duty-free 'fags,' I might add), runs T.E. Group under the able hands of **Captain Mike Johnson.**

Our J.P., **Ken Williams,** is the electronics king, and in laboratory group where the Technicians and E.D.s spend a lot of time making tools and (parts for cars) in the metal workshop, **Peter Dawson** rules with a rod of iron.

Civilian staff never seem to hit Regimental notes, but I have one who is known to all basics and upgraders over the last three years, our chief clerk **Jim Baxter. Jim** runs the office, has never turned anyone away and he is chockful of useful regulations and sage advice and is a Godsend to a 'young' aspiring Admin. Officer. **Jim,** we who can't do without you, salute you!

Arrvals and departures

We said farewell to **Major Brian Weston** who left us on posting to the German Staff College. Why do these non-smokers and drinkers go to B.A.O.R.? Welcome **Major Peter White,** we're glad to have you with us.

Captain Brian O'Connor has gone back to school for two years. He has been relieved in T.E. group by **Captain Mike Johnson** who at last is stationed in United Kingdom.

Technical training

Our main task training is seldom mentioned in these columns chiefly because it is difficult to highlight any particular aspect of such a well-established organisation. Below, however, is an interesting example of a routine part of our system. All II to I upgrading technician courses spend time in electronic workshops on project work. Money and time are limited and hence the amount of 'original design' is limited, the emphasis being on construction and modifications.

Tech. T.E. 1/40 came through workshops at the height of decimalisation fever. One student, **Corporal Burgess,** decided that he would like to build an electronic £sd to decimal converter. After searching many popular publications he found a circuit diagram which he could use as basis for his work. The workshop instructor **Mr. U. Smith** considered the project to be a good exercise in semi-conductor diode logic and so **Corporal Burgess** started work. By the end of the workshop sessions **Corporal Burgess** had a working circuit which resembled in some ways a disused bird's nest but he had learned quite a lot during its construction. By continuing his work in the Regimental hobbies room in the evenings, **Corporal Burgess** produced a good-looking finished article.

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner Night

ON Saturday, 24th April, the guest of honour at the dinner night was our departing R.S.M., **W.O.1 Bill Smith.**

This excellent evening commenced with the fanfare trumpeters of the Corps Band greeting the R.S.M. as he entered the Mess, a moment he will remember for many a year. The P.M.C. **W.O.2 Mick Back** and **W.O.2 Fred Prendergast** (A.C.C.) with their respective staffs produced an excellent, well-served meal and the wine waiters ensured that glasses remained charged throughout.

Following the loyal toast, **W.O.1 Fred Searle** presented the R.S.M. with a canteen of cutlery, on behalf of the members. In his reply **R.S.M. Smith** thanked the members for their support during his tour. Without further ado **W.O.2 Vic Prees** (261 Signal Squadron) was on his feet and after a short speech presented the R.S.M. with a Squadron plaque. He was followed by **W.O. Gordon West** (R.A.F.), **W.O.1 Mike Whittaker** (Intelligence Corps) and **Mr. Bob Greenstreet** (Civilian Wing).

At the conclusion of the dinner the ladies arrived and the dancing commenced to music by members of the Corps Band. Further presents received by the R.S.M. during the course of the evening included 'bowler and brolley' by **'Nobby' Clark** (D.o.E.) and a very large battle ensign by **C.P.O. Joe Harbinson** (R.N.). It was a grand night and no doubt our capable treasurer was on the ball and billed those who had breakfast in the Mess.

Having been wined and dined departure time looms up for **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Bill Smith** and his wife **Jean.** Thank you both for all you have done within the Regiment and our very best wishes for the future.

25 years—and it don't seem a day!



Dinner – 1956

Sergeant A. G. Riddell and Sergeant W. P. Smith (as they then were) on the occasion of their first Regimental Dinner held in the Sergeants' Mess, Birgelen in 1956, and . . .



. . . Dinner – 1971

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) W. P. Smith and W.O.1 A. G. Riddell on the occasion of the R.S.M.s Dining-out Night at 9th Regiment—a span of 25 years

Presentation of L.S. and G.C. Medal

Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief, presented **Staff Sergeant R. Cosser** with the L.S. & G.C. Medal on Wednesday, 31st March, during his visit to the Regiment.

Staff Sergeant Raymond Cosser enlisted into the Royal Signals as a boy in January, 1949. He joined man's service in March, 1950, and trained as an operator wireless and line. On completion of training he was posted to 229 operational conversion unit Royal Air Force. After a year with the Royal Air Force **Staff Sergeant Cosser** was posted to Korea and served with 14th Field Regiment Royal Artillery units and other units for five years after leaving Korea in March, 1953, and served in U.K. and Cyprus. In 1958 he was posted to 5th Division Signal Regiment, later to become 1st Division Signal Regiment, as M.T. Sergeant and weapon training instructor. He returned to U.K. in January, 1964, and was posted to the School of Signals as a military training instructor. When the school moved to Blandford **Staff Sergeant Cosser** joined 11th Signal Regiment as a recruit troop sergeant. In April, 1969, he was posted to 9th Signal Regiment where he now serves as regimental accommodation stores Staff Sergeant.

Visit of Royal Signals Corps Band

The Royal Signals Corps Band were in Cyprus from 15th to 28th April and visited the Regiment from 23rd to 25th April demonstrating not only their musical ability but also showed us they had a sense of humour.

The first evening, a playing of retreat was held on the Regimental hockey pitch. This had originally been planned for the soccer pitch, but after days of wind and rain, we had visions of the Band sinking up to their necks in mud. In an hour the venue was switched but chants were being sung to keep the rain away (the R.A.F. had told us previously that it was most unlikely to be fine that day). For once they were proved wrong and the retreat was accompanied by near perfect weather.

On Saturday the 24th the Band split into two, one half playing at the Officers' Mess ladies' night and the dance band section played at the Sergeants' Mess for **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) W. P. Smith's** dining out. From all accounts, both evenings were very much of a success, no doubt due to the enthusiasm of the Band.

A band concert was held on the Sunday afternoon on the soccer pitch and it was here that the band proved that most of its members could do as well earning their living on the stage.

We would like to thank the band for a most enjoyable visit and we look forward to seeing them again some time next year.

B.B.C. Forces chance

A capacity crowd in the Harewood Club on 22nd April witnessed an exciting contest in which the Regimental team, consisting of **W.O.2 R. Smith** (captain), **Chief Technician J. Punt, Corporal J. Manwaring** and **Corporal T. Machon** beat the resident B.B.C. team of **Nan Winton, Ted Moult** and **Neil Durdon-Smith** by a convincing 77 to 65.

The B.B.C. team were well on form and although they were beaten they gained ground during the spelling and true/false rounds. Before the programme was recorded 'warm-up,' soliloquies by the producer **Patrick Tuke Hastings** and the quiz master **Alun Williams,** provided the invited audience with an extremely entertaining evening.

If you are in U.K. during August you can tune in to the programme on Radio 4 at 12.25 hours on the 14th, or the following Friday at 18.15 hours.

Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting

On Tuesday, 16th March, 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons of 9th Signal Regiment, 259 and 262 Signal Squadrons gathered together on the Dhekelia Ranges for the Inter-Squadron Skill at Arms Competition.

It was hardly a day for a shooting competition, rain bucketing down, drenching everything and everyone within range! However, it soon became obvious that no matter the weather, 9th Signal Regiment would win through and some very successful results were gained. Congratulations go to **Major B. L. Belton** for winning the individual S.L.R. competition, **W.O.2 G. W. E. Hope** and **Sergeant R. Mills** for winning the individual L.M.G.



GOOD SHOOTING

Major B. L. Belton receiving the NEARELF Individual Rifle Championship Cup from the G.O.C. Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.

competition, and once again to **W.O.2 G. W. E. Hope** and **Sergeant R. Mills,** successfully aided by **Staff Sergeant B. Pettifer** and **Corporal S. Watson,** for winning the team L.M.G. competition. We also had another winner in **Lance-Corporal Watson** of 2 Squadron who was voted best young soldier S.L.R. class.

The overall champion Squadron was 1 Squadron 9th Signal Regiment who go onto the NEARELF Shoot. Well done and good shooting.

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

A GOOD start was made to the month by the Pass-off Parade on Friday, 2nd April, of No. 5 Troop, split into two sections called Arnheim and Blenheim. The salute was taken by **Group Captain G. E. S. Bumstead,** R.A.F., C.O. of the Royal Air Force Regiment Depot, Catterick. The Band of the R.A.F. Regiment provided the music. During the General Salute there was a fly past of a flight of Jet Provost from R.A.F. Leeming. The best recruit of Arnheim section was **Signalman Stephen Croater,** a potential Driver Royal Signals, and the best recruit of Blenheim section was **Signalman Walter Kerr** who is to be trained as a Signals Technician. The prizes for the best shots were won by **Signalman Pilcher** and **Signalman Helliwell** respectively.

No. 3 and 8 Troop passed-off on Friday, 16th April. The salute was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman,** Commanding Officer Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment. The best recruits were **Signalman Paul Hatcham** (8 Troop) who is going forward to train as a Radio Operator, and **Signalman Godfrey Burris** (3 Troop), a potential Driver Royal Signals.

On Friday, 30th April, No. 1 and 7 Troop were inspected by **Brigadier A. D. Brindley, M.B.E.,** Director of Telecommunications, Ministry of Defence. Being the last day in April the weather honoured us with a shower for the duration of the parade. The best recruit of No. 1 Troop was **Signalman Terance Scottney,** and of No. 7 Troop **Signalman Michael Newell.**

In all some 174 recruits have passed out from basic training during April.



Best Recruit, 1 Troop
Signalman Terence Scottney



Best Recruit, 3 Troop
Signalman Godfrey Burris



Best Recruit, 7 Troop
Signalman Michael Newell



Best Recruit
8 Troop
Signalman
Paul Hatchman



A HARD BATTLE BUT THEY WON
11th Regiment's 7-a-side Rugby Team who won the plate competition in the Northern Command Sevens

Rugby

At the end of the season, when the players are at their fittest(!) we always have the Regimental seven-a-side competition, which is closely followed by the Northern Command Sevens.

The Regimental Sevens were held on 21st April. The standard of rugby varied greatly but nevertheless there were some fine performances. The final was played between 1 Squadron Cadre (the holders) and I Wing. It was a very hard fight, the only thing to be given away was the cup which 1 Squadron Cadre have loaned to I Wing for a year. The final score was 9-3.

A week later, still suffering from bruises, aches and various pains, we had the Northern Command Sevens. We entered two teams both of which unfortunately lost their first round matches. Contrary to hopes we still had to play on in the plate competition. The 'B' team played one more match which meant an early shower, as after a brave effort they lost to 8th Signal Regiment 'C' team. The star-studded 'A' team played some hard games with fine wins over the Q.D.G. and 7 Company R.A.M.C. (**Corporal 'Stevie' Stephenson** retired hurt, **Lieutenant Nigel Fairley** two black eyes, **Corporal Mick Rattray** bent nose) and in the end they reached the final.

The final was a hard-fought 'battle' against our old rivals 8th Signal Regiment 'A' team. Both teams played very well but our determination and the C.O.'s orders won the day! The final score was 10-6. All the points were scored by **Signalman 'Chips' Chipperfield** who made two very good runs to score twice under the posts; he then converted both tries.

Two days after the victory the Colonel summoned the team to his office, where he congratulated them on behalf of the Regiment for their efforts and awarded each member of the team with a trophy as a memento of the victory.

Well played **Captains Brian Swift** and **Mike Field, Lieutenants Nigel Fairley** and **Graham Gordon, Sergeant 'Sandy' Sanderson, Corporals Mick Rattray** and **'Stevie' Stephenson** and last but not least **Signalman 'Chips' Chipperfield.**

Squash

Last month you may have read that the two Regimental teams were lying first and second in the District Squash League. On completion of the League the 'A' team came first, playing seven matches and winning all of them. The 'B' team came second having played seven matches, winning five of them. An extremely good effort by the Regimental squash players.

Tennis

This year the Regiment should have a strong team. The season has been opened by holding a Regimental singles/doubles competition. Some rounds have been played off, but the majority of players have been frightened off the courts by the Catterick weather.

Cadre training

Ex-members of the Cadre will remember that twice a year the Regimental Cadre moves to Warcop training area for a weekend of field training. Our first visit this year was on 24th/25th April and our resilience to outdoor military training was soon well tested. After a fortnight of near drought conditions we experienced torrential rain which caused flooding in the Catterick area and gale force winds. Shooting the various infantry weapons was a hazardous experience, and our new Assistant Adjutant, **Second-Lieutenant Rebecca Lawrence, W.R.A.C.,** put one or two old stagers to shame with her accuracy in firing weapons that she had never seen before. **Major John Alexander** added a touch of battlefield realism to the activities with his gripping war (and other) stories, and somehow morale remained remarkably high! The spirits of everyone were just as high on the Sunday morning at the Church Service where the volume of singing was so great it drowned the Padre's tape recorded accompaniment. He is now thinking of persuading various members of the Regiment to volunteer in joining the ranks of the choir in the Garrison Church!

The most exhausting part of the weekend was a patrol competition across, round, up and down the training area to various objectives. At these check objectives patrols had to carry out military tasks in specified times and then move on. **Sergeant Roger Parsons** of the Regimental Orderly Room led his team valiantly round the course (as becomes a rotund Legal Sergeant!) and apparently he completed the course not only in the fastest time but also scored the highest number of points at the objectives. Unfortunately he managed to lose his score sheet after the last check point and the team, led by **Lieutenant Ian Cross,** was declared the winner.

Farewell

We say farewell to **Sergeant Ted Butterworth** who was posted to SHAPE B.A.E. Best of luck in your new job!

Births

Congratulations to **Sergeant and Mrs. Jim Lindsay** on the birth of their son, **Nigel Stuart,** on 22nd March.

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

Regimental Weekend

AS these notes are written, life is relatively peaceful. Throughout the Regiment, however, thought and effort are increasingly being centred on our Regimental Weekend. The man behind the scenes is **Major Tom Swan,** who has the task of co-ordinating three days of social activity. The Weekend begins with a fete, and includes a 'beer fest,' six-a-side hockey, a trip to the Dutch bulb fields, a motor gymkhana, and other items. The last event will be the Regimental athletics meeting, and we hope that the competitors will have survived the preceding two days! The fete is to be opened by **Mr. Derek Nimmo** ('Oh Brother!') and he is also going to open our newly-completed swimming pool. 'Newly-completed' will be true on 30th May; at the moment, a great deal remains to be done. We are working hard and keeping our fingers crossed! (May we say 'thank-you' to the many Regiments who have helped us to obtain a pool by purchasing raffle tickets).

VIP visit

On 29th April, the Regiment welcomed **Air Vice Marshal I. R. Campbell, C.B.E., A.F.C.,** and **Colonel A. T. Scott, O.B.E.,** from the Ministry of Defence. Our distinguished visitors went round the Regiment at great speed, and we hope they left suitably impressed.

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

Judo

During the month we were fortunate enough to see a most competent display of judo in our gymnasium. The evening began with a judo demonstration by a Dutch National Military Team, in which the conventions and basic techniques of the sport were explained. The team then took on the Limburg Bud-O-Bond Team, and after many exciting bouts, the Limburg Team just won. Nearly all the judokos were 'black-belts,' and we believe it will be a long time before we see such skill in our gymnasium again!

Hockey

The Regimental team finished third in the Rhine Area League, with the following record: Played 20 (including one walkover), won 13, drawn 4, lost 2, goals for 64, goals against 12. This is easily the best result achieved by the Regiment for some time, and as most players will be here next season, we hope to improve on this record. The Regimental Six-a-Side 'A' team also finished third in the Rhine Area Six-a-Side Competition, and have qualified for the B.A.O.R. Sixes, which take place in May.

Four Regimental players were selected for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Trials, and all four, **Major Dickie Nice, W.O.I Ernie Cooper, Corporal 'Lucey' Luckett,** and **Signalman Dave Hooper,** played for Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) against Royal Armoured Corps (B.A.O.R.). Royal Signals won 5—1. These players are also included in the list from which the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) side will be selected to play in the Inter-Corps Tournament at Rheindahlen from 14th to 16th May. In addition to these four players, special mention must be made of our non-Royal Signals players—**Corporal Fred Irvine, Corporal Dave Barrow** (both Intelligence Corps), **Major Chris Ahl** (R.A.P.C.), and **Captain Neil Turfitt** (R.A.M.C.), all of whom have given sterling service to the Regimental side.

Sergeants' Mess—where are you now?

Visitors to our Mess take a lot of interest in Mess photographs of the past. The oldest picture dates back to 1956, when the Regiment was then No. 1 Wireless Regiment. The question is always posed: "By jove, I wonder where he is now?" So we thought we would try to find out. Unfortunately, initials are not given on the photograph, but the names are:

Sergeants McKinnon, Booth, Walker, Heyes, Riddell, Dawkins, Moseley, Coulthard, Richards, Lamb, Smith, Delt, Gegg, Patterson, Elliott, Carlile, Wilby, Dubois, Bayman, S.Q.M.S.s Hudson, Tittin, Newton. Staff Sergeant Kilby, S.S.I. Orwin, Staff Sergeant Gale, S.Q.M.Ss Howell, Garland, Macadam, Sergeants Eouzan, Greenwood, W.O.2s Barnard, Longstaff, Cunningham, Willoughby, Robertshaw, R.S.M. Barnes, W.O.I Ferguson, R.Q.M.S. Buddery, W.O.2s Boston, Ford, Francis, S.Q.M.S. Stanley.

In the next issue we hope to be able to say where you all are, so if you do not mind disclosing your whereabout, or that of others, drop us a line, or better still, call in and see us.

We welcome our new arrivals, **W.O.2 F. Laverick** and **W.O.2 D. M. Easton** (Intelligence Corps), and wish good fortune to **W.O.2 A. Smith** on his departure from the Regiment.

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Home —79p each plus 8p post
Abroad—70p each plus 8p post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals £1.50
Pace Sticks ... ...

ERNEST GOODRICH
Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites
44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation



(Photo Courtesy Berrows Newspapers)

HE WON THE SUPPORT AND AFFECTION OF ALL
R.S.M. (now Lieutenant) D. H. M. Rumsey being dined out in mess at Worcester
W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. H. Lawrence, Staff-Sergeant R. F. Dixon, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) R. C. Bishop, W.O.1 Rumsey, W.O.2 A. S. Walton, W.O.1 (R.S.M.)
J. K. Roberts, B.E.M., W.O.2 (S.S.M.) W. C. Yates

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

'The R.S.M. is dead—long live the R.S.M.'

WELL . . . when he stood down from the appointment **W.O.1 D. H. M. Rumsey** was not exactly dead; however, if there is any truth in numerous stories and reports of his activities prior to leaving the Regiment on commissioning, he must have felt very near to death—but this is allowing the story to get ahead of itself, so let us start at the beginning.

In 1970 the Regimental Sergeant Major of 14th Signal Regiment, **W.O.1 Rumsey,** was to nobody's surprise (except, he claimed, his own) selected for appointment to a commission in 1971. All too fast time sped by and with apparently little warning at all it was time for the R.S.M. to stand down, hand over and leave the Regiment to start a new phase of his military career.

Being 'seen off the premises'

Now a Regiment does not let its R.S.M. go all that easily —particularly if he has been a good one and more particularly if he and his wife have, through their own personal efforts far in excess of the accepted standards of duty, won the support and affection of all members of the unit. Thus it was that **Mr. Rumsey** and his charming wife **Pamela** were 'seen off the premises' in the manner reported in the following paragraphs.

After being bade farewell by almost every section of the Regiment the time came for the **Rumseys** to take their leave of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. So active and popular a 'member' has **Mrs. Rumsey** been that the Mess laid on a special social evening in her honour and showed their thoughts by presenting her with a superb coffee table appropriately ingrained with a 'Jimmy' on the top. A couple of nights later the Mess dined out **Mr. Rumsey.** The evening was both hilarious and hectic starting off with a lot of leg-pulling about the 20-odd pounds the Commissioning Medical Board decreed that **D.H.M.R.** must shed before being allowed through the narrower portals of an Officers' Mess. So to support the R.A.M.C. **Mr. Rumsey** was given an orange for dinner and solemnly presented with a corset to prevent further slippage. However, as the meal progressed hearts softened and the R.S.M. was allowed a whopping great steak complete with a set of steak knives which he was allowed to take home as a present from the Mess.

A couple of nights later . . .

A couple of nights later **Lieutenant Rumsey** was dined into the Corps as an officer when he was the principal guest at a dinner in the Officers' Mess. Even on this occasion the members of the Sergeants' Mess were reluctant to let him go and duly escorted him on a mobile throne (patent held by Elsan) to the

Officers' Mess doorstep where amongst mutterings of "traitor" he was handed over to the 'other' Mess. After dinner **Mr. Rumsey** was presented with a pair of silver candlesticks from the Officers as a memento to record both his excellent work with this Regiment and his commissioning.

So it was that the **Rumseys** left us. They really will be missed and every happiness is wished to them both for the future. Thanks to **Mrs. Rumsey** for all her many efforts in the Regiment, in particular with the wives' club, the bridge club and all the other day-to-day tasks she did so well. To **Mr. Rumsey,** our thanks for being just what you were—a really first-rate R.S.M.

Lieutenant Rumsey has been posted to 10th Signal Regiment, and quietly but suddenly AG11(O) have got into the act. For in their wisdom they have posted the Second-in-Command, **Major R. Trelawny,** to 10th Regiment in September of this year, again as Second-in-Command. Presumably part of the reasoning being that someone has to keep an eye on this newly commissioned young subaltern!

'Long live the R.S.M.' indeed and a very warm welcome to **W.O.1 and Mrs. J. K. Roberts** who have joined us from Herford. We are delighted to have them with us and look forward to a happy couple of years with **Mr. Roberts** at the helm of so many unit activities.

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

The British Army Fun Fair 1971

THE British Army Fun Fair, held in aid of the L.E.P. Benevolent Fund, got off to a bang in more ways than one. The opening ceremony, performed by **Mrs. Howard-Dobson,** wife of **Major-General Howard-Dobson,** Chief of Staff Far East Command, ended with a scheduled 'big bang' when some P.E. was detonated on the hillside overlooking 18th Signal Regiment's Dover Road stadium. **Second-Lieutenant Bob Hussey** who had imported some ponies for pony rides was not altogether enamoured with the idea. The Fun Fair was a great success, due in no little measure to the boundless energy and enthusiasm of our P.R.I., **Major Dick Turpin,** who was the Committee's organising secretary. The Fun Fair was a good example of Inter-Arm co-operation, as all units that have employed L.E.P.s in Singapore and Malaysia took part, and the weird and wonderful combinations of stands that were eventually constructed were a pleasure to see. The engineers provided a crane for a competition to 'Place the Bomb' on a correct spot, a task that was not as easy as it first appeared, whilst 1 Squadron ran many other stalls, including a miniature race track which proved to be very popular with the children. The Wives' Club were also in evidence, running the lucky dip stall under the capable supervision of the Commanding Officer's wife, **Mrs. Janet Hild,** and at one stage if it had not been for the assistance of **Second-Lieutenant 'Blondie' Crampton** she would surely have been overrun.

The climax of the whole event was a beating of retreat ceremony performed by the massed bands, pipes and drums of the Brigade of Gurkhas, and an excellent display of precision drill by the Guard of Honour provided by the Singapore Guard Regiment. After the Last Post, the whole stadium was plunged into darkness, and the arena echoed to the strains of a lament played by a piper located on the far hillside overlooking the stadium. A most moving ceremony, and one which was appreciated by all nationalities present. The Fun Fair was in all a most fitting finale to the many years of co-operation between the British Army and the local population, and everyone left the field feeling more than just a trace of nostalgia. The financial response was excellent and over $12,000.00 (£1,340) was raised for the Fund.



A GREAT SUCCESS
The Army Fun Fair sponsored by 18th Regiment attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd

Film premiere — L.E.P. Benevolent Fund

On 15th March a further $950.00 was raised for the Fund by a Gala Film Premiere. The film, 'Patton—Lust for Glory,' was shown in the S.K.C. Kent Cinema and was very well supported. Many distinguished guests were present, and the occasion was coloured by a Regimental Guard representing all the Locally Employed Personnel in Singapore.

Athletics

Few Regiments in the British Army are lucky enough to be 'landlords' of such an excellent sports complex as that found at Dover Road. Good use is made of the facilities and this year's Regimental Athletics meeting was a notable event for participants and spectators. 249 Signal Squadron had a final moment of glory before disbandment when they won the Inter-Squadron Trophy. A 1 Squadron supporter, despondent at his team coming last, was heard to say: "At least we won the ladies' race (**Lieutenant Heather Cary**) and took first four places in the old soldier race" (**Captain Geoff Oakley, Captain Robin Laing, W.O.1 John Howie** and **Major Charles Bushell**).

Skill-at-Arms

A real surprise at Nee Soon range when 1 Squadron, considered the complete underdog, won the Regimental meeting in a most convincing manner. All the match team and individual prizes were carried off in triumph. H.Q. Squadron were overall second and winner of the falling plate. The champion shot was **Sergeant Maarof Bin Sall,** and much of the credit for the 1 Squadron victory must go to the team coach **Staff Sergeant Bill Naismith.**

The Lance Competition

After their victory on the range, 1 Squadron were certain to win the Regiment's Final Lance Competition. The lance is awarded every six months to the Champion Squadron. Events to count over this period were Inter-Squadron football, cricket, swimming, athletics, shooting and an assault course competition. The overall final placings were:

1st, 1 Squadron, 16 points; 2nd, 249 Squadron, 15 points; 3rd, H.Q. Squadron, 11 points.

Welbeck entries

Terry Junior, son of **Major Terry Canham,** and **Stephen,** son of **Major Dick Turpin,** have both gained places in Welbeck College for September 1971. To give them an insight into the work of the Corps they spent an afternoon with the Regiment. After a briefing by the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Hild,** they were escorted round departments of 1 Squadron by **Lieutenant John Hayes** (an old Welbexian). The highlight of the visit was an excellent demonstration of cable and jointing techniques organised by **Sergeant Bill McLaren** (see photo on opposite page).

Golf

The Australian Signals Cup has been a feature of the Royal Signals FARELF autumn golf meeting for some years. This year, because of rundown, it was contested at the spring meeting —the final event. The venue was Singapore Island Country Club's Sime Course, 6,300 yards, standard scratch 70. The Regimental team, **Captain Ray Windmill, Captain (T.O.T.) Norman Walker** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Tony Bateman,** won the trophy for the second year running, once again on a count back. This completed a hat-trick of Regimental victories. The meeting was efficiently organised by **Major Peter Tidey,** now with Stats and Records H.Q. FARELF.

Disbandment of 249 Signal Squadron

On 31st March 249 Signal Squadron became non operational and began returning stores prior to disbandment on 31st May. The Gurkha Support Troop disbanded on 31st March and has moved to Hong Kong. To mark their service in 249 Signal Squadron the Gurkha ranks presented the Squadron with a beautifully mounted Kukri at a small ceremony on 31st March. The Regiment responded by presenting to 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron the Dover Road Charities Shield, which the Gurkha Troop had previously won in the inter-Troop soccer competition. Finally, the Officers and S.N.C.O.s said goodbye to the Q.G.O.s and they were each presented with a suitably inscribed Corps Shield.



PARTING GIFT
Major Hamish Mackinley receives the Ceremonial kukri from the Gurkha element of 249 Squadron



A PROUD DAY
Captain 'Jimmy' Yahya and family following the presentation of his M.B.E.

Award of M.B.E.

The M.B.E. awarded to **Captain 'Jimmy' Yahya Bin Haji Omar** in the New Year's Honours List was presented by **Major-General W. B. Thomas, D.S.O., M.C.,** Commander FARELF, at a recent Regimental Review. Public Relations quickly sparked, and within two hours of the presentation a local evening paper was on sale with pride of place given to **'Jimmy's'** picture and accompanying story.

Award in Staff suggestions scheme

Signalman Cleary of 1 Squadron had just won the second prize of £10 in the Ministry of Defence Staff suggestions scheme poster competition. Since there were nearly 800 entries, he is to be congratulated on his very original idea and good artistry.



NEW RECRUITS TO THE CORPS?
Lieutenant John Hayes explains a Rx log to Terry Canham while Corporal Keith Hinds reads the code for Steven Turpin. Destined for Welbeck both are sons of Corps officers

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 42

THREE months' events to cover including more sports achievements and a change of Commanding Officer — but no change of weather and negligible snow this year since Christmas.

Cross-country success

The B.A.O.R. cross-country was held at Wildenrath in February and our main opposition was known to be the Cheshires. Everything went smoothly in ideal running weather and the Regiment won easily with 78 points against the Cheshires' 118. As first and second teams were travelling to U.K. for the Army Championships there were many forecasts of the end result, but as **Lieutenant-Colonel Butler** relates below—it was to be different on the day.

The Army Championships

Second again! We have said before that we only like winning and we must not make too many excuses for the magnificent performance of the Cheshires in beating us into second place in the Army Cross-Country Championships once more.

We beat them very convincingly in the B.A.O.R. Championships, admittedly on our own course, and were confident that we could do it again at Blackdown although this was almost a home course for them. On the day we ran well but they ran better and we were defeated by the narrow margin of 26 points. **No other team stood within 500 points of either of us.**

A number of our team were both young and inexperienced but they did everything that was expected of them. **Corporal 'Mac' MacMillan** (11th) and **Sergeant Ray Storer** (13th) ran far better than ever before. Perhaps the most disappointed were those splendid competitors **Corporal Mick Gue** (15th) and

Sergeant George Holden (31st) who did not perform up to their own very high standards. **George** has been dogged by injury for much of the second half of the season and this may have told on him in the closing stages of the race. **Mick,** in the first three for much of the race, showed incredible courage in finishing in spite of serious distress probably caused by oxygen starvation. He collapsed and was rushed to hospital immediately after crossing the finishing line but we are glad to report that he is now right back in form.

It is no disgrace to come second in the Army particularly in an event so long dominated by the infantry and our congratulations go out to the team for their dedication and fine running through the season. We just expect them to make absolutely certain next year.

Meanwhile, we will have an earlier opportunity to extract revenge by beating the Cheshires in the athletics. A formidable challenge.

Change of Commanding Officers

At the beginning of March **Lieutenant-Colonel N. A. Butler** handed over command to **Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Phippard.** Along with farewell wining and dining in the Officers' and W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes, **Colonel Butler** was presented with a tea and coffee set by the soldiers of the Regiment before he departed by train for his next post at the Headquarters at Rheindahlen.

All ranks wish **Lieutenant-Colonel Butler** and his wife **Barbara** good fortune in the years to come.



[Courtesy: Corporal D. Price, 21st Signal Regiment

THIS THE WILL ALWAYS TREASURE

Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Butler before his departure is presented with a tea and coffee set by Signalman Palmer on behalf of the soldiers of his Regiment



[Courtesy: Corporal D. Price, 21st Signal Regiment

SPECIAL DEPARTURE

Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Butler says goodbye to the 21st Regiment as he departs by special train from the Regiment's private station. Note wind instrument for clearing the line

Visitors

The Deputy Commander of R.A.F. Germany, **Air Vice-Marshall R. L. Wade, D.F.C.,** visited Wildenrath at the end of February and saw, as part of the Station, a layout of 4 Squadron vehicles and equipment. His first visit since taking over as Deputy Commander, he gained formidable impressions of the new style Air Support Signals.

The end of March saw visits by Officer i/c Records **Colonel C. B. Masser** and **Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cleland** from the T.E.T. From these two visits we gleaned much information on the forthcoming Trade Structure.

Basketball

The Unit Basketball team won the Rhine Area League. As losing finalists in the Rhine Area stage of the B.A.O.R. Championships they went forward to the B.A.O.R. finals. Unfortunately some key players were not available due to sickness, the most notable being **C.S.M.I. Woods,** the team coach. However, the team acquitted themselves very well under the circumstances and as most of the team will still be with us next year they hope to capitalise on this year's experience and go all out for the title.

Shooting

The unit full-bore team is once again in training but this year lack of any allocation of the only E.T.R. range in B.A.O.R. at Sennelager is bound to have its effect. **Lieutenant Reed** has left us on posting to the Queen's Own Highlanders. He will be shooting for the Battalion in this year's Nishan competition against other CENTO Army teams.

Major Cox has captained the B.A.O.R. small bore team which has won both the indoor 25-yard Inter-Command competition in London and the outdoor long range match against the U.K. team.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O 16

Blood in the snow

RATHER macabre title to a descripition of our efforts in the 1971 Detmold Motor Cycle Trial; however, as you will see later, most apt.



HAVING HIS OWN PERSONAL TRAFFIC JAM

Lieutenant Andrew Gale of 22nd Regiment a member of the unit's team in the Detmold Motor Cycle Trial—'Blood in the Snow'—looks cheerful after a slight mishap on the hard treacherous ground. He was later to have a spectacular fall—but once again he was unhurt



TRICKY!

Sergeant-Major Gordon Park of 22nd Regiment entered as 'Individual Expert' faced with some tricky manoeuvring during the 1971 Detmold Cycle Trial. The course of the trial was snow covered, rock-hard with frozen ruts running all ways—except the right way. The unit ironically called the trial 'Blood in the snow'

The idea for the Regiment to enter the trial came from **Sergeant-Major Gordon Park.** He has, of course, been punished. After intensive training and careful preparation on both previous sports afternoons, he selected the following for the novices' section of the trial:

Lieutenant Andrew Gale, Staff Sergeant Brian Fisher, Sergeant Ted Davenport, Corporal John Judd, Corporal Frank Jackson and **Signalman John Glass.**

The Sergeant-Major himself had to enter as an 'Individual Expert' this was the punishment referred to earlier.

Seventy-odd riders took part, and with temperatures below zero, it is not surprising they were 'odd.' The FV432 training area, the scene for the trial, normally muddy, was snow-covered, rock-hard, with frozen ruts running all ways—except, of course, the right way. The morning's events passed uneventfully and the lunch-time conversations were centred on how thankful everyone was that the morning's events had passed uneventfully. There was also some talk about 'brass monkeys.'

In the afternoon, **Lieutenant Gale** proved that officers' blood is the same as everyone elses, with a spectacular fall in front of his wife, **Christine,** and her parents. Happily, he was not badly hurt apart, that is, from his ego.

All things have to come to an end, however, and so, by the end of the day, we were placed third in the novices' section and the Sergeant-Major tenth in the individuals.

It was certainly a lot of fun . . . who's for tennis?

'Charlie' Troop

When we last reported on 'Charlie' Troop, some two months ago, they were in 1 Squadron; now they are in 2 Squadron. The unit tipsters gave odds of 'two-to-one-on' on a move to 4 Squadron before the autumn. You can, in fact, get 'evens' from some of the more adventurous tipsters on a possible move to H.Q. Squadron! However, they are not complaining, for being a Brigade Comm Hd, they expect to move more regularly.

On top of everything, **Sergeant Tony MacDonald,** the **Troop's** first Troop Sergeant, has moved on to pastures new, making way for **Staff Sergeant Pat O'Connor.** We wish them 'farewell' and 'hello' respectively.

To celebrate this change of command, an international gathering took place.

Lippstadt Players

The Group entered 'The Anniversary' as their contribution to the B.A.O.R. Drama Festival and Competition, 1971. It was received with mixed feelings; it was clearly a resounding success in the Garrison, but unfortunately came in the bottom half of the competition results.

The stars of the show were **Major Ronnie Trotman** (our Second-in-Command) and his wife, **Eleanor, Corporal Mike Teanby, Tony Cheston** (the son of **Corporal Tony Cheston),** and two of our teachers, **Barbara Sunderland** and **Jill Fortune.** The show was produced by **Mary Bonaker,** the wife of **Major Hugh Bonaker.** The Group is now tackling a melodrama as its summer production.

Sport

Two items of considerable interest have come from our hockey and football stars.

Our hockey six-a-side team were runners-up in the 4 Divisional competition.

Our team was **Captain Ernie Webb, Captain Peter Pearson, Captain Willie Watson, Second-Lieutenant John Burnage, Sergeant 'Cliff' Clifton** and **Corporal Frank Madden. Captain Watson** is now a soft-shoe-shuffle expert having one of the largest big toes in the business. Still he consoles himself regularly from the pot he won.

The other sporting highlight is connected with **Corporal James (Paddy) Tierney.** In fact he has been in the soccer spotlight for many years now. He has played for the Ireland Youth Team and Drumgondra in the Irish League Dvision I. Whilst in the Far East from 1966-68 he represented the combined Services. He is currently the B.A.O.R. soccer captain and has now held this top soccer position for two seasons.

Do you smoke?

The saga of the Security Incinerator continues. It doesn't want to burn and only occasionally smokes. The Holey Drum has been saved—for the time being at least. Maybe it has something to do with the date—St. George's Day? Don't miss the next thrilling episode.

28th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Soccer

Wednesday, 29th April, saw the end of the 1970/71 season with an exciting game against R.A.F. Laarbruch. The soccer squad now say farewell to **Captain Robbie Burns,** i/c soccer, and welcome the new incumbent for next season, **Lieutenant Brian Green,** who has just arrived on commissioning from 4 Guards Brigade. Another very familiar face will also be missing from the squad for next season, that of **C.S.M.I. Jim Combe,** A.P.T.C., who has successfully coached and played in the team for three seasons. The **Burns/Combe** combination bow out gracefully and wish **Lieutenant Green** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Walton** every success for the future.

Readers might be interested in the following quotation from 28th Regiment's dressing room:

'Exhaustion is when you need assistance to be sick.'

Unit athletics

Friday, 23rd, and Saturday, 24th April, saw, respectively, the Inter-Troop Competition and the Inter-Squadron Competition.

The meetings were held in the town of St. Tonis where the local stadium had kindly been provided for the use of the Regiment—an excellent example of the good Anglo-German relations existing in the area.

The Inter-Troop competition on Friday, 23rd April, was held in glorious sunshine and the result was a convincing win for 'Alpha' Troop, 1 Squadron.

Saturday unfortunately dawned wet and cloudy but the competition was keenly contested between H.Q. Squadron, 1 Squadron, 2 Squadron and our N.A.T.O. neighbours 13 Cie TTv, the Belgian Radio Squadron. Once again the 'might' of 1 Squadron came to the fore and the prizes, kindly presented by the wife of our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macdonald,** were distributed as follows:

Inter-Troop winners — 'Alpha' Troop, 1 Squadron.
Inter-Squadron winners — 1 Squadron.
Inter-Squadron tug-of-war winners — 1 Squadron.
13 Squadron medley relay cup winners — 1 Squadron.

Congratulations to **Captain Jim Chater** for planning an excellent meeting. Some of the highlights of the day were



1 Squadron Athletics Team — they took the prizes

Back row, left to right: Lance-Corporal T. Williams, Lance-Corporal R. A. Licence, Corporal R. M. Monton, Lance-Corporal D. A. Knell, Corporal W. J. Hitchins, Staff Sergeant P. J. Daniel, Corporal H. Lund, Lance-Corporal I. A. Barron

Centre row, left to right: Sergeant R. J. Bailey, Signalman G. Lea, Signalman R. Taylor, Corporal A. Bissett, Lance-Corporal T. Reilly, Lance-Corporal D. J. Clarke, Signalman P. J. Wykes

Front row, left to right: Signalman J. H. Mackenzie, Lance-Corporal C. H. Vines, Corporal R. Birse, Captain A. Burns, Royal Signals, Signalman G. P. Cross, Signalman G. Burton, Signalman M. J. K. Smith

provided by the excellent running of **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Barron** in winning the 5,000 and 1,500 metres, **S.M. George Dewill,** 13 Cie TTr., in winning the 100 metres, 110 metres hurdles and high jump.

Farewell to W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Turner (the greatest of the greats!)

It is with a sad heart that we say farewell to one of the all-time greats, namely **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Brian Turner,** who leaves the Regiment on commissioning and takes up a post in Cyprus. **R.S.M. Turner** will always be remembered for the hard work and enthusiasm which he has put into the Regiment. Perhaps the one thing that immediately springs to mind is the work he has put into the Sergeants' Mess thus making it one of the best one can find in the Corps. Also a special mention must be made for **Mrs. Beryl Turner** whose loyalty and diligence has been a great help and comfort to the wives in the Mess as well as to all the Regiment in the form of the Wives' Club. The Regiment wishes them both a pleasant stay in Cyprus.

A hearty welcome is also extended to our new R.S.M., **W.O.1 Pete Harris,** and his wife and hope they will enjoy their stay in the Regiment.

Stop Press — golf

We are proud to announce that the onset of the golf season has not gone unnoticed in the Regiment as our recent successes adequately demonstrate. Firstly, **Corporal Brian Carty,** R.P.C., was placed a very creditable runner-up in the B.A.O.R. meeting held in beautiful spring sunshine at R.A.F. Bruggen on 19th-20th April. He has subsequently been selected to play in the B.A.O.R. golf team against R.A.F. Germany on 27th May.

Secondly, in the Royal Signals Competition on the 29th and 30th April **Corporal Brian Carty** won the 36 holes Stableford competition. Congratulations on a fine effort.

Thirdly, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macdonald,** and **Corporal Brian Carty** were runners-up in the Regimental Greensomes pairs cup.

Last but by no means least is **C.S.M.I. Jim Combe** who was placed second in the 18-hole Stableford. After these impressive results there is a rumour that the sports field is being turned into a nine-hole golf course. Probably the cricketers will agree that there is no need to create any bunkers or rough!

Not the only one shooting

With reference to your January-February edition showing a photograph of **Corporal Gerry Jaques** of 30th Signal Regiment proudly showing his R.A.F. Representative Badge, he is not the only one. **Corporal 'Jock' Rennie** now in this Regiment was awarded this unusual badge whilst serving in the Far East with 19th Signal Regiment, where he won many trophies shooting for R.A.F. Seletar and in the Far East Air Forces Command shoot.

Furthermore, **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Ken Hammond-Haley** is also a proud holder of this R.A.F. award from the Far East.

Corporal 'Jock' Rennie, who arrived in the Regiment last September, is now training with the Regimental shooting team in preparation for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. meeting, the Corps shoot at Bulford and Bisley. We wish him and the team the best of luck and hope that they will be adding to their trophies.



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL I. MACDONALD AND THE OFFICERS OF THE 28th REGIMENT

Back row, left to right: Lieutenant J. Cooper, Captain D. J. Walden, Captain A. Burns, Captain (T.O.T.) R. F. A. Davies, Captain W. R. Clare Lieutenant J. C. Wollaston, Captain C. Riley

Centre row, left to right: Captain (Traffic) J. F. Chater, Captain J. Smith R.E.M.E., Major F. W. Matthews, Major (Traffic) F. Brandreth, Major V. W. Beckhurst M.C. R.A.P.C., Captain (Q.M.) J. Dean, Major (Retd.) H. W. Newsham, Captain A. Hope A.C.C., Lieutenant C. B. Greig

Front row, left to right: Major R. B. Ingram, Major D. L. Copeland, Major A .Coates, Lieutenant-Colonel I. Macdonald, Captain P. J. K. Dickinson, Major P. A. Thompson, Major F. V. B. Philp

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

THIS Regiment has long been known as one of the most travelled units in the Army with detachments all over the world, all doing a grand job and having a marvellous time. But there are certain people in the Regiment who never travel further than the Salisbury Plain Training Area, and who enviously watch their friends departing for the sun and wonder if it will ever happen to them; these are most of the hard-working administrative staff. However, once a year off they go in the sun, to the Regimental summer camp on the tiny island of Alderney, where they carry out military and adventure training and are occasionally allowed to relax and enjoy themselves.

Your correspondent (**Lieutenant Sue McWade,** W.R.A.C.—Ed.) has just spent an unbelievable weekend in the most beautiful weather there in what must be the most friendly place in the British Isles.

They only wanted one thing—a Band

Our summer camp last year was such a success and we were made to feel so welcome that the Commanding Officer asked the State's President how we could repay their hospitality when we returned this year. We were asked, surprisingly, to bring the Band. Many things were offered instead not being sure that this was possible, but the people of Alderney wanted only one thing—a real live military band!

That is why an assortment of R.C.T. craft, including a converted fishing vessel and two hovercraft, arrived at Braye Harbour, on the island of Alderney, on Friday afternoon, 7th May, complete with the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals and its rather green-looking Director, **Captain Keith Boulding.**

The weekend was a great success, not only for the people of Alderney who were delighted that we had actually succeeded in bringing a military Band to such a little island, but also for the musicians themselves, several of whom were heard to say they could not wait to get back.

Very well received

After a morning shopping for as many duty-free souvenirs as permitted, the Band put on their finery and at six o'clock set off from the lawn outside the Grand Hotel to march through the town of St. Anne's, the capital, by way of the tiny cobbled High Street and by special request counter-marched outside the old peoples' home and on to the town hall. This event was watched by many enthusiastic islanders and the usual entourage of small boys who had probably never seen a military band in the flesh before in their lives.

Afterwards, the island dignitaries were invited to a cocktail party at the Harbour Lights Hotel, and with **Sergeant Colin Nurse's** sonorous tones announcing the guests the evening was suitably grand, but as always on Alderney, very friendly and sociable. The Band once again did us proud by playing for the guests on the patio with its splendid backdrop of palm trees, blue sea and the imposing Fort Albert.

The following day members of the Regiment were invited to join the congregation of St. Anne's Church for morning service. The Band played especially well in the beautiful surroundings of the small but impressive church, and were most surprised to find themselves the subject of the serman from the **Reverend Shore.**

After lunch the packed weekend was more than suitably

rounded off by a lively concert in the island primary school, which was crowded for the event. The programme of music included 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' and 'Frere Jaques,' which most Royal Signals personnel will know as hardly the traditional music for a military band, and convinced the headmaster, **Mr. Lewis,** that Souza was not the only source of inspiration.

A mishap—but no regrets

Tired but happy the party broke up on Sunday night with the return by hovercraft of the Officers of the Regiment. By some strange mischance one of the hovercraft broke down and the majority of the Band were marooned for another night on the island, but there was a noticeable lack of complaints. The remainder returned on Monday, after a weekend that will not be forgotten by the members of the Regiment who went, or the musicians who played, or the islanders who made us so welcome and were so thrilled that we had kept our promise to bring the Band.

The Regimental camp begins in earnest on 11th May and anyone who would like to know what happened after the Band had left should read the next report from the Isle of Alderney.

News from Squadrons

5 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.

CONTRARY to many people's expectations, we are still in Tidworth, and not keeping the peace in Northern Ireland. Much has happened since we last wrote, and the Squadron has been kept very busy, but events in Northern Ireland still occupy much of our attention.

Air mobility trials

In our last notes we mentioned that we were involved in air mobility trials. The communication problems involved are taxing our brains to the limit, and we still have a long way to go, but to give you an idea of the scope of the problem, here are some of the projects we are studying: Airborne rebroadcast stations in Beaver (C42) and Scout/Sioux (A41); airborne rovers in Scout; trailer-mounted radio detachments; a 'radio exchange,' which is **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Crowe's** pride and joy, but has yet to work successfully!

Before 19 Brigade men leap to their feet saying, " we've done it all before!" let us say that this is only the beginning!

Exercise 'Skyhook'

As part of the air mobility trial, we held a short Squadron exercise to try out the trailer detachments. With one Wessex aircraft, the trailers and crews flew around Salisbury Plain for two days and emerged at the end looking tired but happy and, in the case of the trailers, slightly bent! **Corporal Bradford,** of 'B' Troop was directing helicopters in the best traditions of the London Metropolitan Police, and had the distinction of being the only bearded Royal Signals helicopter marshaller in Tidworth!

During the two nights of the exercise, to keep the rest of the Squadron busy, we mounted attacks on Main H.Q. and Echelon. The Q.M. **Captain Mike Ham,** claims a victory, in that his party, under **Staff Sergeant John Richardson,** successfully decimated Main H.Q., while his own Echelon was hardly touched. Just to put the record straight, he had about ten times the normal quantity of pyrotechnics, and it took him half-an-hour after the attack to trigger all the tripflares which the attacking parties had not touched! Even then, an intrepid group, under **Sergeant Derek Frape,** succeeded in 'blowing up' four trucks.

Exercise 'Elementary'

As part of the Brigade Minor Units infantry training exercise in Cyprus (Exercise 'Elementary') we sent a section to join 3 Field Workshop, R.E.M.E., who were forming an *ad hoc* Infantry Company. They spent four weeks in Cyprus and returned looking disgustingly sun-tanned. Most of the section were from our D. and E. Platoon ('the Chunkies') but the Royal Signals flag was kept flying by **Lance-Corporal Walker** (Signals adviser to the Company Commander—no less!) and **Signalmen Holdsworth** and **Howell** from 'B' Troop.

M.P.T. Course pass-off

At the end of the M.P.T. course, on 26th March, the Brigade Major took the pass-off parade of sixteen N.C.O.s and soldiers. The weather was perfect, and the inspecting officer was obviously highly pleased with the parade. Our congratulations to all the students, and in particular to **Lance-Corporal Spencer,** of 'B' Troop, who was best student.

Visits

Among the many visitors we have had over the past months have been G.O.C. 3rd Division; C.S.O., Army Strategic Command, and the new C.S.O., 3rd Division, **Colonel Swan,** with his predecessor, **Brigadier Jackson.** Further to these, we entertained a party of four university undergraduates who were thinking of taking Regular Commissions. We attempted to show them what the job of a Troop Officer really is, and we hope we did not put them off for life!

Hello — Goodbye

Welcome to our new O.C., **Major Micky Topple,** and farewell to **Major Maurice Flynn,** who has left us to go to the School of Infantry.

Farewell to **Lieutenants Derek Hadden** and **Tony Whipp**—to tanks and computers respectively—and welcome to **Lieutenant Frank Garrod,** as our new O.C. 'A' Troop.

Finally, good luck to **Sergeant Paddison,** who has left to join the Yeoman's Course at the School.

(Incidentally, the Second-in-Command, **Captain Peter Dale,** and the Q.M., **Captain Mike Ham,** who have been trying to get away from each other for the past 18 months or more, now find that they are both posted this year to 28th Signal Regiment! AGII must do it on purpose!)

Future events

Looking ahead now, we have just finished Easter block leave—a well-earned rest for all and sundry—and now straight on with air mobility trials at the end of April. In May, we are off to Shorncliffe for a week of ranges and adventure training. Beyond that, the programme is rapidly filling up and we are going to be a very busy Squadron, Northern Ireland permitting!

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) Colchester

THE Squadron notes this month are written by 'J' Troop, affectionately(?) known as 'Jumbo Battery.' Before letting them have their say we must report that we have just won the local football league by such a convincing margin that with one game left no one could catch us. Just to make sure we won the last match against 19 O.F.P. by the convincing margin of 10-1. A picture of our winning team is attached.

'J' Troop—a lively bunch of extroverts

As the shots of "Hey—he Shiny J" rang through the wastes of Stanford P.T.A., another Squadron exercise came to an end, and everyone had to omit that 'J' Troop were the best thing since 'sliced bread.'

In training the Squadron for a possible tour in Northern Ireland, 'J' Troop were asked to provide a riotous assembly which they did with such acting ability that it is rumoured that Colchester Rep have asked **Sergeant Tom Langley** (Troop Sergeant) to play 'Julius Sneezer' in their next production.



19 AIRPORTABLE BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON FOOTBALLERS—NO-ONE COULD CATCH THEM!

Standing, left to right: W.O.1 R.S.M. Sanderson, Signalman Hughes, Lance-Corporal Catlow, Driver Ellam, Lance-Corporal Langley, Signalman Cochrane, Private Clelland

Kneeling, left to right: Signalman Roe, Major P. S. Reader, Signalman Aldous, Corporal Clark, Lance-Corporal Collins, Lance-Corporal Walton

O.C. 'J' (**Second-Lieutenant J. C. Smith**) didn't come off as lightly, as being Officer i/c of the riot squad he became the target of the majority of the clods of earth, water and flour bombs thrown.

On the lighter side of the exercise, after we had challenged the L.A.D. detachment to a game of football they asked us to play volleyball as they considered us to be semi-professional footballers, so, game for anything, we said okay, although we knew they practised every sports afternoon, and after two knock-out games we retired victors leaving the L.A.D. to find a new trainer.

At a campfire at the lake-side that night, a troop singing competition, organised by **F. of S. Brian Maltby** for a can of beer each, 'J' Troop sang a semi-original score of dubious character and a short calypso number led by **Corporal Dave (Norbert) Clark** which went down very well. The O.C., **Major P. S. Reader,** declared a draw, but we heard from unofficial sources that we were undoubtedly champs.

Another day of training and a short break for a softball competition; in the first game the L.A.D./M.T. were knocked out by 'A' Troop. We went on to massacre the D. & E. Platoon which left us playing our rivals 'A' Troop.

Playing to rather revised local laws, the game started well and after a hard battle and the loss of one heroic player with a 'badly sprained ankle' which turned out to be fractured, 'J' Troop won and became Masters of the Situation again.

The exercise concluded with the enemy ('J' Troop and D. & E.) attacking the H.Q. that night with the use of CS gas, which did not go down too well with anybody who was slow in putting on their respirators. Still, at the end, everyone said they had enjoyed themselves and the exercise had been a success.

12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. (212), B.F.P.O. 36

WE say goodbye to a fair number of people this month, including **Captain A. W. de V. Hunt,** who having found yet another gear in his car goes to the School (Q Course Grade E) to lecture. **Captain Drew** ('Doogal' to lovable 'Alpha' Troop) goes to a hush-hush, 15 weeks' leave a year post at Hounslow; **Staff Sergeant Stewart,** who is now just a bad dream to 'A' Troop, is at Herford; **R.S.M. Copley** who has been commissioned and is now at 16th Signal Regiment. On the arrivals side we welcome **Captain G. A. Allen** from Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, who assumes the appointment of Second-in-Command, and **W.O.1 F. Williams** who arrives from 1 Division to become our new R.S.M.

We also say goodbye to **'Diesel Dan' Archer,** who has gone to 5 Brigade. Our technicians swear blind that he uses an Allen key to open up the sets to do his own repairs on the equipment whilst on rebro.

Sergeant 'Sammy' Leggett continues to train our teams for the seven-a-side Divisional tournament against considerable odds — the team, for example, who are exercising a natural instinct of survival.

Things heard . . .

"Sergeant, can I have today off please?"

"What for Joe?"

"I want to finish off the wall I was painting whilst in nick."

Thoughtful pause then—"What about doing it during the weekend Joe?"

"Well Sarge, I'm going to help this bloke in nick paint another wall over the weekend."

A high-level conference was called

We went on Exercise 'Hurst Park' in April and a high-level conference was called to discuss whether we should wear shirt-sleeve order. After considerable debate the S.S.O. lobby won the day. Short was their victory, for it snowed 2½ inches that night.

Once again on this exercise we met many old friends on the Koterberg, that ex-beauty spot which has just been hit by concen Delta.

Winkum, Blinkum and Nod 'Lines Recovered while you wait' **Signalmen 'Billy' Taylor, 'Phill' Davenport** and **'Tich' Ross** were rather 'snookered' when we had to split them up to form a new 'company.' However, Duckitt Buckitt and Ferguson (**'Lofty' Hatton**) is a flourishing concern.

'Alpha' Troop's mascot 'Spastic' (Dog Corporal Grade II) is being taught some new tricks by the Troop. His latest is retrieving a ball thrown between the tracks of a moving 432! After four spectacular attempts he learnt to duck first.

Corporals Johnny Cliff and **'Scouse' Allen** have found that 'Stockie' racing is not all it's made out to be. 'Scouse' came in the block the other day carrying a battery and a piece of chrome and asked for a spare locker to park his car.

223 Signal Squadron (Radio) Winchester

Farewell to 'Froggy' French

MAJOR (Q.M.) **Allan French, B.E.M., A.I.T.E.** — **'Froggy'** to many of the older hands—said his final farewells on Friday, 23rd April. Proudly he can claim a lifetime's association with the Royal Signals for he was born at Crowborough, when it was the Depot, more years ago than he cares to remember.

Allan French joined the Service as a 'lad,' as he puts it. He trained as an Operator Wireless and Line at Catterick. With the British Expeditionary Force in 1939, his vintage year proved to be 1940: first Dunkirk and then promotion into the Sergeants' Mess. From England he joined 1 Div. Signals in the desert and, as a Troop Sergeant with 3 Infantry Brigade Signals Section, went through the whole North Africa campaign. In at the invasion of Panteleria (Sicily), he served out his war in Italy. For his work at the Anzio bridgehead he was awarded the B.E.M.

Life-long ambition realised

Palestine saw him as a W.O.2 from 1945 to 1948, and then it was off to Nottingham University as a P.S.I. Back to the Middle East in 1952, he joined 3 G.H.Q. in Egypt as R.Q.M.S., then in 1954 he realised a life-long ambition when he was appointed R.S.M. of 3 Div. Signals at Moascar.

A Quartermaster Commission followed in 1956 and one of his first jobs was 'Suez'; so back to Egypt. Then came tours in 7 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.; 23rd Signal Regiment, Lincoln; the School of Signals, Catterick; and Hong Kong. It was while he was there that he studied for his Associateship of the Institute of Technician Engineers. 1967 found him with 13th Signal Regiment, and once again in B.A.O.R., while 1970 brought him home at last to England and 223 Signal Squadron.

With his wife **Teddie** he has now settled in Dorset. There, he tells us, he intends to relax and potter about the garden; maybe he'll do a spot of fishing. We wonder?

Major French's farewell dinner in the Sergeants' Mess — his spiritual second home if we are to believe him at all—turned out to be quite an event. The occasion also served as a fine opportunity for the new Squadron Commander to meet the Mess. However, we have no doubt that **Major Ingledow** will be the first to say that the evening really belonged to **Major French.** Specially invited guests were **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) P. Todd,** Royal Signals of R.M.A. Sandhurst, an ex-S.S.M. of the Squadron; **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. Taylor** of the Rifle Depot, The Royal Green Jackets, and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) P. Russell** of the Royal Army Pay Corps, both of whose units are based in Winchester.

The Mess was stunned

Regaling everyone with stories and anecdotes of his service life, **Major French** kept all laughing hilariously. Then, to the surprise of everyone present, he paid the Mess a great compliment by making a presentation of a magnificent late nineteenth-century rifle, thoroughly restored to its original condition and mounted on a handsome wall plaque. The Rifleman in **R.S.M. Taylor** was clearly envious. The Mess was stunned!

The deeds of men like **Allan French,** who give the greater part of their lives to this Corps and who did much to make it what it is today, will long be remembered in the Royal Signals.

Welcome to . . .

We take this opportunity of welcoming **Captain (Q.M.) John Finch** who, with his wife **Margaret** and three daughters, joins the Unit from 7th Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R. He tells us that what he has already seen of the area, makes him think he is going to enjoy his sojourn in Hampshire.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Fitness For Role Inspection and Presentation

ON Thursday, 11th March, **Brigadier J. R. Cave-Browne,** Commander U.K. Delegation, H.Q. AFCENT, carried out the annual inspection.

After approximately two hours' searching scrutiny of the Squadron's accounts, administration procedures and M.T. he declared himself satisfied with the Squadron's efficiency.

Having completed the serious portion of his visit he then took time out for an informal coffee break with the Squadron's Officers and Warrant Officers.

After coffee he presented to the O.C., **Major Bill Morgan,** a very impressive board with the Squadron's history. This ceremony came as a complete surprise for the O.C. who had been given no inkling of what was afoot.

In November, 1970, **Captain John Pearson,** the Squadron's Second-in-Command, carried out some intensive research into the history of the Squadron and the identity of the 11 Officers who have commanded it.

Armed with this information he then designed a board which records the unit's various titles since its inception in 1948 as 'H.Q. Western Europe Commander-in-Chief's Committee Signal Troop,' plus the names of the 11 O.C.s

Manufacture was carried out under a veil of secrecy which would have done credit to the inner cabinet. This achieved its aim in that **Major Morgan** had no idea of the board's existence until it was unveiled. After the initial surprise he recovered his usual aplomb and accepted it graciously.

The board is now prominently displayed over the entrance to his office, serving as a constant reminder of the Squadron's history to all visitors and new arrivals.



A PRESENTATION THAT WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED
Brigadier J. R. Cave-Browne, Commander U.K. Delegation H.Q. A.F.C.E.N.T. presenting to Major W. A. F. Morgan, Royal Signals a board recording the history and names of Officers Commanding 227 Signal Squadron (A.F.C.E.N.T.) on the occasion of the Squadron's Annual Fitness For Role Inspection on 11th March 1971

Good Friday — with some doubt about the good

Between 14.00 and 14.15 hours the Squadron children, accompanied by doting parents, assembled on the sports field looking almost angelic; in their frilliest dresses and best suits, their aim being to participate in an Easter Egg hunt organised by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Colin Heaps, R.Q.M.S. Colin Johnson** and members of the Maastricht Families' Association.

The rules were explained, the off was signalled, and a complete transformation took place. Little ladies hauled young gentlemen out of trees oblivious to imprecations hurled at them, all rules were barred in an effort to get a ticket which would win them an egg.

Young gentlemen trod on dainty fingers and turned a deaf ear to the stream of vituperation which emanated from the sweetest lips. Only the closest supervision prevented a re-enactment of the first Easter, as little girls threatened to nail recalcitrant little boys to the changing room doors.

Order was eventually restored when the children discovered that there was a ticket and egg for everybody. Poetically the largest eggs appeared to go to the smallest children.

This was followed by an Easter Bonnet competition for the younger girls and an egg decorating competition for the boys. The entries were most ingenious and original, posing a real problem for our three judges, **Sergeants Bert Gent,** A.C.C., and **Chris Thorburn,** ably assisted by **Corporal Norman Hyland,** visiting from 6 Brigade. I feel that only Dutch courage enabled them to select the first three in each class.

The older children then took part in an egg-pushing race; this involved pushing a hard-boiled egg across the football pitch with a hockey stick. This proved to be a much easier event to judge as only three participants crossed the finishing line with whole eggs. The remainder disintegrated as a result of youthful exuberance and enthusiasm.

A raffle had been arranged in which the first prize was a large Easter egg, worth over £2. **Y. of S. Heaps,** in an attempt to be scrupulously fair, had **Christopher Whittaker,** the three-year-old son of **Lance-Corporal Terry Whittaker,** pick the first ticket. This proved to be yet another case of the best laid plans of mice and men—**Christopher** picked his mother's ticket.

The weather was kind, being warm and sunny. This provided father with an excellent excuse for repairing to the beer tent. A plentiful supply of ale and soft drinks ensured that a good time was had by all.

The general verdict was that the event had proved a success and will probably be staged as an annual event.



QUITE A TASK FOR THE JUDGES
Some of the participants in the Easter Bonnet competition. *Left to right:* Jacqueline Goulding, Andrea Goulding, Lesley Bell, Deborah Moxon, Sharon Harper (3rd), Dawn Stephenson (1st), Marianne Boardman (2nd), Melanie Brien, Sally Stone

Technicians problem

Sergeant Dave Clark, one of our technician sergeants, is now busy writing a thesis entitled 'Trials, Tribulations and Traumatic Experiences of a Technician, Trapped in a Terminated Elevator, which Truculently refused to Transmigrate.'

The urge to produce this was motivated by a lunch-time sojourn in the lift at the block of flats where he lives. The lift had jammed at the ground floor, and as **Dave** lives on the top floor, he decided to treat it as a challenge. With perspicuous logic, for which he's renowned, he decided that if he entered the lift, then allowed the door to lock, he would be able to operate the lift and restore it to normal working. Alas, he did not reckon on the lift revealing the fallibility of a certain Royal Signals Technician, as a result he omitted to consider remedial action necessary to effect an exit in the event of it not operating.

For 30 minutes or so his plight went unnoticed, his wife then discovered him and commiserated with him. She also arranged with him a system of visits from the children who could gaze at Dad through the window in the lift door. A menu was also arranged whereby he could have a choice of soups poured under the door.

Eventually, after some 45 minutes had elapsed, a tool was produced which enabled him to regain his freedom. His friends will be pleased to learn that **Dave,** whilst somewhat chastened, is completely unscathed. In the event of his passing the Foreman's course he has arranged to have a statutory clause included in his terms of reference precluding work on elevators of any description.

Genteel sports

OUR most noteworthy sporting event of this period was a much-publicised netball game between a wives' team, 'Beek Bloomers,' and a male team, 'The Tapijn Fairies.' 'The Fairies' were made up of a mixture of British and German personnel, with **Captain Detlef Frels,** German Army, as team captain.

The game was ably refereed by **Mrs. Margaret Bridgeman** and **Sergeant Barry (Arsenal) Seaton. Margaret** wore her old school blazer which, judging by the standards of play she countenanced, must have been 'St. Trinians.' **Corporal Keith Roythorne,** playing for 'The Fairies,' suggested quite vociferously on numerous occasions that she must be a direct descendant of Lord Nelson. **Barry's** refereeing was impaired by the fact that for 90 per cent of the game he was reading the rule book, or could it have been a history of Arsenal Football Club? His efforts were very reminiscent of his idol of the refereeing world, **Mr. Tinkler.** Only the absence of Leeds United-type fans prevented a riot.

The game soon developed into a robust, physical trial of strength with body checks, boring, tripping, gouging and occasional flying tackles. 'The Fairies' refused to be intimidated by these tactics and endeavoured to restore a touch of gentility to the proceedings. **Corporals Keith Roythorne** and **Keith Buckley** tried to take advantage of their superior height but a well-concealed hat pin soon reduced them to size.

To add insult to injury the 'Bloomers' had acted in a most un-English fashion and practised beforehand. The outcome was inevitable and even the efforts of **Corporal Mike Robinson,** who spent most of the game on his knees in a position of supplication invoking the good offices of the Almighty, were of no avail. The 'Bloomers' triumphed by 12 goals to 4.

After the match **Foreman John Bridgeman,** who attended to lend his wife moral(?) support, inadvertently tried to leave the gym via the ladies' changing room. A period of some five minutes elapsed between him entering and reappearing. This, he assures us, was taken up in regaining his composure and apologising personally to each of the ladies. He reports with a gleam in his eyes that the ladies looked remarkably healthy, with plenty of colour in their cheeks after the vigorous game.

Both teams rounded off the evening by repairing to a nearby Dutch cafe called 'The Black Sheep' where **Captain Frels** presented a well-earned trophy to the ladies. 'The Fairies' then proceeded to drown their sorrows and the memory of an ignoble defeat whilst muttering darkly about return matches. A further onslaught is now eagerly awaited by all members of the Squadron.

Junkie

One of our American medical orderlies was convinced on a recent exercise that the drug problem prevalent in the U.S. Armed Forces had also affected another N.A.T.O. ally, to wit, Great Britain. This arose from a visit by our O.C. **Major Bill Morgan.** The conversation went something like this: "Can you give me a hypodermic syringe?" "What would you require that for, Major?" "Simply to inject acid," was the reply. After a slight pause whilst the Orderly tried to regain his composure, it continued, "You got a problem Major? You want to discuss it

with me?" "Of course not." This reply completely nonplussed the Orderly. His mind frantically sought a method of restraining the Major whilst he contacted narcotics to report the case.

Finally, the O.C. relented and resolved his problem by explaining that the syringe was required to inject acid into a miniature lead cell used in a rechargeable torch battery. He was given the syringe. We think that the Orderly believed him.

Sign of the times?

On completion of Exercise 'Trix 71/2,' **R.S.M. Tom Burke** was due to attend the after-exercise conference. Unfortunately he was delayed and arrived 10 minutes late. Flustered, and full of apologies, he entered the conference expecting a mild rebuke for being remiss. Much to his surprise, before he could speak a glass of champagne was thrust into his hand and he was invited to join in a toast. One of our German Captains had been promoted to Major and a small celebration was in progress. **Tom** reports that this is the only time in his army career that he has been late, expected a dressing down, and came away with a glass of champagne. We can only hope that the custom catches on.

Masterpiece of understatement

Sergeant Ken Hornblower recently celebrated another birthday which much to the chagrin of his contemporaries neither diminishes the quantity of his flowing locks, nor adds a touch of silver to his jet black waves.

Whilst celebrating this event, Mess members mixed **Ken** a cocktail consisting of Scotch and Rye Whiskies, Brandy, Vodka, Gin, Bacardi and Rum topped up with Coca Cola. This noxious brew was handed to him as a mild rum and coke. **Ken** examined it, sniffed the boquet, sipped and rolled it around his palate, then in a very non-committal voice remarked, "I have a faint suspicion this may be spiked." He was reassured when some of the senior Mess members tasted it and assured him, with blistered tongues and teeth fraying at the edges, that it was a normal, innocuous rum and coke.

We feel that the Guinness Book of Records should note that he drank two of these and left the Mess on steady feet to continue his birthday celebrations with the drivers.

229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
B.F.P.O. 45

Change of Command

IN February we said farewell to **Major W. B. Foote** on posting to 1 (BR) Corps and welcomed **Major A. B. Byng** from U.K. as our new O.C. May we wish them both well in their new appointments.

Visit of General Sir Geoffrey Baker, C.G.S.

On 4th March the C.G.S. made a flying visit to Berlin. During the visit he made a working inspection of the Squadron. He is seen talking to **Sergeant Leake** of Radio Troop with the M.T. Sergeant, **Sergeant Timmins,** in the background.

229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) Marriage Bureau

We have had so many weddings recently that we are thinking of starting our own marriage bureau. Since the new year we have had five weddings and we wish all the best to: **Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Hulley, Corporal and Mrs. Weedon, Corporal and Mrs. Gowling, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Mullender** and **Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Grant.**

Squadron reaches final of B.A.O.R. Mini-Minor Football Cup

After a not-too-promising start to the season 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) settled down and played good competitive soccer. Recent successes has put the team third in the Brigade Minor Units League and there is every reason to think that this position will be improved upon.

The team also reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Mini-Minor Unit Cup competition and played against B.M.H. Rinteln at Sennelager on Saturday, 24th April. How they reached the final:

229 Signal Squadron beat: B.M.H. Hannover 9-0; 38 (Field) Squadron R.E. 8-3; 226 Signal Squadron 6-1; A.M.E.D./11 Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. 7-0; goals for 30, goals against 4.

B.M.H. Rinteln beat: 1 (BR) Corps Stores Company 6-3; Rheindahlen Garrison Provost Company 3-1; 655 Aviation Squadron 3-2; 'A' Squadron A.D.G. 2-0; goals for 14, goals against 6.

Rain throughout the final marred a very fine display of football by both teams.

Rinteln opened the scoring from a cross-shot, the ball rebounding off the boot of Downey into the net giving goalkeeper Timmins no chance. Play moved from end to end with both teams striving desperately to score, but at half-time Rinteln were still in the lead by one goal to nil.

At the start of the second half 229 Signal Squadron swung into the attack and were unlucky in not being able to pass the Rinteln goalkeeper who played a tremendous game. Rinteln added a further goal when Stoneham made a bad clearance. The remainder of the match was almost entirely in the Rinteln half and Stuart, from a pass by Hamilton, gave the Signals their first and only goal. Repeated attacks failed to produce the equaliser although many good chances were missed. In the dying second of the game a goal by 229 was disallowed, the ball being in the air when the final whistle went.

229 Signal Squadron received the runners-up trophy and plaques, and are now keenly contesting the Berlin Minor Units Cup (The Viscountess Kemsley Cup). The team had a bye in the preliminary round, and won against 'C' Company 1 Cheshire by 3-2.

Recent Berlin Signal Squadron Weddings





1. Mrs. Erswell, Corporal Mullender, Leslie Mullender and W.O.2 Erswell
2. Corporal and Mrs. Gowling



MINI MINOR FOOTBALLERS OF 229 SQUADRON REACH B.A.O.R. FINAL

Back row, left to right: Sergeant R. Patterson, Signalman C. Stuart, Corporal P. Sutherland, W.O.2 Stoneham, Sergeant K. Timmins, Lance-Corporal Walker, Corporal G. Downey, Signalman C. Hagan, Staff-Sergeant H. Docherty (Coach)
Seated, left to right: Signalman C. Crooks, (Captain), Major A. B. Byng, Signalman M. Young, Lieutenant V. F. M. Thom, Lance-Corporal A. Hamilton
Front row, left to right: Corporal B. Dawson, Signalman C. Meldrum. Not present: Sergeant P. Clarke, Corporal G. Farmer, Lance-Corporal G. Kelly

234 Signal Squadron (Malta),
B.F.P.O. 51

Visit of Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.

THE last few days of March brought us a very welcome visitor, the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The visit was his first to Malta to give him time to see something of the island. Although only sixteen miles by eight, Malta holds a considerable amount of Corps activity. The Squadron provides communications for all three British Services, H.Q., NAVSOUTH, and the Department for Environment, and certain other agencies in the island; this automatically took the General on a grand tour, and naturally, a few items of historic interest were included. He saw project work in progress, including the installation of our first crossbar exchange (Swedish Ericsson) at R.A.F. Luqa, and of Marconi self-tuning transmitters at Zonkor. Socially, he met the Royal Signals officers and their wives over lunch, and their guests at a cocktail party later on. He met members of our Wives' Club over coffee, and was also the principal guest at a dinner night in the Officers' Mess, H.Q., British Troops, Malta. His visit ended with a pleasant tour of the Grand Harbour, followed by an excellent conducted tour of H.M.S. 'St. Angelo,' for which we are grateful to the Commanding Officer, **Captain R. A. Gilchrist, R.N.**

To be or not to be?

Also in March we were glad to see **Colonel P. F. Webb, M.B.E.,** Colonel G. S. Signals Ops/SD MOD (A), who came to cast his eye on our arithmetic. Unfortunately, his visit was very concentrated and rushed but, we hope, valuable—at least we think there are more 'to be's' than 'not to be's!'



AWARD FOR EFFICIENCY

The Signal Officer-in-Chief presents a Silver Comstar award to Captain (Traffic) J. H. Cotton and members of the commcen staff, H.Q. British Troops Malta. *From left to right:* Signalman Alfred Muscat, Lance-Corporal George Zammit, Major A. M. Hewson (O.C.), Signalman Joseph Mifsud, Mr. Joseph Gaunt, Mr. Joseph Harmsworth, Sergeant Ronald Tranter

Regimental Day—1st Bn. The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment

We provided a radio link for the Regimental Day of the 1st Bn. Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and all went well. 24 Air Portable Brigade Signal Squadron kindly provided a D11 station at Topsham Barracks, Exeter (the Battalion's Depot) on 8th April, and we provided the terminal at the barracks in Malta. Parents and girl friends were able to send messages to their relatives in the Battalion in Malta with great success. We were grateful at this end to the Royal Navy for providing an alternative transmitter to our solitary D11 (belt and braces, or perhaps string and wire hawser would be more apt!).

Parting of the ways

Captain (Q.M.) Ken Ward and his wife, **Brenda,** left us for 16th Signal Regiment, and we were very sorry to see them go; good luck to both for their first tour in B.A.O.R. (yes, true, but his knees are well-tanned!). As we are shortly to move out of Lintorn Barracks, where the Squadron has been since 1946, there is one newcomer who might be a bit sorry to say cheerio to **Captain Ward** at this point in time, our new Quartermaster, **Captain Don Stanley**! To both he and his wife —happy stay in Malta.

255 Signal Squadron (Bahrain) B.F.P.O. 63

THE Squadron has continued to thrive, largely due to the considerable improvements to the 'Outpost'—our club—and the last few months have seen the construction of an aviary filled with sex and feathered friends, who appear to be doubling their numbers weekly. The chief aviculturalist, **R.Q.M.S. Withall,** hopes shortly to produce a cross between a sulphur-crested cockatoo and a zebra finch. Bird-seed is already costing the P.R.I. more than feeding our donkey mascot, 'Muffin.'

Cyprus Walkabout

The Cyprus Walkabout Competition, a senior orienteering competition for three-man teams was held on the 1st and 2nd April, 1971. British Forces (Gulf) entered six teams, one consisting of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Houston, Sergeant Yeomans** and **S.A.C. Keith,** from the R.A.F., were in the lead at the end of the first day (Episkopi to Troodos) with a time of 6 hours 32 minutes. Unfortunately, they got lost on the way back on the second day and finished runners-up to the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. As the field included about 70 teams, with many from U.K. and B.A.O.R., the effort was very creditable. **Foreman Houston** and **Sergeant Yeomans** are bound for Blandford shortly, so we can expect the standard of orienteering to improve there soon.

Line Troop

Line Troop bid farewell to **Second-Lieutenant Rayner,** who worked so hard, both in the Army's time and in his own. We welcome **Second-Lieutenant Grant,** fresh from the 'The Chaps Factory.' The Troop has been employed on project work at Masirah of late and has won the Squadron darts competition twice.

Airfield Troop

Easter proved a busy time for the Troop because of . . . yes, real wet rain. When it does rain in Bahrain, once or twice a year, it RAINS! By Friday, it looked like a typical English Bank Holiday, with up to 18 inches of rain standing on parts of the airfield, and a trunk cable had 'gone out.' The whole Troop was employed on Friday night and Saturday re-routing circuits and laying temporary cables. The highlight of the crisis was when **Lance-Corporal Gus Honey** did a 'flying act' from the roof of the civil air terminal building and left a neat outline of his body through a car port roof amid cries of 'do it again for the cameras.' By Sunday, all was under control, and we held our barbecue as planned, while on Monday, we provided two most successful sideshows for the Squadron Mini Fair, in the usual hot sunshine.

(Advert.—If you want some digging done urgently, contact **Sergeant Fraser,** Airfield Troop, 255 Signal Squadron).

Hamala Troop

The transitional period, due to the departure of the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rangers, and the arrival of 1st Battalion Staffordshire Regiment, seemed a good opportunity to rotate some of our own staff, and so March has seen the departure of **Signalman 'Franky' Shaw** from the Comcen and **Lance-Corporal 'Nobby' Walker,** our M.T.O.

Sergeant John Clayforth was 'dined-out' in true Hamala Troop tradition at the 'Al Jaber' Restaurant ('The Golly Nosh Shop') where he managed to stay awake throughout the meal not 'flake out' amongst the chuppatees and prawn masahlas. Thus it was a hungover **Sergeant 'Lemmy-D' Lomas** who took over the Troop the following day.

On the sporting side, the Troop took on Line Troop at basketball and beat them 28—10. **Signalman 'Eddy' Sandison** skippered the Squadron football team and was selected to play for the Army (Bahrain) together with **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Clark,** also of Hamala Troop.

Operating Troop

The Troop is in the process of being handed over to **Lieutenant French,** who has just completed his Captains' Course at the School of Signals. The O.C., **Second-Lieutenant M. J. Jefferis,** has taken over the post of Assistant Adjutant for the last few weeks of his tour here.

Recently, the Troop was very successful in the Five-a-Side Football Competition. Both Troop teams reached the final, whereupon the 'A' Team beat the 'B' Team to win the Pope Cup for the second year in succession.

We congratulate **Sergeant Tanner** on his promotion to Staff Sergeant and also **Corporal Lomas** on his promotion to Sergeant.

Field Troop

In spite of its small size, Field Troop has proved to be a true inter-Service unit, working throughout Bahrain. At present, in addition to providing communications for the Squadron, we have two Signalmen working as radio/telegraph operators on H.M.A.V. *Arrezzo,* for which we had no shortage of volunteers. We also provide ground to air communication for the R.A.F., when required, which is frequently, so we manage to get about.

Second-Lieutenant Durham has now taken over from **Second-Lieutenant Conlon,** who left us on 1st April (an appropriate date, you may say!). **Sergeant Brown** is still here to correct any blunders, and will continue to do so until the end.

The Mini Fair

On Easter Monday, the Squadron entertained the Service families of Bahrain by organising a Mini Fair, with sideshows, hot dogs, ice cream and cartoons. By far the most popular activity was dousing the S.S.M. (five goes for 25 fils), but 'Muffin,' our donkey mascot, was a popular mount for the children. Altogether, we made £25, and we are pleased to have been able to donate this sum to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. (Acknowledged with much thanks.—Editor).



1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (257) B.F.P.O. 102

IN February the Squadron took to the field on Exercise 'Flintstone II' when we practised our S.O.P.s for three days under the critical eye of our new O.C., **Major Peter Davies.** (Some of our more nostalgic members tearfully recounted 'Flintstone I' and remarked that Saracens don't get bogged like they used to!).

In March **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** and his merry men from 22nd Regiment joined us with their Bruin equipment for Exercise 'Bull Finch.' This was the first of a series of exercises with 7th Regiment planned for this year.

This was followed on the educational scene by **Lieutenant Les Fox** and **Second-Lieutenant John Allan** awakening their dormant political aspirations on their 'Joe' scheme. Contrary to popular belief this was not in preparation for the eventual

breaking off of diplomatic relations between 'T' and 'R' Troops who until now have been banded together in mutual affection and masking tape under the misleading name of 'Comms' Troop.

. . . from hitherto unknown corners of Germany

In March Exercise 'Ravens Ridge' saw us establishing ourselves and communicating from hitherto unknown corners of Germany. Again we were joined by **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle's** detachment who did stirling work keeping us alive and well into the commcens. **Yeoman Len Holmes** of 28th Regiment was another very welcome addition under 'atts and dets' and we look forward to the day when we have our very own Yeoman.

. . . on a lighter note

On a lighter note, during this exercise our football team challenged our village hosts to a match at the weekend. In spite of the overwhelming encouragement of our armed supporters we, alas, conceded defeat.

In April the Squadron turned its talents to organising the Brigade Lieutenant-Captain Promotion Examination. (The exact location is still a mystery to O.C. 'T' Troop—as ever!—who has a particular interest in this examination). **(Lieutenant Fox passed—O.C.).**

In the field of sport our rugby 15 have taken on such goliath teams as 3 R.T.R. and 20 Heavy Regiment R.A.; our football team is on form (read all our previous bulletins!); and we look forward to our inter-Troop athletics meet in May. Athletics already? . . . read all about it next time.

Our picture would not be complete without a mention of the wives' activities. Whilst the Squadron was on Exercise 'Ravens Ridge' the wives and children made a sortie on Hannover. A busload, under the 'tender care' of **Mrs. Elizabeth Howard,** left for shopping in Hannover at nine o'clock in the morning of Saturday, 20th March. They returned in time for a quick bite of lunch and then retired to the Wives' Club for a film show by **Lance-Corporal Fred Irving,** and a 'bun fight' ably refereed by **Mrs. Julia Davies.** The ladies retired suitably worn out with the children still game for more. This form of activity, seemingly successful, may well be repeated on future exercises. Watch out ladies!

261 Signal Squadron (Air Support) B.F.P.O. 53

Skill-at-Arms

THE 'silly season' is upon us. For those not conversant with the ways of life in Cyprus, it is the time when the powers that be organise the various annual events 'before the hot season starts.' The last four weeks have been all go in the Squadron and had it not been for the fact that the hot season is late in starting this year there would no doubt have been the odd case of exhaustion. It all started fairly quitely with the Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms meeting. Although our overall results were a bit disappointing the S.M.G. shots, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) J. V. Prees, Sergeant Mick Norton, Signalman 'Trigger' Tregilgas** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Goodrick,** emerged the winners of the S.M.G. Cup and indeed the S.S.M. was the best individual, after fairly heavy prompting from the O.C. over his left shoulder!

This was followed fairly closely by the NEARELF Skill-at-Arms in which **Sergeant Mick Norton** earns praise for his consistently good shooting with the S.L.R., which gained him a place in the G.O.C. XX. A very creditable performance.

Walkabout

Next came the Cyprus Walkabout which some readers may know is akin to a motor rally but on foot, from Episkopi on the south-west coast of the island, to the top of the Troodos Mountains and back in two days, with a night's rest at the top.

To finish this gruelling slog from check point to check point is an achievement in itself and the Squadron team of **Sergeant Tony Holmes, Lance-Corporal Dick Olsen** and **Signalman Ken Brown** did all that was required of them.



LOCAL COLOUR

Lance-Corporal Andy Spowart examines a mysterious object (wickerwork hen carrier? Cyprus style bagpipe?—any suggestions)

Athletics—a successful meeting

The Squadron was asked to organise the Corps Annual Athletics Meeting at Happy Valley, Episkopi, this year. We had a dry run the week preceding this with our own Squadron meeting, to check-out our arrangements for the following week and of course to pick a team. O.C. Project Troop, **Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Milton,** was the brains behind the organisation and on the day proper had managed to inveigle, cajole and browbeat just about every man in the Squadron, and indeed some from the other Squadrons, to assist in the running of what proved to be a highly successful meeting. Predictably, 1 Squadron 9th Signal Regiment ran away, if that's the right phrase, with most of the trophies. 261 were doing very nicely in second place for most of the meeting but were literally pipped on the post in the very last event, the 4 x 100 metres relay, by 2 Squadron 9th Signal Regiment. Performances of note were **Signalman Mark Gardner's** sterling run in the 6,000 metres, **LanceCorporal Andy Spowart's** and **Corporal Rick Christie's** win in the javelin and **Signalman Kevin Kimber's** and **Corporal Smith's** performances in the 800 metres.

At the time of writing **Captain Milton** is planning his revenge, where a combined team from ourselves, 259 and 262 Signal Squadrons will again tussle with 9th Signal Regiment in the Cyprus Major Units Meeting among others.

Stop Press

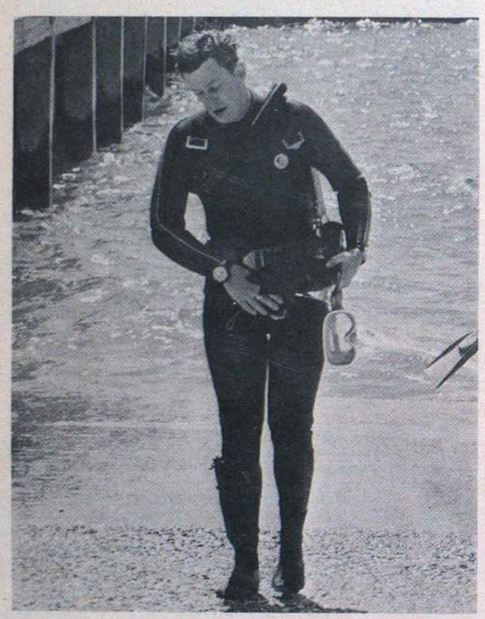
Notes on Squadron summer camp will appear in next month's notes.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

259 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 53

OUR readers may recall that we were prompted by the visit of the Prime Minister in March to reveal to a startled world the existence of the 259 Visitors Club. Business has not been exactly slack in the last two months and the committee are pleased to report that membership has again increased.

What, one enquires, prompts M.P.s, C.G.S.s, Adjutant-Generals and the like to come flocking to enrol? It is, of course, the wide range of interests and activities open to the visitor whilst he is here, relaxing in the sun far from the cares of Whitehall. Our pictures show various members of the permanent staff pursuing their own particular activities. Water sports are always popular and **Sergeant Hinton** shown below is a well-known figure in the local skin diving fraternity. **Sergeant Evans** shown here playing rugger for the Welsh team in Cyprus is equally prominent on the sports field. (We try and dissuade our more senior visitors from taking part in the latter activity). **Corporal Coates**—at least he says that it is him—is seen driving in the Acropolis Motor Rally in Greece.



Sergeant Hinton, who operates from Dhekelia is a skin diver of some experience



. . . and for some high powered thrills there is Corporal Coates in the Acropolis Motor Rally in Greece—at least he tells us it is him in the car!



The latest V.I.P. to visit the unit—Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Army. He is shown here with Sergeant Meaney in Engineering Control, and showing absorbed interest



Sergeant Evans—seen evading a strong tackle—is an enthusiastic and prominent member of the rugby team

Our visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief was recorded in the last issue and since then we have had what has practically become an annual visit from the Under-Secretary of State for the Army. The latest visit was somewhat auspicious since the visitor was **Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith, M.P.,** and we were pleased to be the first unit in the Corps to receive him after his appointment.

He is shown in the picture talking to **Sergeant Meaney** in Engineering Control.

644 Signal Troop (UNFICYP) B.F.P.O. 667

Move to 'Blue Beret' Camp

AFTER several false starts, due to a lack of money, Headquarters UNFICYP recently moved to its new base in the old R.A.F. Nicosia complex, and aptly named its new location 'Blue Beret' Camp. For some time, under the direction of C.S.O.'s branch, and in close liaison with the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA), we had been making our plans. We had to move the communications centre, telephone exchange, battery charging shop and technical workshop, as well as plan the installation of radios and telephones for the headquarters. The move took place over a weekend and finally depended on CYTA moving, and reinstalling, the 100-line RURAX automatic exchange without a hitch. This they did—**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hill** ceased chewing at his fingernails and we cheerfully tore up the pink (manual only) telephone directories. Not everything went as smoothly, and a special word of thanks must go to the anonymous local carpenters who provided 90 minutes' heartache by looping our D.C.N. link whilst doing a last-minute tidying-up job to the teleprinter benches. Virtually our only other problem was with the Chief Logistics Officer's intercom which would not respond to 'His master's voice,' but insisted on playing top of the pops on all six channels. **Lieutenant Mike Butler** quickly demonstrated he had lost none of his old Foreman's skill by confiscating the capacitors from a transistor radio to shunt the offending RF to earth.

Visitors of Distinction

Since the move we have had many visitors from both the Corps and the rest of the Army. This is not surprising as the U.K. makes a large contribution towards the cost of UNFICYP. Amongst those who have visited the Troop recently were the S.O.-in-C.; **Major-General M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., V.Q.M.G.; the Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** Chaplain General; **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.,** G.O.C. NEARELF; **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** Commander 3rd Signal Group.

Third — even fourth — tours

30th Signal Regiment have continued to support us in a most able manner. Because the majority of the Troop are on a six months' tour our recent new arrivals are too numerous to name; suffice it to say that some are back for their third, and fourth, tours.



S.O.-in-C. MEETS KEY-MAN

The S.O.-in-C. meets W.O.2 (Y. of S.) P. C. Wood. Also present Captain G. M. Finney, O.C. 644 Signal Troop and Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ranft, C.S.O. U.N.F.I.C.Y.P.

Thanks to our Canadian friends

No reference to the Troop would be complete without mentioning the valuable assistance given to us by the Canadian Second-in-Command, radio operators and the linemen. Coming from different units in Canada for six months they are cheerful representatives of all three former services. Now these forces are integrated we get ex-soldiers, sailors and airmen. They take pride in their old traditions, a fact which is made obvious by the beards worn by the former sailors amongst them. At times it feels as though we are aboard H.M.S. 'Fearless' when one hears shouts of 'port' and 'starboard' drifting out of the Communications Centre.

Most competitive sport is played on inter-contingent basis, where our most notable achievement was in supplying all the members, except one, of a falling plate team with **Lance-Corporal Davidson** as captain. Though we lost in the final to the Irish contingent we did manage to beat the Royal Green-jackets in a preliminary round. Again we were runners-up in the six-a-side hockey league to the Royal Hussars, this time being ably skippered by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Wood. Corporals Brett** and **Branson** between them won the singles and doubles in the UNFICYP badminton tournament.

The Volunteers

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

Award of Lord Lieutenant's Certificates

ON Sunday, 21st March, our Squadron at Leeds, 49 (WR) Signal Squadron, put their barracks at the disposal of the Yorkshire T. & A.V.R. for the presentation of Lord Lieutenant's Certificates to members of East and West Riding Volunteer Units. The awards were made by **Brigadier K. Hargreaves, C.B.E., LL.B., TD.,** H.M. Lieutenant to the West Riding of Yorkshire, who presented the certificates. Two members of 49 Squadron received certificates—**Corporal A. Gledhill** and **Corporal M. Turner,** W.R.A.C. The Regiment congratulates them on these awards.

Recruiting

We have been concentrating on recruiting since the beginning of the year, and it is gratifying to see the Commanding Officer's strength graph at last taking significant upward turn. Our recruiting efforts were intensified during March to coincide with the North of England T.A. & V.R.A. recruiting drive, which took place during the period 1st to 14th March, and also our Leeds Squadron was involved in the Yorkshire recruiting drive which took place on 15th to 29th March. The final results of our efforts in March and April were 57 recruits, and we are still recruiting. These results are most rewarding and show that all the effort put in by our Volunteers was well worth while.

Regimental Weekends

Another highly-successful weekend was spent at the W.E.T.C., Scarborough, when once again, the Regiment assembled at Burniston Barracks to carry out a concentrated weekend of trade and recruit training. This was followed up by a further weekend at Scarborough, when 61 soldiers managed to pass their trade tests.

Fitness for Role Inspection

The annual Fitness for Role Inspection took place on 3rd and 4th April. The inspection was carried out by **Brigadier**



Brigadier K. Hargreaves, C.B.E., L.L.B., T.D., H.M. Lieutenant to the West Riding of Yorkshire presents his certificate to Corporal M. Turner W.R.A.C. at Leeds



GERMANY BOUND

Volunteers 'weigh-in' prior to emplaning for Germany. Note modern de luxe arrangements

A. J. Jackson, Commander, 12 Signal Group (V). On Saturday, 3rd, the inspection was carried out at 49 Squadron (Leeds) and 50 Squadron (Darlington), where the Commander saw Volunteers on parade and undergoing trade training, and on the Sunday at R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and 90 Squadron (Middlesbrough), where the Commander inspected the quarter guard and saw Volunteers taking part in a radio relay exercise. He also inspected the 34 (N) Signal Regiment Band and the L.A.D., R.E.M.E. **Brigadier Jackson** said that he was delighted at the 'good heart' of the Regiment and showed a particular interest in the new recruits.

Lyke Wake Walk

During the weekend of 1st and 2nd May, we assisted 36th Regiment (V) in their attempt at the Lyke Wake Walk; a full account of this will be given in a later edition of THE WIRE.

Our activities are not confined solely to training and recruiting, for once more romance has blossomed in our midst, and we congratulate **Corporal K. Johnson,** A.C.C., on his marriage to **Private M. Armstrong,** W.R.A.C., on 7th March. Unfortunately, his gain is our loss, for **Mrs. Johnson** has now left us to take up her duties as a housewife. Congratulations, also, to **Corporal S. Brown,** who represented the T. & A.V.R. at football recently; we sympathise with the fact that they lost, but understand it was a very good game.

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Birmingham 12

80 Volunteers for Catterick Training

SPRING again. The fitness for role inspection behind us and our never-ending commitments of trade training and recruiting in order that we may fulfill our role alongside our regular units continues in earnest. It is a difficult and slow process for the volunteer soldier to attain his trade rating, being only able to train for a few hours on a Tuesday evening, two weekends a month and the invaluable courses held by Training Brigade at Catterick, but the enthusiasm and determination shown by them is rewarding in itself. We have this year over 80 volunteers who will be attending trade courses at Catterick. One of the major tasks we are now faced with is the preparing of our drivers for the heavy goods vehicle test. Proficiency seems to be increasing by the lack of noise and crunching of gears. 89 Squadron driver instructors **Sergeant Maurice Skipper, Corporal Rex Stapleton** and **Signalman John Harley** go around muttering, "Patience is a virtue," or words to that effect, but as always we will succeed!

One of the first tasks set us was the co-ordination of a regular army technical display in Birmingham's Bull Ring, both Quicksilver and R.E.M.E. being exhibited. This exhibiton was also improved by the inclusion of our own recruiting attachment in the form of **Corporal John Doe** who spent a pleasant week watching 'X' factors in mini skirts moving up and down the escalators near to his stand.

Round the Squadrons

Other activities worth a mention are an orientation and initiative exercise held by 58 (Staffs) Signal Squadron which, judging by the report, managed to orientate most of the public houses in Shropshire and initiate an invitation from the local inn at Lydbury to return. I suppose this is what orientation is all about.

H.Q. Squadron and L.A.D. went on a joint infantry weekend and marched madly across hill and dale. H.Q. Squadron won the event by 60 blisters to 63. The main awards of the day went to **Captain George Illingworth,** O.C. L.A.D., for marching and not having blisters, and **Signalman George Wood** for having blisters and not marching.

Rallying

Once again we proved our worth in the Western Command Championship Exercise 'Black Dragon' in which we won the team prize, 'The Ribble Cup,' and the 'Hermes Cup' for the best Royal Signals team. Our team was also selected to represent Western Command in the Southern Command driving championships.

We also entered Birmingham 'Driver of the Year' competition, with our drivers coming 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the military section and overall 6th in the 'B' vehicle class.

Departures and Arrivals

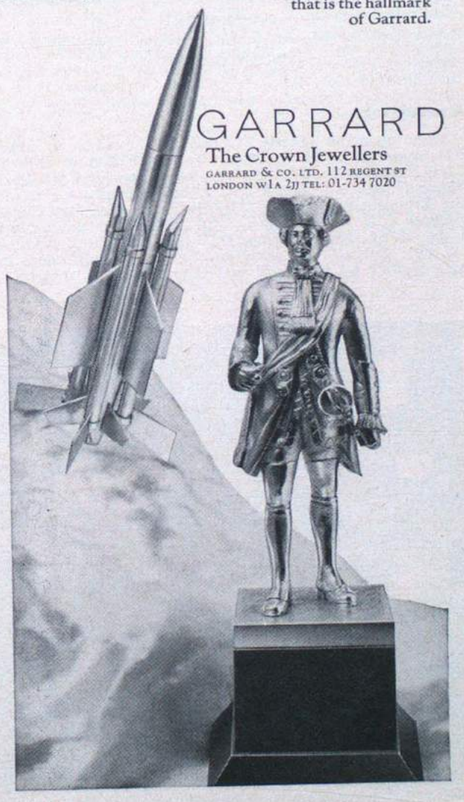
April saw the departure of our Training Officer **Major Peter Bullard** to his new civilian occupation in Camberley and the arrival of his relief **Major Keith Ryding;** also to leave us was **Staff Sergeant Roy Smithson** who has gone to work in a Bank at Catterick. We wish them all the best in their new careers and welcome **Staff Sergeant Oliver and Staff Sergeant 'Jock' Mancais** to the fold.

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
GOLDSMITHS & CROWN JEWELLERS,
GARRARD & COMPANY LTD., LONDON

The Pride of the Regiment.

For over two hundred years Garrard have commemorated, in finely-worked silver, the achievements of great Regiments. Today this tradition of service to the military is firmly established.

As Regimental Silversmiths Garrard maintain close contact with a large number of regiments and individual serving members. We offer you unrivalled traditional skills of our designers and craftsmen and the personal service that is the hallmark of Garrard.



GARRARD
The Crown Jewellers
GARRARD & CO. LTD. 112 REGENT ST
LONDON W1A 2JJ TEL: 01-734 7020

Uniform quality
always in a Gieves ready-to-wear



Appointed Tailors and Outfitters to the Royal Corps of Signals

g Gieves

27 Old Bond Street, London, W.1

1 High Street, Camberley

Bath Brockenhurst Cambridge Cheltenham
Chester Chichester Cranwell Dartmouth
Edinburgh Harrow Leicester Plymouth
Portsmouth Weymouth Winchester Malta

39th (City of London) Signal Regt. (V)

Meritorious service

MANY congratulations to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bob Newman,** 4 Squadron, who received his T. & A.V.R. Meritorious Service Certificate from **Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer** at a ceremony at Duke of York's Headquarters on 31st March. **S.S.M. Newman** began his military career during the war, ending as a parachutist at Arnhem after which he was captured and held as a prisoner of war at Leipzig. The next time he 'jumped' was into Scarborough Bay in 1968. **Bob Newman** has been S.S.M. 4 Squadron for a long time now, and all members of the Regiment join in saying 'well done.'



A WELL MERITED AWARD
W.O.2 Newman receives a T.A.V.R. Meritorious service certificate from Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer

Parading in Hyde Park

The Regiment took part in the Greater London T.A.V.R. parade in Hyde Park on 18th April. Prior to the 'drive past,' in which we had a float commanded by **Second-Lieutenant John Burgess,** there was a display which included **R.S.M. Terry Martin** demonstrating the preparation of 'compo' to the masses (a most popular item), a display of our equipment set up by a team of stalwart P.S.I.s under **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Peter Jones,** and our parachute training swing into which was strapped 'Miss Pegasus,' the Parachute Regiment's tame 'bunny girl' —much to the amusement of the crowd and the delight of **Officer Cadet Laurie Hinds** who had to strap her in!

Another good one gone

Wedding bells for **Captain John Rundall,** Tech. Officer 1 Squadron. The customary avenue of swords from his brother officers was followed by the entire Squadron 'on parade' outside the Buckinghamshire church on 20th February. Sad to say **Mrs. Rundall** was spirited away in the middle of the reception by an evil-minded bunch of officers, much to the dismay of our Padre, **Peter Lloyd,** whose sterling services in the church seemed all at once to have been wasted. However, all was well a few hours later when the happy couple were reunited driving opposite ways down Buckingham High Street in the middle of the night. It seems that the officers have now been forgiven!



HAPPY EVENT
Captain John Rundall and his bride leave the Church in the time honoured manner

Exercising

Once again our friends 259 and 262 Squadron in Cyprus, 234 Squadron in Malta, **Major Gordon Walker** in Gibraltar, 22nd Regiment in B.A.O.R., the Jaegercorps and the Danish Home Guard in Denmark well looked after about a third of the Regiment on Exercise 'Hempo.' The Honorary Colonel, **Colonel T. B. Langton, M.C., M.A.,** was positively disgruntled when **Major Gordon Green,** O.C. Para Squadron, would not let him 'blow up' the causeway, he said he hadn't done that sort of thing for years and wished to refresh his memory.



SERIOUS BUSINESS
The Honorary Colonel, Colonel T. B. Langton, M.C., and Major D. A. D. Smith prepare themselves while flying to an operational zone

Greater love, etc., etc., etc.

Recent advert in the Regimental magazine:

SWOP — One wife (secondhand) and one daughter (mint condition) for one F.A. Cup Final ticket (or more). I will also throw in a fair remuneration. Please, please help. I must see God's chosen eleven thrash Arsenal.

Ee Aye Addio—we're going to win the cup.

Offers to **Corporal J. J. Hines,** 1 Squadron.

(How wrong he was—wasn't he).

Driving success

More congratulations, this time to **Second-Lieutenant Gwen Murgatroyd** and **Private Pauline Kenchatt,** W.R.A.C., who won powder compacts for being the best W.R.A.C. crew in the recent BAMA Southern Command Driving Championships on 17th/18th April.

40th Ulster Signal Regt. (V) Belfast

SO much for the 'quiet' time I was promised after Christmas—we have been involved in a fever of activity, with recce parties flying to and from B.A.O.R., the shooting team winning still more trophies, our first two full 48-hour exercises, all superimposed on the steady background of recruit and trade training (15 courses running at present). Our little local troubles have caused few problems, attendances are good and recruiting even better. We recruited 208 men and women in the year ending 30th April—is this a record?

Exercise 'Spring Fever'

Exercise 'Spring Fever' started out as a simple Troop/Squadron deployment, but by the time **Major 'Bunny' Scott** and **Major Bill Surgeon** got together with the Systems Control Officer, **Captain Tom Adams,** it turned into a Regimental affair. It 'rained,' those of you who have been in Northern Ireland or the Far East will appreciate that simple phrase. On the first day, Armagh Observatory logged the heaviest rainfall since records began in 1841, just over 3in. fell, and the language was 'liquid' too. Packets of vehicles motored through a drowned countryside and squelched into fields and quarries. Communications were established, and newly formed crews settled down to work. When the exercise ended on a bright Sunday lunchtime, much had been learned, especially of the art of living in the field, and morale was high. If we can communicate in those conditions, the remaining exercises should be easy.

Camp recce

We are off to the Continent in September so we are well into the recce season. **Major Campbell** (Training Major), **Major Roberts** (81 Squadron), **Captain (Q.M.) Carnell, Captain Jim Brown,** Second-in-Command of 66 Squadron, and **Captain Billy Nesbitt** of 798 Medium Radio Troop have all been to B.A.O.R. and Belgium on 'liaison' trips. They have been most impressed by the help and goodwill shown by all the staff and host units, and have brought back so much information that it's just as well we don't go until late September.

Shooting

The shooting team added the Northern Ireland Small Bore Championship Trophy to their collection, beating the Queen's University O.T.C. by just three points in the final.

The full-bore team were the leading volunteer rifle team in the Command Small Arms Meeting, won the pistol team championship and came third in the S.M.G.

The G.O.C. Northern Ireland **General Harry Tuzo, O.B.E., M.C.,** presented the trophies we won at the non central matches in addition to the above.

Colonel John McCann, when he visited us recently, presented the team with the 54 medals they won during the season, and they were duly 'christened' in a wee drop of the hard stuff—the medals not the team!

Officers' training weekend

Thirty-seven Officers of the Regiment gathered in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down, for their spring training weekend. The ambitious programme included lectures from our sponsor units in Europe, and our Deputy Group Commander, **Colonel Robin Chell,** gave us the benefit of his worldly wisdom in his usual humorous fashion. There was, of course, a dinner night, followed by P.T. in the hotel pool (midnight to 01.30 hours but not in the programme).

81 Signal Squadron

The Post Office professionals, with the assistance of our Permanent Staff, completed a very successful four-day camp at Scarborough. It was a whirlwind camp with H.G.V. and B.A.O.R. driving qualification tests, blood grouping, equipment familiarisation, briefing for camp, and military law! **Signalman (Captain Q.M.) Carnell** was marched in front of his Squadron Commander, **Major (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) Till,** as an example to all of the dreaded powers of a Squadron Commander. He got off lightly really—probably a gesture of mercy to his 15 children!

Tale-piece

The sun is shining, the blossom is out and Stormont (our Parliament) has extended the licensing hours to 23.30!

Well, we need to get in some practice before saying farewell to **Brigadier Jackson** who goes to D Tels. M.O.D. this month!

We should have a lot to report next time.

Sport

CORPS CRICKET

Royal Signals (Officers' XI) v. Welbeck College

This match was played at Welbeck on 5th May. Weather conditions were almost ideal for playing cricket—warm sunshine and a gentle breeze.

Scores:

Royal Signals XI: 166 for 8 (**Radford** 35, **Thewlis** 35, **Panton** 33, **Garton** 29).

Welbeck College: 88 for 9 (**Reading** 4—9, **Blashill** 2—9). Result: Match drawn.

The Corps won the toss and elected to bat on an easy-paced wicket. After a poor beginning, in which three wickets fell for 23 runs, the middle order batting stood firm, and good innings by **Major Panton, Captains Garton** and **Radford** and **Lieutenant Thewlis** enabled a respectable score to be reached.

The College struggled for runs from the outset against the accurate bowling of **Major Blashill** and **Captain Reading,** losing four wickets for 20 runs. Sensible innings by **Matthews,** assisted by **Hanlon** and **Miller** took the total to 80. A dropped catch in the penultimate over of the day enabled the College to force a draw.

The Corps team was as follows: **Major T. Blashill** (30th Signal Regiment), **Major M. Panton** (School of Signals), **Captain A. Browne** and **Captain M. K. Carson** (11th Signal Regiment), **Captain C. Garton, Captain J. Radford** and **Captain R. Shiner** (School of Signals), **Captain G. Davies** (8th Signal Regiment), **Captain I. Reading** (A.A.C., Harrogate), **Lieutenant G. Gordon** (11th Signal Regiment), **Lieutenant J. Thewlis** (30th Signal Regiment).

ARMY DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS — B.A.O.R.

School team win Corps trophy on Exercise 'Roadmaster VI'

A team comprising **Major M. A. Barnes-Murphy** (non-competing team captain), **Sergeant D. E. Brooking, Corporal G. W. Cage, Corporal G. Henderson** and **Signalman C. J. Hill,** won the Royal Signals Trophy for the best Royal Signals team in the gruelling Army Motoring Championships — Exercise 'Roadmaster VI' — held in B.A.O.R. from 10th to 17th May.



Bournemouth Easter Festival, 1971

Standing, left to right: W.O.2 T. Stevenson (Umpire), Lieutenant G. Heaney, Captain S. R. Carr-Smith, Lieutenant B. Chubb, Corporal P. Havlin, Major P. D. E. Gregory, Brigadier J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E. (President Corps Hockey)

Seated, left to right: Captain A. H. Boyle, Captain I. Oddie, Corporal J. Boardman, Sergeant D. Poultney, Captain J. G. M. McLuckie, Sergeant R. Williams, Major M. A. T. Hartnett. (Not included) Captain C. Day, Sergeant B. Chapman

Corps successes at Bournemouth Easter Festival

Played under ideal conditions at the Bournemouth Sports Club, the Corps emerged as one of only two undefeated sides at the festival. Players representing the Corps are shown in the photograph.

Results:

Royal Signals v. National Westminster Bank; won 3—1.
Royal Signals v. Old Becchamians; won 2—0.
Royal Signals v. Gypsies (Epsom H.C.); won 1—0.
Royal Signals v. Robins (Sheffield H.C.); draw 1—1.
Royal Signals v. Rakes (Walsall H.C.); drew 2—2.

The Corps were fortunate to catch the Banks below strength for the Friday afternoon match, winning easily. This provided the side with match practice, vital for the remaining games.

In the first match, on Saturday, against Old Becchamians, the side played fast open hockey against a side who made little attempt to open the game up. In complete contrast, our second game, against the Gypsies, extended both sides to the full, our forwards snatching a very good opportunist goal in the first half and the defence taking the honours in the second.

On the Sunday, the Robins visited Blandford, providing the many spectators with a first-rate match in which both sides produced many chances, and honours were evenly shared. After the game, they described our ground as the best they had played on this season—our thanks to all concerned.

Having beaten Hounslow H.C., who included three Great Britain players, 3—2, the Rakes were to prove to be our stiffest opposition. With both sides striving for the honours, a fast, open, no-quarter-given game ensued, and the Corps side had to work extremely hard to come from behind twice and draw the match.

End-of-season summary

Played 21, won 11, drawn 5, lost 5, goals for 42, goals against 17, cancelled 1.

In addition, the Officers of the Corps beat Welbeck College 3—0.

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT - - each 64p
U.K. inc. P. Tax - „ 70p
(Postage Extra)

T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY
Nr. DONCASTER

Personal Affairs

Obituary

Colonel A. Newton, O.B.E.

The death, in Bangalore on 3rd May, of Arthur ('Daddy') Newton is reported. 'Daddy,' who was born in 1889, arrived in Rawalpindi as a rifleman just before the outbreak of the Great War. Apart from spells of active service on the North West Frontier he seemed destined to live in 'Pindi. He became a Captain and Quartermaster I.A. in 1921. He was Q.M. of 'B' Corps Signals (India) from 1927 until it exchanged stations with 'A' Corps. He stayed on in 'Pindi and served 'A' Corps instead.

He knew 'Pindi and everyone in Northern Command. He knew his regulations and was a tower of strength to a succession of C.O.s. The subalterns were not so pleased, however. 'Daddy' hoarded his stores and the soap, white, bars, of annual issue for saddlery, had been so long in the store that they had petrified. The storeman had whiled away years carving the Royal Arms on each bar.

'Daddy' was a keen committee man on every important event. Only he really knew where the tentage for the North of India Horse Show came from and what communications it needed.

By the time he left 'A' Corps Signals in 1939 to become Officer i/c Indian Signal Corps Records, he had been Lieutenant-Colonel and Q.M. for two years. In his time in Cambridge Barracks he must have written off the stores half-a-dozen times for operations and brought them on charge again. The unit equipment table had been evolved from 31 Signal Company S. & M. in 1911 and its amendments made it a volume of noble proportions. Some of the junk on charge defied identification, but 'Daddy' was a match for any auditor.

'Daddy' did not care for Records. He preferred soldiers and the Punjab. He became administrative officer of an O.C.T.U. in South India. From that post he emerged as a Colonel, Commandant of the Indian General Service Corps Depot at Aurungabad. He retired at the end of the war and moved to Bangalore, where he married, his first wife having died.

Major J. E. Denton

John Edward Denton was granted a T.A. Commission in Royal Signals in 1937 and became a Regular Officer of the Corps after the 2nd World War. During the war he served with 5 Div., 47 Div. and 1 Div. Signals, and saw action in the Italian campaign. After the war he served in Egypt before going to Korea with the 1st Commonwealth Division Signal Regiment, where he was mentioned in Despatches.

After Korea, he served in the War Office (Signals 3) where he became substantive Major. His service has since included tours in France, B.A.O.R., FARELF and M.O.D. (Signals 35 and 4) before his latest tour in Cyprus as S.O.2 at H.Q. 3rd Signal Group. John's death was sudden and unexpected, at his home in Episkopi, Cyprus, on 25th April.

His many friends will remember John for his ever-present smile, good humour and cheerful disposition. He made many acquaintances throughout the Service, due to his keen interest in sailing, which was shared by his wife Ivy.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his widow and three children.

Signalman William Owens

38th Signal Regiment (V), Sheffield, write:

Signalman William Owens died on 19th March while en route to weekend training at Scarborough. A keen volunteer, popular in his Troop, the motor cycle accident in which he was involved has taken from us a member of a quality we will always need.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife Alice in Manchester.

Captain F. H. Neate, O.B.E.

The death of Captain F. H. Neate, O.B.E., at the age of 91, will be felt as a deep personal loss to members of the Bath Branch of the Association. Despite his age Captain Neate was one of the staunchest members of the Branch and he took a keen interest in its affairs and the Corps generally.

Captain Neate served throughout the 1914-18 war with Signals; he was awarded the O.B.E. and was twice mentioned in despatches. In civilian life he was a former sales traffic officer for the Post Office at Manchester.

Just before his death the branch presented Captain Neate with a copy of 'Through to 1970.'

He is survived by his wife to whom sympathy is expressed. Her address is 2, Chantry Mead Road, Bloomfield Park, Bath.

Captain (Tfc.) A. C. Ilett

The death at the early age of 42 on 9th May of Captain ('Chubby') Ilett will come as sad news to a large circle of his Corps friends. Captain Ilett joined the Boys' Company in 1942, and many an ex-Boy will well remember him for his cheerful and friendly personality. He had an impressive Corps career culminating in him being commissioned as Traffic Officer. He retired in 1968. Deep sympathy is expressed to his relatives whose address is: 164 Highfield, Feltham, Middlesex.

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant R. D. Abbott	... ...	To 255 Signal Squadron as Capt.
Captain R. I. F. Amos	... ...	„ 28th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) P. Brown	... ...	„ 28th Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain R. A. J. Bingley	... ...	„ A.P.S. Group
Captain R. E. Barber	... ...	„ H.Q. N. Ireland as Major
Captain J. J. Bingham	... ...	„ 8th Regiment
Major G. Corden	... ...	„ M.O.D. Signals 31
Captain (T.O.T.) D. W. Capon	...	„ 241 Signal Squadron
Captain A. P. de Bretton Gordon	...	„ M.O.D. (MP6b)
Captain P. H. Dale	... ...	„ 28th Regiment
Major W. E. A. Edmonds	... ...	„ Def. A.D.P. Trg. Centre
Major G. Ferrier	... ...	„ SHAPE (GSO1 (EW) CANDE Div.) Lt.-Col.
Major T. E. Grice	... ...	„ 16th Regiment
Captain R. N. Hayson	... ...	„ 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. M. J. Hussey	...	„ 7th Regiment
Brigadier A. J. Jackson	... ...	„ D Tels.
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Jefferis	...	„ 12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Captain J. W. Joyner	... ...	„ H.Q. A.P.S. Group
Captain (T.O.T.) D. J. Lane	...	„ 16th Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain (Tfc.) W. H. Lockie	...	„ 9th Regiment
Captain A. R. Martin	... ...	„ 5 Airptbl. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Captain E. W. Penny	... ...	„ H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps as Major
Captain D. C. Podevin	... ...	„ 229 Signal Squadron
Captain J. D. Potts	... ...	„ 38th Regiment (V)
Captain (Q.M.) S. G. Pavey	...	„ 8th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) D. F. Rees	... ...	„ 24 Airptbl. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Major T. F. Ross	... ...	„ H.Q. Radio Gp. B.A.O.R.
Second-Lieutenant C. J. Smith	...	„ 7th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson		„ 13th Regiment as C.O.
Lieutenant V. G. Strivens	... ...	„ 7th Regiment
Captain C. R. Treeby	... ...	„ 621 Signal Troop (H.M.S. *Fearless*)
Captain H. G. S. Thomas	... ...	„ 8th Regiment
Captain K. G. Wright	... ...	„ A.P.S. Group
Lieutenant I. R. Wilson	... ...	„ 8th Signal Regiment
Captain M. J. Young	... ...	„ 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1 (F. of S.) D. Prime	... ...	To 7th Regiment
W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. J. S. Parkhurst		„ 14th Regiment
W.O.1 J. P. Downey	... ...	„ U.K. Mil. Rep. Comms. Staff & I.M.S. Brussels
W.O.1 A. R. Hill	... ...	„ 37th Regiment (V)
W.O.2 R. G. Ross	... ...	„ 223 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. A. Cook	...	„ 632 Signal Troop
W.O.2 (F. of S.) G. E. Curtis	...	„ 642 Signal Troop
W.O.2 S. Brown	... ...	„ 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Knox	...	„ 255 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) C. Baxter	...	„ 37th Regiment (V)

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. J. Finighan „ 4 Gds. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. S. Pemberton „ 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. B. Kelbie „ 225 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant P. J. Smith ... ... „ 225 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. H. Chipling ... „ 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. E. Homewood ... „ 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Lakey ... ... „ School of Signals (Demonstration Team)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. T. Noon „ 633 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant S. H. Lee ... „ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) I. R. Holmes „ H.Q. Training Brigade
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Sharpe ... „ 262 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. W. Wells ... „ 224 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. W. Smoker ... „ 21st Regiment
A/Sergeant S. R. Soqo ... ... „ 7th Regiment
Sergeant B. M. Reynolds ... ... „ 16th Regiment
Sergeant D. Bingham ... ... „ 225 Signal Squadron
Sergeant L. L. Adams ... ... „ 28th Regiment
Sergeant D. S. Jeune ... ... „ 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant R. D. Brown ... ... „ 21st Regiment
Sergeant D. Lodey ... ... „ 242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant S. Gibson ... ... „ 242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Gilbert ... ... „ 240 Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. R. Hickman ... ... „ 10th Regiment
Sergeant G. F. Escott ... ... „ 10th Regiment
Sergeant C. Maynard ... ... „ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. E. Grieve ... ... „ Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant E. B. Vargas ... ... „ 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. L. Keep ... ... „ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. Muxworthy ... ... „ 9th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Richardson ... ... „ School of Signals
Sergeant M. M. Roberts ... ... „ 30th Regiment
Sergeant O. J. Burrows ... ... „ 30th Regiment
Sergeant A. Aitken ... ... „ 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Nicoll ... ... „ 5 Airpbl. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant V. Shuttleworth ... ... „ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Clayforth ... ... „ 11th Regiment 2 Sqadron
Sergeant J. W. Curry ... ... „ 3 Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant K. J. Gibbons ... ... „ 8th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Waugh ... ... „ 9th Regiment
A/Sergeant R. Hillam ... ... „ H.Q. NORTHAG (BE)
Sergeant S. G. Colverhouse ... ... „ 229 Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. A. Wright ... ... „ SHAPE Comd. & Sp. (BAE)

Promotions

Cipher Operator Roll

Name	Initials	Rank	New Sen. Roll	Old Sen. Roll	
Sgt.					
Hayden,	F. C.	2 Dec. 54			

Communication Centre Operator Roll

Sgt.					
Donnithorne,	E. G.	24 Jan. 64			
Jeffrey,	P. C.	18 Apr. 67			

Lineman Roll

Sgt.					
Jobes,	R.	1 Mar. 71			

Radio Operator Roll

Sgts.					
Parry,	D. C.	1 Jun. 59			
Taffinder,	P.	2 Mar. 61			
Haydon,	D.	27 Mar. 62			
Grove	D. J. C.	26 Jun. 63			
Hudspeth,	L.	15 Apr. 66			
Davis,	P. J.	3 Aug. 66			

Regimental Duty Roll

To W.O.1					
Markham,	J. R.	A/W.O.1	9 Oct. 70	31 Jul. 64	
Gardner,	F. R.	A/W.O.1	23 Mar. 71	19 Apr. 69	
To W.O.2					
Yates,	W. C.	S Sgt.	2 Feb. 71	31 Oct. 67	
To S Sgt.					
Payne,	D. W.	Sgt.	18 Feb. 71	21 Nov. 64	(Tech)
Jennings,	M.	A/S Sgt.	11 Mar. 71	18 Feb. 63	(ComcenOp)

Foreman of Signals Roll

To W.O.2					
McInally,	J. P. S.	S Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65	
Everett,	T. J.	S Sgt.	16 Jan. 71	16 Jan. 65	

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.1					
Dewis,	K. H.	A/W.O.1	12 May 70	13 Jun. 67	
To W.O.2					
O'Donoghue,	M. C.	S Sgt.	2 Feb. 71	16 Mar. 67	
To S Sgt.					
Heyes,	D. R.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	19 Jun. 68	(S Op)
Burton,	B. K.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	31 Mar. 69	(ComcenOp)
Dunbar,	D. A.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	21 Oct. 69	(Tg Op)
Waterston,	J. D.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	21 Oct. 69	(Tg Op)
Nichols,	J. T.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	23 Oct. 69	(C Op)
Rice,	B. A.	Sgt.	26 Nov. 70	23 Oct. 69	(C Op)

Chief Clerk Roll

To W.O.2				
McMahon,	J. P.	S Sgt.	27 Feb. 71	27 Feb. 70
To S Sgt.				
Locker,	W. J.	A/S. Sgt.	27 Feb. 71	16 Oct. 66
Jeffrey,	L. A.	A/S Sgt.	4 Feb. 71	19 Nov. 69

Technicians Roll

To Sgt.					
Trundle,	A. B.	Cpl.	22 Apr. 70	13 Apr. 67	
Bovenizer	P. G.	Cpl.	24 Jul. 70	5 May 66	
Denton,	M. J.	Cpl.	6 Aug. 70	20 Dec. 63	
Watson,	J. B.	Cpl.	22 Oct. 70	22 Oct. 66	
Board,	G. A.	Cpl.	22 Oct. 70	21 Mar. 66	
Tait,	E. J.	Cpl.	12 Nov. 70	12 Nov. 66	
Mapson,	M. J.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	11 Mar. 66	
Woffenden,	D.	Cpl.	4 Dec. 70	22 Feb. 67	
Mottram,	A.	Cpl.	9 Dec. 70	11 Aug. 66	
Adams,	G. C.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	12 Nov. 66	
Crittenden,	M. G.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	16 Dec. 66	
Clark,	K. E.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	13 Jul. 67	
Higson,	C. P.	Cpl.	18 Dec. 70	1 Jul. 67	
Barnes,	K.	Cpl.	21 Jan. 71	24 May 67	
Higgerson,	I. J.	Cpl.	2 Feb. 71	1 Jun. 67	
Hamer,	B.	Cpl.	23 Feb. 71	20 Apr. 67	
Boys,	R. C.	Cpl.	23 Feb. 71	29 Nov. 68	
Martin,	F. W.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	18 May 66	

Telegraph Operator Roll

To Sgt.					
Turner,	J. A. W.	A/Sgt.	1 Dec. 70	30 Apr. 68	
Ledger,	M. F.	A/Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	1 Dec. 68	
Ambler,	M. M.	Cpl.	1 Jan. 71	1 Jan. 69	
Badger,	R. W.	A/Sgt.	1 Jan. 71	1 Mar. 67	
Rayner,	A. G.	Cpl.	1 Jan. 71	4 Jun. 65	
Weightman,	J.	Cpl.	28 Feb. 71	1 Nov. 69	
McClenaghan,	D. J.	A/Sgt.	1 Mar. 71	8 Feb. 64	
Kendle,	J. E. G.	A/Sgt.	1 Mar. 71	20 Jul. 66	

Cipher Operator Roll

To Sgt.					
Turner,	A. E.	Cpl.	20 Feb. 71	31 Mar. 66	

Communication Centre Operator Roll

To Sgt.					
Dulston,	B.	Cpl.	2 Jan. 71	17 Dec. 65	
Grocott,	J. P.	Cpl.	2 Jan. 71	1 Jan. 63	
Unwin,	V.	Cpl.	1 Mar. 71	13 Sep. 64	

Radio Operator Roll

To Sgt.					
Allison,	R.	Cpl.	28 Jan. 71	1 Oct. 57	
Davison,	M. D.	Cpl.	15 Feb. 71	7 May 65	
Newell,	J. H.	A/Sgt.	18 Feb. 71	1 Dec. 59	
Kitching,	W.	A/Sgt.	1 Mar. 71	1 Dec. 59	

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roll

Name	Initials	Seniority Date	
W.O.2			
Jepson,	J. W.	14 Apr. 61	
Leonard,	H. W.	8 Nov. 64	
Cairns,	J. M. W.	24 Jan. 69	

Foreman of Signals Roll

W.O.1			
Flint,	B. T.	8 Dec. 66	
Goodman,	R.	1 Mar. 71	

Yeoman of Signals Roll

S Sgt.			
Thompson,	E. V.	21 Jul. 66	

Technicians Roll

W.O.2			
Hunt,	A. A. E.	5 Nov. 64	
Sgts.			
Hollander,	C. H.	8 Feb. 68	
Beavan,	P. M.	16 Apr. 69	
Ardern,	R.	27 Dec. 69	

Telegraph Operator Roll

Sgt.			
King,	C. C.	27 Mar. 62	

Radio Relayman Roll

Sgt.			
McManus,	I. D.	27 Feb. 68	

Miscellaneous Amendment Technicians Roll

Cpl. Serial 474			
Weld-Richards,	G. E. B.	19 Aug. 67	

KEEP US IN THE PICTURE

With several thousand individual subscribers THE WIRE cannot hope to keep up with postings, changes in rank, decorations awarded. If you are going to be posted or promoted or have something new to add after your name drop us a card so that we can address your WIRE properly. Thank you.

Association News

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: L. Usher, 22 Orchard Avenue, Southgate, N.14. Tel.: 01-886-2963.

North London, active as ever, held its Annual Dinner on 24th April when about 140 members and friends took their place at table. The main guests were **Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E., Brigadier Pat Hobson, D.S.O.,** and **Mrs. Ivy Freemantle** whose late husband **Gerry** was always a tower of strength in the Branch.

In his presidential speech **Colonel Ken Baldwin** highlighted the main events of the past year mentioning particularly the Donkey Derby which has been held annually at Alexandra Palace, raising many thousands of pounds in aid of the Hornsey Centre for Handicapped Children. For this effort the Branch has for several years played a truly Signals role by installing field telephone communication thus enabling the organisers to keep tight and instant control over the vast area involved. In addition our members have worked in the Tote selling tickets by the thousand.

Alas, with the closing of the race course this, 'The biggest Donkey Derby in the world,' will cease to take place after 1971.

Ken also spoke of our various outings, the splendid attendance at monthly meetings and the steady influx of new members.

Finally he called upon **General Cole** to present life membership cards to **Reg Wilkinson** and **Harry Gillibrand** on behalf of the Branch as a token of appreciation of their unceasing labours ever since we came into being.

The only other speaker was **Brigadier Hobson** who, in a short but pithy speech, paid us some blushraising compliments and regaled us with one or two excellent stories at the expense of his brother Irishmen.

After dinner a very social evening was enjoyed under the control of **Wally Craythorne.**

We should like to elaborate on the numerous Branch activities but space is precious; suffice it to say that North London presses on at a sizzling pace.

Finally, there must be several hundreds of readers with affectionate memories of that grand old stalwart **Tommy Blades.** To get in touch write: Tommy Blades, 22 Southampton Street, Brighton, Sussex. **Tommy** would be delighted to hear from old friends and even more delighted to share a pint if they happen to be in Brighton.

That's it for now. All we are waiting for is the Reunion at Catterick!

At Chester Branch 25th Anniversary Dinner



From left: Colonel T. H. C. Grigg (C.S.O. Western Command), S.S.M. J. T. C. Hughson (80 Signal Squadron, T.A.V.R.), Mr. L. Jackson (Chairman), Mr. E. C. Lavis-Jones (President), Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O. (General Secretary Royal Signals Association), Mr. R. Hinge (Branch Honorary Secretary), Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis and Mr. D. Greenbrook (Assistant to General Secretary).

The Chester Branch of the Royal Signals Association was formed on 13th February, 1946, in Chester Cathedral and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary a Dinner and Dance was held in the Freemasons Hall, Chester, on 13th February.

Among the 118 members and guests who attended were **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson,** General Secretary, and **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg,** C.S.O. Western Command. It was heartening to see so many members who had travelled long distances to attend including **Mr. 'Sid' Pointon,** from Bath.

The Dinner was a great success and the evening continued with dancing under the direction of the Master of Ceremonies **Mr. W. Faircloth.** The celebration was concluded with a Grand March Past and Old Lang Syne.

Once again much credit must go to **Mr. Reg Hinge,** the Branch Secretary, for the organisation and arrangement and to the members who gave their assistance.

Secret History — Birth of the Band

By John Hole (one-time R.E. Signals)

It was a summer's day and I was meandering along the front at Eastbourne. The year was 1948. I had been sent down to All Saints' Monastery for a three-week convalescence to recover from a major stomach operation. Here, with a number of other 'untouchables,' I lived in a Catholic mausoleum attended by nuns. We were a motley crew, drawn from many hospitals of 'The Smoke' and out of our element with all the chanting and praying associated with white cowls and black gowns. Bread and fish and prayers were served with every meal so that we grew scales. The National Health Service was yet to be, so we were grateful for small mercies.

I stopped outside the bandstand and became interested in a poster advertising the music. My interest quickened when I read the Band was that of the Royal Signals. Another man doing likewise said, "Any good, that Band?"

"It ought to be—I started it," I replied.

He gave me a queer look and sloped off. Although not strictly true, yet it was—almost.

My mind harked back down through the corridors of time to 1920. At this particular period I was on the Riding School at Maresfield Park, in Sussex. **Lieutenant Totterdell** of the Carabiniers was the Riding Master and **Sergeant Tommy Hewitt** was our riding instructor. It was a Sunday morning and the sun had not yet risen. I was mucking out the stables with my bare hands, to save wearing out the pitchforks. My section sergeant came up to me. I waited for an admonition. He said in quite a nice voice, "Can you play the violin?" I thought he wants me to shift a piano. I replied, "I don't know."

"What do you mean?" he asked. "I have never tried." The innocence in my angelic voice caused a smile to flit across his intelligent, clean-shaven face.

"You will parade with the Band this morning." He then sloped off. When a demigod of an N.C.O. gave an order I always obeyed without question.

The rissoles I had for breakfast seemed more succulent because I would not have to groom my two horses after this sumptuous repast. I paraded with the Band of the R.E. Signals and found it consisted of the Drum Major, **C.S.M. Norton,** who wore white gauntlets and belt, riding breeches and spurs and medals. He looked very smart in his khaki. What he knew about music would not cover a postage stamp. There were six others, including my section sergeant. He played the cornet and the others each a different instrument. My job was to carry the violin (a kind of a local Yehudi Menuhin, without portfolio) in a smart and soldier-like manner, bringing up the rear.

We started off, **C.S.M. Norton** swinging his stick on which was mounted a silver 'Jimmy.' Considering its very small size the Signals Band put up quite a good show. Behind me marched **Brigadier-General E. G. Godfrey-Faucett, C.B., C.M.G.,** and the rest of his entourage. Behind them came the common herd. We went the longest way to the church. Before entering, the sergeant gave me his cornet and took the violin.

So this is how the Band of the Royal Signals was conceived. It would not be fair to belittle these chaps. They were very talented. Looking back over more than half-a-century I can now see things in their proper perspective. Even now it is extraordinary to me to realise that so much talent abounded in the old R.E. Signals.

LIFE ASSURANCE

ITS FUNCTION. The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

INVESTMENT. Life Assurance, especially Endowment Assurance, is however also the best possible long-term investment, because the money is invested wisely, and partly in "growth equities," by the Life Assurance Company *and* because it is the only form of investment subsidised by the Government. The subsidy consists of Income Tax Allowance on two-fifths of Premiums. For those liable to Tax at 38.75%, this means 15.5% abatement. Thus, a net outlay of £84.50 a year provides a premium of £100 a year, which is 18.34% increase.

SELECTION. There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

INFORMATION REQUIRED. May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

SURTAX and ESTATE DUTY. Suitable action can greatly reduce the burden. If these problems are at all large let me advise you how to increase your net income AND net estate.

GENERAL ASSURANCES. We also arrange Kit, Motor, Winter Sports and all other Insurances in the best markets.

Brigadier R. T. Williams F.C.I.B. **R. T. WILLIAMS LTD.** Major T. F. Williams F.C.I.B.

2, Duke Street, Brighton, BN1 1DE

Telephone Brighton 28181 (2 lines)

Incorporated Insurance Brokers
Incorporated Life Assurance Brokers
Member of the Services Insurance Brokers Association

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND **PRINTING**

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes

CYPHER VACANCIES

Government Communications Headquarters

Vacancies exist for Men and Women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work. Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,253.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays for which additional allowances are payable. Opportunities exist for Overseas Service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions). There are also prospects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Applications with full details of qualifications to:

Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone: Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

RADIO OPERATORS

DO YOU HOLD

PMG II *OR* PMG I *OR* NEW GENERAL CERTIFICATE

OR

HAD TWO YEARS' RADIO OPERATING EXPERIENCE?

Looking for a secure job with good pay and conditions?

Then apply for a post with the Composite Signals Organisation. These are Civil Service posts, with opportunities for service abroad, and of becoming established, i.e., non-contributory pension scheme.

Specialist Training Courses (free accommodation) starting January, April and September, 1972.

If you are British born and resident in the United Kingdom, write NOW for full details and application form from

Government Communications Headquarters,
Recruitment Officer,
Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL52 5AJ.
(Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270).

Service Engineers and Electronic Test Engineers

SERVICE ENGINEERS

We have vacancies for Service Engineers to work on the maintenance and repair of computer systems.

Applicants for these posts should ideally have experience in the service and repair of computer peripheral equipment and data preparation machines. A knowledge of computers would be an advantage.

Successful candidates would join a team of engineers who are on call and are required to travel away from base, both in the U.K. and on the continent.

Quote ref D/123/U

ELECTRONIC TEST ENGINEERS

Required for quality assurance testing and proving draft specifications of sophisticated data processing computer equipment. Applicants should be technically qualified to O.N.C. standard, or be able to offer particularly good experience in lieu.

Quote ref D/79/U

Ferranti operate a contributory Pension and Dependents Assurance scheme. Promotional prospects, working conditions and holiday arrangements are excellent.

Please apply, with brief details, quoting appropriate reference number to

PERSONNEL OFFICER (Male),
FERRANTI LIMITED,
WESTERN ROAD,
BRACKNELL, BERKSHIRE
Telephone: BRACKNELL 3232

FERRANTI

HOME OWNERSHIP

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

SCHOOL FEES

In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

LIFE ASSURANCE + INVESTMENT

Conventional or Equity Linked Schemes

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£12.67 monthly** for those liable to tax at 39p in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next birthday **immediate family protection of £39,360** and an anticipated **cash** sum of **£35,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65. This particular **Plan** is extremely flexible and **unique** in that it can be made to **mature** in part or total at an **earlier** age **or** be adapted to **provide an income** on retirement from the Service, **e.g. at age 55.**

For full details, please telephone or write in confidence to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

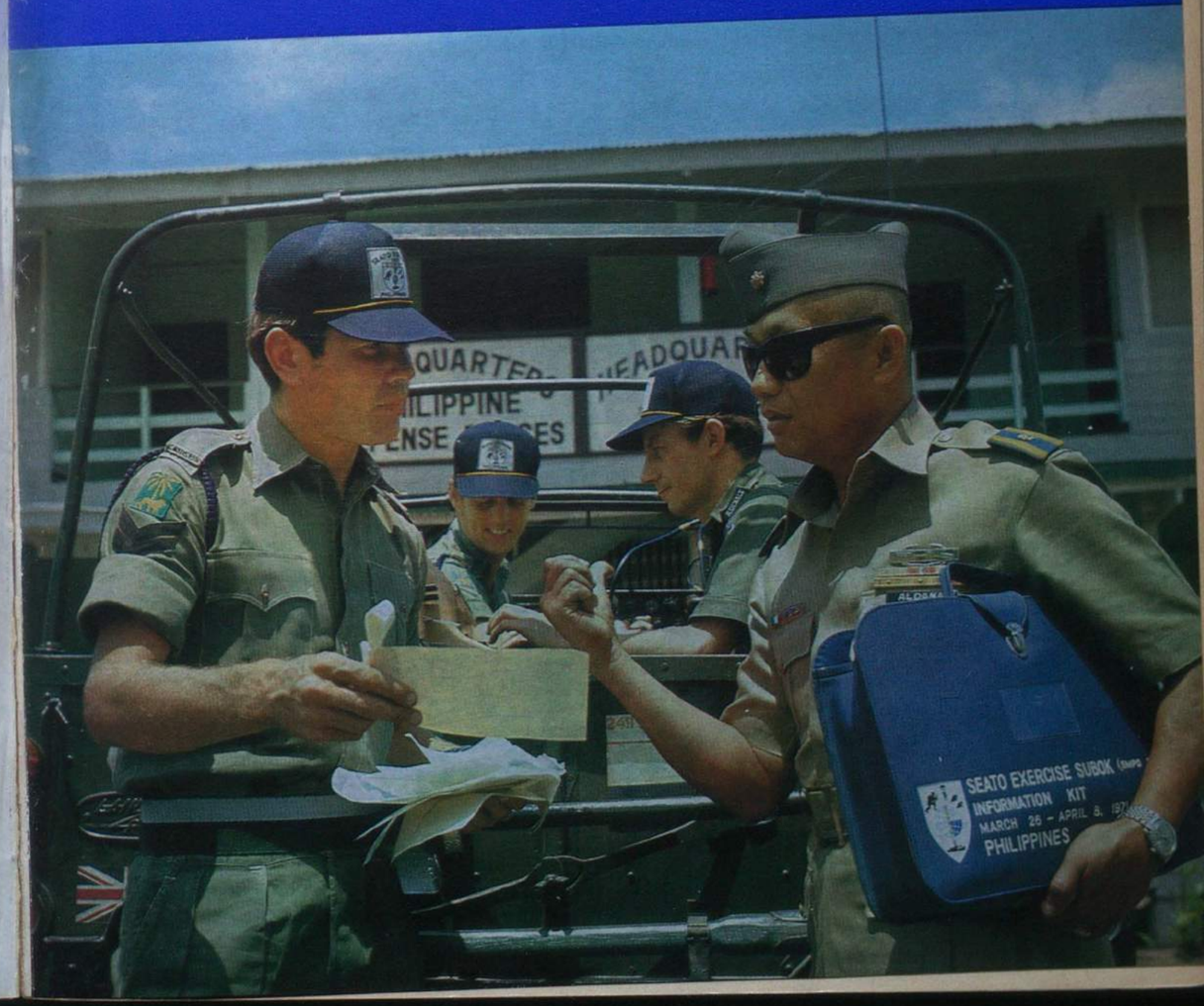
Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS. Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

July-August 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for:-

Convertible Whole Life · Education Endowment · Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust · Retirement · House Purchase · Security for your Family

General Insurance for:-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR TEMPERANCE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
FORCES BROKERS

Offices: ALBANY CHAMBERS · MARKET PLACE · RICHMOND · YORKSHIRE

Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

INCORPORATED MORTGAGE BROKER—FEDERATED INSURANCE BROKER

YOUR SECURITY AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Example: Male Life 25 next birthday

£13,300 INITIAL COVER FOR **£0·73 per week**

Sum Assured		Normal Monthly Premium
£ 1,000	Equity Linked Endowment Policy, to age 65 (Maturity value assuming a growth rate of 5% per annum £3,107 see notes)	£1·58
£ 1,800	Whole of Life, Non-Profit Policy	£1·54
£10,500	Initial Sum Assured for Income Benefits of £350 per annum to age 55, INCLUDING initial conversion rights of £5,250	£0·62
	Gross Monthly Premium	£3·74
	Income Tax Relief (if obtainable)	£0·58
£13,300	Life Cover for a net monthly outlay of	£3·16

NOTES.
1. Two Policies would be issued.
2. The Maturity value of the Equity Linked Endowment is based on the value of the units purchased up to that time but even assuming the growth rate is only 3% per annum the value above would still be over £1,900 well in excess of the total net outlay for the entire scheme.
3. The Whole of Life policy may be converted to an Endowment (with or without profits) on any policy anniversary subject to a minimum term after conversion of 10 years.
4. Under the Whole of Life policy there is an option to effect on each of the 3rd and 6th policy anniversaries an additional Whole of Life or Endowment for up to half the original sum assured irrespective of your state of health at that time.
5. Subject to satisfactory proposal no medical evidence of any kind will be required.
6. Irrespective of Health in the future the Income Benefits may also be converted to a Whole of Life or Endowment for a sum not exceeding half of the total amount of Benefit outstanding at the time.
7. The Equity Linked policy is at present subject to long term capital gains tax of 20% on profits only.

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months **£1.20;** *single month,* **10p.**

☆

JULY/AUGUST • 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We feature this month soldiers of 249 Signal Squadron photographed during Exercise 'Subok' in the Philippines. In our cover picture (left to right) are **Corporal Brian Snaith** passing a signal to **Major Emiliano Aldana** of the Philippine Defence Force. In the Land Rover are **Signalman David Beattie** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Knott.**

It is with regret that we record the demise of 249 Signal Squadron (see also page 260). They established a high reputation for themselves over the years. Always involved in any exercise that was going, they knew the length and breadth of the Far East — soldiering in such far away places as East Pakistan (flood relief) and the Philippines (Exercise 'Subok'). Not only were they good soldiers and communicators, but they were also good sportsmen and on several occasions won 18th Regiment's keenly contested Lance competition for the best all round Squadron. Their passing is a sad occasion and they will certainly be missed from the columns of THE WIRE.

Increased Wire costs

The Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association at their May meeting decided to increase the cost of individual copies of THE WIRE from 10p to 15p a copy w.e.f. 1st January, 1972. This will *not* apply to monthly bulk orders from units or branches of the Association for five WIRES or more.

This rise has been forced on us by escalating costs. The cost of single WIRES sold to individuals, who have a standing order, has long been a problem as they involve considerable extra clerical effort and expense. Not only do such WIRES have to be individually enveloped and addressed but a large card index had to be maintained for some 1,600 individual subscribers, over 800 invoices have to be sent out yearly, bankers' orders for the remainder often call for action due to mistakes made by banks and, in the case of serving subscribers, the mailing list requires frequent amendment because of changes in address and rank.

On top of this has come a drastic increase in postal charges from 2½p to 4½p per individual WIRE — nearly half the cost of one copy of THE WIRE at the present price (10p). While it is true that we have for some time been able to mitigate our postal overheads, in certain cases, by including individual WIRES in unit bulk parcels, nevertheless the situation has become increasingly uneconomical with WIRES sold in bulk having to subsidise individual sales more and more. Added to all this is an increase in printing costs of 20% in under a year and threats of further increases in postal charges.

There is, therefore, no alternative but, with much regret, to make this increase in respect of WIRES not sold in bulk. It is hoped that the new price will hold for some time — if for no reason than to save the heavy clerical labour involved in altering hundreds of bankers' orders. While this increase may seem large it is still cheaper to buy one copy of THE WIRE than a pint of beer at the prices now ruling in many public houses — and, unlike beer, you need only do this once a month!

A Farewell Tribute

Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Retired on the 20th May this year

Some, but by no means all, will have heard of **General Tony Deane-Drummond's** remarkable war time experiences — he does not talk about them much himself. These were quite outstanding for sheer courage and determination — so much so that he was the subject of a 'This Is Your Life' television feature some years ago. Readers will, therefore, appreciate why the following short survey of his Army service concentrates on this aspect of his very successful career.

All will wish him and his wife **Evie,** every success and happiness in his retirement.



Always one for an adventurous and active life Tony Deane-Drummond was an outstanding glider pilot representing Great Britain on four occasions. He is shown here about to be towed off at the 1964 Inter-Services Championships

Anthony Deane-Drummond, educated at Marlborough and the 'Shop' was commissioned into the Corps in 1937. With 3rd Division he accompanied the B.E.F. After Dunkirk he volunteered for a commando unit which the members subsequently discovered was dedicated to a parachute landing in the mountains of South Italy with the object of destroying the Tragino Aquaduct from which the Italians obtained water for the naval ports of Bari, Brindisi and Taranto.

'D.D.'s' stick of parachutists landed within 100 yards of the target. The operation — code name Colossus — was a complete success. Not so was the escape back to the coast. They were captured on the third day and were then closely guarded. It was the opinion of the Italians that only the most desperate criminals would volunteer for such an adventure as an alternative to capital punishment.

'D.D.'s' first escape was from Sulmona P.O.W. camp located among the mountains of central Southern Italy. Disguised as electricians he, and a fellow prisoner, repaired a lamp (which was not faulty) in the defended area between the compound fences. He got away only to be recaptured on the Swiss Frontier near Como on 13th December, 1941. After a month's solitary in a castle, he returned to Sulmona where he joined a tunnelling party. Meanwhile, the Commandant had been banished to the Russian Front.

Before the tunnel was completed 'D.D.' was moved to Campo 27 near Pisa. It was part of a monastery, but was virtually a prison for 'dangerous' officers. It was sheer bad luck which stopped them digging through a stone wall. 'D.D.,' who knew about mastoid, shammed sick rather than go to the escape-proof prison the Italians had devised for their difficult guests. He was admitted to a room on the top floor of the Military Hospital in Florence with the door locked and an armed sentry in the passage. The specialist saw through his deception instantly, but said he was welcome to stay for a bit.

There was a decorative sloping stone moulding five inches wide around the building four feet below the windows of the top floor but seventy feet above ground. This was enough for 'D.D.' who took the chance and crossed into Switzerland near Chiasso in June, 1942. The Commandant of Campo 27 went to Russia for not having warned the hospital what sort of P.O.W. they were admitting. The French Resistance smuggled 'D.D.' to a point on the coast near Marseilles where a midshipman in a rowing boat ferried him to a grubby little trawler.

After two days in a fierce storm the trawler took on, from another trawler, 80 seasick Poles, and set off for Gibraltar. The last night was fine, so all hands were given a paint brush and a pot of paint and told to get on with it. They were a credit to H.M. Trawlers when they entered Gibraltar.

Deane-Drummond's next posting was to 2nd Parachute Brigade. He took part in the operations in North Africa and in the 'toe' of Italy. When the Italians surrendered there were large numbers of allied P.O.W.s wandering about the mountains who had to get through the German lines to rejoin the allies. 'D.D.' organised routes and provided communications. **Sergeant Philips** and **Signalman Stewart** both won the D.C.M. for their exploits in this operation. (The Editor would be grateful for any information as to the whereabouts of **Sergeant Philips. Signalman Stewart** was killed subsequently).

'D.D.'s' next adventure was with 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem in 1944. At one stage in this ill-fated battle he and four men were intending to swim the Rhine. They were in a house when the Germans entered. All five dived into the lavatory and locked the door. The Germans prepared the house as a defensive post. The lavatory party took it in turns, for three days and nights, to sit on the seat while the battle raged around. The Germans tried the door from time to time but, on finding it locked, politely withdrew. On the fourth night when the battle had died down they got out and swam the Rhine. 'D.D.' had just dressed when he fell into a slit trench on top of a German who started shouting. He was a P.O.W. again and taken back across the Rhine.

In a suburban house in use as a sorting and interrogation centre for P.O.W.s he noticed a wall cupboard, the door of which was cunningly disguised with wall paper. He removed the shelves, reversed the lock, and shut himself in with a water bottle, a jam jar of water, half a loaf and a pound of lard. He stood in this cupboard for 13 days and nights. The Germans used this room for interrogation by day and as a guardroom at night. Finally, when one soldier was asleep and the other two were upstairs with a couple of girls, he emerged. He was aided by a priest, a strange sort of policeman and a schoolmaster whose wife nursed him through bronchitis. He then travelled in an ancient charcoal-driven lorry painted as an ambulance to a place where he joined other people from the Division. Then, creeping along ditches, they reached the Rhine and were ferried across by Sappers of 43 Division. 'D.D.' won the M.C. at Tragino and a bar at Arnhem.

In 1957 he was appointed to command 22nd S.A.S. Regiment on operations in Malaya. He took time out to deploy part of his regiment in the Trucial Oman States where he won the D.S.O.

From 1961-63 he commanded 44th Parachute Brigade and was then Assistant Commandant at Sandhurst. He was G.O.C. 3rd Division from 1966 until he took up his final post as Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operations) in 1968. He was awarded the C.B. He was a Colonel Commandant from 1961 1971.

He spends much of his spare time gliding and represented Great Britain in four different years; he was National Champion in 1957. He is also a helicopter pilot.

WELFARE CLOTHING

Since the beginning of April, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Mrs. M. B. Perry, Anonymous Donor in B.A.O.R., Staff Sergeant and Mrs. White, Mr. F. Stockdale, Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Stonham, Major and Mrs. A. E. Carter, Lady Harris, Major D. J. D. McKail, Mrs. C. R. C. Bunce, O.C. 49 (WR) Signal Squadron, Mrs. R. A. Welton, Lieutenant-Colonel I. E. Simpson, Major and Mrs. G. W. Young, Miss Eversley, Mrs. Newsom, Mrs. P. Dally, Mrs. J. A. Baker, Major T. F. Jenkinson, Brigadier A. J. Jackson, Mrs. J. D. T. Brett, Mr. A. Walsh, Mr. W. J. Evenden, Mrs. J. S. Hewson, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. M. A. White, Anonymous Donor in Singapore.

Special Mention

— ***Mr. Sid Watts of the Q.M.'s Department, 14th Signal Regiment***

for winning the Old Soldiers race for the seventh successive time at the Regimental Athletics Championships of 14th Signal Regiment held at Norton Barracks recently . . . and this at the age of 76. The grit, stamina and courage of the 'Old Soldier' is, of course, proverbial and **Sid** is no exception. He does a good job as storeman and is ever ready to race against men half his age. Of course, **Sid** has been something of an athlete in his time. He played rugby for Cardiff and while working for Gloster Aircraft was a successive winner in the veteran championships there. He served in the 1914-18 war with the D.C.L.I. and has been with 14th Signal Regiment for eleven and half years.

— ***The Shooting Team of 28th (B.R.) Signal Regiment (Northag)***

for carrying off once again the Inter Unit Team Cup against some of the best marksmen in German, Belgian and Dutch Army units. In fact competing in the H.Q. Northern Army Group Skill at Arms match, they almost swept the board, winning six consecutive events and then expressed disappointment in having to concede the Pistol match to the German Army.

— ***The Driving Crews of the School of Signals***

for carrying off the Royal Signals Cup and being runners-up for the best U.K. team and the best Southern Command team in the Army Driving championships for 1971 held at Sennelager, B.A.O.R. Exercise 'Roadmaster' as the championship is called is presented as a challenge to each member of each team and it is a tough gruelling test requiring stamina, fitness, military efficiency and knowledge. The team readily admit that they owe a great deal to the team non-competing manager, **Major Paddy Barnes-Murphy,** and the team captain, **Sergeant Brooking,** for keeping morale high and making them work as a team. All in all a very good showing.

— ***Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow and Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink, School of Signals***

for so richly deserving their place in the Great Britain representative team which will participate in the 1971 International Sella River Race and associated series of races in Spain to be held in August. Special Mention too, to Corporal M. J. Bull and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story, also of the School of Signals, who will travel to Spain as reserves for the team and, in any event, will participate in the racing.

All of them will carry with them the support and good wishes of the whole Corps. There are high hopes too, that Corps Canoeists will be selected for the U.K. K.4 crew for Munich in 1972 — certainly they are in the running.

— ***Private Rosemary Wilson, WRAC, of 240 Signal Squadron***

for making her mark in the women's fencing world and, at the age of 18 becoming the Army Women's Foil Champion. She was seeded fourth in the Combined Services and is well in the running now to be selected for the Combined Services team which will bring her into national and even international class fencing. A very good effort indeed for an 18-year-old.

— ***Signalman 'Smudge' Smith of 621 Troop***

for being such an adept in the art of rapid improvisation. While taking part in Exercise 'Nelson's Touch' — an amphibious exercise — he found himself wading ashore in several feet of water carrying his S.R.A. 13. To his consternation he discovered that his morse key had become unserviceable. But a little matter like that did not stop Signalman Smith. He continued to send messages at 14 w.p.m. by using his pressel switch.

From our "In" Tray

Birthday Honours

All will be pleased to hear that the following awards were received by members of the Corps in the Birthday Honours.

O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) D. Crookes
Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Davies

M.B.E.

Major R. Castle-Smith
Captain T. T. Hallchurch
Major W. J. Perry

B.E.M.

Corporal J. Askew
Sergeant W. Gray
Sergeant F. Laverick

Links in the Chain

Sir,

I remember **Major Wade** and **Major Dowie** (whose obituary appeared in the May/June WIRE) around 1922. When he left the Service, one of the brothers, **Corporal Dowie,** went into business with **'Pozzy' Brudenell,** and ran the Bexleyheath Glassworks, a few doors from the Post Office where the officer-in-charge was **Corporal Giles (Gilo)** who eventually retired as a Postmaster.

It seems that we begin to remember ex-members only when their obituary notices are published in the WIRE, and it is a pity that a half-page is not allocated for short letters from ex-members (before the event) telling us name, number, where they live, and how they fared in later life; as the following example:

T. C. White (Blanco) 2314750, C Company, Maresfield, Crookham, Shanghai. Entered Post Office 1928, retired 1961. Often in London willing meet any ex-member anywhere, subscribe to anything with Corps connection, attend any function, dinners, mini reunions.

Well done the lads who cleaned up the regimental badges at Fovant, Salisbury.

Pleased to see **'Jimmy'** in prominent position there.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. White

4 Park View Road,
Helston, Cornwall.

(We are always happy to publish short details of any ex-members of the Corps wishing to make contact with others.— Editor.)

KOREA REUNION

The second Reunion Dinner of the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (Korea) will take place on 21st August. For full information contact R.S.M. H. Jennings, 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

BLUE BOOK — 18th EDITION

Owing to the impending introduction of the new Royal Signals Soldier structure, which involves the reorganisaton of promotion rolls, Officer i/c Records has notified all concerned through official channels that the next issue of the Blue Book will be delayed until January, 1972, and that it will probably be received in units sometime early in February, 1972. The Blue Book will then reflect the position in the new provisional rolls as at 1st January, 1972. The probable cost will be 20p per copy.

Swansong of a Squadron with a reputation

249 Squadron go on their last exercise—and then it's disbandment for a Squadron that established a reputation, not only as communicators, but also as sportsmen and several times champion Squadron of 18th Signal Regiment



Manila—and its briefing for keymen of the Squadron. *Left to right:* Captain Les Waumsley, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Harry Cooke, Corporal Jack Snaith, Corporal John Farrell and Major Aldana (Philippine Army)

Exercise Subok

IT was with mixed feelings that a detachment of 20 men commanded by **Captain Les Waumsley,** set out from 249 Signal Squadron to take part in the annual SEATO exercise in the Philippines. Unfortunately this was to be the swansong of the Squadron; however, we were thrilled to be able to take part in such an important exercise and at the same time to see something of the fleshpots of Manila.

Codeworded 'Subok,' meaning 'to test,' the exercise involved troops, aircraft and warships from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States, and was directed by **Major-General Romeo C. Espine,** Vice-Chief of Staff of the Philippine Armed Forces. Exercise 'Subok' was the 43rd in a series planned since the inception of SEATO and its aim was to train SEATO assigned forces in joint amphibious operations in defence of a member nation.

The role of our detachment was to provide control communications for the exercise Director from Fort Bonifacio, the exercise H.Q. in Manila, forward to the objective area some 90 miles to the North, and to the Commander of the task force located on board the U.S.S. Iwo Jima. This was achieved by the operation of a C11 SBB RATT net crewed by **Corporal Brian Cowling, Lance-Corporal Alan Knott, Signalman Brian Muir** and **Signalman Dave Beattie** working to their American counterparts.

A-40/160 exchange manned by **Corporal Charlie McKay, Signalman 'Mac' McDonald, Signalman Alan Dutton** and **Signalman 'Spud' Murphy,** who now have broad American accents, was set up at the H.Q. in Manila, together with a small commcen manipulated by **Corporals Tony Meikle, Jackie Snaith, John Farrell, Charlie Stewart, Taffy Powell, Lance-Corporals David Moore** and **'Bow' Fawcett** and **Signalman 'Taffy' Powell.** For technical support we relied on **Sergeant Fred Mackey** and **Corporal Derry Bolger,** and to make the whole thing tick we had an excellent stage manager in **W.O.2 (Y of S) Harry Cooke.**

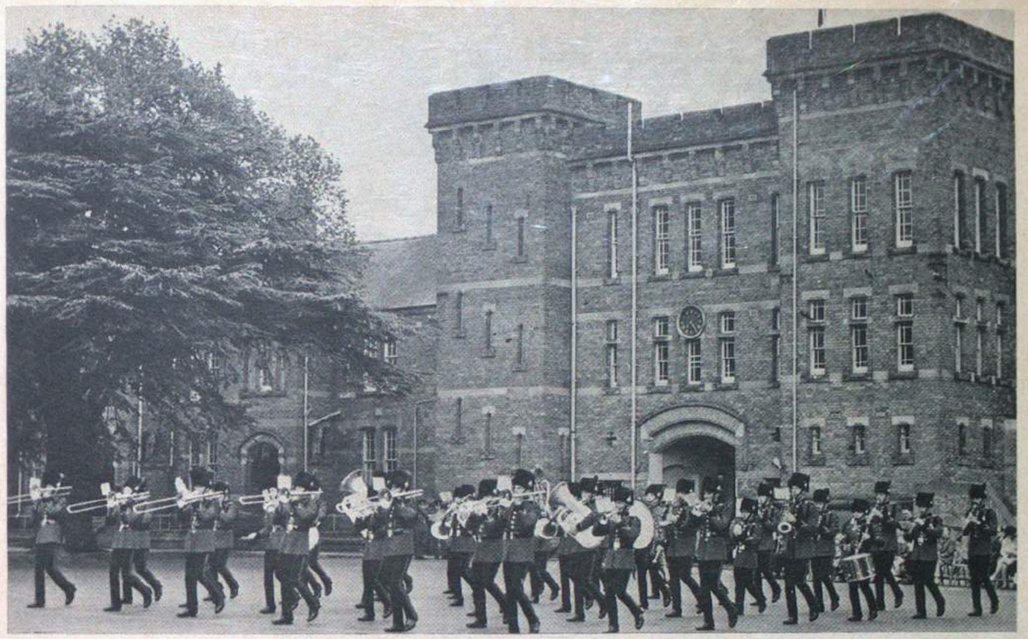
We flew into Manila on 19th March allowing 10 days to set up the equipment, and ourselves in the Bayview Hotel, one of the best tourist hotels in Manila. Allowances were not ungenerous. From this vantage point, many trips were made into the 'Wild West' type night life that abounds in downtown Manila, and on days off breakfast was served in bed by a red-liveried bell boy. Between periods of communicating, we found time for sightseeing, shopping and sport. By a particular piece of enterprise, **Lance-Corporal David Moore** had entered for the Manila Go Kart Grand Prix which took place on our first weekend. Unfortunately, mechanical gremlins were with him all the way, and in spite of enthusiastic pushers from the whole of the detachment, his Kart refused to leave the pits. Not unnaturally the basketball match we played against the Philippine Naval Base went against us, since basketball is their National game. It was with some trepidation, therefore, that a soccer match was arranged and when it was discovered we were to play the Philippine Army XI our qualms were only surpassed by our idle living. In spite of brave efforts from our stalwarts **Jackie Snaith** and **Harry Cooke,** we again came away second best.

All these activities, however, helped to make us many friends, and it was with genuine regret that we made our farewells and left to rejoin a squadron that is quickly dwindling away to the four corners of the earth.

Footnote: All the girls are gorgeous, the people most friendly and courteous, the cost of living comparatively cheap, the climate warm and sunny and the night life exotic. Above are the names of 20 volunteers for the next SEATO exercise to be held in the Philippines.



YANKEE PROCEDURE HAS ITS HUMOUR
Ship to shore—Corporal Charlie Stewart and Signalman Jock Muir working to USS Iwo Jima



14th SIGNAL REGIMENT "AT HOME" GETS UNDER WAY
The Corps Band march into Norton Barracks, Worcester through the main gateway tower

14th Regiment commemorate granting of Freedom with colourful Retreat Ceremony and At Home

A perfect setting

THERE can be little doubt that the spring season shows the Worcestershire countryside at its very best. For suddenly, after what always seems a long winter, the hedges and trees burst into life. The whole area becomes a lush and rich combination of countless different shades of green interspersed with a myriad of other colours. Though most trees in England are at their best at this time of year surely nothing can match the splendour of mature chestnuts. Always so tall and straight the various pinks, red and whites of these trees in full flower immediately command attention as well as adding both beauty and dignity to any location. Of the many, many chestnut trees in Worcestershire perhaps none are more magnificent than those that surround the square and cricket field within the keep of Norton Barracks where the Regiment has its home. Here these chestnuts, blended amongst equally mature limes, sycamores and the all too rare oak tree, stand out magnificently against the tall walls, buildings, and the imposing gate tower of the barracks. Add to this multi-coloured panorama the warm illumination of an evening sun in May and one has the perfect setting for an occasion of pageantry, ceremony and splendour.

Freedom Ceremony kept alive

It was in this setting recently that the Regiment celebrated the Freedom of the City of Gloucester, and what a spectacular success it was. However, before relating the event in 1971 a word on the background to the occasion.

On 28th April, 1966, the Mayor, Corporation, Freeman and Citizens of the City of Gloucester bestowed the Freedom of their City on 14th Signal Regiment to commemorate the continued association between the City and various units of the Corps over the previous twenty-five years. The then 14th Regiment was employed on Comcan duties in U.K. and had its headquarters in Robinswood Barracks (perhaps better known to previous signal regiments as Reservoir Camp). This splendid and singular honour gave the Regiment the "Freedom of Entry into the City on all ceremonial occasions with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing."

A privilege indeed, and one that is unique amongst regular regiments of the Corps. Therefore, it was not unnatural that, when Comcan was handed over to the R.A.F., the newly-formed 14th Regiment of Army Strategic Command should inherit this great honour. Though the new regiment is located in Worcester there is very much a feeling of kinship with the City of Gloucester and this is kept alive by the Freedom ceremony, which is held each year, as far as is practical, on the weekend nearest the original charter date.

Thus it was in early May the 1971 ceremony took place. This year the principle events were the playing of Retreat by the Corps band followed by an Officers' Mess reception, a Sergeants' Mess ball and a dance in the J.R.C.

A polished display

As mentioned earlier in this narrative there can be few finer places than Norton Barracks for the Corps to hold such a ceremony as Retreat. After a very wet day, causing not some little worry over such matters as alternative programmes, laying out, and keeping dry, the seats, etc., the evening turned out to be fine and sunny. By the time the first guests arrived the whole setting looked perfect. Right on time the Corps trumpeters heralded the start of the pageant. Never have they sounded better or looked finer for somehow the stirring music seemed to blend the scarlet and blue uniforms so well with the background of the keep and the trees. This impression was more than confirmed when the full band swept through the main gate tower and into the keep. Led by the Director, **Captain Keith Boulding,** the band gave a polished display of marching as well as illustrating to the large audience their extensive repertoire of music.

Distinguished guests

Amongst the many distinguished persons invited were the Mayors of Gloucester and Worcester, along with their respec-

tive Mayoress, Chamberlain, Deputy and Town Clerk, Members of Parliament, the Chief Constable, Chairman of local councils and many senior officers of all services made up the very appreciative official guests who were afterwards entertained at a reception in the Officers' Mess.

The mess, thanks to the splendid efforts of **Mrs. Joan Baker, Mrs. Nina Lockett** and **Mrs. Jean Doyle,** was beautifully decorated. The attractiveness of the flowers being such as to cause much comment. After sherry about one hundred and seventy guests had supper. Again the arrangements were outstanding. The food was quite splendid and a great credit to the very large amount of preparatory work done by **Sergeant D. Smith,** A.C.C., and his staff.

A day to remember

So the day ended (for the officers at least, for the J.R.C. dance and the Sergeants' Mess parties were so successful that they went on well into the small hours) and every member of the Regiment could feel satisfied that a job had indeed been well done.

Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment

Fast approaching completion is the Corps brand new Trade Training School at Catterick. Housed in a fine modern building, it is now in the process of being furnished and fitted out internally. In September it will be officially opened by the Prime Minister.

We are happy to receive the progress report, below, from Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Hickman. who is O.C. From all accounts, it is something of which the Corps will be justifiably proud, and we hope to feature more details about its progress in later editions of 'The Wire,' culminating in the opening ceremony on the 24th September.

From 'F' Day to 'P.M.' Day

With the (8+24=8) amalgamation operation now six months behind us and all wounds healed, readers of THE WIRE will be extremely pleased to hear that occupation of the new Trade Training School building has commenced. The School building was handed over to the Regiment on 6th-7th May, and early on the morning of 8th May, we launched Operation 'Migration '71.' This is a phased programme for the move into the TTS, starting on 'F' Day (furniture and fittings), and running through 'O' Day (occupation by H.Q. TTS and Training Groups starts on 7th June) to 'PM' Day (24th September) when the Prime Minister has kindly consented to open the building.

I find it strangely satisfying and very exciting now to be in a position to say that 'F' Day WAS the 8th May, because for many days before this date, the catch phrase in the Regiment was 'F' Day = 8th May. We owe a great deal to all those who have been concerned with the Vimy Project, Stage II, wherever they may now be, for whatever part, great or small, they played in the design and construcion of this magnificent building.

The movement plan

The movement plan is designed to transfer training elements from Loos and Aisne/Ypres Lines into the TTS (wish we had a name for this building!) without us having to stop normal trade training. Movement, in the main, is therefore, to take place over weekends commencing with H.Q. TTS, and Basic, Laboratory, Electronics and Radio Relay Groups on 7th June, and ending with the mass-migration of Operating Wing training groups during 2nd to 4th July, quickly followed by M Troop. The catch phrase now is "All in and working by 14th August," which just happens to be the start date of the preferred summer leave break ('preferred' is used rather than 'block,' because about ten courses must continue training during the break).

Technicians can move furniture!

'F' Day commenced with a parade of 'willing' workers formed up to be briefed by the School Warrant Officer, **W.O.I V. DeClancy** and the R.O.M.S. (Gen.), **W.O.2 Drake.** on how to become furniture removers with no easy lessons. Suitable props, in the form of a Pickford's removal van, box-body and low-loader vehicles were provided by the Garrison Transport Unit. It is surprising how technicians take to the furniture-removal business like ducks take to water. But we had one



THEY WORKED WITH A WILL
Moving in a Bruin Auto

casualty on the first day, however, and I sincerely hope that **Corporal Johnstone's** finger heals quickly. Otherwise the operation started so smoothly that I decided to complete my Saturday morning with the usual trip to Richmond market. . . . "Well done, see you this afternoon," were my last words of encouragement. Now I am a wiser man. For it came to pass that later on that day, a Mr. Burtenshaw blew his whistle to start the Arsenal v. Liverpool battle for the F.A. Cup. This kicked off a mass migration of personnel from the building to the nearest 'tele,' and for more than 120 minutes, all eyes were glued to the scenes at Wembley, which only goes to show we are all sportsmen at heart, and that the magic of a F.A. Cup final is a far greater attraction than overtime pay for most men. Our Quartermaster (General), **Major R. G. Furtado, B.E.M.,** has, I think, now convinced the DOE representative on this point. How many pints, Geoff?

A full description of the training facilities provided within the building will be given in the August-September or October-November edition of THE WIRE.

External training areas

Contrary to a popular early belief, trade training is not to be carried out entirely within the confines of the TTS building. From the early days of July onwards, training is also to take place, or to continue, in the Whinny Hill area—External Radio, External Line and Security Groups, and in Messines Lines—Driver, Electrician-Driver and Military Training Groups. Exercises are to continue, with Schemes Troop based on Gaza Lines until a firm base in Baghdad Lines can be established.

New soldier structure

Another good reason why the current TTS catch phrase is "All in working by 14th August" is that on the 1st September, we are required to commence teaching some of the new trades. With a little help from those who provide equipment and manpower, we will be ready to clear this last major hurdle in 1971.

Messages of encouragement

May I say a special thank you to all those who have sent me messages of goodwill and encouragement, particularly to **Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) Douglas Crookes, O.B.E.,** at H.Q. SHAPE; **Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) Charles Weech,** at H.Q., AFCENT, and **Lieutenant-Colonel Archie Birtwistle, O.B.E.,** in B.A.O.R. I get the message, Charles, and perhaps later on this year you may like to suggest to some of my NATO friends that they 'go for TDY' in Catterick. **Obertsleutnant Bill Otto, G.E.A.,** at CENTAG, I feel sure, would welcome the chance to pay us a visit.

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Opto Electronics for example.

Chieftain, probably the most sophisticated battle tank in use operationally in the world today, employs an impressive array of M.E.L. opto-electronic devices. Active and passive sighting systems for the driver, gunner and commander, and a wide variety of instrumentation for the fighting compartment, provide a vital contribution to this formidable vehicle's superior performance under all conditions. In addition, similar systems are being developed by M.E.L. for the new fighting vehicles now coming into service.

M.E.L. has been successfully associated with opto-electronic development for many years, and has now been augmented by the traditional optical skills and expertise of Watson and Ether (Royston) Ltd., resulting in a very powerful and experienced organisation in this important field.

M.E.L. leadership in Defence Electronics also extends to Radio Communication, Reconnaissance Radars, Radio Intercept Equipment, Sonar systems and Microwave systems.

The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd.
Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex, England. Tel. 0293 - 28787.

M E L



"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

Trying out Forward Scatter has its moments

A report from 28th Regiment's Tropo Troop

SEVERAL editions of THE WIRE ago there was a brief mention in the notes from 28th Signal Regiment, of Tropo Troop. We, 'The Scatterers,' have now received most of our new equipment and have had it on trial.

The early days of May saw the return to Francisca Barracks of a collection of vehicles and men all showing signs of having 'weathered' in the field for some time—62 days to be exact. This was forward tropospheric scatter Troop (Tropo for short) returning from field trials of the new equipment which is to go into service with 1 Squadron to help maintain communications for NORTHAG when it is mobile.

Three sites

Three sites had been selected to give two paths of different lengths over which the equipment was to be operated and proved to the satisfaction of all concerned. It was to the more northerly site that **Lieutenant Jack (C.Q.-C.Q.) Cooper** (acting as Troop Commander in the absence of **Captain Mike (make a list) Martin,** absent on course), and approximately half the Troop moved. The remainder, under **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson,** journeyed to the south.

The weather was not exactly friendly at the time and in those early days a night temperature in the region of —15 degrees centigrade was not uncommon and snow was a regular happening. These conditions made the handling of nuts and bolts for antenna construction a little difficult but that was not the least of our problems. The North End (as it became known) had a slight advantage in that the top soil was only six inches deep then there was solid limestone rock. Our 'T'-stakes had to be placed in the ground to a depth of four feet —one combat power man, **Signalman Graham Whitelaw,** estimated that: "The energy expended by one tech. R.R. and one R.R. man, striking alternately with 14lb. sledge hammers, roughly equates to 15 minutes' output from a sick 7.5 KVA generator." A two-stroke engine-driven rock drill which was 'obtained' soon considered that it was out-classed and gave up after a short, gallant life, and hammers sledge 14lb. were recalled to active service.

Administration arrangements work out

Meanwhile, at both sites, the administrative arrangements went ahead well (we had borrowed something from just about every department in the Regiment and from our Belgian comrades, 13 Cie Ttr. — thank you all). Compo boxes were opened (mustard, tin opener and toilet paper first, as per instructions), tents erected and petrol burners cautiously approached. Volunteer cook, **Signalman Bill ('ave some more) Simons,** supervised by the 'Catering Manager' **Corporal Ray (give 'em curry) Graves,** worked wonders on the compo, while several men tried their hand at the job at the north end. Reports received indicate that the fare was just as good at their end too. The 'cooks' were assisted by 'enlisted' dining room orderlies who were drawn from all ranks and trades, including some civilians. We even had an exchange of recipes over the order wire.

Marconi civilians enter in the spirit of things

Our 'civvy attached' personnel were three engineers from the Marconi Company who deserve a mention here. They were **Matt ('have a cigar old boy') Snodgrass, Dave ('so I said to this bird in Penang') Gregory** and **Murray ('don't shave my beard off') Todd.** Considering that they had recently come from such places as Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Taiwan, they did extremely well under the rather trying conditions produced by the European weather. Not only did they supervise and assist in the erection and operation of the terminals but took their turn at the more mundane chores, as well as teaching members of the Troop the finer points of tropospheric scatter. The instruction and guidance that they gave was extremely good and no problem was too much bother to any of them — even at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Lighter moments too

Life during the trials was not without its lighter moments: There was the kerosene stove which had a nasty habit of exploding when it required cleaning — **Lance-Corporal Bob Monahan** was undressing beside it one night when a cleaning was overdue. When he opened his eyes all he needed was a banjo to complete the picture.

The surprise expressed by **Lance-Corporal Colin Thirkettle** when he opened the cab door of his vehicle to find a ringed pigeon sitting in the driver's seat. There is no truth in the rumour that it was a technician standby.

How did **Corporal Pete Shepherd** manage to get one anklet web at the North End and the other over 200 km. away at the other site?

The complete aplomb of the R.C.T. Corporal who, after leading 12 ten tonners up a muddy tract to a dead end at the tropo site calmly asked: "Is this the way to Holland?" His driver had mistaken our T.A.C. signs for his own which were the same figures but in reverse.

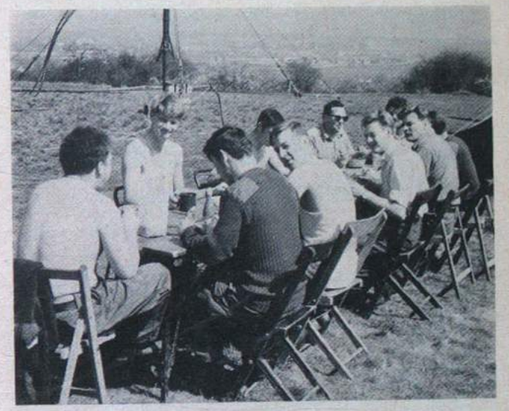
The visitors come

As the trial progressed, the weather improved and on the 27th April we were visited by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. Macdonald,** and the officers of the Regiment, and on the 30th April by the Chief of Staff Northag,



AN EYE FOR THE JOB

Sergeant Vic Selby using a theodolite checks on antenna alignment



SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA AT THE SOUTH SITE

Left to right: Corporal Graves, Signalman Whitelaw, Corporal Llewellyn, Signalman McDowell, Corporal Shepherd, Corporal Gibson, Mr. Gregory (Marconi), Mr. Todd (Marconi), Sergeant Selby, Sergeant McMahon

Major General H. H. Von Hinckeldey, and his staff. The weather man was kind and both days were fine and sunny. A further improvement in the weather permitted the Troop to see **Sergeant Mick McMahon's** eagle tattoo in full technicolor flight.

A few casualties

Casualties during the trials were light, consisting of a bruised rib sustained by **Lance-Corporal Chris Herbert** during a fall, a 'bug' collected by **Signalman 'Geordie' Gillespie** which ment a few days in the M.R.S., a shepherd's pie which became a complete write off after an unknown hand turned up the petrol burner under the field oven, designed and built by **Corporals Kaser Bond** and **'Scouse' Jackson,** and our F. of S. who sustained a broken thumb nail whilst assisting with the construction of an antenna.

Successful conclusion

The trials proved a great success and the equipment worked well. Soon after the Troop returned to barracks to catch up on guard duties Orderly Sergeants and such like. We put on a display of our equipment for the Chief Signal Officer B.A.O.R., **Major General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** who visited us at Francisca Barracks on 21st May.

We now have a lot of preparation and tactical trials to ensure the provision of a good service to the Regiment and to Northag in the future. We hope to be in the field for more time than we are in camp during our running up period so no doubt you will hear more from us in the future in the Regimental notes.

Exercise 'Roadmaster VI'

School of Signals Team excel in Army Driving Championships

By Corporal George Cage and Corporal George Henderson, School of Signals

THE School entered 2 × ¼-ton GS Land Rovers, crewed by **Sergeant Dave Brooking** (driver), **Corporal George Cage** (navigator), **Signalman Graham Hill** (driver), and **Corporal 'Geordie' Henderson** (navigator) under a non-competing manager **Major 'Paddy' Barnes-Murphy.**

The competition was held at Staumuhle Camp, Sennelager, B.A.O.R., from 10th May to 15th May. In preparation for this, teams were entered in civilian rallies of high standard, including the Starlight and Havoc rallies, and much valuable experience was gained. The final team chosen went on Exercise 'Southern Drive', in which 55 teams each of two vehicles started, but only 12 teams completed the course. The School team was placed 10th overall.

After a late team change (**Lance-Corporal 'Bob' Mills** had to withdraw and **Corporal Henderson** replaced him), we set off on 3rd May, and travelled via the Dover/Zeebrugge ferry to Emblem for Pol and overnight stop. We then proceeded to Bielefeld and joined 4 Squadron, 16th Signal Regiment, our host unit. A technical inspection report was required and this proved rather worrying as 623 R.C.T. (M.S.O. Workshops) discovered a worn prop shaft on one of our vehicles. Our grateful thanks are due to the Workshops for the speed and efficiency with which they effected the repair.

Dragging **Signalman Hill** reluctantly from his Currywurst and pomfrittes at our new-found local, we managed to fit in some practice navigational driving in the Bielefeld-Bunde area, and on 10th May set off for Staumuhle Camp and the initial scrutineering. This was successfully passed, accommodation located, and the team proceeded to take the compulsory Roadmaster German Highway Code test. A Cup was at stake for the lowest marks scored, and after six days of stumbling through German words, hopes were quite high for a good score, but this was not to be. One team sat this test nine times before passing. We will resist identifying them—they are combat troops and discretion is the better part of valour.

Our captain returned a much chastened man

Sergeant Brooking, our team captain, set off at 18.00 hours for a briefing, just as **Major Barnes-Murphy,** our team manager, arrived from U.K. He returned a much chastened man, with tales of sharp bends with 200ft. drops, and sections comparing with the 'Monte' and 'Tulip' rallies. He wasn't wrong! The competition consisted of four stages varying between 10-12 hours duration, and covering an overall distance of some 1,025 miles. Twenty-eight map sheets were used, some more than once. Vehicles departed at one minute intervals at the beginning of each stage. Stages consisted of every imaginable type of road surface, and some unimaginable ones. Each stage had selective sections usually through wooded land on which speed limits were waived, and a bogey time had to be beaten if points were not to be lost. The main problem on these sections was the thick flying dust which covered everyone and everything in sight. There were 36 time controls at which time cards were stamped, 54 passage controls, secret check points and 36 selection sections, all of which had to be visited. The R.M.P. were there with radar traps for the unwary, and those teams caught twice on any one stage were excluded from the event. Bearing in mind our team Captain's warning, we treated the course throughout with great respect.

Overturned cars littered the course

Drivers of vehicles who disregarded advice paid the penalty. Overturned Rovers littered the course. Some incidents that come to mind—the two lads that swam out of the back of their vehicle which had overturned in a river, and the vehicle that was seen standing on its nose in a deep hole under an autobahn flyover. The following examples emphasise the spirit in which the rally was undertaken. One crew arrived at a 'Flying finish' check-point and their Rover skidded across the line on its side. A hand appeared through the torn canopy, and a voice was heard to shout "Punch my card." **Corporal Henderson** and **Signalman Hill** are grateful to the crew of the vehicle of another Regiment who kindly stopped and, after great efforts, pulled them clear of deep mud. **Sergeant Brooking** and **Corporal Cage** would like to thank the team manager (whoever he is) of the two Army Padres, who overtook them on a sloping bank with their wheels level and touching the top of their canopy. We hope the language was not loud enough to reach him.

A possibility that turned into a reality

At the end of the 3rd stage the possibility of winning the Royal Signals Team Trophy, became a reality, when the 4th Division Signal Regiment, who were pressing us closely, lost a vehicle. We then had to complete the last stage, or as **Colonel Lowe,** Secretary of B.A.M.A., U.K., said, "Have a quiet poodle round the course lads." This was easier said than done, as both vehicles developed faults, one with gearbox trouble, and the other with brake fade. Eventually all was well, despite **Corporal Cage,** who was navigating, wrong slotting his driver at every available opportunity, and the Royal Signals Cup was ours. In addition we were the runners-up for both the 'Best U.K. Team' and 'Best Southern Command Team'.

The awards were made on Saturday morning, 15th May, by the Commander 1 (BR) Corps, **Lieutenant-General Sir John Sharp, K.C.B., M.C.,** and congratulations were the order of the day. Our team manager/photographer gave a practical demonstration of how not to use a polaroid camera, but finally managed to produce a passable record of the presentation.

The celebration back at Bielefeld went well, but remains a mystery to all concerned. The team distinctly remembers hearing **Major Barnes-Murphy** say, "Of course you can use the 1800's on the next rally." Whether he remembers it, remains to be seen.

Thinking back the Rally can best be summed up by quoting the official programme, which states: "The whole competition is presented as a challenge to each member of each team. It will be a tough, gruelling test, requiring stamina, fitness, military efficiency and knowledge. Above all, emphasis is on good driving and road safety."

'Scouse,' Jeffrey and Grandad would like to thank the team Captain, **Sergeant Brooking,** for keeping morale high and making us work as a team, for in rally driving one weak link can make the difference between winning and losing, as many teams discovered to their cost.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

Army Apprentices' College
Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY, SPRING, 1971

SPRING Graduation Day was celebrated with time-honoured ceremonies on Wednesday, 14th April.

Reviewing Officer for the day was **Lieutenant General Sir William Jackson, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** General Officer Commanding in Chief, Northern Command, who was later to congratulate the entire College — but especially **Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major Thomas Hardingham** — on an excellent Parade.

Following this, the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** opened Prize-giving with his traditional review of the term's achievements. Unfortunately, we are sure that the Editor, kindly as he may be, could never allow us the great space that would be required to retail them here — but perhaps the accompanying photograph from the *Yorkshire Evening Post* will indicate at least some of our sporting successes.

Speaking in his turn as "the senior member present," the G.O.C. in C. welcomed to the Regular Army the 54 apprentices of the Senior Squadron. "We are," he said, "one of the few remaining professional armies: most of the others are conscripts." He went on to stress the reliance placed by the entire Army upon the Royal Corps of Signals—the professional communicators—without whom the increasingly complex modern Army could not begin to function.

In their life at the College, said the General, the apprentices probably experienced more "smooth" than "rough," but this might not be so in operational units in the trouble spots of the world. They should enjoy the "smooth" and treat the "rough" as a challenge. Above all, he urged them to "be reliable."

Finally, the G.O.C. in C. congratulated the College on the high standard of the parade, but said that this was "merely the tip of the iceberg." After several visits during the term, he was sure that the members of the College were just as good off parade as on it.

General Jackson presented prizes as follows:

The Commandant's Prize "for conduct, discipline and example": **A/T Sergeant Alan Kite.**

The Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award "for the best all-round tradesman": **A/T Sergeant David Price.**

Prizes awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee, to apprentices who have made the best use of their opportunities at the College: Technician: **A/T Lance-Corporal Eric Paul.** Operator: **A/T Sergeant David Price.**

Before presenting the Borough of Harrogate prizes for the best essays on Local Government, the Mayor of Harrogate, **Alderman Edwin Pickard,** more than justified his reputation as a teller of apt tales. He told his delighted audience of the ploughman who found, one evening, an injured bird. Mindful of country lore regarding the therapeutic value of cow dung, he placed the bird gently in a patch of this and, feeling he had done his best, went home.

Returning next day, he was pleased to see the bird sitting blithely in its strange "nest" singing at the top of its voice. As the friendly ploughman continued with his work, however, a fox dashed from a nearby covert, seized the bird, and ate it.

Two lessons, said the Mayor, might be learnt from this: "One — when you're in it, don't just sit there and shout about it; and two — remember that, when you are in it, it isn't always your worst enemy who drops you in it, nor your best friend who gets you out of it."

The Borough of Harrogate prizes were awarded to **A/T Sergeant (Technician) Robert Nelson** and **A/T Lance-Corporal Robert Goode.**

The Champion Squadron Cup was won by Phillips Squadron (**Major P. A. H. Spencer,** R.A.; **C.S.M. E. Linford,** Grenadier Guard; **A/T S.S.M. A. Hickling,** Royal Signals).

Sub-Aqua enthusiasts journey to Cyprus

On 16th April, 1971, a small piece of College history was made. A party of apprentices and permanent staff left for a Sub-Aqua adventure training exercise in Cyprus. This was the first occasion apprentices from this College had moved out of Europe. The exercise was conceived and set up by the Officer-in-Charge Sub-Aqua — **W.O.1 J. D. Griffiths** and the diving officer — **Sergeant S. E. Graham.**

The party comprised the following apprentices: **A/T Corporal Travers** (B.S.A.C. 3rd class diver), **A/T Corporal Terry, A/T Hagan, A/T Charlton** (B.S.A.C. 3rd class diver), **A/T Stewart, A/T Norfield, A/T Appleyard, A/T Harper;** they were accompanied by: Officer-in-Charge Club **W.O.1. Griffiths** (Royal Signals) (B.S.A.C. 2nd class diver), **Diving Officer Sergeant Graham** (Royal Signals) (B.S.A.C. 2nd class diver), **Sergeant Hanrahan** (R:I.R.) (B.S.A.C. 3rd class diver), **Sergeant Greaves** (R.C.T.) (B.S.A.C.) 3rd class diver), **Sergeant Jones** (R.C.T.), **Sergeant Miller** (Royal Signals), **Sergeant Moody** (Royal Signals).

As the party were minors an Officer-in-Charge Party was necessary and **Major J. B. Worts,** M.C., E.R.D., Queens, kindly consented to act as such.

Accommodation was arranged at 9th Signal Regiment by kind permission of **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon,** Royal Signals.

The object of the exercise was the study of marine life and marine archaeology in the Mediterranean, and to dive in conditions which differ immensely from the U.K. waters. The party were all up to B.S.A.C. standards before departure. 139 dives were carried out in depths ranging from 30 to 130 feet. A total of 88 hours was spent underwater.

The party flew from R.A.F. Brize Norton overnight and the first day in Cyprus was spent settling in and making a recce of dive-sites with **Lance-Corporal Moor** (9th Signal Regiment Sub-Aqua Club). Diving was carried out every day, most people making two dives.



[Photograph courtesy Major Worts, M.C., E.R.D.

SOME OF THE PARTY

Left to right: A/T Hagan; Norfield, Stewart, Lance-Corporal Moor (9th Signal Regiment) and Sergeant Greaves

Those who were not qualified for 3rd class made their qualifying dives and will now be examined this term. 3rd class divers obtained qualification for 2nd class standard. A night dive was made by all of the party.

Marine life was disappointing and the waters would appear to be "fished out" by the locals. Some evidence of pollution was found at all the dive sites resulting in weed growing in the detritus. We were told that it was too early in the year for any shells, but a few examples were found and are now being classified by the diving officer. Fish life consisted almost entirely of mullet-type fish but several rock cod or groupers, octopus and rays were seen. No Moray eels were sighted. Two wrecks that were charted were searched for unsuccessfully. All the apprentices were made to plan, under supervision, at least one dive.

A great many lessons were learnt from the expedition and experience was widened for all concerned.

Our thanks to the Sub-Aqua Club of 9th Signal Regiment for all their help. Our next trip is to the Isle of Skye.



[Photograph by Sergeant W. Semple, Royal Signals.

PERMANENT STAFF FOOTBALL TEAM—WINNERS OF ARMY MINOR UNITS CUP 1971

Back row, left to right: W.O.2 Bill Grierson, Corporal Bill Fuller (Q.L.R.), Sergeant Dave McGurk, Corporal "Nick" Knight, Sergeant John Groves, Sergeant "Tommy" Steele (R.E.M.E.), Sergeant Ted Appleby

Front row, left to right: Corporal Brian Kenyon (13/18H), Captain Ian Reading, Corporal Alan Barker, Colonel J. C. Clinch, Sergeant Jim Morris (A.P.T.C.), Corporal Bill McKay (R.C.T.), Staff-Sergeant "Tich" Akehurst



[Photo courtesy The Yorkshire Post, Leeds.

REPRESENTING THE WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AT HARROGATE

In front, left to right: A/T Corporal I. Cross, captain of Army Junior Hockey Cup team; A/T Lance-Corporal K. McKinney, captain of Apprentices' Hockey; A/T S.S.M. A. Hickling, captain of College Cycling; Colonel J. C. Clinch; Major A. D. Manger, P.W.O., captain of Staff Hockey; A/T Sergeant W. J. Anderson, captain of Basketball; A/T Sergeant R. D. Sinclair, captain of Badminton

In rear, left to right: A/T R. P. Dean, captain of Squash; Corporal A. Barker, captain of Staff Soccer; and A/T J. C. Travers, of the College Sub Aqua Club

1st. Division Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 32

THESE notes really are a summary of the winter sporting season and they tell of the tremendous success of the Regimental rugby and hockey teams.

The Regiment however has been kept very busy with the normal run of exercises and training, not to mention a very successful Anglo-German weekend.

Hockey—and it's good news

The 1970/71 season was undoubtedly the best ever, surpassing even that of 1969/70. One game only was lost against Army teams, that to 1 Cheshires in the B.A.O.R. Final.

The B.A.O.R. semi-final v. Command Pay Office was probably the longest on record. **Sergeant 'Rip' Monk** scored the winning goal after 3hrs. 35 mins.!

The Soltau Garrison League was convincingly won with nine wins and three draws. Goals for 34, against two.

The Divisional Cup stayed with us after an exciting final, in which **Sergeant Ted Banham** and **Corporal Eddie Mulvana** scored to beat a gallant 16/5 Lancers' team 2-1.

A clean sweep was made of the Sixes Competitions by the 'A' team, the 7th Brigade Shield and Division and B.A.O.R. cups all being collected by **Major John Swindells,** an industrious and popular team captain. The ever-faithful 'B team was never far behind, and often proved better in practice games.

In the B.A.O.R. Sixes **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Coburn** scored five times for the 'A' team, **Corporal Pete Slatter** a similar number for the 'B.'

Captain Ian Turner, in goal, missed only one full game throughout the season. But he was 'the best man' on the day.

Corporal Harry Kernohan, a stalwart centre-half, was called upon to represent B.A.O.R., along with a sadly missed **Corporal Mick Raybould,** who chose to go to Singapore. Ask to come back **Mick!**

Corps (B.A.O.R.) representatives were **Banham, Monk, Kernohan, Mulvana** and **Coburn.**

Signalman Doug Atter, so often an impatient bystander, was always there—offering advice to anyone who would listen, including Germans at the Bremen and Cuxhaven Festivals. The latter proved to be a Whitsun long to be remembered. **Captain (T.O.T.) Maurice Stock's** unprepared speech, to a massed audience of 600 Germans and 14 Britains, was said to have brought tears to the eyes. His! Oh, that P.A. kit.

To the non-Signals members of the team, **Captain Mike Kinsman, Staff Sergeant Ken Thrower, Sergeant Dave Cook** (all R.E.M.E.), **Corporal Dick Whittingham,** R.A.M.C., **Lance-Corporal Pete Bramley,** R.E., **W.O.1 (now Lieutenant) Peter Field,** R.A.O.C., and **Major David Eking,** R.M.P., we say: "Long may integration continue."

A thought for the umpires—**W.O.1 Denis Hines,** R.A.O.C., **Major John Hamer-Philip,** R.A.M.C., **Sergeants John Dew** and **Fred Davis,** Royal Signals, who all played a part and earned nothing but praise from opposing teams, if not from ourselves!

To the wives—thank you ladies. Same tolerance again next season please.

Now for the bad news

The Officers took on the might of the Sergeants' Mess and surprised themselves with a well-deserved 1-0 victory. **Captain (Tfc.) Roy Smithard** scored the winner. At full-back **Colonels Plowden** and **Jackson** (Colonels G.S. and A.Q. respectively) didn't put a stick wrong. They must be strong contenders for next season's Regimental team, given a little more experience.

Is this a record?

1969/70: Soltau Garrison League runners-up; 7th Brigade Sixes champions and 7th Brigade Sixes Plate winners; Divisional Sixes champions; Divisional champions; B.A.O.R. semi-finalists. **1970/71:** Soltau Garrison League champions; 7th Brigade Sixes champions and semi-finalists; Divisional champions; B.A.O.R. runners-up; B.A.O.R. Sixes champions and quarter-finalists. 115 medals—and never missed an exercise.

Rugby—and it's training that produces results

The season started in August with a few dedicated players training on an unmarked pitch. This set the tone, and was the secret of the team's unexpected success this year, i.e. training.

We had very few of the 'stars' left over from the 1969/70 season, but by dint of much bullying, blackmail and other devious means, players turned up for training five days a week!

And what a successful season we had! The overall season results are tabulated below, but we should mention that in getting to the B.A.O.R. final we had an unexpected extra game against 1 Glosters who joined the division from Ulster in mid-season.

Having won the Divisional Cup, it looked at one stage that we would be meeting 2nd Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment in the B.A.O.R. semi-final—this would have been a match worth watching! (What a pity this homeric contest did not take place. —Editor).

It seems grossly unfair to mention individuals in such a truly team game but much gratitude must go to **W.O.2 Ken Soar** and **Captain Alec Wright** who spent so much time, not only training us daily but playing such striking games to boot! Talking of boots, we were very fortunate in having **Sergeant Pete Vanstone** who kicked superbly all season and rescued us from many a tight spot.

The games against 1 Glosters and the B.A.O.R. semi-final against 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, R.A., were won on rock-hard, frozen pitches, causing many injuries that led to our one ignominous defeat of the season by the Welsh Guards in the B.A.O.R. final. With our complete, fit team we would have given them much more to think about.

Herewith the season's record (less B.A.O.R. final): Played 21, Won 17, Lost 4, Drawn 0, Points for 433, Points against 112.

The route to the B.A.O.R. final: v. Q.O.H., 16-0 (home); 3 R.T.R., 24-10 (away); 39 Msl. Regiment, R.A., 27-3 (away).

Division final: 26th Field Regiment, R.A., 3-0 (away); 1 Glosters, 13-6 (home); 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, R.A., 8-6 (home); Welsh Guards, 3-50 (at Bad Lippspringe).

Sevens: We also won the 1 Division Sevens competition and on to the B.A.O.R. competition rounded up a successful season by carrying off the plate.

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22



PRESENTATION

General Sir John Sharp presents Army Canoeing colours to Corporal Bingham. Watching: Lieutenant-Colonel Yeoman, Captain Cherry and Staff Sergeant Ridley

Visits

ON 5th April **General Sir John Sharp,** the Corps Commander, visited the Regiment. He inspected the Regiment prior to its move out on exercise. He very kindly presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Captain M. D. Cherry,** our T.O.T., and **Staff Sergeant R. Ridley.** He also presented **Corporal Bingham** and **Lance-Corporal Hebdon** with their Army Colours for canoeing. Of course **General Sharp** is no stranger to Birdwood Barracks as he used to command 2nd Division not so very long ago.

We were also pleased to receive a visit from **Colonel Masser,** Officer i/c Records, who gave us a splendid presentation on how things are going to look in the future.

Exercises

Since our last notes we have exercised on three regimental exercises, two divisional CPX and provided the control communications for Exercise 'Spring Sales. Exercise 'Spring Sales' went particularly well with hardly a single failure and only that for a very short time.

Sport

May was a particularly heavy month for sport with Regiment athletics, swimming and B.A.O.R. six-a-side hockey. A rather unexpected win in the Divisional six-a-side hockey put the team forward into the B.A.O.R. competition at Hameln on 22nd May; however very strong opposition knocked the team out early in the event. The side consisted of: **Major Gent, Captain Vigurs, Y. of S. Heyes, Corporal Kirkham, Sergeant Neilson, Staff Sergeant Ridley, Captain Chaddock, Corporal Thomas. Captain Gus Vigurs** played superbly in all the prelims and scored in every match.

The Regimental athletic meeting took place on 14th/15th May and after two days of closely contested events 1 Squadron emerged as Regimental champions for 1971. In the swimming gala organised by **Second-Lieutenant Tony Raper** 2 Squadron became holders of the Regimental trophy easily out-pointing the other Squadrons. On completion of the gala **Tony Raper** (fully dressed in S.D.) gave a demonstration of how swimming tests should be conducted (he is still trying to discover who pushed him in).



UP AND OVER

Corporal August clears over five foot in the unit sports

More new faces

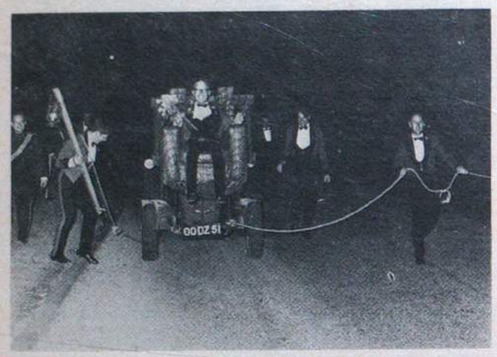
We say a sad farewell to our Paymaster **Captain David Price** who leaves the Army — we wish him well in civilian life. Farewell to **Captain Tom Laycock** who has gone to be Adjutant of 71st Signal Regiment (V) and **Captain Robin Ingram** who has gone to command a Squadron in 28th Signal Regiment.

The new faces are **Second-Lieutenant Chris Nind, Second-Lieutenant Carl Conlon, Captain Stan Stanley** and **Lieutenant Desmond Thomas;** we welcome them all—with open arms.

3rd Division Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

Arrivals and departures

THE Regiment bids farewell to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan** and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) G. E. Morrill** who are due to depart in June. Welcome to the new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs** and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. J. Judge.**



FAREWELL TO THE C.O.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan is towed away from the Officers' Mess after being dined out

Sergeants' Mess

Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan and **R.S.M. Ted Morrill** were dined out by the Sergeants Mess and credit must be given to **W.O.2 Jeff Baxter** (A.C.C.) and **Sergeant Ian Shanks** (A.C.C.) for preparing a first-class dinner.

A cabaret show was laid on but, this was delayed by car trouble. **W.O.1 'Yos' Ken French** and **Sergeant Ron Desanti** came to the assistance by singing and telling jokes which could not be repeated outside the Mess. At last the entertainers arrived and the show went on. To quote a phrase of one member, "Cor, what will the wife say when she finds out!" As for the show we leave it to your imagination but for those present no imagination was needed.

Notes from Alpha Troop (by Staff Sergeant Goodman)

'Staff,' said O.C. Troop, **Captain Andrew Briggs,** "I want a new sign for the office door."

"Yes Sir," says Staff, "and what would that be?"

"Alpha Rentadet" replies O.C. Troop.

Here's why. In the past six weeks detachments have been loaned to units for exercises 'moonlady,' 'sky warrior,' 'shooters hill,' 'third wield,' 'ten tors,' 'RMCS' and exercise 'ulysses.'

Just to make sure we weren't idle we also put all the vehicles, plant and radio equipment through its annual U.E.I., and in between moves in and out we managed to satisfy the Commanding Officer on his various inspections and obtain a good report on all tasks. Now you might say seven exercises in six weeks means they must have been short jobs. Don't you believe it, they all overlapped! Careful planning, (ha, ha), meant one lot left after breakfast and the other lot returned at tea-time so that they could wave to each other as they passed in opposite directions!

Three detachments were loaned to 24 Brigade for Exercise 'Moonlady' but **Corporal 'Twitch' Taylor, Lance-Corporal 'Bo' Bodimeade** and **Lance-Corporal 'Willy' Willimott** don't want to tell us about it. All we know, they went to Denmark, did some wading trials in their new mark eleven Land Rovers and cavorted all over Denmark. Must have been a little rough 'cos those Land Rovers were in a bit of a state on return to Carter Barracks.

Shooters Hill took many of the troop to Bonnie Scotland. Ten Tors, most of you know about, hikers galloping around the hills called tors on Dartmoor and Third Wield took place on good old Salisbury Plain. Just to round that little lot off we took the whole Division out on a major Stratco job to test our night vision by much moving in the darkness!! Well, that's all behind us now but we are still crying out for those long promised battery change-over switches. I'm sure the older members of the Corps VHF troop know what we mean. It's not nice carrying out physical battery changes in the middle of the battle!!

The Regiment has now formed its own recruiting team, the nucleus of which comes from Alpha Troop of course. What would they do without us? So far it has demonstrated its theme 'Royal Signals on exercise' in Norfolk, Bristol, Lyme Regis, Tiverton, and is due to appear throughout the West Country on over forty separate occasions in the next two months. So, if you too have manpower problems, 'get out and get 'em in.' TThe team is headed by **Staff Sergeant Goodman** and very ably supported by **Lance-Corporal** 'when do I get my second' **Tharme, Corporal McNamara** and **Signalman 'Tubby' Heal.** The best ED in the business, **Lance-Corporal 'Glasses' Roach,** provides the light and power and produces a layout which well rivals Corps H.Q. in the field. The remainder of the team has to be provided on an availability basis between exercises from the other squadron and troops in the Regiment.

We are now preparing for an exercise in Cyprus and also hope to exercise on Lundy Island. We all know where Lundy lays? It's off the north Devon coast and has slight military connections in that the late owner's son, **Lance-Corporal Harman** of the R.G.J., was awarded a posthumous V.C. whilst serving in Korea.

Helloes and goodbyes

Sergeant Geoff Shergold stayed long enough to get a new troop off the ground but has now gone on attachment to 12 LAD Regiment R.A. **Lance-Corporal 'Chatty' Hunter** has left to run a pub but won't tell us where!! **Signalman Miller** departed smartly for BAOR—you left your socks in the drying room. **Lance-Corporal 'Slurp' Simister** and **Signalman 'Stroll Along' Scarll** have gone hovercrafting. **Lance-Corporal Aitken** got fed up commuting between home and here and has decided to go home for good. Division Command will never be the same without you **'Aikey.'**

We welcome **Corporal Hall,** gone on course already! **Corporal Fenwick** from 'Alpha' Troop, 7th Signal Regiment, **Signalmen Grant** and **Hall** from Harrogate and **Signalmen Pain** and **Smith** from farming and shop-keeping.

Now we look forward to trade training, revision and some internal courses with peculiar sounding names like inf. tac., nbc fam., hel thand., gpmg trg. More about that next month. . . .

7th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 15

Arrivals and departures

DURING May we said goodbye to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) M. E. Wilson** who left the regiment on commissioning and posting to 21st Signal Regiment. Congratulations **Mr. Wilson** and many thanks for all that you did for 7th Regiment. We extend a warm welcome to our new R.S.M., **W.O.1 E. T. A. Webster,** who joins us from 19 Airportable Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

We have also said farewell to **Captain C. D. Melhuish** and **Lieutenant I. R. Wilson,** both posted to 8th Signal Regiment. In turn we welcome into the Regiment **Lieutenant O. M. Lewis, Lieutenant V. G. Strivens, Second-Lieutenant R. M. J. Hussey** and **Second-Lieutenant P. R. Rossiter.**

Officers' Mess

Our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Reg King,** was duly dined into the Mess on 25th. The evening was a great success though the 'male voice choir' put up a very poor performance. Perhaps this was due to the Padre **Bernard Hale** opting to complete a bridge four instead of leading the choir. A splendid bronze, rough cast 'Blue Tailed Flea" was presented to the Mess by the Colonel and we were all amused and edified to learn of the remarkable similarity between 'the flea, the Commanding Officer and the largest Regiment in the Corps.' It's quite a story—when next you visit us do ask; it only takes 20 minutes to tell and, unlike the flea, the sting is in the tail!

Golf

Spring meetings have been taking place in glorious sunshine. **Captains Alan Spurgin, Noel Clark** and **'Paddy' Ford** and **Major Mike Hales** form the Regimental team at present. **Captain Peter Cronan,** R.E.M.E., has gone into strict training and it is believed there are other dark horses about. Successes so far are:

B.A.O.R. Signals Regimental Foursomes won by **Major Mike Hales** and **Captain 'Paddy' Ford.** 4th Division Individual Handicap won by **Captain Noel Clark.** 4th Division Stableford Foursomes, **Captains Noel Clark** and **Alan Spurgin** were third.

Cricket

Our start to the cricket season was far from successful. In the first match we were soundly beaten by 2 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment at Lubecke. 2 Division batted first after we had lost the toss, and scored 212 runs for four wickets, their opening partnership putting on over 100 runs.

Once again the cry was heard that if you want to win matches you must hold your catches. Regrettably we dropped three good chances and were never really able to contain the aggressive 2 Division batsmen. When we batted things looked good for a while when **Corporal Lawrence** was in full cry, but having scored 48 runs he was out lbw. Thereafter our batting collapsed and we were all out for 104. Since then we have defeated 4 Armoured Workshop, R.E.M.E., by 209-6 to 96 and in the first round of the 4 Division Cup we defeated 4/7 D.G. by 105-9 to 40.

Rugby

On Sunday, 25th April, the first of this season's seven-a-side rugby competitions took place at Rhinedahlen. On a day when it would have been more appropriate to turn out for 15-a-side, with overcast skies and a chill east wind blowing, a large crowd turned out at the H.Q. B.A.O.R. ground in Rhinedahlen to see eight of the best sevens teams in B.A.O.R. compete for the Rhinedahlen Rhinos presentation cup. It was an invitation event and teams attending were R.A.F. Bruggen, R.A.F. Wildenrath, R.A.F. Laarbruck, the Rhinos, Dusseldorf Dragons, 1 R.R.W., 7th Signal Regiment and a German team, S.C. Hurth. It was a hard-fought competition, and in the final this Regiment was once again runners-up to the Royal Regiment of Wales, losing 6-5 in a very hard-fought, intelligent game.

Tradition has it that the local rugby season closes each year with the B.A.O.R. seven-a-side competition. This year was no exception and 7th Signal Regiment finished off the 1970-71 season with mixed success.

On Saturday, 8th May, our 'A' Seven met Q.R.I.H. 'A' team in the final of the 4th Divisional competition. This was a very close game but we were eventually successful by 11 points to 8 to win this competition for the fifth year in succession.

One week later the B.A.O.R. competition took place at Osnabruck. This competition was run on a world cup basis, i.e. a league system followed by a knock-out competition. In our final league game our team were somewhat surprisingly beaten by 3 R.T.R. Fitness played a great part in this defeat as **Second-Lieutenant Malcolm Sinton** was injured before this game and **Signalman Pat Lee** was still suffering from a kick on the head received in the final of the 4 Div. competition the previous week. This defeat meant that in the first match of the knock-out competition we met once again the R.R.W. What a game it was! **Pat Lee,** showing no signs of his injury, **Dave Higgins** and **Ian Wilson** were the forwards and played superbly. For nine minutes they denied the Welsh the ball entirely and then when **Allan James** scored a try in the corner, success seemed near. The Welsh, in typical style, rallied and once again we were beaten by nine points to three. The R.R.W. were eventual winners of the competition when they beat the Cheshires in extra time of the final. After the competition our team were entertained in true gallic tradition by the R.R.W. (**Pat Lee** now keeps goal for his Squadron soccer team in a Welsh jersey). **Captain Chris Melhuish** and **Lieutenant Ian Wilson** have now left us and the rugby club wishes them both the best of rugby in Catterick.

For the 1970-71 season, Regimental Rugby Colours have been awarded to the following:

Re-award: **Captain Chris Melhuish, Sergeant Bert Taylor, Lance-Corporal Allan James, Lance-Corporal Joe Cagilaba, Signalman Pat Lee.**

New awards: **Lieutenant Ian Wilson, Lieutenant Roger Whitehead, Second-Lieutenant Malcolm Sinton, F. of S. George Hall, F. of S. Barry Hassall, Lance-Corporal Sam Mosedale, Corporal Trevor Johnson, Lance-Corporal Isaac Linton, Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins, Lance-Corporal Gordon Bennett.**

Chris Melhuish, Ian Wilson, Pat Lee and **Dave Higgins** have all played for B.A.O.R. this season and **Pat Lee** was selected for the B.A.O.R. combned services' team to play the touring Public Schools' XV.

Congratulations to **Captain Chris Melhuish, Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins, Lance-Corporal Allan James** and **Signalman Pat Lee** on their award of Corps Rugby Colours.

Motor cycling

In preparation for the Rhine Area Championships our trials riders have entered into direct competition against civilian experts. Our latest venture was to enter a team in the vigorous 'Wusten Invitation Trial.' Wusten, a village some 10km. from Herford, was a dusty, roaring, centre of attraction to visiting 'Aces' from far and wide. Our team, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Vaughan Rayner, Sergeant Vic Jinks** and **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Donovan** tackled the 30 craggy hazards with determination, **Sergeant Jinks** battled his way into second place against fierce opposition. The engraved marble plaque which was presented to him and the warm, gritty bottle of beer which we all drank afterwards, made the event very rewarding.

Stamp Club

The club is currently organising its first postal auction following many successful floor auctions. In production is our first commemorative first-day cover of 1971 which promises to be the best so far. It may be of interest to mention that we design, print and issue our own first-day covers. We believe we are the only British Forces stamp club to do this for every new British Commemorative Issue. We also believe, apart from producing a high quality, artistic, philatelic, Forces' item, that they have a very good investment potential, not least because we have always limited our issue to 400. (There are still a few to spare). No profit-making firm could make it worthwhile to produce so few.

Finally, if you need advice or help in the stamp world, drop the secretary a line; we may be able to help.

Departure of a well-known personality

Mrs. Christel Sims, our civilian clerk for 13 years, retired on 31st March. On the day of her retirement she was given a farewell present by the Commanding Officer as a token of our appreciation for all she has done for the Regiment.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Signalman Eric Micklethwaite on Wednesday, 7th April, 1971.

(Owing to space restrictions with much regret Squadron notes have had to be cut out.—Editor).

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Home —79p each plus 8p post
Abroad—70p each plus 8p post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals £1.50
Pace Sticks ... ...

ERNEST GOODRICH
Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites
44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY

Specialist Teleprinter Operators

are required for the

Ministry of Defence Communications Centre in Central London

Initially, the operators will be employed upon teleprinting and associated procedures, but they will be given the opportunity of training for higher grade duties when the Communications Centre becomes fully automatic.

Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum speed of 40 words per minute, and having a good knowledge of current communication procedures.

Basic starting pay, at age 25 or over, will be £24·92 per week rising to £29·52 per week, inclusive of London Weighting. Successful candidates will currently be required to work shifts and overtime, which on average, attracts a further £5·00 per week. There are opportunities of promotion to almost £1,800 per annum basic pay.

If you would like further details, and are of British nationality, telephone 01-242 0222 ext. 563, or write to:

CM(S)3H, Ministry of Defence, Room 802, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8RY.

8th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Visit of C.G.S.

ON 28th May, **General Sir Michael Carver** paid a quick visit to the new Trade Training School building. The C.G.S. was conducted round the building by the Commanding Officer, **Colonel W. A. Sykes,** and the O.C. Trade Training School, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman.** [A short article on the Trade Training School appears on page 262].

Course Report—Ski-ing

A member of the Regiment went on a basic ski-ing course at the beginning of the month. With his permission, we reproduce below his course report:

". . . 'X' . . . gave the impression he was 'hell bent' on self-destruction. His preference was to ski out of control as quickly as possible and pay no attention to technique or control. He will either make the 1972 Olympic Squad or kill himself."

Further good news for Linemen

Although the results of the first Class I Course to sit the City and Guilds of London Institute assessed examinations in Line Plant Practice and Elementary Telecoms Practice have not been announced officially, we have been told by the Institute that they are extremely good and will include at least two Distinctions.

REPORT FROM 3 SQUADRON

3 Squadron of 8th Signal Regiment, known intimately to all telegraph operators and radio operators in the Corps, provides the notes for this month's article in THE WIRE.

For those of you who have served in the Squadron in the past, we send greetings and let you know we are still going strong—at least for the time being. The last six months have seen numerous changes in accommodation and training areas, and there are more to come. The Squadron is still living in Gaza Lines, but will shortly move to Trade Training School—now almost completed. We look forward with high hopes to the occupation of the building and to its obvious benefits and overall improvements—perhaps even more (but unfortunately well into the future) the completion of the Vimy Project.

One of the changes which the Squadron has undergone has been the retirement of long-serving **Captain Ron Oliver** on 4th April—and it goes without saying that we miss him and wish him once again well in his new habitat.

One or two highlights in our calendar included the involvement of Squadron personnel in Exercise 'Bonnie Scotland,' which took place from 3rd to 8th April, in the Highlands, under the command of **Lieutenant Anthony Vaigncourt-Strallen** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Jack Wraith.** A number of Schemes Troop vehicles were used, and crewed by cadre and trainees of the Squadron, and took place at Culty Braggen —the exercise forms part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and involved hikes across 60 miles of highlands—check-points being provided by our personnel. Without blowing our own trumpet—we feel justifiably proud of the success of the enterprise.

Schemes Troop

Apart from many exercises which are part of the training syllabus, the Troop is involved in other tasks, one highlight of which was providing communications for the Fellsmans' Hike in early May. Many of the Corps will be familiar with the name and remember, perhaps with pain, that it consists of trekking over 50 miles of some of the most rugged country in Wensleydale. Hikers pass through the various checkpoints sited on mountain-tops, manned by Squadron personnel. The exercise starts at Ingleton and ends at Threshfield Grassington. It seems that the checkpoints were located by someone with a sense of humour and were barely accessible on foot, let alone getting our vehicles and equipment into the right positions.

But, undaunted, our hardy veterans filled the bill. Communications included the establishing of four comcens, linked by radio relay, each comcen being fed by two C42 Land Rover detachments, located at the CP adjacent to the comcen. Hardly 'standard' organisation, but nevertheless it worked extremely well—100 per cent, thanks to **F. of S. Ted Chambers,** ably assisted by **Sergeants Mick French** and **Mick South.** Other members of the team included **Corporals Paul Nason, Barry Ellershaw, Bill Broadbery** and **Bert Shaw.** The exercise lasted over 24 hours and during this time over 900 messages were passed through the checkpoint to the exchange control under the eagle eye of **Y. of S. Jack Wraith.**

Commcen operators from 4 Squadron and, of course, our own telegraph operators manfully struggled to keep up the frantic pace. Two more trouble shooters, **Sergeants Harry Beresford** and **Stan Vannan,** worked non-stop at the Threshfield Grassington Commcen to keep things moving.

Our thanks to **Corporal Brian Christian** and his hard-working linemen for maintaining the tradition of the Corps.

It would be most improper to close this section without mentioning that during this exercise **Captain Trevor Hendren** was on razor's edge awaiting a communication of his own from Catterick to let him know he was a Daddy. However, nothing happened, but we are pleased to report that he is now the very proud father of twin girls—well done the **Hendrens.**

Our sporting scene

With pride (and under much pressure from **Captain Jim Esson,** Regimental Soccer Officer) we have to mention soccer. Our Regimental 1st XI have had a fairly successful season since the amalgamation. However, we are concerned with our Squadron individuals, namely **Signalman Billy Malone** and **Paddy Cardwell,** both of whom are now serving with the Para Signals Squadron in Aldershot, along with another old member of the team **Ian Campbell,** who, during his stay with the Squadron, played in the first team. We should mention here, perhaps, that we are still waiting the transfer fee from 216!

UK or European posting?

Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

*** Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem**

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.

Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W7

Name ..... *Rank* .....

Present Address .....

Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*

Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*

Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS

10th Signal Regiment
Hounslow

Regimental playing of Retreat and band concert

THE sun really did well to shine so splendidly for the Annual Regimental Playing of Retreat on Thursday, 13th May. The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals looked resplendent in their pre 1939-45 war full dress uniforms and gave a performance which many spectators said was the best they have heard for some time. Even the eternal aeroplanes of Hounslow did their best not to interfere too much. The parties which followed all went well. The officers had their Annual Cocktail Party, the W.O.s and Sergeants' Club had an excellent running buffet as did the Corporals and members of the Bruno Club. They had their first function in the newly-decorated Corporals' Room, which looked well for the occasion. Rumour has it that the R.S.M., **W.O.1. Postlethwaite,** has included six foot cypress trees as indoor plant decoration for his office, or is this just wild ideas after very good parties?

On Friday, 14th May the Band gave a Concert which was full of interesting and varied music. So ended the two Regimental Days which, as was planned, were enjoyed by everyone.

Loud and clear

The P.A. team of London District S.W.S. Troop have been so busy recently that the wife of **Sergeant John Phillips** has accused her husband of being a 'stranger.' **Sergeant Phillips,** together with **Corporal Des Coulam, Corporal Phredd Curtis** and **Mr. Cliff Bird,** M.E. (Tels.), are always on the move. During May and June they have covered events in the Regiment, the R.A. At Home in Woolwich and have joined Salisbury Plain S.W.S. Troop in providing P.A. for the Horse Trials and Tattoo at Tidworth.

The whole troop will be involved in the Aldershot Army Display and the Bisley Rifle Meeting. The programme is exhausting but often enjoyable, particularly when it includes the opening of a pub like 'The Gurkha' when the team becomes 'involved' in the celebration.

Corporal Des Coulam has been with the team for some time and has become a P.A. addict. He helps with the recordings of most events which take place. As a job he thinks the P.A. team is hard to beat!

Cricket

The cricket season has got away with a swing under the watchful eye of **Major Jack Harding.** The Regiment lost their match against the Lifeguards by a narrow margin in a very exciting game played at Hounslow. The Lifeguards won in the next to last over with two wickets to spare. The following two matches were successful with **Sergeant Alan Munroe** and **Mr. Lou Carter** both scoring their first half centuries of the season against the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall.

A cool swim in the Thames!

The Regimental 1st Rafting VI raced in the Wraysbury Fair on 5th June. The team comprised **'Bif' Bailey, Brian Humphreys** and **Colin Hadden** and Workers, **'Legs' Dalton, Jock McGratton** and **Phil Hudson.** The efforts of the starter to get 10 rafts in line were completely abortive and, in fact, the Regimental Raft was some 100 yards downstream, downwind but not downhearted at the start. A determined 'military' effort brought the raft up to third place pipped by B.O.A.C. and a curious sort of 'pop' group. Subsequent effects are best unrecorded.

People patter

1 and 2 Squadrons of the Regiment are just losing their S.S.M.s; **W.O.2 John Taylor** is posted on promotion to R.S.M. to 71 Signal Regiment and **W.O.2 Roy Blease** is finishing 22 years' service with the Corps.

In their stead we welcome **W.O.2 'Paddy' Magowan** to 1 Squadron and **W.O.2 Reg Heath,** who is just getting over the suspense of finding that part of his Squadron are members of the W.R.A.C.

Captain Peter Walls of 2 Squadron has also just retired after 28 years' service and we wish him all the best for the future. His replacement is **Lieutenant 'Dougy' Rumsey.**

2 Squadron are feeling the effects of a lovely Spring in the recent announcement of the engagement of **Private Susan Rogers** to **Corporal Peter Marsh,** a musician at Kneller Hall. Also this month **Lance-Corporal 'Dougal' Duguid** has left the W.R.A.C. at the end of her engagement to marry **Signalman Mike Baird** of the Squadron. She will then become one of the civilian operators in the Regiment as **Mrs. Baird.** We wish them both all the best for the future.

News of the other Squadrons is quiet at present with 3 Squadron Aldershot preparing for Exercise 'New Envoy,' the Aldershot Army Display and 4 Squadron Salisbury just quietly working hard! We just mention as a Stop Press item that **Lance-Corporal Jackie Smith,** W.R.A.C., is doing very well in the Army Parachuting Championships — a sport at which she shows a natural aptitude.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during April, 1971:

Officer Commanding 18th Signal Regiment	£300.00
Officer Commanding 255 Signal Squadron	29.78
Officer Commanding 10th Signal Regiment	5.00
Officer Commanding 83 (L.) Signal Squadron (V)	2.00
Hon. Secretary, Shrewsbury Branch, Royal Signals Association	45.00
Hon. Secretary, Glossop and District O.C.A.	21.00
Hon. Secretary, Bristol Branch, Royal Signals Association	5.00
Hon. Treasurer, St. Barbara's Church, Munster	22.81
H. R. W. Marsh, Esq.	10.00
J. B. Franklyn, Esq.	5.00
Colonel A. J. G. McNair (in memory of the late Brigadier L. C. C. Harrison, M.C.)	2.00
Major The Rt. Hon. The Earl Kitchener, T.D.	2.00
Major (Tfc.) F. W. Natolie	1.05
G. D. Adamson, Esq.	1.05
J. T. Dwyer, Esq.	1.00
M. E. Menzies, Esq.	1.00
Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. L. Speight, D.S.O.	1.00
J. G. Hopkins, Esq.	1.00
H. Fyske, Esq.	1.00
Captain G. W. Ogden	.65
R. A. Briggs, Esq.	.53
E. P. Piers, Esq.	.53
A. H. Campbell, Esq.	.53
J. B. Williams, Esq.	.50
A. Davies, Esq.	.50
J. N. B. Penny, Esq.	.50
R. E. Pickford, Esq.	.50
J. F. Timmings, Esq.	.50
H. M. Kirkaldy, Esq.	.50
G. Cawthorn, Esq.	.50
R. M. A. Jones, Esq.	.50
I. Prockter, Esq.	.50
Various small donations	.97
	£464.40

The following donations were gratefully received during May, 1971:

Officer Commanding 19th Signal Regiment	£200.00
Bath and District Branch, Royal Signals Association	5.25
G. H. Dodd, Esq.	10.00
Lientenant-Colonel R. V. Lester	.75
L. J. Jennings, Esq.	.75
J. O. Buchanan, Esq.	.50
Various small donations	.90
	£218.15

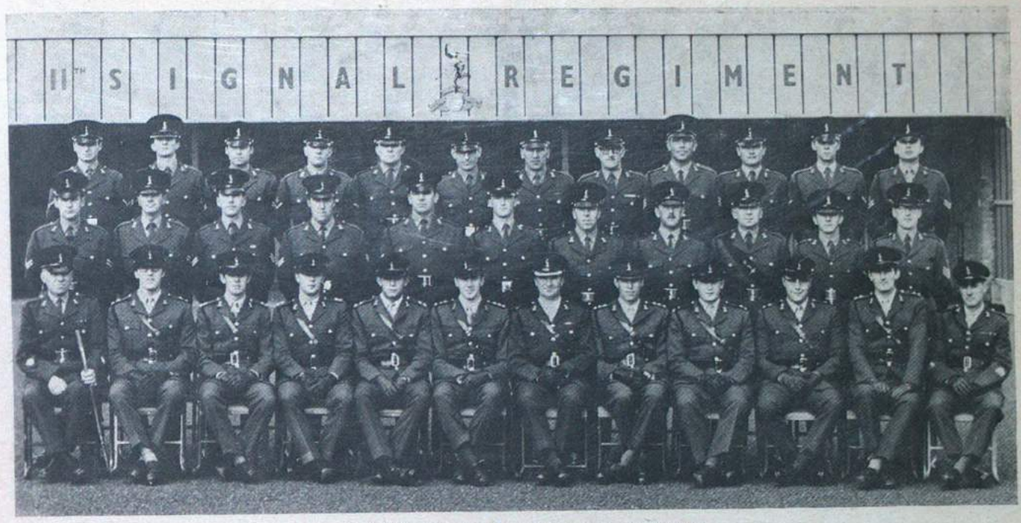
71—56=25!

We are grateful to the many friends who have pointed out the arithmetical mistake on page 226 of the June/July WIRE whereby we pictured two old friends dining together again after a lapse of years. Promotion is not so slow after all!

CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required

by the WELFARE SECTION



I SQUADRON CADRE, 11th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Back row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Kirkham, Corporal Harper, Corporal Buffery, Lance-Corporal Hamson, Sergeant Lindsay, Sergeant Porteous, Sergeant Davidson, Sergeant Lynch, Sergeant Smith, Sergeant Bonnett, Lance-Corporal Hucker, Corporal Roberts

Centre row, left to right: Corporal Hails, Corporal Salter, Corporal Smith, Corporal Ballantyne, Sergeant Nicholls, Lance-Corporal Scott, Corporal Peel, Sergeant Bailey, Sergeant Tuplin, Lance-Corporal Rodgers, Sergeant Davies

Front row, left to right: W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Harding, Lieutenant Sanders, Lieutenant Fish, Lieutenant Gordon, Lieutenant Morgan, Captain Young, Major Simmons, Captain Browne, Lieutenant Fairley, Lieutenant Cross, Lieutenant Bowles, W.O.1 Laing

Detached on duty: Lieutenant Kimber, Lieutenant Enright, Lieutenant Galpin, Sergeant Crowhurst, Sergeant Urry, Corporal Fulton, Corporal Churchward, Corporal Dool, Corporal Hackett, Corporal Kenyon, Lance-Corporal Alexander, Lance-Corporal Baxter

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Visit of the C.G.S., General Sir Michael Carver, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.

ON the day before we 'stood down' for the Whitsun break, the Regiment had the honour of being visited by the new Chief of the General Staff—probably one of his first visits to a training unit since he took over his appointment.

Dispelling all fears about the need for a wet weather programme, the sun was shining brightly as **General Carver,** accompanied by the Brigade Commander, stepped out of his car to meet the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood; Major D. M. Humphries,** Second-in-Command; **Captain M. K. Carson,** the Adjutant, and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. R. Markham.** The General then moved to the parade square, where he was introduced to **Major R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.,** O.C. 1 Squadron, and **Lieutenant G. S. Gordon,** whose Troop, at the time, in its first week of training, was drilling on the square. The C.G.S. met and spoke to many of the recruits and to the Troop Sergeant, **Sergeant R. Lynch.**

The C.G.S. then met **Major S. Wood,** the Officer Commanding the Instructional Wing; **Staff Sergeant G. French** who is in charge of the current RSSSC; and **Captain T. H. English** (Royal Anglian) who is our infantry adviser.

From there the party moved to the confidence area and the 30 metre range, where recruits in their third week of training, were taking part in combat training. Once again, the General met and spoke to many of the recruits, as well as the Troop Commander, **Lieutenant R. J. Sanders.**

Unfortunately, however, we had run out of time, and at this stage, **General Carver** and his party had to move on to other commitments.



C.G.S. VISITS

General Sir Michael Carver has a word with Staff Sergeant Gerry French. In the background Lieutenant-Colonel Freddie Lockwood

Freedom of Richmond Parade

On Saturday, 25th May, the Corps exercised its right to march through Richmond with swords drawn, bayonets fixed and drums beating. The salute was taken by the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E.,** and the parade formed part of the Richmondshire Festival and 900th Anniversary Celebrations.

The parade, led by the Corps Band, consisted of: Parade

Commander, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood;** Parade Adjutant, **Captain J. C. Young;** Parade R.S.M., **W.O.I J. R. Markham,** followed by a Squadron from 11th Regiment and two Squadrons from 8th Regiment.

Warm and sunny weather brought out large crowds and helped dispel the memories of damper march-pasts of previous years. There were no hitches, and the parade marched through the streets, past the saluting base, in the main square, and quietly dispersed. Following this, the Corps Band played Retreat in the grounds of the Castle to mark to official opening of the festival, and again attracted large crowds. The participants then withdrew to the Mayor's parlour, where a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

Northern Command Triathlon

A team from Potential Officer Troop won the Northern Command Triathlon. Eight teams competed, including teams from 8th Signal Regiment and Q.D.G. Our competiors were apprehensive at first of the preponderance of P.T.I.s in the other teams, but training and team effort paid off. The 'A' team came first, and were well supported by the 'B' and 'C' teams, who robbed our opponents of many valuable place points. The winning team was: **Signalman Ibbotson** (fastest time for the cross-country); **Signalman Chipperfield** (best individual shot); **Signalman Kennedy** (second fastest time, swimming).

Golf—Signalman C. S. Carveth

After a poor start to the year in the Northern Command spring meeting, and also not qualifying for the last 16 at the Army Championships, **Signalman Carveth's** golf has continued with the success of 1970.

With a gross 74 at the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, netting 39½ points (Stableford) and with 32 points at the Royal St. George's Golf Club, he took the Army Golfing Society Second Division Championship by one point.

Going on to the Cornwall County Championships (**Carveth's** home county) on the second day, returning a gross 68 (par 69) he finished in second place in the Cornwall Handicap Challenge Bowl. On the third day, he returned a gross 71, followed in the afternoon by a 69 to head the qualifiers for the match-play by four shots. With this return he also took the Sanderson Handicap Challenge Bowl by one shot. He was later knocked out of the match-play by the eventual winner in the quarter-finals. To crown a great week, he was selected to play for his county in the South Western Counties Championship Meeting in June.

On returning to Catterick, he played in the Royal Signals Spring Meeting and on the first day he returned rounds of 74 and 79 to win the Royal Signals Open Championship Cup and the Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup. The second day of this meeting started with a bang, with **Carveth** returning a gross 68, netting 43 points. This, in spite of failing to score at the 9th hole, where he hit his tee shot out of bounds and took SIX. This score won him the Royal Signals Handicap Stableford Bogey Challenge Cup. In the afternoon, with partner **Sergeant Miller,** of 8th Signal Regiment, they finished runners-up in the Royal Signals Foursomes Cup, losing it by the odd point, so just missing a clean sweep of all four trophies.

Cadre changes

Lieutenant Dick Sanders has joined 1 Squadron and has taken over as commander of 3 Troop.

1 SQUADRON

It is a number of years since a photograph of 1 Squadron Cadre appeared in THE WIRE, so to update our readers, see previous page.

At the moment, the Squadron is training approximately 400 recruits, and the team is kept very busy. The Squadron runs two of its own adventure training centres for recruits who are awaiting trade training. For this reason, there are a number of absentees from the photograph.

2 SQUADRON (DEPOT)

A face-lift

The Depot Squadron, at Hooge and Menin Lines, has at last found favour with DOE and is having a well-earned face lift. We still have the spiders for accommodation, but future transitees will find them warmer and tidier—North Sea gas boilers are now being installed; coke boilers and tips of coke and ashes are banished for ever.

A change of command

Major Dickie Bird has just left us and takes with him the Garrison Sailing Club and **Sergeant C. Davidson,** his bosun. Boats and trailers used to be seen everywhere. Our parade square, freshly tarmaced, was the boatyard; now we have phosphorescent car parking lines and hundreds of resettlement students' cars all over it. Don't worry, **Sergeant-Major Boyle** still finds space for parades and inspections! Our new O.C., **Major Pat Thomas,** is still adjusting to the Catterick climate (cold) before plunging the Squadron into another outdoor activity.

Squadron social

The Squadron social was recently held at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess, and great credit is due to the committee of **Sergeant Peter Musgrave, Lance-Corporal Graham Hedges** and **Sergeant Ted Holman, A.C.C.,** for the first-class evening and splendid buffet. Our guests included **Major Dickie Bird** and his wife, **Margaret, Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood** and **W.O.I J. R. Markham. Major Bird** was presented with an ornamental blunderbuss—the nearest thing we could find to a sailing starting gun.

A television appearance

Many soldiers pass through and leave the Army from the Depot. **Signalman** (now Mr.) **William Christopher Macklin** was one, but he, a keen Hull City supporter, whilst on recent leave, helped British Rail Transport Police arrest and gain a conviction on a football special damaged by vandals. They were so grateful they asked if they could present him with a £10 cheque. **Mr. L. H. Bradley,** Area Commander, Transport Police, made the presentation to **Signalman Macklin,** who was leaving the Army that day, in the Squadron J.R.C., surrounded by clicking and whirring cameras of the Press and T.V. Those that stayed up late enough that evening eventually saw themselves on 'the box'—the Sergeant-Major was even seen smiling!

OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

Why not contact

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

THE Specialist Employment Bureau for Telex, Teleprinter and Telephone Operators where you are assured of a welcome and free advice and guidance on career prospects in the commercial world.

THE THREE TEES TRAINING SCHOOL has the full range of Telex and Teleprinter machines and Commercial Telephone Boards and offers free tuition to those seeking employment, both Permanent and Temporary.

Call, write or phone:

110 Fleet St., London, E.C.4. (01-353 3611)

124 Regent St., London, W.1. (01-734 0365)

20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)



THE WARRANT OFFICERS—13th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Back row, left to right: W.O.2 P. Goonan, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) D. Connell, W.O.2 D. M. Easton, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) A. J. Orrell, W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) F. Laverick, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. Morrison

Middle row, left to right: W.O.2 (Sup. R.) B. J. Stoddard, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) J. F. Jones, W.O.2 P. G. Merritt, W.O.2 P. Collins, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) M. Kennington, W.O.2 (Sup. R.) T. B. Cooper

Front row, left to right: W.O.2 A. Maskens-McIntyre, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. R. Foster, W.O.1 J. Makepeace, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) E. S. Filder, W.O.1 (F. of S.) H. J. Saxton, W.O.1 (Sup. R.) E. H. Cooper, W.O.2 (Sup. R.) R. G. Ross

13th Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 40

Regimental Weekend

AS our regular readers will know, our Regimental Weekend took place over 29th-31st May. At the time of writing, the photographs of the event are not yet to hand, so we will content ourselves with a brief description this month. (Perhaps the Editor will allow us a little more space next month). **Mr. Derek Nimmo** opened the fete and the swimming pool, both in an impressive manner! He, his wife and three-year-old son, Piers, spent almost the entire weekend with us, and met a great many members of the Regiment. We were all delighted to have such a charming family as our guests. The weather was fine throughout and all the sporting activities took place in bright sunshine. The six-a-side hockey was won by the H.Q. 'B' team: **Captain Niel Turfitt,** R.A.M.C., **Sergeant Mick Taylor, Sergeant George Hedge, Corporal 'Dev' Devereux, Corporal Mick Codd, Corporal Tom Marshall,** whilst 1 Squadron 'A' team, captained by **W.O.1 Ernie Cooper,** won the Regimental Athletics. There were four Regimental records set up during the meeting. Finally, as expected, the beer festival was a great success, and obviously did not affect the prowess of the athletes!

A Social Event?

On Thursday, 13th May, a 'Yard of Ale' competition was held in the J.R.C. Several notable beer drinkers entered, and times of 12, 11 and 10 seconds were commonplace. Then up stepped **Corporal Jock Irving,** our R.E.M.E. Metalsmith, who downed 'the yard' in six seconds flat, and then looked round for something to quench his thirst! The remaining competitors decided to undergo stringent training before attempting to emulate this feat.

Seven-a-Side Rugby

The 5th of May saw two teams from the Regiment playing in the Rhine Area Sevens. The 'B' Team, captained by **Sergeant Liddell,** became runners-up in the Plate Competition, whilst the 'A' Team were unlucky to lose **Captain Byrom,** with a shoulder injury, early in the second round game against 16th Signal Regiment. This match went to extra time when **Corporal Kirk's** fine 70-yard dash put us through to the semi-final. Being unable to field reserves we had to play 22 Lt. AD Regt., R.A. (the eventual winners) with only six men. Despite skipper **Corporal Devereux's** example and encouragement, we lost, but were happy to know we could go to Osnabruck for the B.A.O.R. Sevens on 15th May (another week's training!).

The 15th saw us drawn with 45 Squadron, R.E., 1 R.R.W. and Q.R.I.H. in the league section of the B.A.O.R. Competition. Injury struck yet again, when **Corporal Marshall** sprained an ankle and was a passenger for most of the first game. This time we were able to bring in **Signalman Reardon** to make up the number, and we finished second to 1 R.R.W. in our league. This put us into the quarter-finals of the cup, where we were beaten by 1 R.T.R., despite fine efforts by **Corporals Cook** and **Halliday.**

Two excellent days of rugby left us thirsting for more, so roll on next season, when we hope to do better.

Six-a-Side Hockey

The Regiment did well in the Rhine Area Six-a-Side competition, only just losing to the eventual winners (17 B.V.D.) in the semi-final. Unfortunately, the team did not 'click' in the B.A.O.R. competition, but nevertheless enjoyed the occasion. The Regiment were represented in the latter by **W.O.1 Ernie Cooper, Sergeant 'Nobby' Clark, Corporals**

Fred Irvine, Chris Martin, Bob Symonds, Lance-Corporal 'Lucy' Luckett and **Signalman Dave Hooper.** We fancy that the argument of kicking back v. goalkeeper will still be with us next season!

The Mercury Bowmen

They've made it! The Bowmen have beaten their first Dutch club! Following one of their other matches, a Dutch newspaper reported:

"Bij hen werd de koningstitel met 222 punten behaald door Reil Retallick, 2. John Groutthard 216 pnt. 3. B Phippard 213 ptn. 4. Jim Crow 154 ptn. 5. Mick Jonos 129ptn. 6. Rag Austin 121 ptn. 7. Mc. G. Hee 107 ptn."

In case you are wondering who some of the archers were on this occasioin, they were:

Signalman Rick Retallick, Private John Coulthard, Staff Sergeant Bob Phippard, Corporal Jim Crow, Corporal Mick Jones, Corporal Ray Austin and **Corporal Sandy McGhee!**

Sergeants' Mess

On Friday, 7th May, we said farewell to **W.O.1 Joe Makepeace,** Intelligence Corps, in the traditional manner by dining him out. This night/morning can only be described as memorable. At the dinner the President of the Mess, **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Eric Filder,** presented him with a sword. In the early hours he was escorted to the cells for being improperly dressed! A little later he returned to sign the visitors' book as **Lieutenant J. Makepeace.** Our best wishes to him and his wife, **Sonia.**

Earlier in the month we said farewell to **Sergeant Ron Lodge,** R.A.P.C., otherwise known as 'Cassius Clay' of the snooker table. At the start of the season he boasted. "I will present the Mess with some trophies before I leave" — and he did just that. Our silver cabinet now displays the Double Diamond League Individual Winner's Cup, the trophy for the highest break and the Doubles Cup won jointly by him and **Mr. Jock Kearney,** our barman.

Congratulations to **W.O.1 Tom Remfrey** and **Sergeant Frank Isted** on their recent promotions.

Arrivals: **Sergeant T. R. Wells** (Int. Corps).
Departures: **W.O.2 (Sup. R) R. Ross.**

14th Signal Regiment
Worcester

It's up and go all the time

WHILST the rest of the Regiment were, amongst other things, getting ready for the Freedom Weekend, an E21 Troop—'D' Troop of 1 Squadron to be precise—was on exercise in Cyprus. The exercise was planned to practice the air mobility of this radio station and crew and had two phases. Firstly, the Troop worked back to their sister E21 Troop of 2 Squadron based in Worcester, and secondly the station worked into Boddington for a period of trials.

Old friends in Cyprus

In Cyprus 'D' Troop were located behind the hospital at the military hospital in Dhekelia. (This siting was soon to cause some discomfort, from generator noise for **Staff Sergeant Harry Latham,** who was unfortunate enough to have to be admitted with a bad dose of influenza). The administrative arrangements were in the hands of our old friends of 262 Signal Squadron who again were extremely helpful and co-operative — even **Sergeant 'Hairy' Bill Kerr** of that unit has mellowed towards us and occasionally admits there is some value and good in technicians.

Comms good

Communication-wise the first stage was very good and the second not at all bad. The crew were quick to learn and soon we were able to settle down to a good routine.

Off duty

This steady programme allowed those off duty to see a bit of the island and even if the always hungry **Staff Sergeant Ray Heeley** spent all his time at the kebab stalls, **Signalmen 'Geordie' Cullen, 'Smudge Smith** and **Ian Leonard** entered into a three-man competition to see who could drink his way through his pay the fastest at the local night spot. The winner's name has not been divulged. **Sergeant Bob McClaren** had the perhaps unique experience of coming off night duty to find his aerial field full of the local hunt. Surrounded by apparently countless couples of hounds he tried to explain that there was no fox (or whatever else the huntsmen were looking for) in any of the E21 cabins.

Where next?

So the exercise ended and back to U.K. we came by courtesy of the light blue airways Support Command. Another exercise complete, several lessons learnt and useful experience gained. Next location? — well, who knows — it's up and go everywhere all the time in this highly mobile, airportable, modern 14th Signal Regiment.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Athletics

ON Wednesday, 19th May, we once again borrowed the excellent Kempener Allee Sportsplatz belonging to the local German School opposite Bradbury Barracks, and the fine weather no doubt assisted in getting some good performances. Notable individuals were **Private Ollivierre** (W.R.A.C.), with a time of 13.4 seconds for the 100 metres, and **Corporal Haldane** with a time of 16.5 seconds in his leg of the 110 metres hurdles. 2 Squadron beat 3 Squadron by 16 points to win the Inter-Squadron Competition, and also carried off the Inter-Squadron Tug-of-War Cup. **Corporal Haldane** is also to be congratulated on his fourth place in the Anglo/Dutch/German Athletics Meeting at Verden on 23rd May.

Golf

No less than 15 players from the Regiment took part in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Golf Society Spring Meeting, held at R.A.F. Bruggen, on 29th and 30th April 1971. This was well over a third of the total entry and is a good indication of how popular golf has become within the Regiment during the last few years.



AT THE 19th
Staff-Sergeant D. D. J. Palmer, R.A.P.C. receiving his Golf Prize from Mrs. J. R. Gibson

Competitors came from as far afield as Berlin and AFCENT, and many old friends and rivals were greeted with that most common of all cries "What's your handicap now, you Bandit." The weather was ideal, the course in first-class condition, the company most congenial, and two excellent days of golf were enjoyed by all.

At the end of the meeting, Mrs. Gibson, the wife of our Commanding Officer, graciously presented the prizes, of which four were won by members of the Regiment. Our prize-winners were **C.S.M.I. Gray-Brown,** with a very fine Stableford round of 42 points; **Staff Sergeant Palmer** (R.A.P.C.), and **W.O.I Overton,** first and second in the medal, with net scores of 66 and 68 respectively, and **Staff Sergeant Palmer** with the best scratch score of 79, for which he received a flagon of Glenfiddich, generously presented by Grants Whisky Ltd.

The Spring Meeting was the first major event of the season, and we are now well into a very hectic programme. Our future commitments include the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit knockout, in which we meet 2nd Division and Signal Regiment in the first round. Last year we defeated them in the final to become B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Champions—but who can tell what the future will be! We have also entered three teams of four players in the Rhine Area League, which involves each team in matches against seven other teams, and additionally, there are numerous one-day events which will all be strongly supported. All in all, we are looking forward to a very busy, but pleasant, golfing year, and hope to repeat our last year's successes.

H.Q. Squadron

Not everything in H.Q. Squadron is 'routine'—we do have the occasional 'priority,' such as to **Corporal Duncan Matthews,** a daughter, Josephine Mary, born on 23rd May, 1971. Congratulations, Mrs. Matthews—perhaps the first of many! Congratulations, also, to **Signalman Norman Crossley,** who married **Corporal Wendy Dawson** (W.R.A.C.), in the Garrison Church, Willich on 24th April; who gives the orders to who, we wonder. Other non-routine events are the departure of **Corporal Dave Jacques** and **Signalman Paul Harris,** both to try their luck in 'Civvie Street,' and the welcome arrival of **Signalmen Dalgleish, Illingworth** and **Nash.**

4 Squadron — Bielfeld

As these are our first WIRE notes, I think that it would be as well to give a few details of our 'murky past.' The Squadron, in its current role and title was delivered screaming into this atomic age by its current Squadron Commander (**Major W. R. Mayne**) on 1st June, 1970. Its antecedents I should like to pass over with a shudder. However, let no man (or Squadron) be ashamed to acknowledge his mother (or father, when known). On the move of H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps from Bad Oeyenhausen to Bielefeld, in 1953, a new star appeared in the firmament over Ripon Barracks. (Our personal Adam). This was a detachment of 4 L. of C. Regiment. **Major Eric Gill** was present at this event. I have not yet traced its full development during the years 1953 until 1958. For part of the time it was a detachment of 3 Squadron, 19 Army Group Regiment, and in 1958 it was a Squadron of 16th Regiment. In 1958 it changed to 619 Independent Signal Troop. In 1965 it became part of 7th Signal Regiment. In February, 1967, it joined 16th Signal Regiment as Bielefeld Signal Troop; thus it remained until it burst into full radiance as 4 Squadron, 16th Signal Regiment.

In view of such mixed forbears I find great difficulty in devising a suitable coat of arms. However, all things considered; including our present composition; perhaps a 'Bull rampant on a field of dollies — oops sorry — daisies, overlaid with a spear.'

It seems you will have to wait until next issue to find out the magnitude of our task in Bielefeld as my S.S.M. has bellowed into my ear "what about current activities." Let it suffice that we are a mixed bunch Royal Signals/W.R.A.C. (I've had some super Second-in-Commands).

B.A.O.R. pop group competition

We have everything in this Squadron, including the latest beat singers. The winners of the B.A.O.R. Pop Group competition, 'The Magic Roundabout,' have a 'song bird' who is a member of this Squadron. None other than that star of sound, screen and television (could be!) **Lance-Corporal Linda Taylor.** We congratulate them on their performance in the U.K. where they were placed second. **Linda Taylor** is very starry-eyed these days (shades of the Beatles).

HALT!

the depreciation of your Savings

CHECK WITH SERVICE BROKERS

THE INVESTMENT SPECIALISTS

1 SERVICE BROKERS will assist you with expert knowledge — and Without Obligation

2 Investment! Protection! House Purchase! School Fees! etc. SERVICE BROKERS take it all in their stride

On the Command

"FALL OUT"
FALL IN

with SERVICE BROKERS the Service Specialists

SERVICE BROKERS

INCORPORATED MORTGAGE BROKERS

30b Market Place, Richmond, Yorkshire
Telephone Richmond 2435

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Exercise 'Evergreen'

EXERCISE 'Evergreen' is usually the annual Regimental exercise in West Malaysia. However, this year the exercise was designed to give the newly-formed 'X Troop' a chance to deploy and carry out a mobile V.H.F. radio exercise. This troop has risen as a Phoenix from the disbandment of 249 Signal Squadron and is responsible for the Internal Security Radio Communications on Singapore Island, providing a mobile V.H.F. radio pool of ten detachments, five in support of 28th Commonwealth Brigade and the remainder a mobile reserve for H.Q. FARELF. Twenty-nine all ranks make up its complement, and it is commanded by **Captain Charles Kemp.** The first stop on the exercise was Port Dickson, 200 miles to the north of Singapore. After some minor vehicle repairs by the sea we carried out a three-day communication exercise, before moving up to Frasers Hill, just north of Kuala Lumpur, some 4,000 feet above sea level. We accepted a Navy invitation to stay in their accommodation and had a much needed rest in the mountain air. We then turned south and spent the remainder of the time doing a mobile communications exercise, arriving back in Singapore nine days after the start.

First prize on the exercise went to **Signalman Little,** who woke the Troop Commander in the middle of the night carrying a slidex message. On being asked the contents of the message, he replied: "Delta November, Papa Juliet, Romeo. . . . "

Exercise 'Doubletake'

Although only a command post exercise, the Regiment was fully committed to this internal security exercise, which covered most of Singapore with elements in Malaysia. The security nets involved over a hundred Pye radio stations operating through eight rebroadcast stations, and X Troop provided ten C42 detachments. Communications worked well, and the many fictitious hostile situations concocted were dealt with effectively.

Association Football

Regimental 1st XI. After an indifferent start to the season, the 1st XI obtained nine points in their last five games, defeated a hitherto unbeaten R.A.F. Tengah team and are currently challenging for the League Division I runners-up position. In addition, they have reached the semi-final of the Robinson Cup, in which they meet the Army Department Police. Our team Captain, **Corporal Peter Dyson,** has regularly represented the Army in the Civil League, Division One, and **Corporal Jackie Snaith** has twice played for the Army team in Singapore, with **Signalman John Swaine** as substitute goalkeeper. **Peter Dyson** was honoured by being selected for the British Services team which defeated an Indonesian XI touring Singapore.

Regimental 2nd XI. Ably captained by **Staff Sergeant 'Mac' McKenzie,** the 2nd XI have had an excellent season and must finish runners-up or third in League Division IV. The hard running of **Corporals Mick Jenkins** and **Mick Raybould,** the safe hands of **Signalman Tommy Trayhorn** in goal, and hard endeavour by **Yeomen Harry Cooke** and **George Devine,** resulted in eleven wins and two draws in the fifteen games played.

Inter-Troop League

After fifty-six matches, with much excitement and a truly nail-biting climax, Systems Troop won the Inter-Troop League with M.T. Troop runners-up. With just three games to play, X Troop had been well in the running, but to prove yet again how unpredictable football can be, they lost them all and finished third. To provide a fitting setting, the last league match between Systems Troop and X Troop was played on Dover Road Stadium. Systems Troop won 2-0, both goals being scored by **Signalman 'Mitch' Mitchell.** The Commanding Officer presented trophies after the game.



INTER TROOP SOCCER WINNERS
Major Charles Bushell with the winning 1 Squadron team—Systems Troop—at Dover Road Stadium

Referees' Course

As the result of a recent course held in the Sergeants' Mess over ten evenings the Regiment now has eight class three referees.

Those who passed the examination at the end of the course were **C.S.M.I. P. O. Seddon, W.O.2 A. F. Gundersen, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) H. M. Cooke, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) G. F. Devine, Staff Sergeant W. A. Naismith, Sergeant L. E. Carpentier, Sergeant D. Boxall** and **Sergeant B. Drake,** A.C.C.

In a letter to the Secretary of the Army F.A., the Chief instructor, **W.O.1 Deeney,** wrote: "The results reflect the enthusiasm and ability of the students and are the highest I have ever encountered."

Regimental Cricket

The Regimental cricket team are having an interesting season and are considerably re-organised from the successful team that carried everything before them last year. Some stalwarts remain, particularly **W.O.1 (F. of S.) John Howie,** who is topping the batting averages and already has one brilliant not out century to his credit. Of the newcomers, **Corporal Mick Raybould** is providing some solid middle-order batting, picking up useful wickets with his off spin. **Sergeant Dave Hope** and **Signalman Peter Mallinson** have both produced steady bowling spells while **Major Peter Tripp, W.O.2 Hugh Bennett** and **Staff Sergeant John Richardson** have all given us some entertaining batting. We are looking forward to another successful run in the FARELF knock-out cup.

Officers' Mess v. Sergeants' Mess games night

On 21st May the final games night was held, in which it was the turn of the Officers to be the hosts. The Officers made a valiant attempt to lose the wooden spoon, and after a closely fought match it was agreed that the only fair result was a draw. The one secret weapon possessed by the Officers was deployed (accidently) against **Sergeant Weston** (1 Squadron), who had to retire from his croquet match suffering from an attack of ants, which were lurking unseen in the depths of the lawn.

Motor Cycle team

Under the stewardship of **Corporal Hank Bellamy,** the Regimental Motor Cycle Club holds regular trials on Colombo Heath and combines with the Singapore Motor Sports Club for Scrambles and trials. A newcomer to the sport since his posting to the White Helmets, **Lieutenant John Maclean,** has displayed a number of flying Jimmies (mostly unintentional), although there has been a discernable improvement after a tour of Malaysia on exercise with a 350 BSA. **Signalman Dave Gruncell,** now recovered from an accident at Changi in February, has come back with renewed vigour and skill on his Yamaha to gain two third and one second place in recent Singapore Club scrambles on the Heath. **Corporal Pete Ascough,** now attached to 18th Signal Regiment, gained three second places on his 250 at the same event. **Corporal Keith Hawke,** however, took a tumble, bending his Yamaha rather severely. Other regular supporters of the Club include **Sergeant Bill Powell, Signalman Terry Daken** and **Lance-Corporal 'Inky' Martin.**

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
B.F.P.O. 42

Tasked to write Wire Notes

A CENSORED conversation between the Adjutant and the Second-in-Command at the beginning of the month:

"Adjutant: "Sir, the WIRE NOTES are due in this week."

Second-in-Command: "Well I am shooting and have two schoolboy visits to arrange plus my normal work, so you had better do them."

Adjutant: "But I am trying to hand over my job and pack up ready to move."

Second-in-Command: "Have you written any WIRE NOTES since you arrived?"

Adjutant (Guilty looking): "Well I suppose I will find time some how."

Visit of C.S.O.

The Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., **Major General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** visited the Regiment at R.A.F. Wildenrath on 18th May. During his visit he presented **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) William Scott** with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The General during his visit saw the Regiment at R.A.F. Wildenrath, Bruggen and Rheindahlen. As the weather was not good enough for flying the General did not get to the relay site at Roetgen but it is hoped that he will be able to pay 'a flying visit' at the end of June.



Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R., inspecting 21st Signal Regiment's Guard

Annual Formal Inspection

In the last month three of the four airfields where the Regiment is stationed have had their Annual Formal Inspection by **Air Vice Marshall R. L. Wade, O.B.E., A.F.C., R.A.F.,** the Deputy Commander Royal Air Force, Germany. When the Air Vice Marshall visited R.A.F. Wildenrath he inspected the Regimental Guard and congratulated **Staff Sergeant Frank Atkins** on their smart turn-out and drill. He then had a 15-minute presentation by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Phippard,** and the Second-in-Command, **Major John Cox,** on the role of the Regiment.

Athletics

The Regimental Athletes are as busy as ever this year under the whiplash of **C.S.M.I. Stan Woods,** and are already showing a marked improvement in performances over last year. The most notable achieved so far are **Sergeant Geoff Fenge's** time of 15.1 seconds for 100m. hurdles and **Lance-Corporal Percy Drummond's** time of 49.9 seconds for the 400m. Both of these were recorded at the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships at Sennelager on 3rd June.

The biggest surprise of the year so far, is a shot put of 41ft. 4ins. by **Private Brian Saberton,** one of the Pay Corps representatives in the Regiment.

The strength of the team can be judged from the fact that seven members of the team represented B.A.O.R. in the International match held at Verden, on 23rd May, where B.A.O.R. won by a resounding 35 points. Fifteen of the team are also representing R.A.F.G. in the 2 A.T.A.F. meeting on the 16th/17th June.

With this strength we look forward to the Rhine Area championships on the 15th June with complete confidence, and to the B.A.O.R. championships, on 3rd July, with what we hope is not undue confidence, bearing in mind that there we shall be up against two past winners of the championship — 19th Field Regiment, R.A., and the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment.

Unfortunately, we have to finish this summary of the situation on a low note. On 10th June both our 88 stone and 100 stone Tug-of-War teams were knocked out of the Rhine Area championships. This was a direct result of the move of the Regiment from Laarbruch to Wildenrath, with last year's teams consequently being disbanded. 'K' Troop and 'H' Troop stepped into the breech but lacked competition practice. However, we are now making our plans for 1972.

Unusual assignment at R.A.F. Wildenrath

At 11.30 hours one morning the Adjutant of the Regiment put out an appeal for officers to volunteer to attend a local night spot — complete with wife and best suit to act as extras for an R.A.F. Safety Training film. The bait was a floor show, free drinks, and a chance to watch the making of and participating in the film.

Only one officer could get his wife to agree to attend, but luckily there were more R.A.F. takers and in due course a group of smooth husbands and wives assembled at the night club where a briefing took place. The theme of the film was to show that frustrated pilots bend aircraft, and the star of the show was going to be seen living it up, with our support. The big scene was to be the strip act, leaving the pilot very frustrated indeed! Finally, the show got under way and with warm beer, hot lights and clouds of tobacco smoke the right atmosphere was soon created. Naturally, everybody was keyed up for the big scene and when it came there were no complaints at all! As certain scenes had to be taken several times, you might say that the principal actress was rather over exposed. We are confident that this will be one of the best attended and remembered flight safety films ever produced and we are pleased that the Corps was able to play a small part in contributing to flight safety!

Are you the man for this job?

A single or married unaccompanied Sergeant is urgently required by 21st Signal Regiment for the post of Senior N.C.O-in-Charge Roetgen Detachment.

Qualifications.—The applicant must be a capable mature Senior N.C.O., who is about to finish his present tour, any trade except technician is acceptable.

The Job.—The successful applicant will be in charge of an isolated Radio Relay detachment in the Eifel. Construction has just started to add a Tropo Scatter Terminal to the Station.

Accommodation.—New, first-class bungalow building with all mod cons, bar, billiards, table tennis and colour television. Own private room and toilet, good kitchen. Other staff, both military and civilian, are kept.

Facilities.—Roetgen is in the Eifel, 20 km. from Aachen. It is ideal for touring and water sports in the summer and plenty of opportunities for ski-ing in the winter. Applications to Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Regiment, R.A.F. Wildenrath, B.F.P.O. 42. Subsequent action depends on suitability and Royal Signals Records.

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16

Exercising

THERE is no doubt that the main event of May has been Exercise 'Spring Sales.' This is the first exercise of the year when we actually communicate for the Staff.

The Regimental exercise that followed 'Spring Sales' is only noteworthy for one thing; it was the last time that 2 Squadron will take the field as an entity. The Squadron, now split into Radio Village and Commcen Sierra. This entails a lot of late night calculations on equipment distribution and may also explain why O.C.2 and his Foreman of Signals are almost inseparable at the moment. They keep popping up at the most unlikely times and ask a host of equally unlikely questions. Never mind, Commcen Uniform went through the same birth pangs last year and seems to have survived.

Comhead Eagle, which is jointly manned by ourselves and a detachment from the German 7 Fernmelde Battalion at last took to the field with its associated Brigade on a 2 Division exercise and covered themselves with glory.

Whilst the Regiment has been busy in its own area, our detachment with the covering force has been undergoing its own training. Judging by the reports this looks like being a a take-over bid for the Army Air Corps. The detachment Commander only visits us when he can sort out his own helicopter.

Some sport too

On the sporting side we entered the 4 Division Athletics and although not in the top bracket we did not disgrace ourselves, beng pipped by our old rivals 7th Regment by only a few points. Our most notable individual winners were **Corporal Bill Venus,** 1500 and 5,000 metres, **Lieutenant Matt Helm** and **Lance-Corporal Mo Foster,** winners of the weight event.

Sergeants' Mess news

The Sergeants' Mess continued to progress into modern times. Our most recent function was a **'Hot Pants'** night, which proved very popular with both sexes. The winner of the **'Hottest'** pants competition was **Lorna Park,** wife of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Park,** but the ladies of the Mess must be congratulated for their efforts in making the evening a success. The men, refusing to be left out also wore hot pants, from blue football shorts to instant efforts like cut-down lounge suits.

A Mess Dinner on Saturday, 15th May, was also enthusiastcally received, **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Eric Webster,** 7th Regiment, was invited for the occasion. In his after dinner speech **R.S.M. 'Mac' McGilvray,** obviously on home ground, pointed out that it isn't so much that we didn't talk to 7th Signal Regiment, just that we found it difficult to communicate with them, this was greeted with thunderous applause by the home crowd. As **'Mac'** and **Eric** are fellow Aberdonians this was received in the right spirit and as the wine flowed and the band played a wonderful night was enjoyed by all.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

Visit of the Commander, NORTHAG Signal Support Group

THE Regiment was visited on Wednesday, 14th April, by **Colonel G. Schneider,** German Army Signals, the Commander, NORTHAG Signal Support Group. **Colonel Schneider** was greeted on arrival by a Regimental Quarter Guard, and was then introduced to Senior N.C.O.s of the Regiment in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. After a lunch in the Officers' Mess **Colonel Schneider** was conducted round the camp and met the soldiers of his British Signal Regiment at their peacetime work.

Farewell to the R.S.M.

Friday, 7th May, saw the official farewell to our R.S.M., **W.O.I (R.S.M.) B. Turner.** After suitable pre-lubrication in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess the R.S.M. was due to be lunched-out by the Officers of the Regiment. It was with some surprise that the assembled Officers saw what appeared to be a funeral procession approaching the Mess at 12.30, the pall



"and that's the T.O.T. just coming in to land now!" W.O.I (F. of S.) Ernie Nugent shows Colonel Schneider around Mike Troop. Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Lloyd, Deputy Commander N.S.S.G. looks on disbelievingly



Beryl Turner receives a farewell gift from Judy Macdonald on behalf of the Regimental Wives Club

bearers trundling a long wooden crate, which was soon unceremoniously dumped at the Mess entrance. **Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macdonald** and **Major Frank Philp** approached with some caution, but recognising that inside the crate was not a caged 'wild man from Borneo,' but 6ft. 7in. of W.O.1, they signed for the contents on a proffered AFG 1033, released the occupant and welcomed him in. After the lunch the R.S.M. was presented with a sword from the Officers of the Regiment, with the hope that, whenever **Lieutenant Brian Turner,** Royal Signals, unsheaths it, he will remember with pleasure his time with 28.

That evening the Sergeants' Mess continued the celebrations(?) by dining out **Mr. Turner,** and at the same time welcoming the new R.S.M., **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) P. J. Harris,** who has forsaken the delights of Hong Kong for the less obvious pleasures of Krefeld.

Shooting

In the first of their shooting competitions for the year, the Regimental shooting team almost swept the board in the H.Q. Northern Army Group Skill at Arms match held at R.A.F. Bruggen on 10th and 11th May.

Shooting against German, Belgian and Dutch army units the Regiment won (again) the Inter Unit Team Cup, and walked away with:

The Open Individual Rifle Match, **Captain (T.O.T.) Reg Davies;** the runner-up Individual Rifle, **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Ken Hammond-Haley;** the Open Individual S.M.G. Match, **Sergeant Ray Portlock;** the runner-up Individual S.M.G., **Captain (T.O.T.) Reg Davies;** the Best Young Serviceman's Shot, **Corporal Anthony Hunt;** the runner-up Best Young Serviceman, **Signalman George Whitehead.**

The team were disappointed in conceding the Pistol Match to the German Army, but Browning 9m.m. against Walther P38? . . .

That's their excuse anyway!

Gold Cup 1971

Our second staff exercise for the year was so hectic that 2 Squadron found time to complete their Battle Efficiency tests for the year. Contrary to popular belief the area around Bocholt is not flat, but slopes continually uphill—at least that was how **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston's** route seemed to the marchers, and by all accounts the assault course at Wesel, kindly lent to the Regiment for the day, was just as difficult as any in the British Army.

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Camping on Alderney a great success

FOLLOWING the highly successful visit of the Corps Band at the Regimental weekend in Alderney a further contingent from the Regiment crossed the Channel on R.C.T.V. *Mull* and R.P.L. *Kennet* to join **Major Henry Scott** and **S.S.M. Ron Block** at Fort Tourgis. These R.C.T. vessels made eighteen crossings of the Channel throughout May on our behalf and were an invaluable part of the movement exercise and camp, and afforded the much travelled members of the Regiment to put their previous experiences to good use. Our main contribution to the island was in the form of two projects. **Captain (T.O.T.) 'Doug' Willis** and T.M. Troop rewired the old school building for the purposes of a museum and **Lieutenant Dennis Marshall,** R.E.M.E., together with a working party erected concrete and wooden benches at selected sites. The enjoyment of the camp was greatly enhanced by having the Corps yacht, *Quicksilver*, Bosun, **Corporal Ian Carmichael,** and **Yoeman Bill Coxon,** who took a number of voyages to the other Channel Islands and Cherbourg with a variety of crews. **Lieutenant John Thewlis** and **Sergeants Nurse** and **Fitzpatrick** trained a military proficiency course whilst **Lieutenant Jack Fiskel** and **Sergeant Tams** supervised watermanship training in assault craft and canoes. In the cookhouse, **Sergeant Price** and his cooks put in a great effort to produce an excellent diet. 'Radio Alderney,' under the charge of **Sergeant Whitrick** and **Corporal Adcock,** kept us in daily touch with Blandford on schedules throught the three weeks (most of the time without the rebroadcast detachment at Portland). Apart from one successful evening aboard the *Mull*, whilst waiting for the fog to clear in Weymouth Bay, the fisherman of the party were no more prodigous than last year. **W.O.2 Baigent,** the Camp R.Q.M.S., caught a bass or two and **W.O.2 Baker** thought he caught a crab. However, we did have more success at football at which we defeated the Island team on several occasions, and the cricket match was a close result which we just failed to win by a single wicket. The Sergeants' Mess beat all comers in the assault craft races.

At the conclusion of the camp the detachment was visited by the C.S.O. Army Strategic Command, **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.,** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose.** On the final evening the President of the States of Alderney and the States Members gave a party for all Officers. Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s, which we believe is an unprecedented gesture for any visiting army unit.

Exercises galore

This summer we have been supporting a large number of exercises and displays again. An exercise was held in Cyprus with 1 Squadron providing support for Headquarters 2 Infantry Brigade. The detachment, under command of **Captain Aubrey Howie, B.E.M.,** moved to Cyprus in two



SMILE PLEASE!
Signalman Jim Highton looks cheerful enough while on Exercise in Cyprus

chalks aboard Argosy's from Air Support Command. During the outward flight, landings were made in Southern France and Malta, the latter being a particularly enjoyable relief in a journey which lasted for thirteen hours. Upon arrival the detachment were well looked after by 3 Wing R.A.F. Regiment and following a day of preparation the detachments were deployed to their locations on the island. The exercise lasted two days and the participants were able to have a further two days to recover. During this time the detachment was provided with a mini-bus by 261 Signal Squadron. Visits were made to Famagusta, Kyrenia, Lanarca and to our detached members with 644 Signal Troop UNFICYP, who gave a particularly warm welcome with **Yoeman 'Pete' Wood** and **Sergeant 'Sandy' Shaw** doing the honours in the Mercury Club. The return journey was eventually completed after two false starts due to engine trouble with the aircraft, causing some concern for twenty-four hours in the mounting centre at Blandford.

Exercise 'Nelson's Touch' was an amphibious exercise off the West coast of Scotland and the East coast of Denmark, 1 Squadron also provided detachments in support of 24 Air Portable Brigade and manned the radio rooms of the L.S.L. *Sir Geraint*. H.M.S. *Fearless*, with 621 Ship Signal Troop recently embarked, were participants to the exercise. **Signalman 'Smudge' Smith** having waded ashore in several feet of water with his S.R.A. 13, discovered that his Morse key was unserviceable after such treatment but to his credit he managed to send messages at 14 w.p.m. using his pressel switch.

3 Squadron have also had their share of exercises with **Major Tom Blashill** as the exercise control communications officer, providing support for a C.P.X. on Salisbury Plain The linesmen of 2 Squadron, **Sergeants Bob Jones** and **Dick Sergeant** having sorted out a maze of wiring were able to relax for a short while and had the pleasure of seeing **Yoeman Bill Coxon** compete with forty priority messages all handed in at the same time.

For light relief the radio operators of the A.M.F.(L) Battalion Troop have been providing ship-shore control communications for the Poole Bay Olympic Association Regatta at Bournemouth aboard the Committee Boats. **Lieutenant John Thewlis** and **Sergeant 'Doug' Rogers** have supervised the control sets ashore manned by **Signalman Cook** ("just call me cookie"), **Signalman Ramsay** and **Chapman.** Unfortunately, the Regatta

has been partly marred by a record three inches of rain during twenty-four hours, nevertheless, the sailing continued and communicatons were provided.

In the mountains of the Lake District and North Wales, **Yoeman Collin Bland** and **Corporals Blackall, Chapman, Parker, Ridley** and **Signalman Woof** have been training hard for the Welsh Three Thousand Competition. The team have to complete thirteen peaks all over three thousand feet in Snowdonia in competition and it is hoped that they will do well over the twenty-four-mile course on the 13th June.

Shooting notes

The Shooting team have been busy practicing since early April and took part in the South West District United Services Small Arms match at Plymouth from 24th-27th May. The competition this year was very severe and the teams included the A.R.A. Bisley Major unit champions, 1st Battalion Worcestors and Forestors', 10th Batalion Gurkha Rifles and units of the R.N., Royal Marines and R.A.F. The unit team, consisting of **Major George Cowshill, Captain Derek McLean, W.O.2 'Smudge' Smith, Corporals 'Jerry' Jacques, George Rennoldson, 'Dodge' Kingham, 'Baldie' Harris** and **Bill McBain,** won the Roberts Trophy and reached the semi-final of the falling plate competition, defeating 1 W.F.R. and 10th Gurkha in the first two rounds. The junior team, comprising **Lance-Corporals Nation** and **Hindle, Signalmen Barkuss** and **Revell,** were more successful in their falling plate and won a most handsome trophy.

The Cygnet Dinner

The Regiment were delighted to have as guests for the dinner, The Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Dyers, **The Hon.** and **Mrs. S. R. Cawley, Colonel A. R. Marshal** and the Clerk to the Company and **Mrs. R. Balfour-Park, Brigadier** and **Mrs. H. Roper,** and our doctor, retiring after ten years, **Colonel W. N. S. Donaldson** and **Mrs. Donaldson.** The Mess looked truly resplendent and decorated with flowers all from the Channel Islands. Once again we were grateful for the services of the Corps Band and Trumpeters to grace the occasion. In addition to saying farewell to **Doctor Donaldson** this month, we als sadly record the departure of **Major Henry Scott** and **Captain Dai Rees.**

News from Squadrons

United Kingdom Delegation, Live Oak, SHAPE

Since our last contribution to THE WIRE, there has been a considerable change-over of the Royal Signals personnel in the United Kingdom delegation. **Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith** has gone to the Cabinet Office, complete with a bowler, **Yoeman Peter Sharpe** has gone to Cyprus, and **Sergeant Joe Wells** moved to 24th Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron on a well deserved promotion. **Yeoman Peter Brown** has left us on commissioning for 28th Signal Regiment, equipped with a sword subscribed for by the rest of us and fitted with a bogey wheel by **Foreman Ken McRae** because the sword and the Yeoman were roughly the same size. **Yeoman Brown** also received his L.S. & G.C. medal in May. **Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson,** having thrown his Whitehall bowler away, **Yeoman Coaker, Yeoman McCloughlin, Corporal Brian Robjohn** and **Corporal Brian Brown** have joined as replacements. **Corporal Norman Siggs** has decided to take the plunge and get married, prior to posting to Cyprus — he will not be accompanied by his bowling ball.

A stop-press item is the award of Corps Colours for Badminton to **Yeoman McCloughlin.**



PRESENTATION

W.O.I Peter Brown being presented with his L.S.G.C. Medal by Major-General J. Strewson, Chief of Staff, Live Oak, S.H.A.P.E. W.O.I Brown, on commissioning is now with 28 Signal Regiment

W.O.I Brown

W.O.I Brown has certainly had a very full career with the British Army having served, in addition to his two years at Live Oak, in Korea, Malaya (he holds the G.S.M. Malaya), Cyprus and Germany, to say nothing of being in that almost unmentionable spot known as Catterick in Yorkshire, for which there is no doubt honour but alas, no reward!

Since he has been at SHAPE, he has been most busy with many functions always ready to lend a hand and to actively take part, particularly with the younger members of the community. He was a prime mover in the Schools Fair-Play Tournaments and encouraged our youngsters to ENJOY the game of football and not just seek the rewards.

Extracted from SHAPE Family News

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) Colchester

THE last month has been an extremely busy one for the Squadron. With our move to Northern Ireland confirmed, a full programme of IS training and range classification was implemented. This had to fit in with a comprehensive leave programme so that the whole Squadron had a fortnights' leave before Ireland.

Exercise 'Donkeys' Burden'

The month started off with Exercise 'Donkeys Burden.' The exercise was principally designed to practise the Staff in a Northern Ireland environment. The exercise brought out the need to practise the AQ officers in operations room procedure and the AQ Clerks in slidex operating!

A Troop took part in a C11 SSB trial to Middle Wallop. The aim of the trial was to assess the capabilities of HF Skywave working in a helicopter. The trial was a success and an impressive net was established between Middle Wallop, Blandford, Colchester and Catterick. Credit for the communications go to **Lance-Corporal Pratt** and **Signalman Hughes.**

A Troop has also been maintaining its liaison role with the minor units. 19 O.F.P. was trained in the erection of HF aerials and **Lance-Corporal Pratt** and **Lance-Corporal Griffiths** helped in an HF exercise at Stanford P.T.A. Help was also given to the 3 R.H.A. in the use of the C11 SSB.

In the midst of all this training and exercising the Brigade entertained a party of journalists. The Squadron put on a display of radio and line equipment. Everyone was disappointed when only male journalists came to the display whilst the females went to the hospital.

The Squadrons farewell to their wives was a never-ending list of parties. The Corporals' Club had a dinner and dance which lasted until the early hours of the morning. The All Ranks Dance, a week later, had a large attendance and a good time was had by all. All the troops and departments had a final farewell 'drinking session' which caused many a sore head the morning after. The Sergeants Mess had its farewell dinner to celebrate the closing of the Mess.

The move to Ireland

On 3rd June, the Squadron moved to Lurgan in Northern Ireland. The move went without any major catastrophe and the whole Squadron arrived at Lurgan by midday 4th June. The handover takeover from 216 Signal Squadron went without mishap and the Squadron is now busy finding its way around Lurgan. More on Ireland in future issues of the WIRE.

We welcome **Lieutenant Conran** to the Squadron who has come from 3rd Division Signal Regiment for the duration of our tour in Northern Ireland. We also welcome the medical team under **Corporal Perrow** and the radio relay team under **Corporal Povey.**

12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (212), B.F.P.O. 36

A VERY busy month here in Osnabruck. Goodbyes and and thanks to **Captain 'Doogle' Drew, R.S.M. Copley, Corporal Jim Kent** (12 Brigade's only answer to the male belly-dancers) and **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Hannon.**

The early part of the month saw a party going up to Todendorf for an All Arms air defence course, where it is rumoured that more rounds were 'fired' than were 'bought' in the local bars! The Squadron held its own athletic meeting at Roberts Barracks and Bravo Troop came out tops. **Yeoman 'Bob' Frost** insists that it was only by one point that Alpha Troop was pipped at the post.

Volkslauging has started again and the Squadron was well represented at the Gevelsberg (near Wuppertal) event over the Whitsuntide weekend. **Lance-Corporal 'Nobby' Hall** was more than a little distressed when he was not allowed into a discotheque. However, the question of his dubious nationality was soon rectified!

Things are now in full swing for our summer camp, Exercise 'June Bug,' which is to be held at the end of the month at Mittenwald in Bavaria. We are led to believe that **R.S.M. Frank Williams** is laying on a 'Totty Trip' to Austria.

Lance-Corporal Beau Cattell, Sergeant Tony Ashton (R.E.M.E. attached!) and others are going down to the South of France on an adventure training Sub-Aqua scheme in early July.

Captain Webb, M.T.O., managed to get the Squadron's newly-formed cricket team up to Berlin over the first weekend in June, to play against 1 QDG. Unfortunately we lost by 99 runs and the M.T.O. missed the night out by over-sleeping!

Before closing it must be brought to the attention of all past members of the Squadron that **M.S.O. 'Pop'** from the Sergeants Mess is now the proud owner of a new push bike and that 'Spastic,' the Alpha Troop mascot, is in good form.

1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (257) B.F.P.O. 102

ONCE again the Squadron participated in Exercise 'Spring Sales' in May this year, ably led by **Second-Lieutenant John Allan,** supported by 22nd Signal Regiment. This was followed by Exercise 'Gannet Fling,' one of a series of exercises in which we practised our SOP communications with 7th and 22nd Signal Regiments.

On the sporting field the Squadron has also been active. We entered two teams in the 1 Division Rugby Sevens, but both teams were defeated by the eventual finalists. Although this was a sad end to the season we look forward to a fuller fixture list in 1971/72 with a strong and keen bunch of enthusiasts already talking about training in August. The Whitsun break started well with the Inter-Troop Athletics Meeting. The contest was fought with much rivalry and, obviously inspired by the Q.M.'s efforts in the Old Soldiers' race, 'Q' Troop went on to be the eventual winners. Some very fine results were achieved and, in traditional style, the final result depended on the relay. In this event 'Q' Troop team, **Lance-Corporal Ray Garner, Signalman Dave Patten, Gunner Martin King** and **Private Bob Gale,** just beat S.H.Q. Troop, **Private Gale** holding the lead he was given against a determined challenge by **Captain Gordon Howard** in the final leg. **Mrs. Julia Davies** presented the individual prizes and the newly made Inter-Troop shield (well done **Foreman Sugden**!) to 'Q' Troop team captain, **Bombardier Alan Smart.**

Corporal Ron Nelson and **Signalmen 'Jock' Cousland, Don 'Beano' Hine** and **'Jock' Lindsay** visited Faarburg, Marstel, Svenburg and some other Baltic ports on Exercise 'Salt Water.' The instruction was beneficial and enjoyable and the Corps yacht was put through her paces. The party was led and coached by our GSO3, **Captain Chris Copeland,** R.A., who is, in addition to being a qualified sea dog, also an Army standard skier and a free-fall parachute enthusiasiast.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

An exercise with a difference

THIS month we feel bound to report, with some pride, that we have been on exercise; to say the least, an unusual occurrence in 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay). To be more accurate we must admit, however, that we did not actually go anywhere, a statement which itself requires further, more accurate, clarification. We did not actually go anywhere, with the exception of **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Kenyon** who made a point of going on leave, and with the exception of our Second-in-Command **Captain R. E. Barber** who arranged himself a posting to Northern Ireland. One might interpret the latter's action as a mis-appreciation of the situation. This would only be done, however, without prior knowledge of the implications of being 'on exercise' at R.A.F. Episkopi. The experience defies description. We spent three days incarcerated in building 21 (S.H.Q.) with the angry mob howling at the door. However, we were able to sleep easily on our office floors comforted in the knowledge that our comrades in light blue were laying down their very lives at the door in defence of the Royal Signals, and those living in Episkopi continued to return to the bosoms of their respective families at 1.30 as usual.

And not only were the traumatic experiences of the last 31 days confined to Episkopi. At Dhekelia **Sergeant Hayward** returned from call-out duties one afternoon to the haven of 3rd line workshops to be confronted by a six-foot snake lovingly curled around the foreman—I am sorry, around the foreman's chair.

We inherit Gan

Readers may have read of the transfer of the Corps yacht 'Brigand of Changi' from 19th Regiment to NEARELF. As part of the job lot 605 Signal Troop was thrown in as a free gift with the boat. Avid readers of D.C.I.s will instantly know that 605 Troop is none other than Gan Island Signal Troop with the addition of a Radio Relay link. On the strength of this new-found technical responsibility the Chief Systems Engineer **Captain Pritchard** sallied forth to visit the incumbents, who include **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Sugden** and **Corporals Brown** and **Morgan** currently enjoying a rest and recuperation period with the Troop although they all belong to this Squadron. On his return **Captain Pritchard** was able to report that one need never fear of dying of thirst on Gan. However he was not quite as clear over whether the fruit bats really do hang upside down in the Officers' Mess or whether the bar is suspended from the ceiling.

Three years' hard labour

WIRE notes writers everywhere let us finally mention a few names by way of reward for those who have now completed their three years' hard labour and passed on to greater things (we hope). As mentioned **Captain Barber** has left for Northern Ireland. In addition **Sergeants Jones, Johnson** and **Craine,** three of our station N.C.O.s, have moved on, as have **Corporal McCormick** and **Lance-Corporal Massingham.** We wish them all good fortune.

Report from 48th Gurkha Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron

Officers, Warrant Officers and Seniors Royal Signals and Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong

HOLD SUCCESSFUL DINNER NIGHT

Tai Mo Shan (Ht. 4,500ft.+) overlooks to the north the New Territories and to the south Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. If you had been standing on Tai Mo Shan on the evening of the 30th April looking north and if an emergency had been declared you would have observed a convoy of headlights, probably led by the Commander Royal Signals, closely followed by O.C.s 252 and 253, Second-in-Command Adjutants and senior ranks of both Squadrons, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening would have been ruined. However, no emergency was declared and 110 officers and senior ranks, British, Gurkha and Chinese from the three Squadrons, H.Q. Royal Signals and H.Q. Gurkha Signals sat down in 48th Brigade Sergeants' Mess to a sumptuous dinner on what must have been the largest gathering of officers and seniors in Hong Kong in recent years.

R.S.M. Howie welcomed the guests and expressed his appreciation of the splendid attendance.

The guests of honour were **Colonel A. D. Lewis** and **Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Dexter. Colonel Lewis** later declared how gratifying it was to see the three nationalities mixing so well together. During the evening much hot air was released, many facts proved to be failures and as the dawn drew closer many failures sworn to be facts.

The many letters of thanks pay tribute to the success of the evening. The pictures are ample evidence of what was considered by all to be an excellent evening.



OUR GANG
Members of 48 Gurkha Squadron

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!



THE ISLAND TONG GANG
Members of 252 Signal Squadron



THE KOWLOON GANG
Members of 253 Signal Squadron

621 Signal Troop (LPD)
H.M.S. Fearless
B.F.P.O. Ships

Off the Mull of Kintyre

AT last after a disappearance from the scene for a few months we are back in print again. Time has flown by and already we have done two amphibious exercises. The first, 'Nelson's Touch,' was in Scotland at Carradale Bay, Mull of Kintyre. Headquarters 24th Airportable Brigade were embarked with 1 D.W.R., 25th Light Regiment R.A., 666 Army Aviation Squadron and 845 Naval Air Squadron split between the L.P.D., the L.S.L., *Sir Geraint,* and two Army Landing Craft Tanks. Prior to the landing, this force was attacked by a submarine, and also by some Buccaneers from R.N.A.S. Lossiemouth. Having been 'sunk' several times, we are told, the force landed and exercised ashore for two days. During this period, **Signalman 'Smudge' Smith** was landed with an A13 to act as part of a spotting team to watch for further attacks by the submarine. Unfortunately, after wading ashore in four foot of water from an L.C.V.P. (a small landing craft), he found his morse key u/s and had to resort to the headset pressle switch. He succeeded in working a good link by this means for some hours. **Signalman Bob Ebrey** was on stand-by to be flown with his A41 rebro station to the top of some lofty crag but was not required.

There were some 17 circuits terminated on board H.M.S. *Fearless* and nearly all ran smoothly from H hour until the end of the exercise. Attempts to work an F.S.T. link to Gibraltar proved unsuccessful. Conditions on some days were so bad that routine traffic was delayed up to 12 hours and some Flashes up to three or four hours!

. . . and then to Denmark

As soon as this exercise finished we re-embarked the troops exchanging the 1 D.W.R. for 2nd Royal Irish, and sailed for Denmark. Escorted by a Russian destroyer, an East German minesweeper and a Polish landing craft, we carried out Exercise 'Moon Lady.' This successful exercise terminated in an even more successful run ashore in Copenhagen (world renowned for its books, magazines, films and very attractive girls). Everyone enjoyed this visit which included, for some, tours of the Carlsberg and Turborg breweries and the Cherry Herring headquarters and museum. Very popular were the Tivoli Gardens, although the price of drinks was high. A beer cost 5 Kroner (or 30 pence).

Back to Scotland

The ship returned from Denmark in May, and after a few days sailed to Leith in Scotland for the Whitsun weekend. Here, the ship was open to visitors and took schoolboys out to sea to live on board overnight as part of a 'Meet the Navy' recruiting campaign. Over 800 boys came out with us and all of them had very long hair, much to the annoyance of the Regulators (Naval equivalent of S.S.M.s and R.S.M.s).

Future excursions

The ship sails to Kiel for Kiel Week on 16th June and has most of the British team, boats included, embarked. *Fearless* should put up an impressive performance.

Early in July we embark some 18 tanks and land them near Lulworth Cove. This is a non-tactical exercise and the first time this number of tanks have been loaded into an L.P.D. since 1968. They seem to be in short supply.

During this exercise it is intended that the Troop's Radio and Telegraph Operators cum Commcen Ops. cum Radio Relay Ops. will work our C41/R222 to Portland. The training received by special arrangement with the School of Signals is about to be tested.

Farewells and welcome

At the end of July, we must say farewell to our O.C., **Captain Rollo Rumford,** who is posted to the School of Signals, **Corporal 'Spud' Murphy,** who goes to 244 Signal Squadron, **Corporal Higginson,** who goes to 1 Artillery Brigade, **Lance-Corporal 'Tab' Hunter,** who goes to 14th Signal Regiment, **Signalman Bob Ebrey,** who goes to 244 Signal Squadron, and **Signalman Harry Brussau,** who goes to 22nd Signal Regiment. We wish them all the best in their new jobs. New arrivals in July include **Captain Craig Treeby,** recently at Sharjah, **Corporal McCrandles, Corporal Whitehill, Lance-Corporal Fletcher, Signalman A. Smith, Signalman Mailley** and **Signalman Burgess.**

Our rivals, 661 Signal Troop, on H.M.S. *Intrepid,* have just done a visit to Australia. We are all jealous and looking forward to our good visits.



34th (N) Signal Regiment (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough

'Freedom of Teesside' Parade

ON Sunday, 9th May, the Regiment exercised its right to the Freedom of Teesside by marching through Middlesbrough with 'drums beating and bayonets fixed.' Before the march, the Regiment paraded at the Cenotaph and was inspected by the Mayor of Teesside **Alderman Tim Thornton.** In his speech to the Regiment after the inspection the Mayor said how pleased he was with this link between Teesside and 'Teesside's own Volunteer Regiment.' Brief interviews with the C.O. and the R.S.M. were recorded, together with the sounds and orders on the parade itself, by Radio Teesside and broadcast by them. Afterwards members of the Regiment were provided with refreshments as guests of the Teesside Corporation.



THE FREEDOM OF TEESSIDE PARADE
The Mayor of Teesside, Alderman Tim Thornton and Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Stewart, T.D., returning to the dais after the inspection of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) on Sunday 9th May

90 (North Riding) Squadron's Weekend at Bellerby

Some 110 members of 90 Squadron from both Middlesbrough and Gateshead took over Bellerby W.E.T.C. for the weekend 30th April-2nd May. The objectives of the weekend were to classify the Squadron on the range, for the W.R.A.C. to learn map reading and for everyone to do some adventure training.

While the admin. element, the Second-in-Command **Captain Bill Illingworth,** acting **S.S.M. Harry Bent, S.Q.M.S. 'Dick' Richardson, Sergeant Ron Dark** and others were busy organising the camp on Friday evening, the remainder of the Squadron paraded at 22.00 hours for a night 'walk.' The route, no more than seven miles over roads and 'tracks,' had been surveyed from a nearby hill by **Sergeants Bert North** and **Dick Nelson.** In the dark it was rather different! Only one of the seven parties hit upon the right route over the multi-tracked moorland while the two sweeping-up parties and the O.C. **Major Graham Mitchell** and **Captain Ron Atkinson** met at a point not on the route! Everyone got back in the end although one party had to be rescued by road from a point five miles off the route. Stories of the depth of peat bogs, of distances walked and of blisters multiplied as party after party returned. **Lieutenant Judy Walker** was heard to say as she tripped over a heather root for the umpteenth time, "Just leave me," but was persuaded to continue by an unidentified Lance-Corporal. Despite all, the Squadron had no candidates for sick parade in the morning and the verdict was "When can we do it again."

For the rest of the weekend we enjoyed superb weather and the map-reading and weapon training proceeded smoothly. For the latter we used Whitfell electric range; we had never been on such a range before but were most impressed by the ease of operation and the way it speeded things up. The majority of the Squadron classified, many on S.M.G. and S.L.R., and the weekend ended with the nearest we could manage to the falling plate competitions. The large Troops 704 (Commcen 'A') and 811 (RR) provided two teams apiece while the smaller Troops, S.H.Q., 741, 742 and 743, fielded only one. The eventual winners were S.H.Q. (the O.C., **Lieutenant Ian Buckley,** S.S.M.-designate **Cyril Nock** and the 'Lone Ranger' **Ranger Swindells,** R.I.R.) who beat 811 'B' in a close-shot final.

Meanwhile the W.R.A.C. map-reading training had ended successfully with a very high pass rate in a practical test set by **Captain John Thew,** and we now intend to employ our Commcen Operators as navigators.

A further party from the Squadron under **Captain Bill Langmaid** spent most of the weekend in support of 36th (E) Signal Regiment (V) who were doing the Lyke Wake Walk. This is the subject of a separate note.

The success of the weekend was enhanced by the support we had from 49 Squadron who provided a team of Volunteers for cooking and cookhouse duties. Led by **Sergeant Hardy,** A.C.C., they did a splendid job feeding a Squadron whose appetites grew enormously over the weekend. On the weapon training side we were lucky to have an armourer, **Sergeant Remmer,** R.E.M.E., with us for the weekend.

Exercise 'Long Stride'

When, many months ago, **Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart** let it be known that he had suggested to **Lieutenant-Colonel Prophet** of 36th Regiment that 36th attempt the Lyke Wake Walk and that 90 Squadron would provide support, the problem did not seem particularly large. We thought that perhaps 30 men would come. As time went on the number of walkers quoted by 36th increased by leaps and bounds up to nearly 80, including a party of W.R.A.C. This increase in numbers meant an escalation of support required. Accommodation was required for the brief 'nights' before and after the walk, transport, medical cover, communications and control. In the end the support became a co-operative effort involving H.Q. and 50 Squadrons as well. 50 Squadron provided the reception and initial accommodation at Darlington, H.Q. Squadron provided transport, food and medical cover while 90 Squadron co-ordinated the walk itself and, assisted by 36th Regiment themselves, provided H.F. communication.

Captain Bill Langmaid was appointed walk controller to keep a check on the progress of the walkers and to deploy the radio detachments. These radio detachments came from the Gateshead detachment of 90 Squadron with **Officer Cadet Peter Forster** and **Staff Sergeant Tony Gallagher** in charge. The walk was a great success; it was a wonderful day for walking and 36 out of the 72 starters completed the course in time (although, we are glad to say, in a slower time than achieved by 34th Regiment last year). The radio back-up worked well, the M.O. **Captain Mary Skillen,** R.A.M.C., was scarcely called upon and the transport and general admin. side under **Major Jim Smiles,** of H.Q. Squadron, worked more or less according to plan. We have not heard of any member of 36th Regiment being left behind. We enjoyed seeing them and hope that co-operation of this sort will be possible again.

The WIRE
Without it—
You're not With it!

36th Signal Regiment (V)
Wanstead

Honorary Colonel appointed High Sheriff of Kent

COLONEL **Sir Derek Greenaway Bt., T.D.,** Honorary Colonel, was appointed High Sheriff of Kent recently which must be practically a unique honour for a Signal Regiment.

Sir Derek is a London business man, head of a large family printing firm; he also farms some 650 acres at Edenbridge, Kent. He is the son of a former Lord Mayor of London.

The outbreak of war in 1939 saw him serving with the Territorials in the Field Artillery and at the end of hostilities had risen to the rank of Major. He maintained his military interests after the war and became Honorary Colonel of 44th (Home Counties) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A. When that Regiment was amalgamated into 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) in April, 1967, he became its first Honorary Colonel.

Lyke Wake Walk

The "Lyke Wake Walk," the so-called coffin carrying route of the ancient Britons, starting just North of Northallerton and ending 42 miles later at Ravenscar on the North-east coast is a challenge to any walker, and weather permitting, offers panoramic views of the Tees-side industrial complex, the Cleveland Hills, heather covered moors, the Fylingdales Early Warning Station and eventually the sea.

Volunteers of 36th Signal Regiment (V) accepted the challenge of this walk and the invitation of 34th Regiment to come North from the 'soft' South for the weekend of April 30th-2nd May and try to beat 34th Regiment's time for the walk of 13 hours. The walk was fitted in with a combined communications exercise. Having arrived at Darlington from London between 22.00 and 01.00 hours on the Friday night, the walkers were transported at 04.00 hours from 50th Squadron's Darlington T.A.V.R. Centre to the starting point at Osmotherly where the walk commenced at 05.30 hours.

Meanwhile, C11 radio detachments of 34th Signal Regiment (V), under the command of **Staff Sergeant Gallagher,** left their Squadron's weekend location at Bellerby Camp (where members of 90th Squadron were carrying out military training and classifying on the new electronically-controlled rifle range). Leap-frogging over the moors, the detachments of 34th Regiment and 36th Regiment maintained radio contact so that the whereabouts of the walkers was always known and medical assistance from **Captain Mary Skillen** could be summoned if required.



STEPPING IT OUT
Lieutenant Geoffrey Searle and his section make good going near the finish of the testing Lyke Wake walk

The day was 'tailor made' for the exercise, both good visibility and a light wind. 71 volunteers set out in 11 teams. **Major Desmond Fuller's** team led the way at a cracking pace and maintained the lead by a wide margin until Wheeldale Lodge, but it was **Staff Sergeant Morella's** team which completed the journey in the shortest time of the day, 14½ hours. Only one team, led by **Lieutenant Latchford,** managed to stay intact as a team. By 01.00 hours on Sunday morning the 31 walkers who completed the walk had arrived, though one team led by **Corporal Craig** must have walked at least 50 miles in order to get there. It was not for want of trying that no W.R.A.C. volunteers were able to earn the coveted "Coffin" badge. **Privates Walker** and **Bishop** had to drop out within three miles of the end, because of foot troubles.

However, the early planning of **Lieutenant Geoff Searle,** of 36th Regiment, and **Captain Bill Illingworth,** of 34th Regiment, the practice marches of 36th Regiment and the work of radio detachments and support parties under the command of **Captain Bill Langmaid,** of 34th, and **Captain Tony Woodhouse,** of the 36th, resulted in what must be regarded by both Regiments as a most successful exercise.

Private Wire

Recently a new Regimental magazine, *Private Wire*, reappeared under the Editorship of **Lieutenant Ian Blythe.** It is based on the 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A. magazine of the same name which was published on two occasions in 1965 and 1966. It is a sign of the times that some of the photographs would have made the National Sunday press five years ago, but this latest one is regarded as fairly sober.

Greater London T. & A.V.R. parade

The now customary annual publicity parade in or near Hyde Park duly took place with **Lieutenant Ian Kennard** commandng the Regimental detachment. **Ian** has recently taken over a 'B'-type Control Centre Troop, having served a spell as Assistant Adjutant. He now attends at the Ilford T. & A.V.R. Centre.

Visit of Chief Signal Officer — B.A.O.R.

Following the S.O. in C.'s visit at the end of last year we were indeed honoured to receive the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Major General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** on a visit to our Wanstead and Ilford T. & A.V.R. Centres, where he spoke to volunteers on B.A.O.R. driver training and communication training in preparation for their Camp in B.A.O.R. in September.

FORCES U.K.
TRADE-IN SCHEME

If you are to be posted overseas soon and wish to dispose of your present car, we will give you a high trade-in figure now against any future purchase.

FOR FULL DETAILS FILL IN THIS COUPON

NAME_____ RANK_____
ADDRESS_____
_____
_____
MAKE OF CAR_____ MODEL_____
MILEAGE_____ WHEN FIRST REGISTERED_____
COLOUR_____ EXTRAS FITTED_____
_____
LHD ☐ RHD ☐
CONDITION
Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Ghastly ☐

✳ Don't worry about HP settlements outstanding Purchase Tax liabilities or import duties. Weir Lodge will settle them all without any fuss or bother.

WEIR LODGE
WEIR LODGE GARAGE LTD.
Bridge Road, Chertsey, Surrey. Tel. Chertsey 64264/62047

38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Sheffield

SPOTLIGHT ON 46 (DERBY) SQUADRON

Have canoe—will travel

OUR notes were recently graced by a photograph of 46 Squadron's Administrative Officer carrying his own canoe (and he's good at paddling too!). Readers of the TAVR magazine may have noticed that his length of service and number of units are both impressive, commencing well before the DOB of our present-day recruits.

Rolls Royce

Many of the Squadron are involved, one way or another, with Rolls Royce. We anxiously await again the excuse that "overtime at Royces" is again cutting our attendances—but only a little!

The advanced passenger train

British Railways' advanced projects involve several of our Derby officers. After dealing with 300 m.p.h. trains/ideas and using swaying Deltics (100 m.p.h. jobs these), it is interesting to see them humbly accepting Austin K9-type transport from time to time, travelling at a handsome 10 m.p.h.

Down we go

Parachutists, under the guiding hand of the Adjutant, **Captain I. Amos,** have rapidly increased in numbers in the past year. **R.Q.M.S. D. Sivell** challenges all over-40s to a competition in accurate landing; the O.C., 87 Squadron, **Major A. Hawksworth** has jumped, and the first two W.R.A.C. are training to do so later this year. Unfortunately, **Staff Sergeant Evans** was well and truly let down and (finally) plastered, after an unlucky landing (when he was heard to say "let me see, what was that Indian's name again?").

Tank transport

Recently, visitors to the Regimental Headquarters could be forgiven for the thought that we have assumed a dual role, as we were a base for the Household Cavalry during a recruiting drive. The car park sported Saracens, Saladins and Ferrets.

Recent additions

We welcome the following to the Regiment: **Major Walmesly-Cotham,** from Blandford, as our Training Major; **Staff Sergeant A. B. Mullins,** from 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)—sporting the only khaki moustache in the Britsh Army (?) as our Chief Clerk; and **Staff Sergeant A. McMullens** from 252 Signal Squadron (Hong Kong) as F. of S.

Congratulations to . . .

To **Signalman A. Ibbotson** on winning the Best Recruit Cup after completing the recent course held at Scarborough.

To **Sergeants R. Wilkinson, W. Gambles, Signalman M. Smith, A. Broadhead** and **J. Vernon** on their selection for the T. & A.V.R. soccer team to play Cambridge University.

To **Signalman A. Gorman,** selected for the T. & A.V.R. hockey team to play the Regular Army R.E. and Army Teams.

To **Corporal R. Eyre** and **Signalman R. Jacques,** selected to represent Northern Command as individuals in the T. & A.V.R. Cross-Country Championships at Colchester.

To the 64 Squadron soccer team, who were again runners-up for the T. & A.V.R. Cup.

Stop Press

21st Regiment Athletics to the fore again

At the B.A.O.R. inter-unit team championships on the 3rd July, the 21st Regiment managed to notch up second place to 19th Field Regiment with 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment in third place.

As a consequence the 21st Regiment go forward to the finals of the Army Team Athletic Championships at Aldershot on Wednesday, 21st July.

Corps Canoeists in British Representative Team

CHOSEN FOR INTERNATIONAL IN SPAIN

Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. D. F. Painter, Secretary Royal Signals Canoe Club, writes:

All will be very pleased to hear that two members of the Royal Signals Canoe Club have been selected as members of the Great Britain representative team which will participate in the 1971 International Sella River Race and associated series of races in Spain in August. These are senior open events. The individuals concerned are:

Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow, School of Signals.

Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink, School of Signals.

Two other members of the Corps Canoe Club will travel to the Sella River Race as reserves for the team and, in any event, will participate in the races. They are:

Corporal M. J. Bull, School of Signals.

Lance-Corporal R. G. Story, School of Signals.

The following is a list of results achieved by **Lance-Corporal Pawlow** and **Lance-Corporal Wink** in national and international events so far this season:

Lee and Stort LD Race: 4th in Class 2 (K2) Senior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink.

Lincoln LD Race: 3rd in Class 1 (K1) Senior. Crew: Pawlow.

Bedford - St. Neots LD Race: 1st in Class 1 (K1) Senior. Crew: Pawlow.

Royal Sprint Regatta: 1st in 10,000 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink. 1st in 10,000 metres Class 4 (K4) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink/two civilian canoeists.

Brent Sprint Regatta: 1st in 1,000 metres Class 1 (K1) Junior. Crew: Pawlow. 1st in 1,000 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink.

Richmond Regatta: 1st in 500 metres Class 1 (K1) Junior. Crew: Pawlow. 2nd in 500 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink. 2nd in 10,000 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink.

Chelmer LD Race: 1st in Class 2 (K2) Senior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink.

North v. South Sprint Regatta (held at Nottingham): 1st in 500 metres Class 1 (K1) Junior. Crew: Pawlow. 1st in 1,000 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink.

National Canoe Sprint Championships: 1st in 10,000 metres Class 1 (K1) Junior. Crew: Pawlow. 1st in 10,000 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink.

(As a result Lance-Corporal Pawlow is now the Class 1 Junior National Champion at 10,000 metres and Lance-Corporals Pawlow and Wink are the Class 2 Junior National Champions at 10,000 metres).

International Sprint Regatta at Deventer, Holland, 1971: 1st in 500 metres Class 1 (K1) Junior. Crew: Pawlow. 1st in 1,000 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior). Crew: Pawlow/Wink. 1st in 10,000 metres Class 1 (K1) Junior. Crew: Pawlow. 2nd in Class 1 (K1) Junior Relay. Crew: Pawlow. 3rd in 10,000 metres Class 2 (K2) Junior. Crew: Pawlow/Wink.

Corporal M. J. Bull and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story also participated in the majority of these events and were well placed.

Extract from Canoeing Magazine

That Corps Canoeists have made their mark in the highest standard of canoeing is borne out by an extract from the May issue of *Canoeing Magazine* — a widely read journal of the canoeing world. Commenting on the long distance paddlers' event in the Bedford-St. Neots race, the writer says: "A great surprise of the day here was the win in the Senior Singles Class of **R. M. Pawlow,** of the Royal Signals Canoe Club. He stormed ahead of all the favourites including many top class internationals, taking the win with a very easy style. Watch out for the Royal Signals boys this year. They are training hard with the Richmond and Royal Canoe Club and going very well over long and sprint racing."

Corps Marksmen in Fine Form

Corps marksmen were right on target at the recent Services meeting at Bisley. In the keenly contested Methuen they tied first with R.E.M.E. with 951 points, defeating R.N., R.A.F. and the cream of Corps and Infantry teams. The tie was then decided on the best showing in practice 2 in which, unfortunately, R.E.M.E. had scored better. 30th Regiment 'B' team also won the R.U.R. Cup (Falling Plates) with their 'A' team coming in third out of a total of 88 entries. (Full details in next month's WIRE).

Personal Affairs

Obituary

Harry Wright

Bournemouth Branch has suffered a great loss in the death of the Chairman, Mr. Harry Wright, which occurred some weeks ago. Harry had been a member of the Branch since 1937 and from February 1947 had been Chairman until his death—a period of 24 years. Mr. Wright was very popular, not only among members but in Bournemouth where he had many interests, and he was very dedicated to the work and aspirations of the Association.

Harry had enjoyed a varied service career commencing as a Sapper with R.E. Signals in 1919; he was a Life Member of the Association.

The Branch would like to put on record their appreciation of his long association with the Branch and for the great work he put in over the years, and to express their sincere sympathy to his family. It will be very hard to replace him.

James Dyson

Mr. James E. Dyson, of 49 Crossways Drive, Harrogate, Yorks., sadly died on 21st June. Mr. Dyson was an Annual Member of Harrogate Branch of many years' standing and was formerly a member of Portsmouth Branch of the Association. He will be missed by a wide circle of friends.

Movements

Officers

Major K. B. P. Andrews, M.B.E.	...	To M.O.D. Sigs. 36A as Lt.-Col.
Major R. J. Armstrong	...	,, H.Q. 4 Signals Group
Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Baker	...	,, H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps
Captain R. F. Baly	...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Lieutenant H. B. Bennett	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant M. E. Billett	...	,, 24 Airptbl. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Captain P. R. Brewis	...	,, 13th Regiment
Captain A. Burns	...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant W. K. Butler	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) J. F. Chater	...	,, 71st Regiment (V)
Lieutenant L. F. C. Curtis	...	,, School of Signals as Captain
Captain (T.O.T.) H. Davies	...	,, 10th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant C. G. F. Day	...	,, 16th Regiment
Captain R. Dorrell	...	,, A.A.C. Harrogate as Major
Major K. W. E. Ferguson	...	,, 4 Comns. Unit
Major (T.O.T.) P. W. Foakes	...	,, 11th Regiment (retiring)
Captain W. A. C. Griffiths	...	,, 21st Regiment as Major
Captain R. R. Johnson	...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt. as Major
Lieutenant A. Kennedy	...	,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant W. V. Legge	...	,, 9th Regiment
Major G. J. K. Mackintosh	...	,, ANZ U.K. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Captain G. A. Maude	...	,, 13th Regiment as Major
Lieutenant N. J. Mayne	...	,, 12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant T. R. Morgan	...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Major N. C. Muir	...	,, 253 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant J. P. Munnery	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain J. E. Neeve	...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Lieutenant E. M. Powell	...	,, School of Signals as Captain
Major E. F. Prockter	...	,, M.O.D. (Signals 1)
Second-Lieutenant J. C. O. K. Rayner		,, 16th Regiment
Lieutenant P. J Reed	...	,, 21st Regiment
Second-Lieutenant M. S. Reid	...	,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Lieutenant N. G. Reynolds	...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Lieutenant M. A. Rice	...	,, 244 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant J. A. Rose	...	,, 21st Regiment 1st Com.
Lieutenant K. H. Rowbory	...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Captain R. J. G. M. Rumford	...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant A. J. Saunders	...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Major H. Scott	...	,, 8th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant P. M. Sharman	...	,, 28th Regiment
Lieutenant M. P. S. Shaw	...	,, 1 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Lieutenant J. C. B. Simpson	...	,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Lieutenant J. R. Smith	...	,, 28th Regiment
Major V. S. Smith	...	,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Major P. A. Spooner	...	,, 244 Signal Squadron
Major (Q.M.) A. F. Stubbs, M.B.E.		,, 30th Regiment
Lieutenant A. H. Symmons	...	,, 1 Arty. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant W. M. Taylor	...	,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant J. D. Tydeman	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Major M. R. C. Weiner	...	,, H.Q., NORTHAG
Lieutenant N. O. Williams	...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Captain R. A. Wright	...	,, 7th Regiment

Senior N.C.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1 (F. of S.) C. A. Berry	...	To 14th Regiment
W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. L. E. Walke	...	,, 2 Sqn. 11th Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) T. G. Hill	...	,, 229 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. A. Cook	...	,, 632 Signal Troop
W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. Sharp	...	,, 21st Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) P. D. Hayler	...	,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.2 D. C. Prescott	...	,, Camp FARELF (holding strength)
W.O.2 F. Thomas	...	,, 11th Regiment
W.O.2 B. O'Neill	...	,, H.Q. 11 Signal Group (V)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) F. W. Kendall		,, 7 Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant J. H. Richardson	...	,, 1 Arty. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) W. D. Dyke		,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. Allen	...	,, 1 Arty. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) L. Yates	...	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Sim	...	,, 34th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant R. W. Barber	...	,, 38th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant P. T. Goudman	...	,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. H. Robinson	...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Clarke	...	,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. T. Nichols		,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. D. Ireland	...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. W. Patch	...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. A. Rodger	...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. George	...	,, H.Q. 3 Signal Group
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. D. Woolf		,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. W. Maltby		,, 55 Signal Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. Waldock		,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. H. J. Hillier		,, H.Q., AFCENT
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) T. Kay	...	,, 262 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. Wills	...	,, 35th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. G. Houston		,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant D. S. Smith	...	,, 20th Maritime Regiment, R.C.T.
Sergeant P. Boase	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. Foody	...	,, Camp FARELF (holding strength)
Sergeant J. P. Grocott	...	,, Camp FARELF (holding strength)
Sergeant M. M. Ambler	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant D. W. Green	...	,, 227 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. Jeffery	...	,, 7th Regiment
A/Sergeant R. J. Bennet	...	,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant G. A. Ameghino	...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. Harlick	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Malone	...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant C. F. Smith	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Walker	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. Croot	...	,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. E. Tuplin	...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Urry	...	,, Army Personnel Selection Group
Sergeant E. G. Jeffries	...	,, 2 Sqn. 11th Regiment
Sergeant B. E. Craine	...	,, 38th Regiment (V)
Sergeant B. Jones	...	,, H.Q. 30 Engr. Bde. Sig. Troop
Sergeant F. B. Mackey	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant I. F. McLellan	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant B. Barnett	...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Gallagher	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant A. P. Johnson	...	,, 33rd Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. McDonald	...	,, 20 Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant D. A. Ackers	...	,, 44 Sig. Sqn. (V)
Sergeant W. J. Edwards	...	,, H.Q. AFSOUTH
Sergeant C. D. Graham	...	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant A. L. Carratt	...	,, 234 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. F. R. Laing	...	,, 2 Sqn. 11th Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Roscoe	...	,, 8th Regiment

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*	
To WO 2					
Pfeiffer	G. A.	S Sgt.	11 Apr. 71	3 Mar. 69	
Heath,	A. R.	S Sgt.	25 Apr. 71	7 Mar. 67	
O'Connell,	W.	S Sgt.	28 Apr. 71	4 Mar. 69	
Burt,	A. J. T.	S Sgt.	3 May 71	8 Mar. 69	
To S Sgt.					
Stanley-Jones,	R. G.	A/S Sgt.	5 Feb. 71	24 Jan. 64	(R. Op.)
Browlie,	H. B.	A/S Sgt.	1 Mar. 71	21 Jan. 65	(R. Op.)
Crumbie,	W. J.	Sgt.	12 Mar. 71	18 Apr. 67	(Tg. Op.)
Parkes,	J. H.	A/S Sgt.	13 Mar. 71	5 Jan. 66	(Tg. Op.)

O'Riordan,	E. D.	A/S Sgt.	14 Mar. 71	1 Feb. 59	(ComcenOp)
Hacker,	J. R.	Sgt.	18 Mar. 71	1 Sep. 66	(R.R. Man)
Morris,	J. B.	Sgt.	22 Mar. 71	28 Feb. 62	(Lmn.)
Kinsey,	P.	A/S Sgt.	31 Mar. 71	27 Feb. 64	(R. Op.)
Fuggo,	G. A.	Sgt.	26 Apr.71	22 May 68	(E.D.)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To WO 1				
Kelly,	V. G.	A/W.O.1	31 Mar.71	1 Jan. 67
Heaps,	C.	A/W.O.1	31 Mar. 71	1 Apr. 65
To W.O.2				
Holmes,	I. R.	S Sgt.	1 Apr. 71	21 Jul. 66

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.				
Nevill,	M. T.	Cpl.	20 Oct. 70	18 Jun. 66
Bennett,	D. R.	Cpl.	21 Jan. 71	30 Mar. 66
Belcher,	R. A.	Cpl.	2 Feb. 71	3 Jul. 68
Thomas,	V.	Cpl.	11 Feb. 71	12 Aug.66
Gordon,	F. D. M.	Cpl.	11 Feb. 71	14 Feb. 68
Gravestock,	P. J.	Cpl.	12 Feb. 71	5 Nov. 68
Kingdom,	D. G.	Cpl.	23 Feb. 71	22 Jul. 67
Davies,	W.	Cpl.	23 Feb. 71	1 Jul. 67
Lovell,	T. A.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	1 Apr. 60
Morrissey,	K. D.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	30 Apr. 64
Priestley,	C. G.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	30 Jul. 65
Simms,	D. F.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	13 Jan. 66
Flynn,	A A	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	24 Mar. 66
Murtagh,	J.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	30 Mar. 66
Atherton,	A. L.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	18 Jun. 66
Harper,	J.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	6 Aug. 66
Quick,	D. W.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	15 Feb. 65
Fotheringham,	G.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	2 Dec. 66
King,	P. W.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	3 Jul. 68
Vassallo,	A. P.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	20 Apr. 67
Peters,	R. N.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	26 Apr. 67
Artley,	A. W.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	26 May 67
Howarth,	N.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	12 Jul. 67
Blackwell,	A. W.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	23 Nov. 67
Jones,	J. G.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	30 May 68
Kemp,	W. J. M.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	14 Apr. 67
Barden,	G. K.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	14 Apr. 67
Berry,	M. E.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	14 Apr. 67
Jones,	J. A.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	14 Apr. 67
England,	J. L.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	14 Apr. 67

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Wilkinson,	T.	Cpl.	1 Jan. 71	1 Mar. 67
Atkinson,	J.	A/Sgt.	4 Jan. 71	31 Mar. 69
Ashton,	K. G.	A/Sgt.	12 Mar. 71	30 Nov. 67
Trayler,	C. P.	Cpl.	13 Mar. 71	1 Sep. 66
Lyth,	T. E.	A/Sgt.	1 Apr. 71	3 Nov. 65

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Lomas,	D.	A/Sgt.	14 Mar. 71	10 May 66
Gallagher,	T. J.	A/Sgt.	14 Mar. 71	21 Jul. 57

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Coles,	G. R.	Cpl.	1 Jan. 71	28 Jul. 65
Stirzaker,	T. H.	A/Sgt.	21 Jan. 71	6 May 65

DELETIONS

Name	*Initials*	*Sen. Date*

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.2		
Paxton,	J. K. F.	9 Feb. 68
Palman,	M.	29 Apr. 70
S Sgt.		
Edgar,	R. P.	22 Oct. 61
Cokayne,	F.	20 Aug. 68
Evans,	J. T. E.	1 Sep. 68

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.2		
Nixon,	E. D.	15 Apr. 68

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.		
West,	R. J.	28 Mar, 68
Lehany,	J. F.	31 Jul. 68

CLERK/DRAUGHTSMAN ROLL

Sgt.		
Smithson,	R. H. R.	1 Dec. 55

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.		
Burt,	B. A. C.	22 Jun. 55

DRIVER ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

Sgt.		
Saxby,	L. F.	1 Jul. 64
Thornborough,	P.	2 Nov. 60

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.		
Wilby,	N.	20 Dec. 69

CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES MEANS

SALOON HUNTERS · *WAGON HUNTERS* · FAST GT HUNTERS · *PROVEN IMPS*
THOSE AVENGERS · *RAUCOUS RAPIERS* · SUMPTUOUS SCEPTRES

Discounts up to 17½% from UK basic

- **FAST FOR FORCES** PRIORITY FACTORY HELD STOCKS
- SPECIAL FORCES FINANCE AND INSURANCE SCHEME
- DELIVERY UK OR WEST GERMANY
- MODELS TO OVERSEAS POSTING SPECIFICATION
- TRAINED STAFF WITH YOU IN MIND

That's what Chrysler Military Sales means. Can you really settle for less?

To INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS
Chrysler Military Sales Ltd., Halkin House, Halkin Street, London SW1. Telephone 01-235-6484.
or CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES CORPS., Karlstrasse 16, Frankfurt, West Germany

Send me your free information pack. I am interested in:
For delivery U.K. ☐ W. Germany ☐ Tax paid ☐

Name..... Rank.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone..... Ext.....

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIANS

INTERESTING vacancies exist with a well known British company operating in the Middle East, for Electronics Technicians to be responsible for maintenance duties on Radar Display equipment and Computers associated with radar equipment.

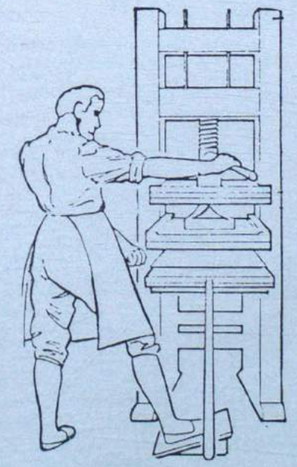
Suitable applicants can be offered courses of instruction on the equipment concerned before departing for the Middle East.

These appointments offer a good salary plus an annual bonus (both of which can qualify for tax concessions). The company provides accommodation, catering, medical and other facilities. There is generous leave at 7-monthly intervals with free air passages home. Salary and subsistence allowance will be paid during courses in this country.

Apply quoting Ref: 306 to:

Personnel Manager
AIRWORK SERVICES LTD
Bournemouth (Hurn) Airport
Christchurch, Hants

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND **PRINTING**

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD
The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes

BAOR.....?

—If you are arriving soon, or are here already, and interested in a new:—

TRIUMPH '71 FAMILY MODELS UP TO 15% OFF! Toledo £636 1500 £781 2000 £1089.

OR LIST PRICES SLASHED!

PEUGEOT ALL '71 MODELS DISCOUNT PRICES FROM ONLY £646!

Then for details of U.K./Germany Delivery, Specifications, Nato Prices, H.P., 'Partex, Call, 'Phone or Write to:

Mr. P. BRENNAN DUPLEIX
of **WALTER HAGEN & CO., GmbH**
415 KREFELD
Pestalozzistr.—WEST GERMANY
or **TELEPHONE KREFELD 28311** (10.30-12.00 hrs preferably)

IMPORTER — SOLE DISTRIBUTOR
(We have Agents in the U.K. too)

CYPHER VACANCIES

Vacancies exist for men and women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work.

Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,385.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays. When on regular shift duty additional allowances of up to 20% of basic salary are payable. Opportunities exist for overseas service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions).

There are also propects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Application forms and full details available from:

Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone: Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

RADIO OPERATORS

DO YOU HOLD

PMG II *OR* PMG I *OR* NEW GENERAL CERTIFICATE

OR

HAD TWO YEARS' RADIO OPERATING EXPERIENCE?

Looking for a secure job with good pay and conditions?

Then apply for a post with the Composite Signals Organisation. These are Civil Service posts, with opportunities for service abroad, and of becoming established, i.e., non-contributory pension scheme.

Specialist Training Courses (free accommodation) starting January, April and September, 1972.

If you are British born and resident in the United Kingdom, write NOW for full details and application form from

Government Communications Headquarters,
Recruitment Officer,
Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL52 5AJ.
(Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270).

Hawkes of Savile Row

The British have regularly gone into battle with glory and Hawkes' uniforms. Enough have survived to keep the firm going . . . and on victory parades and ceremonial occasions their splendid Hawkes' uniforms have always lent colour to the occasion.

Hawkes of Savile Row go back to the 1770's. Every year hundreds of people go back to Hawkes to be dressed for the 1970's You'll know our reputation for made-to-measure tailoring but you may be surprised at the extent of our hand-made ready-to-wear range. Drop in and see both at:

1 SAVILE ROW · LONDON · W1
01-734 0186

12a LONDON ROAD
CAMBERLEY · SURREY
Camberley 63829

Illustrated catalogue sent free on request

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS. Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

August-September 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for :-

Convertible Whole Life — Education Endowment — Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust — Retirement — House Purchase — Security for your Family

General Insurance for :-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR TEMPERANCE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

CYPHER VACANCIES

Vacancies exist for men and women (particularly ex-Service personnel) for Communications Centre work.

Recent experience in Cypher or Teleprinting desirable.

Appointments are paid on a scale rising to £1,385.

Those appointed must accept liability for shift duties covering nights, weekends and public holidays. When on regular shift duty additional allowances of up to 20% of basic salary are payable. Opportunities exist for overseas service.

All first appointments are temporary but with excellent prospects of becoming established (i.e. permanent and pensionable without Superannuation deductions).

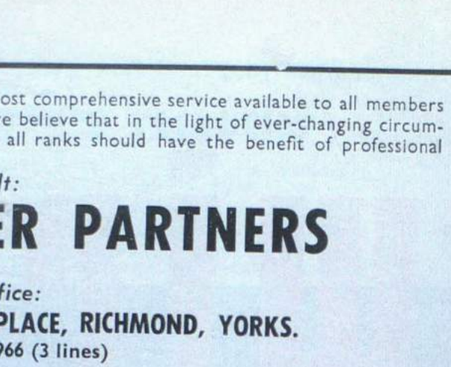
There are also propects for promotion.

Civil Service leave, hours and sickness benefits apply.

Candidates and both parents must have been British since birth.

Application forms and full details available from:

Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone : Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270



ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

TIES			
Silk	£1·50	Crested Tankards ..	£3·50 / £4·50
Terylene/Crimplene ..	£0·90	Silk Blazer Badges ..	£0·85
Crested Terylene ..	£1·35	Gold Wire Blazer Badges	£3·00
REME Institute Ties	£1·35	Wall Shields	£2·00
Crested Cuff Links ..	£3·50	Car Badges	£2·10

Items made to your own design (by quotation)

U.K. Post Free Overseas Post Ties/Badges 10p
Other items 25p

Sharps — 17 GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE 56666/7

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months £1.20; single month, **10p.**

☆

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 8**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

21st Signal Regiment have, in recent years, been making quite a name for themselves in sport. In particular they have won the Army Athletics Team Championship for the last two years running and have twice been second in the Army Cross-Country Team Championships over the same period. Apart from this, they have been to the fore in shooting and tug-of-war and a number of other sports.

It is with pleasure that we reproduce on our front cover some of the major trophies they have won. Notable amongst these are the large trophies on the top row which are (from left to right): The B.A.O.R. Athletics Team Championships Runners-up Cup (won 1970, retained 1971), for Army Rifle Association Non-central matches the King George V Cup, the Corps Shield and the King Edward VII Trophy, the Army Athletics Team Championship (won 1970, retained 1971), the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Team Championship Cup (won 1970, retained 1971), the R.A.F. (Germany) Tug-of-War Championship Shield.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that the handsome pheasant trophy in the second row was a private presentation by **Colonel Johnnie Clinch** when he was Commander of 4 Signal Group. It is known as the Bird of the Year and is awarded to the officer who contributes most from an athletic point of view.

Catterick Reunion 26th/27th June 1971

Once again the ever popular Catterick Reunion weekend has come and gone albeit this year with a certain amount of difficulty for the Training Brigade who were confronted with accommodation and feeding difficulties due to considerable rebuilding in their area. As a consequence a ceiling had, of necessity, to be imposed on the numbers who could be accommodated and provided with meals on the Sunday. In spite of this over 500 Association members were put-up for the night and given meals next day, apart from the excellent buffet suppers provided in W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes on Saturday evening.

In this connection all should note that this situation may last for some time and in the case of meals priority must go to those who are being accommodated and to members of the Association. Branch Secretaries can help by ensuring their attendance figures are as accurate as possible and that Branches do not arrive with smaller numbers than originally notified.

Despite the limitations mentioned above, the weekend went off remarkably well. The ever-capricious Catterick weather managed to produce sunshine when it was required and showers when it didn't matter. The Corps Band at the Retreat ceremony seemed, if anything, better than ever. St. Martin's Church on the Sunday was packed as usual and it was an inspiring sight to see 19 Branch Standards laid-up for the service at which **Major the Reverend Jimmy Dearden** (late of the Corps) preached with much effect on the Corps badge and a Christian interpretation of its meaning.

At the march-past all were pleased to see **Major-General Peter Bradley,** our new Master of Signals, taking the salute, and his presence during the rest of the day was much appreciated.

At 5 p.m. another excellent Reunion weekend came to an end. That it was up to its usual high standard is exemplified by one officer who contributed £25 to Association funds to mark his appreciation, and a Branch who wrote to the Commander Training Brigade as follows:

"I am writing on behalf of the 30 members of the Branch to express to you and through you to your staff, our great appreciation of the trouble taken in connection with the Reunion weekend.

We can appreciate the vast amount of additional work this event must entail and it is only right that you should know how much it is appreciated by those of us who reap the benefits.

If it were possible to select just one aspect of that wonderful weekend for special praise my members feel it must be the catering, both in the Sergeants' Messes and in the dining halls. The five-star hotel standard achieved on past Reunions was certainly maintained this year and those of my members who attended for the first time haven't yet stopped talking about the food! Our special thanks to your Catering Officer.

We are counting the weeks to next year."

(See double photo page on pages 314 and 315)

Third Reunion of the Hong Kong Signal Company (1939-45)



Front row, left to right: J. Murphy, Mrs. T. Ient, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) A. F. Austen, Mrs. B. Ashford, Major-General P. F. Pentreath Signal Officer in Chief, Mrs. P. Pentreath, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) E. Levett, Ex-C.S.O. China Command, Mrs. M. Truscott, Mrs. B. Harrison, W. Holland, Mrs. B. Watkins.

Second row, left to right: J. Whitehead, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) Monty Truscott, Mrs. J. Wood, V. Ient, R.S.M. J. T. Wood, Mrs. M. Binningsley, Mrs. H. Parry, W. Bevan, D. Harrison, M. Morgan, Major (Retired) F. Ashford.

Third row, left to right: Major (Retired) D. C. Dickens, J. Hogan, Mrs. J. Hogan, A. Swaine, Mrs. H. Wallwork, G. Stanford, G. Busby, Captain (Retired) J. Dignan, T. Mellor, J. McCann, C. Latter, L. Parry, D. Howell, W. Stephenson, R. Cogbill, H. Wallwork, P. Moddrell, B. Binningsley, Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Amott, R. Hood, H. Bates, G. Carroll, F. Watkins, D. Honeybourne, M. Skinner, W. McCormick, J. Roelich.

THE third reunion since the survivors of this unit were released from Japanese POW camps in August, 1945, took place at Blandford Camp on 5th June. It is recalled that the Company lost half its men when the prison ship 'Lisbon Maru,' which was transporting them to Japan, was sunk by the United States' submarine U.S.S. 'Grouper,' in October, 1942, and 1,100 out of 1,800 British prisoners lost their lives when, after the torpedo struck, the Japanese guards battened them in the hold and left them to their fate.

Our guests this year were **Major-General P. F. Pentreath** (Signal Officer-in-Chief) and **Mrs. Pentreath,** and **R.S.M. J. T. Wood** (School of Signals) and **Mrs. Wood;** we think they enjoyed this far from formal gathering of 'old sweats' and were amused by some of the yarns they heard.

Although the number attending was slightly down on last year's reunion this was more than made up by the attendance of nine wives who added to the family atmosphere. **Lieutenant-Colonel E. Levett,** who held the appointment of Chief Signal Officer China Command, was present and we were all delighted to see him again.

Lieutenant-Colonel Monty Truscott presented a Samurai sword to **R.S.M. Wood** and the members of his Mess, as a token of appreciation for the hospitality extended to us by his Mess—we are most grateful. The sword, which is to take pride of place in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, was surrendered to **Monty** by a Japanese Colonel in August 1945.

Our thanks to R.S.M. Wood and his magnificent staff for making this our third reunion so successful and a special vote of thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Monty Truscott for his tireless efforts in arranging all these reunions to date; he is still anxious to trace further survivors of the Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45 and anyone who can help should contact him at the Defence Automatic Data Processing Training Centre, Blandford Camp, Telephone Blandford 2581, extension 331.

T.H.A.



IN APPRECIATION OF HOSPITALITY EXTENDED
Lieutenant-Colonel Monty Truscott presents R.S.M. Wood of the School of Signals with a Japanese Samurai sword in appreciation of all the hospitality extended by his Mess.

From our "In" Tray

Corps celebrates its birthday in Rio de Janeiro

Sir,

I thought that your readers would like to know that the Corps is not forgotten, even in far off South America.

My wife and I had great pleasure in giving a cocktail buffet party for over a hundred guests in celebration of the Corps' 51st birthday. All the foreign Naval, Military and Air Attachés accredited to Brazil were invited, as were senior signals officers in the Brazilian armed forces. The Rio de Janeiro branch of the British Legion came along, together with their colleagues of the Polish Legion. One happy discovery was that the South African Commercial Counsellor had served alongside me in the South African Signals in the Somaliland and Abyssinian Campaign.

I believe the event made some impact on the Brazilian Army, as their own Signal Corps is only some four years old.

Yours sincerely,

D. M. Haslehust, Colonel.

Defence and Military Attaché,
British Embassy, Rio de Janeiro.
c/o F.C.O.,
King Charles Street,
London, S.W.1.

Squash in the Corps

Sir,

As I shall be retiring in the next year, I am handing over as President of Corps Squash to **Brigadier Tonry.** I should, however, be grateful for an opportunity to express my gratitude to all those people who have done so much in the last three years to give squash such a boost. This has been reflected in the outstanding success of the Corps Team and the many other fine achievements, notably at the School of Signals, the Training Brigade and the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate.

It may not be generally known that **Captain Jim Storr** was awarded his Army colours after representing the Army at the Inter Service Squash Tournament. Also playing for the Army —and very well too—was **Officer Cadet Neil Stewart,** the son of **Lieutenant-Colonel Freddie Stewart** of the Corps.

The Corps is especially indebted to **Captain Mike Cornforth,** the captain and secretary Corps Squash whose quiet efficiency on and off the court has contributed so much to our success. He leaves the Army shortly to take up a teaching appointment at Canford. He takes with him the best wishes of all those of the Squash fraternity.

Yours faithfully,

T. H. C. Grigg, Colonel.

Headquarters Western Command,
Chester CH4 7AW.

Sergeant 'Tommy' Blades B.E.M.

Hundreds of ex-Boys and countless other friends will learn with regret of the death of that fine Corps personality — **Tommy Blades** — at Brighton on 18th July.

Next-of-kin is his sister **Mrs. Rita Hicks,** of 22 Southampton Street, Brighton.

A write-up will appear in the September issue of THE WIRE.

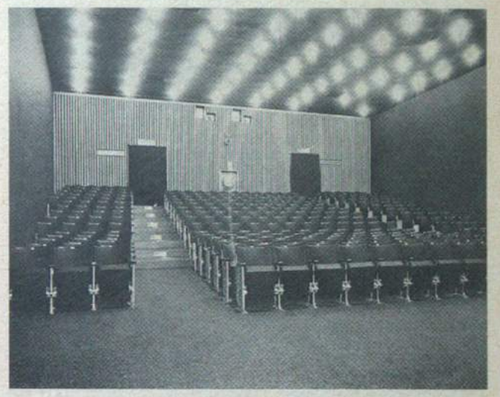
ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during June, 1971:

	£ p
Officer Commanding 249 Signal Squadron	25.00
President, Wives' Club, 18th Signal Regiment	27.70
Officer Commanding 11th Signal Regiment (collection box)	1.09
Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L.	2.10
W. G. Kitsop, Esq.	1.25
Colonel R. G. L. Giblin, O.B.E.	1.00
A. B. Turner, Esq.	50
Various individual donations	32
	£58.96

Corps Officer in English Amateur Golf Championship

Major Dick Carroll, handicap 1, competing once again in the English Golf Championships at Burnham on 20th July, ran into tough opposition when he found himself matched against a seeded player, **David Marsh,** the current holder of the Championship. These two first met at Wentworth 10 years ago when **Carroll** won two and one. The tables were well turned this year when **Marsh** came home on a five and four win with a below par round and despite a great birdie three by **Carroll** at the 390 yard third hole.



BLANDFORD CAMP'S LATEST AMENITY
Interior view S.K.C. Cinema Blandford Camp. Opened on Monday 28th June 1971.



CONGRATULATIONS
A recent recipient of the Meritous Service Medal was W.O.2 E. H. Walker serving with Northern Army Group, Headquarters. He is seen receiving his award from Major-General D. G. House C.B.E., M.C.

21st Regiment do it again!

Corps Premier Athletic Regiment wins Army Team Championship

The Wire sporting correspondent writes:

AT the Aldershot Stadium yesterday a small but enthusiastic band of Corps supporters were well rewarded to see the 21st Regiment pull off the Army Team Athletics for the second year running. 21st Regiment's athletes made a solid all-round showing and except for a few field events were always in the lead or runner-up position to emerge clear-cut victors over their last year's rivals, the 19th Field Regiment R.A., by 100 points to 91. This was all the more gratifying as in the B.A.O.R. qualifying finals the 21st Regiment were beaten into second place by the same Gunner Regiment.

One is always heartered to see the 21st team in action as their ability is based not on a few super athletes performing in a large number of events but on a wide spread of individual talent—albeit amongst them are some top-class men such as **Sergeant J. C. Fenge,** whose performancces in the pole vault and hurdles are a delight to watch. Many in the team have developed their athletic prowess since joining the Regiment and their successes are due in large measure to a strong team spirit which reaches a peak when under pressure. They are a small and busy Regiment and athletic training is very much a spare-time occupation.

The 21st Regiment have, of course, been knocking on the door of the Army Cross-Country Championship for several years but seemed fated not to get beyond second place. Perhaps 1972 will see them pull off the double of both athletic and cross-country team championships—and we certainly hope this comes their way.

Also keeping the Corps' flag flying at Aldershot were the 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron who fought their way for the second year running to second place in the Minor Unit Championships this time tieing equal second with the Junior Leaders Regiment R.C.T., the winners being the Mercian Brigade Depot. This Squadron have put themselves on the map not only in the athletic world but also at ski-ing where they saw off many major units in the Army Ski-ing Championships earlier this year. They are also well known for their prominent bi-athletes, **Corporal Sean Dillon-White** and **Signalman Doug Elliott,** who are aspiring to high honours.

Sixth place in the major team athletics was taken by 8th Signal Regiment who also helped to keep the Corps' name to the fore by strong performances in the 100 metres hurdles and the 5,000 metres team race, and last but not least was an enthusiastic W.R.A.C. contingent from 6 Squadron 8th Signal Regiment who managed a 5th place in the Women's Unit events.

Incidentally, it is of interest to note that in the recently held 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force international athletics, which were won by the R.A.F. (Germany), no less than 16 of the total R.A.F. team of 31 were 21st Regiment athletes! This is the first time the R.A.F. have won this event.

All were very happy to see the S.O.-in-C., **Major-General Pentreath,** giving his usual enthusiastic personal support on this occasion along with **Brigadier Derek Warren** and **Colonel Freddie Winter.** It was unfortunate that the train timings, at the end of the day, prevented him from joining the 21st Regiment in the well-deserved victory champagne which they undoubtedly enjoyed after the prizegiving. Also present was, of course, **Lieutenant-Colonel Roy Phippard,** the new C.O., who has clearly inherited the sporting outlook of his predecessor **Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Butler** whose special effort to be present at his old Regiment's victory was much appreciated.

Altogether a very good day from the Corps point of view!

Sword of Peace presentation

Hong Kong Squadron receive well-merited honour

Since 1967 Wilkinson Sword Ltd. have presented swords to British Service Units who have done the most to foster good relations with the local community at home and abroad. Of three swords presented this year, one went to H.M.S. *Sirius,* a second to the R.A.F. School of Technical Training at Halton, and the third to our own 253 Squadron who were adjudged to have been the best unit in the British Army in 1970 for the excellent work they did in developing good relations with the Chinese community in Hong Kong.

Readers of THE WIRE will have read with interest and admiration the various projects undertaken by the Squadron by way of installing electric light in several remote and poor villages in Hong Kong. This work has, of course, been greatly appreciated by the local villagers and has raised the status of the British Armed Forces very considerably in the eyes of the Chinese community. The work itself has been arduous and carried out often in considerable heat and humidity. Nevertheless the soldiers of the Corps engaged on it have enjoyed their labours feeling they were doing something really tangible that was of real assistance to others. A number preferred to stay on rather than take their normal turn of relief. As usual our soldiers made great friends with the village children and were invariably surrounded by a throng of smiling young assistants.

The villagers themselves soon lost their initial shyness and welcomed our men into their homes, and when they left pressed simple but heart-felt gifts upon them.

All will be pleased to know that this admirable undertaking has been recognised by the presentation of a Sword of Peace to 253 Signal Squadron and we are glad to record that **Major Martin Pickard,** the O.C. Squadron, was able to be present at a recent ceremony in London to receive the Sword in the name of the Squadron which he has been commanding in Hong Kong for some time.

Well done 253 Squadron—who incidentally have a very high sporting reputation in Hong Kong as well

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs! Why not send us your story?

Corps Marksmen on target

IT is gratifying to note that the enthusiasm and skill built up over a period of years is still as high as ever amongst the Corps shooting fraternity. The Corps name undoubtedly commands much respect these days in the Services shooting world and for this we must thank a number of individuals who have dedicated themselves to organising and training our potential talent up to the high standards that we now see. This year we are particularly indebted to **Major George Cowsill** whose example and enthusiasm has been a great spur both within his own Regiment as well as Corps shooting of which he is currently the Secretary. **George** repeatedly threatens to retire from the shooting scene—he has been the oldest service competitor for the last four years—but invariably his services are on demand and no doubt we will see him at Bisley again next year.

Reverting to shooting achievements, this year's results are as follows:

Corps skill at arms meeting

Nine major and four minor units competed with the following results:

Major Units — final placings

1.	30th Signal Regiment	54 points
2.	28th Signal Regiment	44 points
3.	7th Signal Regiment	43 points
4.	22nd Signal Regiment	31 points
5.	3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment	28 points
6.	21st Signal Regiment	22½ points
7.	8th Signal Regiment	22 points
8.	Army Apprentices' College	15 points
9.	10th Signal Regiment	13½ points

Minor Units — final placings

1.	11th Signal Regiment	19½ points
2.	260 Signal Squadron	18½ points
3.	5 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron	16 points
4.	223 Signal Squadron	6 points

Individual Results — final placings

124 individuals competed, the first 25 being listed below:

1.	Captain D. J. MacLean	636 points	30th Regiment
2.	Major G. A. S. Exell	621 points	S.R.D.E.
3.	Sergeant W. G. Bell	620 points	7th Regiment
4.	Lance-Corporal R. Kingham	613 points	30th Regiment
5.	W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith	611 points	30th Regiment
6.	Corporal A. E. De-La-Haye	611 points	21st Regiment
7.	Corporal G. L. Jaques	601 points	30th Regiment
8.	Lance-Corporal C. Harris	593 points	30th Regiment
9.	Corporal A. G. Hunt	584 points	28th Regiment
10.	Lieutenant V. J. Reed	580 points	21st Regiment
11.	Captain T. N. Singleton	576 points	7th Regiment
12.	W.O.2 W. W. Easter	570 points	A.A.C. Harrogate
13.	Sergeant R. P. Portlock	569 points	28th Regiment
14.	Lieutenant C. C. L. Enright	564 points	11th Regiment
15.	Corporal B. Rocket	563 points	8th Regiment
16.	Captain R. F. A. Davies	562 points	28th Regiment
17.	Lance-Corporal A. McBain	556 points	30th Regiment
18.	Corporal P. Barrett	554 points	7th Regiment
19.	Major D. Watson	552 points	3rd Regiment
20.	Signalman A. K. Ford	549 points	21st Regiment
21.	Corporal M. C. Wilkins	547 points	260 Squadron
22.	W.O.1 J. L. Stanhope	547 points	260 Squadron
23.	Corporal W. R. Kirkwood	547 points	22nd Regiment
24.	Major G. Cowsill	541 points	30th Regiment
25.	Lance-Corporal J. Hindle	534 points	30th Regiment

A.R.A. Central Meeting

July will be remembered by most people in England as a heat-wave month. Temperatures, soaring to the upper eighties, make for good holiday weather, but very sweaty falling plate weather. Bisley common in a heat wave can be very unpleasant, but nonetheless the scoring was of a high standard, and on several occasions Corps teams out-shot the 10 G.R. and Trucial Oman Scouts, who were obviously at home in the heat.

The most noticeable Corps results were 10 placings in the Army 100. These were: **Captain D. J. McLean** (49), **W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith** (36), **Corporal G. L. Jaques** (40), **Lance-Corporal Hindle** (90) and **Lance-Corporal Harris** (63), of 30th Signal Regiment; **Captain R. F. A. Davies** (97) and **Corporal E. G. Hunt** (51), of 28th Signal Regiment; **Signalman A. K. Ford** (76), 21st Signal Regiment; **Sergeant Bell** (74), 7th Signal Regiment; and **Lieutenant V. J. Reed** (58), of 21st Signal Regiment attached to Q.O. Hldrs. CENTO team.

We had two placings in both the SMG XXX and Pistol XXX. These were:

SMG XXX: **Lance-Corporal Kingham** who came fourth after a count out and **Lance-Corporal Hindle** who finished 25th and was making his first appearance in the SMG XXX. Both N.C.O.s are from 30th Signal Regiment.

Pistol XXX: **Lieutenant V. J. Reed** and **Captain D. J. McLean** were 7th and 8th respectively.

The Methuen Cup

Despite everyone's hopes, and a record shoot by **Captain D. C. N. Genders** who, with a borrowed rifle scored 183, we managed to score 951 to tie for 1st place with R.E.M.E. The count-out rules for ties gave R.E.M.E. the pot! Unbeaten, undaunted, but a little sad the Corps team was as follows: **Captain D. C. N. Genders, Captain D. J. McLean, W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith, Corporal G. L. Jaques, Lance-Corporal C. Harris, Lance-Corporal J. Hindle.**

The Woolwich Trophy was once again comfortably won from the Sappers and the Gunners for the eighth year running.

Brook Bond Cup

30th Signal Regiment are to be congratulated for winning the Brook Bond Cup and Royal Ulster Rifles Cup. The former is for the best non-infantry unit score during the first stage of the Army 100. The latter is for all comers and is the knock-out falling plate match. The winning team was 30th Regiment's 'B' team comprising the 'old men' **W.O.2 Smith, Corporal Rennoldson, Lance-Corporal Harris** and young **Lance-Corporal McBain** (age only 23). The aggregate age of the team is 118 years!

30th Regiment's crack 'A' team managed third place and for two Corps' teams to be in the first three of a total entry of over 80 is a fine feat.

The Retired Members' Spoon

Retired members who read THE WIRE will be pleased to learn that **Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh** (retired) won the Retired Members' Spoon in the Roupell Cup. **Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh** and **Colonel Thompson,** late of the Corps, also came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Bisley Cup target rifle match. Both these very experienced marksmen, however, lost to a young officer cadet who only dropped three points overall!

N.R.A. Bisley Meeting

Those selected to stay behind for the N.R.A. Meeting did well in almost all their events. **Lance-Corporal Kingham** won the SMG Individual Championship, and shot for the Regular Army in the Inter-Services' SMG Match; **W.O.2 Smith** and **Lieutenant Reed** shot for the Army in the United Services' Cup (SLR) and the Whitehead Cup (Pistol) Inter-Services' matches. Royal Signals (**Genders, McLean** and **Reed**) won the Bargrave Dean Pistol Tile shoot. **Captain McLean** won the Standing SLR match, the Senior Service Cup. **Lieutenant-Colonel D. Hall** (40th (City of Belfast) Signal Regiment (V)) was placed second in the Stephens (200 yards snapshooting). **Corporal Jaques** was placed third in the sitting and first in the snap-shooting events.

In the Target Rifle events, **Colonel Gilbertson, Major Cox** and **Captain Genders** shot for the Regular Army in both the Short and Long Range Inter-Services' matches, **Genders** and **Gilbertson** being equal highest scorers in the Army team in both matches. **Colonel Gilbertson** also shot for Wales in the National (short range) and Mackinnon (long range) matches. **W.O.2 Smith** was the fourth member of the Corps' team in this meeting. In competition with many civilian rifle club teams, however, our team results were disappointing.



CORPS TECHNICIAN IS BOOBY TRAP EXPERT

Sergeant Bill Summers wiring a booby-trap in the well of the 'enemy' village at the Army Jungle School in West Malaysia. Sergeant Summers, a Royal Signals radio technician, uses his electronic skills to teach British soldiers that the quiet green jungle can conceal simple but deadly traps.

Exercise 'Kaki Dan Rakit'

A journey on foot and by raft from Cameron Highlands to Kuala Lipis

By Corporals W. G. Butler and C. Ramsay, 19th Signal Regiment

EXERCISE 'Foot and Raft' started from 19th Signal Regiment at Changi with a road move by four-tonner to the Cameron Highlands. An overnight stop was made at Port Dickson where the party were kept awake by the barking of countless pariah dogs and off-key cockerels and on the following day Tanah Rata, in the Cameron Highlands, was reached without mishap, and a chilly night was spent in Slim Lines. The idea of the exercise was to move by raft, where possible, and on foot from the Cameron Highlands to Kuala Lipis, a distance of approximately 145 miles. According to Police reports the last time this had been attempted by Europeans was 18 years ago when a party were dropped from a helicopter on the route but, unfortunately when rafting two men were drowned and the attempt was abandoned. Our party consisted of **Captains John Roberts** and **Mike Alden, Sergeant Colin Wood, Corporals Bill Butler, Turk Ramsay** and **'Geordie' Waugh, Lance-Corporal Shaarani** and **Signalman Suppiah.** Communication support was provided by Malaysian Signals with a three-man Radio Crew under command of **Corporal Zainal.** Using a Racal Syncal radio they provided first-class voice communications to Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Lipis throughout the entire journey.

Encountering our first real jungle

Here are some of our impressions now, from the diaries we kept on the journey.

". . . Day Three. Encountered our first real jungle today. The paths—if they can be called that—are very bad and the river crossings would make Tarzan worried. We came across another aborigine settlement and the women ran inside to clothe themselves although some of the party claim to have seen a little more than is normally seen. It was here that we set about building our first set of three rafts. Our three aborigne guides/raft builders are selecting and cutting the bamboo while us poor boobies, unskilled products of western civilisation, drag the 30-foot poles through the jungle to the river. Sweaty prickly work. Each bamboo pole has a million minute hairs which scratch and irritate.

Hitting the rocks

The aborigines assembled the rafts. Fifteen poles lashed with rattan form the raft proper. The centre floats 2-3 inches under water so each has a platform 3-4 inches high. Even so, when braving a rapid everything is soaked. . . . Rafting is peaceful and enjoyable. . . . Raft 2 hit a rock, immediately urned sideways to the current and equally fast **Captain Roberts, Bill Butler** and **Abour** guide leapt on to the tiny rock with all our Bergans. **Turk Ramsay** was left on the raft which came free with the sudden loss of load. Raft 3 came to the aid of **Turk's** plaintive cry of 'Whaddo I do now?' as he was swept away by the strong current and all were rescued, wetter and so we thought, wiser. . . .

The situation gets more dangerous

Day Four. . . . Dangerous (more dangerous that is) rapids are ahead. Our rafts abandoned we walk along stream beds through rotting undergrowth and over slippery rocks to a point where rafting can be attempted once more. The bamboo is on the other side! A rope, after many attempts, is finally secured across by **Captain Alden** and all cross the raging neck deep torrent in comparative safety. . . . More raft building. . . .

Only ninety minutes of light left. More rafting, more rapids, and a grotty place to camp. **Bill Butler** slashed his hand with a golok. **Captain Alden** provided first-aid and **Captain Roberts** comfort in 'That's just what I did three weeks ago. Look at the scar it leaves'. . . .

Arriving at Dixon

Day Five. . . . Fairly uneventful. Apart from some hairy rapids we arrived safe and sound at Dixon. Dixon is a former army and police post where we were able to sleep under an attap roof and sort out our kit. All joined the aborigines swimming in the river. **Captain Roberts** entranced the local women by diving in respectably clad and emerging stark naked. . . .

Disaster strikes

Day Six. . . . Moving now towards 'civilisation' no more aborigines with pigs grunting in the ladangs but the cries of Islam from the river banks. Stopped briefly to pay off our guides at Kuala Medang and now we were on our own for the last fifty miles of rafting. Mishaps from the start. Our raft drifted into a dead calm stretch too deep to pole out from. Raft 3 hit a sandbank waiting for us and one shot away and was soon out of sight. We managed to push ours clear although we could hear **'Geordie' Waugh** muttering—his mutters were a constant source of amusement—about half a mile downstream. **Captain 'Wrecker' Roberts** decided to stop giving useful advice and took on the stern pole. . . . We charged through a violent rapid backwards. . . . Then disaster struck. **Suppiah** and **Captain Roberts** were steering and as we negotiated a further fast rapid sideways we smashed into a large rock. We had done it all before. We leapt on to the rock. **Captain Roberts** lit his pipe. **Suppiah** and **Bill Butler** untied the packs as **Turk** and **Captain Roberts** held the raft against the rock. Finally with a terrible groan the raft broke up. **Bill Butler** lost his left plimsoll and left jungle boot. Rescue came in the form of a dugout with an outboard. No doubt nonplussed as to why three Brits and one Indian were squatting on a midstream rock they ferried us to a village where accommodation was allotted in the school. The Malays had heard of white men and the whole village crowded round to watch us brew up. Darkness saved us from further scrutiny. Meanwhile the other two rafts had arrived at Bukit Betong, had been met by the stationmaster there, fed and put to bed in the waiting room of the station.

The raftwrecked survivors

Day Seven. . . . Raftwrecked survivors were given a lift in the rescue boat to Betong. Raftless, we finished our journey by rail, a fifteen minute journey, while the remaining rafts continued uneventfully to Kuala Lipis and the end of exercise.

Considering the numbers of men that have died on this river we did very well to emerge unscathed save for the loss of two pieces of left-footed footwear and a pair of underpants.

The journey started on 20th April and eight days later the party were safely back in the civilised environments of Changi. This expedition was planned as an adventure training exercise and certainly it lived up to its aim. It was not until they had completed the trek that the party fully realised the dangerous nature of their journey and they were all a good deal wiser in living in and moving through the jungle.

Far-away places or Exercise 'Wet Shoes III'

How to exercise a Group without a Group

THE problem was easily defined. How to exercise a Group Headquarters without a Group. June 1970 saw H.Q. 13 Signal Group (V), all seven of us, fully deployed controlling four Regiments spread from Inverness to Okehampton. 1971, however, was to be an individual training year so Group Headquarters would be redundant. Feeling ourselves at sea the idea was born to go to sea and so we did.

Flying our flag from its foremast (and only mast) OLD 797, a converted motor fishing vessel, sailed from Oban on 5th June on a voyage that took all seven of us again via Tobermory, North Uist and into the Atlantic to St. Kilda and back. Adventurous training? Undoubtedly the skipper had great faith in his ship but a Force 5 wind both ways for the journey to and from St. Kilda at least prevented any ideas that may have lurked in any minds about transfers to the Royal Navy.

St. Kilda Detachment do their best

No doubt the Royal Signals detachment at St. Kilda were surprised to see a vessel flying the Group Flag approach their shores. They did try to communicate with us when we tied up somewhat mistakenly to the one and only buoy and then proceeded to try and drag it round the anchorage. Failing with radio communications they resorted to flags, but with the personal knowledge that the Director of Naval Signals was abolishing this system we had not brought our book with us and so the message was only delivered when the Commander leapt ashore. He had to—the dinghy was sinking! However we record a picture of St. Kilda detachment and cherish this as a place that the S.O.-in-C. has not been to—yet.



REMOTE POSTING

Corps detachment at St. Kilda.

It was perhaps unfortunate that our communications, a SR C11/R 210 lashed to the stern, did not work. Due entirely, as the duty operator, GSO II (V), reported, to a ship's power failure beyond his control. However, a ship-to-shore telephone enabled the Deputy Commander to continue with his office work. He claims that his office's voice procedure is very poor which is why they misunderstood his orders.

Although we cannot claim any actual recruits our flag caused comment in every port of call and future visitors to OLD 797 will see our plaque screwed to its upper deck, so maybe one day somebody will join the Corps as a result of HQ 13 Signal Group (V) Summer Camp 1971 and our visits to far-away places.

9th Regiment Sub-aqua Club try out the tropical waters of Gan Island

A Memorable visit to Gan

Off to Gan

SUNLIT seas and coral sand, palm trees singing to the trade wind's tune and rollers booming on the outer reef —it sounds like some bogus epic from the Isles of Hollywood. But this one's true and it happened, by kind permission of the Royal Air Force, in March this year. In short, a party of six sub-aqua divers from this Regiment flew to Gan for ten days diving under tropical conditions from the sixth to the sixteenth of March. Gan Atoll consists of a ring of small islands set round a lagoon some four miles in diameter and is situated forty-one miles north of the Equator at the southern end of the Maldive group of islands in the Indian Ocean. The Royal Air Force occupies one island in the lagoon and provides employment for large numbers of the locals. Curiously enough the local Administrator allows no return visits by the British to his islands for fear, no doubt, of infecting his people with the ideals of the permissive society.

The Expedition, consisting of **Major Bird,** 14/20 Hussars; **Staff-Sergeant Martin Hagger,** Int. Corps; **Corporal John Clark,** Int. Corps; **Corporal 'Bernie' Traynor,** R.A.F.; **J/T. Chris Kemp,** R.A.F., and **Lance-Corporal John Bird,** Royal Signals, flew there on a Britannia via Muharraq in the Gulf where the bar in the transit lounge very obligingly opened for us at 3.30 a.m. local time. The advantage of flying by Britannia is that you can take your kit with you and the sub-aqua way of life demands nearly your own weight again in air bottles, lead weights, schnorkel gear and so on. Thus, on arrival, we were able to unpack our gear, fill the air bottles and get in a short exploratory dive within six hours of our arrival.



RELAXING AFTER A DIVE IN TROPICAL WATERS

In the picture from left to right: J/Technician Chris Kemp, R.A.F., Corporal MacLean, R.A.F., Gan and Lance-Corporal Johnnie Bird

Diving and quite a few adventures

We dived every day, sometimes twice a day, at depths down to 120 feet which is the average depth of the floor of the lagoon. The marine life is fabulous, an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colours as fish of wildly improbable shapes and hues glide and flash through forests of delicate coral. Rays and sharks (luckily small ones), turtles and turkey fish—we saw it all. These last, by the way, are indeed ugly customers, despite their physical beauty, since contact with their gently waving frond-like spines ends in an agonising death within the hour, or less, from the injection of a neurological venom. Luckily they sit still within their hidey-hole and do not seek trouble. We moved to and from the diving areas either by Dhoni, local boats crewed by anything up to twenty rowers, or by the P.S.I. boat powered by an outboard motor. Perhaps the fact that **Major Bird** patched a hole in its bottom persuaded the P.S.I. to lend us the boat. We, all of us, brought back our shells, pieces of coral and (tall?) stories. **Bernie** won't forget in a hurry the 2½-foot Remora, or sucker fish, which attached itself to his tanks at 100 feet and, despite his desperate acrobatics, stayed with him through a long dive to within ten feet of the surface. Nor will **Chris Kemp** cease to tell of the leopard rays, four at the last telling, which made for him with the speed of the Brighton Belle. They were, in fact, merely escaping from **Johnny Bird** in his with-it scarlet vest.

Hospitality beyond praise

The hospitality, friendliness and help shown us by our R.A.F. hosts was beyond praise—from the Station Commander **Wing-Commander Gee** and **Squadron Leader Thomas,** Officer i/c Gan Sub-Aqua Club, to all the boys of the Club and the many others on the Station who made it a truly memorable visit.

Footnote: Gan reciprocated by sending us a party of five divers in April which gave us a chance to equal the score. We may even do it again.

Teleprinter Maintenance Technician — **London**

The Cable and Wireless Group of Companies, leader in the field of global telecommunications operations, has vacancies for Teleprinter Maintenance Technicians to work in Central London for its expanding Service Centre.

Applicants should hold a clean current UK driving licence, be resident within about 30 miles of Central London and have good practical experience of 5-unit telegraph machines including maintenance, trouble shooting and installation work. They should also be experienced in the use of Test equipment such as TDMS and Oscilloscopes, and be capable of following and understanding electrical/electronic circuits employing relay logic.

If you have suitable experience and are looking for secure pensionable employment in an expanding organisation, write for application form giving brief details of experience, age and present salary to:-

The Personnel Officer (Recruitment),
Dept. A251/490
Cable and Wireless Limited,
Mercury House, Theobalds Road,
LONDON, WC1X 8RX.
Telephone:- 01-242 4433 Extension 211.

CABLE AND WIRELESS
WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS

News from Regiments

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Knaresborough Bed Race, 1971

AS readers of THE WIRE will recall, **Sergeant Peter Hardwick** and his stalwarts last year earned Phillips Squadron a place in the Guinness Book of Records, for winning this celebrated charity event in record time. As this feat was accomplished on only three wheels, we reckoned that this year we couldn't lose.

After all, we had **Sergeant 'Paddy' Lavery** to take over as Whip-Cracker in Chief; we had **Sergeant Ken Johnson** as Bedmaker in General and Wheelwright in Particular; we had four of last year's team, bigger and stronger than ever; and we had **Lea Bambage** of Y.T.V. as passenger—all 5-foot nothing and eight stones-nil of her.

So it was with high hopes that the boys of Phillips Squadron embarked on their long course of arduous training—eight week's worth of gruelling runs at 0615 hours, and two or three evening bed-shoves per week, up and around the rugged territory of Birk Crag, where hill-climbs abound.

Our confidence was barely shaken when the draw was made, and we found ourselves scheduled to start 32nd of 34 beds—despite the fact that the draw was made by our last year's passenger, **Linda Canham** of the "Harrogate Herald." We simply felt that we should have to overtake just that many more beds.

But another blow fell when, the week before the race, we learned that family illness had struck and we were to lose our "little, light, lithe and lovely" passenger. Being thus "birdless," we were mystified when, the Tuesday before the race, the College's Public Relations Officer requested our presence on the Square, to be photographed for the "Daily Mail," "Daily Express," "Daily Mirror" and "Sun." We understood that he had found us a passenger, and so he had—in the shape (le mot juste) of **Miss Ann Mosedale,** who had come third in the recent Miss England Beauty Contest. (We always knew that Phillips Squadron passengers were a bit special!) She came, she saw, she conquered us—and firmed our resolve to win, whatever the odds.

And so to 5th June, the day of the race, **A/T. Pete Tiernan** just about summed it up when he told the newspapers "With a smasher like Ann to inspire us, how can we lose?"

We went off like the proverbial bats out of hell and were going great guns, overhauling bed after bed, when we approached the scene of last year's "nasty accident." At the very point where the wheel came off, came an anguished cry from the front. The only printable part was "Oh no! Not again!"! Sure enough, the dreaded cobblestones, following immediately on the infernal level crossing, had taken their toll again, and we were down to three wheels.

But it had happened before and we had lived through it, so we pressed on regardless. Still in fine style, we reached the main road and were about to enter the field to cross the river lying a mere fourth and having passed our most feared rivals, Leeds Regional Hospital Board. And then disaster really struck. In our determination to hit the front, we hit instead the kerb—and lost a second wheel.

Desperately we tried it all: pushing, tugging, heaving, dragging, hauling and even carrying. But it was all in vain and we had no option but to retire with what grace we might, leaving victory to the Hospital Board. Our only crumb of comfort was that our charming lady passenger, near to tears of disappointment, promised to come again next year, even if she is ducked in the river for winning.

By then, of course, the present team—**A/T. S.S.M. Andy**

(Continued on page 301)



[*Photo: Sergeant W. Semple, Royal Signals*

KNARESBOROUGH BED RACE TEAM

Left to right: Sergeant Lavery, A/T Tiernan, A/T Adam, A/T Watt, A/T S.S.M. Hickling, A/T Sergeant Arnold, A/T Mable.

Hickling, A/T. Sergeant Dave Arnold, A/T's Calum Watt, 'Orph' Mable, Peter Tiernan and **Billy Adam**—will have gone on to higher things. But we are sure that "cometh the day, cometh the team," and that we shall find next year six young men determined and able to restore the Cup to its rightful place—in Phillips Squadron.

College Golf Club

An innovation this term has been the founding of the College's own Golf Club. With a lot of self-help and hard work by enthusiasts within the College, a nine-hole course has been made round the perimeter of the Sports Field.

For obvious reasons, there are no bunkers, but the course is made pretty tricky by the number of 'Out of Bounds' hazards.

On 17th June, the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** officially opened the course by driving ceremonially off the first tee. This was followed by the inaugural meeting, a 9-hole Medal competition organised in two divisions. Appropriately Division I was won by **Mr. Rory Scrafton** of Op Wing, one of the coaches; victor in Division II was **Corporal Curtis** of M.T.

Par for the course is 30, and these two players established the present course record with net scores of 29.

The aim of the Club is to stimulate interest in Golf among the apprentices, and so far seven have joined. Coaching sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings by **Mr. Scrafton** and **Mr. Charles Grant.**

At the time of writing an Individual Match Play Knockout Competition is in progress. The final will be played at Pannal at the end of term.

Anybody for croquet?

The latest venture of the Officers' Mess has been into the field (and we mean it) of Croquet.

Thanks largely to the influence of our Dental Officer, **Major Jack Clark,** the appropriate gear has been bought and a 'lawn' of vast dimensions established. (Players apparently need a map to circumnavigate it!)

The lawn was officially opened, and the game duly launched, by the Commandant on Thursday, 1st July, at a Regimental Guest Night.

Another unusual feature of the inaugural game is that it was played **after** Dinner—and hence by floodlights.

At present the Mess claims the title of Champion Croquet Club of Harrogate: despite earnest appeals in the local papers, we know of no other similar organisation.

MENS CLOTHING
is still URGENTLY required
by the WELFARE SECTION

Specialist Teleprinter Operators

are required for the

Ministry of Defence Communications Centre in Central London

Initially, the operators will be employed upon teleprinting and associated procedures, but they will be given the opportunity of training for higher grade duties when the Communications Centre becomes fully automatic.

Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum speed of 40 words per minute, and having a good knowledge of current communication procedures.

Basic starting pay, at age 25 or over, will be £24·92 per week rising to £29·52 per week, inclusive of London Weighting. Successful candidates will currently be required to work shifts and overtime, which on average, attracts a further £5·00 per week. There are opportunities of promotion to almost £1,800 per annum basic pay.

If you would like further details, and are of British nationality, telephone 01-242 0222 ext. 563, or write to:

CM(S)3H, Ministry of Defence, Room 802, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8RY.

7th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 15

Cricket

The Regimental team has had a successful month. They won the three matches played. The first victory was against 4 Armoured Workshop, R.E.M.E. The Regiment batted first and scored 215 for 6 wickets declared, and in reply 4 Armoured Workshop were all out for 96. In the first round of the 4th Division Cup we played 4/7th Dragoon Guards, beating them by 60 runs. We were 105 for 9 wickets after 30 overs and 4/7th, batting second, were all out for 45. After the Cup match we had a break of over two weeks before our next match against the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards at Munster. Despite intermittent showers we were able to complete ahe match which we won by eight wickets. Our hosts batted first and scored 76 all out and we were able to get the necessary 77 runs to win for the loss of only two wickets.

Congratulations to **Corporal Lawrence** on his selection for the B.A.O.R. eleven.

SQUADRON NOTES

1 Squadron

The month of June cannot be allowed to pass without mention of Exercise 'Summer Sales.' If ever there was an exercise misnamed this was it. 'Sodden Sales' would have been a better title. During the frequent moves 1 Squadron earned the title of the 'Mudlarks' for a couple of the locations in which they found themselves were covered in thick oozing mud.

Earlier in the month **Corporals Breeze** and **Moncur** received their second and well-earned stripes, although **Corporal Moncur** very nearly lost his very soon afterwards when Sierra Troop six-a-side football team was beaten in an Intra Squadron competition by a team made up by the Seniors in the Squadron. His remarks on the defeat were nearly as unbelievable as the defeat itself. The Seniors' team flattered to deceive, however, and the competition was eventually won by 'Echo' Troop 'A' team.

Preparations are now in full swing for summer camp, when the Squadron is going to spend a fortnight at Schweinfurt on a site loaned to us by the 1st Brigade of the U.S. 3rd Division.

4 Squadron

The biggest hole in the month was made by Exercise 'Summer Sales.' Not that we mind exercises normally but on this one we spent five days only 100 yards from C.C.R. Signals Office. Our camouflage was never better!

The saga of detachment cooking continues. Have you ever seen the look on the face of an R.S.M. when you light petrol cookers on his square and brew up? It's a sight terrible to behold. The O.C., **Major Roger Cemm,** also wants it firmly understood that his three days in bed were caused by flu not food poisoning. Little does he know . . . "Hubble bubble, toil and trouble."

The exercise produced its usual crop of little stories too parochial to mention. We would, however, like to put on record the appreciation of those concerned, of the efforts that our retiring Troop Commander, **Captain David Henning,** put into his swan song. Not only did he produce for us a huge barn, but he also produced the owner who showered us with free beer, and two gorgeous daughters and a dolly maid. a five-star 'loo,' hot running water, etc., etc., etc. Well done, sir. You deserved that glass of champers swigged quietly over your burning diamond two pass. In fact we want it put firmly on record that we appreciate almost everything you have done for us these past two years!

6 Squadron

'Summer Sales' 1971 turned out to be more like 'Winter Sales' 1971 due to the incessant rain and low temperatures. However, despite this, 6 Squadron and the Covering Force managed its usual cheery aspect and good communications.

One or two light-hearted moments occurred, notably our S.Q.M.S. **'Barney Rubble' Peebles** was caught by the Commando R.A.C. hiding half a pig which he had managed to scrounge. The Brigadier turned a blind eye and ordered pork chops for his dinner. The Corps Commander was due to pay us a visit and the reception party of a Brigadier, Major, W.O.2 and two Signalmen spent several anxious minutes fighting off a small herd of frisky bullocks that took exception to a helicopter landing in their field. **Signalman Peter Wainwright** was last seen disappearing into a wood waving a red cloth hotly pursued by the bullocks, and the unsuspecting General was relieved of the embarrassment of being chased into the Headquarters area by several sharp pairs of horns.

On the serious side, Covering Force at last went into the field with its full complement of Bruin FV 439s and in spite of being whisked around from Division to Division communicated with very few snags.

The Squadron is well used to visiting officers of rank Lieutenant-Colonel and above, but it was with much trepidation that a few stalwarts faced the onslaught of some 20 schoolchildren, all of whom wanted to see a 432! It was truly amazing the way that at the appointed hour all had disappeared, and left to face the fray were **Captain Barry Cox, Second-Lieutenant Bob Hussey** and **Corporal Harry Bishop.** Others quickly materialised, however, when it was learnt that their teacher **Miss Varry Pugh** was with them; in fact **Second-Lieutenant Malc Sinton** even dared to show his nose! However, when they started, the children seemed to enjoy themselves and went back all the more informed if a trifle dirtier! Below is a letter of thanks which should prove amusing to all.

"My class and I would like to thank you for showing us round the 432s and 439s. We all enjoyed the ride very much and it was quieter than we thought. We all thank **Lieutenant Hussey** for showing us an engine taken out of a 432 and the one with the cover-like thing on for going in water, how much it weighs, that was 12 tons, and all the other things you told us. You taught us a great deal about 432s and 439s. We all liked it.

We all thank you very much and hoped you didn't mind us wasting your valuable time, but we all thank you very much. Yours faithfully, **George Jarvis.**"

Short Brothers & Harland Limited

VACANCIES EXIST for Radar and Radio Technicians together with Mechanical transport and Plant (Ground Equipment) fitters who have left or are about to leave the service and are seeking a rewarding career in civil life.

Salaries and/or rates of pay are good and compare most favourably with those paid by local companies.

Additionally, single bunk accommodation and meals are available at minimal prices, on site.

Those interested are invited to communicate with:-

The Manager,
R.A.F. Northolt, Ruislip,
Middlesex.
Telephone No. 01-845 2300
Ext. 378 or 344

8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

Visitors

DURING the month we were visited by the Quarter Master-General, **General Sir Anthony Read, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** and the Director of Army Training, **Major-General A. G. Patterson, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.** We hope both of them were duly impressed with the new Trade Training School.

C. & G. Certificates — Linemen make an excellent start

Lineman Upgrading Course II-IN. 1/52 was the first course to take the City and Guilds of London Institute Examination at the same time as the normal Class I trade test under arrangements made recently between the Regiment and the Institute. As forecast in last months notes we were optimistic of at least two distinctions. Final results have now been received and include **4 distinctions (Lance-Corporal Saxton (2), Lance-Corporal Dixon and Signalman Cross), 11 credits and 8 passes.**

Introducing Headquarters Squadron

In recent months the various training Squadrons in the regiment have indicated what their tasks are and featured their leading "lights."

If you have not already been frightened from reading further by the mere mention of Headquarters Squadron here are some of our vital statistics:

As is normally the case the Squadron administers the personnel of the various command and administrative parts of the regiment and in addition the Headquarters of the Trade Training School.

A check of the Squadron Nominal Roll shows that the Squadron includes 53 Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s and 105 Junior Ranks. The Car badges to be seen include in addition to the Corps, Royal Marines, R.A.M.C., R.A.O.C., R.E.M.E., R.A.P.C., A.C.C., R.A.Ch.D. and W.R.A.C.

The Squadron is also responsible for the administration of some 450 civilian employees (of whom 179 are employed in the Squadron) and the Regimental Families Office.

The Squadron participates in all the various sporting activities — all be it that the average ages of some of the teams is somewhat high. Of special note was the performance of the Squadron Shooting team in winning the Regimental Skill at Arms meeting under the watchful eye of the S.S.M. — **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Harry Simister.** In the various other activities we have not been quite so fortunate, not for want of trying on the part of the various team organisers and some whole-hearted endeavour on the part of the competitors in both athletics and swimming. Those that remember the days of the Bus Service from Vimy 'C' to Gaza will no doubt chuckle when they hear the process has recommenced, this time from Gaza to the new T.T.S. building in Vimy Lines!

This will no doubt tax the ingenuity of both the M.T.O. (**Captain Sid Howard**) and the Specialist Messing Officer (**Captain Bill Walford**).

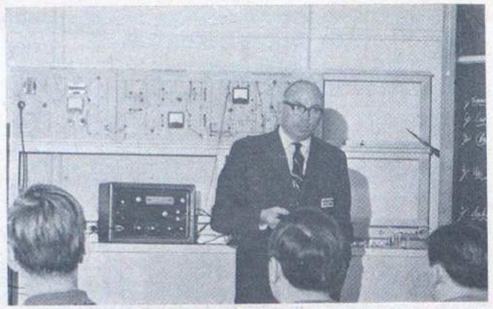
A special mention is made of **Staff Sergeant Tom Fayers,** who is an international motor cycle trials rider. He has again had considerable success this year having won a 2nd Class Award, a bronze and silver medal in the Scottish six day, the German three day and Welsh three day trials. He is due to go to the Isle of Man for the International Six Day Trials as a member of the Great Britain Vase team.

June usually proves to be a rather hectic month in Cattrick, culminating in the 'At Home' weekend. A great deal of the work of co-ordinating the Regimental effort was borne by **Captain 'Paddy' Kenrick,** the Squadron Administrative Officer. It is even said that for eight consecutive days he was not seen on the golf course! The Messing Troop, as always, produced a very high standard of fare for the Old Comrades.

Profile

This month, another Regimental personality comes under the microscope for his long service with the Corps.

G3 J.X.L., S.S.B. on 80m. and 20m. — otherwise **Bill Jones** — late Instrument Mechanic, Royal Signals; Armament Artificer (Telecomms), R.E.M.E.; Foreman of Signals; and Syllabus Officer, 8th Regiment (in that order); has had a career as varied as the foregoing suggests.



HE TAUGHT MANY

Bill Jones—a well known personality to many who have passed through 8th Regiment.

Joining up on the outbreak of World War II he went with the B.E.F. to France and took part in the evacuation at Dunkirk. Following this he was posted to the School of Signals at Catterick where his ambition of becoming a Foreman was frustrated by a suddent transfer to the R.A.O.C., in which Corps he was trained as an Armament Artificer (Telecomms.).

Service then followed with the 8th Army in Egypt, where **Bill** again changed cap-badges, this time as one of the founder members of R.E.M.E.

After the campaigns in Sicily and Italy he returned with 50th Division to prepare for the invasion of France, from which time, until demobilisation, he was closely associated with a variety of Royal Signals Units.

Bill's earlier disappointment at not becoming a Foreman was then mollified, for he rejoined Royal Signals, attended and passed a Foreman's Course, and served with 21st Corps Signal Regiment and 46 Signal Regiment.

In 1965 he became a Civilian Instructor in 8th Signal Regiment and many technicians will remember his lectures on Semi-Conductor Principles and Pulse Circuitry. Promotion to Grade I status came in 1969 after which he was appointed Syllabus Officer, 8th Signal Regiment, a position vastly complicated by the amalgamation with 24th Signal Regiment and the introduction of the new Trade Structure.

Anyone who thinks that a Syllabus Officer is a man apart from the earthy, day-to-day toil of the Instructor should talk to **Bill Jones.** There are few sights more sobering than an irate Group Supervisor demanding to know why Subject 'A' has been included and Subject 'B' excluded.

For, as we all know, everything is of equal and paramount importance; nothing can be omitted and time is limitless.

It isn't really. But **Bill Jones** is working on it.

Stop Press — Army Golf

In the first round of the Army Golf Challenge Cup played on 7th July the Regiment beat Catterick Military Hospital.

Captain Reed halved **Colonel Fowler; Sergeant Millar** lost **Colonel Young; Major Cook** beat **Major Fitz-Simon; Major Sandys** beat **Colonel Montgomery.**

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Regimental fete

ON Saturday, 12th June, months of activity culminated in the Regimental summer fete. Stalls absolutely bulging at the seams with a wide variety of goods, some home-made, some donated, were opened to a bumper crowd of well over 1,000 people in festive mood. Over 3,000 bottles of minerals were emptied within two hours while the beer supplies rapidly dwindled due to the great demand brought about by the scorching temperature.

The fete got off to a musical start with the Band of the 1st Battalion **The Gordon Highlanders** looking very smart in their kilts and gleaming white jackets, providing some stirring music. Soon after, the crowd were given an excellent demonstration of free-fall parachuting by members of the Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Club who, led by **Sergeant Elliot** of the Corps and an ex-member of 9th Regiment, dropped with uncanny accuracy onto the centre of the fete ground. A splendid display that drew much applause from the appreciative audience. Further displays followed, an exhibition of tent pegging by **Captain Warren Hodson, Mr. Peter Cannon, Private Geof Dale** and **Master Brian Jones** who despite the lack of space gave a thrilling display of how difficult it is to stick a lance into a small object on the ground whilst travelling at full gallop. (A number of water melons also bit the dust).

A demonstration of judo was given by the Junior Judo Club and special mention must go to the Guides who gave a charming performance of Scottish dancing despite the heat.

Although there were many delectable 'Dollies' at the fete, there was a marked reluctance on their part to come forward for the beauty contest. After much cajoling on the part of **Flight-Lieutenant David Wood,** a bevy of beauties was eventually coaxed onto the platform where an appreciative audience made guesses at who would eventually win. The panel of judges had a difficult task in selecting the winner as all three finalists were very attractive indeed. The eventual winner was **Theresa (Terry) Raynor** with **Linda Watson** and **Margaret Hopkins** coming second and third.

At the end of the afternoon the sum of £814 had been realised and to this money due from advertisements made the total just over £1,000. After various expenses have been met about £750 should be left over. From this a sum will go to charity and a further sum is earmarked to help provide a swimming pool for Ayios Nikolaos.

The fete was a tremendous success due mainly to the hours of work put in by wives who gave up so much of their spare time to produce the goods for the four main stalls. Each of these stalls raised well over £100 each. Thanks also go to those who produced smaller stalls which provided amusement for all and also made money, and to all those people behind the scenes without whose help the fete would not have been the success it was.

Cyprus Walkabout Certificates, 1971

During a visit to the Regiment, the Commander Dhekelia Area, **Brigadier R. C. Windsor Clive,** presented four Cyprus Walkabout Certificates. Unfortunately the team did not finish the course, but achieved the best unit team result.



Commander Dhekelia Area, Brigadier R. C. Windsor Clive, presenting Cyprus Walkabout Certificates to (*left to right*): J/T Gilberthorpe, Sergeant Crofts, Corporal Nash and Flight/Sergeant McCornach of 9th Signal Regiment

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

WITH the advent of the Catterick Garrison Open Day, the pass-off parade for Nos. 2 and 8 Troops formed part of the public display, instead of the usual number of parents, wives and friends, the parade was held in front of a crowd somewhere in the region of two thousand five hundred strong. Despite a few nerves, the recruits performed very creditably and the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** who inspected the troops, complimented them. From No. 2 Troop the Best Recruit was **Signalman Robert Stephen Butterfield,** who is now going on to train as a Telegraph Operator, and the Best Rifle Shot was **Signalman Robert Staples,** who is shortly to begin learning his trade as a Driver Royal Signals. From No. 8 Troop, the Best Recruit was **Signalman Alan Mott,** who is going to train as a Driver Royal Signals, whilst the best Rifle Shot was **Signalman Anthony Leisk,** who is going forward for Lineman training.



Signalman McNulty
Best Recruit

On Tuesday, 22nd June, No. 3 Troop also passed-off. On this occasion the inspecting officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Donald,** the D.A.A./Q.M.G. of the Royal Signals Training Brigade. The Best Recruit was **Signalman David McNulty,** who is now going on to learn the trade of a Telegraphist and the Best Rifle Shot was **Signalman Denis Allison,** another potential Telegraph Operator.

Catterick Garrison Open Day

Saturday, 12th June, dawned peacefully on an unsuspecting world — or perhaps I should say an unsuspecting public, for after the amount of work which had gone into producing such a worthwhile spectacle, the Regiment was only too aware of what was to come. At first the crowds came slowly, for after some light rain early in the morning there was still a little suspicion that the afternoon might carry on where the morning had left off. But as the sun remained so the crowds gathered and then they poured in.



OPEN DAY JUDO DISPLAY

W.O.2 (Q.M.S.I.) K. Norris (on the left of the picture) supervises the Judo Display on the Open Day

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

The highlight of the afternoon was the pass-off parade, followed by a very professional display by the White Helmets on the Baghdad football pitch. Meanwhile, cash prizes were being won on the .22 range, whilst people bounced happily about on trampolines and others flung themselves with gay abandon about the judo mats. A display of weapons and their application at the 30 metre range proved very popular, the drill shed with its sports and hobbies display attracted large crowds throughout the afternoon.

Amongst other items the display contained a dinghy in full racing trim, a Lotus Cortina fully equipped for a rally, a static water tank (later turned into a wishing well), three canoes and two gliders.

By the end of the day, signalled by the Beating of the Retreat, by Massed Bands, nearly 15,000 people had visited the Regiment. However, 08.00 hours on the following Monday the Regiment returned to recruit training.

Old Comrades' Weekend

Once again it was a question of all hands to the pumps to prepare for the year's visit by over 500 ex-Royal Signals personnel, and as it had been two weeks before, the garrison was once again bedecked with coloured flags, tents and so forth. On the Saturday afternoon the Corps Band appeared for a playing of the Retreat, which went down very well with everyone who was there to watch. Afterwards, all of the old comrades adjourned to the bar as the saying goes, there to remain until the early hours of the following morning. A church parade pulled into church all of those people who could manage it after such a night, and it was a case of 'the hair of the dog that bit' when they once again adjourned to the bar after the service.

During the afternoon, on the Messines playing field, a tattoo of sorts was held, comprising a display of fire fighting, a knockout assault course competition and a display by the band, who treated us to their version of the 1812 Overture with the Gunners in support to provide the bangs, whilst all round the arena were sideshows of the sort which one normally finds in fairgrounds. It was a great spectacle and we all hope that the Old Comrades enjoyed their short stay with us.

Regimental shooting team

The shooting team, under the leadership of **Captain Joe Walsh,** has had an inspiring season, taking on and defeating all comers. On 4th June, in the Training Brigade Meeting, two teams from the Regiment took on three teams from 8th Regiment and one team from the Brigade Headquarters. Although they represented the only minor unit, they completely swept the board with team wins in the S.M.G. and pistol competitions, including personal triumphs by **Major Stan Wood,** who won the individual pistol, and **Captain Ron Roberts,** who won the individual S.M.G. The team also carried off the Association Cup.

From 21st June to 26th, the team was in Bulford, competing against several other units in various competitions. After a highly successful week they returned home having won the Worrin Cup (Minor Units Championships) for the third year in succession, the Henry Whitehead Cup for minor units, and the Parachute Regiment Cup, also for minor units, whilst they recorded a second place in the section match and a place as runners-up in the Falling Plate Competition, having knocked out 30th Regiment on the way to the final.

Congratulations to all concerned for some very splendid efforts.

Regimental athletics

On a thoroughly bleak and rainy Saturday morning at the Garrison Sports Stadium, 1 Squadron, 2 Squadron and H.Q. Squadron battled it out for the Regimental Athletics Cup. Despite the conditions and the unlimited numbers of track suits, pullovers, etc., there were some praiseworthy results turned in by the athletes. From 1 Squadron, **Signalman Saville** maintained a consistently high standard of sprinting, whilst the longer distances were dominated by **Lance-Corporal Tofield** of H.Q. Squadron. Other noteworthy efforts were forthcoming from **Lieutenant Fish,** who won the long jump in between various sprints and relay races. At the end of the morning, 1 Squadron having won the competition, **Mrs. Lockwood** presented the cup to **Lieutenant Peter Bowles,** the captain of the 1 Squadron team. 2 Squadron just beat H.Q. Squadron into second place.

Only two days later, the Regimental team turned in a very creditable performance at the Training Brigade Meeting, where the competition was hard. Once again the same people were of noteworthy performance, with **Signalman Saville, Lieutenant Fish** and **Lieutenant Bowles** gaining first, second and fourth places in the 200 metres. **Signalman Saville** went on to win the 400 metres as well, whilst **Sergeant Boase** made a really determined effort to win the shot.

H.M. The Queen's Visit to York

On the occasion of the 1900th Anniversary of the City of York and the occasion of the Queen's visit to celebrate it, the Regiment was asked to provide approximately 170 recruits and staff to line the route for Her Majestey's entrance into the race course at York. After several rehearsals, including a dress rehearsal at 05.00 hours on the day before, the day arrived and with it the Royal Entourage, amazingly dry after a terrific downpour shortly before the official arrival time. The recruits put on a splendid show, and the television commentator was, in fact, heard to remark how professional they looked. After a quick move to the exit route, the recruits once again lined the route for the Queen's departure. Needless to say, with thousands of spectators climbing onto their backs and cheering at the Royal Procession. The youngest recruit on parade was 16 years 9 months old and of the large numbers, 60 recruits had only completed four weeks service.

Visit of the Director of Army Training

We recently had the honour of being visited by the Director of Military Training, **Major General A. J. Patterson, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.** Like the Chief or the General Staff last month, **General Patterson** made a fairly rapid, though nevertheless fairly comprehensive tour of the Regiment, meeting and talking to recruits in various stages of training and the staff involved in instructing them.

Arrivals

We welcome to the Regiment **Sergeant Francis Anderson,** who joins us from 632 Signal Troop in the Hebrides and wish him and his family an enjoyable tour here in Catterick.

OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

Why not contact

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

THE Specialist Employment Bureau for Telex, Teleprinter and Telephone Operators where you are assured of a welcome and free advice and guidance on career prospects in the commercial world.

THE THREE TEES TRAINING SCHOOL has the full range of Telex and Teleprinter machines and Commercial Telephone Boards and offers free tuition to those seeking employment, both Permanent and Temporary.

Call, write or phone:

110 Fleet St., London, E.C.4. (01-353 3611)

124 Regent St., London, W.1. (01-734 0365)

20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)

Lloyds Bank will obey all your standing orders.

Lloyds have been the Serviceman's bank for generations. We know a great deal about the Services; particularly when it comes to money.

We can give you advice on any financial matters, such as saving, investments, insurance–specially important if you're being posted overseas.

And we'll take care of your regular bills by banker's order.

In fact, whatever the standing order, we'll obey.

For full details of all our Services to the Services, post off the coupon or contact your local branch.

Lloyds Bank looks after people like you

To: Mr D. P. Gardiner T.D., Services Liaison Officer, Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London SW1
Please send me full details of all your services.

NAME_____

RANK_____

ADDRESS_____

L44

Derek Nimmo spends week-end with 13th Regiment

The popular star Derek Nimmo, was guest of honour at a recent Regimental week-end when he very much entered into the spirit of things.

1. **Opening the fete.**
2. **Being conned by "Mr. Ten per Cent" (Major Tom Swan).**
3. **Giving it a bash!—watched by Lance-Corporal Lorrie Pantling and relatives.**
4. **Making friends with F. of S. Tomlinson and family including Mum and Dad from U.K.**
5. **Opening the new swimming pool in a realistic manner.**





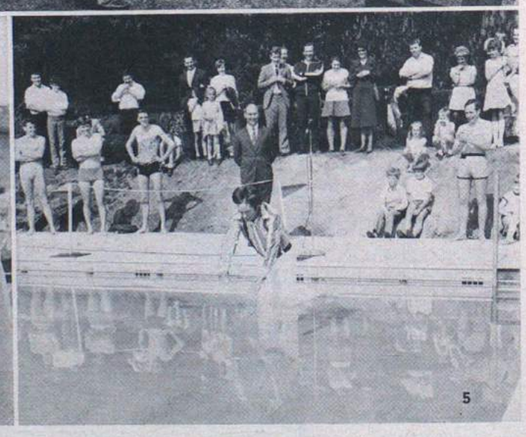
2



3



4



5

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

Regimental Weekend

REGULAR readers will know that our Regimental Week-end took place in late May. **Mr. Derek Nimmo** was guest of honour, and we hope that the Editor will be able to find space for our photographic account of some of the activities over the weekend (see opposite page).

Visitors

On 17th July the Commander-in-Chief B.A.O.R., **General Sir Peter Hunt, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,** visited the Regiment. He arrived by helicopter at 14.15 hours in torrential rain and was met by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. C. Baldwin**. After a brief discussion in R.H.Q. the C.-in-C. toured the Regiment and met many of our personalities.

Swimming

The Regimental swimming team scored a notable success at the Rhine Area Swimming Championships held in Rheindahlen on Thursday, 24th June. The team made a good start by comfortably winning the first event, the freestyle relay. After the fourth event the team were three points in the lead with 16th Signal Regiment close on our heels. The last event decided the championships; we needed to come at least second in order to win the championships. The excitement was terrific as the final event, 4 x 50 metres medley relay, started. **Sergeant John Wallace** was first away at back stroke followed by **Corporal Chris Martin** at breast stroke. At this stage we were lying third, and a tremendous effort by **Corporal John Hurst** at butterfly enabled us to catch up with the leaders. **Sergeant 'Mo' Emmott** at freestyle then won us the event and the championships. Our team goes to Berlin on 14th July to compete in the B.A.O.R. Championships.

Sergeants' Mess

Following our notes in June/July we can now, with the assistance of 'Pinkertons,' give the 'lowdown' on 12 of the 42 listed on the 1956 photograph. It was coincidence that in the same issue, 9th Signal Regiment published a picture of two of the Sergeants, namely **Riddell** and **Smith**, who are now Warrant Officers Class 1. Here are the others, and if you can help to find the remaining 30 we would be very pleased to hear from you:

Sergeant Bayman, now retired, residing in East Leake, Notts.; **Sergeant Dawkins,** now Captain serving in Germany; **Sergeant Richards,** deceased; **S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Newton,** last known to be in Kenya; **Staff Sergeant Kilby,** now Major and proud to add serving in this Regiment; **S.S.I. Orwin,** S.K.C. Manager somewhere in Germany; **S.Q.M.S. Macadam,** now retired, employed by 224 Signal Squadron, resides in Loughborough; **S.Q.M.S. Greenward,** thought to be in Australia; **W.O.2 Barnard,** now Captain serving in Germany.

We congratulate **Sergeant Ray Armstrong** on promotion to Staff Sergeant, and **Corporals Cheese, Henderson, Isted, Paterson** and **Parker** to Sergeant.

Arrivals and departures

In addition to **Captain Bill Lockie,** the Officers' Mess also said goodbye to **Major Maurice Maisey,** Intelligence Corps. Both distinguished themselves during their tours, and we were sorry to see them go. Also leaving the Regiment were **Sergeants M. J. Crane, J. P. Grocott** and **P. F. Scottorn.**

We welcome: **Major J. R. C. Hudson,** The Staffordshire Regiment; **Major P. N. Graham,** Intelligence Corps; **W.O.2 P. T. Goudman; Sergeant J. B. Watson; Sergeant J. R. Jukes; Sergeant T. Wells,** Intelligence Corps.

Stop Press

We have just received a vintage photograph of 1 Special Wireless Regiment (1947) from **Major (retd.) J. F. McQuade,** London Branch, Royal Signals Association. Thank you, Sir, we are proud to add it to our collection. More details in next issue.

LIFE ASSURANCE

ITS FUNCTION. The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

INVESTMENT. Life Assurance, especially Endowment Assurance, is however also the best possible long-term investment, because the money is invested wisely, and partly in "growth equities," by the Life Assurance Company *and* because it is the only form of investment subsidised by the Government. The subsidy consists of Income Tax Allowance on two-fifths of Premiums. For those liable to Tax at 38.75%, this means 15.5% abatement. Thus, a net outlay of £84.50 a year provides a premium of £100 a year, which is 18.34% increase.

SELECTION. There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

INFORMATION REQUIRED. May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

SURTAX and ESTATE DUTY. Suitable action can greatly reduce the burden. If these problems are at all large let me advise you how to increase your net income AND net estate.

GENERAL ASSURANCES. We also arrange Kit, Motor, Winter Sports and all other Insurances in the best markets.

Brigadier R. T. Williams F.C.I.B. — **R. T. WILLIAMS LTD.** — Major T. F. Williams F.C.I.B.

2, Duke Street, Brighton, BN1 1DE

Telephone Brighton 28181 (2 lines)

Incorporated Insurance Brokers
Incorporated Life Assurance Brokers
Member of the Services Insurance Brokers Association



[Photo: Courtesy of Berrows Newspapers

THE CHARIOTEERS OF 14th SIGNAL REGIMENT—PART OF SOME INCREDIBLE GOINGS ON!

I Squadron Chariot Team leading the field. 'Horses' (*left to right*): Corporal Mike Butler, Lance-Corporal Taff Penington, Corporal Stan Grimmitt, Corporal Steve Randle. 'Charioteer' Lance-Corporal Pete Jarvis. (No prize for guessing where the stable colour came from).

14th Signal Regiment
Worcester

Some incredible goings on . . .

THERE can be few readers who have not heard of the now international madcap television competition called 'It's a Knockout' and there is no doubt that it is a very popular activity either to watch or to play in. Practically all major towns in Europe have entered a team in some sort of 'Knockout' competition or other and so have, at one time or another, most units of the British Army even if only at the somewhat lower level of the annual sports day. Those readers with a good memory will recall that in 1970 this Regiment held an inter-Squadron 'It's a Knockout' competition. So successful was it that this year the event was repeated and held on a Saturday afternoon thus allowing all the families, the civilian staff and many friends of the Regiment, including some 20 pensioners from Upton on Severn, to attend and see the incredible goings on.

Ingenuity and individual skills

To Headquarters Squadron fell the task of being 'sponsor' and how well the soldiers of this sub unit, under the guidance of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) W. C. Yates,** laid things on. The general administration was first class, catering arrangements good and the 'games' frankly terrifying. But before describing the games in detail the excellent sideshows well justify separate comment, for it is as such relatively simple occasions that one so often sees the ingenuity and individual skills that are so much part of the modern soldier. Even the more traditional hoopla, darts, wheel of fortune and roll-a-penny were run with tremendous enthusiasm as was the very difficult shooting range, the death slide run by 602 Signal Troop and the electric minefield organised by 'E' Troop. This latter invention consisted of 16 stepping stones or mines of which at any one time, by an ingenious switching device, half were wired to a buzzer. If one stepped on a live mine the buzzer sounded and out you went. If one got all the way through the field a prize was given. Needless to say not many people succeeded, though it was noticed that one very pretty girl with long, long hair and a short, short skirt managed it several times. Perhaps the fact that such winners had to pass through the operators tent at the back of the stall to get out had something to do with this fair damsel's success.

The knockout

But back to the reason for the afternoon—the 'knockout.' There were six games including a marathon at which individual members of each team had to compete. This marathon was deceptively simple but the sprint, crawl under then climbing of a swaying scramble net to retrieve a ball from a bucket at the top followed by a dash back to the start line soon had muscles that were previously unknown about aching and nearly calling out in protest.

The games proper started with a piano smashing contest which, as the name suggests, required a piano to be dismantled with 16lb. tele-sledges (it was rudely suggested that the technicians had an advantage for this is how they tackle their work every day) and passed through a small window frame and on to a refuse cart. Next was a highly improbable wheelbarrow race where a crew of three (one in the barrow complete with stirrup pump and bucket of water) had to cross a single plank bridge and then pump the water into the neck of a bottle some 10ft. away. No easy feat on a swaying plank with a tricky wind blowing the jet of water away from the bottle. The winner was the one with the greatest quantity of water in the bottle. Following this the Squadron teams had to battle to achieve the maximum number of balloon bursts. Armed only with a pin the competitors used the trampoline to reach their quarry strung in a line across the square. It seemed the higher they jumped the higher the balloon rose in the air—except those apparently easy ones which did not move but found to be full of water when an unsuspecting competitor burst them.

The fifth game was goal shooting rather like that seen on television, that is competitors dribbling a ball along a plank to the shooting area then attempting to score goals whilst one of the opposing side kept goal.

Finally we had by popular request (of everybody, except perhaps the competitors) a repeat of last year's crossing the river. Briefly, players had to cross from one bank to another and deposit rucksacks, full of sand, on the far side. There was a swing rope available to help but as always the competitors got their sums wrong and in selecting the wrong angle of swing ended up in the very large tank of water much to the delight of spectators.

The sporting events terminated with a chariot race which 1 Squadron team won both the concours d'elegance and the race itself. 602 Signal Troop won the overall Knockout competition and were more than ready for the liquid prize kindly presented, on behalf of the Regiment, by **Mrs. Joan Baker.** After giving the pensioners from Upton a slap-up tea in the Village Hall all went their way reflecting upon a very successful afternoon.

19th Signal Regt.
c/o G.P.O. Singapore

THE Regiment has not yet disbanded completely, despite the impression that might have been given in the May/June edition when THE WIRE gave us such splendid coverage of our Ceremonial Farewell Parade. At the risk of sounding ungrateful to the editorial staff for their efforts has anyone noticed the 'photographic licence' of the Picture Editor in photo 2 on page 177? The front rank shadows have been painted in, but where are the soldiers who threw those shadows? We forgive him for that but the R.S.M. is still very indignant about having a bush painted in on his Parade Ground.

(Oh! Oh! Editor).

Getting thinner day by day

The ranks of the Regiment become thinner day by day. Both Tengah and Changi Airfield Signal Troops have disbanded and their tasks on the two major airfields are now undertaken by the Singapore Telephone Board with the help of two small rear detachments of linemen and technicians to cover the priority operational circuits. Commanding Officer's interviews on Tuesdays are becoming more like miniature parades with anything up to 30 Locally Enlisted Soldiers appearing for their final interviews before discharge. The next stage will be the disbandment of S.H.Q. 1 Squadron in mid-August, since it will have no troops to command, and the Microwave Troop and Airfield rear detachments will then come under direct command of R.H.Q.

We are also contracting geographically within Changi, basing all the remaining 'Q' and M.T. elements on R.H.Q. and Camp Askar2 Bujang so that we can hand over the outlying buildings and real estate to the Singapore Government.

Apart from the Officers' Mess and W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess functions still to come, all the troops have had their final parties, which means that the China Sea Beach Club has been doing very good business. This Club, which was the original Royal Signals Leave Camp at Telok Paku, has been run by the Regiment since 1950. This too must close in July and the staff, who have given us sterling service, will be pensioned off and the premises handed back to Singapore Area.

Positively the last Quarter Guard

Positively the last Quarter Guard was mounted on 11th May when we were paid our last(?) V.I.P. visit by the Army Commander, **Major-General W. B. Thomas, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.** He was given a briefing and a tour round the Regiment and concluded his visit with drinks in the Senior Ranks' Club followed by a Malay curry lunch with the officers.

We are managing to keep sport going though not on such a scale as before. The football team have performed well in the local Changi League and the cricketers turn out regularly with mixed results. The Sepak Raga tournament was won again by Changi Troop and the Basketball went to Tengah Troop. In the Regimental Badminton tournament the team event was won by M.T. Troop, **Lance-Corporal Ismail** and **Signalman Yusop,** and the Individual Champion was **Lance-Corporal Ismail.** A .22 competition was run within the Regiment under the able organisation of **W.O.I (F. of S.) Hoe** who managed to get 264 people to fire qualifying cards. An individual and team knock-out competition followed with the Commanding Officer emerging as Individual Champion and R.H.Q. Troop, consisting of the **C.O., Captain Brock, W.O.1 Hoe** and **Corporal Gask,** as the winners of the Inter-Troop event. Half the Regiment seems to have taken up golf and at Royal Signals matches against other Corps we provide a high proportion of the competitors. A three-match series was played against 18th Signal Regiment, each Regiment winning on its home course and the final, which was played over the long New Island course, was narrowly won by 18th Signal Regiment by 8 matches to 7.

The Wives' Club has now given up the unequal struggle and with so many families going home it was decided to close it with a final luncheon in town.

Visits to the Changi Creek Hotel to bid farewell to departing members of the Regiment have now become a regular feature. The M.T.O., **Captain G. A. Granger,** has left for 5 Inf. Bde. at Tidworth and T.O.T. Workshops, **Captain H. Davies** has moved to the S.W.S. Troop at Bulford. We wish them both and their families good fortune in their new appointments.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O 16

"JUNE is bursting out all over"—and it did for the three weeks over Exercises 'Summer Sales' and 'Sky Blue'! Despite the monsoon weather, the Regiment deployed all its resources and produced the communications required for our staff. Once again our TAVR brethren joined us and **Captain Trevor Boocock** and his R.R. detachments found themselves very much in at the deep end, but as in previous years 648/649 Signal Troops showed that they are just as good as we regulars.

During 'Summer Sales,' Commcen Sierra took to the field, albeit as 'Bruin' control. On 'Sky Blue' the Commcen advanced a few steps further and with additional equipment we hope to announce very soon that Commcen Sierra is all systems go!

Finally, on 'Summer Sales' we had **Captain J. Sweetman** and his team from 14th Signal Regiment with the TSC 500 Satellite Ground Station. The voice cabin was located at Commcen Uniform and despite teething troubles working with 'Bruin,' calls were made from the field to the M.O.D. Whitehall.

Anglo German relations

On 25th June a successful day of sport was held at the 7 Fernmelde Battalion barracks. The day marked a further step in the Kameradenschaft that exists between the Signal Regiments. Our officers/seniors hockey team just managed a 2-0 win (the previous week we had to teach the German team how to play hockey)! Alas, the Regimental soccer team found that experience and maturity is just not enough and lost 8-1. The athletics were close but we just made it and in the tug-of-war between Regimental Headquarters our C.O. was content with a moral victory! The day ended with an excellent supper dance in the German Officers' Mess.

'Charlie' Troop

As forecast by the 'punters,' the Troop is now in 4 Squadron. Is this a case of even their best friends . . . ?

28th (BR) Signal Regiment
(NORTHAG), B.F.P.O. 35

A particularly sinister convoy rumbled out . . .

AT 05.00 hours on 24th May, a particularly sinister convoy rumbled out of Francisca Barracks on the start of its 500-mile journey to Schliersee in Bavaria. Under command of **Major Robin Ingram** it made its way south until it eventually arrived at its destination—there to disgorge its contents—canoes, tents, climbing gear, a sailing dinghy and a suitable supply of alcohol . . . Exercise 'Fransud,' our major adventure of 1971, had started.

This was the advance party, whose job it was to set up the camp site and generally get the administrative facilities organised. Two days later the first of three parties of soldiers were to arrive for their 10-day stay in Bavaria. During this time they were to gain experience in rock-climbing, trekking, canoeing, sailing, survival and map reading.

Before canoeing—the swimming test was a must

The canoeing and sailing took place on Tegernsee—a lake about 7k.m. long and 3k.m. wide and about 15k.m. from the main camp. Here a sub-camp was set up with **Sergeant John Richards** and **Signalman Ron King** as the canoe instructors. Groups of soldiers arrived daily from the main camp and each group had three days on the water where the most memorable event was the swimming test required before each new group could start canoeing. There was a bit of anxiety when **Signalman Tony Cantle** capsized his canoe just above a weir, but he managed to reach the bank before being swept over, although the same is not true of his canoe, which ended up somewhat bent. A more amusing incident occurred when **Lance-Corporal Thirkettle** approached a little too close to a swan with cygnets and was seen off in no uncertain terms. The canoeing record, however, must go to **Signalman 'Jock' Whitelaw,** whose ability at capsizing surpassed the instructors' wildest dreams!

Budding helmsmen

Having tried their hand at canoeing most soldiers spent some time in the unit sailing dinghy. The wind on the lake varied from nil to squalling so conditions were rarely good for learning to sail; however, plenty of sailing was done and the unit now has some budding helmsmen.

From sailing each group passed on to rock climbing, in the mountains above Tegernsee. This was organised and run by **Staff Sergeants 'Sandy' Shaw** and **Pete Ridley,** who spent most of the month-long period stuck up 'their' mountain, with little company except for goats and cows. The withdrawal symptoms are now setting in and perhaps it would be kinder to say no more than that they are a little strange!

The rock-climbing went without incident, but was limited by the continual wet weather which hampered all activities.

From mountain climbing to trekking and survival. This was under control of **Y. of S. Tony Whydell,** who unlike the other two Staff Sergeants up the mountain, started 'strange' and finished up fairly normal. A diet of stinging nettles and garden snails makes a change from compo rations, but you can get too much of a good thing. Groups of soldiers would start from base, trek to an overnight camp site near the Austrian border and there construct bivouacs from their Ponchos, cook over open fires and generally look after themselves. It was a good long trip through the mountains, and many people found that their ability at map reading was severely tested.

The Alehouse Wanderers

The base camp was run by **Captain Rodney Clare** aided and abetted by **Staff Sergeant John Stretton,** and an article of 'Fransud '71' would not be complete without a mention of the camp group—the 'Alehouse Wanderers' consisting of **Captain Clare** (clarinet), **Lieutenant Chris Greig** (guitar) and **Sergeant John Richards** (washbowl and brushes, harmonium and special effects), who played their version of trad jazz, around the area, to much acclaim from the Bavarians.

The final word must be for the most disappointed soldier in camp — **Lance-Corporal Jim Tench** (R.E.M.E.), who discovered a 50-litre barrel of beer in the river behind the camp.



SMILING CORPS MEN OF 28th REGIMENT AT CAMP IN BAVARIA
W.O.2 (A.Q.M.S.) Baxter, Corporal Jim Hunter, Corporal Cliff Kemp, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Blakelock, Corporal Pip Dinsdale.

He fought his way across the river and wrestled with his prize until he reached the bank, only to be informed that the barrel belonged to **Lieutenant Greig,** who had left it there as the easiest way of keeping it cool.

Almost 200 members of the Regiment managed to spend 10 days at this camp and plans start soon for next year.

News from Squadrons

7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (207), B.F.P.O. 37

Squadron barbecue

The H.Q. and Signal Squadron held a barbecue recently at which a whole pig from our own pig farm was duly slaughtered and barbequed. **Corporal 'Boggy' Marsh,** our tame Royal Signals 432 expert, told everyone the gory details as he witnessed the ceremonial slaughter in the cookhouse. When at last he changed back from green to his normal colour he assured everyone that he had only gone over to the cookhouse to borrow a knife to cut the cordage on our tents. He got his knife . . . AFTER they had finished using it!

The barbeque went very well and everyone enjoyed it, but would the person who got the cook's finger on his plate, please own up. He is still wandering around looking for the end of his finger last seen whilst dissecting the hind leg of the pig. He and **Captain Buxton** are now comparing wounds although O.C. 'A' Troop part-dissected finger was also occasioned in the call of duty — i.e. demonstrating how to walk on one's hands on Carlsberg bottles at **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Len Yate's** 'post "Summer Sales" farewell to 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron' party. 'Carly' bottles never used to disintegrate.

Divisional athletics

Sergeant Harry Escott led the athletics team to come a close second at the 1 Divisional Athletics at Minden, and the Second-in-Command Squadron, **Major B. J. Austin,** after cooling down after his disappointment at 'the Jerboa' coming second to anyone is now looking forward to a victory at the B.A.O.R. athletics.

Stop Press. The unit won the B.A.O.R. Minor Units and are off to U.K. in the near future to meet all other commands in the Army Minor Units at Aldershot.

Rebroadcast boys have their say

Our Rebro boys are now preparing their 432 Gin palaces for 'Eternal Triangle' and **Lance-Corporal Ray Hill,** a rebro crew commander, has composed a little ditty on his past experiences which in preparation is bound to touch the hearts of all past or present Rebro crews.

An Ode to Rebro

Rebro is a way of life,
Full of trouble, toil and strife;
But also with its share of fun,
Once the exercises have begun.

Move out with Main and then deploy,
Oh what bliss, such untold joy;
On a spot height up so high,
Our own hill top in the sky.

Step Up has lost comms with you know who,
But the Rebros know just what to do;
They must try to improve relations,
Between these now too distant stations.

Radio checks prove OK to both,
So the two of them Rebro must betroth;
Step Up change to you know what,
Don't both Main, their end's too hot.

Two minutes pass, Step Up is through,
So Rebro must switch and join the two;
The switching done, Step Up calls Main,
They're through strength five. Rebro works again.

Everything is quiet, the Staff in bed,
Pronto Minor rests his head;
But wait a minute! The Div net's failed,
Pronto Minor is quickly hailed.

Within minutes everything's quietened down,
As Pronto Minor in slippers and dressing gown;
Retreats aloft from Comms Control,
Heard muttering, "Someone's head will roll."

At last the message Division sends,
"All stations close down. Exercise ends."
Everyone shouts at once "Hurraay,"
Then back to camp we're on our way.

Back in camp all vehicles ready,
To the Jerboa Club, "Steady, steady";
Second-in-Command Squadron says, "Well done,
Now I'll expect beers from everyone."

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) B.F.P.O. 801

Comms Troop

'A,' 'J' and 'M' Troops have been combined to form a communications troop whilst we are in Northern Ireland. It didn't take long before the troop had its own commcen and operations room shifts running smoothly. Our radio commitment has diminished since arriving in Lurgan, due to a relatively static communications system. This has been offset with having to provide guards and escorts. The most interesting of these is escorting the EOD Detachment, which is billeted with us.

As the Squadron has such a large area to cover with communications, it is necessary to have a comprehensive RRB network planned in advance of any operation. Trials are at the moment in progress, and **Lance-Corporal Mel Ayers,** our rebro king, gives the warning "watch out for bogs."

Lance-Corporal Dick Lewis and the other technicians sum up their work out here with a sign outside their workshop which reads:

MERCURY ELECTRONICS LTD.
Radio, TV and Domestic Appliances Repaired.
Agents for Marconi, Plessey, MEL and Seimens.
All makes accepted. H.M. Forces welcome.

Colchester to Malaya

Our rear party at Colchester are not just doing fatigues. Under **Corporal Such,** they are operating a daily link to 1 King's Own Border Regiment who are in Malaya on exercise. They are using an HF yagi antenna and have found it very successful.

IS Duties

The Squadron has been taking part in IS duties since it arrived in Lurgan. Members of the Squadron have been filling the ranks of 1 Field Squadron R.E.'s patrols in order to gain experience. They have been involved in road blocks, routine patrols, riot squads and searches. Eventually, the whole Squadron will be practised in IS duties.

The water cannon crews are also produced from within the Squadron. **Corporal George Donaldson** has already used the water cannon whilst on duty in Lurgan and has volunteered to stay on the detail.



IN NORTHERN IRELAND
Lance-Corporal Crossan, Signalman McPherson and Driver Pickles, R.C.T. prepare to go out on patrol.

Community relations

The Signal Squadron has launched a large community relations programme under the guidance of the BASO. This was started by helping in the opening ceremony of a new community centre. The Sergeants' Mess helped to run a children's sports meeting and the cooks provided the refreshments. This has been followed up by running a discotheque evening at the centre. The DJs for the evening were **Corporal 'Nobby' Clark, Lance-Corporal 'Stu' Burns** and **Signalman Vic Hainsworth.**

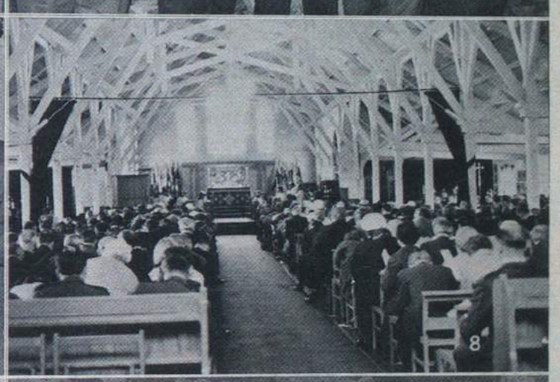
Corporal Frank Paterson and **Corporal 'Scouse' Kneale** helped to run a fete for handicapped children by making an 'Aunt Sally.' **Lance-Corporal Roger North** and **Signalman Vic Hainsworth** help in running the stall on the day.

Catterick Reunion on 26th-27th June was as popular as ever











[*Photos: Courtesy J. K. Hendren, 160 Market Place, Richmond, Yorks.*

1. A large crowd watched Retreat. 2–7. All obviously enjoyed themselves at the evening functions. 8. St. Martin's Church—Sunday morning. 9. Standards led the parade past after church. 10. Association members march past in solid array. 11. Young soldiers caught the eye too. 12. Sunday afternoon displays were as popular as ever judging from the large numbers present.



24th BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON ABOUT TO GO TO SEA
Lance-Corporal Earl and Lance-Corporal Gotsell on the Rebro Station followed by Corporal Rippon and Signalman Pullin with the generator waiting to float out of H.M.S. Fearless in an L.C.M. during Exercise Moon Lady

24 Airportable Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (210)

THE trouble in delegating production of Wire Notes to the Troops is that they are all so biased. If you read their contributions you would think that A Troop bore the weight of the world on its shoulders, B Troop was a private army and that M Troop provide character to an otherwise undistinguished band of communicators. On reflection they could all be right! Nevertheless S.H.Q. is exercising its perogative in acting as referee and presents a more balanced picture of our activities.

Sport good all-round results

In the 1970/71 season we concentrated our efforts on doing well in the major games. We won the South West District Minor Units Soccer Competition and were runners-up in the cricket, hockey and rugby competitions. The soccer team can be proud of their achievement, they trained very hard and were an attractive team to watch. It is a pity that age has caught up with **R.S.M. Fred Common,** whose injury in almost the last game of the season appears to preclude him from further selection.

This is perhaps an appropriate stage to say a fond farewell to our Rugby Skipper **Captain John Grierson** who shortly leaves us for the ANZUK Brigade. His ministration and enthusiasm did much to enhance our enjoyment of the game.

Exercises—at sea and in Denmark

In May we took part in consecutive amphibious Exercises **'Nelson's Touch'** and **'Moon Lady.'** Our home for almost three weeks was H.M.S. 'Fearless.' The first exercise was an amphibious landing on the Mull of Kintyre. Brigade H.Q. remained on board but it was necessary to deploy a rebroadcast station and defence section by three Wessex helicopters. **Lance-Corporal Bill Earl** and his crew deserve every credit for their performance on this occasion which involved a redeployment, again by helicopter. The only vehicle to wade on this occasion was the Brigade Commander's Rover driven by **Lance-Corporal John Davies.** Sighs of relief when he made it to the shore.

Exercise 'Moon Lady' took place in Denmark. All our hard work preparing our vehicles for wading came to naught when it was found that the beach was unsuitable. We had to land over Mexifloats.

We had a sticky communications problem. Basically we had to provide comms in a 40-mile radius with one rebroadcast station. This was successfully achieved using a three-way rebroadcast station.

The four days run ashore in Copenhagen after the exercise was enjoyable. The Squadron patronised visits to Carlsberg Brewery, the Cherry Heering factory, every pub and night club in the capital two or three times and finished up with a good win against the local rugby side. The stories about this visit are legion and best left out of this narrative. (Come, come—suitably modified they would enliven the pages of 'The Wire'.—Editor.)

Farewell to Plymouth

Although these notes are being written in Plymouth, they will be read when we are established in our new home at Streatlam Camp, Barnard Castle. The whole Brigade is moving North to the Catterick area.

To mark the end of a 300-year association between the City and the Army a farewell parade was held on Plymouth Hoe. The Squadron provided a contingent on this historic occasion. Three days later we contributed a stand at a Brigade open day. A, B and M Troops put in a great deal of effort for this occasion and were rewarded by many favourable comments from an admiring public.



"LIVING ON A KNIFE EDGE" IN NORTHERN IRELAND—MEN OF 39 AIRPORTABLE BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON RELAX AROUND BRIGADE TAC H.Q.
In the photograph: Driver Milfull, Signalman Adcock, Corporal Thorne, Signalman Jenkins, Signalman Berry, Corporal Stretton, Lance-Corporal Parkinson, Sergeant Few and Sergeant Davison.

Hello — Goodbye — Congratulations

Space does not permit full coverage of recent movements and promotions. Notably we welcome **Captain Dai Rees** as replacement for **Captain Stan Pavey.** The latter has been our Quartermaster for four years. We are sure that previous "generations" will join us in wishing him good fortune. Some of us here are still getting over the effects of the week it took to say goodbye to him.

Y. of S. Jimmy Ferguson was thrown in at the deep end and has emerged smiling. **Corporals Draper** and **Hallsworth** appear to find B Troop to their liking. A Troop has changed beyond recognition. On promotion they have lost **R.Q.M.S. 'Paddy' O'Connell** and gained **Staff Sergeant Barney Hill.** Congratulations to them both.

39 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (213)

The daily round

THE first half of 1971 has seen the Squadron concentrating for the first time on matters within the City of Belfast, as this is now the brigade area. Much of our attention has been focused on the problem of buttoning up the communications within the City, which is no mean feat, especially in a hostile environment. Amongst other tricks tried was the setting up of a radio site on the pinnacle of a hill just outside the city. Our thanks go to 72 Squadron R.A.F., whose Wessex was heard gently panting after just lifting the Pye radio cabin to the top. Credit must go to **Captain Jonathan Cox** who had to run all the way up the hill, beating the helicopter to the top, to take the photograph.

The 'Ever Readies'

The Squadron 'ever-readies,' those stalwarts who man the Commander's tac H.Q. and Rovers, have held up well under duress, and our thanks go to them for (almost) always being there on time to conduct the Brigadier to the latest trouble spot in town. Although they live on a knife-edge the photograph shows them relaxing around the brigade tac H.Q.

A recent manifestation has been the appearance of lone telephones around the bomb-sites of Belfast. The reason for this has been **Corporal Tom Charteries,** and his flying line detachments, who leave battalions open-mouthed when they present them with a civil telephone on the end of a line as they thunder into their tac H.Q. locations. As it is realised that readers will not believe this piece of Signals boast, we hope to produce pictorial evidence in the next issue.

It is impossible in one issue to name everyone who makes the Squadron tick, but mention must be given to the commcen operators who clear traffic to up to 11 battalions at a time, six of which have direct teleprinter links to our hub. They are led by **Yeoman Bill Greenhill,** who is to be sympathised with because his man-eating sweet-pea recently died from surfeit of commcen operators.

Heard on the intercom of a passenger flight to Northern Ireland: "Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to land in Northern Ireland, please put your watches back 50 years."



Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army – or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain – and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain with rank, receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity, and your British Army service will count toward points for married quarters allocation, should you enlist within twelve months of your British Army discharge.

Don't leave it any longer!

Is your trade included in those listed? If so, this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London – or post the the coupon for all the facts.

Royal Australian Artillery
1. Physical Training Instructor – Sergeants

Royal Australian Survey Corps
1. Survey Photo Technician – Sergeants
2. Topographic Surveyor – Warrant Officers Class 2/Sergeants

Royal Australian Signals
1. Regimental Duty NCO – Sergeants and Corporals
2. Clerk R. Sigs. – Sergeants and Corporals
3. Radio Operator/Telegraph Operator – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Clerk Technical R. Sigs. – Corporals
5. Foremen of Signals – Warrant Officers Class 2
6. Terminal Equipment Technician – Sergeants and Corporals

Royal Australian Army Service Corps
1. Clerk G.D. – Sergeants
2. Clerk RAPC – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
1. Hygiene Assistant Class 1 – Sergeants
2. Hygiene Assistant Class 2 – Corporals
3. Clerk Medical – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Radiographer Class 1 – Sergeants
5. Laboratory Technician Class 1 – Staff Sergeants

Royal Australian Ordnance Corps
1. Work Study Operator – Warrant Officers Class 2

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
1. Artificer Radar – Warrant Officers Class 1 and 2
2. Artificer Telecommunications – Staff Sergeants
3. Artificer Vehicle – Warrant Officers Class 2, Staff Sergeants
4. Fitter Armament, Fitter and Turner Gun – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Provost
1. R.M.P. Provost N.C.O. – Corporals
2. M.P.S.C. Instructor – Corporals

Australian Army Band Corps
1. Musician or Bandsman – vacancies exist in the rank of Private, for musicians specialised in the following instruments.

Flute	French Horn
Oboe	Cornet
Clarinet (B Flat)	Euphonium
Saxophone	Trombone
Bass	Percussion

Australian Services Canteen Organisation
1. Attendant canteen, or issuing point – Corporals
2. Manager canteen or issuing point – Sergeants

Come as you are– to Australia

If you're thinking about emigrating and you've acquired any of the specialist skills and ranks detailed above, you may be eligible for enlistment in the Australian Army.



Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Age ..... Married/Single .....

Rank ..... Corps .....

Trade .....

Anticipated Discharge Date .....

To: Capt. J. Gresty, Australian Army Staff, 2nd Flr., Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah) B.F.P.O. 64

The Squadron has passed away quietly

222 Signal Squadron is no more. It passed away quietly on 30th June causing no distress to anyone, save Royal Signals Records perhaps, who were given extra work in disposing of the mourners(?) to other units around the world.

It will be remembered my many, and the memories on the whole will be happy ones. No doubt many were the curses hurled at Sharjah by Officers and soldiers alike, because of its heat, its sand and its humidity, but to be able to do one's job successfully in spite of it is most satisfying. The British soldier thrives on adversity and Sharjah certainly brings out the best in one. Comradeship and team spirit have been of the highest order and these are the things that will be remembered by all who have served out here.

As most people began to ease off work during the last couple of months, so the R.Q.M.S. **W.O.2 Bob Paterson** and his staff have had to increase their working day. Every day something or other disappeared into wooden crates, destined for goodness knows where, by air or sea. It was rumoured at one time that **R.Q.M.S. Paterson** was selecting locations and addresses by pin—much to the concern of the O.C. **Major Tony Bushell** who is destined to catch the proverbial can on final disbandment!

The Gladiators from 255 Squadron

Shortly before handing over to Sharjah Signal Troop, of which more news later, we entertained a party of gladiators from 255 Signal Squadron in Bahrain, for a sports weekend. In spite of valiant efforts we proved to be very polite hosts—'nuff sed!' All credit though to 255, who won the fishing, the volleyball, the five-a-side soccer, the squash and the small-bore shooting. They failed to make a clean sweep, however, their Officers losing at snooker and darts to **Messrs. Bushell** and **Marks.**

It would take up too much space to list all our recent departures but it will be of interest to many ex-Squadron members to know that **S.S.M. Bob McGregor** has finally left Sharjah garlanded with flowers presented by his locally employed civilians. We wish him all the best in B.A.O.R.

One sport which placed Royal Signals well and truly on the map is water polo. Nine of our team were selected to represent British Troop Sharjah and British Forces Gulf in the Bahrain Championships a few weeks ago. The following all took part: **Chris Aitken, 'Andy' Potter, 'Snapper' McKay, 'Mac' McCarthy, 'Jerry' Johnson, 'Des' Dann, 'Brummie' White, 'POSB' Hutchinson, 'Mel' Heaney, 'Min' Eaton** and **'Paddy' Kelly. Sergeant Phil Crowe** managed the team and all are to be congratulated on its fine performance.

Airfield Troop carried out another successful 'FAMEX' (familiarisation exercise) to the East Coast. They maintained their record of CASEVACS, this time **Lance-Corporal 'Twiggy' Wheatley** who apparently is not too keen on the sun! But all in all it was most pleasant, good swimming, good fishing and a welcome change to Sharjah.

Sergeant Kev Ashton writes for Radio Troop

Our O.C. and veteran 'Jebel Basher' **Captain Craig Treeby** was so upset at the thought of losing his Troop as a victim of the rundown that he did the only thing possible to save his command for as long as he could. He headed for the hills.

With complete faith in Radio Troop's old and tired vehicles he decided to walk. With **Corporal Pete Leach** and two members of 90 Squadron R.C.T., who prefer to remain anonymous, he set out.

To confuse the R.Q.M.S., who was frantically trying to capture enough vehicles to backload, the remainder of the Troop split into three parties and headed for the desert. One party with **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Kelly** never made it. All his vehicles broke down a few miles from camp and delayed recovery caused cancellation. The base camp party with **Sergeant Ashton** had a bit more luck. It reached the Trucial Oman Scouts' camp at Masafi before losing a wheel off the F.F.R. While repairs were carried out by their fitter the T.O.S. entertained us with a plentiful supply of beer—the O.C. never thought we would get away! Still, after a pleasant four-hour break we were able to continue on our way and eventually set up camp in a deep wadi.

The one remaining highlight of the exercise was the sight of a Land Rover slowly crawling into the base camp on top of which sat **Captain Treeby,** nursing in one hand a fire extinguisher and in the other a can of petrol connected to the carburettor by a hose pipe. So much for his walk!

Radio Troop certainly went out with a bang, even if it was from breaking half-shafts!

Note: Sharjah Signal Troop formed on 1st July to continue certain Royal Signals' responsibilities in Sharjah until the rundown is complete. Its own WIRE notes will now be produced with those of 255 Signal Squadron.

223 Signal Squadron (Radio) Winchester

Thee and thy shadow

CORPORAL **'Taff' Leek** found himself hurrying to the Mass X-ray Unit H.Q. in Southampton a few days after an X-ray unit had called on us. Searching questions about pleurisy and another session with the machine left him sitting in the waiting room a rather worried man.

His wait wasn't made any easier by some character coughing and spluttering all over the place. From a restrained conversation he learned there was nothing wrong with the chap's plates, "just a possibility of bronchitis." Our 'condemned' man was not re-assured.

At last a puzzled doctor turned up. "Nothing wrong with these," he said, waving the latest plates, "but just look at this first one you had."

Wonderful relief! "That shadow's just about the shape of my new tie!" It seems there are metallic-based dyes in the glorious technicolour masterpiece our **Corporal Leek** wears on high days and holidays.

Motor cycling

Our small but dedicated band of motor cycling madmen are feeling quite pleased with themselves. Despite the handicaps of having out-of-date bikes, poor training facilities and being a bit short in the leg, **Sergeant Jimmy Rhind** and **Corporal George Cardwell** entered the Twickenham and District Motor Cycle Club's Sunbury Cup Trial in mid-June. The event actually took place in Aldershot and, although **Corporal Cardwell** was forced to retire, **Sergeant Rhind** achieved a very creditable 98 points on his standard Army machine.

The razor-edged competition came mainly from 'souped up' civilian trials machines. To be able to beat about a dozen of these 'whizz-kids' as he did, makes **Sergeant Rhind** and the rest keener than ever to continue their sport.

Cricketing success

The Squadron cricket team has produced some good figures this season: played 11, won nine and lost only two of their matches. They now face 8 Squadron R.C.T. in the final of the S.E. District Minor Units Cup at Aldershot towards the end of July. Beaten quarter-finalists were the Intelligence Corps Centre.

Hardest match to date was the semi-final against C.A.D. Bramley (R.A.O.C.). Bramley, batting first, scored a respectable 118, but the Squadron, playing well together, knocked up 119 for four in reply, highest scorer being **Sergeant Pat Baldwin** with 36. **Corporal Chris Thatcher,** a Corps player, gave an admirable exhibition of controlled play by steadily holding up his end while **Corporals Billy Button, Chris Greenhill** and **Captain Stan Brice** made some useful quick runs. Each of our bowlers, bar one, took a wicket and **Captain Brice** took four.

The team is playing extremely well together this season and we continue to watch their figures with interest. We shall keep our fingers crossed for them in the final.

Canoeing

The Squadron has just acquired five OX 1 (slalom) and two Tiger (surf rescue) canoes. So far training sessions have been limited to the river Itchen nearby, but plans are afoot for a more lengthy trip on the River Severn, from close to its source down to Bristol.

The club now has some 20 members, mostly novices. Guiding light is ex-Army Canoe Champion **Staff Sergeant Dave Poole,** ably assisted by **Lance-Corporals 'Cocky' Coker** and **Ernie Howe.** While the plan is to take the rest of the year in bringing these novices on, some gentle competition from round the south of England would be welcomed.

Any club or group in the area who would care to do some joint training, with a little bit of competition thrown in, is invited to contact **Staff Sergeant Poole** here at Bushfield Camp, Winchester.

Boob?

There could have been a boob on the golfing front. It seems that the O.C. with guest, **Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Beattie** of M.O.D., invited **Staff Sergeants Dave Poole** and **'Jock' Cheyne** to make up a foursome at golf. Both played a blinder, **Staff Sergeant Cheyne** playing seven below and **Staff Sergeant Poole** playing five below handicap. The answer to that leading question now, no doubt, rests with Records Office. Ah well!

Also from the golfing front we hear that **Corporal Mick Skinner,** who should have joined 9th Signal Regiment by the time you read this, did very well in the Army Golf Championships this year. We are sure he will be glad to get back to his Mediterranean 'browns' and wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

Tailpiece

Rumour has it that the T.O.T.'s Troop are beginning to call him the Invisible Man. Naturally a big fella', he's been dieting like mad just recently and has been so successful that, it is said, when he sits sideways you would swear there is no-one there at all. A bit disconcerting for the lead-swingers I understand.

Hi and goodbye

All that remains is to say our hellos and goodbyes. To **Captain Ken Day** (Training Officer, golf, tennis and the unit's Quiz Inquisitor) off to Gloucestershire; to **Staff Sergeant Dave Jarman** (cricket, squash, tennis and general organiser) to 9th Regiment; and to **Sergeant 'Tug' Wilson** who has finally decided to sample the delights of 'civvy street,' we say goodbye, it was nice knowing you.

The red carpet is rolled out for **W.O.2 Ron Ross** — ex-13th Signal Regiment, and **Sergeants Howard Finch** and **'Taff' Assender**—both ex-9th Signal Regiment.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

The Gods smile on the Squadron fete

THIS was held on Sunday the 27th of June in a period notable for its inclement weather. We can only assume that **Captain Alan Pearce** was working overtime on his direct line via the padre with incredible success, the sun broke through shortly after the time scheduled for the start and we had ideal weather all afternoon.

A large and ingenious collection of stalls and sideshows had been produced within the Squadron which caught and retained everyone's attention and interest. Notable amongst these was **Sergeant 'Taff' Davis's** electronic roulette produced from switchboard lamps and uniselectors. This proved very popular, and in spite of paying out normal roulette odds still succeeded in making a very handsome profit.

The children were most impressed with **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S. Tony Jackson's** intellectual robot, 'Signalman Morgan.' This was devised and built by **Tony** with wiring by a combined team of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Appleton** and **Staff Sergeant Jim Walker,** R.E.M.E. Morgan was most impressive with a veritable battery of flashing lights, flickering meters, and technical sounding noises. He undertook to answer questions on world records and showed a knowledge on par with 'The Guinness Book of Records.' Questions were asked vocally by the children whilst the answer came in the form of punched tape which emerged from his mouth. On the rare occasions that he was stumped Morgan showed a ready wit in producing an answer appropriate to the question. Quite a number of Squadron personnel are still puzzling how we managed to get a man and a printer into such a confined space. Little do they know we have a typing egg-headed Gnome.



WATER NYMPH!

227's resident mermaid, S.S.M. Bert Bowes, rising from the depths after a graceful descent from the ducking stool.



UNSEATED

Lance-Corporal Jack Ridley unseats Corporal Norman Troughton during the greasy pole competition.

An international flavour was injected into the Greasy Pole competition when **Captain Jim Holder,** O.C. United States Army Detachment Maastricht, accompanied by his brother, **Darwin,** on holiday from the States, challenged our champions, **Corporals Keith Roythorne** and **Norman Troughton.** A lively contest ensued with numerous unseatings which had the audience convulsed with laughter. Eventually the Holder brothers emerged as the victors. After a break for grease removal the contestants repaired to the beer tent to discuss techniques.

S.S.M. **Bert Bowes** and **R.Q.M.S. Colin Johnson** performed sterling work on the Ducking Stool. **Bert** wore a fetching ensemble of light blue ladies bathing suit and hair to match. The more feminine of his curves he attributed to a liberal application of citrus juice. For ladies keen to follow his beauty treatment, **Bert** recommends that no attempt should be made to economise on the quantity, the more liberal the application the larger the vital statistics. In his case a mature well rounded figure was achieved with two Jaffa oranges, these were strategically placed in the bodice of his bathing suit. **Colin** settled for much more conservative apparel, a divers wet suit with matching snorkel. The accuracy of Squadron members shooting footballs at the target would have done credit to Pele, as a result our two stalwarts set up something of a record for the length of time spent under water without breathing apparatus.

A first class refreshment service was provided by **Mrs. Morgan** and the Squadron wives, which was really appreciated by the large crowd. An indication of how popular it was is reflected in the fact that **Sergeant 'Taff' Davis** finished up eating mustard sandwiches to assuage the pangs of hunger when all the food, apart from a few rolls, had been devoured. There is no truth in the rumour that **'Taff'** has now been rechristened 'Hot Pants Davis.'

The beer tent had a very convivial atmosphere, so much so that two visiting Staff Officers from Brunssum arrived at 1130 hours, took shelter in it from a shower and emerged at 1730 hours to find the sun shining.

Cycling

Signalman David Bishop has recently returned from Nottingham where he competed in the Army cycling championships where he took second place in the two laps sprint, the kilometre dash, and the 4,000 metres pursuit.

In an inter-Services competition he rode for the Army team which beat teams representing the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. A point worth noting in this success was the fact that the R.A.F. team has in it **Flight-Lieutenant Roy Cromack** who represented Great Britain in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico.

Other recent successes include second place in the B.A.O.R. 25-mile time trial held at Sennelager in May, first place in a 40-mile race staged by 2 A.T.A.F.; competing in this event were all the top riders from B.A.O.R.

Prior to joining the Corps in April, 1970, **David** rode for the Wessex Road Club and the Bournemouth Olympic Cycle



CYCLING CHAMPION

Signalman David Bishop in action winning a 50 mile circuit race prior to joining the Army where he is now making a name for himself in the cycling world.

Racing Club. During this time he was the Wessex division hill climb champion from 1964 to 1968 and the Dorset and Hampshire track racing champion over all distances from sprint to 25 miles for the same years. In 1966 and 1967 he represented England in the tour of Ireland.

He resumed training in March of this year and is now investigating the possibilities of competing in Dutch civilian events. He feels that competition against high-class Continental riders will sharpen his performance and assist him to achieve greater success in service and civilian competitions.

Squadron tie

A very impressive Squadron tie has been designed and produced which is now on sale from the P.R.I. at a cost of 10 guilders 10 cents. The tie consists of a dark green background with a motif of alternating AFCENT crests and the Corps badge. Former members of the Squadron can obtain these by writing direct to the P.R.I. and enclosing a cheque or postal order for £1.18 which includes postage.

Arrivals and departures

Our most recent arrivals include a son, **Desmond Alexander** to **Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Walker** (R.E.M.E.); a son **David** to **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) and Mrs. Jackson,** and a daughter **Sonja** to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Harley.**

By the more prosaic method of R.O.P.O. we welcome **Sergeant Redgrave, Lance-Corporals Bellwood, McAllister** and **Jones, Signalmen Smith** and **Rennison.**

The most notable departures were **Sergeant Pat Toovey** to Malta and **Sergeant John Stout** to the rigours of civilian life. We can only assume that **Mr. Dom Mintoff's** recent actions and histrionics in expelling various people as 'persona non grata' is a build-up to **Pat's** arrival.

253 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1

The end and a new beginning

THESE are the last WIRE notes which will appear under the heading of 253 Signal Squadron. On 30th June we handed over our responsibilities for the radio communications for 51 Infantry Brigade to 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron and then become 2 Squadron of 27th Signal Regiment, newly formed in Hong Kong. The knowledge of our impending demise as an independent unit has caused no heartache. We have had no time to spare for that! It has been hard enough to keep pace with all the jobs that have come our way in the last few months.

The huntin' and shootin' season

In February 51 Brigade celebrated the start of the open season for counter revolutionary warfare by forsaking IS tasks in the urban areas of Kowloon for the more exciting sport of chasing 'rebels' over the hills and crags of the remoter parts of the New Territories. There were two CRW exercises—'New Look' and 'Hard Nut.' The latter, which took place on the island of Lantau, was one of the largest exercises in Hong Kong in recent years. Two battalions were involved as well as other army units, helicopters, landing craft and mules. The tracking down of the elusive 'rebels,' supplied by Gurkhas of 48 Brigade, and the storming of their 'strongholds' was an exhausting business requiring two assault landings and a lot of foot slogging. Brigade H.Q. got off very lightly but **Corporal Mick Blythe** and **Signalman Bob Frisby** had to spend a couple of days humping A41s over very rough country with the Tac H.Q. Even the mules found it tough going. **Signalman 'Geordie' Humby** and **'Signalman 'Tich' Weir** were among those who had the opportunity to go out with ambush parties—where patience was duly rewarded.

Sergeant Brian (Scouse) Connor, Corporal John Bell and **Signalman Ron Dingwall** got above it all by establishing a rebro site on a 3,000ft. peak. It was named Sunset Peak but the low cloud on the final day of the exercise nearly caused them to have a foggy and indefinite holiday on the heights. Luckily the R.A.F., flying through gaps in the cloud, managed to get off all stores and soldiers before the weather completely closed in.

Communications worked well, although we had to resort to some peculiar arrangements to get through. At one point we joined a Pye (commercial equipment) network by employing a C41 yagi antenna with a C42. It looked odd but it worked. So no questions were asked.

The best boots bit

The Squadron appeared for the last time on a ceremonial parade on 21st April on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday Parade. We provided the Number One Guard, took our place on the right of the line and led the march past. The Squadron was complimented on its turn-out and bearing, and certainly held its own with the infantry guards on parade.



THEY LED THE PARADE IN HONG KONG

The Queen's Birthday Parade. Major Martin Pickard and Captain Neville Armitage at the head of 253 Squadron in the march past as Brigadier P. G. Prescott, M.C., Commander 51 Brigade, takes the salute. The right guide is W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Wally Wheeler. This was the Squadron's last parade before being merged into the new 27th Signal Regiment



253 SQUADRON WORK A LOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH HELICOPTERS

Corporal Bill Burley and Lance-Corporal Pete Watson load stores for a remote area project into an R.A.F. Whirlwind. Lieutenant Guy Meakin talks to the pilot.



CORPORAL WITH A HIGH UP JOB

Corporal John Bell checks batteries at the 3,000 ft. rebro site on Sunset Peak during Exercise Hard Nut.

The social whirl

As usual the Squadron has not been slow to provide itself with entertainment and there have been plenty of parties and dances. The final hours of the Squadron's life were passed at a dinner, dance and cabaret at a smart local hotel. Perhaps our most colourful effort was a Hippie Party where a motley crowd of 'bovver boys' and 'flower children' gave every indication that the Squadron had gone to pot.



CHINESE NEW YEAR CHOW PARTY
Staff-Sergeant Chow Kam Piu and Staff-Sergeant John Humphries can't wait to get at the food. Staff-Sergeant Gavin Spearpoint is somewhat doubtful.



THE HIPPIE PARTY
Sergeant and Mrs. Connor (you guess which is which) enter the spirit of things.

Helping the locals

The Squadron has continued to devote a lot of time and effort to community relations work in Hong Kong. We have just completed our third major electrification scheme—in the village of Yim Tin Tsai on an island off the Sai Kung Peninsula. The work involved the installation of a 10 kw generator, mains distribution system, and lighting in school, church and 40 houses. Many members of the unit have been involved in the projects. In the latest scheme **Captains Neville Armitage** and **Peter Whitehead,** and **Sergeant Bill Stewart** have been the leading lights—but a special mention must be made of **Corporal Bill Burley** who has been on all three projects. He has become our 'outside distribution' expert and has spent, in all, about 14 weeks living out in the remote areas while the projects were in progress. It has been said that he has spent more time up the pole than any other member of the Squadron.

We also ran a demonstration and display for the Science Club of a local school. About 30 schoolboys visited the unit and were shown our equipment and how the unit worked. The visitors were very interested and asked a lot of questions of **F. of S. Nick Harries, Staff Sergeant Chow Kam Piu, Corporal Bowman, Lance-Corporal Poon Kwok Keung** and **Signalman Ho Chi Kai** who escorted them round.

Adieu

Farewell, dear readers. By the time you read this 253 Squadron will be no more. We have had a good run. We go out on the crest of the wave with the firm resolve to do our bit to make 27th Regiment a success.

HALT!

the depreciation of your Savings

CHECK WITH SERVICE BROKERS THE INVESTMENT SPECIALISTS

1 SERVICE BROKERS will assist you with expert knowledge – and Without Obligation

2 Investment! Protection! House Purchase! School Fees! etc. SERVICE BROKERS take it all in their stride

On the Command

"FALL OUT" FALL IN

with SERVICE BROKERS the Service Specialists

SERVICE BROKERS

INCORPORATED MORTGAGE BROKERS

30b Market Place, Richmond, Yorkshire
Telephone Richmond 2435

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

255 Signal Squadron (Bahrain)
B.F.P.O. 63

AS we are now the only Royal Signals unit in the Gulf readers can expect to see more from us gracing these pages. We might even be able to insert some photographs of our publicity-conscious Yeoman, **Jim Creevy,** who is vying with the S.S.M., **Eric Le Quesne,** for advertising space in the Gulf Newsletter.

We said farewell from the Squadron to one of our longest serving members, **Captain Bill Griffiths,** and made the occasion more memorable by a marathon session in the 'Outpost,' at which we also welcomed his successor as Second-in-Command, **Captain Tim McCoy.** We wish **Bill** and **Gela** every happiness in 21st Signal Regiment.

With the large turnover we have at the moment, there would be insufficient space in THE WIRE to mention everyone, but some notable departures have been **Second-Lieutenant Mike Jefferis,** to 12 Mechanised Brigade; **Foreman Harry Houston** to 30th Signal Regiment, and **Signalman Les O'Donnell** to 28th Signal Regiment. I'll leave it to the Troops (and we now own 11 of them and look after three more) to make their own salutations and farewells.

Line Troop

Line Troop has again been busy since you last heard from us. A hundred lines of our Rurax auto exchange have been removed for shipment elsewhere. We were allowed 48 hours for the job, but due to the foresight and planning of the Troop, the whole operation was completed in 7½ hours.

At the moment, three of the Troop are engaged on project work in Masirah.

Sports? Well, you name it, we'll have a go. **Sergeant 'Chippy' Wood** and **Lance-Corporal 'Brummie' Haynes** won the Squadron darts doubles championship, and once again the Troop has entered the Squadron Darts League (which we have won on the last two occasions).

We say goodbye to **Lance-Corporal Derek English, Lance-Corporal Pete Lavers** and **Signalman George Oliver,** and wish them well in their next postings. We welcome **Signalman 'Paddy' Taylor, Signalman 'Tich' Ross** and **Signalman Dave Walker** and hope they enjoy their stay with us.

Field Troop

Field Troop is now a good deal larger than when we last appeared in THE WIRE. We have almost doubled our numbers and there are more on their way to us. There is also another change of command. The present O.C., **Second-Lieutenant Chris Durham,** is going to Sharjah as Second-in-Command of the newly-formed Sharjah Signal Troop. Taking over in the chair is Captain Ron Abbott, who will be there until the end.

Once again we have been providing communications for planes and boats (but not trains) and sent some of our operators and vehicles to Sharjah on an exercise over there. We hope to get a number of radio vehicles from 222 Signal Squadron to boost our present number of three detachments to about seven. A truly mobile force at last.

Operating Troop (from Sergeant Don Lomas)

I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming to Operating Troop our new Troop Commander, **Lieutenant Lionel French,** and to wish our departing Troop O.C., **Second-Lieutenant Mike Jefferis,** all the best in his new posting.

Now for today's piece of useless information—between April, 1970, and April, 1971, **Staff Sergeant Bob Tanner** has 'seen orf' four successive Troop Commanders!

On the sporting scene, **Lieutenant French** has already made his presence known, not only by his astronomical ascent of the squash ladder, but by his appointment to chairman of the 255 Signal Squadron Sports Board; there is, however, no truth in the buzz that he has been nominated as successor to Avery Brundage.

Operating Troop, which in the past has produced some outstanding Squadron footballers, decided to take on the Squadron XI and were only narrowly defeated, two goals to nil, in a game which produced a high standard of football from both teams. Incidentally, Operating Troop provided four players for the Squadron XI. Special mention also for **Signalman Dennis Rumbold,** the Operating Troop goalkeeper, for a fine game. In a more recent fixture, Operating Troop played M.T. Troop in a relaxed, Sunday game and coasted to a 3—0 victory in which **Signalman Dave Fletcher** scored two goals and was nominated player of the match. In the Squadron swimming gala, Operating Troop, handicapped by the three-way shift, came a commendable last!

The Royal Navy, always a considerable influence at work, is now beginning to influence our social life, and one must not be alarmed to hear our commcen operators referring to an evening in the 'Outpost' as a 'run ashore.' Notable recent 'runs' were the 'farewell runs' of **Signalman Les O'Donnell, Lance-Corporals 'Scouse' Taylor** and **'Ginge' Graham. RO2T Chris Dennis** confirmed this inter-Service spirit by choosing the 'Outpost' as the venue for his last 'run ashore.' **Lance-Corporal Dave Bottomley** assures me that the outlook for the Troop in the newly-commenced Darts League is bright.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
B.F.P.O. 53

THIS month 259 Signal Squadron took to the water! The reason for this nautical adventure being a Squadron outing. The final Saturday in June found members of our geographically far flung empire converging on Famagusta harbour from such exotic departure points as Amargh Crescent (Episkopi), Lofty's Bar (Limassol), Troodos, Dhekelia and Nicosia.

There we were welcomed aboard a Z craft by members of 3 Port Squadron R.C.T. In all 88 souls set sail for Fig Tree Bay, a journey of some ninety minutes along the coast of Cyprus. Victuals, including those of an alcoholic nature, were provided in abundance by the crew.

We must report, almost with regret, that apart from the sighting of seven sharks (twelve inches long and deceased) the whole day went off without a hitch. The only injury recorded was **Sergeant Beau Joglekar's** sunburn, by the way **Beau** hails from Poona.

The safe return of the 88 men, women and children who indulged in this voyage, and expressed their enjoyment of it, is due almost entirely to the organisational efforts of **Sergeants Don Payne** and **Bob Cooper.**

The Squadron will again take to the sea in July and September as we are to charter the Corps Yacht, "Brigand of Changi," for some more serious sailing. One of our reporters will be aboard to relate further salty stories of 259 Signal Squadron at sea.

A sport that has not been featured regularly in our column is that of horse-riding. Our O.C., **Major A. S. McK. Anderson,** is a leading light in this activity here at Episkopi. At the recent Hunter trials in Dhekelia, he not only gained a well deserved rosette for fourth place in a large entry, but also managed to avoid, by a narrow margin only, trampling all over our ace photographer, **Lieutenant Robin Farey** of East Troop, at the fifth jump.

Finally to end our notes in the traditional manner, we say farewell to **Sergeants Harrison** and **Haywood, Corporals Claypole, Hulme** and **Warburton** and welcome to 259, **Captain A. Burns,** our new administration officer, and **Corporals Wooff, Maroney, Brown, Hudson, Barwick, Simms, Jones, Oram, Keep, Marshall** and **Lance-Corporal Radford.**

GOODS AVAILABLE AT ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

CORPS PAINT TRANSFERS

A new type P.V.C. STICK-ON TRANSFER will be introduced to replace the present type slide-on transfer in the following sizes:

3" x 2¾"	price 35p each	(available Aug. 71)
7½" x 5½"	„ 41p „	(available Oct. 71)
10" x 7½"	„ 46p „	(available Dec. 71)

Remaining stocks of medium and large slide-on transfers are on sale at 14p and 15p respectively.

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough



WELL DESERVED AWARDS

Recipients of Lord Lieutenant's Certificates have a joke with the Marquis of Normanby.

W.O.2 T. Collins, Staff-Sergeant L. Robinson, The Marquis of Normanby, Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Stewart, Major S. H. Knight, Major B. H. Taylor, Sergeant A. E. Mitchell, Sergeant H. North, Sergeant M. Trevor.

Award of Lord Lieutenant's certificates

ON Tuesday, 1st June, the Lord Lieutenant for the North Riding of the County of York, **Colonel the Most Honorable The Marquis of Normanby,** presented his certificates to past and present members of the T.A.V.R. at Brambles Farm T.A.V.R. Centre Middlesbrough. The following members of the Regiment received awards: **Major Henry Knight** (now retired), **W.O.2 T. Collins, Sergeant H. North** and **Sergeant M. Trevor.**

Major Knight's award is particularly well earned as he has the proud record of some 45 years' service with the Royal Signals both as a Regular and as a Volunteer. The Regiment congratulates them on these well deserved awards.

90 Signal Squadron and 49 (WR) Signal Squadron

As part of our concentrated summer training programme, 90 Signal Squadron provided radio detachments for the National Field Sports Association at Wynard Park during the weekend 26th/27th June. On Monday, 28th June, a number of soldiers of 49 (W.R.) Signal Squadron had the honour of taking part in the lining route on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to York.

Sergeants' Mess activities

Much to the surprise of all, the Mess balance sheet at the end of February showed we were at last well and truly out of the red and into the black. This good news, together with the T.A. Associations offer to spend over £200 in renewing our Mess floor prompted the Mess to form an improvements committee. Under the chairmanship of **W.O.2 Jim Lincoln** they have now spruced up the Mess considerably. We now await the arrival of our new carpet and we shall have, what must be, one of the best looking Volunteer Messes in the North.

This year the Sergeants' Mess attempted a new venture — a grand Summer Ball. Preparations had been going on for some time and just when the R.S.M. thought he had everything fixed, he was dragged away in the week prior to the Ball to recce our camp location in B.A.O.R., thankfully, however, our stalwart P.S.I. of 90 Squadron, **Staff Sergeant Jim Higgins** stepped in and took the reins and by the afternoon of Saturday, 12th June, the Drill Hall had been transformed into what resembled the Ballroom of the Savoy. Our guests, The Commanding Officer, the Mayor's of Tees-side and Darlington were duly received by the P.M.C., **W.O.2 Trevor Smith,** served with a goblet of **Sergeant Bill Perry's** 'witches brew' and the show began, it was obvious that everyone intended enjoying themselves as the dance floor was crowded by 09.30.

The walls and the roof were still shaking at 1 a.m. when to the disappointment of all the band announced their last waltz. The look of disappointment on the faces of all our ladies, some of whom had travelled over 100 miles to attend, was too much for the R.S.M. and P.M.C., quickly they held an extraordinary Mess Meeting, passed a minute, and the band was re-engaged till the small hours of the morning. Mention, of course, must be made of our A.C.C. Cooks who, under their 'Governor' **Sergeant Tommy Hardy,** provided such a splendid buffet for us all. Rumour has it that there is already a proposition in the minute book for an Autumn Ball.

A Mess picnic with the wives and children is scheduled for July (if we can fit it in between exercises) and possibly that Autumn Ball (who said there is no social life with the Volunteers?).

The Mess, which is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening and Sunday lunchtime, will be glad to see any members, or ex-members of the Corps either Regular or Volunteer who happen to be in or around the Middlesbrough area.

Shooting

The Regiment had a good result in the Territorial Army National Small-Bore Match with 95 (Shrops. Yeo.) Signal Squadron (V) coming 14th out of 52 competing teams and the first Royal Signals unit.

Obituary

Many members of the Corps will learn with regret of the death of former **Sergeant Jersi Pianowski,** known to his friends as 'George.'

Sergeant Pianowski was born in Poland and spent his early life on the estates of his uncle, Baron Pianowski, his father travelling the world as chief ballet master in the ballet company of the late Anna Pavlova.

Baron Pianowski's estates were on the Russian border and were attacked by the Russians; livestock, historical records, etc., were all burned. **Jersi Pianowski** and his mother and uncle were sent to Siberia where they remained for some time, the Baron dying in Siberia. The title then passed to **Sergeant Pianowski's** father. At the outbreak of war mother and son were released and **Jersi Pianowski** was sent to an Academy for Officer Cadets, from there he joined the Polish Army.

He served in the Polish Army until 1948. During his service with the Polish Army he saw service in many parts of Europe and took part in the Casino battle.

In 1948 **Sergeant Pianowski** joined the Royal Signals and served in many parts of the world including Japan, Korea, M.E.L.F. and B.A.O.R.

On the death of Baron Pianowski in 1967 the title passed to **'George' Pianowski.**

He ended his service as a member of the permanent staff of 35th Signal Regiment (V) and was P.S.I. with 58 (Staffs) Signal Squadron where he was extremely popular. He left the service in May, 1970. Members of 58 Squadron acted as bearers at his funeral at his special request.

Sergeant Pianowski was an unassuming person and few of his friends knew of his early life and what he and his family had suffered.

Our deep sympathy goes to his wife **Mrs. Pamela Pianowski** and his family.

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Birmingham 12

A good run up to camp

A GOOD start to our run up for the Regimental Camp which this year is to be held at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, was made with two Regimental Exercises,

'Mayflower' and 'June Bride,' both of which provide good communications which seem to indicate an excellent camp. The training wing have provided an intensive instructional programme for camp and one wonders who is going to do the mundane jobs. Recruiting in spite of the re-organisation of new units within our locations and in some cases within the old drill halls has been good and it is even rumoured that the Q.M.'s Department has had to open one of its many 'gash' stores to equip the recruits in time for camp.

S.O.-in-C. Designate's Visit

We were very privileged to receive a visit from the S.O.-in-C. designate **Brigadier J. M. Sawyer** accompanied by 11th Signal Group Commander, **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,** who after a briefing by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge,** visited the closing stages of Exercise 'June Bride' at 48 (S.M.) Signal Squadron (V) in their T. & A.V.R. Centre, Golden Hillock Road, Birmingham. Returning to R.H.Q. he watched a Regimental driving competition organised by H.Q. Squadron, visited the Sergeants' Mess and later took supper with the Officers of the Regiment before departing.

Exercise 'Mayflower' was held over the weekend 15th/16th May with the Regimental Headquarters located at the Fire Department Training School, Morton in the Marsh. The Group Commander **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,** visited and saw the Regiment on a full exercise for the first time since his arrival at Group Headquarters and we believe he was suitably impressed. The highlight of the weekend was an impromptu fire-fighting display by H.Q. Squadron Cooks (the excuse) when one of their burners caught fire.

Exercise 'June Bride' over weekend 12th/13th June was a local Regimental exercise with the Headquarters located at Golden Hillock T. & A.V.R. Centre, Birmingham, and the Radio Relay chains working from their Squadron areas near Shrewsbury, Hereford, Rugby and Newcastle under Lyme. The exercise continued in a modified form on Tuesday, 15th June, for the visit of the S.O.-in-C. designate.

Recruiting

The Regiment has mounted numerous exhibitions around the Birmingham area in order to recruit and had varying measures of success, the most successful being the display at Birmingham 'International Spring Festival,' the Lord Mayor's procession and the 'Open Day' at the Prince of Wales Depot, Lichfield.

48 Squadron supplied a float for the Lord Mayor's procession complete with mobile bar, bikini-clad girls and even managed to get a small amount of radio equipment onto it. The main inspiration to the recruiting programme is the Commanding Officers' prize of a weekend for two in Paris which goes to the best recruiter.



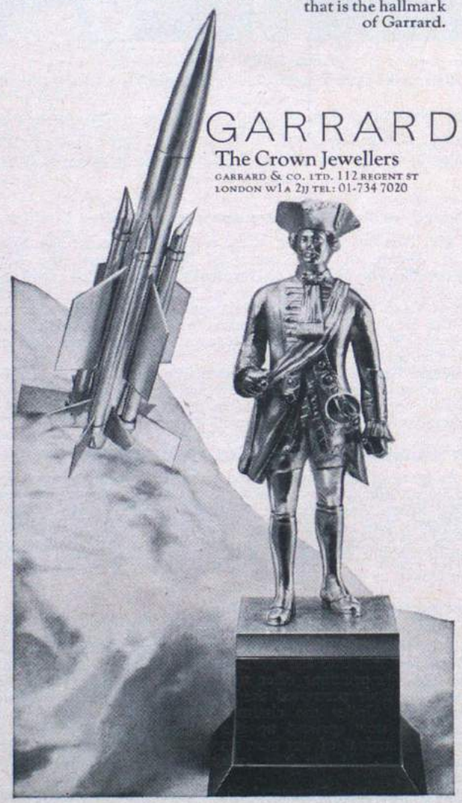
EYE CATCHING
35th Regiment's stand at The Birmingham International Spring Festival.

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
GOLDSMITHS & CROWN JEWELLERS,
GARRARD & COMPANY LTD., LONDON

The Pride of the Regiment.

For over two hundred years Garrard have commemorated, in finely-worked silver, the achievements of great Regiments. Today this tradition of service to the military is firmly established.

As Regimental Silversmiths Garrard maintain close contact with a large number of regiments and individual serving members. We offer you unrivalled traditional skills of our designers and craftsmen and the personal service that is the hallmark of Garrard.



GARRARD
The Crown Jewellers
GARRARD & CO. LTD. 112 REGENT ST
LONDON W1A 2JJ TEL: 01-734 7020



THE MASTER AND SOME OF THE WARDENS OF THE SKINNERS COMPANY VISIT 39th REGIMENT
From left to right: Private Brenda Stripp (now Private Lincoln), Mr. Marriott, The Hon. L. H. L. Cohen (Master Elect), The Lord Ironside, Colonel John Goad O.B.E., The Master, Mr. Julian Ridsdale M.P., and the P.M.C. of the Lynx Club, Corporal Hammersley.



39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V)

The Skinners Company

IN 1954 the Regiment was adopted by the Worshipful Company of Skinners and assumed as its emblem the Lynx, which you see at the heading of this article. The Skinners Company was granted a charter by King Edward III in 1327, but the deeds of the original building are still held by the Company and are dated 1295.

There is, of course, much history connected with the Company, but one fact which may be of interest to our readers is that in the Middle Ages the Skinners and the Merchant Taylors were constantly arguing as to which was the senior Company until, in a fracas, one apprentice was killed. The Lord Mayor called the two Masters together and ordered them to mend their ways and said that their seniority would alternate from year to year—as one was 6th in seniority and the other 7th, this is the origin of the saying: 'all at sixes and sevens' (the Skinners are 6th during 1971).

So far as the Regiment is concerned the association with the Company has given us a very strong connection with the City, apart from our title; our Honorary Colonel is always a Past Master of the Company, we provide guards of honour for the Company on the Masters Election Day, the Master and Wardens visit the Regiment once a year to receive the Commanding Officer's Report and to present the 'Skinners Awards' to those junior ranks who have done most for the Regiment during the preceding year. In addition, the Officers' Mess holds its annual cocktail party in the Skinners Hall, and the Master is always one of the guests of honour at all our functions. The Skinners invite many members of the Regiment to their special open days.

The Hunter Visit

The Hunter Visit, so called after **Colonel J. O. Hunter, M.B.E.,** who commanded the Regiment in 1962-1965, took place recently. This is a visit by the disabled of the Star and Garter Homes whom we entertain for the afternoon with a cabaret and lots of beer; some of the 'stars' this year came from our visitors themselves, who rendered a variety of songs from both wars—the choral background caused serious damage to the foundations of the Drill Hall.

All praise, as usual, must go to **S.S.M. Bob Newman** for the organisation of this annual event.

Arrivals and departures

We now bid farewell to **Major Anne Grant,** W.R.A.C., the P.S.O. at R.H.Q., and welcome her replacement, **Captain Heather Greenland,** W.R.A.C., who comes from 16th Signal Regiment. **Major George Dibley** has transferred to us from 38th Signal Regiment (V) and is now our Traffic Officer in the Banbury Squadron (which incidentally is 50-strong having started on February 3). Under this heading we will include the good news we have for **Officer Cadet Laurie Hinds,** who has passed his Commissioning Board and who is now dressed as a Second-Lieutenant; no doubt someone will finally approve it so that he can get the money!

Visitors

The main visitors during this period have been the Master and the Wardens of the Skinners Company whose annual visit took place on 25th May, just before the present Master, **Mr. Julian Ridsdale,** M.P., handed over to the **Hon. L. H. L. Cohen,** who is attending our Visitors' Day at Camp.

The 6th of July saw the arrival of **General Sir Basil Eugster, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, for a semi-official evening with the Regiment; he was accompanied by **Captain Robert Corbett, I.G.,** his A.D.C. We hope they enjoyed their visit.

Camp 1971

Camp looms mightily in our minds at the moment; we go to Scarborough on 17th July for two weeks and about a quarter of the Regiment will be dispersed to Cyprus, B.A.O.R., Gibraltar and Bavaria. We will have about 120 trainees at the Training Wing in Scarborough, and our communications for the second phase of camp will be based there.

Our Visitors' Day is on 27th July; our principle guests will be the Lord Mayor of London, **Sir Peter Studd, G.B.E.,** the Master of the Skinners Company, and the G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command.

Yet another gone, etc., etc.

We are delighted to announce the wedding of **Sergeant David Lincoln,** one of our technician P.S.I.s, and **Private Brenda Stripp,** W.R.A.C. (TAVR), whose picture appears in this issue. We wish them all the very best for the future.



HAPPY OCCASION
Sergeant David Lincoln and his bride Brenda.

After note

You may remember that **Corporal Hines** of 1 Squadron was offering his wife and daughter in exchange for a ticket for the Cup Final in our last notes—he got one. We didn't dare ask him about the deal!

40th Ulster Signal Regt. (V) Belfast

IN our last notes we promised that June would be a "more than somewhat" type of month, and we were right.

Farewell to Group Commander

The first weekend was devoted to the farewell visit of the Group Commander, **Brigadier A. J. Jackson.** There was a summer Ball in the Officers' Mess, which was a huge success, and which was very properly recorded by the 'Ulster Tatler.' The buffet was superb and the drill hall had never looked better. (Note for budding hydraulic engineers: if the fountain jet hits the drill hall roof, bung a couple of pounds of wire wool on to the jet. It produces a nice bubbly effect). The band of the North Irish Horse played for our farewell parade on the Sunday, and made a very good job of 'Begone, Dull Care!' During the parade, the Group Commander made the following presentations:

Territorial Efficiency Medal to **Sergeant Billy Carey** (who has two daughters in the Regiment).

Bars to the medal to **W.O.2 Billy Lawson** and **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Sammy Dinsmore.**

Best Soldiers Shield to **Corporal Burtonwood** (A.C.C.).

Best W.R.A.C. Volunteer Shield to **Lance-Corporal Carey.**



"YOU CAN CLEAR A BAR WITH THIS IN TWO MINUTES"
The Commanding Officer presents an Irish Blackthorn to Brigadier Jackson, with the firm approval of our Honorary Colonel, Colonel J. McCann.

Best Recruit Shield to **Signalman Clarke** (whose father is in the Regiment).

The Clandeboye Trophy, for the most efficient Troop in the Regiment, was awarded to 'Q' Troop, represented by **Staff Sergeant Eaton.**

This was also the final parade of **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Ron Crampton** and was a great credit to him.

The parade was followed by drinks in the Sergeants' Mess and a combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess luncheon, at which the Brigadier made some very complimentary remarks about the Regiment. To mark his association with the Regiment, the officers presented him with a blackthorn walking stick, of the type they normally carry, and the Sergeants presented him with a Regimental plaque. In Ireland, a strong man with a blackthorn can empty a bar in two minutes. It would be interesting to see what could be done with it at a recalcitrant MOD Committee—not, of course, a bar!

And goodbye also to a well-liked R.S.M.

The Brigadier departed after lunch, but there were further ceremonies to mark the final departure of the R.S.M. After the last WIRE Editorial, all we need say is that **R.S.M. Crampton** fitted into that category of modern R.S.M.s, which were then described. He was liked, admired and respected by all ranks, who marked their appreciation in several ways. The fact that he was locked out of the Centre, after having been ceremoniously towed to the gate in a Land Rover is attributed only to Irish humour.



THANK YOU AND GOODBYE R.S.M.
W.O.I (R.S.M.) Crampton receives a farewell presentation clock from the Junior Ranks of the Regiment.

Sport

Corps Cricket

ROYAL SIGNALS BEAT R.A.C. BY 102 RUNS

The match was played at Bovington on 5th/6th July in perfect weather conditions—warm sunshine and a cool breeze.

Royal Signals 140 (**Palmer** 76, **Shiner** 21) and 206 for 7 wickets (**Thatcher** 73 not out, **Palmer** 51, **Garton** 45).

Royal Armoured Corps 136 (**Cotterill** 4-60, **Radford** 2-27, **Stanbridge** 2-28) and 108 (**Cotterill** 4-29, **Radford** 3-28, **Stanbridge** 2-20).

Result: Corps won by 102 runs.

The Corps won the toss and decided to bat upon a dry, firm wicket which gave some assistance to both sides.

The feature of the first innings was an opening partnership of 91 runs by **Sergeant Palmer** and **Lance-Corporal Thatcher,** scored in 78 minutes. **Palmer** batted very aggressively whilst **Thatcher** played a sensible defensive innings.

The R.A.C. innings began steadily against accurate bowling, wickets fell regularly but a spirited 23 runs by **Shennan** enabled a reasonable score to be achieved.

The Corps second innings was similar to the first, the opening pair scoring 70 runs—**Sergeant Palmer** making his second half-century. **Corporal Thatcher** batted with great discipline and self-control and was unbeaten with 73 runs. He was ably assisted by **Captain Garton** in a seventh wicket stand of 78 runs, scored in 41 minutes. The innings was declared and the R.A.C. were left to score 211 runs in 175 minutes.

After a brisk scoring rate in the first over the R.A.C. lost their first three wickets for 27 runs to **Captain Radford;** this put a win beyond their reach and some accurate bowling, aided by excellent fielding, gave the Corps a well-deserved victory by 102 runs.

The following represented the Corps: **Captain J. Radford,** School; **Captain C. Garton,** School; **Captain R. Shiner,** School; **Captain W. A. Price,** 244 Signal Squadron; **Second-Lieutenant C. G. Wright,** 3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment; **W.O.2 C. McLoughlin,** 244 Signal Squadron; **Sergeant D. Cotterill,** 8th Signal Regiment; **Sergeant M. Palmer,** A.A.C., Harrogate; **Corporal W. Balding,** A.A.C., Harrogate; **Corporal D. Stanbridge,** 3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment; and **Corporal C. Thatcher,** 223 Signal Squadron.

ROYAL SIGNALS B.A.O.R. DINGHY REGATTA

The regatta was held at the Möhne See Sailing Club from 23rd to 25th June. The first day and a half were devoted to the team events which proved most exciting. There had been some last-minute team withdrawals due to exercise commitments but the remaining teams were seeded into two groups of four teams. Each group held an American tournament with the winner of group two sailing against the runners-up of group one.

In group two our only minor unit entry, 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron put up a good rearguard action. 7th Signal Regiment 'C' team beat their 'B' team, both being beaten by 21st Signal Regiment who had the distinction of protesting against their opposition in each race!

Group one was won by 7th Signal Regiment 'A' team who did not lose a match. Runners-up were 22nd Signal Regiment, who just beat 2 Div. Signal Regiment on points. 4 Div. Signal Regiment unfortunately lost two races which put them out of the running. The closest match of all was the runners-up decider between the two groups. 21st Signal Regiment made an excellent start but in spite of little wind 22nd Signal Regiment gradually caught up and employed team tactics just before the finish in order to gain second and third position and win the race.

The individual event consisted of four races of which the three best for each individual were to count towards the result. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Bill Kitchen,** of 7th Signal Regiment, was outright winner after sailing three races and gaining two firsts and a third. The remaining places were decided on the fourth race which was exceedingly unspectacular as the wind dropped to next to nothing at about 15.30 hours. An emergency finishing line was set up out of sight of the spectators and the leading four boats drifted across in line. The second prize was won by **Major Chris Story,** also of 7th Signal Regiment, and third by **Signalman Casey.**

On the final day 22nd Signal Regiment produced an excellent buffet and following the last race all the prizes were presented by Mrs. Horsfield, wife of C.S.O., B.A.O.R.

PICKFORDS
Removers and Storers
PICKFORDS TRAVEL SERVICE

PICKFORDS

Removals and storage Household removals. Single items. Any size of job. Anywhere in Britain or overseas. Pickfords have the experience. Ask us for an estimate.

Travel service Benefit from our experience when you book holidays, travel tickets, reservations etc. No extra charge when you use Pickfords.

Once you use Pickfords, you'll never go without us
Our address is in the phone book

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Camp on Sunday, 27th June, 1971

Present

Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., Chairman; **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** Vice-Chairman; **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary; and some 80 members of the Association.

Brigadier Tucker opened the meeting by welcoming all who had come to Catterick for the weekend. All told nearly 600 members were attending and 28 Branches were represented. He was sure that all would be very pleased that the Master of Signals had been able to come over for the Sunday events. Finally he wished to place on record his appreciation for all that **Brigadier Tighe,** his staff and members of the Training Brigade had done to make the weekend such a success, particularly as they were beset with considerable accommodation and feeding difficulties due to extensive rebuilding in the Brigade area. He stressed that this situation would, unfortunately, continue for the next year or two and of necessity there would have to be a ceiling on the numbers capable of being accommodated and fed.

Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting were put to the meeting for formal approval and having been duly proposed and seconded were approved by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on Association affairs, main points being:

Branches and Membership. There were currently 47 Branches in the U.K. Reading Branch had come to life again thanks to the energetic spade work of its Hon. Secretary. No Branches had closed. Since the last A.G.M. 164 Life and 137 Annual members had joined the Association. Despite present-day difficulties a number of Branches had succeeded in signing on new members. There was no doubt that personal contact is the best method—it is appreciated that this does mean hard work for committee members.

Welfare. Since the last A.G.M. some £13,600 had been spent in helping 620-odd welfare cases. In addition about 500 welfare parcels had been sent out. In conjunction with the Army Benevolent Fund loans totalling £11,000 had been made to soldiers nearing the end of their service to help over house purchase and furnishings and the Army Benevolent Fund had also helped in certain major rehabilitation cases with grants totalling £1,400.

'Wire.' THE WIRE circulation was holding up well despite the disbandment of certain units. Sales to individuals were on the increase. 1970 had been a very expensive year for THE WIRE and the Central Committee had subsidised it by some £1,700 to meet costs. A very heavy increase in postal charges plus a considerable rise in printing costs now confronted us and the Central Committee had decided, with regret, to put up the cost of individuals' WIRES from 10p to 15p a copy. Bulk orders for five or more WIRES a month from Units or Branches of the Association would remain at the present price. The new price would come into effect on 1st January, 1972.

Staff. Mr. Biddlecome (Assistant Accountant) had unfortunately been obliged to leave owing to ill health. His vacancy had been empty for some time but we now had a well qualified applicant who should be joining us in late August this year.

Accounts for 1970 (see opposite page). These had been audited and scrutinised by the Association Finance Sub-Committee and passed by the Central Committee.

Salient points were: Accumulated funds now stood at £139,366 compared with £131,410 in 1969. In fact at current market prices investments were worth considerably more than their cost value and are worth something in the order of £160,000 today. Despite heavy expenditure in 1970 the General Fund still showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £291. The profit of £950 made by the One-Day Cover stamp scheme was a great help and thanks must go to the Training Brigade for organising this scheme.

The Benevolent Fund showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £7,370 despite a donation of £9.000 to the Army Benevolent Fund. This was due to a considerable increase of income from the Day's Pay Scheme which totalled some £28,000 in 1970. It has also been well supported by donations from Individuals, Branches and Units of the Corps to a total of £2,725. In view of the strong position of Association funds the Central Committee had agreed to make a grant of £10,000 in July to the Army Benevolent Fund and a further £6,000 in November—the latter amount to be confirmed by the Central Committee at their autumn meeting.

The Accounts of the Association were then put to the meeting and, there being no questions, were duly proposed and seconded and approved by a show of hands.

Amendment to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Royal Signals Association

The proposed amendment, as set out in detail in Agenda paper 26 AGM 3, was run through and explained by the General Secretary. It was pointed out by **Major Wragg** (Derby Branch) that the Executive Committee, referred to on page 14 of the Rules, would require amendment in respect of the Signal Officer-in-Chief's appointment. The General Secretary thanked **Major Wragg** for drawing his attention to this and said that he would substitute the B.G.S. (Signals) when amending the rule.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and having been duly proposed and seconded was approved by a show of hands. (Omitted from THE WIRE owing to length, but details available from Association H.Q.).

Central Committee

The meeting was asked to approve the election or re-election of the following to the Central Committee:

Chairman and Treasurer, **Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E.;** Vice-Chairman, **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.;** T.A.V.R. Representative: **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D., A.D.C.;** Branch Representative, **Major R. O. Edwards** (Leeds Branch), vice, **Captain E. T. G. Waite, M.B.E.** (Hartlepool & District Branch) retiring in rotation.

The elections or re-elections having been duly proposed and seconded were approved by a show of hands.

Any Other Business

A member raised the question of provision of Sunday meals at the Reunion. The General Secretary pointed out that owing to rebuilding the Training Brigade was limited in the numbers it could feed and accommodate. Priority for meals must, of necessity, go to members of the Association who were being accommodated by the Training Brigade overnight. The numbers this year were such that those staying overnight filled the quota that the Training Brigade could feed. Those who came for the day or who had made private arrangements for overnight accommodation with regret would have to make their own arrangements for meals on Sunday. There was no way round this.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1970

1969 £	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND		
122,096		Balance at 1st January, 1970		131,410
	553	*Add:* Transfer of assets of 50th (N) Divisional Signals Benevolent Fund		—
	5,584	Excess of income over expenditure for the year	7,661	
	3,177	Profit on sale of investments	295	
9,314				7,956
131,410				139,366
2,036		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES		2,918
		NOTE: There is a contingent liability to refund life membership subscriptions to certain serving soldiers of the Corps on retirement.		
£133,446				£142,284

1969 £	£		£	£
3,869		CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		2,271
3,694		SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS ..		3,384
1,720		INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		2,111
		STOCKS IN HAND, at cost (including band records £564; 1969 £8)		1,492
953		LOANS TO ASSOCIATION BRANCHES ..		191
226		INVESTMENTS AT COST (per schedule attached)		
		QUOTED (market value £154,678; 1969 £141,422).	132,460	
122,528		Unquoted	4	
122,532				132,464
412		OFFICE FURNITURE—AT COST LESS DEPRECIATION.		371
£133,446				£142,284

W. G. TUCKER, *Chairman.*
P. M. P. HOBSON, *Secretary.*

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

In our opinion the above balance sheet and annexed income and expenditure accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31st December, 1970 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date.

3, Frederick's Place,
Old Jewry,
London, EC2R 8DB
May, 1971.

(Signed) PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1970

GENERAL

1969 £	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
	519	Salaries, National Insurance, Superannuation contributions	678	
	333	Pensions to former employees	468	
	1,383	Other administrative expenses	2,471	
2,235				3,617
		DEPRECIATION OF FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		41
46		JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS (Salisbury/Blandford)		620
—		COST OF ASSOCIATION REUNIONS ..		1,951
1,096		CONTRIBUTION TO COSTS OF PUBLICATIONS		1,821
824		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ..		291
2,214				
£6,415				£8,341

1969 £	£		£	£
248		SUBSCRIPTIONS		248
56		RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES		46
—		PROFIT ON ONE DAY COVER STAMP ..		950
		SUNDRY INCOME		
322		Income from sales of Corps clothing, badges, records of Corps music and diaries		447
5,498		INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS—GROSS ..		6,556
291		BANK DEPOSIT INTEREST		94
£6,415				£8,341

BENEVOLENT

1969 £	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
	2,701	Salaries, National Insurance, Superannuation contributions	3,253	
	258	Postage of welfare parcels	225	
2,959				3,478
9,680		BENEVOLENT GRANTS		12,398
		DONATIONS		
	6,000	Army Benevolent Fund	9,000	
	400	Star and Garter Homes	350	
	150	Shaftesbury Homes	50	
	128	Others	173	
6,678				9,573
3,370		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		7,370
£22,687				£32,819

1969 £	£		£	£
	263	DONATIONS		
		Individuals and local branches		887
1,298		Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals		1,838
1,561				2,725
		RECEIPTS FROM CORPS FUNDS		
2,940		Officers	4,010	
16,917		Other ranks	24,823	
19,857				28,833
1,269		BENEVOLENT GRANTS REFUNDED ..		1,261
£22,687				£32,819

SUMMARY

		OVERALL EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE TAKEN TO ACCUMULATED FUND	7,661	
5,584				
		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE:		
2,214		ON GENERAL ACCOUNT		291
3,370		ON BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT		7,370
£5,584			£7,661	£7,661

Personal Affairs

Obituary

MR. S. F. NICHOLLS

'Nick' was born in Kent in 1915 and educated at Taunton School. On leaving he joined Lloyds Bank and before the war became an A.A. Gunner in the Territorial Army. In the summer of 1940 he attended a cypher course at No. 3 Intelligence School. An outstanding student, he was selected for instructional duties.

'Nick' quickly became an expert in this sphere and in the latter part of the war, when the Corps assumed responsibility for all cypher matters, he was commissioned into Royal Signals and transferred to the War Office department concerned with the development of cypher techniques. This was his real niche in that he brought to this highly specialised subject an alert and enquiring mind devoid of prejudice, the ability to assimilate facts at an incredible rate and an unrivalled capacity for hard work. He played an important part in strengthening the Army's communications security, a factor which had a significant part in the prosecution of the war. Afterwards he intended to return to Lloyds Bank but was prevailed upon to join the Foreign Office.

He was on the staff of the British Embassy in Washington from 1960 to 1965 and was appointed to an O.B.E. in 1968. He was later closely concerned with Project Mallard.

'Nick' never spared himself and he suffered a severe coronary thrombosis in 1966 but within four months he returned to his very busy life at the Foreign Office. And it was while attending the NATO C-E Board in Brussels in February, 1971, that he died.

Few people have made a greater personal contribution to the sophistication of communication techniques within the services and Government departments. 'Nick' was usually a step ahead of everyone in his own field, but he was also a patient and skilful negotiator and able to get the best out of people who were associated with his work.

One could not have wished for a better colleague or a more reliable friend. He was invariably kind-hearted and he had a nice touch of humour. Above all he was a family man and it was this happy background that gave him the strength and courage to continue his important work. If ever anyone deserved some years of retirement in his home and with his family, 'Nick' did. But it was not to be.

Those who were fortunate enough to work with him and share his friendship have suffered a very sad loss and our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Mary, and the rest of the family. In their grievous loss, they have been comforted by the knowledge that in his all too short life 'Nick' earned the affection and admiration of a host of friends in many different spheres both here and in the United States.

Movements

Officers

Captain W. H. Backhouse	... ...	To 644 Signal Troop
Captain A. R. Bailey	... ...	,, 7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Captain J. Barrett	... ...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt. as Major
Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barry	...	,, H.Q. J.O.C.P.T.
Major T. E. D. Baxter	... ...	,, School
Captain E. C. Byrne, B.E.M.	...	,, 9th Regiment as Major
Captain A. S. Cheal	... ...	,, 28th Regiment as Major
Captain (T.O.T.) T. L. Craze	...	,, 14th Regiment
Major W. G. Cunningham	... ...	,, 260 Signal Squadron
Major (T.O.T.) P. W. Dale	... ...	,, 642 Signal Troop
Captain P. C. V. Dolan	... ...	,, 11th Regiment for retirement
Lieutenant G. N. Donaldson	... ...	,, ANZUK Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) J. W. Douthwaite		,, 30th Regiment
Captain R. E. S. Drew	... ...	,, M.A.S. E.Q.D.
Captain C. T. Garton	... ...	,, 16th Regiment as Major
Captain J. A. Gatward	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) P. Gill	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) G. A. Granger	...	,, 5 Airptbl. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Brigadier T. I. G. Gray	... ...	,, M.O.D. (D. of D. Policy (B))
Captain J. A. Grierson	... ...	,, ANZUK Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Major J. P. Hart	... ...	,, M.C.T.C., Colchester
Lieutenant A. Helm	... ...	,, 59 A.Y.T.
Major (T.O.T.) J. A. Jackson	...	,, 11 Regiment for retirement
Captain C. D. McK. Kemp	... ...	,, 264 S.A.S. Signal Squadron
Captain (T.O.T.) C. A. King	... ...	,, School
Lieutenant W. J. Lillie	... ...	,, 7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre		,, 30th Regiment
Major F. W. Matthews	... ...	,, P.E.P.S.
Lieutenant G. Meakin	... ...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major M. Y. Miller	... ...	,, 22 Regiment
Major (Tfc.) R. G. Mitchell	... ...	,, C.D.A., R.A.F. Medmenham
Major S. P. Morrison	... ...	,, SHAPE
Major M. J. Pickard	... ...	,, M.O.D. (A.G.II)
Major C. K. Powell	... ...	,, M.O.D. (D.S.S.)
Lieutenant P. Richards	... ...	,, 4 A.Y.T.
Captain C. Riley	... ...	,, 7th Regiment as Major
Captain (T.O.T.) K. V. Risby	...	,, 603 Signal Troop
Major J. R. Roberts	... ...	,, 216 Para. Sig. Sqn.
Major W. H. D. N. Robotham	...	,, 8th Regiment
Major D. H. Scarfe	... ...	,, H.Q. Southern Command
Major M. W. Simms-Reeve	... ...	,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant W. J. Spiers	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Captain A. J. Spillane	... ...	,, 11th Regiment for retirement
Second-Lieutenant M. R. S. Stanners		,, 22nd Regiment
Major F. A. Stork	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. A. V. Thornton		,, 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major P. C. Tripp	... ...	,, A.A.C., Harrogate, as Lt.-Col.
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) F. P. Walker		,, 11th Regiment for retirement
Captain (Tfc.) D. K. Wallis	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Captain B. L. White	... ...	,, 40th Regiment (V)
Captain (T.O.T.) F. C. Williams	...	,, H.Q. AFCENT (227 Sig. Sqn.)

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.Os

W.O.1 D. F. Goodyer	... ...	,, H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps
W.O.1 (F. of S.) D. O'Connor	...	,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.1 (F. of S.) T. R. Bateman	...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.2 K. Sloane	... ...	,, H.Q. Army Dept. Radio Service
W.O.2 (F. of S.) T. G. Hill	... ...	,, 229 Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. L. Jackson		,, 2nd Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.2 P. T. O'Neill	... ...	,, H.Q. 11th Signal Group (V)
W.O.2 W. Motion	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
W.O.2 C. H. Williams	... ...	,, 28th Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) P. D. Hayler	...	,, 1st Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.2 A. F. J. Gundersen	... ...	,, SHAPE H.Q. Comd. Sp. B.E.
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. Cockerill		,, 8th Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant J. C. Bree	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. R. Uttridge		,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. R. Hacker	... ...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) T. C. Jones		,, 11th Regiment 2 Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. N. Rogers		,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. B. Kelbie		,, 1st Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. G. A. Brittenden		,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. A. Thornber		,, 224 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. A. H. Taylor		,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. P. Mortenson		,, 642 Troop
Staff Sergeant P. T. McGann	...	,, 11th Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant P. F. Crisp	... ...	,, 11th Regiment 2 Sqn.
Sergeant S. Harrison	... ...	,, 21st Regiment

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	Initials	Rank	New Seniority	Old Seniority	
To W.O.1					
Bloom,	S. F.	A/W.O.1	31 Mar. 71	8 Jun. 67	
Nelson,	S.	A/W.O.1	4 May 71	16 Aug. 69	
To W.O.2					
Scrutton (BEM),	J. A.	S/Sgt.	21 Apr. 71	5 Feb. 70	
Cairns,	P. B.	S/Sgt.	27 Apr. 71	5 Feb. 70	
Mullord,	T. T. G.	A/W.O.2	5 May 71	8 Mar. 69	
Stark,	R. L.	S/Sgt.	6 May 71	11 Feb. 70	
Davis,	K. O.	A/W.O.2	10 May 71	17 Feb. 70	
Winton,	P. A.	S/Sgt.	19 May 71	22 Jul. 68	
Burnham,	L.	A/W.O.2	19 May 71	31 Dec. 64	
Fell,	R.	S/Sgt.	22 May 71	18 Jan. 66	
To S/Sgt.					
Gray (BEM),	P. L.	A/S Sgt.	11 Apr. 71	31 Dec. 64	(Lmn.)
French,	C. K. R.	A/S Sgt.	22 Apr. 71	7 Jul. 65	(R. Op.)
Stewart,	K. C.	Sgt.	7 May 71	25 Nov. 69	(ED.)
Bell,	E. G.	Sgt.	11 May 71	1 Sep. 62	(ED.)
Robertshaw,	A. C.	A/S Sgt.	20 May 71	2 Feb. 66	(Comcen Op.)
Percival,	E. W.	Sgt.	20 May 71	13 May 66	(Clk. Tech.)
Worrall,	F. E.	Sgt.	20 May 71	5 Jul. 67	(Tech. TE.)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.1				
Howie,	J. N.	W.O.2	19 May 71	21 Jul. 69

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

To W.O.2				
Neal,	T. B.	S Sgt.	1 Apr. 71	16 Aug. 69
Cooper,	A.	S Sgt.	2 Apr. 71	16 Aug. 69
To S Sgt.				
Armstrong,	R. C.	Sgt.	15 May 71	1 Aug. 68 (S. Op.)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.1				
Birkwood,	J. W.	A/W.O.1	31 Mar. 71	28 Feb. 68
To W.O.2				
Chapman,	A. K.	S Sgt.	3 May 71	10 Oct. 68
To S Sgt.				
McVeigh,	A. D. J.	Sgt.	8 Jun. 71	1 Aug. 68 (Tg. Op.)

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.				
Codley,	M. P.	Cpl.	22 Oct. 70	13 Aug. 65
Dawkin,	C. M.	Cpl.	12 Nov. 70	10 Feb. 69
Coles,	D. M.	Cpl.	14 Nov. 70	1 Aug. 68
Linton,	A. L.	Cpl.	5 Feb. 71	22 Jul. 66
Moffatt,	R. S.	Cpl.	12 Mar. 71	14 Feb. 68
Claffey,	A. R.	Cpl.	18 Mar. 71	4 Jul. 64
Woodthorpe,	E. J.	Cpl.	18 Mar. 71	17 Dec. 65
Davis,	M. J.	Cpl.	18 Mar. 71	4 Apr. 67
Waugh,	W. D.	Cpl.	26 Mar. 71	3 May 67
Payne,	T. J.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	22 Dec. 64
Reade,	D.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	28 Mar. 68
Smith,	J. A.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	8 Sep. 67
Jones,	C. T.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	1 Aug. 68
Margrett,	T. D.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	22 Jul. 68
McIlree,	J. L.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	22 Dec. 67
To Sgt.				
Harriss,	C. G.	Cpl.	22 Apr. 71	2 Aug. 68
Cottam,	C.	Cpl.	13 May 71	24 Nov. 67
Vardy,	D. G.	Cpl.	27 May 71	27 May 67
Durrant,	K. M.	Cpl.	27 May 71	27 May 67

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Edmunds,	J. W.	A/Sgt.	29 Apr. 71	30 Apr. 68

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Tai,	A. R.	A/Sgt.	2 Jan. 71	4 Mar. 64
Gordon,	R. C.	A/Sgt.	23 Jan. 71	17 Sep. 66
Dunbar,	A.	A/Sgt.	14 Mar. 71	8 Oct. 61

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.				
Steer,	S. J.	A/Sgt.	3 Feb. 71	4 Oct. 61
Mandy,	M. R.	A/Sgt.	23 Mar. 71	19 Sep. 63

DELETIONS

Name	Initials	Seniority Date
REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL		
W.O.1		
Green (BEM)	B. G.	2 Feb. 69
Rumsey,	D. H. M.	22 Jan. 69
W.O.2		
Jackson,	G. L.	10 May 61
Tearse,	S.	1 Sep. 65
McKeever,	A.	31 Aug. 66
Cumming,	J.	12 Jan. 67
Slade,	F. E.	10 Feb. 68
Crisp,	D. W. L.	13 Feb. 68
S Sgt.		
Greaves,	G.	8 Oct. 70
YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL		
W.O.1		
Bell,	E.	17 Oct. 67
Smith,	C. A.	10 Sep. 69
W.O.2		
Coole,	L. A.	18 Jun. 69
TECHNICIANS ROLL		
Sgt.		
Cameron,	C. D.	11 Jan. 68
Elkerton,	D. M.	7 Jun. 68
Haynes,	B.	14 Jun. 68
Mortimer,	S. J.	4 Feb. 69
Ingram,	J. W.	1 Apr. 69
Matthison,	J. E.	19 Dec. 69
Brown,	A. D.	17 Feb. 70
SPECIAL OPERATOR ROLL		
Sgt.		
Martin,	D. W.	1 Oct. 70
Robertson,	G. A. R.	5 Aug. 70
COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL		
Sgt.		
Guy,	D. W.	1 Oct. 68
Turner,	A.	10 Oct. 68
RADIO OPERATOR ROLL		
Sgt.		
Bryan,	A.	1 Jun. 57
Barton,	J. E. C.	27 Aug. 62



DAILY SAILINGS AT REDUCED FARES TO ENGLAND

from Belgium & France to Dover by

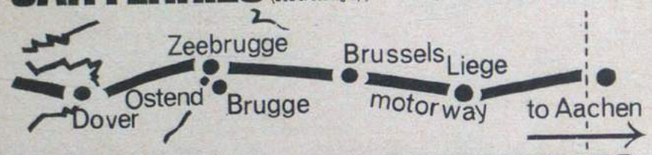


● At least 2 SAILINGS EVERY DAY from Zeebrugge and up to 4 sailings a day during June, July, August and September ● Reduced fares for British and Commonwealth Forces and dependants, and attached civilians ● Economical catering and bar prices aboard ● Go on the shorter sea crossing at lower rates with your family and car for home leave.

TOWNSEND

CAR FERRIES ZEEBRUGGE-DOVER / CALAIS-DOVER

(Sea crossing approx. 4 hrs.) (Sea crossing approx. 1¾ hrs.)



CARS, CARAVANS, TRAILERS, etc. taken for ONE HALF of NORMAL CHARGE from OCT. to MAY incl.

GET FULL DETAILS FROM

MILATRAVEL Offices, Local Travel Agents, G.S.N. Co., m.b.h., Graf-Adolf-Strasse 12, Dusseldorf 4. Furness Shipping Line, Groenplatts 42, Antwerp, or Townsend Car Ferries Car Ferry Terminal, Zeebrugge or Gare de Transit, Calais. Travel on a British ship by the FREE ENTERPRISE LINE. U.K. Bookings through your nearest Motoring Organisation, Travel Agents or the Townsend offices at:

127 REGENT STREET, LONDON W.1 or P.O. BOX 12, DOVER.

TOWNSEND DRIVE-ON DRIVE-OFF CAR FERRIES

HOME OWNERSHIP ASSURED

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier YOU start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a home for your family. ASK OUR ADVICE NOW. When writing please provide the following information: (1) Date of birth; (2) Price of House; (3) Loan required; (4) Date of intended purchase; (5) Details of life policies held; (6) Other details you consider will assist.

OUR SERVICE ADVISORY BUREAU is also available to give specialised advice to Members of H.M. Forces on all Assurance, Insurance and Mortgage matters. For full details of the advice we offer, please telephone or write in confidence to:

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. B. JOHNS, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.

27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

UK or European posting?

Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.

Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W8
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*
Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*
Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS

RADIO OPERATORS

DO YOU HOLD
PMG II *OR* PMG I *OR* NEW GENERAL CERTIFICATE

OR

HAD TWO YEARS' RADIO OPERATING EXPERIENCE?

Looking for a secure job with good pay and conditions?

Then apply for a post with the Composite Signals Organisation. These are Civil Service posts, with opportunities for service abroad, and of becoming established, i.e., non-contributory pension scheme.

Specialist Training Courses (free accommodation) starting January, April and September, 1972.

If you are British born and resident in the United Kingdom, under 35 years of age (40 for exceptionally well qualified candidates), write NOW for full details and an application form from:

Government Communications Headquarters,
Recruitment Officer,
Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL52 5AJ.
(Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270).

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes



Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

September-October 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for :-

Convertible Whole Life Education Endowment Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust Retirement House Purchase Security for your Family

General Insurance for :-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR LEADING BUILDING SOCIETIES

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

In Civilian Life

Enjoy Service and Comradeship in the BRITISH LEGION

Your service to Queen and Country needn't stop when you leave the Forces. The British Legion has as much interest in and responsibility for young ex-servicemen and women of today as it has for those of two world wars and looks to them for its leaders of the future.

British Legion · 49 Pall Mall · SW1·

Leaving the Army?

Fixed that Job yet?

Interviews are sometimes hard to get, but we give:-

- Professional advice on setting out your Curriculum Vitae (Employment History) to give optimum chance of subsequent interview—*and*
- The right contacts

QIC MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
ALCONBURY HILL, HUNTINGDON
Telephone: WOOLLEY 647/564

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months £1.20; single month, **10p.**

☆

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We publish this month a photograph of a Guard of Honour recently mounted by the 18th Signal Regiment, Singapore.

We do this in farewell tribute to a Regiment with a distinguished record in Singapore ever since the end of World War II hostilities. With the general run down of forces in the Far East they are now reduced to a cadre and their days are numbered.

Over the years they have provided communications for H.Q. Far East Land Forces and more recently Singapore District. This they have done with the quiet efficiency of an experienced and well organised unit. They were fully involved with the long drawn out terrorist operations in Malaya and the Borneo confrontation as well as local disturbances. Very much part of the Singapore scene they played a leading part in all military activities winning, in particular, a fine reputation as sportsmen. They have been most generous in raising money at their annual fairs and the Association has much for which to thank them in this respect.

A happy amalgam of British and locally enlisted soldiers they will go down in Corps history as a fine Regiment. All who have served with the 18th Regiment can look back with pride on a job well done. **Salamat Jalan!**

Ulster

THE following signal has been received from one of our Squadron's in Ulster.

"From Scribe to Editor 'Wire.' Regret unable to meet 'Wire' deadline this month. The Squadron is fully deployed covering Northern Ireland internment. Brigade Tactical H.Q. crew plus author at internment centre outside Crumlin gaol. Have been under enemy gun fire. S.D.S. has been working round the clock clearing to eight major units in Belfast through barricaded streets. Traffic levels in commcen have beaten all records. Radio detachments are strung out across the province providing secure radio net between brigades, police chiefs and internment centres. General condition of Squadron tired but morale high."

This message highlights, perhaps even better than an article, how much the Corps is in the thick of it in Ulster. Our soldiers, particularly those on S.D.S. duties, are involved in all the unpleasantness of stoning, petrol bombing and the chance bullet from a concealed sniper. We know that they are keeping up the high reputation of the Corps in the face of many difficulties and much provocation. Readers of THE WIRE will, we are sure, join us in sending best wishes to all members of the Corps in Northern Ireland. We are solidly behind them in the unenviable but necessary duties which they are carrying out with such remarkable self control and discipline.

Gurkha Signals

News has come through of the rundown of Gurkha Signals from a Regiment whose strength at the end of confrontation with Indonesia included three Gurkha brigade headquarters and signal squadrons, eight Gurkha battalion signal troops and an independent parachute company signal troop. By the end of the year Gurkha Signals will comprise one Gurkha brigade headquarters and signal squadron, one composite signal squadron and five Gurkha battalion signal troops.

While it is sad that there will no longer be a 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment, as such, Gurkha Signals will still be an honoured name in the order of battle. During the 18 years since their formation they have won a considerable reputation for themselves. It is not always realised that during much of this period they have been involved in operational commitments both in the long drawn out Malayan emergency and more recently in Indonesia. In both these campaigns they produced efficient communications and earned high praise as well as a number of awards.

Some years ago they even provided a Signal Squadron for the Guards Brigade whose own Squadron had been placed in 'suspended animation.' Here they did their usual workmanlike job and were most popular with everyone.

On courses at Cattrick they excelled and those who thought that 'Johnny Gurkha' would find difficulty in absorbing the intricacies of technical training were wide of the mark.

(Continued on next page)

EDITORIAL (continued)

They had a fine Pipe Band and Corps of Drums which was much in demand.

On a number of occasions they won the very hotly contested Nepal Cup for Inter-Unit football in the Brigade of Gurkhas.

True to their traditions they raised a record unit sum for the Gurkha Welfare Appeal.

They were, of course, affiliated to the Corps and all those members of the Corps who have had the privilege to serve with Gurkha Signals will undoubtedly look back on this period as one of the highlights, if not the highlight, of their Army careers. They were great friends and true comrades and all will be delighted to know that the name of Gurkha Signals still goes on albeit at reduced strength.

Royal Military College of Science Shrivenham

Graduation Day

GRADUATION Day at Shrivenham on the 9th of July this year was notable for two reasons. First, the College was honoured by the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, who came to present the Degrees in his capacity as President of the Council of National Academic Awards. Secondly, this year the graduating course was the first to complete the new Shrivenham Degree awarded under the charter of the C.N.A.A. These degrees which are awarded in either Engineering or Applied Science are specifically tailored to the needs of the Army. There are sufficient options open to students within their course of study to cater for the requirements of any arm of the service.

The day's programme started with a buffet lunch attended by visitors, students and staff. This was followed by a simple ceremony in the College hall at which the members of the graduating course were presented to **Prince Philip** in front of an assembly of all the College staff, distinguished visitors, and families and friends of the graduating students. After the presentations and a group photograph of the staff with the Duke of Edinburgh, tea was provided on the lawns of Beckett House. The weather throughout was glorious, in fact those wearing academic robes and uniform could have wished for a little less sunshine. However, the day was most successful, and it is hoped that those graduating will remember it as a fitting culmination to three years work.

We were very pleased that **Brigadier Max Sawers** and **Mrs. Sawers** were able to come to represent the Signal Officer in Chief. Since **Brigadier Sawers** had not seen the College recently he and **Mrs. Sawers** came down the day before Graduation Day, and he was able to meet the Commandant and members of the staff, and to see something of the College and its facilities. He also met the Royal Signals students of 6 Army Staff Course at an informal drinks party and he and **Mrs. Sawers** had dinner afterwards with some of the Royal Signals staff at Shrivenham.

The Royal Signals Degree results were most gratifying and are listed below:—

Engineering

First Class Honours.—**Lieutenant N. O. Williams** (Royal Signals Prize, College Prize).

Second Class Honours (Upper).—**Lieutenant W. V. Legge, Lieutenant A. J. Saunders, Lieutenant M. P. S. Shaw, Lieutenant J. R. Smith.**

Second Class Honours (Lower).—**Lieutenant N. J. Mayne, Lieutenant T. R. Morgan.**

Ordinary Degree with commendation.—**Lieutenant J. Munnery** (College Prize), **Lieutenant M. A. Rice** (College Prize).

Ordinary Degree.—**Lieutenant M. E. Billett, Lieutenant W. K. Butler, Lieutenant J. C. B. Simpson, Lieutenant J. D. Tydeman.**

Lieutenant M. S. Wallis was awarded a College Prize for his results after his first year.

Applied Science

Second Class Honours (Lower).— **Lieutenant K. H. Rowbory, Lieutenant H. B. Bennett.**

It should be noted that there are separate courses of study leading to Honours or Ordinary Degrees.

All Royal Signals students passed their final exams, and they are to be congratulated on the excellent results. In particular, **Lieutenant Nick Williams** deserves special mention for being the first Royal Signals student to gain a First Class Honours Degree for a number of years and for winning the Royals Signals and College Prizes.

From our "In" Tray

Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Sir,

With reference to the 'Farewell Tribute' to **Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.** (in July/August WIRE).

All who have had the honour to serve under 'The Dean,' as he was nicknamed, will know that in fact his posting after his final escape from Italy was to 'A' Section 1 Company, 1st Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment. The first time we met him was on the Downs near Bulford when the late King George VI came to inspect us before we departed for N. Africa.

How well I remember being told by 'The Dean' when he took us for P.T. at 0600 hours at Caythorpe Court to 'Run into the sun'—this after a night at the village pubs!

Regarding **Sergeant Philips, D.C.M.,** I last saw him in Staines, Middlesex, about 1963; he was living in Addlestone then and I will try to trace him from there.

Every September the 1st Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment O.C.A. still hold their Reunion at Caythorpe, Lincs., around Arnhem time. In 1969 nearly 200 attended the 25th Anniversary, this included families, and we would be delighted to see any ex member there. The Secretary is **Johnnie Ferkins** — 'ex-Signal Centre Wallah' (*Mr. Ferkins's address is: 185, Wheelers Lane, Birmingham 13*).

'The Dean' has managed to attend and we are all looking forward to his next visit. On behalf of all ex 1st Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment may I wish him a happy retirement.

Yours faithfully,

F. M. Young, W.O.2 (S.S.M.)

Army Careers Information Office,
2, Roper Road, Canterbury.

Calling Bob and Peter—Two Young Ladies write:

Brave New World — Seefeld'Klais

Jill and **Linda,** of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1, Record Department, would like to thank **Bob** (Captain) and **Peter** (Staff Sergeant) for the wonderful times they gave us on holiday this summer. We appreciate more than we can say the time and trouble they took to make it unforgettable. The party at the Camp was fabulous and dancing in Tenne better than London. The views taken from 6,000ft. above Seefeld have come out beautifully and we would like to send you copies as a "Thank-you." Please contact Jill and let us know.

CORPS DIARIES 1972

Corps diaries for 1972 are now in stock and can be ordered from Association Headquarters at 30p each post free. The diary is of the slimfold type identical with the 1971 diary which proved very popular. Good stocks are held but the earlier orders are received the better.

Specialist Teleprinter Operators

are required for the

Ministry of Defence Communications Centre in Central London

Initially, the operators will be employed upon teleprinting and associated procedures, but they will be given the opportunity of training for higher grade duties when the Communications Centre becomes fully automatic.

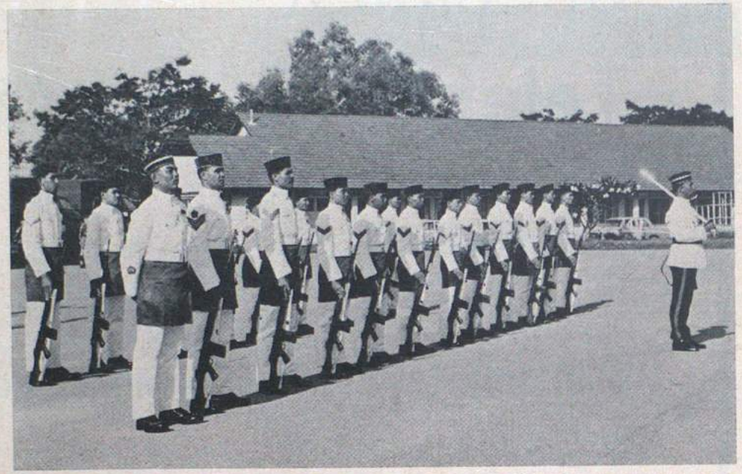
Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum speed of 40 words per minute, and having a good knowledge of current communication procedures.

Basic starting pay, at age 25 or over, will be £24·92 per week rising to £29·52 per week, inclusive of London Weighting. Successful candidates will currently be required to work shifts and overtime, which on average, attracts a further £5·00 per week. There are opportunities of promotion to almost £1,800 per annum basic pay.

If you would like further details, and are of British nationality, telephone 01-242 0222 ext. 563, or write to:

CM(S)3H, Ministry of Defence, Room 802, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8RY.

18th Signal Regiment Parade for the last time



Commanded by Captain 'Jimmy' Yahya, M.B.E., the Regiment's Quarter Guard parade for the last time

In publishing this article we see yet another well known Regiment of the Corps disappearing from the Far Eastern scene. 18th Signal Regiment in various guises has served H.Q. Far East Land Forces and Singapore District with distinction ever since the end of World War II. Their disbandment which they have accepted "in good heart with flags flying and band playing" will nevertheless leave a sad gap in the Corps ranks. They were a fine Regiment with a very happy amalgam of British soldiers and Locally Enlisted Personnel. All will join 'The Wire' in a salute to all those who have served in the 18th Regiment for a job well done.

C.O. reports

Routine, Unclas, from 18th Signal Regiment to MODUK Army.

"CEREMONIAL Review and drive out of Princess Mary Barracks Singapore held today 23rd July, 1971, effectively marks disbandment of 18th Signal Regiment. Disbandment of R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron will be complete by 1st September, 1971. Thereafter rear details consisting of a reinforced No. 1 Squadron will continue to operate until December 1971 from Tanglin Barracks Singapore. Proud to report that the Regiment took its leave of Dover Road complex in good heart with flags flying and band playing. All ranks, British, Malaysian and Singaporean, send their Loyal Greetings and Farewell not sadly but rejoicing in their achievements and friendships."

S.O.-in-C. replies

"Thank you and all ranks for their loyal greetings on their departure from Princess Mary Barracks. 18th Regiment has enjoyed a high reputation during its existence and all members past and present will carry with them happy memories and continuing friendships. I take this opportunity to thank all Malaysian and Singaporean personnel of the Regiment, both military and civilian, for their fine service and loyalty. Good luck, long life and happiness to you all in future."

Farewell ceremony

The Union Jack and Regimental flag were lowered for the last time in Princess Mary Barracks, Singapore on 23rd July, 1971, in the presence of the Area Commander, **Brigadier D. W. V. P. O'Flaherty, D.S.O.,** and a large crowd of families and friends. The Regiment was represented by a Malay Quarter Guard commanded by **Captain 'Jimmy' Yahya, M.B.E.,** and some 40 vehicles and their crews. Appropriately, during the ceremony a L.S.G.C. medal was presented to **Sergeant Haji Murad** (last year's Regimental pilgrim to Mecca), and four civilian employees of the Regiment, who have a total of 110 years service between them, received Army Commander's Commendations.

After the flags had been lowered to the strains of the 'Last Post' followed by the National Anthem, the Regiment marched and drove past to its new accommodation in Tanglin. Our successor in Princess Mary Barracks is the Singapore Polytechnic whose Principal attended the Farewell Ceremony. We are glad to think that our barracks will be put to such constructive use, and wish success to the staff and students of the Polytechnic.

Parties galore

The farewell ceremony was the climax of a month of merry making and parties. The last Regimental Party, like many before it, was held in the Princess Mary Club and was attended by over 450 people. Entertainment was provided by Malay and Chinese cultural dancers, and there was a display of the Malay art of self-defence which was very much enjoyed by the spectators.

In addition an unexpected 'exotic' dancer nearly brought the house down. The catering staff produced their usual excellent buffet, and the party was one of the most lively ever held in the P.M. Club.

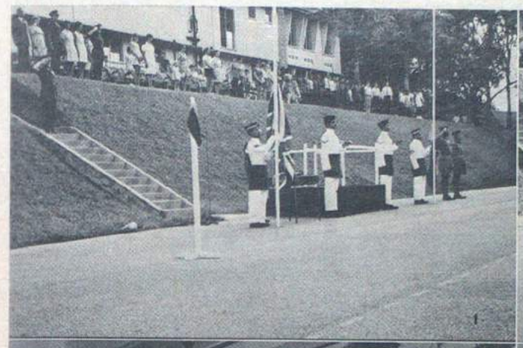
During the evening, the L.E.P. of the Regiment presented a Songkok to **Colonel D. A. Polley, O.B.E.,** Commander 5 Signal Group, and an engraved kris to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.** The party was a great success, and not too nostalgic in spite of 'Auld Lang Syne,' balloons and streamers.

SELAMAT JALAN — FAREWELL

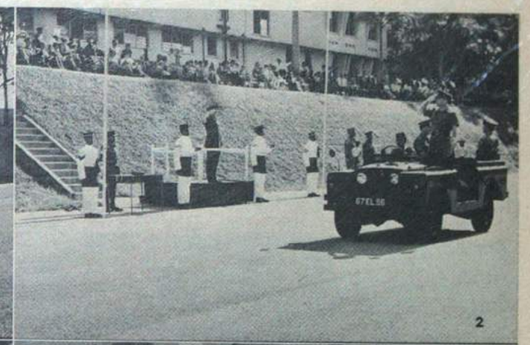
Final note from Editor of 'The Wire'

We shall certainly miss the 18th Regiment from our columns. No Regiment could have been more prompt or meticulous in the preparation of its 'Wire' notes. They gave the Association tremendous support not only in respect of 'The Wire' but also in numerous generous contributions to Association welfare funds.

18th Regiment marks its Farewell



1



2



3



4

1. **Flags are lowered for the last time**
2. **The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Hild, leads the drive past**
3. **Colonel Polley is presented with a Regimental Songkok by Captain Jimmy Yahya**
4. **The C.O. receives a Malay Kris from R.S.M. Othman Tasi**
5. **I Squadron's farewell party goes with a swing**



5

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

Why not do so now!

2 SIGNAL GROUP — SIGNAL WORKS SERVICES

The Signal Works Service (SWS) Troops in the United Kingdom are to be found in the units of 2 Signal Group. There are eight of them, forming an integral part of 10th Signal Regiment, 240, 241 and 242 Signal Squadrons.

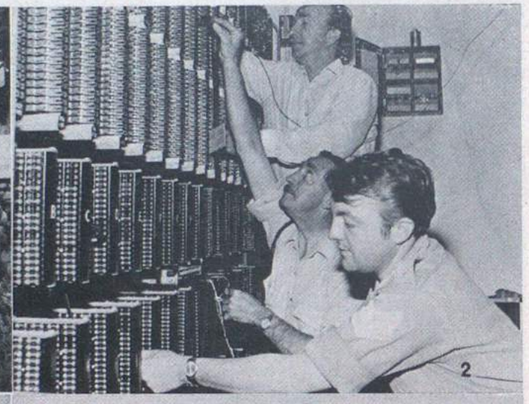
Their tasks vary, from providing a range telephone to the installation and maintenance of a large automatic telephone exchange; from a simple microphone and loudspeaker required for a small Cadet Force demonstration, to the complex public address systems required for the Aldershot Army Show or the Edinburgh Tattoo.

SWS Troops are staffed by some soldiers, but in the main, by ex-Servicemen of all three Services, many from Royal Signals, and all with excellent records. Whether serving, ex-Service, or not, they all carry out their varied, and often uncomfortable tasks, with the same cheerful and professional manner as in Service life.

Quite often they work unseen, and it is appropriate that for once the spotlight of 'The Wire' should be trained on them in appreciation of their good work for 2 Signal Group and Royal Signals.



1



2



3



4



1. **10th REGIMENT—EASTERN WORKS TROOP**
   Cable laying with a mole plough. *Left to right:* Mr. Doy, Mr. Knight, Mr. Chilton. The laying attachment was designed by Mr. Doy and Mr. Grass.
2. **10th REGIMENT—SALISBURY PLAIN AREA WORKS TROOP**
   Rejumpering extension circuits Bulford exchange. *Left to right:* Mr. Clark, Major (T.O.T.) Dale and Sergeant Snook
3. **240 SQUADRON S.W.S. TROOP**
   Celebrating the erection of an R.M.P. broadcast mast. Included in the group from *left to right:* are Messrs. Duggie Taylor (2nd) Loftie Gallimore (5th), Robbie Roberts (6th), Ken Peck (9th), Peter Beswick (10th) and Harry Knights (12th)
4. **241 SQUADRON S.W.S. TROOP**
   On the Castle Martin ranges with German tanks. Mr. Nobby Clarke checks a cable with O.C. Major Oates
5. **242 SQUADRON S.W.S. TROOP**
   Mr. Charlie Forman at work—22 years service with the Troop.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. **The earlier you start,** the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

SCHOOL FEES

In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

LIFE ASSURANCE + INVESTMENT

Conventional or Equity Linked Schemes

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£10.14 monthly** for those liable to tax at 39p in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next birthday **immediate family protection of £38,300** and an anticipated **cash** sum of around **£25,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65. This particular **Plan** is extremely flexible and **unique** in that it can be made to **mature** in part or total at an **earlier** age **or** be adapted to **provide an income** on retirement from the Service, **e.g. at age 55.**

For full details, please telephone or write in confidence to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

WHITE HELMET 1971

The annual magazine of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team

The 1971 edition of the Team's souvenir programme is now available. Fifty pages of interesting articles, spectacular full colour photographs and personal glimpses into Team life. Cost? Just 20p per copy, postage paid.

Get your copy now by filling in the form below and sending it to:

White Helmets
Royal Signals Display Team
Catterick Camp
Yorkshire.

No. ..... Rank..... Name.....

Unit .....

Address .....

.....

Please send me ..... copies of White Helmet 1971.

A cheque/Postal order for ..... is enclosed.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in July	**42**
Number of clothing parcels	**36**
Amount spent in grants and loans	**£1031.03**

One of the Month's Cases

SERVING Corporal, 15 years' service. As a result of the very serious illness of one of his three children, he has been involved in a great deal of expense, mainly for long and frequent journeys to visit the child in a London hospital. As a result of all this, he found himself in financial difficulties, and the Association made him a grant of £120 to clear his commitments and put the family straight.

One of the Month's Letters

SIR, I am writing this letter thanking you for the grant you have made my wife and myself to help us in our difficult time. I cannot express my thanks to you as I would like to, as there is not that amount of words in this world to thank you for all you have done for us. I can only say "THANK YOU again."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during July, 1971:

	£ p
Collection at St. Martin's Church, Catterick	58.00
Major M. H. Richards	25.00
J. O'Regan, Esq.	5.00
D W. Lloyd-Davis, Esq.	1.25
R. A. Oswick, Esq.	1.00
Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford	1.00
Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. H. Herdon	1.00
Captain J. Wigglesworth	1.00
L. Munday, Esq	97
T. A. Roberts, Esq.	83
J. A. Springett, Esq.	50
Various small donations	1.74
83rd (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2.00
9th Signal Regiment	25
Total ...	£99.54

Corps Men Make Dinghy Sailing History

Lively Channel Crossing in 16ft. Fireball Dinghy

ON Sunday, 13th June, 1971, Fireball K3158 'Certa Cito,' was taken by road from her berth at the British Roermond Sailing Club, Holland, to Boulogne, France. She was to attempt a crossing of the English Channel, and so become the first Fireball to sail the 'puddle.' I had asked **Corporal Dave Ell's**, of 28th Signal Regiment to crew me.

Story written for 'The Wire' by Sergeant Bill Parker of 13th Signal Regiment.

The outfit arrived at Wimereaux, just 3 kilometres north of Boulogne and set up camp. The local club, Club Nautique Wimereux, was located on the sea front and was a suitable place to launch the boat from the beach. Having made arrangements to leave the boat trailer at the club premises from Monday to Thursday, the estimated period that the trip would take, we returned to camp for a good nights sleep.

On Monday, 14th June, we took the boat to the beach and rigged, making sure that everything we required for the trip was on board. The wind was only force one to two off shore, east by south-east, tide falling quickly. At 0930 hours the boat was launched and we set off on course 290° magnetic. After two hours it was apparent that there was a very strong current running southerly with the falling tide and that the boat was being swept towards Boulogne harbour just down the coast. At 1200 hours we decided to try for another hour and then take a final decision on whether to return to the beach and make another attempt in the morning. But we were in luck and at 1230 hours the current swept the boat past the outer marker buoy of the Boulogne Harbour channel, and I started to paddle out to sea in an attempt to get out of the current. This proved to be successful and after about 10 minutes the wind filled the sails.

The Corporal was becoming a little seasick

Corporal Ellis was by this time becoming a little seasick. I put on the trapeze harness (a little optimistically thought Dave), but within five minutes the wind increased to force three and continued to increase to force four and then five. The outer channel marker buoy which was passed a little earlier, in the wrong direction due to the current, was again passed, this time correctly and was consequently used as the point of departure at 1240 hours. The boat started to plane and fairly flew over the waves, which were building up, and maintained a mean height of about three feet most of the way across the channel. Visibility was decreasing but not becoming dangerous, in fact it stayed at about one mile. We passed a freighter about five miles off the French coast and no more shipping was seen until very near the English coast.

Land is sighted

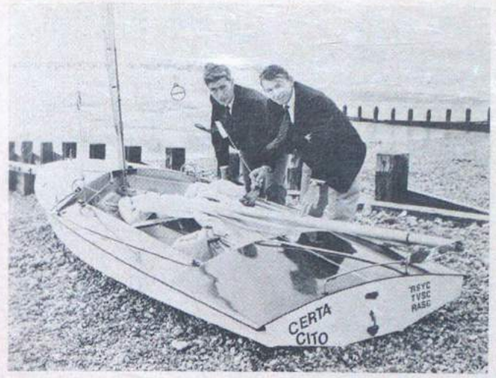
At approximately 1615 hours, we sighted land and the visibility increased slightly. We headed up to a small fishing boat to ask about the nearest port. In fact, it was only a mile away and it was Rye, Sussex. As it was still a little early in the day it was decided to bear away and sail parallel to the coast and land at the nearest town in sight at about 1830 hours. This town turned out to be Hastings, where we beached the boat outside the local yacht club. Having found bed and breakfast accommodation, we had a hot bath, dined and then explored the town. We failed to find the local H.M. Customs to get clearance so tried the local police. Again we had no luck, and as the weather had now turned very foul we called it a day and retired to bed.

Capsized

On Tuesday, 15th June, at 1010 hours we launched 'Certa Cito' from Hastings beach and set sail for a more westerly port, with the intention of attending the Royal Signals Regatta at Seaview, Isle of Wight. While passing Beachy Head Lighthouse at 1310 hours, a sudden gust caused by the high cliffs, capsized the boat and the boom lifted out of the water,

(*Continued on page* 345)

(*Continued from page* 344)



A RECORD IS ACHIEVED

Corporal Dave Ellis of 28th Signal Regiment (left) and Sergeant Bill Parker of 13th Signal Regiment, with the Fireball Dinghy 'Certa Cito' after making the first recorded English Channel crossing with this type of boat

breaking the kicking strap. A Fireball is one of the easiest boats to upright after a capsize, and we soon had K3158 going again. A makeshift kicker was rigged with the end of the spinnaker halyard. A small polythene container with some biscuits had been lost overboard during the capsize and also a large sponge. We continued to head west, with the wind north northeast force four to five. After rounding Beachy Head the boat was brought onto a more closehauled setting and the wind increased in strength. The starboard shroud securing clevis pin came undone while Dave was on the trapeze and so the boat was headed up into the wind while the port clevis pin was 'borrowed' to replace it; the journey was continued with the port shroud flying loose until we thought of borrowing a large clevis pin from the mast step. At 1515 hours the wind increasing to force six gusting seven made the boat difficult to handle; the increasing wave height made the boat pound, slam and 'submarine' into the back of the waves. By sailing into the lee of the shore the wind strength was eased, and the boat motion improved. We saw a town and decided to call it a day, as the boat had taken a terrific pounding and we were soaking wet. On nearing the shore we discovered that the town was Worthing. We beached the boat and tidied up before setting off to look for bed and breakfast.

Time running short — and another capsize

Next morning, Wednesday, 16th June, we decided that as time was running short the Isle of Wight just could not be reached in time to attend the Regatta. So we set about getting dry clothing, mainly underwear, from the town and having a new kicking strap made up at the chandlery. These items in order, Dave and I had a final look around town and made our way back to the boat, where we found that B.B.C. Radio Brighton and the local press were waiting to interview us. Several pictures were taken and a recorded interview on a portable tape recorder was made which was put out on the local radio station at 1300 hours. At 1315 hours the boat was made ready for sea and we set sail for Hastings. The forecast storm hit us at about 1500 hours just as Beachy Head Lighthouse was sighted and sure enough over went the boat in a typical Fireball closehauled capsize, sails kissing the water, crew over the top onto the centreboard, and boat upright in ten seconds, and sailing back on course with the self bailers working overtime. At 1545 hours the boat was planing on the starboard tack, wind force five gusting six from the south-west by west, and as the headland had to be rounded by gybing we decided to head up into wind and drop the mainsail to gybe under jib only. This was completed successfully and the journey to Hastings was finished under the jib and planing all the way. At one stage the spinnaker was launched but this almost overpowered the boat so it was stowed and we continued on the jib, grounding at Hastings beach at 1830 hours.

Day five of the exercise, Thursday, 17th June: having said goodbye to our newfound friends at the boarding house, the boat was launched and sails set 0945 hours, course 110°, wind westerly force two, increasing to force four later. At Rye the land gradually dropped astern and the wind with it, so we said 'goodbye' to our chances of making a record trip back to France. We sighted a headland on the French coast at 1430 hours which later proved to be Boulogne, and a minor alteration to course took the boat past Boulogne harbour and into the beach at Wimereux, where we grounded at 2030 hours, high water. The boat was loaded onto its road trailer and away we went to get a welcome night's rest in the camp site before returning to Germany on Friday, 18th June.

I had built Fireball K3158 in April 1969 from a stage one fibreglass hull kit, which I purchased with the help of the Royal Signals Games and Sports Club. A suitable name had to be found for the boat (which belongs to a very fast class of planing boats), so I chose the Corp's motto 'Certa Cito'; the spinnaker was specially made in Corp's colours. The cross channel trip caused very minor damage to the boat. Due to the heavy pounding into the waves, the foredeck to front transom joint has parted and slight seepage of water into the front buoyancy compartment has occurred. With so little damage, and an exciting adventure behind us, both Dave and I felt that we had achieved something worthwhile.

We were delighted when U.K. Fireball Association later confirmed that this was the first recorded crossing of the Channel by a dinghy (length 16 ft., width 4 ft. 6 in.) of this type.

. . . You have to experience it to know what it's like . . .

Free Fall!

by Lance-Corporal Jackie Smith,
3 Squadron, 10th Signal Regiment

Jackie Smith joined the W.R.A.C. on the 22nd April, 1969, and is now a switchboard supervisor on the Aldershot board (3 Squadron, 10th Regiment). Read her account of the thrills of free-fall, at which she has made quite a reputation for herself.

"I first experienced the thrill of free-fall parachuting in March this year when I attended a mini course at the A.P.A. Centre, Netheravon. After four days training 15 boys and three other girls were ready to make our first descent from a 'Rapide' aeroplane. We had already packed our chutes, done aircraft drills and emergency procedures. All we were waiting for was some good weather.

On the day before we were due to leave, the winds dropped and the chief instructor, **C.S.M. Stevenson** told everyone to get 'kitted up' as we would be jumping shortly. Boy, did some of those faces go white! I was on the first lift along with **Dianne Burns**, five boys and a jumpmaster. I was No. 2 to go out.



Lance-Corporal Jackie Smith

The plane circled then the jumpmaster told the pilot to cut the engines, pointed to the wing and the first one to go out. He climbed onto the wing, very slowly, as though he didn't want to go, but then he got the dig in the ribs from the jumpmaster and he was gone. I thought, 'Well, here goes.' I climbed onto the wing, got my position and I felt a tremendous punch



THAT WONDERFUL MOMENT
Jackie receives the Freefall Novices Championship Cup from General Sir John Mogg

in my ribs. This was the jumpmaster's indication to let me know I had to jump off. I can't explain how I felt, because you have to experience free-fall to know what it's like. I completed the mini course then, in June, went on a longer course, which lasted three weeks.

There were about 43 people on the course but only about 12 completed it. Immediately after this course I was entered for the novices accuracy championships. I met various people from other teams and all of them were anxious to see me do well. We jumped from a Wessex helicopter and the marks counted from how near you land to the disc which lies in the middle of 'the pit' (the target). I got really close and thought it was beginner's luck, then got even closer the next time.

Weather conditions stopped the competition so the score was taken from how many jumps we had completed. I was most surprised when I found out I was in the lead. **General Mogg** presented the prizes and I was awarded a huge silver cup and a tankard. I owe everything I learned, to the instructors at Netheravon and without their patience and wit, would not have been able to enjoy free-fall the way I do."

A week in 'Skywave'

THE 11th Regiment has taken the opportunity of using the Corps Yacht 'Skywave' a number of times this year. Many readers will know that the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Freddie Lockwood, is a keen sailor, and he recently took the opportunity to exchange the responsibility of Commanding the Regiment for that of skippering the Corps Yacht. The following report, by Signalman Geoffrey Crook, of Potential Officer Troop, highlights the problems and amusing incidents which occurred during the voyage.

Sail is set for Cherbourg

If the purpose of adventure training may be simply stated: to interest the participants sufficiently to encourage them to take up the activity, then the week's sailing was a tremendous success!

The Royal Signals Yacht Club's *Skywave* took on her crew on 9th July at Marchwood, Southampton. We took over from a disgruntled crew. They had had a windless week.

While our skipper, **Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood,** took the helm, the returning bosun, **Corporal Carmichael,** showed the novices the ropes.



RESTING UP IN PORT
Left to right: Staff-Sergeant Jerry French, Lieutenant-Colonel Freddie Lockwood, Lieutenant Dick Sanders. *Foreground:* Major John Newman

The Commanding Officer had as his crew: **Major J. M. Newman,** from N.O.D., **Lieutenant Dick Sanders, Staff Sergeant Jerry French, Sergeant Chris Davidson** and myself, **Signalman Geoffrey Crook.**

Lieutenant Sanders and **Sergeant Davidson,** both 'old salts,' helped the skipper regain our moorings for the departure of the bosun and the embarkation of **Major Newman.**

We set the genoa and main at 17.00 hours on 9th July, bound for Cherbourg on a warm, misty day. After a cold chicken and salad supper, the skipper detailed the two watches. **Major Newman,** a mate, **Lieutenant Sanders** and **Sergeant Davidson,** helm, were in their bunks at 23.30 hours, while the first watch sailed *Skywave*, a 32ft. Nicholson, around the Isle of Wight.

The skipper, **Staff Sergeant French** and I, were alert to the dangers of collision at sea. Visibility was less than a mile, and we kept watch with the skipper's pipe match-sticks propping up our eye-lids! Rounding the Isle of Wight appeared to be the entire tonnage of Greek shipowners. The opening and closing of mast lights was explained to us by the skipper as the four or five coasters made their way to the channel.

The log humming merrily away

The following morning, our streamed log turned so quickly, we imagined we heard a plane in the mist above. Some of us had the same fancy often during the week, it was not until the end of our cruise that the skipper pointed out that the ghost plane was, in fact, our log.

At 10.00 hours, the wind blew the mist away and the yacht faster towards our first sight of France. Sailing on a broad reach, the starboard deck was awash. While the experienced sailors made soothing replies, the novices, **Staff Sergeant French** and I, enquired as to the amount of lead in *Skywave's* keel. Reassured, **Staff Sergeant French** leant against the starboard shrouds, only to return to the cockpit after being drenched when going about.

We moored at Cherbourg at 13.00 hours, and after pasties at the Yacht Club, we dined on cold chicken, French bread and vin rouge.

Beating all yachts out of harbour

With ice and duty-free goods from Joseph Ryst aboard, we slipped Cherbourg at 10.00 hours the following day, Sunday, 11th July.

We left harbour with the Admiral's Cup teams, amongst whom was **Major-General Philip Tower,** Commandant of Sanduhrst, sailing *Wishstream* with eight officer cadets.

Skywave beat all yachts out of harbour, an amazing feat against the crack crews of 15 nations all competing for a prize, in prestige second only to the America's Cup. We paddled, While the skipper ostentatiously smoked a panta corona, his crew, on the blind side of the competitors, used the tender's paddles to overtake allcomers!

On to St. Malo

We anchored for ten minutes at Sark before sailing for St. Peter Port, where we arrived at 20.30 hours. **Staff Sergeant French** took **Sergeant Davidson** ashore for medical attention. We set sail for St. Malo at 10.00 hours the following day. As always during our week, the sun shone for us and the wind blew for our sails.

With the spinnaker set, we sunbathed on the deck. Our course laid, the Minquies Buoy was rounded exactly as planned by **Major Newman.**

While waiting for the lock gates at St. Malo to open, we were hailed by another yacht; they wished to tie up to us while they also waited. We were informed by the crew of *Jinja* that there had been a disaster aboard.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood asked what had happened.

"We've run out of tonic!" came the reply.

However, the 'Lion d'Or' was found and supplied us with beer, wine and pasties. The following morning, after a shower at the Yacht Club, we toured the town to see the tall ships, including *Malcolm Miller,* of the Sail Training Association, which had just completed a race.

We left that day, 13th July, the eve of Bastille Day. At 21.50 hours, *Skywave* was the sole yacht to brave an agitated sea, N.E.6. The storm jib was first seen and seven reefs, sterling work by **Sergeant Davidson,** were in the mainsail.

At 08.00 hours, the next morning, we anchored alongside *Gawaine,* at St. Helier, Jersey. The yacht is a Sail Training craft and was skippered by a Lieutenant-Commander of the R.N. Engineering College.

From Jersey, past Corbiere Lighthouse, to St. Peter Port; again we sunbathed. That evening, we encountered for the second time, an ex-officer of the Regiment, **Mr. Roger Perrot.** At Sark we had only exchanged hails, but here, **Lieutenant Sanders** visited his friend at the Yacht Club.

An evening out

Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood rowed the tender out for us at 22.30 hours to return us to *Skywave*, which act was most appreciated. The boat alongside was identical, and skippered by the Director of Army Recruiting, **Brigadier O. M. Roome.** The crew of *Morning Sky* and ourselves watched till midnight the flares set off by the French crews to celebrate 14th July.

At 09.30 hours, 15th July, we set sail for Herm. The helm was tied while the skipper enjoyed his new pipe from St. Peter Port. **Major Newman** gallantly stayed aboard while the crew visited Herm.

Back home

The Channel crossing was rewarded at Hamble in 'The Eagle,' where English bitter was rediscovered. Earlier at Yarmouth, on the Isle of Wight, we had merely sighted the brew.

Friday, 16th July, gave us opportunity, on the Solent, to practice our man-overboard drills.

When *Skywave* was handed over, in 'Bristol Fashion,' on Saturday morning, to another Regimental crew, all agreed that we had had a marvellous week's sailing; everything that we could have wished for ourselves the previous Saturday had been given to us.

We all want to sail again, and that is, of course, the ultimate recommendation.

VACANCY FOR W.R.A.C. P.S.I.
32nd (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

A vacancy for a W.R.A.C. Warrant Officer or Senior N.C.O. (preferably with Commcen Op. experience) in GLASGOW on a Type 'R' engagement will occur in December, 1971.

Applicants (who should preferably be aged under 40) should contact the Adjutant at 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow NW for further details.

Uniform quality
always in a Gieves ready-to-wear



Appointed Tailors and Outfitters to the Royal Corps of Signals

g Gieves

27 Old Bond Street, London, W.1

1 High Street, Camberley

Bath Bexhill Brockenhurst Cambridge
Cheltenham Chester Cranwell Eastbourne
Edinburgh Harrow Leicester Plymouth
Portsmouth Winchester Malta

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate



[Photograph: Captain R. E. Buckee, R.A.E.C.

A PARTICULARLY HAPPY OCCASION

Physically handicapped children and friends of the Ian Tetley Memorial School clearly appreciate the gift of a small bus purchased from funds raised by Harrogate Apprentices—a fine effort on the part of all those who took part in the fund raising walks which achieved this

College's gift to school

THE whole College was on parade on Thursday, 22nd July to witness the presentation of a bus to the Ian Tetley Memorial school for physically handicapped children. In the forefront of the large crowd of spectators were the 45 children who are at the school, together with the headmaster, **Mr. Robert Richardson,** and every member of his staff.

The short and simple ceremony began at 12 noon, when the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** arrived, accompanied by **Mr. V. L. Cornish,** National Director of Child Care, Dr. Barnardo's. Briefly outlining the background to the presentation, the Commandant explained that during the long association between College and School we had from time to time, made comparatively small contributions to such things as Christmas parties. Some time ago, however, it was decided to concentrate our fund-raising efforts on producing a more lasting gift. Accordingly a series of Lyke Wake Walks was organised by **Major J. R. Roberts.** These walks — 40 miles over the rugged and eerie territory of the Yorkshire Moors and Cleveland Hills, to be completed within 24 hours — were carried out by well over 200 apprentices, led each time by **Major Roberts,** and sponsored by other apprentices and members of the staff.

It took just a year to raise the £1,363 necessary to provide a custom-built Ford Transit 15-seater bus, modified to carry wheelchairs and walking-aids, and fitted with special safety belts.

Accepting on behalf of the School the keys to the bus from **Colonel Clinch, Mr. Cornish** paid tribute to those who had walked to help those who cannot — as an ex-Infantry Officer he knew how it felt to walk 40 miles in a day. He feared that the Army tended often — as in Northern Ireland — to be excluded from the community, and he thought it magnificent that the young soldiers of the College should so involve themselves in the community and show concern for others less fortunate than they.

A party of children then boarded the bus and were driven off on the first of what everybody present hoped would be many happy journeys.

The College then marched past, **Mr. Cornish** taking the salute, and so ended a most notable — and happy — occasion.

MENS CLOTHING
is still URGENTLY required
by the WELFARE SECTION

3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, Bulford

REGIMENTAL WEEK

THE second week of July has been one of great activity with the Regimental Swimming Gala on Tuesday, 6th July, and the Regimental Athletics meeting on Wednesday, 7th July. 1 Squadron won the swimming after a very close competition and 2 Squadron the athletics. Particular congratulations go to **Signalman Alan Parry** who won the 1500 metres, 5000 metres and was awarded the cup for the best individual all-round performance. **Craftsman John Ward** was also successful in two events, the 400 metres and 800 metres.

On Saturday, 10th July, we held our Open Day. All around a large central display arena were, in all, 26 tented stalls providing many of the old favourites of summer fetes.

In the grounds beyond the tents were static displays of model aircraft, radio equipment, a shooting range of 30 metres, a demonstration area and an assault course.

Throughout the afternoon children of all ages were going over the assault course.

The central display area provided many thrills for the spectators, beginning with the band display by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, under the baton of their Director of Music, **Captain K. R. R. Boulding,** and ending with a hilarious piano-bashing contest, in which five teams competed. The winners of the piano-bashing contest was the team from Headquarters Squadron, who beat the team from the Officers' Mess by a narrow margin.

Between these extremes there was a display by a Wessex helicopter of the R.A.F. which picked up a radio relay set, a Land Rover and soldiers, and put them all down at the opposite end of the arena. A battle was staged, and two helicopters of the Army Air Corps came to their 'rescue,' one a gun ship and the other carrying stretchers for the 'wounded.'

The free-fall demonstration team from the Army Parachute Association Centre, at Netheravon, gave such a daring performance that a few ladies in the audience fainted from shock.

All types of model aircraft were involved in the display of remote-controlled flying, given by the members of the Flying Druids Aero Model Club, of Amesbury.

Two hovercraft from the Chichester Hovercraft Club showed what they could do.

Among the guests on Saturday were 40 children from the Ovingdean Hall School for the partially deaf, in Brighton, and two representatives of the Chelsea Pensioners.

Cricket

On Sunday, 4th July, a battle of the giants took place on the cricket field. The annual Officers v. Sergeants match ended in a resounding victory for the Sergeants. They won by so many runs the difference sounded like a good innings in itself.

The Regimental cricket team have had great success having won 14 out of 15 matches. They have been ably led by **W.O.2 (Yeoman of Signals) Bob Massey.** Unfortunately no medals or cups but congratulations to **Second-Lieutenant Chris Wright, Lance-Corporal Phil Leach** and **Corporal Dave Stanbridge** who are so often away these days playing Corps cricket.

Inter Troop/Squadron cricket is going well—bats and balls being worn out as fast as P.R.I. can supply them. The final in the inter Troop match is between B1 Troop and the Staff 2 team.

Fifteen Welsh mountains scaled in ten hours

Second-Lieutenant John Cook led the Regimental team on the Welsh Three Thousand competition on 13th June. In an exhausting ten hours they climbed all the Welsh mountains of over 3,000 feet—and there are 15 of them! In the face of stiff competition they were placed sixth.



'THEY CLIMBED **EVERY** MOUNTAIN' in Wales over 3,000 feet
Left to right: Second-Lieutenant Cook, Signalmen Bishop, Jones and Garrett

Training is now well underway for the Cambrian Marches later this year.

Farewells

We said farewell in June to **Mr. William Andrew Griffiths,** known as 'Old George' the Regimental Gardener. He was presented with an engraved silver pocket watch and chain by **Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Bohannan.** 'Old George' has worked here for about 10 years and has become quite a famous character, remembered by all who have served in the Regiment.

Our best wishes also go with **Major Mike Weiner** and **Captain Fred Keeley,** R.E.M.E., who leave us for Germany at the end of their tours in Bulford.



Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan presents 'Old George' the Regimental Gardener with an engraved silver pocket watch. Major Butcher and W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Judge look on

7th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 15

THE month of July has been devoted to Squadron summer camps. The Squadrons have each spent two weeks in camp in the south of Germany carrying out adventure training, field craft, P.E. tests and non-communication type exercises. Our notes this month, therefore, cover sporting and extra mural activities.

Shooting

This year the Regimental Shooting team took part in two meetings in the U.K.

The first meeting was the Royal Signals Skill at Arms meeting held at Bulford. At this meeting the Regiment came third overall to 30th Signal Regiment and 28th Signal Regiment. In the Roberts Cup match there was an exciting finish resulting in a re-shoot between **Sergeant Paddy Bell** and **Corporal Wilkins** of 260 Signal Squadron, which ended with **Sergeant Bell** emerging the clear winner. **Sergeant Bell** also came third in the individual results.

The second meeting was the A.R.A. meeting at Bisley. With 32 major units taking part the Regiment came a creditable thirteenth and were the second Corps unit, again behind 30th Regiment. Once again **Sergeant Bell** shot well to get a place in the Army Hundred. Also worth a mention was the third place gained by the team in the Brooke Bond Cup.

The team consisted of: **Captain Ray Raynor, Captain Tony Singleton, Staff Sergeant Barry Hassall, Sergeant Paddy Bell, Corporal Dave Turner, Corporal Pete Barratt, Corporal 'Jinx' Giles, Corporal John Maynard, Lance-Corporal Mick Johnson, Lance-Corporal 'Izzy' Wishart, Signalman 'Jona' Jones, Signalman 'Bones' Bonnelle.**

Our driver and mascot was **Corporal 'Truckie' Fisher** and the non-shooting team captain was **Sergeant 'Chippy' Woods.**

Nijmegen Marches, 1971—by a competitor

Once again the Regiment sent a team to Nijmegen for the 1971 four-day marches. The team consisted of **Lieutenant Malc Sinton, W.O.2 (Y.O.S.) Vaughn Rayner, Staff Sergeant Jim Dunnett, Corporal Fred Giles, Signalmen Tony Pollarp, Mick O'Hare, Paul Kerridge, 'Spud' Murphy, Tony Narroway, Tony Whelan, 'Ginge' Turnbull, Billy Whale, Tom Burgess, Wally Westrop, H. P. Hamilton-Peters, John Moody, 'Willy' Williams** and **'Taff' Humphreys.** Monday evening, 19th July, 1971, was the opening ceremony when 26 nations took part in a display that was well worth seeing. Tuesday saw the first day's march. We were up at 03.30 hours, had breakfast and then it was on with our kit and away at 06.15 hours, pounding the road for the first 25 miles through the town of Nijmegen and out into the country.

On return from the first day a few of the team were seen heading for the medical tent to get new feet for the next day. On day two, Wednesday, we started an hour earlier. We hadn't gone far before our cycle orderly, **Staff Sergeant Jim Dunnett,** found himself once again wearing his kit and marching with the lads due to a casualty with bad feet. This he did not mind as it made a break from riding the bicycle. An occupation which had given him blisters where he never expected them!

We also had another casualty, **'Ginge' Turnbull,** and our tent orderly, **Tony Whelan,** had to stand in much to his regret. He took it in good spirit. We lost one of tour team at the end of this day's march, **W.O.2 Vaughn Rayner,** who suffered with knee and muscle trouble.

Day three saw us starting again at our normal time 06.15 hours. We had trouble with getting the team out of bed but thanks to **Lieutenant Malc Sinton and Staff Sergeant Jim Dunnett** we managed to get them up and away. Our cycle orderly once again found himself in kit and marching as this time **Billy Whale** had foot trouble. It was on this day that the march began to tell, with 50 miles behind us and still 50 to do. Worst of all, today was the hilly section. The hills were long and winding and the team began to thin out and spread. We didn't mind this as long as they didn't get too far ahead and a checkpoint sorted things out as the team had to go through it together. Once again we had trouble



NIJMEGEN MARCHERS

Left to right: Signalmen Hamilton-Peters, Pollard and Kerridge look in good heart at the end of the march

with feet. This time it was **Paul Kerridge** and **Mick O'Hare** but a little gentle persuasion and they managed to continue for the rest of the day. Now we had completed 75 miles.

Day four and the last day. We started at 04.15 hours, the earliest of all. This was the day when everybody in and around Nijmegen turned out to cheer you on and you tend to forget your blistered feet, bleeding thighs and aches and pains. Despite the weather the day went well for the team. At the end of it we finished the march in a large field where we changed into No. 2 dress shirt sleeve and No. 1 dress hat, to prepare ourselves for the march past. Flowers were handed out by the people of Nijmegen and we collected our medals and retired to the beer tent for well earned refreshment. We achieved what we set out to do, and that was obtain the team award for the second year running.

Motor cycling

Against considerable R.C.T. opposition the Regiment did well to come fourth in the Rhine Area Championships for 1971. The trial was held at Rhinedahlen and was expertly organised by 79th Railway Squadron, R.C.T. In temperatures of 70 plus during 8th July, 100 fully clad riders from all over B.A.O.R. began the 53-mile map reading course. We understand that the 16 riders who failed to finish this section, are still trying to find their way from the centre of Dusseldorf to Hubblerath. A timed cross-country circuit, eleven observed hazards and a mechanical test completed the day. Our 'A' team, consisting of **Sergeant Vic Jinks, Corporal Mick Corrigan** (R.E.M.E.) and **Corporal Harry Bishop,** were narrowly beaten into third place.

W.O.2 (Y.O.S.) Vaughn Rayner led the 'B' team with relative new-comers, **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Donovan** and **Signalman 'Aussie' Davey. Yeoman Rayner** collected a second class award. It was a good trial, valuable experience and we now look forward to the Berlin trial in September.

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT - - each 70p
U.K. inc. P. Tax - " 76p
(Postage Extra)

T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY
Nr. DONCASTER

8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL

Lance-Corporal gains 'A' pass

A particularly successful course of 1 Squadron Basic Radio Relay Technicians has just passed out, after thirteen months of sustained effort, which has been well rewarded. All ten members of the course passed at Class II standard.

The course, T.R.R. 12-1, started in May, 1970, and took their trade tests in June, 1971, and finally crowned their achievement, by all passing M.P.C. II at 11th Signal Regiment in July.

Lance-Corporal D. R. Manton must be singled out for special mention. Not only was he awarded the prize for the best technician on the course, but he was also awarded a prize for an 'A' pass; the first basic technician to be given such a grade in over four years. **Corporal L. J. Edwards,** who arrived on the course as a class I Commcen Operator, was awarded the prize for the most improved student.



THE MOST IMPROVED STUDENT

Corporal Edwards receives his prize from Lieutenant-Colonel Hickman. Looking on is Captain Speight

REPORT FROM 2 SQUADRON

2 Squadron was last responsible for putting pen to paper to contribute to THE WIRE in January this year.

Installed in our multi-coloured palace

In those far off months we were still busy planning our move to the new Trade Training School and perhaps dreading it. Now, happy to relate, the drama is over, the dust has settled, and the system runs as smoothly as ever and we are all housed in our splendid multi-coloured palace. Of the four training groups for which 2 Squadron is responsible, Basics had the easiest task. They simply picked up their little pieces of chalk and walked in. Radio Relay and Line Groups, under the direction of **Captain Nigel Ribchester** and **Mr. Norman Callender** respectively, wedged their considerable amounts of kit into their rooms somehow. Radio Group, however, ably led by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Wurzel' Groom,** put a token force into the new building and scuttled away up on to Whinny Hill to form a splinter group known as External Radio.

At the end of March the Squadron Commander, **Major Bernard Strange,** was summoned to do his bit in Northern Ireland. **Captain Jim Storr** returned from a Squadron Commander's Course at Blandford to find himself just that. The system must work after all!

Trade Training continued with plendid interludes such as the Freedom of Richmond parade, in which the Squadron participated, although for the occasion we had to 'borrow' a Major from 1 Squadron to have the required seniority at the front end.

Tough going on Exercise 'Felcat'

In mid-July Exercise 'Felcat' was upon us again. This is a twice yearly jaunt across the local training areas designed to find out who has got it, who has lost it, and who never had it, the 'it' being a combination of leadership, determination and possibly a small helping of bloody-mindedness. One of the 2 Squadron teams surpassed the organisers wildest dreams but not only navigating itself off the training area but also off the map! Several of the teams reported the additional hazard of being summoned to the assistance of the 'Safety Officer,' **Major (Bogger) White,** who kept sticking his Land Rover in remote parts of the moors. Eventually the vehicle was abandoned and two Scammells failed to remove it. At the end of the exercise, however, a stalwart body of twenty Staff Sergeants and Sergeants, who had been manning the checkpoints, marched up and literally lifted the Land Rover out of the bog. It is good to realise that there are some occasions still where the human is superior to the machine.



EXERCISE FELCAT

Not a free for all but a simulated mountain rescue which calls for energy and skili



EXERCISE FELCAT

The water obstacle produced an intriguing situation

Overseas students excel

It was decided to hold a sports afternoon every so often in which all the courses for which the Squadron was responsible should compete. The events included long, high jump, shooting, cross-country, five-a-side football, and always to mark the end of the day, murder ball. This competition has now been held twice and won both times by Course Tech. Radio Overseas 3/004. The members of the winning team were **Signalmen Rukbahdur Pun, Birendra Subba, Suresh Gurung, Bishnu Gurung** and **Uai-Chandra** from Gurkha Signals, **Lance-Corporals Akpabey** and **Asanti** from Ghana, **Lance-Corporal Humed Alli** from Sudan, **Private Ocila Simei** from Uganda and the team manager was **Lance-Corporal Alfred Edison Ojwiya O'Yeta** from Uganda.

Hockey — not so friendly perhaps

At the present time that most vicious of all sports, an inter-Squadron 'friendly' hockey league, is in progress. The aim of this competition was to involve as many players as possible in addition to the Regimental gladiators. Our team normally consists of a front-line containing, **Staff Sergeant John Carr, Sergeant 'Tricky' Dick Forster, Sergeant Georgie Whitfield, Lieutenant Nigel Pullman, Lance-Corporal Leonard Morland,** half-backs **Sergeant 'Robby' Gallagher, Captain Jim Storr, Sergeant Trev Lloyd,** full-backs **Sergeant Les Grubb** and the mighty **Sergeant Les Dicker** and in goal **Sergeant 'Taff' Morgan.** Since about 50 per cent of the team come from Radio Relay Group and our umpire is normally **Captain Nigel Ribchester,** who runs that group, we are expecting to finish fairly high in the league.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

FOR once, we are pleased to report that we have had a relatively quiet month . . . the 'long, hot summer is over'!

July has seen two pass-off parades, the first being on 9th July, which had a record attendance of 178 parents and friends of the recruits. No doubt encouraged by this support, the recruits of 1 and 7 Troops produced a good parade and afterwards were congratulated by the Inspecting Officer, **Brigadier A. J. Dyball, C.B.E., M.C., T.D.,** Deputy Commander, Northumbrian District.

Best recruit of No. 1 Troop was **Signalman D. T. Jones,** who shortly begins training as a lineman, and from 7 Troop was **Signalman J. Godfrey,** who goes on to train as a combat radioman.



Best recruit on 7 Troop passing out parade was Signalman J. Godfrey

Nos. 5 and 6 Troops passed off on 23rd July, and were inspected by **Air Vice-Marshal H. Durkin,** 90 Signal Group, R.A.F. Unfortunately, a fly-past of Jet Provosts, from R.A.F. Leeming had to be cancelled due to a low cloud base. Best recruits were **Signalman G. C. McAvery** (5 Troop) and **Signalman K. J. Harris** (6 Troop), who shortly begin training as a combat radioman and technician, respectively.

Tennis

In the previous WIRE notes, the tennis team were reported as having been quite successful to date in the Northern Command Inter Units Tennis Championships. We are now pleased to report that **Captain Alan Browne** and **Captain Brian Swift,** our Education Officer, succeeded in reaching and winning the final of the Inter Unit Doubles Championship, in which they beat **Major Davies** and **Captain Odolie,** of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate. **Lieutenant Peter Bowles,** partnered by **Sergeant Jim Lindsay,** was not so successful. Much to his opponents' disgust, he spent more time retrieving his wayward dog than he did playing tennis!

Junior Signalmen Troop

From things of small beginnings . . .

Since it first began in March of this year, the Junior Signalman intake has expanded rapidly. Not only in numbers, but also in the variety of activities. Evening classes at No. 1 Resettlement Centre cover woodwork, metalwork and welding, and it is hoped in September to start courses on vehicle maintenance. We have a thriving modelling club under the direction of **Captain John Young** and **Sergeant Roger Parsons.** Our canoe mould arrives shortly, and if **Sergeant Chris Davidson** can master the intricacies of fibre-glass, we should soon all be at sea (one way or the other).

Away from the Regiment, our interest trips have taken us around power stations, down coalmines and up to Warcop for live firing from a tank, at the kind invitation of the R.A.C. Depot.

In the sporting field, our potential is starting to show. The Regimental team for the Army Minor Units' Swimming Championship at Camberley includes **Lieutenant Chris Enright** (O.C. Troop), **Signalman 'Skin' Evans** and **Signalman Chris King.** (The O.C. adds, with regret, that this is not the order they generally finish in). We lack the weight in the pack to put out a XV this season, but watch us in the athletics next year.

Congratulations to . . . Lieutenant Nigel Fairley on the occasion of his marriage to **Miss Claire Walker,** and **Signalman Fuller** to **Miss Ada Briggs;** we wish them all every happiness in the future. Also to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Hodges** on the birth of their son.

Farewell to . . . Lieutenant Graham Gordon, who is leaving us to earn a living in 'the big wide world; **W.O.2 O'Neill** who, no doubt, is happy to be posted to Liverpool, down the road from his beloved Manchester United; **Sergeant Urry** and **Sergeant Tuplin,** whose dulcet tones will no longer be heard across Helles Square; and **Lance-Corporals Uttley** and **McGonigle,** whose services are no doubt missed by 40 Squadron, R.C.T.

Welcome to . . . W.O.2 Thomas, our new Chief Clerk, and **Sergeant Malone,** who comes to us from 14th Signal Regiment; to **Sergeant Moore,** posted in from 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

2 SQUADRON (DEPOT)

Sergeants' Mess Annex

With the Depot being located some two miles away from the rest of the Regiment, there has always been a problem of proper facilities for the Senior N.C.O.s of the Corps who are in transit through the Depot.

This problem has now been overcome by the opening, on 20th July, of our own Sergeants' Mess Annex, within the Depot, by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood.** The bar has been named 'Boyle's Bar,' after our S.S.M., **Jack Boyle,** who has been the chief instigator of the venture. The C.O. pulled the first pint, and after that **Corporal Alex Watson,** the transitee caterer, quickly swung into action for the 30 thirsty guests invited for the opening. Future

(*Continued on page* 353)

(*Continued from page* 352)



BOYLE'S BAR

Left to right: Sergeant Malone, Sergeant Meikle, Sergeant Hilder, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Boyle, Sergeant Laing, Sergeant Waugh, Sergeant Musgrave, Barman—Corporal Watson

transitee seniors please note that you now have your own Mess, and we look forward to welcoming you.

Cricket

Every Thursday afternoon, the Cadre challenges the Transitees to a 20-over game of cricket for a crate of beer. The Transitees were always a completely unknown side and often gave the Cadre a hard time, but recently **Sergeant 'Ging' Hilder,** formerly of the Cadre, and our captain, has come on held strength for his last six months, and now plays for the Transitees. Playing for the G.O.C.s XI against the Yorkshire Gentlemen on 25th July, he got 6 for 27, so the Cadre really are up against it. Cricket enthusiasts are always welcome at the Depot.

13th Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 40

DESPITE what our friends in the 'exercise area' may think, serving in Birgelen is neither dull nor inactive. Life in the Regiment during the past month has been as varied as the weather. The 'silly' season is with us and on any one day a number of our Senior N.C.O.s are busy planning and scrounging, and in some cases praying, to ensure the success of their initiative projects. Well done to those people who have already completed theirs, and the best of luck to those yet to take the plunge.

Talking of plunging, the poor weather coupled with 'teething' troubles has meant that our new swimming pool got off to a slow start, but is now proving a boon and pleasure to everyone. In addition our Second-in-Command **Major Dicky Nice** and **Second-Lieutenant David Sharpe** are both well on their way to qualifying as algologists (another first in the Corps?) or should it be algolic engineers.

After a lapse of some years we have decided once again to enter teams in the Nijmegen marches. After much 'in fighting' the job of Officer i/c fell to **Second-Lieutenant David Dobson** ('we have ways of making you walk') for the men, and **Captain Penny Ames** for the girls' team. Despite many sore and aching feet, the success of the teams in training and other competitions such as the Rheindahlen Marches suggested that both of our teams would be successful.

With all these activities, together with preparation for the Morrison Cup, our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson,** might have been forgiven if he had wondered what he had let himself in for. However the truth is that he was delighted with everything he saw.

Farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. A. C. Baldwin

On 7th July we said goodbye to **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. C. (Peter) Baldwin** and his wife **Judy** on his relinquishing Command of the Regiment.

Colonel Peter had been our Commanding Officer for two-and-a-quarter years during which time he and **Judy** had endeared themselves to everyone by their deep personal interest in the welfare of the members and families of the Regiment, and by the tremendous energy and enthusiasm with which they encouraged and supported the many activities that go to make up Regiment life.

After formal dining out in the Officers' Mess on 3rd July, **Colonel Baldwin** was the guest of honour at a farewell dinner in the Sergeants' Mess on the following evening. Rumour has it that there were only two speeches during the evening. As the norm is eight to ten it must indeed, have been a unique event.

The final farewell to **Colonel Baldwin** and **Judy** took place in the Junior Ranks' Club on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7th July. In the presence of all ranks and families of the Regiment a farewell gift was presented by **Lance-Corporal Luckett,** whose excellent speech reflected the feelings of us all.

After the ceremony many members of the Regiment, their wives and children lined the route to the camp gates and to the accompaniment of appropriate music **Colonel and Mrs. Baldwin** were driven out of Mercury Barracks in an open carriage.

We wish them both every success and happiness in their future post in Rome.

Welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. W. A. Stephenson

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome to the Regiment our new Commanding Officer and his wife **Betty.** We wish them both a very happy stay with us.

Nijmegen Marches

This unique and colourful event took place between 20th and 23rd July in the area surrounding this famous Dutch city. Each day a course of 50, 40 or 30 km. had to be completed in 11 hours and each day's route was different.

The Regimental men's team competed in the 40 km. 'with kit' march, and the preparation and training the team had done soon proved its worth. The team completed the course in fine style and were outstanding by virtue of their fitness and smart turnout.

Our congratulations to everyone and a special thank you to **Sergeant Andy Forrest,** our Canadian colleague, who stepped in at the last moment to take charge of the administrative backing for the team and did a superb job.

The girls participated as part of a team entered by W.R.A.C. units in Rhine Area and despite losing their team captain, a casualty before the start, and two more members through injuries, did splendidly and gained a team medal. Well done girls.

14th Regiment strengthen local ties
Altar presented to Village Church

The Village of Norton-juxta-Kempsey

ASK anyone in the Corps where 14th Signal Regiment is based and invariably the answer will be Worcester. Fair enough, but not absolutely accurate, for we are not actually located within the bounds of that city, but live in the village of Norton-juxta-Kempsey, out in the country, south of Worcester.

Except, perhaps, for the fact that the parish has the barracks, and thus home of the Regiment located in it, Norton is a fairly typical Worcestershire village. Roads from all directions wind past the black and white period cottages and farm buildings to the centre of the village, which is dominated by the church, the pub and the war memorial, and inevitably includes a small garage as well as a post office-cum-general stores. The fairly conventional composition of any English village; but this story is about only one of these facets of rural life—the village church, and how a simple request developed and produced an occasion of great pleasure for the parish community and the Regiment—14th Signal Regiment—at the barracks in the village.

One thing that was missing

In spite of its fine surroundings, this chapel lacked a focal point. The Vicar of Norton, the **Reverend C. H. Robinson,** who we are lucky to have as our Regimental Chaplain, was determined to correct this deficiency and asked some time ago if the unit could lend him a table to serve as an altar in this chapel. The Regiment decided that it could do better than this by presenting to the church an altar for permanent use in the chapel. Under the expert guidance and sharp eye of our carpenter, **Mr. K. T. Hope,** a large quantity of oak was bought locally and quickly shaped by him into a splendidly simple, but very attractive altar. The front was surmounted with a plain oak cross, and the whole mounted on to a platform which was suitably carpeted to make it appropriate to use for Holy Communion.

Installation was a problem

The installation in the church was not easy, for not only did **Mr. Hope** have to remove a pew screen, take out three pews and re-install the screen, but the floor of this ancient building was so much out of true that he first had to construct a level platform to go under the altar platform. Add to this task the problem of removing and subsequently refitting part of the electric heating system, as well as 'making good' with a coat of distemper for the church wall, and it will be appreciated that **Mr. Hope** certainly had a task on his hands. However, with his customary cheerfulness, skill and attention to detail, **Mr. Hope** produced a very fine finished article, which has imediately enhanced both the beauty and dignity of the chapel.

The Bishop Officiates—an old friend of the Corps

The Patron Saint of Norton Church is St. James. Each year the church members celebrate their patronal festival on St. James's day, at the end of July, and it was on this great occasion in the calendar of the village this year that the new altar was consecrated. As many readers will be aware, only a Bishop can consecrate an altar. Recently there has been a change of Bishops in Worcester, and it was with great pleasure that we learnt that the new Lord Bishop of Worcester, **Doctor Robin Wood, C.V.O.,** had agreed to carry out the consecration; a privilege indeed that the Bishop should visit the parish church so soon after taking up his new appointment, and the more so when it was learned that he had postponed his holiday in order to carry out the dedication.

On the occasion, the church was absolutely packed. Every seat was filled and chairs had to be brought from the nearby vicarage to accommodate those who could not get into the pews, for the combination of the feast day, the first visit of the Bishop and the presentation of the altar caused practically everyone in the village to turn up. The congregation was further swelled by the presence of many members of the Regiment and their wives and children. The service—evensong—was simple and straightforward. The Lessons were read by the local doctor and the acting Commanding Officer, **Major R. Trelawny.** During the consecration part of the service the Bishop deservedly praised **Mr. Hope** for his fine workmanship. In his address, **Dr. Wood** perhaps revealed why he had elected to be present, for in his opening remarks, he said how pleased he was to be back amongst the Corps again, and told us that during the war he had been a chaplain at No. 1 Signal Training Centre, Catterick, followed by a tour at No. 2 Centre at Prestatyn, before serving with 7th Armoured Division Signal Regiment in the Western Desert.

After the service, everyone assembled on the vicarage lawn, where excellent refreshments were served by the ladies of the village from a marquee, erected for the occasion by **Sergeant P. J. Slavin** and his merry men. During this informal gathering, the Lord Bishop met and spoke to all the members of the Regiment present.

Very worth while

So the day ended and as one walked back to the barracks passing through the many varied trees and shrubs of the churchyard it was realised that the whole occasion from beginning to end — if indeed there ever is an end in such matters — can at the very least strengthen further the ties between the barracks and the village and perhaps, even better, set higher standards to be maintained in all aspects of our lives in the future.

A FEW MISGUIDED IDEAS ABOUT SACCONE & SPEED.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply French wines.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply the expensive vintages.

And now for the truth.

Saccone & Speed supply a wide range of excellent French wines.

Saccone & Speed also supply a superb selection of expensive vintage wines.

But what a lot of people don't realise is that we supply a whole range of surprisingly good quality inexpensive wines.

So if you don't feel like forking out for a Latour '49, we can always do you something nice for under a pound.

SACCONE & SPEED LTD.

In association with

Charles Kinloch & CO. LTD.

KINLOCH HOUSE,
17 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON NW10.

FORCES U.K. TRADE-IN SCHEME

If you are to be posted overseas soon and wish to dispose of your present car, we will give you a high trade-in figure now against any future purchase.

FOR FULL DETAILS FILL IN THIS COUPON

NAME_____ RANK_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

_____

MAKE OF CAR_____ MODEL_____

MILEAGE_____ WHEN FIRST REGISTERED_____

COLOUR_____ EXTRAS FITTED_____

_____

LHD ☐ RHD ☐

CONDITION

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Ghastly ☐

* Don't worry about HP settlements outstanding Purchase Tax liabilities or import duties, Weir Lodge will settle them all without any fuss or bother.

WEIR LODGE **WEIR LODGE GARAGE LTD.**

Bridge Road, Chertsey. Surrey, Tel. Chertsey 64264/62047



THE MUCH BEMEDALLED MARCHERS OF 16th REGIMENT
12 Volunteers who uphold the good name of the Corps

Back row, left to right: Signalman Bell, Lance-Corporal Fraser, Signalman Hare, Signalman Joyce. *Centre row, left to right:* Signalman Yates, Signalman McKeown, Signalman Farrell, Signalman Palmer. *Front row, left to right:* Corporal Sinclair, Sergeant Williams, Y. of S. Powell, Lance-Corporal Tolman

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

Marching in General . . .

WE spend very little time marching on the parade square nowadays. Marching for fun is, however, very popular in Europe, and in the Regiment our B.A.O.R. Signal Troop is a stronghold of the sport. A team composed mostly of men of this Troop recently marched at Nijmegen. Yeoman Powell has sent the following report:

To the modern soldier in a mobile army 'Marching' is a word uttered by old sweats when remembering days gone by, or Troop Commanders with an inbuilt sadistic streak. My reaction, on arriving in B.A.O.R. Signal Troop, to find notices addressed 'YOS,' stating 'The troop marching team need you,' or simply, 'March and keep fit,' can well be imagined.

A wink being as good as a nod, I accepted the challenge. With a small nucleus from the previous season plus new blood, my volunteers numbered twelve. This team was formed in early February, 1970, and practices commenced with Nijmegen the target.

The Dutch are fanatics at this sport and organised marches take place all over Holland every weekend from early May until October. After obtaining the appropriate literature it was possible to select competitions reasonably close to Rheindahlen in what has proved a very fertile training ground.

In some of the smaller towns Service team entries are rare, and our receptions are both enthusiastic and hectic. Female souvenir hunters are not adverse to stealing cap badges, etc., fortunately we haven't lost a man yet.

Nijmegen Marches in particular

1st Day — Eleven fit and energetic men arrived at the starting point on this the first day's marching. The time was 0545 and the sky was overcast with a slight drizzle, which did nothing to dampen our high morale. The first day took us through Nijmegen and out over the River Waal, over the 'rickety bridge' thus christened because the feet of up to 1,000 marchers set it swaying and bouncing. A few green faces were observed on men who had sampled the Nijmegen beer the night previously. By mid-morning the sun came out and we got dry (in more ways than one) but after a couple of stops for a brew, we pushed on at a fair pace. By 2.30 p.m. we were in sight of Nijmegen, and soon back at camp. On inspecting our feet we found, but for a few blisters, they were still in pretty good shape.

2nd Day — We made an early start on the second day at 0430 so as to avoid as much marching as possible in the mid-day heat. We set a good pace and by 0930 when it was getting very warm, we were half-way round. We completed the day at 1330, very tired and a little sore, but otherwise quite pleased we were half-way there.

3rd Day — A very stiff and sore team started the third day on what is known as the march of the hills, and if anyone says Holland is flat, they have never been on the Nijmegen Marches. The 22lb. of weight we carried was now beginning to be felt, and the team was definitely feeling the strain. However, after a little persuasion and encouragement, not to mention threatening, we arrived back to camp.

4th Day — Spirits were very high on the fourth day, it was nearly over and we still had a full team. We got an early start, and singing our newly learned songs, we pushed on at a cracking pace passing all before us, including a S.A.S (Special Air Service) team, which really boosted the team's morale. By mid-morning our pace had slowed and we had many stops to apply our 'horse linament' to stiffening leg muscles. At 1 p.m. we arrived at the forming-up point approximately 4km. from Nijmegen, where we went through a ceremony of hurtling out the beloved sand bags as far as possible. After a cup of tea and a change of clothes we marched out with much pomp and ceremony behind a British band, heading for the saluting base, which we passed some 50 minutes later. The four-day marches were over. We gained a team medallion and an assortment of blisters, but mostly the satisfaction of knowing we'd completed the course and achieved our team objective.

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Final Lance parade

A REGIMENTAL parade held on the 15th June marked the final presentation of the Lance to the winning Squadron in the Lance competition. This competition, which is held bi-annually, was contested by all three Squadrons in the Regiment, including 249 Signal Squadron which has now disbanded. It consists of various military and sporting activities, and the winner of this final Lance competition was 1 Squadron.

Group Captain N. W. Maskell, Royal Air Force, Director of Signals at Headquarters Far East Command, was the inspecting officer and five L.S. & G.C. medal presentations were made. A Haji songkok was presented to **Staff Sergeant Harum,** who was the fifth member of the Regiment to make the pilgrimage to Mecca.



WELL MERITED AWARDS

The presentation party—Corporal Jardine (Lance bearer), Staff Sergeant Harun (Haji Songkok), Lance-Corporal Baharum, Sergeant Jaafar, Sergeant Salleh and Staff Sergeant Jackson (L.S.G.C.'s) and W.O.2 Ghani who received his warrant

Cricket

As the end of the season approaches we can look back on some highly entertaining games, culminating in the final of the Army knock-out competition. The Regiment having scored 178 for 6 in 36 overs, our opponents, a combined R.E.M.E./R.A.M.C. side, had lost nine wickets and were in the last over when they topped our score to win this close and exciting final. Throughout the competition all team members made notable contributions, however, some excellent batting by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) John Howie** and **Corporal Mick Raybould** are worthy of mention, together with ever improving bowling by **Signalman Mick Langley** and sound wicket-keeping by **Corporal Vic Johnson.**

The Sergeants' Mess having won the recent Officers' and Sergeants' Mess match, we are now engaged in an Inter-Departmental League which includes a team of locally enlisted personnel — some of whom are wielding a bat for the first time.

Association Football

Since the Navy and Air Force entered the Singapore Area Army F.A. League the standard of play has been much higher. After an indifferent start, the 1st XI finished third in division one, just failing to separate the powerful R.A.F. teams, Changi and Tengah, and were Robinson Cup finalists, while the 2nd XI finished third in division four. On the whole our last season in Singapore has been reasonably successful.

The defeat by 40 Commando R.M. by 3-0 in the Robinson Cup Final was a sad blow since in League games we had beaten them at home and held them to a draw away.



ROBINSON CUP FINAL TEAM

Standing, left to right: Major Canham, Corporal Darwin, Corporal Jardine, Corporal Shimmons, Corporal Snaith, Corporal Dyson, Sergeant Elson

Kneeling, left to right: Signalman Hope, Corporal Wolstencroft, Corporal Carr

Sitting, left to right: Staff Sergeant Jackson, Lance-Corporal Wilson

In addition to running both Regimental team, **Major Terry Canham** manages the Army XI. **Staff Sergeant 'Mac' McKenzie** has been a stalwart, as his deputy, coaching and training both unit teams and captaining the 2nd XI. It was a great pity when, four days before the Robinson Cup Final, he was injured and spent Cup Final day in hospital.

Golf

The deciding match of the games against 19th Signal Regiment was recently played at the Singapore Island Country Club. This gruelling international course was a new experience to some of our team. However, having won the singles in the morning and lost the four-ball by 2-3, the overall result was a win for the Regiment by a narrow margin.

Regimental tombola

"18th Signal Regiment invites you to a tombola evening in the Princess Mary Club on Thursday."

This regular B.F.B.S. announcement has been heard for the last time and our final tombola session was staged in the Regimental Club on 24th June. A record crowd of 260 attended this gala occasion, despite the fact that duty free beer had run out. **R.Q.M.S. Charlie Froggatt,** our popular caller, started off the evening by announcing the generous extra prizes which the Commanding Officer had made available for this final evenings.

Mrs. Grace Elson won the special raffle prize, a Mikimoto pearl pendant supported by a gold chain, and the snowball of $300 (£40) was won by **Mrs. E. Wilson,** one of our regular patrons.

For those interested in statistics, the Regiment has paid over $11,000 (£1,500) in local tax and prize money to the value of $53,790 (£7,300) in the last two years. Tombola has been a popular Regimental activity and has helped to support P.R.I. funds. Our thanks go to all those who have been connected with Tombola, in particular the present committee, **W.O.2 Gordon Wallace, S.Q.M.S. Alec Cleghorn** and **Sergeant George Elson,** R.A.P.C., and **Corporal 'Titch' Meredith.** In appreciation of their services they were each presented with a Selangor pewter tankard.

H.Q. Squadron farewell party

On 25th June, 1971, H.Q. Squadron held their farewell party in the P.M. Club. The party, organised by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Wallace** and **Corporal Noordin,** was attended by over two hundred members of the Squadron and their guests. An excellent buffet, both European and Malay, was produced by **Sergeant Drake** and **Sergeant Yahya,** A.C.C. A local group produced the right sort of musical noise and the party was declared a great success.

21st SIGNAL REGIMENT BFPO 42

It is with deep regret that we report the death on the 1st July of Lance-Corporal Harold Finnerty. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow, Shirley, and three children, Sharon, Sean and Heidi.

Athletics

SINCE our last notes the athletics season has come and gone with almost the success for which we had all hoped. Again we turned the tables on 19th Field Regiment, R.A., who beat us in B.A.O.R., and retained the Army Championship Shield. A full report appears elsewhere in this issue.

K.A.P.E.

Lieutenant Tom Moncur is back from his travels in Scotland with a K.A.P.E. team and it is hoped the editor can find room for his article which may be of use to other units and individuals who volunteer for the task.

Visitors

We have had two of our three schoolboy visits — the C.C.F. of Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, came for a week and a small party from Knockbreda High School, Belfast, for another week. As well as seeing the Regiment in action they have had a good look at the R.A.F. and the area from the Mosel to Eindhoven. Full of apprehension when they arrived they seemed very happy when they left, both parties having had the best weather so far this year! A very nice Northern Ireland Shield now adorns our Conference Room as a result.

Harrier support

We have to report that on the 1st July 4 Squadron 21st Signal Regiment ceased to exist — on paper that is.

Apparently 4 Signal Squadron working with 4th Harrier Squadron (R.A.F.) was too confusing in some places, so No. 2 Squadron 21st Signal Regiment now serves the Harrier Force. No. 2 Squadron didn't exist anyway so the solution was comparatively simple, we only hope everyone will get used to addressing mail correctly before we have to have a 4 Squadron or there will be chaos!

Shooting

The Bisley season is over — we didn't expect to do much this year having lost our best shots, but still had one — **Signalman Ford** — in the Army 100, and we claim a moral second in **Lieutenant John Reed!**

The unit target rifle team of **Major Cox, W.O.2 Daniels** and **Signalman Ford** managed to win the Tate Cup for the best Royal Signals team in the A.R.A. Bisley Cup competition.

Congratulations to **Lieutenant John Reed** for shooting for the Regular Army Pistol team and **Major Cox** the Regular Army Target Short and Long Range teams.

27th Signal Regiment BFPO 1

WE welcome to the pages of 'The Wire' the newly formed 27th Signal Regiment, Hong Kong. Formed on the 30th June, 1971, it has been made up of H.Q. Royal Signals, Land Forces Hong Kong, together with the old 252 and 253 Signal Squadrons who now forsake their independence to become 1 and 2 Squadrons respectively of the new Regiment. All will wish the 27th Signal Regiment all happiness and good signalling for the future. Certainly the past reputation of its previously independent elements would indicate a Regiment that will make a name for itself both at work and play.

The notes that follow are the last from the old independent Squadrons.

252 SQUADRON

A Squadron parade was held on the 30th June, 1971, to mark the occasion of the disbandment of a Squadron with an extremely good record, both at work and at play.

On completion of the parade the S.S.M. — **W.O.2 McMahon** presented to the O.C. — **Major R. F. Hi'ls** a Squadron plaque suitably engraved, and the Squadron pennant (well laundered and pressed), as souvenirs of his late independent command.

Recent achievements

We will try not to bore you too much with the Squadron's achievements over the years, but feel it would be sad not to mention a few of our more recent 'highlights.' One activity has been the completion of two community relations projects during 1970/71 — both electrification — one being lighting for a small fishing village, and the other the wiring of a youth hostel on Lamma Island.

In the sporting world the Squadron has always been well represented and has won many trophies over the years. This year alone we have won the Royal Signals Hong Kong athletics, 51 Infantry Brigade minor units athletics, Land Forces Hong Kong minor units athletics, Land Forces Hong Kong minor units football league and cup, Army sevens, and reached the quarter-finals of the major units. In hockey we also won the minor units league and were runners-up in the cup.

Many changes

Structural alterations to the communications in Victoria Barracks are now almost complete, including the installation of equipments for the new D.C.N. system control and T.R.C. The commcen staff have gained invaluable experience of working under wartime conditions, with builder's rubble and dust falling around their feet and equipments, the never ending sounds of phneumatic drills and the constant chatter of the coolie gangs. They have maintained both sanity and communications, and undoubtedly deserve special mention.

Finally, we are all now looking forward to establishing 27th Signal Regiment on the map in Hong Kong, and in writing about the Regiment's activities in future editions of THE WIRE.

253 SQUADRON

Last days

The last days of 253 Signal Squadron were fairly hectic. The O.C. took a long time to recover from the visit by the I. of E. team. The training cell under **Yeoman Benny Newell** got a commcen operator course under way in record time. **Sergeant Brian Connor** finished handing over his troop stores to 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron (he still goes all twitchy when you mention Pye, Cambridge) and **Captain Neville Armitage** after a few nightmares completed the electrification project at Yim Tin Tsai on time.

Electrification project Yim Tin Tsai

On 24th May the Squadron started their third electrification project in Hong Kong. The village, on the island of Yim Tin Tsai, consisted of forty houses, a church and a school. The detachment consisted of sixteen men, some of whom spent the whole five weeks on the project. The semi-permanent staff on the project, **Sergeant Bill Stewart. Corporals Bill Burley, Terry Mann** and **Mick Blythe, Lance-Corporals Tony Humby** and **Mick Foley** and **Signalman Frank Lawson,** established many firm friendships with the villagers and towards the end of their stay were invited to a Chinese wedding. Needless to say a good time was had by all. Despite a typhoon the work was completed on time for the switch on ceremony on 29th June. The Commander 51st Infantry Brigade, **Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott. M.C.,** then performed the switch on ceremony, and with the priests blessing the generator roared into life.

Farewell dinner dance

The switch on ceremony was only the first of two big events the Squadron had arranged for 29th June. The second event was a farewell Squadron function in the evening at the Hotel Miramar. The highlight of the evening was the strip-tease by **Gabrielle,** who after a thorough briefing by **Captain Peter Whitehead** and **Foreman Nick Harries** gave a 'balanced performance' to a mixed audience. She was ably assisted by **Corporal Tom Hall** who had obviously lent a hand on many other occasions. The party finally ended in the early hours — the final Squadron function had indeed been a good thrash.



ELECTRIFICATION AT YIM TIN TSAI
The village headman shows Corporal Mick Blythe and Lance-Corporal Mick Foley around the village. Mick Blythe swears by Chinese style coolie hats—and they suit him



THAT HOTEL MIRAMAR PARTY
Back row, from left to right: Lance-Corporal Tony Humby, Corporal Bill Burley, Lance-Corporal Terry McGregor, Lance-Corporal Mick Foley
Front row, from left to right: R.Q.M.S. Stan Neill, Corporal Mick Blythe, Captain Neville Armitage, Sergeant Bill Stewart
All agree it was a grand Squadron wind-up

Farewell to

Major Martin Pickard on posting to M.O.D., **Corporal Bill Burley** to 20th Armoured Brigade, **Corporal Terry Mann** to 8th Signal Regiment, **Corporal Tony Rowley** to 11th Signal Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Jack McFarlane** to 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment and **Signalman Ken Whillock** to 12th Mechanical Infantry Brigade.

Welcome to

Major Norman Muir from H.Q. Northern Ireland, **Corporal Dave Gomerall** from 255 Signal Squadron, **Corporal John Sizeland** from 8th Signal Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Hugh McGregor** from 21st Signal Regiment.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment
(NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

THE Regiment has had a full and enjoyable programme during the past two summer months. This time has been filled with adventure training, athletics, shooting, battle efficency training, social functions and social sport. All this, not to mention communication exercises.

Communication or recovery

An apt title for our communications exercise in June, for the site was a poor one in good weather, and you all remember June! From the outset, vehicles sank up to their axles and were 'recovered' into their operating positions. The obvious thought struck us all, now we are in, how do we get out—follow closely—no, perhaps not.

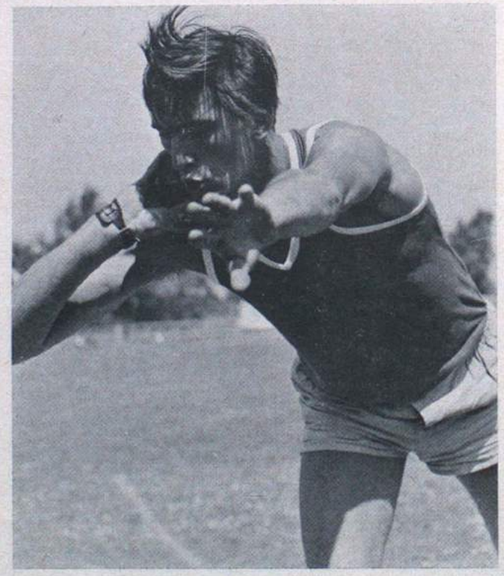
The communications worked well, which, fortunately, gave us an opportunity to consider the move out. From 'close down' to the last vehicle clearing the site, took five hours, with the help of two German winch vehicles and our Scammel, for just 11 vehicles of 1 Squadron. It may have taken longer, but for the Germans, who did an admirable job (especially with the promise of Scotch whisky). It will be remembered with exasperation for a long time.

Athletics

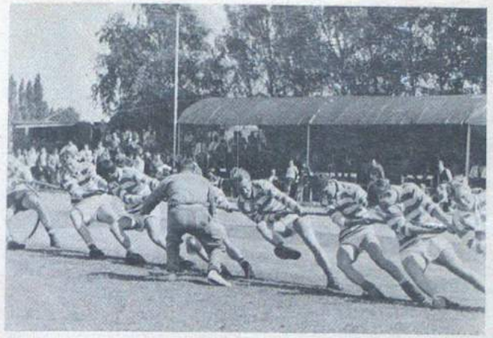
The Rhine Area Meeting took place on 8th June, in which we were easily beaten by 21st Signal Regiment for entry to the B.A.O.R. Athletics Meeting; however, we came a clear second from the rest of the field.

We continued preparing for the Morrison Cup by two weeks' training in a German unit's barracks, for which we were most grateful. **C.S.M.I. Combe** survived, as did **Lieutenant Brian Green,** our captain, despite threats of retribution for excruciating exercises.

The training paid dividends, however, for we came third to 4th Division and Signal Regiment in the Morrison Cup—no mean achievement for a small Regiment. Apart from the



GOOD STYLE
Lance-Corporal Dick Elliott puts the shot 41 feet 7 inches in the Morrison Cup



28th Regiment's outstanding Tug of War team winning the Major Units Trophy at the Morrison Cup Meeting

hard work put in by the whole team, special mention must be made of **Lance-Corporal Dick Elliott,** R.E.M.E., for his outright win in the shot, and **Signalman Dick Taylor's** very plucky run in the 5,000 metres. The tug-of-war team won the Major Units trophy and a crate of beer by beating the winning team of the Minor Units.

Social occasions

The fortnight's athletics training was interrupted by a Sergeants' Mess versus Officers' Mess cricket match—an overwhelming social successs, and a sporting success for the Sergeants' Mess—Sergeants 133, Officers 57. Thank you, the Sergeants' Mess!

The Officers' Mess summer ball, on 9th July, was hailed as the best happening since sliced bread. Many thanks are due to the P.M.C. and the Regiment for the preparation.

The Corporals' Mess summer ball was just as great a success, to judge by the decibels drifting from the Golden Axe Club and the refreshments consumed.

Full-bore shooting

A reasonably successful season. Having won all the major prizes at the NORTHAG Skill-at-Arms Meeting, and proving that, with the wind in the right direction, the majority of the team could hit a barn door from 200 yards, they set forth to U.K. to compete in the Corps and Bisley Meetings.

The Corps SAA Meeting resulted in us coming second to the 'Corps Team' from 30th Signal Regiment. Special mention must be made of **Corporal Tony Hunt,** who won six individual trophies as a Class B competitor, namely the Whitehead, Association, Roberts and Army B Individual Champion.

A long weekend break, when the team split up to enjoy the expensive delights of being in U.K., and then Bisley. Team results were disappointing, due, in part, to one of the team stalwarts, **Lieutenant Roger Howard,** giving an impromptu demonstration of free-fall parachuting during the LMG match run-down, which resulted in a badly-damaged knee. Consequently, he was unable to participate in any further matches which involved a run-down. However, two team members, **Captain (T.O.T.) Reg Davies** and **Corporal Tony Hunt,** managed to qualify for The Army Hundred.

On the return journey, **Corporals Bob Cobb** and **Bill Hitchens** experienced one of the roughest summer sea crossings to date. They reported that the tourists were easily recognised by their green faces and their constant rushing to the 'Heads' while our erstwhile 'line-shooters' consumed a heavy meal, vast quantities of ale and then slept through it all—lashed to the bar.

Tropo scatter

As O.C. it is a must for me to include our exploits, especially as we hogged our own section of the July/August edition.

We have just returned from our first trial without advisers, well pleased with our efforts. The trial was to confirm the extent of our knowledge (luckily we are a big troop) and to test the equipment. To give the trial a purpose we provided rear link communications for one thousand men, training at Vogelsang in the Nord Eiffel. The two terminals set up with friendly rivalry over the H.F. radio and Tropo order wire and as the pile of Girlie books grew in System control so did our confidence in our ability.

(Sorry, we will have to cut you here this time due to pressure on space — Editor).

Franfist

The Regiment undertook its Battle Efficiency training at Vogelsang, an old German training camp overlooking a system of deep lakes in the Eiffel mountains.

Members from each Squadron formed a composite Squadron under the Training Major, **Major Frank Philp,** for two weeks.

Also in the camp were 1st Glosters and an American Squadron of tanks equipped with M 60's. The co-operation between the various units could not have been better. Typical of the spirit was an invitation from the Americans to one of our troops to look over their tanks and 'have a cabby.' The invitation was eagerly accepted and after a successful afternoon (despite knocking down a tree), the Americans were invited back for beer.

The high spot of the exercise was providing refugees and columnists to harrass the Glosters defending a minefield gap. A more enthusiastic set of down-hearted refugees has yet to be seen. The greatest achievement was **Sergeant 'Slim' Mullaney,** our Pioneer Sergeant, who acting as fifth column managed to return to the refugee R.V. with one more Land Rover than he left with.

The whole exercise was a success, even **S.S.M. Tony Jones** maintained his annual record by finding and falling in one of the few holes on the training area. It was certainly the smelliest.

OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

Why not contact

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

THE Specialist Employment Bureau for Telex, Teleprinter and Telephone Operators where you are assured of a welcome and free advice and guidance on career prospects in the commercial world.

THE THREE TEES TRAINING SCHOOL has the full range of Telex and Teleprinter machines and Commercial Telephone Boards and offers free tuition to those seeking employment, both Permanent and Temporary.

Call, write or phone:

110 Fleet St., London, E.C.4. (01-353 3611)
124 Regent St., London, W.1. (01-734 0365)
20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)

WIRE PHOTOS
Black and white please.
NOT colour prints or transparencies

30th SIGNAL REGIMENT, BLANDFORD CAMP

The Right Honourable Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, M.P., Under Secretary of State (Army) visits Army Strategic Command









1. Arrival of Under Secretary of State *(Second from right)* **accompanied by the Army Commander Lieutenant-General Sir Mervyn Butler, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. 2. Lance-Corporal Bill Ridley of the U.K. Battalion A.M.F.(L) Signal Troop plays it cool. In the centre W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Colin Bland. 3. Local boy story—Sergeant Dick Sergeant from Swanage with his line vehicle. 4. Corporal Harry Wishart explains the role of the S.R. A13 H.P.**

MONDAY, 19th July, was one of those brilliant summer days that 30th Signal Regiment reserves for their most important visitors.

At 11.40 hours The Under Secretary of State arrived by helicopter, accompanied by the Army Commander **General Sir Mervyn Butler, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.** They were met by the Commanding Officer and given a briefing in the Regimental Mounting Centre.

The Under-Secretary showed great interest in the deployment of the Regiment which, at the present time, has detachments in Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, France, B.A.O.R., Denmark, Northern Ireland, the Bahamas, Anguilla and Australia, and was then taken to see the Squadrons carrying out training, and gained first-hand knowledge of the role played by Royal Signals in Army Strategic Command.

One of the most interesting displays was produced by the A.M.F.(L) U.K. Battalion Signal Troop.

After visiting the training, the Under-Secretary met and spoke to members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and had lunch with the Officers, to complete a most enjoyable and interesting visit.

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Opto Electronics for example.

Chieftain, probably the most sophisticated battle tank in use operationally in the world today, employs an impressive array of M.E.L. opto-electronic devices. Active and passive sighting systems for the driver, gunner and commander, and a wide variety of instrumentation for the fighting compartment, provide a vital contribution to this formidable vehicle's superior performance under all conditions. In addition, similar systems are being developed by M.E.L. for the new fighting vehicles now coming into service.

M.E.L. has been successfully associated with opto-electronic development for many years, and has now been augmented by the traditional optical skills and expertise of Watson and Ether (Royston) Ltd., resulting in a very powerful and experienced organisation in this important field.

M.E.L. leadership in Defence Electronics also extends to Radio Communication, Reconnaissance Radars, Radio Intercept Equipment, Sonar systems and Microwave systems.

The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd.
Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.
England. Tel. 0293 - 28787.

M E L



28 Comwel. Inf. Bde. H.Q. and Signal Squadron, c/o G.P.O. Singapore

Staff list

O.C.	**Major L. T. Waumsley (U.K.)**
Second-in-Command ...	**Capt. B. D. Roach (Aus.)**
Troop Commanders ...	**Capt. J. A. Grierson (U.K.)** **Lt. J. Lawrence (Aus.)** **Lt. G. N. Donaldson (U.K.)**
S.S.M.	**W.O.2 D. C. Prescott (U.K.)**
R.Q.M.S.	**W.O.1 A. T. Curnow (Aus.)**

WE haven't got a number yet, we haven't got any equipment yet, but we are in business and you will be hearing more detailed accounts of our future activities.

Suffice to say at the moment, that we are in the process of forming a new Squadron which is to consist of British, Australian and New Zealand Signallers, with the role of providing communications for the Commonwealth Brigade formed in Singapore to fill the vacuum left by the withdrawel of British Forces from the island.

This means, of course, that there is still a posting to be held for you in Singapore in what promises to be a most interesting and valuable job.

Already **S.S.M. Don Prescott and Corporal Tony Watson** are proving invaluable in their "scrounging" forays to both 18th and 19th Signal Regiments. Our thanks to both of these illustrious Regiments for providing a lot of bits and pieces that go together to form the soul of a unit.

QAP for further information.



7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (202), B.F.P.O. 37

JULY saw the end of yet another successful season for our athletics team. We also managed to prove that the 'Rat' is truly amphibious during floatation training and the very same 'Rat' managed to acquire a reasonable suntan at summer camp, although at the expense of becoming somewhat windswept.

The B.A.O.R. Athletics finals

Once again our athletics team has had a highly successful season. Although only runners-up in the Divisional championships the hours of training paid off in the B.A.O.R. finals at Sennelager in what turned out to be a most exciting competition and a very pleasing victory over our rivals 54 Squadron R.C.T. **Sergeant Harry Escott** had a marvellous race in the 1500 metres and although he tore a muscle in the second lap he still went on to win by a very good margin. Other performances of particular note were an excellent 200m. by **Lance-Corporal Alan Kite** followed by a demonstration of how to run a 4 x 100m. relay by **Sergeant Phil Oxley**, R.A.P.C., **Lance-Corporal Ian McKenzie, Corporal John Smith** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Kite.**

The Morrison Cup

Due to the injury he sustained at the B.A.O.R. finals **Sergeant Harry Escott** was unable to celebrate his tenth anniversary of winning the Morrison Cup 1500 metres. The competition was good but here again depth of training told and a comfortable win over 4th Guards Brigade was obtained.

The Army finals

By winning the B.A.O.R. minor units championship we once again qualified to go to Aldershot for the Army championships.



THE MAN BEHIND 7th ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON'S ATHLETIC PROWESS

Sergeant Harry Escott at the age of 39 still pulls his full weight in the Squadron athletic team both as team captain and performer. He is seen here winning the 1500 metre event at the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championship

In a first class contest that swung back and forth between four teams we were narrowly beaten into second place for the second year running by the Mercian Brigade depot. This proved to be the most exciting competition of the year and at one time it looked as though three teams; ourselves, the Junior Leaders' Regiment R.C.T. and the Mercian Brigade, would tie for first place.

The amphibious 'Rat'

Our annual floatation training at Ohr Park near Hamelin once again proved to those cynics in our midst that our Brigade Headquarters is amphibious and that our 'Rat' had no intention of joining the rats of Pied Piper fame.

Exercise 'Count Down VI'

Once again Eckenforde, near Kiel, provided the venue for our Squadron summer camp. We endeavoured to send the whole Squadron up to the camp in two groups, each group doing an eight-day course. The timetable was a full one which included volley ball and football competitions, canoeing and assault boating indispersed with an amphibious assault course that would keep the Marines happy, orienteering and an initiative exercise into Denmark. Our evasion exercise attracted a large amount of interest from the local Germans — however, a friendly peasant cunningly disguised as **Signalman 'Yorky' Sykes** sunbathing in swimming trunks on the side of a country lane might be expected to arouse some speculation if nothing else.

It is always interesting at a camp to see what people get up to in their spare time. Activities this year varied from some very intense bird watching to one person who spent a great deal of time collecting butterflies. Squadron activities are nothing if not varied.



7th ARM'D. BDE. SQUADRON ATHLETIC TEAM—THEY FINISHED SECOND IN THE ARMY MINOR UNITS CHAMPIONSHIP

Back row, from left to right: Corporal Mogg, Signalman Houchen, Corporal Kelly, Private Winn, Lance-Corporal Mackenzie, Signalman MacFadden, Lance-Corporal Kite

Front row, from left to right: Corporal Smith, Sergeant Escott (Team Captain), Captain Hodges, Sergeant Davidson (Team Manager) Sergeant Oxley

Trophies include Winners 7th Armed Brigade and B.A.O.R. Minor Units Athletic Championship, Runners up 1st Division and Army Minor Units Athletic Championships

4 Guards Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (204) B.F.P.O. 17

Along the East German border

OUR turn again at showing the flag on the Eastern Border. This proved uneventful but very interesting.

We had the grand conducted tour of the area by **Mr. Mills,** the British Frontier Service Official.

The East Germans we saw spent their time observing us through binoculars and were highly amazed by the antics of **Lance-Corporal Brian Robertson** (as we are all the time) but since the closest we came to them was six feet we could hardly be accused of fraternising. Throughout the two days we drove many miles but saw nothing to create an incident.

Farming helps Anglo-German goodwill

Part of our Anglo-German relations was to send three of our "merry men" to an old exercise area of ours. This is our small way of saying "thank-you" to the many friendly farmers we meet. Our host was a farmer in the Vorkehim area.

The three willing workers were **Lance-Corporal Dick West, Lance-Corporal Bill Foster** and **Signalman Derek Lamb.**

The first afternoon we spent loading bales of hay. After a small fiasco the farmer and his son showed us how to load hay. Driving the tractor back to the farm **Signalman Lamb** found the wrong gear and half of our afternoon's work was on the ground again. From then on we had a chauffeur (the farmer's ten-year-old son).

The next day we were relegated to log-cutting. A farmer's life is not all driving tractors and harvesters; this we really found out over the next few days. But it is not all hard work. The farmer's eldest son took us to the local discotheque and swimming pool. Although not speaking very much German between us we had a very good time and made some new friends. We have been invited back to the farm but on a social footing next time so until then we are all trying to learn a bit more German.

The Morrison Cup

I think the whole Corps in B.A.O.R. looks forward to these two days more than most in the year. It almost becomes an Old Comrades' Association. The whole event being enjoyed by spectators and athletes. The Squadron did very well in coming a creditable second to the Oink, Oinks of 7th Armoured Brigade.

Corporal Don Murray did his normal fine run in the 400 meters and **Second Lieutenant Mark Riley** confidently stepped over the high jump bar to win. **Captain David Walker,** our R.A.E.C. officer gave a very good display in the javelin having had to stand in at last minute for **Captain (Q.M.) Pat Duffy.** (Watch out sir, your age is showing).

We were very pleased to have C.C.R. Signals, **Brigadier W. E. Sherrat, M.B.E.,** visit us in July. This was an informal visit just to say "Hello" and have a look round. His visit was its usual success to the Corps members and gave much pleasure to all members of The Household Division that met him.

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) B.F.P.O. 801

L.S. Patrols

THE Signal Squadron is being kept very busy during the present troubles in Ireland. The Squadron has been providing a riot squad of twenty men to help fill the ranks of 'D' Rifle Company (4 RTR), who are now colocated with the Squadron. The squad comprises cooks, radio operators, clerks, drivers and anyone else who is available. The squad has now developed into a very efficient unit.

Communications

Our R.R.B. detachments have been kept very busy during the past month. **Corporal John Campbell** and **Signalman Tommy Roe** have been using a trailer-mounted R.R.B. station, designed to be airlifted by a Wessex helicopter.

Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Donnelly, Signalman 'Ginge' Adcock and **Corporal Ronald Hendry** provided a radio detachment to help in the internment operation.

Sport

Sport has definitly not been forgotten in the Signal Squadron. Badminton and table tennis are constantly being played. Two new sports to the Squadron have been started, water ski-ing and sub-aqua diving.

Our cricket team has trouble in getting together eleven cricketers at any one time but manages to play and win a few matches. The Squadron also has several keen fishermen who have been spending their leisure time on the banks of the River Bann.

Accommodation

Facilities in the factory in Lurgan are gradually improving. Every soldier now has a latex foam mattress instead of a horse hair mattress and steel lockers have been issued. This is all in preparation for the permanent Brigade Headquarters which will eventually be stationed in Lurgan.

Our new medical centre has just been started and **Corporal Perrow,** R.A.M.C., says that at the present rate it will be finished in 1973.

From the Commcen

Since the last mention, we have done away with exercise-type communications and are now working 'the actual thing.'

Under the directorship of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Wall,** the usual Commcen staff (**Dave Cloake, 'Chippy' Wood, 'Norbert' Clark, Trev Lloyd, Dave Hartrey** and **Barrie Holmes**) plus the T.G. lads ('**Jock' Mills, 'Taff' Ball, Neil Hatton** and '**Randy' Burns**) have joined up with the linies (**Frank Paterson, Pat Dooher, Norrie Rookes, 'Zebedee' Parry, Laurie Simms** and '**Robbo' Robertson**) in setting up a complex consisting of Cipher/Commcen/Exchange serving the whole Brigade Signal Squadron. Under the eyes of our two Sergeants, **Pete Hockram** and **Tom Langley,** teething troubles have been overcome and we have settled down into the unusual experience of being in one place for more than a fortnight at a time.

Everyone knows everybody else's job and we have even got **Norrie** on punch-up with '**Taff**' fiddling on the exchange. Everyone else remains normal.

We would like to congratulate **Dave Cloake** and his wife on a 6lb. 14oz. addition to their family. A boy on 15th August.

Arrivals and Departures

We say farewell to **Lieutenant D. W. Conran** who has been posted to 28th Signal Regiment.

We welcome to the Squadron **Captain C. J. Walters** and congratulate him on his promotion and engineering degree. We also welcome **Corporal Stevens** and **Lance-Corporal Walton** who have just arrived back from a successful B2-B1 R Op. Course.

WIRE PHOTOS

Black and white please, not colour prints — still less colour transparencies.

12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. (212), B.F.P.O. 36

THE months of June and July were busy ones for the Squadron, with the preparation and participation of the yearly Exercise 'Summer Sales,' the 2nd Division Athletics Meeting and our annual Summer Camp 'June Bug.'

The Summer Camp preparations started in small whispers early in the month with frequent 'O' Groups in the 2IC's office and the rumour that this year's camp would be a 100 per cent attendance by all ranks. Needless to say, on the day the train moved out, we had to take 'Spastic' the mongrel mascot and **Corporal Connell's** dog to make up the necessary numbers.

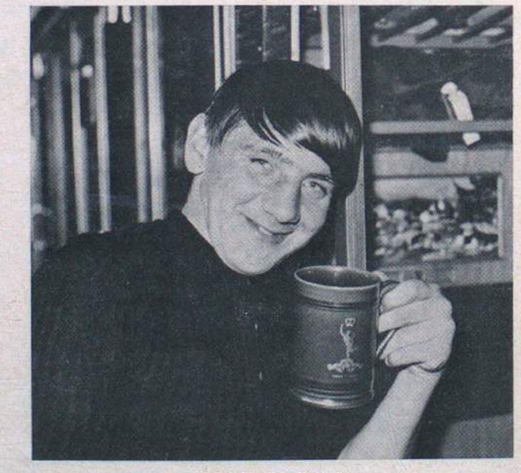
A Mark I Sun had not been detailed

With the persistent rain we had been having in Osnabruck everyone was looking forward to catching a Bavarian suntan on arrival. However, due to an oversight by the R.S.M., Blue Clouds and a Mk. I Sun had not been detailed on Pt. I Orders and we were welcomed by lashings of rain and a bedraggled person clad in pyjamas and wellington boots who we found out later to be the R.Q.M.S.

A day later the sun did find us and for the remaining period we had fresh blue skies and bags of heat. Sport was in abundance with daily trips to the Stamberger See where fishing, boating and canoeing took place. **Captain Allen** and **Lieutenant Chatterton** gained their Helmsman Grade IX badges on these outings, but only after ramming the jetty at full speed and running down a small yacht owned by a local youth, with the Johnson 40 h.p. engined assault boat we had with us.

Mountaineering became a very popular exercise and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who managed to make the Guesthouse at 8,000 ft., despite the extra price of beer! **Driver Cave-Whitley,** now known to his friends as the 'Climbing Doctor' (boils drawn while you climb), achieved his ambition by reaching the summit the hard way, whilst we all waited down below, biting our nails and wishing we had called out the Alpine Troops.

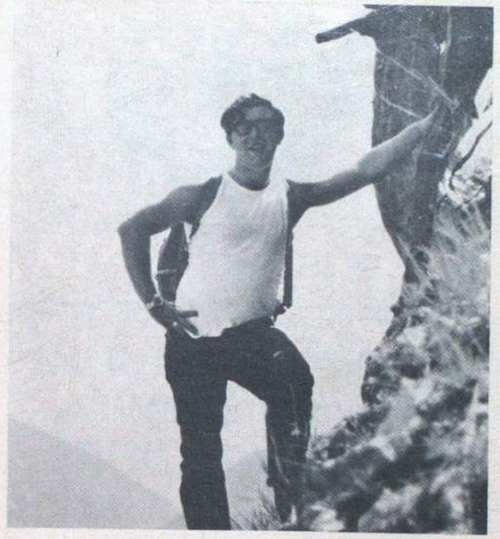
It would only be right to mention that we received invaluable assistance from the local unit of Alpine Troops, who



"ROGER TO THAT"
Signalman "Jock" Black testing out his Royal Signals Tankard on the train down to Summer Camp

(*Continued on page* 365)

(*Continued from page* 364)



"PHEW, I THOUGHT SEVENS WAS STRENUOUS!"
Signalman "Paddy" Moraghan nearly at the summit of one of the local mountains

gave us the use of their camp for showers and other amenities and the kind offer of taking some of the 'keen' soldiers on a mountaineering exercise with all equipment supplied.

All too soon the 14th July appeared and we closed camp but got a sworn promise from the local people that they would allow us to return next year providing the R.S.M. got a new silencer for his car.

255 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 63

AS announced in the last issue, we are the sole representatives of the Corps in the Gulf, 222 Signal Squadron having closed down, and in this issue we have the first contribution from our Sharjah Signal Troop. Having responsibilities there necessitates fairly frequent 'liaison' visits on both operational and administrative nets, but this intercourse is often made difficult by the R.A.F. cutting down on their aircraft schedules.

On 10th July we held a Pope Cup 5-a-side football competition, in which all troops, including Sharjah Troop, competed. The final was between two teams from Operating Troop (Joint Message Centre), and was won by J.M.C. 'A' team. The cup and trophies were presented by **Brigadier P. J. N. Ward, O.B.E.,** Commander, Land Forces, Gulf, and as it was also his birthday the youngest man in the Squadron, **Signalman 'Irish' McLeod,** who had only just celebrated his 18th birthday, presented him with a bottle of his favourite Tio Pepe sherry, on behalf of the Squadron. In the evening a most successful barbecue was held. Although it is probably the last time that a Pope Cup competition will be held (and more about 10th July in our next contribution, as undoubtedly Op. Troop will be submitting a vast screed on their glorious achievement) we will be able to get in at least another barbecue before December.

Now over to the Troops.

Sharjah Signal Troop

We have great pleasure in announcing the formation of Sharjah Signal Troop of 255 Signal Squadron. **Captain David Marks** is the O.C. and **Second-Lieutenant Chris Durham** has joined us from Bahrain to be Second-in-Command, M.T.O. and i/c Radio, amongst other things.

The Troop Staff Sergeant is **Staff Sergeant Bob Townsend** and we still have **Yeoman Jim Kelly** and **Foreman Keith Bamforth** from 222 Signal Squadron. The Desert Guard and mobile radio section is in the hands of **Sergeant Bob Bodger.**

The Line section, run by **Sergeant Gordon Wilkinson,** although very small, manages to cope extremely well with the vast amount of work caused by the rundown, changeover of exchanges, etc.

Overall, in spite of there now being only a troop where there used to be a squadron we have got off to a very good start and hope to continue like it in the future. (So do we—S.H.Q.).

Hamala Troop (last contribution) — by Sergeant Bill Miles

The last Infantry Battalion has left Hamala and so too must we. The main bulk of the 1st Bn. The Staffordshire Regiment set sail for Sharjah on 21st July leaving behind just the Q.M. and his rear detail party. We continued to provide communications for the rear details until 13.30 hours Friday, 23rd July, at which time we sent out last transmission to Commcen Muharraq. Twenty-four hours later the entire Troop had disbanded and all the equipment was packed and away.

I myself had only been Troop Sergeant for Hamala Troop for two months, having taken over from **Sergeant 'Lemmy' Lomas,** but it had been a pleasure and an experience working with so many varied tradesmen—under one roof. Apart from carrying out their normal work efficiently they also had time to build for themselves a Playboy Club! This club had all the facilities of the real thing. It boasted a swimming pool, tropical fish pond, terrapins, a bar, H.M.S. 'Hamala,' hanging gardens, free food and enough ear bending to last a life-time. But the one commodity which it lacked was **Hugh Hefner's** greatest money winner, women. Not once did a female cross the threshold. I suppose it's a good thing really because she most probably could have ended up like so many of our guests, in the swimming pool, involuntarily.

Our Troop consisted of such Corps men as **Corporal 'Prof' Matthews** and **Lance-Corporal 'Big H' Robinson,** two T.E. Technicians who gave the Battalion more telephone lines than I thought possible. Their motto was, "If the line's engaged, try shouting, someone somewhere might hear you."

Our Radio Relay Technicians were **Corporal Alan 'Gillie' Gillespie** and **Corporal Gerard 'Vinny' Vincent;** both were never short of a 'loop' or two. **Corporal Vincent** was a local hero to the Staffords because he was the 'highly paid' projectionist in the local cinema. He was ably assisted by one of our drivers, **Signalman Andy 'Gash Hand' Cummings.** The local manager thought the world of them; they thought the world of the spare cash each week. Our other driver was **Signalman David 'Hood' Hoodless,** the greatest tea drinker in the Gulf. He would keep any char wallah in business. He maintains that the locals behind the wheel out here must be the best 'aimers' in the world. Their repertoire of road antics never ceases to amaze us. In the Commcen doing the operating we had **Signalman John 'Snowy' Peters** providing me with the latest cricket scores every morning. **Signalman Alec 'Jock' Bell** in between shifts ran Hamala Playboy Club and wrote to his piece of Norwegian 'wood.' **Signalman John 'Piggy' Gibson** when he wasn't on shift was leaping gracefully through the air. No, not a ballet dancer, he was the Squadron goalkeeper. Last but not least of the Commcen Ops. there was **Signalman Dennis 'Busty' Rumbold,** the Gulf discus champion. He also had another unofficial title: Gulf eating champion.

What Troop would be complete without our faithful Linemen. First of all there was **Lance-Corporal Stephen 'Taff' Roberts,** his favourite party piece was the world renowned 'yam sing' consisting of about five pints of virtually anything, then he would retire discreetly to bed, or noisily, whichever was quicker. Then there was **Signalman George 'Paddy' Taylor** who manned the exchange and read Playboy Magazine; do you blame him? And last but never least **Signalman Alister 'Titch' Ross** whose battle cry of "All Jufairies jar me off" nearly got him hung in the Squadron Club one night.

Located in the same building as us was 515 Signal Troop consisting of **Sergeant Fred McMillan.** Yes, a one-man Troop, and he wanted us to provide markers for his march past. He had to cancel it because of 'rain,' or was it lack of markers?

Sergeant McMillan has gone off to Sharjah with the Battalion, our T.E. Technicians and Linemen back to Line Troop Jufair, Radio Relay Technicians to their Troop at Muharraq, Commcen Ops. to J.M.C. Jufair, Drivers to M.T. Troop Jufair, and myself, I'm off to Sharjah to take over the Desert Guard Net. So Hamala Signal Troop is no more. But people have voices, they communicate, Hamala Troop will live in those voices for years to come.

1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (257) B.F.P.O. 102

A rather wet June saw us active on all fronts

THE Squadron participated in Exercise 'Summer Sales'; some rather more than others. By a slight miscalculation on the part of the Brigade Staff, a third of the Squadron had two days extra fresh air and sunshine. But all good things come to an end, and the 'rest' eventually joined us, bringing the rain, which lasted, on and off, for the rest of the exercise. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and the communications went well. We were visited by the Corps Commander, and almost visited by the C.G.S. We trust that **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Rice** enjoyed his exercise with us and found out how things have continued without him since he left us a year ago.

Immediately after our fortnight's 'holiday' we were successful in the Brigade Minor Units' Athletics, where we swept the board. Unfortunately, it was not the same at the 1st Division Championships, where we came sixth (and last), although our track competitors did well, particularly **Captain Gordon Howard** (400 metres) and **Signalman Eric Ball** (800 metres).

Our soccer team, led by non-playing captain, **Corporal 'Taff' Moore,** continues to play the local civilian clubs. We are told that the beer is quite good, whichever village they visit.

Here is news of 7th Artillery Brigade Exercise, 'Whirley Gig,' which we decided to run by lending them **Second-Lieutenant John Allan** and most of his Troop. His notes:

"Although primarily a 7th Artillery Brigade air defence exercise, we ended up as a NATO exercise, with many countries represented, and working on VHF nets which had been carefully planned by **Major Tony Tregoning,** whose Second-in-Command I became, somewhat to my surprise. It was great fun, though there were times that we could have done with a standardised NATO voice procedure phamphlet."

We must record the arrival of our very new Yeoman, **Staff Sergeant Derek Allen;** we have been saving a lot of work for him, as he is already beginning to find out. So many have left that we are beginning to believe that the index system at Records has got stuck in our slot. Still, they have all been replaced, so no doubt life will go on. Thank you to the departed and welcome to the new boys."

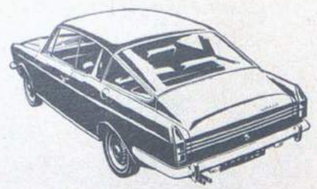
The Squadron offers sincere sympathy to **Signalman** and **Mrs. Ingham** in the loss of their son, who survived only a few hours after being born prematurely. The Squadron Commander, his Troop Commander and three friends attended the funeral and laid a wreath from the Commander and all ranks of the Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. The Corps Commander also sent a personal message of sympathy.

261 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 53

Squadron rally team successes

The Squadron rally team was born last October under the enthusiastic direction of **Sergeant Mike Hartland,** who works in Airfield Troop, Akrotiri, in his spare time. Much useful ground work has been put in since those dark days and useful experience gained by the teams members, namely **Mr. Jim Nicolls,** our tame G.P.O. technician, **Corporal Keith Parsons** and **Sergeant Tom Hornby, Lance-Corporals Dick Leadbeater, Bob Hurst** and **Ken Pilley** and finally our mechanical wizard **Craftsman Pete Dolan,** R.E.M.E. After some disappointments but, nevertheless, enjoyable motoring over the past months the team has produced two recent successes. In a novice rally held a couple of weeks ago **Lance-Corporal Dick Leadbeater** and **Craftsman Pete Dolan** drove off with the beginners' award in the latter's Toyota. Last weekend **Sergeant Mike Hartland** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Hurst** crewed a Land Rover into first place in the military vehicle section of the Crusader rally. Though the other team members have not started their silver collection yet they have provided valuable back-up support to the gladiators. Their chance will no doubt come when the newly purchased (£100) nine-year-old Saab is put into rallying order in the near future. Monte Carlo here we come!

SUNBEAM RAPIER



UK TAX PAID PRICE £1471

TAX FREE SERVICES DISCOUNT PRICE £928

YOUR SAVING £543

Just one of CHRYSLER MILITARY'S

NATO COMMITMENTS

HERE'S MORE!

★ OVER TWENTY MODELS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE

★ DISCOUNTS UP TO 17½% FROM UK BASIC

★ "FAST FOR FORCES" FACTORY HELD PRIORITY STOCKS

★ COMPREHENSIVE "READY TO GO" STOCKS W. GERMANY

★ SPECIAL "NO PROBLEM" FINANCE, INSURANCE, DOCUMENTATION

★ PLANE, TRAIN, BOAT, CHRYSLER COURIER MEETING SERVICE UK

Send for your free info package

LET US TELL YOU MORE ABOUT OUR NATO COMMITMENTS

To INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS
Chrysler Military Sales Ltd., Halkin House, Halkin St., London, SW1.
Telephone 01-235 6484

or CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES CORP., Karistrasse 16, Frankfurt, West Germany.

I am interested in:

For delivery UK ☐ W. Germany ☐ Tax Paid ☐

Name..... Rank.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone No..... Ext.....

Sergeant 'Sandy' Sanderson of 259 Signal Squadron

Reports on an outing in 'Brigand of Changi'

AS promised in our previous notes one of our reporters was aboard the *Brigand of Changi* when she set sail for a week's adventure training. Our reporter on this occasion was **Sergeant 'Sandy' Sanderson. 'Sandy'** reports on the final day's cruising as follows:

"I remember his words explicitly, "all adventure training needs to have an element of risk to make it worthwhile." Two minutes later when the skipper advised we put on the life jackets I realised we were achieving the aim of the exercise, though I personally had not needed any convincing!

Oh, for a wind

Sixteen hours earlier we had headed east off from Famagusta in the *Brigand of Changi*, a 40 foot Bermudan Ketch ('ketch' because of the mast at the back is in front of the helm or something like that anyway). The crew consisted of **Lieutenant Robin Farey** (Captain), **Corporal Pete Sheppard** (Bosun), **Corporals Brian Nesbitt-Clark, Bob Marshall, Alan Sutcliffe, John Atchinson** and myself. The latter five of us having had at least three whole days experience, we felt ready to brave the worst the elements could throw at us. Larnaca harbour was our destination only some forty miles round the coast. We expected to arrive by late afternoon and be sinking a few pints in the evening and sampling the high life of Larnaca. Well five hours later with Famagusta beach still within throwing distance we realised why these fellows get knighted for sailing round the world. The most turbulent water for as far as the eye could see was in the kettle when we made a brew. One suggestion was that we tie a rope to **Brian Nesbitt-Clark,** make him swim ashore and start pulling us along the coastline. The Captain squashed that idea saying something to the effect about it not being the done thing, not that HE had any bright ideas short of having another brew up. At one point he suddenly jumped up shouting "a breeze! a breeze! I have just felt one on my cheek." Nobody else did so we concluded it must have been the backlash from a passing insect.

Hard tacking

About mid-day we at last started to feel the wind and although it was blowing from precisely the direction we wanted to go we steadily made progress towards Cape Greco, a landmark we had decided was the point of no return. About 17.30 we had rounded the Cape but alas as we turned through 90 degrees so did the wind and we were still having to zig-zag or as the Captain put it, hard tacking. It means the same thing apparently.

As the sun went down, the wind came up and the waves got high at which point the landlubber element of the crew began to feel the best course to take was one that set us on a bee-line for the nearest land. **Bob Marshall,** who was navigating for the day, found himself suddenly inundated with offers of assistance. I am not sure whether they were dubious of his course or just felt safer down below.

Now a storm

It was at this point we broke open the life jackets, a 'fresh breeze' was how the skipper classified the wind, my estimation was nearer a 'mild gale!' By midnight we had weathered the storm and could clearly see the lights of Larnaca. The only problem remained was how to find the harbour entrance which lacked channel marker lights. The Captain's answer to the problem was to sail up to the harbour wall then go along it till we saw the opening. I had my doubts about this method since visibility was only about 40 yards and even under engine power you don't exactly turn these yachts on a sixpence but lacking any alternative suggestions in we sailed. With a little assistance from a dredger hand, we found the elusive entrance and finally tied up inside with about a foot of water under the keel.

Nevertheless, very enjoyable

After 24 hours recuperation at Larnaca we cast off for Famagusta again. With perfect conditions we made the return trip in 10 hours. Thus ended a very enjoyable week of beating, reaching, fetching, going about, jibing, tacking and various other terms I have forgotten already. Our thanks to **Lieutenant Farey** for showing us the 'ropes' and to the Corps for making *Brigand* available to us in Cyprus.

SOLDIERS AT SEA



The Skipper—Lieutenant Robin Farey



The Driver—Corporal Bob Marshall



The Cook—Corporal Brian Nesbitt-Clark

32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)

Annual Camp, 1971

IN the folklore of the Regiment, annual camp, 1971, at Penhale, Cornwall, will be memorable for many reasons. It was the first completely military camp since the birth of the Regiment, and in place of the staccato chatter of teleprinters, warble of FST signals and intricacies of circuit diagrams, the none-too-dulcet tones of drill instructors rang in the ears of many for the first time. With our 69 (North Irish Horse) Squadron came the Staff Band of the N.I.H. to add the melodious trumpet sounds at reveille to the Heilan' Jacobite taunt of 'Hey Johnnie Cope.' We are aware that this blend of cavalry trumpet and bagpipe is not unique, but know of only one other Regiment in the Army who perform likewise.



VOLUNTEERS STEP IT OUT WITH A WILL
Watched by G.O.C. Northumbrian District, young soldiers under test on Exercise Round Table II

Work hard, play hard

It had been decided that if the Regiment was to grow on a firm base, the basic military skills and virtues must not be neglected. It would be a hard camp, so also it would be a challenging one. Recruits, W.R.A.C. and Sergeants' Cadre courses were to be run. In addition, a crash VHF course, for two Troops for the new T. & A.V.R. Infantry Battalions county net was programmed. To meet the syllabus, the working day had to be prolonged until 18.45 hours each day. But if the Senior N.C.O.s and soldiers were to be tasked hard, so were the officers and potential officers. Training for promotion examinations were pressed vigorously, and the exams followed. For the officer cadets, there was an unusual outing to Salisbury Plain and for two of them an even more unusual return to Penhale. But it would not be in keeping with our traditions if we were only to work hard. In the event, both Jock and Jill Scott were not dull by any means—dances, dinners, barbecues,



AFTER THE PARADE WAS OVER
Brigadier Heaney (D.W.R.A.C.) has a chat with (*left to right*) Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Cattermull (C.O.), Major-General A. M. W. Whistler (Honorary Colonel) and Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson (Group Commander)



G.O.C. SCOTLAND VISITS
Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Leask hears that Harp lager costs more in the N.A.A.F.I. than in Glasgow

swimming, surfing and, being what we are, fitba' all had their hectic place. We had many distinguished visitors, who all saw and met us as we are, and if we were hot, dusty and active at the time, so also were we cheerful in our own different ways—Aberdonians wryly; Glaswegians sardonically; Edinburghers quietly, and 'Derrymen optimistically. We leave it to **Generals Leask, Tuzo, Armitage** and **Woodrow, Brigadiers Robertson** and **Heaney** to judge for themselves. Our Honorary Colonel, **General Whistler,** guided, chided and derided us in his own inimitable way.

Training runs smoothly

After an overnight troop train journey, which was not only on time, but also, thanks to painstaking organisation, very smooth, the Regiment arrived at Penhale in splendid weather.

No time was lost in settling down, and after hectic squadding and TOET, the training programme was under way, and for the next two weeks ran swiftly along its allotted course.

Drill, weapon training and leadership were stressed, and if the pace was hot, so was the eagerness to learn. In the VHF Troop, OK terms such as 'path profile analysis' and 'first fresnel zone' were soon familiar. The Regiment was not long getting its second wind, but further shocks were in store. As the first week was closing, Exercise 'Round Table I' was sprung. An ingenious team competitive course, requiring such initiative, fitness and teamwork as to rival the Regular Commissions Board. It took place on Thursday for recruits and on Friday for trained soldiers. While this was going on, VHF Troop had their first field exercise. This week, however, was not over yet; a Regimental parade and a drumhead service on Saturday were a fitting end to a dynamic week.

An even more strenuous second week

After a weekend of Squadron parties and outings to local places of interest, such as Lands End, the Regiment moved into its second—and as events were to prove—even more strenuous week. After a striking briefing, Exercise 'Round Table II' launched the majority of the Regiment on to Bodmin Moor, where they hardly drew breath on an escape and evasion exercise until Wednesday morning. Meanwhile, the VHF Troop took to the hills for two days and a night of rebroadcasting. After this, four officer cadets raided the rebro's of a famous regular regiment on Salisbury Plain and silently and undetected, put them out of action. Two of the cadets then 'volunteered' to find their own way back to Penhale, sans money or food.

Passing out

The courses—cadre, recruits and W.R.A.C., passed out on Thursday under the all-seeing eyes of **Brigadier Robertson,** the Commander of 13 Signal Group, to the lilting strains of 'Garryowen,' played by the Band of the North Irish Horse. **Brigadier Heaney,** D.W.R.A.C., took over on the dais as the W.R.A.C. marched past, and then spent the remainder of the afternoon with the girls. We hope that she will visit us again in October and see the girls using their signalling skills.

Sport

Our last day at Penhale was highlighted by the final of the Regimental football competition between 51 (Highland) Squadron and 52 (Lowland) Squadron; against the tips of the pundits, 51 won, and were later seen to celebrate in true 'Heilan' fashion. One linesman, however, appeared to get the bums rush from 52nd.

Farewell

Our departure from Penhale Training Camp was as swift as our arrival, but we couldn't help being particularly grateful for the Camp Commandant's variation of our own 'Haste ye Back.' After a lively send-off from Newquay, headed by the Pipe-Major, home was only a smooth train journey away, with many a tale for the telling.

They will be missed

It would be invidious to mention names, but this account would be incomplete without a farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel David Sutherland,** the Second-in-Command, and **Major Oliver Eaton** of 69 (NIH) Signal Squadron (V) who retire in October. The Regiment will miss them very much and be much poorer for their absence. Also missed, and not yet mentioned in these pages, **Training Major Frank Lettin,** who left us in May for Cyprus, after laying the foundations for this very successful camp.

WIRE NOTES

Why waste time and effort by sending in notes late? Get them in by the 12th for the following month and relax in quiet confidence.

HALT!

the depreciation of your Savings

CHECK WITH SERVICE BROKERS

THE INVESTMENT SPECIALISTS

1 SERVICE BROKERS will assist you with expert knowledge – and Without Obligation

2 Investment! Protection! House Purchase! School Fees! etc. SERVICE BROKERS take it all in their stride

On the Command

"FALL OUT" FALL IN

with SERVICE BROKERS the Service Specialists

SERVICE BROKERS

INCORPORATED MORTGAGE BROKERS

30b Market Place, Richmond, Yorkshire

Telephone Richmond 2435

35th (South Midland) Signal Regt. (Volunteers)

Annual Camp Training, 1971

AFTER a series of pre-camp exercises and considerable preparation by the permanent staff the day arrived for R.H.Q. and the four squadrons of the Regiment to converge upon the Signals Training Centre at Scarborough for its annual camp training.

By 1100 hours 4th July, the move and subsequent settling in period was complete and it was as if the many miles which separated the Squadron for 50 weeks of the year had never existed. The Regiment was consolidated and ready to commence its training programme.

Trade Training—

By W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bruce Graham

Week one was devoted to trade and recruit training. 455 volunteers were in attendance and 13 separate courses commenced training. The students either classified as Class III tradesmen (or tradeswomen), passed subjects towards a trade rating, confirmed their ratings gained during the previous year, or upgraded their classification. The overall results were very satisfying.

In addition to the trade courses run at Scarborough 16 members of the Regiment attended for commcen and radio relay training with 8th Signal Regiment. They achieved very good results and were all impressed by the high standards of instruction they were given.

Thirty-six recruits successfully passed a basic training course, reaching a high standard of drill, turnout and military bearing.

Visit of Honorary Colonel

The Honorary Colonel, **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** spent three days with the Regiment, commencing with a Regimental parade at which he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) B. Graham** and Territorial Efficiency Medals to **W.O.2 (A.Q.M.S.) G. E. D. Marshall, Sergeant F. A. Tuckey, Corporal D. Hoare, Corporal R. D. Weller, Lance-Corporal D. E. Smith** and **Lance-Corporal B. F. Enticott.**

Colonel Jones then addressed the parade congratulating all participants upon the high military standard achieved. He spent the rest of the day visiting all aspects of the Regiment at work, finishing a very long day by taking the salute at the recruit course pass-off parade.



VISIT OF HONORARY COLONEL

Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., visiting 48 Squadron lines. Making his point is W.O.2 Faulkes, S.S.M. of 48 Squadron, also in picture the C.O., the R.S.M. and O.C. 48 Squadron

Exercise 'Summer Bloom'

"Ah, **Sergeant Dodd,**" I heard as I went to 'sign in' on the first evening after camp. I turned to find the R.S.M. (**W.O.1 P. A. Noble**) beaming down on me.

"As an ex-regular, what were your impressions of the Regiment's annual camp?"

"From which aspect, sir?" I asked warily, stalling for time.

"All aspects," replied the R.S.M., "I want you to write down your impressions of Exercise 'Summer Bloom' for the WIRE NOTES. Only take you five minutes. Drop it on my desk before you go tonight."

"I wish I'd never come in tonight," I thought.

The Regiment moved off early on the Monday morning of week two, bound for the Catterick training area. The journey itself was uneventful and on arrival we set about the usual tasks of 'camming' the vehicles, driving in earth spikes, erecting penthouses, etc.

The linemen and electrician drivers laid cables in every conceivable direction and to such good effect that within an hour we were able to start testing the voice engineering circuits. I say 'we' in the loosest possible sense, because my unfamiliarity with the routine qualified me admirably as the best person to help the W.R.A.C. with the camouflage and setting up of teleprinter positions.

With the camouflage done to everyone's satisfaction, I was able to join circuit control where I found the 'live' circuits already starting to come in from the radio relay vehicles. **Captain Alec Peebles** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. Blunn** were coping admirably with all the minor faults that invariably accompany a set-up of this type and I found myself in the position of a most interested observer. It wasn't until all the circuits were 'in' and handed over to the tape relay centre that I was able to ask questions and have the systems diagram explained to me. I was surprised by the extent of the operation and impressed by the way it worked so well in the subsequent three days. In fact, so much circuit time was available that the W.R.A.C. managed to pass over a thousand messages.

Seven o'clock Thursday morning saw us packed up and ready for the return journey and a much needed bath at the far end.

A couple of hours work on Friday morning sorting out the lighting cables and the stores in general and then I was free to have my first look around Scarborough. Altogether an interesting and enjoyable exercise and it goes without saying that I look forward to next year's Camp.

Visitors' Day

Wednesday, 14th July was Exercise 'Visitors' Day' and by 1100 hours, ten senior officers had assembled for briefing by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel David Woodbridge.**

Our visitors included the G.O.C. West Midland District, **Major General J. H. S. Majury, M.B.E.,** The Commander 11th Signal Group (V), **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,** and the Commander NORTHAG Signal Support Group, **Colonel Schneider.**

After the briefing, they were escorted, assisted by a helicopter, around the various locations at which the Regiment were tactically deployed. This covered a large area and proved to be thirsty work, but a 'light' buffet lunch plus suitable liquid refreshments helped to make the day a complete success.

In conclusion

All in all, this was a very successful camp, everybody worked hard, played hard and got the full benefit from the training given. The fine weather helped tremendously, and for this we thank our padre, **Major The Rev. Brian Brownless,** for carrying out his pre-camp preparation. The only problem this caused was trying to convince wives, lady friends or employers that we had in fact been to annual camp and not to Spain for a fortnight.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

Sport

The Corps' Miracle Man

Sir,

At the end of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Corps, I am enclosing a photo of my great friend and fellow athlete **W. M. (Joe) Cotterell** which may be of interest to many of your readers and which you may like to use.

Having **Joe** at the helm the Royal Corps of Signals in the 1920s carried almost all before it, both in the athletic as well as in the cross-country world—more than holding our own with all Army as well as with many civilian clubs; and, of course, with '**Joe**' as the individual winner on many occasions. I have enclosed an almost complete record of his many successes and, as you will see, I believe that I am right in saying that he is—and was—**the outstanding Army athlete of all time,** having represented his country and the Army on almost more occasions than any other athlete. This includes the three Services, and also takes in a number of other sports such as football, so much so that to commemorate his fine sporting record the officers of the Corps subscribed towards a special cup which was presented to the Army Sports Control Board, and which the A.S.C.B. were pleased to call the 'Cotterell Cup.' This is still presented to the outstanding Army track athlete for the year.

'Joe' must have kept himself very fit, as he was competing with the best in the country, and Europe, up to Army and international top standards, defending and keeping his titles for year after year—sometimes as many as six to eight times in a month—and performing in the 1924 Olympics.

When I competed against him, he ran in the quarter, half, one and three miles in one afternoon (qualifying heats to final). Athletes nowadays concentrate on one event!

I always considered that he had a dynamo inside him for a heart, as he could break any opposition to pieces. I should know, as he completely annihilated myself and all opposition in the first 'Signals' cross-country championship, which was one of his first races, and I was lucky to be second to him that year.

Perhaps at a later date we will get him to tell the up-and-coming athletes the secrets of his success, as he did when he first broadcasted on the Egyptian radio—(a) the secret of his training and (b) keeping the body fit and tuned at all times. Remember, when he was running abroad, the climatic conditions were different to the U.K. as will be seen when he won the International Cross-Country in Paris on a very wet and muddy day.

I sincerely hope that you will take this letter in the spirit in which it has been written.

Yours very sincerely,

F. A. Jones (Ex-R.S.M.),

SUMMARY OF CHAMPIONSHIPS OF W. M. COTTERELL

(Full details on page 373)

* The only Serviceman to win the National and International Cross-Country Championships to-date.
* The only Serviceman to win the Army 3 miles Championship eight years in succession.
* Represented the Army in athletics for a record number of years (1921-1933).
* Represented the Army in cross-country for a record number of years (1922-1933).
* The only man (Army or Services) to captain England in cross-country, 1926.
* The only Army man who was a member of the English International Cross-Country team in an International Record which can only be equalled, but never beaten, i.e., the lowest possible points scored by England; when England had the first six men home against all other countries lowest points—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 = 21 points. 1924.
* The only man to win the Corps 1 mile and 3 mile championship eight years in succession.
* The only man to win the Corps cross-country championship eight years in succession.
* The only man to be in the English cross-country team a record number of times (six).
* Cross-country champion of the Army a record number of times (seven years).
* The only Army man to win the South of the Thames cross-country championship four years in succession, a record.
* The only Army man to be the Southern cross-country champion four times. I believe no civilian has surpassed this.



Joe Cotterell in his prime



Joe's Trophies—30 cups and over 200 medals. (Not all are on view)

(*Continued on page* 373)

Cross Country and Athletic Records of 'Joe' Cotterell

Event	Year	Remarks
International Champion	1924 and 1929; 1922 (2nd); 1925 (3rd)	10 miles
National Champion	1924 and 1925; 1923 (2nd); 1929 (3rd)	10 miles
Southern Champion	1923, 1924, 1925, 1929	Record number of times
North-Eastern Champion	1926, 1927, 1928	All 10 miles
South of Thames Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924	Record for any Army man
Army Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1929.	Constitutes a record in any Army sports
Inter-Services Champion	1922, 1927 and 1929	
Represented the Army (in Inter-Services)	1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933	12 years consecutively. Constitutes a record. Winner on many occasions.
Inter-Counties Champion	1929	This championship had only just been inaugurated
Represented England	1922, 1923, 1924 (also at Olympic Games track), 1925, 1926, 1929	Constitutes a record for any Army man. Captain of England, 1926.
Sussex Champion	1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925	Record for any Army man. Would have won more years, but he was transferred to Catterick.
Eastern Command Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925	
Southern Command Champion	1929, 1931, 1932, 1933	
Corps Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928	Another record. Would have won for a greater number of times, but was posted to 3rd Division Signals when they won fame in Cross-Country and had two internationals in 'Joe' and Jim Broadley (both English Internationals).
Army 3 mile Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928	Constitutes a record number of times
Army 3 mile Team Championship	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928	Individual winner. (Record). Signals won team championship on a number of occasions.
Holder, 3 mile Army Record (14min. 33.4/5sec.)	1926 to 1951	25 years a record
Army 1 mile Team Championship	Corps won frequently between 1921-1928	Frequently individual winner
Army 1 mile Champion	1922, 1923, 1926	Record holder, 1923-1930
Corps ½ mile Champion	Frequently between 1921-1928	
Corps 1 mile Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928	Constitutes a record number of times
Corps 3 mile Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928	Constitutes a record number of times.
4 mile Amateur Athletic Champion	1924	Since discontinued by the A.A.A. Only Army man to ever win.
England v. France, 1925	1925. Winner, 5,000 metres.	Ex-Boy Murphy also represented England at this meeting in the high hurdles.
Southern Counties 4 mile Champion	1923, 1924, 1925	Record for Army man
Sussex 3 mile Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924	Record for Army man
Oxford, Berks. & Bucks. 3 mile Champion	1921, 1922, 1923	Record for Army man
1,000 yards Berkshire Champion	1923	Only year that he competed
English 4 mile Champion	1923	Since discontinued by A.A.A. Only Army man to win this event
Eastern Command 3 mile Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925	Record for Army man
Southern Command 3 mile Champion	1929, 1930, 1932	Record for that distance (number of times)
Eastern Command 1 mile Champion	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925	Record

The story of 21st Regiment's Athletic success 1971

B.A.O.R. — 3rd July

WITH a field containing three strong teams the B.A.O.R. inter unit meeting at Sennelager was a tense, exciting day, with the result for first, second and third places not clear until almost the last event. Rather to our chagrin we were beaten into second place for the second year running by 19th Field Regiment, R.A., although only by a scant four points. This same margin separated us from 1st Cheshire in third place. The standard of performance was generally very high and a number of records were broken, four of these by members of the Regiment. The two outstanding events were the 4 x 400m. relay and the pole vault. In the former the team of **Lieutenant Tom Moncur, Lance-Corporal Percy Drummond, Corporal John Turvey** and **Corporal Charlie Dowie** won the event by a clear 25 yards and lowered the record to 3 minutes 20.9 seconds, which was 4.2 seconds better than the Army record at that time (but see below!). In the latter the invincible combination of **Sergeant Jeff Fenge** and **Corporal Brian Turner** repeated their winning performance of last year but added a further 1ft. 4in. to the record which now stands at a very formidable 26ft. 4in. The 4 x 200m team of **Messrs Moncur, Drummond, Dowie** and **Lance-Corporal George Neale** also set up a new record at 1 minute 31.0 seconds as did the 4 x 800m. team. In this event the quartet of **Sergeant Chris Cottam, Corporal Mick Gue, Corporal Ian McNeill** and **Corporal John Turvey** lopped a satisfactory 7 seconds off the old record to bring the time below the eight minute mark at 7 minutes 57 seconds.

The Morrison Cup — 12th/13th July

The B.A.O.R. meeting was closely followed by the Morrison Cup meeting at Moenchen-Gladbach which the Regiment organised for the second year running. This meeting was rather a 'second team' affair for us as ten of our leading athletes were away, five in U.K. representing the Army at the Inter-Services meeting. These five were **Sergeant Fenge** (pole vault and hurdles), **Corporals Gue** and **Turvey** (800m.), **Lance-Corporal Drummond** (400m.) and **Lance-Corporal Ron Ramos** (long jump). Worthy of note at the Morrison Cup was **Corporal Andy Melville's** hammer throwing in which he recorded a personal best of 138ft.

Army athletics — 21st July

Immediately after the Morrison Cup meeting the team travelled to U.K. where 223 Signal Squadron very kindly fed, slept and transported them during a final six days training before the Army meeting. This meeting was something of an anti-climax in terms of excitement since by lunch time short of a disaster the writing was on the wall for 19th Field Regiment and the Regiment was two points in the lead with several of our strong events to come. One small drama did, however, threaten the position over the lunch period. **Lance-Corporal Ramos** injured an ankle during the heats of the 4 x 110m. hurdles and was carted off to the Cambridge Military Hospital for an X-ray. The casualty department staff although kind and solicitous were anything but hopeful of his chances of running again that day — and at that stage he still had the hurdle final, the 4 x 100m. relay and the long jump in which to compete!

To cut a long story short after waiting half-an-hour for the M.O. to return from lunch two figures could be discerned creeping steathily out of the casualty department and legging it (with no trace of a limp!) to their waiting car. The story ended happily — the ankle held up under the strain and we won the meeting by 15 points from 19th Field Regiment — but Ramos and his escort dare not set foot in Aldershot again for fear of arrest for 'breaking hospital!" The highlight of the meeting for the Regiment was the lowering of the 4 x 400m. record by that old firm of **Moncur, Turvey, Dowie** and **Drummond** to 3 minutes 20.7 seconds — just 0.2 better than their own B.A.O.R. mark a fortnight before. Other good performances were by **Lieutenant Rod Dransfield** who improved his personal best in the pole vault by 10 inches to 11ft. 4in., and **Lance-Corporal Drummond** who cleared 5ft. 10in. in the high jump — scissors style!

To conclude it seems to have been a good year for the Corps in athletics. In the B.A.O.R. finals the Corps was represented by 4th and 21st Regiments as well as 4th, 7th and 20th Brigade Squadrons in the minor units section. At the Morrison Cup eight regiments and five squadrons of the Corps were able to compete. Finally, at the Army finals in Aldershot, 8th and 21st Regiments and 7th Brigade Squadron kept the Corps in the athletic eye.

Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Championship, 7-10 July 1971

The above tournament was played at Blandford on the three En-Tout-Cas Tennis Quik Courts by the Headquarters Officers' Mess. The entry of 31 was slightly down on last year. This, coupled with the fact that four days were allowed for the tournament instead of the usual three, reduced the pressure of play. This was further assisted by the excellent weather which lasted throughout the tournament.

Finals

The finals were played off on Saturday, 10th July, in the following order:

Singles Plate Competition.—**W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Teehan** beat **Sergeant Mundy** 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Inter-Unit Doubles Championship.—**Major L. S. Bamber** and **Major G. R. Oehlers** (School of Signals) beat **Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Lowe** and **Captain M. A. Cornforth** (School of Signals 6-1, 6-1.

Singles Championship.—**Major G. R. Oehlers** beat **Captain E. I. Smith** 6-3, 6-1.

Open Doubles Championship.—**Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Lowe** and **Major G. R. Oehlers** beat **Captain R. A. C. Siderfin** and **Corporal R. A. S. Dunster** 6-4, 4-6,6-1.

Mixed Doubles Championship.—**Major** and **Mrs. G. R. Oehlers** beat **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Lowe** 6-3, 6-3.

Signal Officer-in-Chief

Major General and **Mrs. P. F. Pentreath** attended the finals, and **Mrs. Pentreath** presented the prizes.

Tennis

Special mention

Captain R. A. C. Siderfin playing in the Army Tennis finals was runner-up in the mixed doubles and also in the Regimental doubles. He has been selected to play for the Army in the Inter-Services matches.

Corps beat the Royal Corps of Transport by 5-4 in a match played at Blandford on 14th July. Playing for the Corps: **Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Lowe, Major G. R. Oehlers, Major L. S. Bamber, Major D. A. C. Randel, Captain C. T. Garton** and **Captain M. A. Cornforth.**

At Roehampton Club on 28th July the **Corps beat Royal Army Pay Corps** by 7-2. Playing for the Corps: **Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Lowe, Corporal R. A. S. Dunster, Major L. S. Bamber, Captain I. J. Oddie, Colonel R. S. D. Maunsell** and **Lieutenant-Colonel E. Brown.**

Corps Golf

Against R.E.M.E. at Blackdown on 13th August

This resulted in a draw 4 all after a very enjoyable day's play. The outcome of the match depended on the last putt at the 18th at the end of the day. Fortunately R.E.M.E. missed a not very easy putt so saving the Corps from a single point defeat.

Playing for the Corps were: **Colonel A. T. Scott, Lieutenant R. G. Heaney, Major M. H. O. Williams, Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Murray, Lieutenant E. Brown** and **Captain D. Burt.**

Against R.A.O.C. at Hankley Common on 25th August

The result was an 8-4 defeat for the Corps. At lunchtime after the singles the score was 5-3 but against a slightly stronger team only one foursomes came the way of the Corps. All the same, a thoroughly enjoyable day's golf.

Playing for the Corps were: **Major General E. S. Cole, Colonel A. T. Scott, Major T. W. Blashill, Lieutenant R. G. Heaney, Colonel R. Linton, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield Colonel G. T. D. Harris** and **Brigadier P. E. S. Mansergh.**

Cricket

Royal Signals beat Royal Army Ordnance Corps

The match was played at Bramley on 30th/31st July; weather conditions were very good, bright sunshine and a cooling breeze.

Royal Signals 198 for 6 wkts. (**Garton** 70, **Price** 52 not out) and 143 for 8 wkts. (**Radford** 33 not out, **Balding** 33).

R.A.O.C. 133 (**Radford** 4 for 33, **Cotterill** 3 for 36) and 92 (**Cotterill** 4 for 38, **Radford** 3 for 20 and **Stanbridge** 2 for 15).

Royal Signals won by 116 runs.

Corps Swimming

'The Wire' swimming correspondent writes:

The number of annual fixtures for the Corps Swimming and Water Polo teams has been increased from one to four to give better continuity and to try to improve standards in a sport where regular training is even more important than natural ability. Formation of a team representative of Royal Signals units in the United Kingdom has proved difficult as many units still do not have a swimming pool sufficiently close to permit the regular training essential to reach the high standards of competitive swimming.

The team is currently run from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate; the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** is President of Corps Swimming and we are fortunate to have a President who does get his bathing suit wet. The College has a heated indoor swimming pool and its successful junior swimming team trains by swimming a few miles three evenings a week; the College team, as current Northern Command Major Units champion, not unnaturally form the basis of the Corps team. **A/T. Sergeants Sandford** and **Green** and **A/Ts. Harland, Wilson, Marriott** and **Hodgson** of the College have all won events in Corps matches this year, and **Lieutenant J. E. Ient** from 8th Regiment and **Signalman Hardstaff** from 5 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron have also won events. Results this year have been:

	Date	*Swimming*	*Water Polo*
At Harrogate v. R.A.O.C.	28 Mar.	Won 34-26 pts.	Won 11-3 goals
At Harrogate v. Carnegie College, Leeds University	5 June	Lost 26-32 pts.	Lost 3-15 goals
At Catterick v. 90 Group R.A.F.	23 July	Won 70-38 pts.	Lost 1-11 goals

The team have still to play R.E.M.E. at Harrogate on Saturday, 6th November. We are always looking for fresh talent and units or individuals in the U.K. are invited to write to the Secretary of Corps Swimming, **Major D. W. Stubbs,** at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, in respect of any appropriate aquatic abilities.

THE WARREN GOLF CLUB, SINGAPORE

Among the many farewells in Singapore has been one of general interest to Corps golfers, as well as to ex-members of 18th Signal Regiment. On 20th July, a special golf match was played to commemorate the long association between the Regiment and the Warren Golf Club. As many readers will remember, this club is named after **Brigadier D. E. Warren,** who founded it when he was C.O. of 18th Regiment in 1960-1962.

Teams were selected by the military Vice-President (the C.O. in disguise) and the civilian Vice-President. Play began after a group photograph had been taken, and consisted of six four balls, better ball—matches which resulted in a win for the Corps team by one point. After the match, the C.O. presented the club with a plaque from all past and present members of the Regiment to mark the close association with the Warren Golf Club. Among the Corps personalities taking part were **Colonel D. A. Polley, Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Gilbert, Lieutenant-Colonel N. Condor** (Royal Australian Signals) and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. Speight.**

For those interested, the Warren Golf Club is to continue under that name as a Singapore civilian club, but with reserved places for members of the new ANZUK Force. Its president is the Speaker of the Singapore Parliament, and **Mr. Lee Kuan Yew,** the Prime Minister, is an Honorary Member.



AT THE 19th
The two teams assemble outside the Club House prior to the Special Match

Association News

Cardiff Branch

Hon. Secretary: **M. H. Jones,** 42 Cartwright Lane, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 3DB.

We again have to record with regret the deaths of two of our friends in the persons of **Bill Richards,** ex-Sergeant, of 53rd (W) Div. Signal Regiment. **Bill** was an active Member of this Branch but his membership lapsed during his long illness. Floral tributes were sent by the W.O.s and Sergeants and by the Branch and the Regiment and the Branch was represented at the funeral.

Tom Pride passed away very soon after. **Tom** was an active and loyal member of the Branch who regularly enjoyed his Catterick Reunions until his illness made the journey a physical impossibility for him. Branch Members attended the funeral and a floral tribute was made.

M.M. holders

We would wish to boast the fact that among our members we have three holders of the Military Medal. These are held by **Frank McFarland,** Treasurer of this Branch, **John Wright,** our Member of Swansea, and **Les Simnett,** the latter only very recently divulging this fact.

The Treorchy Male Choir again

Our President, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl,** and Chairman, **George Rolls,** recently visited Treorchy to discuss our arrangements for the forthcoming concert with the Treorchy Male Choir and the Corps Band. The visit coincided with a practice session by Choir Members and the discussions were followed by an enthralling foretaste of the pleasure to come.

Before leaving, our President gave a few words of thanks to the assembled choir in the native tongue, he does 'Siarad Cymraeg. This was very well received.

We have heard that the Corps Band Committee turned down an engagement in San Francisco in order to carry out this date with us. We are the more honoured and grateful for this sacrifice and will do our utmost to make this concert a memorable occasion for all.

Catterick Reunion—our sincere thanks

Before closing we would again express our very sincere thanks to all concerned for a most enjoyable weekend at the Catterick Reunion. Our journey was free of incident this year and those who attended were unanimous in their praise of the organisation and the welcome received.



Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army – or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain – and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain with rank, receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity, and your British Army service will count toward points for married quarters allocation, should you enlist within twelve months of your British Army discharge.

Don't leave it any longer!

Is your trade included in those listed? If so, this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London – or post the the coupon for all the facts.

Royal Australian Artillery
1. Physical Training Instructor – Sergeants

Royal Australian Survey Corps
1. Survey Photo Technician – Sergeants
2. Topographic Surveyor – Warrant Officers Class 2/Sergeants

Royal Australian Signals
1. Regimental Duty NCO – Sergeants and Corporals
2. Clerk R. Sigs. – Sergeants and Corporals
3. Radio Operator/Telegraph Operator – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Clerk Technical R. Sigs. – Corporals
5. Foremen of Signals – Warrant Officers Class 2
6. Terminal Equipment Technician – Sergeants and Corporals

Royal Australian Army Service Corps
1. Clerk G.D. – Sergeants
2. Clerk RAPC – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
1. Hygiene Assistant Class 1 – Sergeants
2. Hygiene Assistant Class 2 – Corporals
3. Clerk Medical – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Radiographer Class 1 – Sergeants
5. Laboratory Technician Class 1 – Staff Sergeants

Royal Australian Ordnance Corps
1. Work Study Operator – Warrant Officers Class 2

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
1. Artificer Radar – Warrant Officers Class 1 and 2
2. Artificer Telecommunications – Staff Sergeants
3. Artificer Vehicle – Warrant Officers Class 2, Staff Sergeants
4. Fitter Armament, Fitter and Turner Gun – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Provost
1. R.M.P. Provost N.C.O. – Corporals
2. M.P.S.C. Instructor – Corporals

Australian Army Band Corps
1. Musician or Bandsman – vacancies exist in the rank of Private, for musicians specialised in the following instruments.

Flute	French Horn
Oboe	Cornet
Clarinet (B Flat)	Euphonium
Saxophone	Trombone
Bass	Percussion

Australian Services Canteen Organisation
1. Attendant canteen, or issuing point – Corporals
2. Manager canteen or issuing point – Sergeants

Come as you are- to Australia

If you're thinking about emigrating and you've acquired any of the specialist skills and ranks detailed above, you may be eligible for enlistment in the Australian Army.



Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name

Address

Age Married/Single

Rank Corps

Trade

Anticipated Discharge Date

To: Capt. J. Gresty, Australian Army Staff, 2nd Flr., Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356

Personal Affairs

Obituary

Sergeant T. Blades, B.E.M.

'Tommy' Blades served for six years from the age of 16 in the Royal Sussex before transferring to the Corps in 1922. He joined 'F' (Boys) Company in 1928 and remained with them until 1947 when he became a foundation member of the Army Apprentices' School at Harrogate.

Tommy was a fine runner. While in the Royal Sussex, he represented the Regiment in the half, one mile, three miles and cross-country. For a while he held the West Indies 21-mile record. In the Corps he was three times cross-country champion and from time to time won the North Yorks and South Durham championship. When he stopped competing he turned his attention to coaching and prodded many boys to fine performances. He was one of the earliest canoe experts in the Corps, particularly enjoying the peaceful atmosphere in the Yorkshire riverside pubs.

As a man he was the perfect type for the leadership of boys. An honest, sober, fair-minded man with a large heart, a sense of humour and great enthusiasm. After 40 years' service he retired in 1956 from Harrogate amid scenes which proved the respect and affection he had so deservedly earned.

In retirement he was a keen, active member of the Royal Signals Association. He died on 18th July.

Colonel T. W. Boileau writes:

"Just before he died I had written to him in the nursing home at Brighton and told him I was coming to see him and that a host of his friends would wish him well in return for the help and kindness he had shown to them during his life. At his funeral which I attended with my wife, one friend said: 'He was a man that had no enemies.' What better tribute could there be.

"I first knew Tommy Blades when I joined the Corps in August 1924 and in the world of athletics came across a long-distance runner—Tommy Blades. Then there was Blades the groundsman. Then best of all there was Lance-Corporal Blades with the Boys Company.

"I was commanding the Boys Company on the outbreak of war and immediately promoted T. Blades sergeant in charge of Recruit Boys. He was my right-hand man and continued to be the adviser and friend of many boys. Years passed and finally there was Mr. T. Blades, government messenger.

"And so to Brighton to live with his devoted sister Mrs. Rita Hicks. I saw that his health was failing but he still walked to the limit of his strength. As he wished, his funeral was a simple cremation ceremony attended by a few close old friends and a British Legion Standard Bearer. So passed Tommy Blades—he will not be forgotten."

Amongst floral tributes sent were ones from: Tony, Rita, Kevin and Barry (family); All the Ex-Boys; Colonel T. W. Boileau; Ex 'Rats' Association; Colonel J. Piddington; N. London Branch, Royal Signals Association; Friends in Royal Signals Association; Stanley Bates and Miss Moore; Major-General D. A. L. Wade; Rose, Dennis, Doris, Fred, Barbara and Jack (Constant Service).

Major J. A. Dale, T.D.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, 14th July, at St. Matthew's Parish Church, Walsall, of Major J. A. Dale, T.D., of 35th (SM) Signal Regiment (V).

The pall bearers were Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Houston, M.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. Davies, O.St.J., T.D., and Major D. J. Barlow, T.D., three former colleagues in the Territorial Army, and Mr. S. M. Townsend, Mr. W. R. Cutler and Mr. M. H. Slater of the St. Matthew's Masonic Lodge of which Major Dale was a member. The 35th (South Midlands) Signal Regiment (V) was officially represented by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

Major Dale died at his home, 19 Lake Avenue, Walsall, aged 50. He first joined the Territorial Army before the Second World War and served during the war in India and Burma. Following the war he rejoined the Teritorial Army and served with the Regiment until 1970. He leaves a wife and two sons.

Colonel Walter Boyle, O.B.E., T.D.

Born in 1883, Walter Boyle was educated at Leeds Boys' Modern School and Leeds University. His family were originally yoeman farmers in Yorkshire and then brick manufacturers. Walter struck out on his own and became a barrister.

Beginning in the Boys' Brigade, he joined the 2nd West Yorks R.E. Volunteers in 1903, and the Northern Telegraph Company, in particular, when it formed in 1908. In 1914 he raised 11th Corps Signal Company. In 1915 he experienced several voyages as a troopship adjutant and then raised and commanded the Base Signal Depot and School in the Middle East. He was awarded the O.B.E. and gained two mentions in despatches.

In 1925 he became C.O. of 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals until 1929 when he was promoted Brevet Colonel. From 1933-1948 he was honorary Colonel of his old unit.

In 1939 he was back in harness, first as a member of a selection board, then a battalion commander in the Home Guard. He was bored stiff and after some string pulling he emerged as O.C. Troops on various troopships. To his five medals he now added the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic, Italian and Pacific Stars and the War Medal.

In the meantime his son, Brian, also of 49th Divisional Signals, had became M.A. to Field Marshal Lord Allenbroke whom he accompanied to Casablanca, Washington, Cairo, Quebec, Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam. It was a grave blow to Walter when Brian, a judge at the age of 47, died in 1965.

Walter Boyle wrote a most entertaining history of 2nd West Yorkshire R.E. Volunteers and its successors, a copy of which he inscribed for the Corps Historical Library

Walter was a servant of the public for very many years having become a councillor at Leeds in 1908. He was secretary to the Lord Mayor for 27 years, and then for six years he was a member of the Court of the University of Leeds.

He was an active man being regularly out with the Bramham Moor Hunt and latterly playing a lot of golf. He was a well travelled man having spent some time in South Africa, Tasmania, New Zealand, South America, France, Italy, Egypt, the Sudan and Palestine.

Walter Boyle died on 27th July, and our deep sympathy is extended to his widow in her great loss.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Pocock, R.E. (IA)

Joseph Albert Pocock (Joe) enlisted in R.E. as a boy telegraphist in 1910 at the age of 16. On completion of training and on reaching the age of man service he was posted to India and took part in General Townsend's succession of battles on the road from the Persian Gulf toward Baghdad, such battles as Shaibah, Kurna, Amara, Nasierieh, Kutel Amara and Ctesiphon. The force had been greatly weakened and had to fall back on the riverside town of Kut el Amara where they were besieged from 6th December, 1915, until 26th April, 1916. The privations faced in Kut are described in 'Through to 1970.'

For his conduct in the campaign and during the siege, Joe Pocock was commissioned in the field and mentioned in despatches before Kut surrendered. He survived the march to Turkey and the life of a prisoner of war in that country. His P.O.W. cage was liberated by a Scottish Hospital Mission to Siberia which had had to withdraw to Turkey when the Revolution reached Siberia. During the long journey back to England Joe met a Scottish nursing sister and subsequently married her.

He returned to India after the war and commanded No. 2 Wireless Company, 'A' Corps Signals, Karachi, until 1926. During the Waziristan operation of 1921-24 he deployed a number of wireless detachments in the field. He was an excellent cricketer and the Corps had a fine team in Karachi. His other sport was tent pegging at which he could give Colonel A. J. C. Copeland, the Army champion, a close match.

In 1926 he moved to Jabalpur as Chief Instructor at the Signal Training School. He invariably did the testing at final trade boards himself. His standards were extremely high and a tradesman who had satisfied him could face the future with confidence. At this time the British Rosters of the Indian Signal Corps were amalgamated with those of Royal Signals, and the Indian Army Officers began transferring to the Corps. Joe was a loner. He never did transfer. From Jabalpur he was posted as second-in-command to 2nd Indian Divisional Signals in Quetta in 1931. From 1934 to 1939 Joe commanded 4th Indian Divisional Signals. After retiring he was recalled and commanded a special operators training battalion. He then served in the Training Centre at Huddersfield until his final retirement in 1945.

His charming wife, who served in the W.R.A.F., died soon after the end of the war. Joe had had a sad family life, two of his sons having died in accidents in infancy. He subsequently married again, but his second wife predeceased him. Two of his sons served in the Corps as officers. One was badly injured in the war and retired in 1945. The other, Duncan, served from 1941-1964. Joe died in Bristol on 8th August, 1971.

Movements

Officers

Second-Lieutenant	I. D. Bingham	To R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Second-Lieutenant	R. F. Binham	,, R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Second-Lieutenant	E. C. T. Crampton	,, R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Second-Lieutenant	L. Fox	,, R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Second-Lieutenant	R. G. L. Hill	,, R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Second-Lieutenant	A. McVittie	,, R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Second-Lieutenant	A. J. Schuler	,, R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Second-Lieutenant	M. J. Sinton	,, R.M.C. of S. (26 D Course)
Major	P. D. Alexander, M.B.E.	,, National Defence College
Major	A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	,, National Defence College
Major	D. J. Milton	,, National Defence College
Lieutenant	R. A. L. Anderson	,, 48 Gurkha Bde H.Q. & Signal Sqn
Captain	(T.O.T.) D. C. Ashton	,, 226 Signal Sqn
Lieutenant	R. Banham	,, School, 1st Com.
Lieutenant	C. P. P. Barnes	,, 21st Signal Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel	A. C. Bate, O.B.E.	,, School, as Brigadier
Lieutenant	G. A. Carmichael	,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant	B. Chuff	,, 11th Signal Regiment
Captain	(T.O.T.) J. C. Day	,, H.Q. AFCENT Intn Sup. Unit
Major	S. F. Dunkley	,, Station Staff, Krefeld
Captain	A. F. Eastburn	,, 261 Signal Sqn
Major	A. P. Fielding	,, 8 Inf Bde H.Q. & Sig. Sqn
Captain	M. J. Ford	,, DADPTC
Captain	(T.O.T.) E. M. Frost, M.B.E.	,, Project HAIG, H.Q. BAOR
Captain	M. J. C. Galloway	,, 11th Signal Regt
Major	M. Q. M. Greaves	,, School
Captain	P. A. Hallett	,, 8th Signal Regt
Captain	(Q.M.) M. Ham	,, 28th Signal Regt
Captain	D. J Henning	,, School
Lieutenant	D. Henry	,, H.Q. AFCENT Intn Support, 1st Com.
Captain	P. J. Hodges	,, H.Q. RAEC Centre
Major	B. F. Kavanagh	,, ANZUK Bde Avn Sqn
Major	L. C. P. Jaggard	,, M.O.D. Sigs 36
Captain	(Q.M.) C. W. Johnson	,, 7th Signal Regt
Major	C. F. Lewis	,, DADPTC
Colonel	R. H. Maxfield	,, IMS/CE NATO
Major	D. J. D. McKail	,, Abu Dhabl Def Force
Captain	(T.O.T.) P. F. Metcalfe	,, 27th Signal Regt
Major	J. C. Milford	,, School (attd P.O. Bristol)
Captain	J. E. Neeve	,, Mons O.C.S.
Captain	(Q.M.) T. P. O'Connor	,, H.Q. BAOR
Lieutenant	S. S. Paul	,, RMC of S. (25 Degree Course)
Lieutenant	I. C. Pattison	,, School of Army Avn
Major	R. Plant	,, JWE (as Lieutenant-Colonel)
Major	M. H. Priestley	,, School
Captain	J. H. Roberts	,, 604 Signal Troop
Lieutenant-Colonel	I. M. Rose	,, RMC of S. (as Colonel)
Lieutenant	E. H. Sambell	,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt
Major	A. J. Sammes	,, JOCPT (RARDE Fort Halstead)
Major	F. B. Saul	,, Project Wavell (RARDE Fort Halstead)
Lieutenant-Colonel	T. N. Skelly	,, 11th Regt (HS) to retire
Lieutenant	H. Smith	,, RMC of S. (25 Degree Course)
Captain	(Q.M.) D. Spence	,, 33rd (L & C) Signal Regt (V)
Major	A. V. Swindale	,, 248 G Signal Sqn
Captain	(T.O.T.) A. R. Taylor	,, JOCPT Wilton
Major	P. A. Thompson	,, 31st (GL) Signal Regt (V)
Major	R. Trelawny	,, 10th Signal Regt
Lieutenant	A. E. Truluck	,, A.A.C. Harrogate
Lieutenant	J. G. Turner	,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt
Lieutenant-Colonel	C. B. Ward	,, 14th Signal Regt as C.O.
Major	B. A. Watson	,, M.O.D. D124A
Major	D. P. Watson	,, 27th Signal Regiment
Major	L. A. Welton	,, H.Q. AFCENT as Lieut.-Colonel
Lieutenant	M. C. Wilkinson	,, H.Q. Wales as Captain
Major	H. R. Williams	,, H.Q. 13 Signal Group

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1	(F. of S.) H. J. Saxon	To 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.1	(F. of S.) R. A. Jeffery	,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.1	(F. of S.) R. Morris	,, 14th Regiment
W.O.2	(F. of S.) C. A. Thompson	,, 14th Regiment
W.O.2	R. Fell	,, Tayforth O.T.C.
W.O.2	(Y. of S.) K. Glenville	,, H.Q. NORTHAG Air Sp. Radio Squadron
W.O.2	R. A. McGregor	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.2	A. G. Rose	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) B. W. Maltby	,, 35 Signal Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) G. T. Laws	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) M. V. Pittock	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) J. E. Fison	,, 605 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) J. M. Hammonds	,, SHAPE H.Q. Comd. & Sp.
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) T. G. Southall	,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) F. C. Brown	,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) R. V. Doyle	,, 71st Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) J. H. Jackson	,, 19 Airptbl. Brigade Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) J. A. Phillips	,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(F. of S.) G. J. O'Sullivan	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant	H. Ruff	,, 35th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant	G. S. Lowe	,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	M. W. Teague	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant	I. Stretton	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	P. Donnelly	,, H.Q. AFNORTH
Staff Sergeant	F. C. Pope	,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	G. H. Johnson	,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant	J. W. Piper	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(Y. of S.) T. S. Adams	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(Y. of S.) H. A. McHugh	,, 227 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant	D. L. McCluskey	,, 4 Gds. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
A/Staff Sergeant	J. M. W. Richardson	,, 36th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant	J. J. Duke	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant	J. Roberts	,, 1 Arty. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant	W. Semple	,, 224 Signal Squadron
Sergeant	W. J. Smith	,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	I. K. Ryder	,, H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Sergeant	M. J. Abson	,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	P. J. Cook	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	D. A. Gouldsmith	,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant	R. V. Lloyd	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant	R. I. Scott	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant	C. T. Coventry	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant	M. P. Thomas	,, 20 Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant	J. W. Horne	,, 35th Regiment (V)
Sergeant	J. S. Killorn	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant	K. Hornblower	,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron (attached School of Signals)
Sergeant	A. C. Forrester	,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant	G. J. Sharp	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant	M. J. T. McLean	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant	T. P. M. Smith	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant	G. K. Wardill	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant	C. M. Wood	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant	G. K. Barden	,, 38th Regiment (V)
Sergeant	A. Cheetham	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant	D. R. Gray	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant	W. J. Moorhead	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant	K. J. Booth	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	C. Moore	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant	G. Garland	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant	M. J. S. Cole	,, 6 Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant	A. M. Boyle	,, 11 Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant	S. Lawrence	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant	R. W. Badger	,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 21
Sergeant	P. J. Crowe	,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 21
A/Sergeant	A. Whenlock	,, 27th Regiment
A/Sergeant	R. L. Skillicorn	,, 30th Regiment

(Held over from August/September Wire)

Sergeant	R. G. Mills	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant	M. A. Stevenson	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant	A. Gumbrill	,, 233 Squadron
Sergeant	K. A. Pennington	,, 242 Squadron
Sergeant	S. Kemal	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant	G. Collier	,, 4th Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	G. Clark	,, 20th Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant	P. Burdes	,, SHAPE (B.A.E.)
Sergeant	B. J. Belton	,, 227 Squadron
A/Sergeant	M. O. Ellis	,, H.Q. Trg. Bde. R. Signals
Sergeant	R. Townsend	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant	C. M. Blowman	,, 651 Avn. Squadron
Sergeant	J. A. Chambers	,, 2nd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	W. D. Waugh	,, 11th Regiment 2 Sqn.
Sergeant	T. R. Hanman	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant	J. Collison	,, Signal Security Section A.F.N.E.
Sergeant	M. Altham	,, 19th Airptbl. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant	A. Spencer	,, 3rd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	B. T. Shears	,, 11th Regiment 2 Sqn.
Sergeant	D. Jones	,, 2nd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant	J. G. Albon	,, Queen's University, O.T.C.
Sergeant	K. G. Ashton	,, 1st Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant	M. T. Powlesland	,, 7th Regiment
A/Sergeant	G. E. Perkins	,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant	J. B. Wallace	,, 19th Airptbl. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant	K. Hornblower	,, 11th Regiment 2 Sqn. att. School of Signals
A/Sergeant	M. E. Turner	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant	R. R. Gilmore	,, 11th Regiment 2 Sqn. attached 8th Regiment
Sergeant	J. A. Strange	,, 30th Regiment

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	Initials	Rank	New Sen. Roll	Old Sen. Roll	
To W.O.1					
Sanderson,	R. M.	A/W.O.1	22 June 71	[illegible]an. 69	
To W.O.2					
Kerr,	T.	A/W.O.2	19 May 71	7 Jul. 66	
Scott,	W. W.	A/W.O.2	22 Jun. 71	7 Dec. 64	
To S Sgt.					
Hassett,	T. H.	Sgt.	28 May 71	31 May 62	(Dvr.)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.1					
Graham,	W. F.	W.O.2	19 May 71	18 Jul. 68	

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

To W.O.2					
Eagle,	G. G.	S Sgt.	1 Jul. 71	16 Aug. 69	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.2					
Boland,	W. J.	S Sgt.	14 Jun. 71	10 Oct. 68	
Hill,	W.	S Sgt.	15 Jun. 71	29 Mar. 69	

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.					
Beaumont,	J. S.	Cpl.	2 Apr. 71	29 May 69	
Smith,	G.	Cpl.	2 Apr. 71	6 Feb. 69	
Vella,	A.	Cpl.	24 Apr. 71	14 Feb. 68	
Barry,	P. R.	Cpl.	10 May 71	7 Dec. 66	
Clark,	P. G.	Cpl.	12 May 71	30 Apr. 69	
Bumstead,	R.	Cpl.	13 May 71	13 May 67	
Crowden,	B. K.	Cpl.	10 Jun. 71	20 Feb. 69	

TELEGRAPH OPERATORS ROLL

To Sgt.					
Whiteley,	D. K.	A/Sgt.	1 Mar. 71	29 Mar. 64	
Douglas,	E. J.	Cpl.	1 May 71	1 Feb. 66	
Slavin	P. J.	Cpl.	1 May 71	28 Mar. 66	
Rodgers	K.	Cpl.	1 Jun. 71	1 Dec. 68	
Hogg,	R. A.	Cpl.	8 Jun. 71	1 Dec. 68	

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.					
Assender,	R. G.	A/Sgt.	19 May 71	11 Apr. 65	
Headley,	T. J.	Cpl.	20 May 71	11 Oct. 65	
Stevens,	K. B.	A/Sgt.	1 Jul. 71	1 Oct. 68	

DELETIONS

Name.	Initials.	Seniority Date.	

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.1			
Raynor,	S. J.	26 Dec. 68	
Wilson,	M. E.	1 Apr. 69	
Kendrick,	L.	15 Apr. 69	
Turner,	B.	24 Jun. 69	
Todd,	P. W.	11 Aug. 70	
W.O.2			
Blease,	R. M.	29 Feb. 64	
S Sgt.			
Catton,	P. J.	1 Sep. 58	
Elliot,	S. W. M.	30 Sep. 61	

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.1			
Lane,	D. J.	30 Apr. 68	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.2			
Brown,	H.	1 May 66	
Briggs,	R. S. W.	17 Apr. 69	

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

S Sgt.			
Hughes,	J.	6 Jan. 65	

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgts.			
Jeune,	D. S.	7 Sep. 65	
Dell,	R.	20 Sep. 68	
Allison,	P.	9 Dec. 68	
Teasdale,	A.	13 Mar. 69	
Hill,	G. R.	14 Mar. 69	
Gable,	B.	17 Apr. 69	
Smith,	P. M.	24 Oct. 69	
Withers,	P. D.	10 Dec. 69	
Jones,	C. T.	14 Apr. 71	

CLERK/DRAUGHTSMAN ROLL

Sgts.			
Gaffney,	R.	17 Nov. 67	
Perrin,	P. C.	1 Jan. 60	

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

Sgt.			
Edwards,	F. W.	1 Dec. 55	

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.			
Bower,	D.	20 Dec. 61	

LINEMAN ROLL

Sgt.			
King,	A.	15 Nov. 60	
Mourant,	E. E.	1 Jan. 61	
Lindsay,	O. E.	1 Dec. 56	

RADIO RELAYMAN ROLL

Sgt.			
Stacey,	F. J.	25 Nov. 69	

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Home —79p each plus 8p post
Abroad—70p each plus 8p post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals £1.50
Pace Sticks ... ...

ERNEST GOODRICH
Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites
44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY

FOR TELEVISION — RENT OR BUY
LATEST MODELS
D. & G. MANSELL
6, FINKLE STREET,
RICHMOND, YORKS. Tel. 2024.
Also all Domestic Electrical Appliances
Our Record Dept. contains the largest selection of records in the district, also sheet music and musical instruments.

UK or European posting?
Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack
* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem
Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.
Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W9
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*
Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*
Delivery Date .....

NATOCARS

BAOR.....?

—If you are arriving soon, or are here already, and interested in a new:—

TRIUMPH FAMILY MODELS UP TO 15% OFF! Toledo £660 1500 £788 2000 £1099.
OR LIST PRICES SLASHED!
PEUGEOT ALL MODELS DISCOUNT PRICES FROM ONLY £720!

Then for details of U.K./Germany Delivery, Specifications, Nato Prices, H.P., 'Partex, Call, 'Phone or Write to:

Mr. P. BRENNAN DUPLEIX
of WALTER HAGEN & CO., GmbH
415 KREFELD
Pestalozzistr.—WEST GERMANY
or TELEPHONE KREFELD 75106! (10.30-12.00 hrs. preferably)

IMPORTER — SOLE DISTRIBUTOR
(We have Agents in the U.K. too)

RADIO OPERATORS

DO YOU HOLD
PMG II *OR* PMG I *OR* NEW GENERAL CERTIFICATE
OR
HAD TWO YEARS' RADIO OPERATING EXPERIENCE?

Looking for a secure job with good pay and conditions?

Then apply for a post with the Composite Signals Organisation. These are Civil Service posts, with opportunities for service abroad, and of becoming established, i.e., non-contributory pension scheme.

Specialist Training Courses (free accommodation) starting January, April and September, 1972.

If you are British born and resident in the United Kingdom, under 35 years of age (40 for exceptionally well qualified candidates), write NOW for full details and an application form from:

Government Communications Headquarters,
Recruitment Officer,
Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL52 5AJ.
(Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270).

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND **PRINTING**

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD
The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes



Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

October-November 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:
ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for :-

Convertible Whole Life · Education Endowment · Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust · Retirement · House Purchase · Security for your Family

General Insurance for :-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR LEADING BUILDING SOCIETIES

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
FORCES BROKERS

Offices: ALBANY CHAMBERS · MARKET PLACE · RICHMOND · YORKSHIRE
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)
INCORPORATED MORTGAGE BROKER—FEDERATED INSURANCE BROKER

YOUR SECURITY AND INVESTMENT PLAN
Example: Male Life 25 next birthday

£13,300 INITIAL COVER FOR **£0·73 per week**

Sum Assured		Normal Monthly Premium
£ 1,000	Equity Linked Endowment Policy, to age 65 (Maturity value assuming a growth rate of 5% per annum £3,107 see notes)	£1·58
£ 1,800	Whole of Life, Non-Profit Policy	£1·54
£10,500	Initial Sum Assured for Income Benefits of £350 per annum to age 55, INCLUDING initial conversion rights of £5,250	£0·62
	Gross Monthly Premium	£3·74
	Income Tax Relief (if obtainable)	£0·58
£13,300	Life Cover for a net monthly outlay of	£3·16

NOTES.
1. Two Policies would be issued.
2. The Maturity value of the Equity Linked Endowment is based on the value of the units purchased up to that time but even assuming the growth rate is only 3% per annum the value above would still be over £1,900 well in excess of the total net outlay for the entire scheme.
3. The Whole of Life policy may be converted to an Endowment (with or without profits) on any policy anniversary subject to a minimum term after conversion of 10 years.
4. Under the Whole of Life policy there is an option to effect on each of the 3rd and 6th policy anniversaries an additional Whole of Life or Endowment for up to half the original sum assured irrespective of your state of health at that time.
5. Subject to satisfactory proposal no medical evidence of any kind will be required.
6. Irrespective of Health in the future the Income Benefits may also be converted to a Whole of Life or Endowment for a sum not exceeding half of the total amount of Benefit outstanding at the time.
7. The Equity Linked policy is at present subject to long term capital gains tax of 20% on profits only.

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months **£1.20**; *single month,* **10p.**

☆

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1971

Vol. 25 (*New Series*) **No. 10**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture serves to remind us that despite the Far East rundown a considerable presence remains in Hong Kong. The Corps is well represented by the recently formed 27th Signal Regiment which has taken under command the previous independent 252 and 253 Signal Squadrons and, of course, there is the 48th Gurkha Regiment H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

In the photograph, scaling the steep hills on the edge of the mainland city of Kowloon, can be seen **Lance-Corporal (now Corporal) Blythe** with an A13 set and **Signalman Chan Shiu Kwong** both at the time serving in 253 Squadron. They are setting off into the foothills on a remote area patrol.

The New National Army Museum

The National Army Museum's splendid new building next to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and within ¼-mile of R.H.Q. Royal Signals, will be opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 11th November.

The main permanent display illustrates chronologically the history of the British Army to 1914, of the Indian Army and of the colonial forces. The displays follow modern methods with the exhibits set against colourful, often symbolic backgrounds in uncluttered cases. A narrative outside each gives the salient facts of campaigns and battles, and describes developments in the army's organisation, equipment and techniques, its defeats and victories and its professional and social activities. Among the wealth of material on view it is invidious to mention only the most important items: suffice it to say that, among the exhibits are weapons and uniforms, medals and decorations, prints and photographs, silver, glass and china, manuscripts and letters, relics of British commanders and of enemy forces, and mementoes of Britain's soldiers who fought in every part of the world, from the reign of Henry VIII until the First World War.

Many of the exhibits are the fruits of the almost overwhelming generosity of many donors and lenders. Gifts and loans from Her Majesty the Queen, private individuals and regimental and national museums complement the museum's own collections. The result is a truly outstanding commentary on the history and traditions of the army.

The chronological display of uniforms on the top floor shows their evolution towards comfort and camouflage. All arms of the British regular army are represented as are auxiliary forces, the Indian Army, and some colonial forces. The display is aided by material of a peripheral nature such as personal equipment, musical instruments, horse furniture. Specialised displays include head-dresses; belt plates; gorgets; and the orders and decorations of Viscount Gough, Lord Kitchener and Viscount Wolseley.

Next door, the picture gallery houses the pick of the museum's large collection of paintings with a military theme. These include portraits by Reynolds, Raeburn, Romney and Lawrence, battle scenes and pictures of Indian regiments.

Anyone wishing to consult the museum's uniquely important collections of manuscripts, prints and photographs dating back to the Crimean War and of the Indian Mutiny, should write for permission to the Director. The Reading Room will be open from 10 to 12 and 2 to 4, Mondays to Saturdays.

The Department of Weapons' reserve collection may be seen, by prior arrangement. The Department of Uniforms' reserve collections, including badges and medals, are not yet available to students.

The years of fund-raising are not yet over, as only the first phase of the building, representing more than three-quarters of the project, is finished. The whole, containing special exhibition galleries, a restaurant, storage for reserve collections, and offices, will be completed once a further £350,000 has been received.

The Museum is open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday from 10 until 5.30 (2 to 5.30 Sundays).

Admission is free until the end of 1971. From 1st January, 1972, charges may be introduced to conform with the recent White Paper.

—From our "In" Tray—

Career Prospects for Technicians

Sir,

I wonder if you would be kind enough to give space in your columns for discussion of a subject of great interest to some two thousand members of the Corps, namely 'Career Prospects for Technicians.'

This item has been on the agenda of the Soldier Committee, of which I am Chairman, for sixteen months and at our monthly meetings has been under discussion for many, many hours. At the end of these discussions and in conjunction with the introduction of the new Soldier Structure it is perhaps now timely to publicise some of our conclusions. I will start from scratch.

The technicians' pay, time promotion structure and, from that, some of his career prospects, are currently fixed by Joint Service agreement in conjunction with the Civil Service Department (C.S.D.) C.S.D. is anxious to ensure that the taxpayer gets a reasonable return in the shape of work done, by technicians of all ranks, after large sums of public money have been spent on their training. Royal Signals are unable, either jointly or in isolation, to change any element of the rules. For example, a case jointly submitted by R.E., R. Signals and R.E.M.E. to reduce the time required for promotion of F. of S. from Staff Sergeant - W.O.2 from six to five years was rejected in 1970. As a result of this, the Soldier Committee had to look very closely at what the Corps can do for itself.

As part of the new Soldier Structure we have re-shaped each Trade Roll from bottom to top and constructed a Target Structure for each, so that every soldier has the best, the fastest, and an equitable chance of advancement right the way through from Signalman to Lieutenant-Colonel Q.M. type commission. In the case of technicians it is from Signalman Technicians to Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.). Let us start at the bottom.

Every Signalman Technician advances to Sergeant Technician on time. In so doing he has a 100 per cent chance of promotion, Signalman — Lance-Corporal — Corporal — Sergeant, a privilege (and pay) not enjoyed by other trades in the Corps, who are on merit promotion and not time promotion. Because of this there are a lot of Sergeant Technicians (if they all stay in, there could be some 2,000) competing for what appear, to them, to be too few vacancies for further promotion. I have to emphasise that it is the large number of Sergeants competing for promotion to F. of S. (and in future, Staff Sergeant Technician) not the shortage of vacancies, which causes the apparent bottleneck.

What are these vacancies? To look sensibly at this you have to go to the distant end, the top, and look backwards.

In 1973, Royal Signals should have 75 T.O.T.s. The Officer Committee has recommended that this number should be increased to 85 and action to achieve this is in hand. No reduction in this number will take place in the foreseeable future.

Feeding into these T.O.T.s, are planned to be 240 Foreman of Signals which is the total number of posts which the Corps can **presently** justify. There is a good chance that this number will be increased between now and 1973.

To support 240 Foreman of Signals posts the School of Signals needs to put out 20 new Foremen each year, that is three courses every two years. To employ an output of, for example, 30 per year, Royal Signals would need to justify 371 Foremen of Signal posts and that is just not on. This is because the number of senior posts allowed to any Corps or Regiment is very tightly controlled on the basis of necessity for men of the right rank and responsibility for specific jobs. It would be a serious mistake to do anything that would debase the status of Foreman of Signals.

The output of new Yeomen from the School is to be the same — 20 per year. That number again is found by calculating backwards from the number of Yeomen posts which the Corps can justify, not the number of operators who may compete for them.

To improve promotion chances at Sergeant, however, we are creating many Staff Sergeant Technician posts to which promotion will be on merit tempered with seniority as for other functional trade rolls; but these Staff Sergeants will not be promotable to W.O.2 as technicians, they will have to go to RD.

To sum up then. A technician goes from Signalman to Sergeant on time. At that point he can choose to compete either:

a. For selection for F. of S.

or b. For selection for Staff Sergeant Technician and then remain as such (on technician rates of pay). If he makes this choice and wishes to be considered for further promotion he must elect to progress on the RD roll and get himself qualified.

Whatever his choice when he eventually leaves the Army his technical training and experience have a direct value in industry and his qualifications are recognised by the Trade Unions.

I have not attempted in this letter to compare the technicians career prospects with those of other tradesmen because it would take much more space than you could make available. If the fundamental principle is remembered that one must look at the complete spectrum of a trade from the bottom to the top and not take one step in isolation from the rest, it will be seen that the technician has a career as good as and perhaps better, than most of the other trades in Royal Signals, and indeed in the Army as a whole.

If any technician is worried about his own personal prospects he can, as can any soldier of the Corps, write to Officer i/c Records **through his Commanding Officer** at any time or he can ask to see Officer i/c Records during his periodic visits to units. If any Technician, Foreman or T.O.T. has any questions on the content of this letter, I would be pleased to answer them either privately or publicly as required.

Your faithfully,

Ministry of Defence,
10th September, 1971.

C. E. Tonry (Brigadier,)
B.G.S. Signals (Army)



Sir,

Enclosed please find what can only be described as an 'unusual' photograph.

It was taken at the R.S.M.'s Convention on 20th March, 1968, and shows five special telegraphists (we were special operators in those days) all W.O.I. (R.S.M.) at that time.

From left to right they are:—

'Mac' MacDonald (now Lieutenant in B.A.O.R.).
'Johnny' Finch (now Captain in B.A.O.R.)
'Mick' Hopewell (now L.S.L. W.O.I in Chester)
'Taffy' Garland (now Mr. Garland, residing in Ickenham)
'Robbie' Burns (now Captain in Cyprus)

It is theoretically possible that a similar number of R.S.M.s may be forthcoming from our small band of special telegraphists, but will such a 'clutch' ever be seen again?

Yours sincerely,

'Robbie' Burns (A. Burns), Captain R. Signals.

259 Signal Squadron,
B.F.P.O. 53.

The Corps Band in Jersey: An appreciation

Sir,

On behalf of the local branch of the Royal Signals Association, I hope you will find space to record our deep appreciation of the Corps Band which recently performed in the Island of Jersey. Those of us who managed to get seats at the main performance in Howard Davis park were given a musical treat *par excellence*.

There were various items concerning our band in the local papers, all unstintingly in praise of the Band's performance. We hope it will be possible for the Band to visit the Island again next year.

Yours sincerely,

G. A. Strutt, Hon. Sec. Jersey Branch,
Royal Signals Association.

3, Grouville Arsenal,
Grouville,
Jersey, C.I.



GRADUATION CEREMONY

After receiving their degree from the Duke of Edinburgh at the R.M.C.S., Shrivenham, Lieutenant N. O. Williams who did so well, and a friend are seen talking with Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Garratt of the Directing Staff and Brigadier and Mrs. J. M. Sawers

Individual Wire Subscribers

We are most grateful to the many individual subscribers who completed the loose insert in red print in last month's 'Wire' in respect of the increased annual subscription for 1972. Another insert is enclosed with this month's 'Wire' and all who have not yet completed this proforma are earnestly requested to do so now. This will greatly assist our hard-pressed accounts staff.

CORPS DIARIES 1972

Corps diaries for 1972 are now in stock and can be ordered from Association Headquarters at 30p each post free. The diary is of the slimfold type identical with the 1971 diary which proved very popular. Good stocks are held but the earlier orders are received the better.

The Wire — December Issue

Will all Units please note that copy for the December issue must be in the Editor's hands by 10th November latest.

Servicemen — Don't lose your Vote

To vote at parliamentary or local government elections you must be registered as electors, and service declarations have to be completed every year. A great many servicemen fail to register as electors and consequently are not eligible to vote at parliamentary and local government elections.

To get on the next register (which comes into force on 16th February, 1972) you must make a service declaration on Form F/Vote/33. You must sign this declaration and date it not later than 10th October, 1971 (15th September, 1971 for Northern Ireland constituencies). When completed, send it to the electoral registration officer at the local town hall or county offices for your home address **to reach him not later than 16th December, 1971.**

Make sure you obtain the form and explanatory leaflet from your unit. If you are serving outside the United Kingdom and your wife is with you she should complete the form for wives (F/Vote/34) which is also available at your unit.

Look into the matter NOW. Your right to vote depends on it.

Clothing

Since the beginning of June, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Mrs. D. E. Blease, The Garrison Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Captain D. Iliffe, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr, Mrs. A. Hudson, Staff Sergeant J. McGonagle, Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Horner, Mrs. J. Hewson, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. A. Baker, Major-General R. J. Moberly, Mrs. M. Ruff, J. H. Roake Esq., W. E. Reynolds Esq., Colonel G. J. C. Moss, Major T. B. Woods, Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham.

Colonel G. D. T. Harris, Major E. J. Buirski, Brigadier and Mrs. C. E. Tonry, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Welsford, Lieutenant-Colonel K. Kirkby, Major and Mrs. G. W. Young, W. E. Osborne Esq., Major W. S. Cunningham, Major-General C. E. Page, K. Bevan Esq., Major-General M. D. Price, Major E. F. Prockter, The Baroness Von Muschwitz, Captain (T.O.T.) J. Potts, Mrs. M. S. Hancock, Major and Mrs. N. Moss, Major C. F. Lewis, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. C. L. Ommanney.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during August, 1971:

O.C., 11th Signal Regiment (Stalls at Reunion)	£83.08
O.C., 18th Signal Regiment (W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess)	81.04
Treasurer, St. Alban's Church, Army Apprentices' College	15.00
Commander, H.Q. Training Brigade (Stalls at Reunion)	10.47
O.C., 10th Signal Regiment	5.00
O.C., 38th Signal Regiment (V)	3.37
Mr. H. Foster, M.B.E.	6.92
Signalman Jugdish Singh	50
	£205.38

Do Yourself a Favour!

If you are serving and have a standing order for "The Wire," please keep us informed well in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders, and your "Wire" will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

North to the Shiants

Recently Nigel Nicolson, writer and late Conservative M.P. for Bournemouth East, led an expedition — many of whom were young people — to the remote Shiant Islands which lie off the north coast of Scotland near the Isle of Lewis. The object was to make a sound and colour film of local bird and seal life for television.

Selected to accompany this expedition were Sergeant Muir, Corporal Walker and Lance-Corporals Macdonald and Crawford, of the School of Signals — their job to provide communications back to the mainland and Blandford.

Read Corporal Walker's account of what was to prove a most interesting and rewarding assignment for these four Corps N.C.O.s.



Vista on the Shiants

Gaunt, bare, but the home of myriads of seabirds and seals

Object of the exercise

THE object, from our point of view, was to provide a radio link to the mainland to ensure that emergency services could be called upon to give aid and comfort, in the event of an emergency, to a group of senior school boys and girls, cameramen and technicians. They were all part of the expedition engaged in making a film about the islands to be shown on television sometime in the future.

Here was a chance to help a productive group of people, whilst testing our own initiative, resourcefulness and training. Once the party had landed on the Shiant Isles, and the larger island of Lewis, there would be no technical back up, no spares or any of the plug-in appliances that we at the School of Signals rely upon.

When asked by my O.C. if I would like to accompany the expedition, along with **Sergeant Muir, Lance-Corporal Macdonald** and **Lance-Corporal Crawford,** my first thoughts were what and where exactly are the Shiant Isles. After some research I found that they were a group of three uninhabited islands off the coast of the Isle of Lewis. Two of these islands are joined by a very narrow isthmus, which, due to the steep cliffs surrounding the rest of the islands, is the only place that one can land. The third island lay about half a mile away. I decided to volunteer, as it rather looked that I would be enlisted anyway.

A long haul link

The communications we were to provide were between the Shiant Isles and the mainland, and a 'belt and braces' skywave link back to the School of Signals. Although the School of Signals were using a D11, we were to use a A13. We spent sometime, before the expedition started, checking the set over a range of twenty-five miles. These tests proved satisfactory and we had no doubt about our being able to work the link from Shiant to Stornoway. For the five hundred mile link back to Blandford, we felt that we would have to rely on a very good wire antenna and a lot of luck, although the operators amongst us substitute skill for luck.

Thanks to the R.A.F.

We left Blandford Camp on the morning of 8th July for Kyle of Lochalsh, where we were to catch the ferry to Stornoway. We made two overnight stops on the journey North, one at Carlisle, and the other at Fort William and on arrival at Kyle of Lochalsh, the Land Rover and trailer were loaded by crane onto the ferry for the crossing to Stornoway. At Stornoway we were met by a member of R.A.F. Stornoway, who were providing the food and accommodation for **Sergeant Muir** and **Lance-Corporal Crawford** who were working the rear link, and for **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** and myself during our transit periods. Our deepest thanks go to all members of the R.A.F. at Stornoway for the way in which they looked after us. After **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** and myself had left for the Shiant Isles, **Sergeant Muir** and **Lance-Corporal Crawford** lived on 'poached' salmon, whilst we were to 'rough it' with fresh lobster and crab.

The following day was spent on final equipment tests. We then left the R.A.F. camp for the civil airport to meet the flight from Glasgow, on which the main party were arriving. Their BEA flight was slightly delayed due to the aircraft being diverted over the Shiant Isles to enable the film unit to get some shots of the islands from the air and also to allow the advance party, who were already on the island, to request stores by pre-arranged signals.

'Vital' stores

Due to the delay in the arrival of the aircraft it was found that we were behind schedule. So with introductions quickly over, all the main party and equipment were loaded into a 38-seater coach for the journey to Limeray, a small fishing village on the south-east coast of the Isle of Lewis. It was at Limeray that a small fishing boat was to be waiting to take us out to the islands. We were informed by **Mr. Nigel Nicolson,** the expedition leader, that they had seen the advance party's signals as they flew over the islands, and that **vital** stores would have to be purchased from Stornoway. The **vital** stores required were whisky and cigarettes. Whisky classed as vital stores — would the Q.M. department please take note!!!

Through to Blandford on a shoestring

Whilst on the coach it was realised that a scheduled call was due to be made to Blandford. So **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** set up the A13 on one of the seats, and with an eight foot rod antenna pushed out of the window made the call to Blandford. When Blandford asked for our location and received the reply: "On a 38-seater coach travelling towards Limeray," there was a long pause followed by the question: "Are you mobile?" We think that the answer of "Yes" really put them into a disbelieving mood. I have heard that the School of Signals are now indenting for a 38-seater Leyland Counterpoise for issue to A13 station.

We finally arrived at Limeray about half an hour late, and immediately started to load all the stores and equipment into the fishing boat. As Limeray is only a very small fishing village without a jetty, all kit had to be loaded onto the fishing boat using a small rowing boat from the rocky beach. This was a rather slow procedure, the rocks being very slippery with sea-weed. With all personnel and stores finally aboard, we said our farewells to **Sergeant Muir** and **Lance-Corporal Crawford,** who returned to Stornoway to work the other end of the link.

It was intended to work the A13 from the boat, but this proved impossible due to heavy interference from the boat motor, and the fact that the film unit had begun filming **Mr. Nigel Nicolson** and his son, **Adam.** The boat trip lasted for about an hour and a half, and we finally landed on the isthmus joining the two islands, where again all the equipment and personnel had to be loaded using the small rowing boat.

House Island

On one of the two connected islands there is a small cottage, hence the island is called House Island, the other being called Rough Island. The cottage was situated about two hundred yards from where we landed, and situated close to it at sea level, was to be the centre of our camp. After the stores had been unloaded and carried to the camp area, the fishing boat left us to our isolation on the Shiant Isles.

That evening was spent in sorting out stores and equipment, and getting to know each other. The party now consisted of twenty-eight people, **Mr. Nigel Nicolson,** the expedition leader, a doctor, six camera crew, four men and four girls to help with the general running of the expedition, ten young schoolboys, **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** and myself.

Hand generator — not popular

The following morning our scheduled call was made with Stornoway and Blandford without difficulty, although we were still only using the eight foot whip. This antenna was used throughout the expedition, and except in the late afternoon and evening when our frequencies were swamped with Q.R.N. we had little difficulty in working Blandford or Stornoway, our only problem being one of batteries. As there were no charging facilities on the island, we took with us the hand generator which is supplied with the A13. We found this a most unsatisfactory piece of equipment, mainly due to the great amount of physical energy that had to be put into it to produce a very low return. Throughout the expedition the A13 worked like a dream. It says much for the A13 when one considers that we were working five hundred miles on a eight foot whip, and normally using 1.5 watts and still getting through.

After making the early call, I spent the rest of the morning helping to organise the camp, while **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** went out in the small boat to do some fishing and visit Mary Island, the third of the three islands that make up the Shiant group.

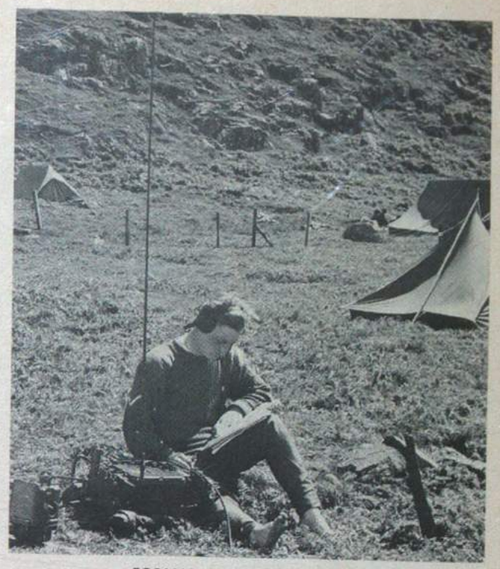
Over two million puffins

That afternoon I spent walking around House Island with the doctor and although we were unable to identify all the birds that we saw, we did identify, the greater black backed gull, cormorants, puffin, gannet, tern snipe and oyster catchers. We also saw a great many seals around the island. It is said that there are over two million puffins living on and around these islands and from the number that we saw this would appear to be true. It was also thought that no seals now lived in the vicinity but I counted twenty-nine on one day and on another occasion over fifty were seen.

The evening was spent with everyone sitting around the fire in the cottage chatting and drinking some of the 'vital' stores. It was during the first evening that we noticed that it never became dark on the island there being a kind of twilight between sunset and sunrise which lasted for about three hours.

The daily round

The next few days were spent in much the same way and between calls to Stornoway and Blandford we could always find something with which to occupy ourselves. **Lance-Corporal Macdonald's** main pastime was fishing and as the main diet on the island consisted of fish or lobster this could have been a full time occupation. On one occasion whilst out in the boat, **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** found himself and some of the young boys almost adrift after an oar had broken. On another occasion when out with some others of the party, the outboard motor on the boat cut out and refused to restart. This was in very heavy seas with a strong wind blowing. After rowing for about ten minutes they found that they had only just maintained their position. After a great deal of very hard rowing they arrived back, very wet and very tired.



FORMAL COMMUNICATIONS

Lance-Corporal Macdonald on schedule call to Stornoway and Blandford

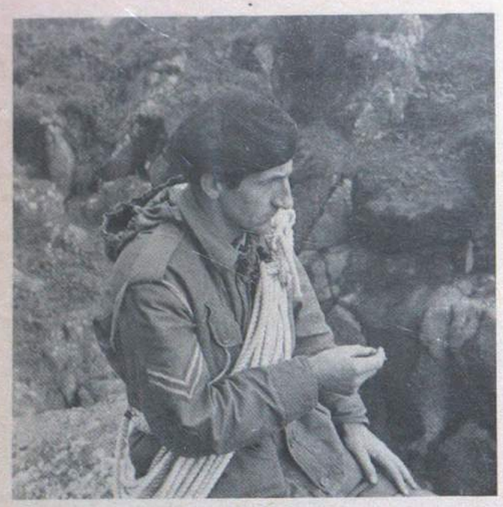


HUMAN COMMUNICATIONS

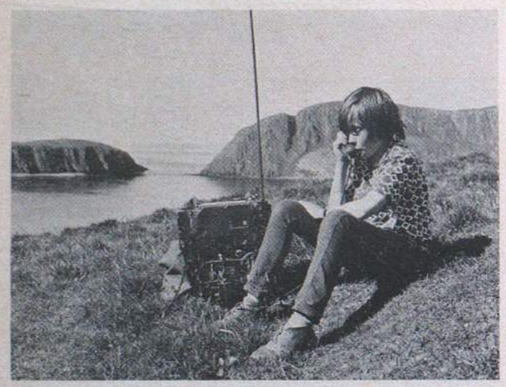
Corporal Walker gets through to the younger members of the team

An outing to Mary Island

On the Friday I was asked if I would take the boys over to Mary Island, and return the following day. This was planned for two reasons, first to get the boys away from the



MOUNTAINEER
Corporal Walker about to take some of the boys on climbing instruction



POTENTIAL RECRUIT
A young member of the team gets the idea

cottage area so that uninterrupted filming could take place, and secondly, few of the boys had ever done anything of this kind before and it would therefore be a new experience for them.

It took two journeys in the boat to get us all over to Mary Island. The camp site that we had chosen was about three hundred feet above sea level, and a lot of work was done by the boys in getting all the equipment to the top. Besides our personal kit we took four 88 sets for use by the boys, an A40 to keep in contact with House Island in case of any emergency, and a 160lb. tent for the boys to sleep in. As the wind was very strong and the island had no sheltered camping site, the danger of the tent blowing away was very real. We eventually had everything set up, and the boys cooked themselves a meal using Hexamine cookers. A small fire of drift wood was lit and the boys spent the evening sitting around it talking and baking potatoes.

The weather the next morning turned out to be the best of the expedition. The boys spent the day exploring the island and reporting their movements back to the camp site using the 88 sets. I spent most of the morning out in a canoe, helping the film unit who were at that time filming in some of the caves around Mary Island. In the afternoon the kit was carried down to the beach ready for the trip back. It was whilst doing this, that I managed to slip on the rocks at the water's edge and pull a leg muscle. We eventually arrived back at the cottage that evening to a meal of crab and lobster.

Altogether a fantastic week

Sunday was spent in sorting out the stores and equipment ready for the trip back to Stornoway the next day. By this time the island was out of 'vital' stores, which was the only reason we could see for returning to civilisation. It was the general opinion, that deep down no one wanted to leave, least of all **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** and myself. It had been a fantastic week for the both of us. Not only had we got away from the routine work of the School, but we had escaped from all noise, pressure, and the filthy air of the civilised world.

The last evening was again spent around the fire in the cottage, only this time it was a case of exchanging addresses, and talking about what we would like to do in the future. One thing that came out was that the film unit were off to Afghanistan in September. I wonder. . . .

And so back to Blandford

The following morning was one of feverish activity as all the stores had to be put aboard the fishing boat which was due to arrive at 7 o'clock. The main party then had to go to Stornoway airport to catch the 12 o'clock flight to Glasgow. The fishing boat was to return and take the advance party to Tarbart, on the south end of the Isle of Lewis, where they were to drive back to London.

POSTCRIPT

'The Wire' has pleasure in publishing the following extract from a letter written by Mr. Nigel Nicolson to Lieutenant-Colonel Talbot at the School of Signals.

"I cannot tell you how much your N.C.O.s contributed to the success of our expedition. It was not only that our party felt safer in our isolation for the link they provided with the outside world, and the fun (enjoyed equally by boys and adults) of our thrice-daily signals with Stornoway and Blandford, and our inter-island communications. But the two men with us raised the morale, and heightened the pleasure, of the entire party by their good humour, their helpfulness in all situations, and the spirit with which they entered into our very unmilitary activities and camp life. We had invited them to provide us with a radio link in case of danger or accident. This function they performed admirably, but I had never dared hope that they would contribute so much more.

"They mended our oil-burner, taught the boys rock climbing and lobster fishing, did more than their share of camp chores, and were always patient with the endless fascination shown by the boys in your transmitters. In particular, I shall always remember the trouble taken by **Corporal Walker** in setting up the boys' camp on Mary Island, looking after them so well when he was the only adult to spend a night with them there (telling them stories round the camp fire far into the night), and in humping their big tent 300ft. up steep slopes to the top of the island.

"It was too bad that he should have strained a muscle in bringing it down again next day, and I hope he has recovered from this injury, the only one which the party sustained. **Lance-Corporal Macdonald** was also unfailingly helpful from start to finish, and I greatly appreciated his co-operation in everything I asked him to do. Both men showed the greatest initiative and were a credit to the Royal Signals.

"Inevitably I saw less of **Sergeant Muir** and **Lance-Corporal Crawford,** but was always aware of their support and efficiency at the other end of our link, as I was of other people whom I never met, at Blandford, including yourself. I do hope that the exercise was helpful to you too. When our film is eventually shown on television, none of the viewers will be aware of the presence and help of your party, but all of us who were there will remember it for a long time. Thank-you very much indeed."

In an earlier signal from the Shiants, **Mr. Nicolson** says: "Boys learning rock climbing from **Corporal Walker** and fishing from **Lance-Corporal Macdonald.** Both Signallers helpful far beyond call of duty. Wish I had powers of promotion. Royal Signals now have ten potential recruits."

Fourth of a series sponsored by

H.Q. 2 Signal Group

Communication Centres of the U.K.

YORK

Situated in the shadows of the ancient walls of historic York and within easy walking distance of the famous Minster, the Comcen H.Q. Northern Command has been in its present location, in the grounds of Fishergate House, since 1954. Previously it was located in Fishergate House itself and an even earlier home, during the period 1939 - 1947 was in Melbourne Chapel Hall nearby. Prior to 1969 the present building housed both the Command Signal Centre and a major Relay Station. In February 1969 after 15 years' operation the Relay Centre closed due to rationalisation.

Staff

The Comcen is manned by a civilian staff with many years experience, most of whom have served in the Armed Forces. They are augmented by seven charming members of the W.R.A.C.

Responsibilities

The Comcen at York serves H.Q. Northern Command, an Infantry Records Office, a Regimental Pay Office and a number of units in York, Harrogate and Ripon.



1



2

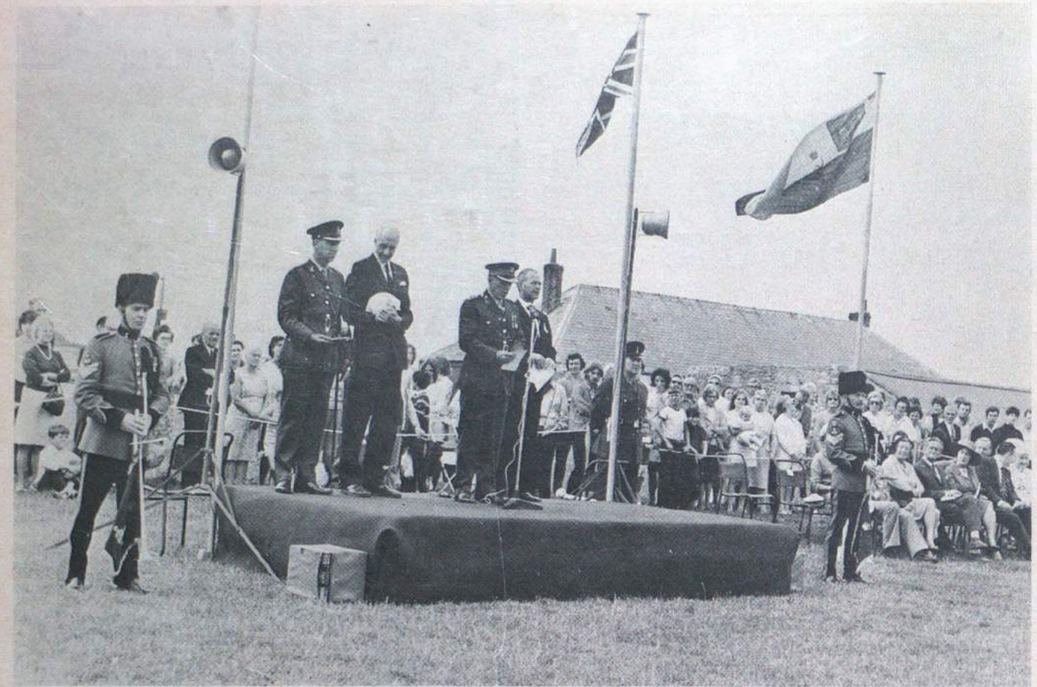


4



3

Members of the York Comcen are an enthusiastic and happy lot. The Minster (photo 1) dominates the city and the Comcen works practically in its shadow. Mrs. P. Medd (photo 2) is the Supervisor and she has been with the Comcen for 18 years. Another smiling member of the Staff is Private Jenny Wrigglesworth, W.R.A.C. (photo 3). At the age of 18 Private Rosemary Wilson, Wrac (photo 4) is the current holder of the Army Women's Foil Championship and a member of the Combined Services Fencing Team



[Photo courtesy S. L. Cook, 5a The Val, Alderney

THE ADOPTION CEREMONY

On the dais, *from left to right:* The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre, Clerk to the States Mr. P. J. Radice, Colonel I. M. Rose and the President, Mr. G. W. Baron. The trumpeters are Sergeants Greer and Lawson
In the background: S.S.M. Ron Block

30th REGIMENT MAKE HISTORY

First British Army Unit to be adopted by Alderney

Alderney adoption of 30th Signal Regiment

In a simple and impressive ceremony held on the Butes in Alderney at 11.30 on Saturday, 4th September, the people of Alderney adopted 30th Signal Regiment. Watched by a large and appreciative crowd of island members and holiday-makers, the President of the States **Mr. G. W. Baron,** accompanied by **Colonel I. M. Rose, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre** and **Mr. P. W. Radice,** mounted the saluting dais in front of which a detachment of the Regiment presented arms and two trumpeters of the Corps Band in full dress scarlet uniform sounded the General Salute. Among the spectators for the occasion were the Governor's Representative in Alderney, **Group Captain (retd.) E. F. J. Odoire, D.F.C., A.F.C.,** and the Chief Signal Officer, Army Strategic Command, **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.**

The President, accompanied by **Colonel Rose** acting in the capacity of Royal Signals representative inspected the detachment. During his address **Mr. Baron** said: "The States and people of Alderney extend a special welcome to you today. There is no record of any unit of the British Army previously being adopted by our island. Your Regiment, therefore, has this unique honour—an honour justly due to so popular an arm of Her Majesty's Forces.

"We are delighted that you have accepted our invitation. You have left lasting and deep-seated impressions from your visits; the works and improvements you have carried out have been of great benefit to the community. By this simple ceremony which we are enacting today, the mutual bond of friendship which has been achieved will have been greaty strengthened.

"The 30th Signal Regiment has a standing invitation to our island at all times, so that this association may for many years continue. In recognition of this occasion I would ask you to accept from the people of Alderney this plate of silver, suitably inscribed with the Alderney crest." **Mr. Baron** then presented a silver salver to **Colonel Rose.**

In reply, **Colonel Rose** said: "It is with profound and sincere gratitude that I accept on behalf of 30th Signal Regiment the token of adoption by the ancient island of Alderney, aware indeed that it is the highest mark of affection and esteem that it is within your power to bestow on a Regiment of Her Majesty's Regular Forces.

"Your island of Alderney has, in its 2,000 years and more long been associated with men-at-arms who have travelled across the seas and rested in her land, with the attendant problems of signalling back to their mother country.

"I like to feel it is not inappropriate that you have chosen to bestow this high honour of adoption upon a Regiment which has as its primary task the role of communicating from places around the world back to its mother country and at this moment many members of the Regiment are so deployed on operation.

"We have come to your island over the last two years to exercise our communications, and we have made many friendships with your people which I am sure as the years go by will flourish and strengthen the ties that are now being so firmly bonded between us.

"Mr. President, we would ask you to accept on this great occasion in the life of 30th Signal Regiment this trumpet and banner with its figure of Mercury, the central figure of our Regimental badge, in the hope that it may long continue to sound out as a reminder of the honourable bonds of affection which have been forged here today."

The President also presented the Regiment with a silver swan suitably mounted and inscribed: "From the People of Alderney," as a trophy for inter-Squadron competition within the Regiment.

For the ceremony, ceremonial fanfares entitled 'The Alderney Fanfares' were specially composed by **Captain K. R. R. Boulding, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., B.B.C.M.,** the Director of Music Royal Corps of Signals.

After the ceremony, the President of the States and States Members entertained the Royal Signals representatives, the Commanding Officer, Officers and Warrant Officers of the Regiment to a vin d'honneur and luncheon.

A sign of the times

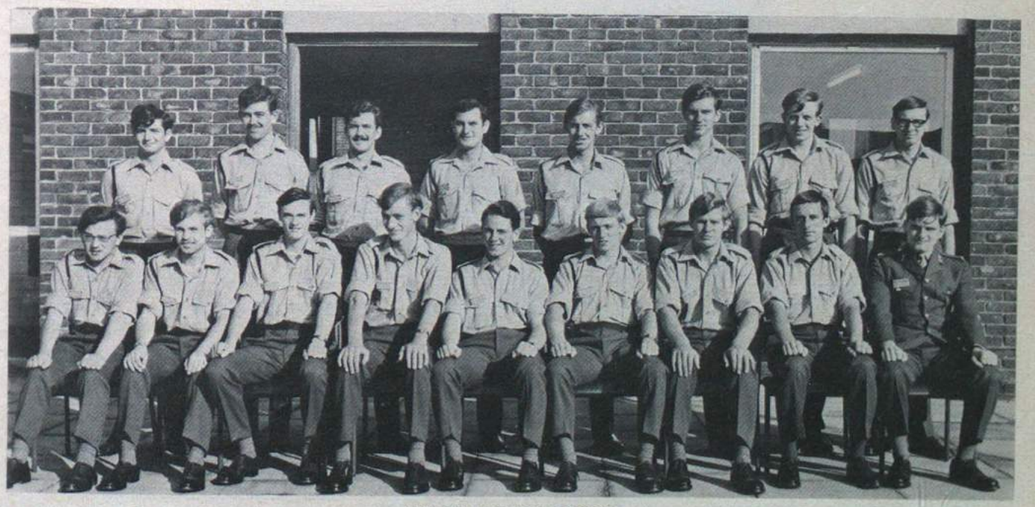
Muscle-power gave way to machine-power in 4 Signal Group when two 'second generation' mechanical trench diggers arrived from U.K. in August. One of the new diggers has been allocated to 21st Signal Regiment and one to the S.W.S. Troop at Sennelager. The safe arrival of the trench diggers in B.A.O.R. represents a triumph of tenacity and perseverance for **Captain (TOT) Leslie Hooper** and **Major (Retd.) Bryn Parsonage** of the S.W.S. Section, H.Q. 4 Signal Group, who have had the responsibility for obtaining financial approval for purchase of the machines, placing the order with the manufacturers, finding the necessary funds for purchase from within the B.A.O.R. S.W.S. allocation, and finally, arranging shipment of the diggers to B.A.O.R. The trench diggers are Davis 300 models, and are the standard type used by the Post Office Corporation in the United Kingdom. The machines are self-propelled, on tracks, and a trailer is supplied with each equipment to enable it to be transported quickly from one working location to the next. The Davis 300 will dig a trench of 2ft. 6in. to 5ft. deep and from 4in. to 10in. wide at a speed of up to 960 feet per hour, depending on soil. An angled dozer-blade fitted at the back of the tractor enables trenches to be filled in mechanically after the cable has been laid. The machine is equipped with a thrust-borer attachment which will drill horizontally under roads, etc., to a distance of 80 feet. The machine is powered by a 10 h.p. Lister diesel engine.



GOODBYE TO DIGGING

Signalman Harry Kaye about to start a dig. The direction of movement is right to left, with the operator looking backwards to check on the alignment of the trench

The advantages of the Davis 300 over the earlier type of mechanical digger in use in B.A.O.R. lies in its employment of the endless-belt type scoop, the provision of a thrust-borer, and the fact that it is self-propelled. The scoop enables a much narrower trench to be dug, at greater speed, and the self-propulsion enables the machine to move steadily forward as the trench is excavated. There is much less movement of earth to obtain the same depth of lay and the speed of digging is very much faster than that of the first generation of diggers.



WELCOME TO THE CORPS

NO. 76 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS QUALIFYING COURSE FOR OFFICERS NEWLY COMMISSIONED INTO ROYAL SIGNALS

Back row (left to right): Second-Lieutenants Crowley, Davies, Elson, Harris, Hewitt, Hope, Lawson, Lynam
Front row (left to right): Second-Lieutenants McLeod, Manders, Podmore, Richardson, Smedley, Telfer, Turner, Watchus, Wood

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation



AFCENT MARCHING TEAM
The Corps provides 7 members of this enthusiastic band (1 absent from photo). Note cups and medals

Corps Soldiers more than hold their own in International circles

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) show the flag in athletics and marching

ATHLETICS

Our more energetic members have not been letting the grass grow under their feet. The Squadron acquitted themselves well in an international athletics meeting staged on 21st July.

Overawed

Initially our athletes were rather overawed by our trans-Atlantic allies, who breezed in with a laconic "Hi yuh awl," dressed in vests emblazoned with 'Kent State,' 'Pennsylvania High' and other distinguished institutions, providing a role call of America's higher seats of learning.

The Squadron's only answer was provided by **Corporal Pete Catterall** who, judging by his vest, was educated at Heineken College. This, he assures us, was where he satisfied his thirst for learning. **Corporal Ian Dudding,** our athletic chief clerk, provided our only other touch of colour with a track suite obviously purloined from 216 Parachute Signal Squadron.

Germans provide opposition

The meeting quickly developed into a two-horse race with the Germans dominating the sprints, while the Squadron reigned supreme in the middle-distance events. Success in the field events was shared between the two.

The Americans added a touch of colour to all events but failed to produce a winner.

Sergeant Leo Smale showed that his efforts in running errands since the birth of his daughter has paid dividends by winning the 800 and 1600 metres and assisting the Squadron to win the 4 x 400 metres relay.

Corporal Bob Harber, our stalwart from line section, took second place in throwing the hammer. He felt a bit embarrassed at this success as the organisers did not require him to throw a jumper as well. He trains hard on Amstel beer. This, he tells us, gives him a good solid base to throw from.

Corporal Ian Dudding took time off from trying to teach **Mrs. Sharon Parry's** typewriter how to spell, and won the hop, step and jump. We can only hope he will enjoy a similar success with our civilian typist's machine.

Chain of command race a real thriller

Perhaps the most exciting event proved to be the 4 x 100 metres chain of command race. The Squadron in this event was ably represented by **Captains Jon Ingram** and **Alan Pearce, Staff Sergeant Jim Walker** and **S.S.M. Bert Bowes.** The final leg saw **Bert** and the German first sergeant **Hfw. Von Kiedrowski** racing for the line and ending in a dead heat. The Germans were amazed at this fantastic turn of speed on **Bert's** part and demanded a saliva test. We are not sure what this has proved, as the vet's report reads: "This horse will never regain full health and should be put down at once."

Final scores were: U.K. Nationals, 181 points; German Nationals, 92 points; Canadian Nationals, 34 points; American Nationals, 20 points; Netherlands, 7 points.

In fairness it must be pointed out that the largest contingents were those from U.K., U.S.A. and Germany. We feel sure that this result will ensure that the strains of 'Deutschland Overalls' will echo no more around the Maastricht sports arena. At least, not until the Sergeants' Mess take on the German Senior N.C.O.s at soccer again!



OVER 100 MEDALS AND 20 TROPHIES!
AFCENT's marching team, *from left to right:* Corporal Norman Troughton, Signalmen Mike Rennison, Joe Dennett, Dave Dean, Corporals Keith Roythorne and Pete Catterall

AFCENT MARCHING MEN

The AFCENT marching team with seven regular members from the Squadron have been very active this past few months. Recent events have included marches in Maastricht, Diekirch, Amersfoort, Viborg (Denmark), Ardennes (Belgium), Rheindahlen, Appledoorn and Nijmegen. Representing the Squadron in these marches were **Corporals Keith Roythorne, Norman Troughton** and **Pete Catterall, Lance-Corporal John Mugford, Signalmen Dave Dean, Joe Dennett** and **Mike Rennison.**

All are keen to point out the benefits derived from marching regularly but are reticent when it comes to the social activities associated with the marches. This sport provides a good opportunity for making contact with the local populace who are extremely keen on this activity.

The success of our marchers is reflected in the medals and trophies collected by them. **Corporal Keith Roythorne** and **Norman Troughton** are rapidly reaching the stage where they look like English versions of Herman Goering. We anticipate further successes, and an increase in numbers participating in this very popular sport.

BAOR Royal Signals KAPE

by Lieutenant Tom Moncur

AS you should all know KAPE stands for 'Keep the Army in the Public Eye,' and is a means of improving recruiting of both soldiers and W.R.A.C. The method employed has been well tried and tested. Vehicles and equipment in common use by the Army are taken to various towns in the U.K. and their purpose explained to the general public. By thus showing those interested at first hand what the Army does, it is hoped to stimulate enquiries and thus increase our chances of recruitment. This year the C.S.O. Scotland requested that a Royal Signals KAPE team be sent to Scotland from B.A.O.R. in order to support the Corps Mobile Display, Quicksilver, in presenting a modern image of the Corps.

The lot fell upon 4th Signal Group to provide the vehicles and personnel from the joint resources of 16th and 21st Signal Regiments. It was decided that an officer should be provided by 21st Signal Regiment to command the tour and that equipment should be chosen from both Regiments to give a fair representation of their respective roles.

The formidable process of documentation was then set in motion, advances of allowances were obtained and stocks of wax polish replenished in preparation for the task ahead. **Staff Sergeant Frank Crawford,** of 3 Squadron, 16th Signal Regiment, was appointed to act as Second-in-Command of the tour and to organise preparations from 16th Signal Regiment while **Lieutenant Tom Moncur,** as tour O.C., co-ordinated activities at R.A.F. Wildenrath.

Much credit is due to **Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson,** of 16th Signal Regiment and to **Lieutenant-Colonel Phippard,** of 21st Signal Regiment, for the way in which vehicles and equipment were so readily made available. The final selection of vehicles consisted of four Austin one ton K.9 vehicles, two with D.11 installations and two with C.41 installations. In the week before the scheduled departure date, much activity was spent in bringing the vehicles up to a highly polished professional finish of Quicksilver. **Corporal Mike Pawlack, Lance-Corporal Dave Innis, Signalman Jack Straiton, Signalman 'Geordie' Gargett, Signalman Tom Crawford, Signalman Bill Pederson, Signalman Pete Finlayson, Signalman Pete Hill, Signalman Andy Stewart** all pitched in with a vengeance to get mops, pails, buckets and soapy water flying furiously in the process of vehicle cleaning.

Many miles were covered, meanwhile, by **Lieutenant Moncur** in finalising movement details, checking bills of lading and multiple copies of customs forms — all essential ingredients of any move with equipment to U.K.

The tour left R.A.F. Wildenrath on Saturday 22nd May for the Zeebrugge-Dover ferry crossing that night. A long drive then followed up to Catterick for the overnight stop. After a refreshing night's rest the team pushed on next day to Edinburgh for a few days' stay with 242 Signal Squadron, where **Major Gerry Fleming** had kindly allocated the team some superb facilities in the way of accommodation and POL replenishment. The stains of travel were quickly removed, and after a rest day in Scotland's capital city, the team moved to Dundee for the first shows of the tour.

The next three days were hot and furious. **Lance-Corporal Moran** who had come off leave to volunteer for the tour, was hard put to stop some enthusiastic youngsters climbing the Clark Mast in his vehicles for a closer look at the Yagi antennae. Speculation as to their purpose ranged from television receivers to tracking devices for foreign military satellites.

Dundee was the team's first experience of the considerable strain involved in keeping a KAPE show on the road. Much patience was needed in dealing with persistent and lively youngsters, and a fair bit of insight was required to sort out the genuine enquiries from those who were just in out of the bad weather. The ability to communicate well verbally is important, and we like to think that if our enquirers are still a bit hazy about the physics of sub-multiplexing, they at least have a good idea of why that particular piece of equipment is there.

After three days in Dundee, the team moved to Glasgow for the remaining 12 days of the tour. This involved a fair bit of movement; the team was required to set up in various public parks in Glasgow, spending two or three days in each.

Dark and dismal stories had been recounted to us of the awful things they had done to KAPE teams in Glasgow in the past. Our apprehension proved unfounded however, and, in fact, not one item of equipment was lost. This was almost certainly due to Quicksilver's superb organisation in having a 24-hour guard on the site, and a certain amount of carefully disseminated propaganda to the effect that 'Mr. Magnetron' walked the site after dark, picking out with his X-ray vision all would-be pilferers.

The only real way to gauge the success of a KAPE tour is the increase in the number of applicants to the Army Careers Information Office in the particular town involved.

Early figures published by the ACIO indicate a tremendous upsurge in all kinds of recruiting in Glasgow, mainly as a result of the largest, longest and most complicated KAPE in the history of the ACIO. The Royal Signals KAPE was only a part of the whole, but we have at least had our fair share of the recruiting increase.

From the personal angle, the tour was a great success, and everyone enjoyed it immensely and felt that they had done something very positive to help recruiting.

CORPS DIARIES 1972

Corps diaries for 1972 are now in stock and can be ordered from Association Headquarters at 30p each post free. The diary is of the slimfold type identical with the 1971 diary which proved very popular. Good stocks are held but the earlier orders are received the better.

7th REGIMENT'S SUB-AQUA CLUB VISITS ELBA

—Life under the waves has a fascination of its own



DOWN IN THE GREEN DEPTHS
Signalmen John Mizzi and Nigel Sherratt tangle with an octopus

Exercise 'Triton Thrust'

THE Regimental sub-aqua club's annual jaunt this year took them to the island to which Napoleon was exiled, namely Elba.

Essential stores nearly lost

The 1,000-mile journey through Southern Germany, across the Swiss Alps and down the west coast of Italy was not without incident. One of the two four-ton vehicles broke down at Frankfurt and was left there with the non-essential stores (including—heaven forbid—the entire liquid refreshments for the expedition) and a forlorn **Lance-Corporal 'Bart' Bartholomew** and **Signalman Tony Springer.** Happily the Regiment was able to provide a replacement vehicle, transfer the international insurance, thus enabling a beaming **Tony** and **Bart** to arrive on Elba (complete with the nearly undepleted beer ration) only four hours after the remainder of the expedition. Well done, M.T. Troop!

Reluctant risers

On the island a tented camp, complete with field kitchen, was set up close to the water's edge and the serious part of the exercise began. Every morning before breakfast everyone had to complete an 800-metre swim. **Signalman 'PJ' McCaffery,** being the most muscular member, was given the job of ensuring that no one overslept or evaded this part of the training. It was amazing the variety of excuses that were put forward by reluctant risers to avoid the early-morning dip.

Conditions perfect

The diving around the island was excellent, and couldn't be compared with the cold murky lakes where most of the members had carried out their training. There was underwater visibility of about 100 feet and the water was warm down to this depth. Divers found an abundance of octopi which they flushed out of their rocky lairs quite frequently and fried octopus was often on the evening menu. Also very fascinating were the fantastic underwater rock formations with cliff faces descending sheer to well over 100 feet, riddled with underwater caves and crevices. The deception of the good visibility coupled with the deepness of the water close to the island meant that one could easily find oneself deeper than intended without realising it. This, in fact, happened to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Clifton,** a club member from 4 Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment, who, as dive leader, with **Nigel Sherratt** (our C.C.R.

Signals' son) whilst admiring a rocky cliff face suddenly realised he was below a hundred feet and with a co-diver who was only a trainee.

A discovery

The main souvenir of the trip was a long lost relic of World War I or II. It was a 1914 water-cooled Colt machine gun which was found and recovered from a depth of 135 feet and is at present being restored by a R.E.M.E. workshop. It is hoped to trace its history as the serial number is still legible. The average depth and duration of dives was 75 feet and 40 minutes respectively, although the club's five second class divers carried out a deep dive to 175 feet. At this depth the weight of water on the body is about 90lb. per square inch and the danger of nitrogen narcosis is very real. However, the trip's only casualty was **Corporal George Ollier,** R.A.P.C., who somehow managed to impale his thigh with a barbed triton and had to have it removed in a local hospital. The only sympathy he got was the remark: "You won't forget the name of this exercise, will you?"

Next year Jamaica?

All in all the exercise was a complete success, with everyone voting to go next year when it is hoped that 'Triton Thrust 2' will take place in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The Corps gets around (1)

'E' Troop, 14th Regiment, Report from the Slopes of Mount Kenya

Staff Sergeant Mick Jennings writes:

"REGULAR readers of the WIRE will remember that the last contribution by the 'Big E' was from the sunny Bahamas and various places on the East coast of the U.S.A. If our identity is still a mystery, it may help to explain that we are an E21 Troop and involved in the adventurous business of providing the Force Rear Link for Strategic Command. Enough of the credits, now for the story.

So as not to bore you with flight details, and the numerous tasks carried out prior to departure for East Africa, let it suffice to say that all 27 members of the Troop arrived. I will not say more than that because how would you feel after 24 hours on a Hercules?

The local scene

Perhaps, firstly, a few details of our location. As the title suggests, we are directly beneath Mt. Kenya on an old disused race course, near a small town called Nanyuki. Nanyuki itself is nothing to write home about and consists of a few shops, numerous shanty houses and a main road which leads to Nairobi, some 186 kilometres away. What is lacking in the entertainment world is compensated by the breathtaking scenery and varied small animal and bird life. Nanyuki's main claim to fame is that the equator runs directly through the town. As a point of interest, the receiver site was situated in the northern hemisphere and the transmitter site in the southern hemisphere. This leads us to claim a Corps (if not an Army) record, in that one member of the Troop crossed the equator 68 times in one week. All claims to the above address will be carefully considered, and then rejected. If then mention of the equator conjures up visions of balmy hot African sunshine in your mind, one facet of the geography is yet to be explained. Nanyuki is situated 6,500 feet above sea level and the cold during the early mornings and late evenings makes us all wonder about brass monkeys! However, to be fair, the sun does shine for a few hours a day and one will probably get a better suntan than in Worcester.

Six days off to see Kenya

On exercise, we work a shift system and, in this case, it has been so arranged that everyone has six days off to go wherever they wish in Kenya. Particular credit must be given to **Sergeant Dave Scott** and his party, consisting of **Corporal 'Bumbles' Bumby, Corporal 'Jock' Brett, Lance-Corporal 'Tubby' McDougal** and **Signalman 'Mac' McCullough,** who journeyed to the leave centre in Mombasa. They hired a taxi

By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen
Hatters



FOR INSPECTION

You are probably now wearing an H. J. Service cap, the *best quality* cap made today—but how are you 'hatted' off-parade? Our new fully illustrated brochure for ordering by post shows our comprehensive range of hats and caps to suit *every* occasion. Send for your free copy by filling in the coupon below.



REGIMENTAL CAPMAKERS TO YOUR CORPS

THE BURGHLEY
One of our dual purpose felt hats. In rough finish Brown or Green. Price £6.15 including postage.

Herbert Johnson
(BOND STREET) LTD.

38 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1
Tel: 01-629 7177.
Civil and Military Hatters.
40a London Road, Camberley. (Wednesday, afternoons only).

Please send me 'The Complete Guide to Headwear'
NAME
ADDRESS

for a distance of 2,000 miles for £35 (which in itself must be some sort of record) and their return, bronzed and well satisfied, has put ideas of travel into all our heads. It would take a book to describe to you the places visited and wild life so far seen. In fact, it could safely be said that we have spanned Kenya and visited many game parks and most places of interest, and judging by the posters and other souvenirs collected the Troop crew room will soon echo (pun not intended!) these visits.

Leopards on view

One of the most enjoyable outings is an overnight trip to see the leopards of Secret Valley. These visits are arranged by the owner of a local hostelry, 'The Sportsman's Arms,' who by his very occupation we know well. As a result, we have obtained a two-thirds reduction of the tourist cost and are guaranteed the sight of a leopard, or the price is refunded. The overnight lodge is built in a clearing in the woods, on similar lines to 'Treetops.'

Fortified by log fires and strong Kenya ales against the cold night winds, a wide variety of animals can be seen as they use the salt licks and eat the specially prepared and strongly fettered hunks of meat. On every occasion our members have visited Secret Valley, not one has been disappointed. Talking about leopards, a few days ago one attacked and badly injured two guard dogs only 150 yards from the receiver site! needless to say, once this became general knowledge, a marked absence of movement at night has been noticed!

Our own pub

A mention must be made of our very own pub, which has been brought into being by everyone on a self help, or more correctly, help yourself basis. 'The Paddle Arms' has experienced many alcoholic nights and, in fact, its fame has spread so rapidly that members have found themselves being cultivated by other units, angling for invitations. Let it now be said that once bitten by the 'Paddle Arms' bug, is to be converted. But how did it get such an unusual name? One look at the barman's hands and arms would make the question pointless — **Corporal Roy (Mafia) Andrews,** plays volleyball like a windmill, scooping in great puffs of air. We thank you **Roy** for establishing another Troop tradition.

C.O. visits

It was with great pleasure the other day that we were able to welcome our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker,** on a whirlwind visit from U.K. It is a pity that his visit was so short although, after looking around the detachment, he did manage to see two lions in a most compromising situation, which is more than most of us have seen in ten weeks — the lions themselves I mean, of course!

Seeing the world

What more is there to say about a very successful exercise, other than applications from anyone wishing to join a globe-trotting Troop (10 countries in 10 months cannot be bad!), which we earnestly believe not only to be the best in the Regiment but the best in the Army, will be considered on merit. If you think you're good enough, then you'll be made welcome into the 'Big E' and 'Paddle Arms fraternity.'

The Corps gets around (2)

3 Squadron, 2nd Division Signal Regiment Report from Denmark

ON 28th July this year 3 Squadron of the 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, together with elements of 1 Squadron and R.H.Q. Squadron and with two Wessex helicopters from 18 Squadron, R.A.F. Gutersloh, visited the Sjaellandshe Telegrajregiment (Zealand Signal Regiment) at Høvelte, fifteen miles north of Copenhagen.

Joint training the aim

The principal aim of the visit was to do a joint exercise training all personnel in co-operating and inter-operating with a friendly foreign force. We took with us to this purpose, enough manpower and equipment to establish two comheads, plus two radio relay detachments to provide our communications.

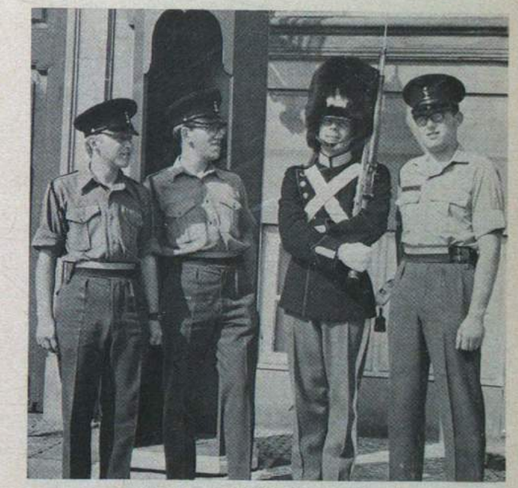
The move up was uneventful and after a night halt in Puttgarten we crossed on the ferry over to Rødbyhaven in Zealand. There we were met by our hosts who after warmly welcoming us guided us to their barracks.

After settling in we were formally greeted by **Colonel Skovgaard,** Commander Zealand Signal Regiment, and by **Colonel Petersen,** the Commander 1st Battalion of the Zealand Signal Regiment. We were then briefed on the barracks, the Regiment and its task by **Major Fourholt,** the Company Commander of the Company whose special responsibility we were.

The pleasures of Copenhagen

Our first day out, the Saturday, was taken up by a coach tour of Copenhagen taking in such sights as the Royal Palace, Tivoli Garden and, of course, the Little Mermaid, which has come to be associated with Copenhagen the world over. The evening was spent taking in some of Copenhagen's most interesting night life. No one had any of Lord Longford's terrible experiences though.

The Sunday being a very hot day trips down to the beach were organised. Having already heard rumours about the freer attitude of local young ladies when on the beach the excitement reached fever pitch as we pulled up by the beach. We were not to be disappointed, the glorious weather had brought out people in their thousands and an interesting day was spent by all in studying the 'flora and fauna' of the Danish beaches.



GETTING ROUND COPENHAGEN
Signalmen John Bridges, David Ryalls and Michael Warrington pose with a Guardsman outside the Danish Royal Palace

Interchange of personnel

On Monday began the central feature of our visit, Exercise 'Pigtail.' Our task was to set up two comheads with interconnecting communications and flank circuits to two Danish comheads. Having established communications satisfactorily we set about visiting the Danish comheads and exchanging personnel. This was quite easy for the radio relaymen and lineman but proved a little more difficult for operators who at times required an interpreter both for procedure and text.

After the job exchange and familiarisation we carried out several tactical moves using the step-up technique. One rather amusing incident occurred when two packets met each other at a crossroads, resulting in a somewhat bemused British comhead Commander arriving in location with a completely mixed packet. Fortunately the matter was resolved before any of the 'powers that be' found out.

We excel at Danish Regimental sports

On the afternoon of our return to barracks the Danes held their Regimental sports day, which we were invited to enter as a Squadron. Our successes surprised even our most fervent supporters. **Driver Mick Donaghue** came second in the 100m. sprint, **Corporal Dave Wells** first and **Corporal Dave Wheatley** third in the 1500m. **Signalman Keeler** first and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Geoff Fordom** fourth in the shot, **Signalman Don Pawlow** first and **Signalman Bill Lofts** second in the 100m. free style swimming and **Signalman Stew Bray, Bill Lofts, Dave Doust, Don Pawlow** first in the 50m. swimming relay. Our football team being only a Squadron side was unable to overcome the Danish Signal Regimental team and went down four goals to one after a long and gallant battle.

The Squadron drill squad, trained by **S.S.M. Geoff McKie,** gleaming in their immaculate uniforms, was invited to perform half way through the athletics and later as the opening event (dare we say star attraction) at the neighbouring Life Guard Regiment's open day. On both days they were loudly applauded, as indeed they deserved.

The two R.A.F. Wessex helicopters came into their own on the open day. They gave a demonstration of an airborne infantry attack using Danish soldiers and then a demonstration of Air Sea Rescue (one had to imagine the grass pitch was really a rough sea). In this they did a great deal to improve the already high standard of Anglo-Danish relations.

A talk from the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Monday was the last of our free days and we took the opportunity of visiting the Danish Parliament where the Minister for Foreign Affairs gave us an interesting talk. Afterwards, we spent some time in souvenir hunting and sightseeing.

The following day the Squadron took part in a patrol exercise with the Danes. This involved us in a very tough course over varied countryside testing both stamina and map reading ability.

The social side of the visit must not be forgotten. The Squadron set up two messes, one for soldiers and junior N.C.O.s and one for the senior N.C.O.s, W.O.s and Officers. From this firm base we were able to return, in a small way, the generous hospitality of the Danes, who went to a great deal of trouble to ensure we were made welcome and had everything we needed.



IN APPRECIATION
Major Ronnie Sampson presenting Colonel E. Skovgaard, Commander of the Zealand Signal Regiment, with the Corps half centenary trumpeter figurine

Goodbye to good friends

All good things must come to an end and so it was with our visit to Denmark. We had all made a great number of friends and it was amid farewells and promises to meet again that we started on our way home, taking back with us many happy memories of our stay in Denmark.

However, we were not too sad because we knew that later in September we would again be seeing our friends when they pay us a return visit. We are all looking forward to this and preparations are already well under way for their visit.

The Corps gets around (3)

Report from Brunei

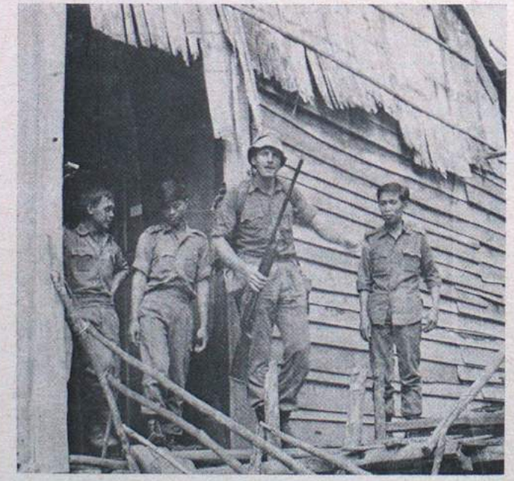
Lieutenant John MacLean, on detachment with The Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, reports to his C.O.:

"After a week here, I felt it was time I sent you a report on some of the aspects of training in the Task Force.

I had a first class trip to Brunei and was met by the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel John Davis,** at the airport. Since then both he and his wife and all the officers have been very hospitable. I don't think I've been in the Mess once for dinner.

I suppose it was a bit embarrassing on their Regimental Athletics day since I won the 5,000m running for Support Company, beating the chap who reckoned the cup was his by right, having won it for the last 5-odd years. In fact, I was presented with a shield instead by the Sultan. The only problem so far is that everybody greets me personally, and with at least 50-odd names to learn, I am often at a loss to know who I'm talking to—especially the numerous Malay officers.

There is certainly a contrast between the rundown in Singapore and the build up here. I think the main thing I have discovered is how much one is cushioned by Ordnance against some of the problems they are finding here. For instance there is only one Force Ordnance Officer who controls a budget of some £5 million, and in consequence the Force is well furnished with jet ranger helicopters and hovercraft. I went out on one of the 50 knot Patrol boats yesterday for gunnery practice. The infantry of five rifle companies are equiped with M16 rifles, tampella mortars, spandaus (MG-42) and so on. The big problem naturally enough, is spares.



ALL THINGS COME TO THE CORPS
Lieutenant John Maclean on patrol in Brunei

They have purchased the Racal HF range of manpack sets for battalion communications, but there are any number of different sets in use for ship to shore and air to ground links. There is a real compatability problem and the whole system is being reviewed. **Gordon Mills** (GIII Signals) is kept busy organising proper transmitter and receiver sites, operations rooms, etc. The Malay R.S.O. spends most of his time instructing battalion signallers, of which there are few and a real crash programme is in hand. I have found myself with plenty of work to do, helping to set up the foundations for reliable inter-Company communications, and sorting out their kit problems, battery shop, and the other basic nuts and bolts.

The amenities here are first rate. I have been playing a lot of tennis. There is an Olympic size pool which is hardly used, and I have just returned from having a difference of opinion with one of their horses. I am playing cricket on Sunday in a needle match against the Yacht Club, so if you find me back on your doorstep on Monday morning, I shall have played true to form.

UK or European posting?
Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack
* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem
Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.
Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W10
Name ..... *Rank* .....
Present Address .....
Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*
Tax paid for U.K. only ____ *(tick)*
Delivery Date .....

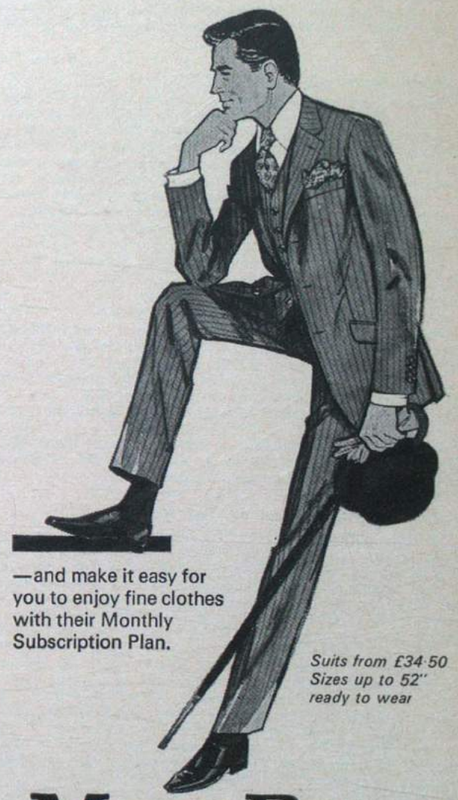
NATOCARS

REGULATION PATTERN
ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS
Home —79p each plus 8p post
Abroad—70p each plus 8p post

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals £1.50
Pace Sticks ... ...

ERNEST GOODRICH
Specialist in the supply of Military Requisites
44, WESTON AVENUE,
WEST MOLESEY, SURREY

Moss Bros would like you to take the credit for being well dressed



—and make it easy for you to enjoy fine clothes with their Monthly Subscription Plan.

Suits from £34·50
Sizes up to 52"
ready to wear

Moss Bros
Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8JB
(near Leicester Square station)
Lime Street, E.C.3 and Branches
And now Au Bon Marché in Paris

Moss Bros are buyers of Army, Naval and R A F Swords, Sporting Guns, Fishing Rods and Tackle, Saddlery, Ski Equipment, Golf Clubs and everything that men wear.

Official tailors to the Royal Signals

Army Apprentices' College
Harrogate

SUMMER GRADUATION DAY

WEDNESDAY, 11th August, 1971, brought what Dylan Thomas might have described as your correspondent's 'thirtieth Graduation Day to heaven' — and surely it was one of the very best.

The weather alone was something less than perfect; for the early part of the morning it teemed with rain, but just as rumblings about 'the indoor arena' began to grow as loud as they were ominous the skies—is it really because we now have two Chaplains?—began to clear, and, if the sun did not actually shine, at least the danger of a wet weather programme was averted.

Larger than usual output

Our loss, and so the Corps' gain, on that day was 119 young soldiers — 35 Technicians, 26 Telegraph Operators, 25 Special Operators, 19 Comcen Operators and 14 Radio Operators. 56 of them will start their Regular service overseas. But the fact that this was a larger than usual output was not the sole reason for the parade reaching a standard even higher than that one has come, over the years, to expect. It was expertly commanded by **A/T R.S.M. Thomas Hardingham,** of Sunderland, who achieved the unusual distinction of commanding two successive parades.

We were pleased to welcome again as Reviewing Officer, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** the Master of Signals, who certainly did not look as if it was five years since he had last acted in this capacity.

Among our other distinguished visitors were **Baroness Masham** of Ilton, paying her first visit to the College, although, as the Commandant said, she has seen a lot of us at sporting and other functions throughout the county; **Colonel John North,** affectionately remembered by many of the staff from his days as Commandant; **Second-Lieutenant 'Bob' Hope,** an apprentice at the College from 1965-1968 who has just won the Signals Sword of Honour at Sandhurst; and ex-Warrant Officer **Harry Sinclair,** who, after 30 years in the Corps, is now a Pensioner Corporal at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

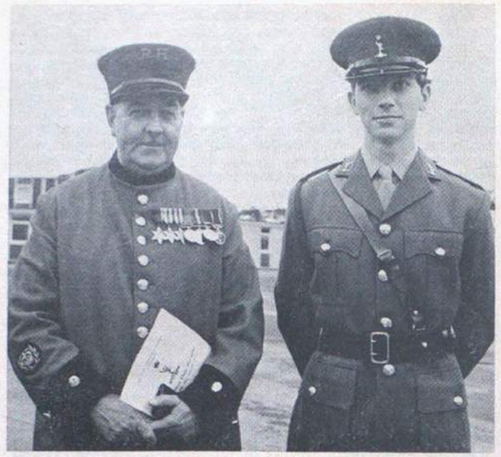
Farewell to a number of staff members

Having outlined the term's many achievements, the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** touched upon a rather sadder note in saying goodbye to a number of senior members of staff leaving this term. **Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Barry,** the Chief Instructor, who 'held the fort' as Commandant before **Colonel Clinch's** arrival, goes to the Army Computer Organisation, near Salisbury; **Major 'Jimmy' Worts,** Adjutant for the past four years, has organised himself (without a computer) to Cyprus; **Major Ron Roberts** goes to command the Para Signal Squadron. Apart from creating and commanding Bradley Squadron he established 'The Gatehouse,' the College's flourishing Theatre Society, and found time to organise the sponsored Lyke Wake Walks which enabled the College to present a bus to the nearby school for physically handicapped children. **Major Dai Hopkins,** commander of Penney Squadron, has retired from the Army and is at present 'resting' in his beloved native land not far, we suspect, from the Arms Park. Lastly, we lose **Major Jack Clark,** whose skill at extracting teeth was closely rivalled by his skill at extracting the right response from theatre audiences. We shall miss them all, very much.

Master of Signals address

Speaking in his turn, **General Bradley** congratulated the parents of the Senior Term on the success of their sons, and commented on the high standards achieved at the College in general and on the parade in particular.

He went on to congratulate **Colonel Clinch** on his recently announced (or had it been?) promotion to Brigadier—sentiments with which his entire audience clearly agreed. In congratulating the apprentices on their choice of career, **General Bradley** thought it unlikely that there would be another major war, and that the major role of the Army would, in future, be the maintenance of stability: "You must train for war to keep the peace. Be courageous, good humoured and gentle."



SEEN ON GRADUATION DAY
Pensioner Corporal Harry Sinclair and Second-Lieutenant 'Bob' Hope. Harry Sinclair served for 30 years in the Corps. 'Bob' Hope an ex-apprentice was recently commissioned at Sandhurst where he won the Signals Sword of Honour

Prize winners

The main prizes were presented to the following:

The Commandant's Prize 'for conduct, discipline and example' — **A/T R.S.M. T. Hardingham.**

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award 'for the best all-round tradesman — **A/T S.S.M. A. Hickling.**

Prizes awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to apprentices who have made the best use of their opportunities in the College — Technician — **A/T Corporal J. C. Travers;** Operator — **A/T S.S.M. R. G. Crockart.**

Borough of Harrogate Prize for the best essay on Local Government — Technician — **A/T P. Watkinson;** Operator — **A/T Sergeant P. Moore.**

News from Regiments

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22

Kohima Day celebrated

AS in most units the month of July and August have been comparatively quiet in 2nd Division. The Squadrons are now preparing for the onslaught of the coming exercises after spending two weeks each on summer camp, 1 and 2 Squadron visited Holland whilst the members of 3 Squadron were guests of the Danish Army.

The major event of the summer months was the celebrating of Kohima. The celebrations covered three days commencing Friday, 16th July, with a most successful Sergeants' Mess Ball. On Saturday the Regiment were hosts to the local German dignitaries at Beating the Retreat by the band of 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards followed by cocktails in the Officers' Mess. This was an exceptionally successful event and thoroughly enjoyed by our German guests. During the evening the All Ranks Dance was held in the Stadthalle and once again a most successful evening was enjoyed by all present.

On the Sunday the Regiment paraded for a Drum Head Service and March Past, the salute being taken by **Major-General H. R. S. Pain, M.C.**



QUITE A MIX UP ON EXERCISE "QUICKTRAIN"

During July the Regiment carried out 'Quicktrain' and as the photograph shows not without incident.

Offshore sailing

The first sailing success of the season was scored by **W.O.2 Dan Hughes** (skipper), **W.O.2 Ron Sparks, Corporal Allan Sharples** and **Lance-Corporal Andy Funnell** as crew, when they won the 2nd Division Passage Race in July.

The trip from Kiel to Faaborg in Denmark was made in ideal conditions, a brisk force 5 wind from the S.W. ensuring a swift passage out on the first leg and a providential change of wind to the North West the following days, an even quicker return.

In the Royal Signals Regatta (B.A.O.R.) which followed in August the opposition proved stiffer and the weather less kind. Due to Easterly gales the intended passage race had to be abandoned and, in fact, the first two days were spent visiting the new Olympic Sailing Village and other places of interest such as the Las Vegas in Kiel. A much curtailed programme was eventually possible on the third and fourth days which consisted of sailing three races in Kiel Bay. The Regiment managed to get a third place.

3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, Bulford

THIS month the Regiment was on block leave and everyone thought it would be quiet. Alas for any such hopes, work continued at the same pace with a number of varied activities.

Exercise 'Wantage'—over 100 go to Cyprus

The sunny island of Cyprus offers many opportunities for training that are not so pleasantly available on Salisbury Plain.

Taking full advantage of this, over a hundred all ranks, under the command of **Major Tony Holland,** set off in early August for a three-and-a-half-week exercise in Cyprus.

Apart from early morning sports such as water ski-ing, riding and dinghy sailing, they also carried out plenty of military training on fieldcraft, map reading and watermanship, with **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Admiral' Massey** teaching the ropes in the boats.

After what was described by some as the 'acclimatization period,' the squadron launched into full training with various night exercises and a very ambitious sea landing. During the latter, both force commanders chose the same hill for their command posts and a very confused situation developed, with both forces going everywhere. Such is war! Apart from all this, the Squadron chartered the Corps yacht 'Brigand of Changi' and a crew set sail under command of **Captain Roy Lund.**

Among one of the more popular activities was horse riding. Dhekelia Saddle Club agreed to provide instruction for some of our budding horsemen. Every morning at 06.30 hours they saddled up and cantered around the training area. Some progressed well, some thought they progressed well and **Signalmen Mick Godfrey** and **Tony Brown** were last seen galloping into the distance, while on a trek in the hills. At the end of the course a gymkhana was held, which tested all they had learnt. Prizes went to **Sergeant 'Tex' Stewart, Signalman 'Legs' Bishop, Private Lester Wade** and **Lance-Corporal 'Rangler' Pickering. Lance-Corporal Phil Leach** was very disappointed when the free fall parachute course was curtailed, so he tried his own version of this sport. He forgot to hook himself on to the 'Death Slide' erected between the cliffs and the sea. We are pleased to report that his injuries were not serious.

However, they have all returned now, looking fit, bronzed and with various tales to tell.

Recruiting

The recruiting team has been taking every opportunity to visit anything that looked as if it had potential recruiting value for the corps. This month has seen them at fetes, gymkhanas, flower shows, tattoos and an event called 'QUEXPO' 71. Their visits have taken them to Weymouth, Trowbridge, Bideford, Newquay, Cheltenham and Margate. **Staff Sergeant John Goodman,** the team leader, is ever ready to volunteer members of his team for anything and during one slack period on one demonstration **Lance-Corporals Percy Beynon** and **Chris Ball** and **Signalman 'Slim' Heal** found themselves marching through sand dunes, helping to provide communications for the Gloucester A.C.F. on their route march.

Summer camp

When those who had been on block leave returned, they found themselves setting off for training at a camp organised by **Major Norman Chester R.T.R.,** who commands Headquarters Squadron.

No doubt the prospect of the bleak and forbidding outlook of Dartmoor did not compare favourably with the sunshine of Cyprus.

However those who attended the first week of camp enjoyed it immensely, or so they informed those setting off for the second weeks activities. As the camp is still in progress, a more detailed report will appear in our next months notes.

Bulford Garrison children's summer camp

For the third year running the Regiment was given the task of organising the running of the Garrison children's camp. A compliment ?

We took 60 children of both sexes between 9 and 15 years old from the Garrison into the New Forest for a fortnight, they stayed under canvas with good exercise-type cooking and food. Apart from the normal hiking and fishing, visits were made to Beaulieu, H.M.S. **Victory** and a harbour launch took the children around Portsmouth harbour.

Staff Sergeant and **Mrs. Boulton-Lear** were the corner stones of the enterprise ably assisted by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.)** and **Mrs. Massey** and **Sergeant** and **Mrs. Featherstone.**

Despite the rain everyone enjoyed themselves, even if **Captain A. W. Floyd R.C.T.,** our O.C. M.T. Troop, the officer-in-overall-charge, did come back several shades greyer than he went.

Farewells and new arrivals

We said farewell this month to **Major Denis Watson** who leaves us for Hong Kong, also to **Major Charles Camies, R.A., Lieutenant Ian Pattison** and **Staff Sergeant Boulton-Lear.** Our best wishes go with them in their new appointments.

We welcome **Major Richard Johnson,** who now commands 2 Squadron, and **Major John Barrett,** who is the Training Major running the Training Wing. Also **Major Ernest Jordan, R.A.,** and **Captain 'Vic' Henrick, R.E.M.E. Staff Sergeants Spencer** and **Booth** and**Sergeant Ameghino** have also joined us, we hope they enjoy their tour with the Regiment.

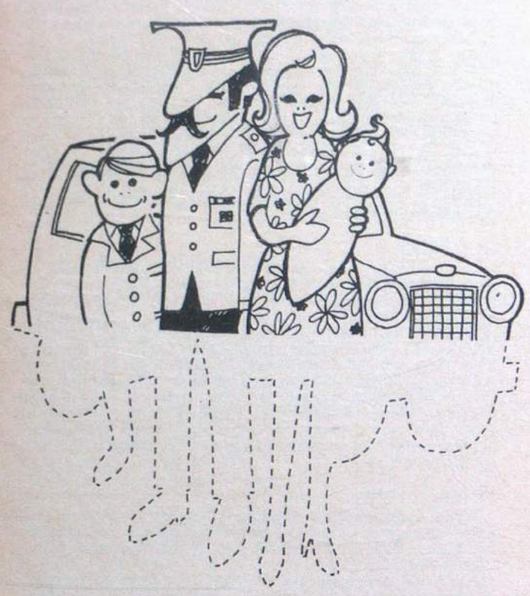
Quote of the month

Heard during a recent handover/takeover of one of the troops.

"Are the batteries with the exchange on the C.E.S. ?"

"No, they are under the table."

Take the whole family to and from Germany for almost the cost of half the family.



Any day of the week you can travel to and from Germany by Prins Ferries at half the adult price. And your wife and children over 14 can go with you at the same rate.

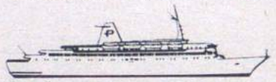
For children under 4 the terms get even better: they go free.

How much would it cost you? As a typical instance, a service family of 2 adults, one 14 year old and a baby could travel to Germany and back with their car for £32.30 – a saving of £27.80! Each fare* starts at £4.75 single (£8.50 return) and you can even take your car for as little as £3.85 (£6.80 return).

What do you get for your money?

You travel in luxury all the way Harwich to Hamburg or Harwich to Bremerhaven. You get a choice of dining facilities (Swedish Smörgåsbord or à la carte). There's dancing, casino, duty free bars and shops. And after you've enjoyed a wonderful evening you have the choice of a wide range of cabins and sleeperettes.

If you think it sounds almost too good to be true, contact your travel agent or write to the address below for full details.



PRINS FERRIES

Prins Ferries, 67 Grosvenor Street, London W1X OEA
Telephone 01-629 7961 also 491 7641
German Office: HADAG Seetouristik und Fährdienst AG 2000
Hamburg 11, Johannisbollwerk 6-8
Telephone (0411) 31961
or, Karl Geuther & Co. 2800 Bremen, Martinistrasse 58
Telephone (0421) 3 16 01

*These prices come into effect from January 1st 1972 and are slightly higher July 15th—September 1st.

RACAL in Reading

Racal Mobilcal designs and manufactures a highly successful range of portable transceivers and ancillaries and an opportunity exists for a

TEST ENGINEER

to contribute to the effective Quality Assurance programme. Experience is required in measuring fundamental characteristics of transmitters, receivers and ancillary equipment at simulated environmental extremes.

Applications please to:

Racal Mobilcal Limited,
Basingstoke Road, Reading, Berks.
Telephone: Reading 84461.

7th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 15

AS we go to press we were delighted to have a visit from the Master of Signals, particularly as he commanded the Regiment in 1952-55. We have managed to persuade the Editor to exceed his deadline in order to include two photographs.



THE MASTER OF SIGNALS VISITS HIS OLD REGIMENT

The Master inspects the Regimental Quarter Guard mounted by 2 Squadron, with the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King in attendance. Major-General Bradley commanded the 7th Regiment (then 1 Corps Signal Regiment) from 1952 to 1955



DISCUSSION GROUP

Having tea in the W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess. The master is talking to Sergeant B. Mumford. Listening in from left to right: Sergeant V. Jinks, Sergeant McLellan, Sergeant R. White, W.O.II (Y. of S.) L. Yates, W.O.I (R.S.M.) E. T. A. Webster, Sergeant I. F. McLellan and Sergeant G. C. Maple

August has been an active month for the Regiment but the emphasis has been on P.E., training, sport and leave. During their summer camps most Squadrons completed their P.E. tests and found numerous 'bergs' to climb whether they went to the Mosel or into Bavaria. In fact, mountainous 'recreation' was so strenuous for some that 4 Squadron now claim to be an 'Alpine' unit!

As some readers will know, some months ago, the Regiment had a Sapper Troop attached to it and we though it would be nice for them to say in print (suitably censored!) how they feel about the Regiment of which they have become key members.

Corps Lighting Troop, R.E.

It is now ten months since the Corps Lighting Troop, R.E., which was a part of 65 Corps Support Squadron, R.E., moved from Hameln to join 7th Regiment in Herford; leaving our rooms with a view for a view of the zoo—literally! Now that the initial novelty and strangeness of the routine has worn off, we have settled in with typical adaptability (it only took nine months) and consider ourselves an integral and not unimportant part of the Regiment.

Our role, that of providing power for each Commhead's communications equipment, lights for the messes, and 'juice' for the countless electric razors, kettles and 'Baby Burco' brew kits of the Corps Staff, is a vital one, and we like to think that we carry it out well, even allowing for the occasional bout of 'wobbly' voltage and the inevitable blown fuses.

In camp, we are helping to maintain the reputation the Regiment has for sporting achievements by providing four Regimental soccer players, and a basketball player, but so far only the O.C. has ventured onto the rugby pitch, retiring hurt after the first game, probably thinking that he had done his duty for the season! Recently, the Regiment was badly shaken when the Lighting Troop won the Inter-Troop six-a-side football competition. The result was accepted with good grace, and we would like to declare publicly that it was a good battle all the way through, with an excellent final against 'Alpha' Troop.

In conclusion, the Troop would like to take this opportunity to thank 7th Regiment and particularly 5 Squadron, our administrators and advisors, for making us welcome here and treating us like one of the family.

Orienteering—4 Division Championship

This event was held on 1st September and this year was sponsored by 7th Regiment. We then had the poor manners to soundly trounce all opposing teams while acting as host! However, our team of **Second-Lieutenant Ewan Cameron, W.O.1 (F. of S.) Bob McKay, Staff Sergeant Jim Bowman, Sergeant Jeff Challoner, Sergeant Dave Jolly** and **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' O'Neill** well deserved their victory as they had been in hard daily training for some weeks before the event. **Staff Sergeant Bowman** and **Sergeant Jolly** also took the 2nd and 3rd place individual prizes. **Corporal Dave Bowers** also deserves a mention for, running as an individual, he came 6th. Don't ask us why he was not in the team, we are still asking ourselves!

The prizes were presented by the G.O.C. 4th Division, **Major-General D. W. Fraser, O.B.E.** After the prize-giving, **General Fraser** and his A.D.C. **Lieutenant Charles Wiggin** were entertained to tea in the Officers' Mess.

Having got the bit firmly between their teeth our team are looking forward to competing in the B.A.O.R. Finals later in September. We hope that the next issue of THE WIRE will be able to carry news of yet another victory.

Rallying—Exercise 'Summer Wine'

The 'Auto Nomads' motor club of Sennelager promoted the Summer Wine Rally on 14th/15th August. This was a 400-mile navigation event, which was given British Army Motoring Association (BAMA) status. The Regiment entered two crews, consisting of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Pathfinder' Gurr, Sergeant John Davies, Corporal Brian Beers** and **Corporal John Cadwallader. Corporals Beers** and **Cadwallader** finished second overall with **W.O.2 Gurr** and **Sergeant Davies** coming fifth overall from a field of 66 crews from B.A.O.R. This was a particularly good result as the BAMA Austin 1800 with the international experts aboard only finished 15th. It was a difficult test for both drivers and navigators. Indeed navigational problems, such as expanding a 250,000 trace to fit a 50000 map, gridline crossings and herring bones resulted in only 41 crews finishing this rally.

Rallying in the Regiment is well underway as a sport and by the end of the season there will be six national licence and two international licence holders in 7th. Look out 'Monte'!

The Rev. W. B. M. Hale, R.A.Ch.D.

Our 7th Regiment correspondent writes:—

"We regret to announce the death of our Padre, The Rev. W. B. M. Hale, R.A.Ch.D., on 31st August as the result of a traffic accident. A full and active member of the Regiment and a good friend, he will be sadly missed by all of us. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Anita and her three children, Yvonne, Ralph and Bruce."

LIFE ASSURANCE

ITS FUNCTION. The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

INVESTMENT. Life Assurance, especially Endowment Assurance, is however also the best possible long-term investment, because the money is invested wisely, and partly in "growth equities," by the Life Assurance Company *and* because it is the only form of investment subsidised by the Government. The subsidy consists of Income Tax Allowance on two-fifths of Premiums. For those liable to Tax at 38.75%, this means 15.5% abatement. Thus, a net outlay of £84.50 a year provides a premium of £100 a year, which is 18.34% increase.

SELECTION. There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

INFORMATION REQUIRED. May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

SURTAX and ESTATE DUTY. Suitable action can greatly reduce the burden. If these problems are at all large let me advise you how to increase your net income AND net estate.

GENERAL ASSURANCES. We also arrange Kit, Motor, Winter Sports and all other Insurances in the best markets.

Brigadier R. T. Williams F.C.I.B. — Major T. F. Williams F.C.I.B.

R. T. WILLIAMS LTD.

2, Duke Street, Brighton, BN1 1DE

Telephone Brighton 28181 (2 lines)

Incorporated Insurance Brokers
Incorporated Life Assurance Brokers
Member of the Services Insurance Brokers Association

DAILY SAILINGS AT REDUCED FARES TO ENGLAND

from Belgium & France to Dover by



● At least 2 SAILINGS EVERY DAY from Zeebrugge and up to 4 sailings a day during October, November and December tember ● Reduced fares for British and Commonwealth Forces and dependants, and attached civilians ● Economical catering and bar prices aboard ● Go on the shorter sea crossing at lower rates with your family and car for home leave.

TOWNSEND

CAR FERRIES ZEEBRUGGE-DOVER/CALAIS-DOVER
(Sea crossing approx. 4 hrs.) (Sea crossing approx. 1¾ hrs.)



TOWNSEND DRIVE-ON DRIVE-OFF **CAR FERRIES**

CARS, CARAVANS, TRAILERS, etc. taken for ONE HALF of NORMAL CHARGE from OCT. to MAY incl.

GET FULL DETAILS FROM

MILATRAVEL Offices, Local Travel Agents, G.S.N. Co., m.b.h., Graf-Adolf-Strasse 12, Dusseldorf 4, Furness Shipping Line, Groenplatts 42, Antwerp, or Townsend Car Ferries Car Ferry Terminal, Zeebrugge or Gare de Transit, Calais. Travel on a British ship by the FREE ENTERPRISE LINE. U.K. Bookings through your nearest Motoring Organisation, Travel Agents or the Townsend offices at:

127 REGENT STREET, LONDON W.1 or P.O. BOX 12, DOVER.

8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

R.H.Q.

THE notes for this month are rather short due to the preferred leave period 13th-31st August, 1971, this new system replacing the old block leave when the entire Regiment closed down less the guard! Under the new system the shorter courses carry on in order not to loose too much valuable training time.

From R.H.Q. we say good-bye to the Second-in-Command, **Major Charles Sandys,** of golfing fame, and wish him good luck as assistant at R.C.B. Westbury and later (January, 1972) as training Major at Newcastle University. We welcome in his place, **Major William Robotham,** from Bahrain, and hope that he will not find it too cold in the Catterick winter.

Orienteering is the thing

The Regimental Orienteering competition proved to be a walk-over for 1 Squadron with all their expertise. It is rumoured that the R.S.M., **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. F. Knight** (Note for Editor: Please leave a space after his name for the inevitable M.B.E. — or something!), covered the course in record time — tracing the route with his finger on the map whilst saying: "The C.O. will be there so you'd better make sure this is where it's at." The novice competition was won by 4 Squadron; which brings us to the whole point of this month's offering, to introduce the Fourth Squadron of the Regiment.

4 Squadron reports

4 Squadron, late of Ypres lines, is alive and well and living in Messines lines, whilst girding its loins to nurse the many potential Data Telegraphists, Radio Telegraphists, Clerks, Technical and Draughtsmen, through their basic training, and preparing its defences against all the upgrading students of the same ilk, plus Chief Clerks and potential Yeoman of Signals.

The Squadron is currently commanded (he assumes) by **Major Brian Gi'ler,** ably assisted by **Second-Lieutenant Maggie Spencer,** W.R.A.C., soon to be a part-time housewife, who tends to the problems of the 'old soldiers,' **Lieutenant Jack Amberton,** who guides the 'new soldiers' along the path of righteousness! The arbitration committee associated with this trio, headed by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Mike Kinrade,** with **Sergeant George O'Mara** and **Sergeant Bill Harland,** who was one of the heroes of the Regimental Athletics team at this year's Army Championships. **Sergeant Tony Cartwright** has recently joined the committee to allow **Sergeant O'Mara** to take up a more leisurely task as a Trade Instructor. It must be remembered that whilst the Squadron only administers the male population it is responsible for training the fairer sex. All W.R.A.C. Commcen Operators and Switchboard Operators are technically influenced by us, but are fortunately morally guided by experts of their own sex. Our Training Officer, **Lieutenant Ted Heasman,** claims that he was specially selected for the post due to his natural charming ability. In fact the expression was 'alarming agility,' and he has obviously inspired some of the instructors, particularly **Corporal 'Jock' Cullen** and **Sergeant Rod Lingard,** to great efforts in organising entertainment for the staff and trainees of the Squadron.

In closing we feel that we should claim some of the credit for working our previous Administrative Officer, **Captain Di Morgan,** W.R.A.C., hard enough to ensure that she was in peak condition to win the W.R.A.C. and Inter-Service Ladies' Singles Tennis title, whilst assisting with the winning of the W.R.A.C. Doubles title.

DRIVER TRAINING

What can be said about driver training in Catterick? All Royal Signals drivers know only too well the peace and solitude of driving over the moors and the relaxing experience of motoring through those picturesque hamlets of the North Riding.

We have, however, undergone a minor revolution under those pillars of efficiency, the Army Works Study Group. 8th Signal Regiment was asked to run four pilot courses bringing into effect a completely new system of training. Perhaps the word 'new' is exaggerating slightly; the old system has just been dolled up. To go into details would be boring but basically it entails courses starting their training weekly instead of fortnightly. During the initial stages one course will suffer instruction in the classroom whilst the other course is on the road, thus vehicles are shared. Does it work? Well, the Army Works Study team who were present for the four courses are convinced it does. However, figures do not lie. After an approximate check, the number of hours taken for a driver to obtain a heavy goods licence under the new system are slightly in excess of the number of hours taken under our own. Our pass percentage was also slightly higher than our opponents. Nevertheless, the experiment has given us food for thought and may well bring about the emergence of some practical ideas that actually work.

Now to a brighter note. Driver training is now on the map. At last we have two trainees who have obtained 'A' gradings, namely **Signalman Bloor** and **Signalman Hellewell.** These are the first for many years to achieve such distinction. The Commanding Officer congratulated both trainees and presented them with a momento. They will now remain with us for a few weeks until they start their course to become Combat Powermen. We wish them luck in the future and hope they succeed in their next course.

Hams in Driver Training?

Those who have passed through Driver Training, will, no doubt, have good cause to remember **Sergeant R. W. Cox,** the Troop Admin. Sergeant and our resident ham. **Sergeant Cox** has been avidly recruiting ham radio ops. for some time now in the hope that the small amount of knowledge gleaned whilst at Driver Training will encourage them to carry on their interest in their new unit.

Historic information required — can you help?

In his thirst for publicity Sergeant Cox has been busily writing letters in a search for any historic information about the Catterick Garrison Amateur Radio Club which is shortly to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Well, you know our address, if you can help please write. Photos would be most welcome. The club callsign is G3C10.

11th Signal Regiment

Catterick Camp



FRIENDLY WORDS
Lieutenant-General Sir William Jackson, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., G.O.C.-inC. Northern Command, speaking to Signalman Haughton of 2 Troop 11th Signal Regiment during the Pass Off Parade

OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

Why not contact

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

THE Specialist Employment Bureau for Telex, Teleprinter and Telephone Operators where you are assured of a welcome and free advice and guidance on career prospects in the commercial world.

THE THREE TEES TRAINING SCHOOL has the full range of Telex and Teleprinter machines and Commercial Telephone Boards and offers free tuition to those seeking employment, both Permanent and Temporary.

Call, write or phone:

110 Fleet St., London, E.C.4. (01-353 3611)

124 Regent St., London, W.1. (01-734 0365)

20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)

Life Assurance

Policies Covering War Risks

for:



Children.
Convertible Whole Life.
Death Duties.
Education Endowment.
House Purchase. Retirement.
Unit Trust and Share Purchase by Endowment

EVERY INSURANCE INCLUDING

Officers' Kit. 75p per £100 world wide.
Household Effects. 40p per £100 Europe.
Hospital Schemes (33⅓% Group discount — Officers and retired Officers).
Personal Accidents. Personal Liability.
Motor Competitive rates for New and Old Cars.
Home and Foreign Policies.
Bloodstock, Camera, Caravan, Golf, Gun, Holidays, Hunter, Transit, Television, etc.

B. E. THOMPSON & CO. LTD.
INCORPORATED INSURANCE BROKERS

11, KING STREET, RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE
Telephone No. 2308.

Pass Off Parades

AUGUST has seen two Pass Off Parades, the first being on the 6th August, 1971, when a large 2 Troop, split into 'A' Section and 'B' Section, were inspected by **Lieutenant General Sir William Jackson, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** G.O.C.-in-C Northern Command. Best Recruit of 'A' Section was **Signalman Alan Pocock** who shortly begins training as a Technician, and from 'B' Section was **Signalman Robin Gilby** who goes on to train as a Combat Powerman.

Nos. 3 and 8 Troop passed off on the 20th August and were inspected by **Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E.,** Commander 13th Signal Group (Volunteers). Best Recruits were **Signalmen Kenneth White** (3 Troop) who shortly begins his training as a Technician, and **Signalman Brian Rodgers** (8 Troop).

Sailing

The Regiment participated in two cruises in *Skywave* during the month of July. The first was skippered by **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood,** and a detailed report of that trip written by **Signalman Geoff Crook** appeared in the last issue of THE WIRE.

The second crew, less experienced and limited to the Solent, was skippered by **Lieutenant Nigel Pulman** (borrowed from 8th Signal Regiment). **Lieutenant Stephen Galpin** was bosun and chief engineer. This crew was lucky to have an extremely efficient galley slave and log keeper, namely **Lieutenant 'Pandy' Godwin,** W.R.A.C., **Sergeant Dick Richardson** and **Signalman Bob Tanfield,** both from 8th Signal Regiment, made up the crew. Although no overseas ports were visited, the weather was kind and a more experienced crew left *Skywave* at the end of the week.

Hockey

The Regimental hockey team is looking forward to another very good season, after being narrowly defeated in the League and Cup last season. This season has already started with a victory over H.M.S. *Bristol* by four goals to one. **Corporal 'Stevie' Stephenson** scored twice and **Lance-Corporal Don Holton** and **Lance-Corporal Charlie Rodgers** scoring one goal each. We say farewell to **Captain John Radford,** last season's team captain, and **Sergeant Phil Urry** and bid a warm welcome to **Lieutenant Brian Chubb** who joins us this season.

News from our noisy kitchen

Helles Kitchen is now under new management with **Captain Brian David** taking over as Specialist Catering Officer and **Staff Sergeant Paul Cooper** as Kitchen Manager. Both would like to point out that the new sound coming from the direction of the kitchen is not the purr of the mincing machine nor the crank of the over active chipper, it is the noise from three pneumatic drills gently gnawing away the roof as modernisation gets underway.

Mr. Marshall now complains bitterly in between ear shattering vibrations, of collapsing jelly and worried looking Yorkshire Puddings. **Corporal Peter Patchett** is still trying to convince everyone that his decorated salmon is still alive and the Catering Officer under pressure of accommodating 150 parents on Pass Off days, has taken to erecting tents. Nevertheless business is 'almost' as usual and normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Farewell to

Lieutenant Tony Kimber who is leaving us to become a Regimental Signals Officer with the Queens Lancashire Regiment after attending the R.S.O.'s Course at Warminster.

Welcome to

Lieutenant Alan Kennedy who joins us from 7th Signal Regiment, in Germany, and to **Corporal Jock Campbell** who joins us from 21st Signal Regiment.

Congratulations to

Lance-Corporal and **Mrs. A. J. Hucker** on the birth of their son, **Adrian,** on the 14th August, and to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. A. Crabtree** on the birth of their son, **Arran,** on the 11th August.



OFFICERS, W.O.'s AND SERGEANTS I SPECIAL WIRELESS REGIMENT, GLUCKSTADT, 1947 (See reference below)
Standing: Sergeant P. Eccles, C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Johnny Harwood (Now Major (T.O.T.)), Sergeant Frank Holford, Sergeant Frank Shaw, Captain Tom Craggs, Sergeant Jimmy Hooks, Sergeant George Hutton. Note:—3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th from left are Intelligence Corps personnel
Seated: Major J. H. Smith (ex-boy), C.S.M. J. F. McQuade (ex-boy), R.Q.M.S. L. V. Stratton (ex-boy), Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. (Ted) Bradbury, Major J. McD Glass, C.Q.M.S. H. (Paddy) Ramshaw and Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. (Sammy) Barton, O.B.E.

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

Visit of a former Commanding Officer

ON the 4th August we were honoured by a visit from **Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E. Colonel Lonnon** commanded the Regiment from 1954 until 1957 and saw the construction of Mercury Barracks from what was at one time a sandy woodland to the fine barracks that we have now.

During his visit the Colonel was eager to see as much as he could and his tour of the barracks included the Junior Ranks Club, the single soldiers' accommodation and our new swimming pool. He was most impressed with all that he saw and nostalgically remarked when entering the soldiers' dining hall: "I can remember this when it was just four pegs in the ground." After lunch with the officers, he watched the finals of the Regimental tennis competition and, during the break visited the Sergeants' Mess to sample the local brew. The Sergeants were particularly pleased to see him since the Colonel was the central figure in the 1956 photograph featured in their recent WIRE notes.

The silent square

On Friday, 23rd July, 1971, the last squad of M.P.C. 1 students marched off the square here in Mercury Barracks under the watchful eye of the Inspecting Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson** (C.O. 16th Signal Regiment). The course had been a particularly good one and 32 men marched off the square having thoroughly earned their Class I M.P.T. qualification. **Corporal Robjohn,** of U.K. Support Unit SHAPE, was Parade Commander, and **Corporal Fisher,** of NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron, passed off as top student.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Medals presented

The presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is always a memorable occasion and well worth celebrating. On 9th July we did just that when **W.O.2 (Sup. R) Brian Stoddard** and **Staff Sergeant John Hazard** were presented with their medals by the Chief of Staff B.A.O.R., **Major General D. G. House, C.B.E., M.C.** After the presentation parade, which was witnessed by the recipients' families, the General joined us for celebration drinks.

Response to Mess photo query

It is nice to know that the WIRE is widely read, even by people who have retired from the Corps. Since our article on the 1956 Mess Photograph in the June/July issue we have had numerous letters from past members. It is evident, reading through the letters, that they all enjoyed reminiscing and have, in the words of **R.S.M. (Retd.) M. F. B. Garland,** 'pleasant memories of the Regiment.' Thank-you gentlemen for writing, and through you we are now able to add to the list already published:

Sergeant Greenwood — believed to be a B.I.A. living in Lincolnshire.
Sergeant Coulthard — now W.O.1 serving with Command Pay Office, Cyprus.
Sergeant Lamb — teaching in Cyprus.
Sergeant Patterson — publican in U.K., but where?
Sergeant Elliot — now W.O.2 serving in this Regiment.
S.Q.M.S. Tittin — believed to be managing an hotel in Penang.
S.Q.M.S. Howells — believed to be living in Tyneside.
S.Q.M.S. Stanley — now Captain serving in Malta.
S.Q.M.S. Garland — manager with J. Lyons living in Ickeham, Uxbridge.
W.O.2 Cunningham — now retired, believed to be living in Catterick.
W.O.2 Robertson — last heard to be Captain serving in Germany.
R.S.M. Barnes — now Major, last seen on touch line of hockey pitch in Oswestry, 1971.
W.O.2 Boston — retired as R.S.M., believed to be living in Darlington.
W.O.2 Francis — now Captain, serving in Cyprus.

Vintage photo

To spark an earlier generation with the vintage photograph bug, we thought perhaps the editor would like to publish the photograph, sent to us by **Major (Retd.) J. F. McQuade** and

mentioned in our August/September notes. This shows the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants of 1 Special Wireless Regiment, Gluckstadt, 1947. One of the officers on the photograph is the father-in-law of an officer now serving in the Regiment (**Major Smith** and **Second-Lieutenant Dobson**).

Arrivals and departures

Arrivals: **Major G. A. Maude, Captain P. R. Brewis, W.O.1 W. Motion, Colour Sergeant R. L. F. Biggs, Sergeant A. K. Pilkington, Sergeant P. Royle, Sergeant R. A. B. Vincent.**

Departures: **Captain P. J. Hodges, W.O.1 H. J. Saxton, W.O.1 M. Clowser, Staff Sergeant B. Anderson, Staff Sergeant R. Maunder, Staff Sergeant R. C. Armstrong, Sergeant G. Clark, Sergeant J. W. Horne, Sergeant M. F. Jobling, Sergeant V. E. Merrick, Sergeant M. T. Pilkington.**

14th Signal Regiment
Worcester

Have passport will travel

OUR usual editor having thrown his woolly long johns in the bin and donned O.G. to swelter in the Far East for a few months, the task of getting the notes out in time fell neatly on the Adjutant's desk.

2 SQUADRON SEE THE SUN

'B' Troop go to Cyprus for Exercise 'Upbuild'

The recce party was briefed to find a Radio site in Cyprus and **Captain Robin Ovenden** and **F. of S. Pat Hodgson** left a cold Worcester to find an idyllic spot by the blue Mediterranean, fortunately there was also room for the aerials.

The D13 detachment moved to Cyprus in two R.A.F. Hercules and soon got stuck into the task of setting up the station. **Sergeant Keith Barsby** and **Corporal 'Taff' Sobey** drilling holes in the hard rock for the mast pickets, **Corporals Jim Lees** and **Bob Brebner** on the receiver and **Corporals 'Tinker' Bell** and **Eric Pickering** on the transmitters. Order grew out of chaos and we were ready to go to traffic at E hour, while off duty shifts began to sample the sights of Cyprus. The General Officer Commanding Cyprus and Commander 3rd Signal Group visited the exercise. We were also very pleased to see forty airmen from 12th Signal Unit who came to see 'how the Army did it' as we have often worked to them 'unseen' in the past. After concluding a successful exercise the detachment, all well suntanned, were glad to get back to a wet U.K. for a well earned block leave.

'B' Troop (again!) go to Germany for Exercise 'Copperfield'

A D13 detachment of 'B' Troop left Worcester by road and the ferry *Prinz Oberon* and arrived in Reinsalen Camp where we were met by **Major Jerry Cox** and members of 55 Signal Squadron T. & A.V.R. with whom we were to practise a contingency plan. The first week **Sergeant Paul Lamb** and the commcen ops. from 30th Signal Regiment helped arrange the tested commcen complex. The second week was a tactical exercise and we had visits from **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** Chief Signal Officer B.A.OR.; **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** Commander 11th Signal Group; and **Major Dick Carroll,** 1 Signal Group. The many stories of Hamburg I will leave to the partakers who report elsewhere!

The whole exercise went well and the many units taking part said their farewells with genuine feelings of comradeship.

1 Squadron see less of the sun in Germany

Captain James Sweetman took his 'space age' Tango Troop to Germany in May/June to see if we could encourage Rhine Army to 'get with it' and really use some modern communications. The Troop deployed successfully and several B.A.O.R. circuits were re-routed (the long way) via Skynet to U.K.

Despite minor mishaps like fractured coolant pipes and the fact that **W.O.1 (F. of S.) James Lawrence** drank tea while everyone else had coffee, the exercise went well.

Whilst deployed Marconi Space brought several high ranking NATO officials round the station and expressed their appreciation for 'the loan' with a few crates of ale. (The 'high' of the exercise!).

In conclusion we would like to express our thanks to 22nd Signal Regiment and to 1 Transport Squadron, R.C.T., for all their help without which the exercise would not have been a success.

Personality parade

Arrivals. Welcome to: **Captain (T.O.T.) T. L. Craze.**

Departures. Farewell and thanks to: **Captain (T.O.T.) D. C. Ashton,** to 226 Signal Squadron. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. Gardner,** on retirement. **W.O.1 (F. of S.) P. Gill,** on commissioning.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

C.O.	**Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson**
Second-in-Command ...	**Major T. E. Grice**
Adjutant	**Captain C. W. Collier**
O.C. H.Q. Squadron ...	**Major F. A. L. Terrey**
O.C. One Squadron ...	**Major M. J. McCann**
O.C. Two Squadron ...	**Major C. T. Garton**
O.C. Three Squadron ...	**Major F. Smith**
O.C. Four Squadron ...	**Major W. R. Mayne**
R.S.M.	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. M. Gittins**

Attestation — son of Staff Sergeant Donkin

On 31st August at Krefeld the son of **Staff Sergeant Donkin** was attested as a junior soldier.

In the heat of the summer Krefeld has been basking in sunshine and contented snoring noises have emanated from H.Q., 2 and 3 Squadrons, hence no WIRE notes.

1 Squadron has been leaping around the countryside ably led (from the rear) by their O.C., and the story continues:

1 Squadron discover the joys of the open air life

Some time during the early part of June, the Squadron Commander, **Major Mike McCann,** was persuaded that it would be a good idea to organise a Squadron summer camp to enables the 'Moles,' who man our tape relay centre, to get out into the fresh air and discover (in some cases re-discover) for themselves the joys of living under canvas and going for long hikes in the country.



[Photo courtesy: S. J. Hare

ALL SET FOR A DAY OUT

"B" Shift personnel at Summer Camp about to depart on a visit to Monshau

Standing (left to right): Private McLoughlin, Signalman Farrell, Private Lyons, Signalman Walledge, Private Atkinson, Private Bartlett, Corporal Nelson, Corporal Hamer, Corporal Davey

Sitting/Kneeling: Lance-Corporal Sing, Corporal Calloway, Lance-Corporal Boucher, Signalman Leslie

After considering several locations the final decision was in favour of the village of Einruhr on the edge of the Vogelsang Training Area. Several phone calls and a quick recce secured approval and the detailed planning was started. It was decided that each shift would attend the camp from Monday lunchtime and would return after lunch on Saturday thus giving the permanent staff a breather over the weekend and time to get the camp ready for the next shift.

The permanent staff commanded by the S.Q.M.S., **Staff Sergeant Dave Tryner,** left barracks on 29th July and built a de-luxe mess hall/cookhouse/canteen, using a mixture of marquee and 160lb. tents. They also erected the two rows of accommodation tents, one for the W.R.A.C. members and one for the Royal Signals personnel ready for the first shift arriving on 2nd August.

The training programme was carefully worked out to ensure a gradual improvement in the standard of fitness during the week and on the theory that 'all work and no play, etc. . . .," a couple of visits to interesting towns were arranged. These were to Monshau (slightly reminiscent of Polperro in Cornwall but without the sea) and to Aachen. Every evening the canteen was open and films were shown on two evenings per week (courtesy of the S.K.C.).

The map-reading exercise took the participants in groups of three and four (mixed Royal Signals and W.R.A.C.) on a 12km. walk round the lake, skirting the edge of the live firing ranges. One party took a wrong turn and had to be rescued before disappearing in a puff of smoke in the middle of the artillery range where live firing was taking place.

We were pleased to welcome **Major Pat Ineson** (O.C. W.R.A.C.) and four Officer Cadets, **Second-Lieutenant Lewis, Officer Cadet Mallinson** from Liverpool University O.C.T.U., **Officer Cadet Aitkin, Officer Cadet Burgoyne** from Tayforth University O.C.T.U.

On the final night for each shift a barbeque was arranged with songs round a camp fire and a menu consisting of fish and chips, bratwurst, hamburgers and crisp bread rolls.

On the final week, the barbeque was held on the Thursday night and after a week of glorious sunshine the rain caught us out. This did not prevent the bonfire being lit and everyone sat around the fire singing songs ably led by **Signalman Pete MacKay,** before beating a hasty retreat to the canteen tent when the food was served up.

Someone must teach **W.O.2 Clarke** (W.R.A.C.) how to make coffee before she leaves the service. She called it her 'getting people up coffee'—one sip and you leapt out of bed clutching your throat and shouting "Aarrgh!"

From the number of enquiries, "When is the next one, sir," it appears that the camp was enjoyed by the majority of the persons attending and they are now all settling in to T.R.C. work again or looking forward to attending conversion courses to convert to the new Trade Structure.

4 (the Swinging) Squadron communicate every day of the year

What does 4 Squadron do to justify its existence? A difficult question to answer. However, I will try. I know a lot of people think our job is to boost the morale of H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps and provide brides for the local R.M.P. Company. I assure you this is not our primary role. Believe it or not we are communicators every day of the year. In fact we operate that 'bone of contention' and whipping boy of 1 (B.R.) Corps the Bielefeld Military Exchange. The exchange is manned by a mixture of W.R.A.C. and civilians and I have not met a more charming gaggle of operators in a long time. The Troop Commander of this merry crowd is **Lieutenant Jenny Baker,** W.R.A.C. Also we run the area commcen for H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps. This is manned mainly by Royal Signals with a few W.R.A.C. operators. Later in the year, however, we are to lose some of our male Commcen Operators and get 'dolly girls' (W.R.A.C.) to replace them.

Finally we man detached commcens at Dortmund, Sennelager and Handorf.

If you've decided to leave the Services, think of a career at IBM



Today IBM computers and data processing equipment are becoming essential to the running of industry, science, government and commerce. And no manufacturer can operate without customer engineers.

Many of our most successful customer engineers have come from the forces, so the field is wide open to you. And it could be your opportunity to move into the world's fastest-growing industry

There are now over 340 customer engineers who joined IBM straight from the Navy/Army/Air Force. Most of them had experience in either electro-mechanisms, servo-systems or electronic-electric controls. And now some are technical specialists and some are managers.

There are several different jobs within Customer Engineering. The Data Recording group are responsible for servicing and maintenance of the entire key punch and verifier range of machines, also data collection systems and Teleprocessing terminal units. The Data Systems group covers basic punch card handling equipment, such as card sorters, tabulators, interpreters, calculators and small models of computer systems. The General Systems group covers medium and large scale computer systems. Whilst, the Program Support Group is responsible for problems that occur in IBM programming systems, involving the diagnosis and solution of these problems using a large amount of documentation (e.g. core dumps, program listings etc.).

Whichever group you join you will be given a first class training.

Salaries are excellent, IBM offers many fringe benefits such as a non-contributory pension scheme, free Life Assurance and an excellent career.

If you are under 40, like the idea of joining the fast-growing computer industry and are due for release during the next 18 months or after a short-term commission, why not find out more about IBM? Send a brief resumé of your technical career and personal details to Mr. D. J. Dennis, IBM United Kingdom Limited, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W.4. Quoting reference W/90672

IBM

In the past year we have visited a number of Service Units to give a short presentation on Customer Engineering in the computer business, followed by a question and answer session. We would be pleased to arrange to visit your station if there is sufficient interest and your Commanding Officer agrees. Please discuss this with your Resettlement Officer or Station Education Officer in the first instance so that we can make arrangements through him.



LAST SHIFT AT TANGLIN, SINGAPORE

After 26 years the Army's main Comcen at Tanglin closed down and handed over its commitments to the Royal Navy. Some of the members on the last shift pose for the camera

Left to right: Sergeant Johnson, Lance-Corporals O'Connor and Wykes, Signalman Ellis, Corporal Darwin, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Cooke, Sergeant Papanicolo, Corporal Goullee

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

The end of an era

AT exactly 09.30 hours local time on 28th August the Chief of Staff H.Q. FARELF, **Brigadier R. E. Worsley, O.B.E.,** threw a switch which severed the Army Tape Relay Centre and its tributaries from the D.C.N. From that moment, the Army Comcen Tanglin ceased to pass traffic and the remaining tributaries work direct to the Royal Naval Commcen. Before taking this step, which brought about the end of an era, the Chief of Staff transmitted a farewell message to the D.C.N. To commemorate the occasion he was presented with a mounted copy of the signal and tape by the Commanding Officer.

This ceremony marked the end of 26 years as the Army's main Commcen in the Far East. By coincidence **Captain Max Nutt,** who is the last of a long line of C.D.S.O.s, was also present when the first post-war Comcen was opened in Singapore in 1945. He was then a Sergeant in **Lord Mountbatten's** forces.

During the ceremony the Chief of Staff presented **Corporal Jim Alger** and **Private Mary O'Fee Moore,** our tributary operators at 3 B.O.D., with a Comstar silver award for the period January to June. We congratulate them on the high standards achieved, and thank the many hundreds who have worked in the Singapore Comcens over the years.

W.R.A.C. notes

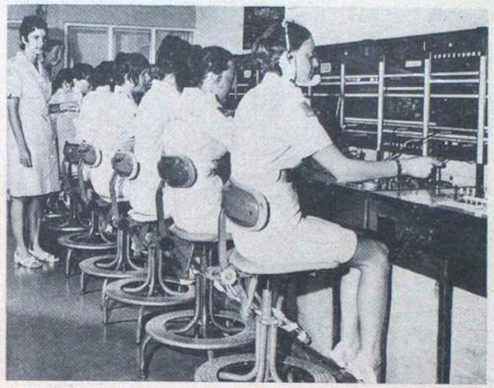
At 17.00 hours local time on 27th August the last call through the Tanglin Military Exchange was completed, and the shift which was composed of both W.R.A.C. and local soldiers stood down for the last time. Of the L.E.P.s terminating their service in the exchange, **Sergeant Idris Bin Mohd Yusof** was the last L.E.P. S.N.C.O. on duty. **Sergeant Lou Hill,** who formed part of the last W.R.A.C. shift, will shortly be terminating her service in order to marry into the service again—her fiance being **Sergeant Colin Shaw,** R.M.P.



FORMAL CLOSE DOWN

The Chief of Staff about to "switch off" the Army Comcen, watched by Captain Nutt, Colonel Polley, Major Bushell, Lieutenant-Colonel Hild and W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Wright

All the other W.R.A.C. personnel have now departed to their respective postings and we thank all the switchboard operators for their hard work over the years and wish them every success in the future.



W.R.A.C. PROVIDE EXPERT SERVICE AT TANGLIN TOO

Corporal Ledgard, the floor supervisor, with her shift in the Tanglin Manual Exchange now closed down

Exercise 'Countdown'

Owing to the premature closing of the facilities in the Cameron Highlands, this 'X' Troop exercise was based on the Jungle Warfare School in Johore. Some members of other Troops also took part, including even an R.H.Q. Clerk — **Signalman Fred Mackender.**

The first few days were spent on the J.W.S. ranges, detachment radio exercises, and preparation for the main jungle exercise. **Corporal 'Chalky' White** and **Signalman Gillmartin** won the pool shooting competition while **Corporal Roger Burrows** made an interesting kill in the jungle lane range—a five-foot 'Red-tailed racer' snake, which the experts subsequently declared not as harmless as it looked.

Everyone set out confidently in high spirits for the final exercise. However, shortly after dawn on the first day the heavens opened and for the next two days torrential tropical rain followed the groups on their trek through the jungle. The difficulties in operating wet manpack HF radios in the jungle were soon apparent, and previous instruction on survival in the jungle was put to the full test.

Having survived this phase the exercise finished on a lighter note when the Troop met up with wives and friends for a day-off on the East Coast at Jason's Bay. Needless to say some of the wives still think the whole week was spent on the beach!

Exercise 'Round-up'

Two detachments of 'X' Troop, under the command of **Lieutenant Tim Mountford,** took part in this amphibious assault exercise at Marang on the East Coast of Malaysia. The reason for our presence was to practise 40 Commando Royal Marine in electronic warfare, and monitoring and deception techniques with some musical interludes were practised.

After an 11-hour drive north from Singapore contact was made with the Marine umpires on the beach, and the mainbrace was suitably spliced. Having bivouaced for the night by the sea, **Signalman 'Bri' Spencer** cooked breakfast while the remainder had an early morning swim in the South China Sea.

With the Naval Controller, **Lieutenant-Commander Dermet Gunn,** in the lead with his sextant, we set off inland to occupy good radio positions. **Lance-Corporal 'Konig' King** eventually managed to erect his 27-foot mast without becoming part of it, and after two days of electronic annoyance to the Marines we returned to the coast for a final beach party with the Navy.



THEY STILL FIND TIME TO GET OUT INTO THE JUNGLE

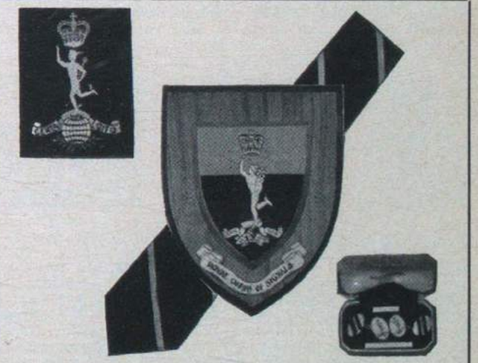
Left to right: Signalman Carter, Lance-Corporal Wilkinson and Lance-Corporal Williams being briefed by Corporal Burrows during exercise Count-Down

After the long drive home we now have several right arm sunburnt drivers while **Corporal Charlie Mitten** and **Signalman Nick Carter** now know all the bumps on the East Coast road.

Footnote

As this is the last full Regimental notes to appear in 'The Wire' we would like to express our appreciation of the assistance given by PR Services H.Q. FARELF in providing many of the excellent photographs which have featured in our 'Wire' notes. In particular we would thank Major Mike Deverill, the S.O.2 Public Relations, and Staff Sergeant Grinwood, R.A.O.C., for their valuable co-operation in this respect.

Finally, we would also like to thank 'The Wire' Editor and staff for their close liaison and good coverage of Regimental activities over the years.



ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

TIES		Crested Tankards	£3·50 / £4·50
Silk	£1·50	Silk Blazer Badges	£0·85
Terylene/Crimplene	£0·90	Gold Wire Blazer Badges	£3·00
Crested Terylene	£1·35	Wall Shields	£2·00
REME Institute Ties	£1·35	Car Badges	£2·10
Crested Cuff Links	£3·50		

Items made to your own design (by quotation)

U.K. Post Free Overseas Post Ties/Badges 10p

Other items 25p

Sharps

17 GABRIELS HILL

MAIDSTONE 56666/7



MEMBERS OF R.H.Q. 19TH SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT) AUGUST, 1971

Back row (left to right): Mr. S. S. Moonshi, Mr. C. Ang, Mr. A. Ponnuthurai, Mr. Chan Fook Seng, Mr. Woon Siang Huat

Centre row: Mr. A. R. Abu Bakar, Mr. Koh Kim Guan, Signalman Andi Juniardi bin Saman, Lance-Corporal Yahaya bin Hamid, Corporal A.G. Gask, Sergeant Noordin bin Yon, Lance-Corporal K. Bowker, Corporal Yahaya bin Shahid, Lance-Corporal Ismail bin Tompang, Mr. Mohammed Ariffin bin Junid

Front row: W.O.1 (S.Q.M.S.) W. D. D. Jackson, R.A.P.C., W.O.1 (F. of S.) R. J. Hoe, Captain R. J. Cross, R.A.P.C., W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. Speight, Major K. Watts, Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert, Captain M. L. P. Brock, Captain M. J. M. Alden, Captain (T.O.T.) L. W. Leppington, W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) E. D. Duncan

Absent from photograph: Sergeant A. W. Jones, Corporal Leong Kah Loke, Private Tajul Adnan bin Yaacob, Mr. Koh Kong Choo, Mr. Kwan Fook Kee, Mr. Seow Geok Ee

19th Signal Regt.

c/o G.P.O. Singapore

Rundown continues

SINCE our last contribution to THE WIRE the run down has continued unabated. H.Q. No. 1 Squadron has disbanded and Changi, Seletar and Tengah Troops are no more; farewells are the order of the day as L.E.P.s depart to civilian life and the daily VC-10s whisk away British members and their families. This is all very sad but we that remain are determined that the Regiment will survive as an entity until the flag is finally lowered at the time our Commanding Officer departs in mid-November.

Dinner in Station Sergeants' Mess

Two occasions of note have occurred recently. On Wednesday, 14th July, the senior ranks of the Regiment and their ladies assembled in the Station Sergeants' Mess, R.A.F. Changi. The guests included **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. C. J. Gilbert, Major K. Watts** and **Major** and **Mrs. A. P. Fielding.**

After an excellent dinner, which was well up to the Station Sergeants' Mess usual very high standard, the R.S.M., **W.O.1 C. Speight,** presented the Commanding Officer with a silver-plated model Beaufighter on behalf of members of the Senior Ranks Club. The evening was rounded off by dancing to 'The Shades of Blue' and the unusual quiet around the Regiment next morning testified to the success of the function. Thanks to the hard work and organising ability of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Edgington,** what so easily could have become a sad evening, in the event turned out to be an occasion that will long be remembered by those privileged to be present.

Medals presented

The second important occasion took place at R.H.Q. on Friday, 6th August, when **Staff Sergeant A. E. Phillips** and **Signalman Hussein Bin Ibrahim** were presented with Long Service and Good Conduct Medals by the Commanding Officer. The ceremony was, of necessity, a simple one but nonetheless dignified with the families of the recipients present in the audience.

A gallant body

The members of R.H.Q. have until recently survived establishment cuts almost unscathed and the opportunity was taken in August to obtain a photographic record of this gallant body which appears with this article.

A special occasion

One further sad, but at times hilarious, occasion must be noted. On Friday, 13th August, the remaining Officers and Senior Ranks forgathered in the Senran Club for the customary 'happy hour' after work, but also to say goodbye to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bob Isaac** prior to his departure both to U.K. and Civvy Street; he is leaving the service on voluntary redundancy. An extremely popular Warrant Officer, he was presented with a silver-plated Beaufighter from Senran members and, on behalf of the Station Sergeants' Mess, with a silver salver. A ceremony was then performed which will long be remembered (with guffaws) by those present, **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Speight** called upon **W.O.2 Isaac** to step forward for the award of his medal. The following citation was read out by **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Irons** as follows (see opposite page):

Unusual citation

"W.O.2 Isaac enlisted as a boy soldier in 1893. At that time he was very young. He sat his ACE III in 1949 and finally passed in 1952.

"He was promoted Lance-Corporal in 1954, Signalman in 1955, Lance-Corporal in 1956, Corporal in 1957, Sergeant in 1957, Staff Sergeant in 1962 and W.O.2 in 1969.

"He passed his swimming test whilst at Mons O.C.S. The test was not taken voluntarily and was held in mess kit at 03.00 hours in the local canal.

"He qualified as a parachutist in 1952 and was described as a strong solid man who did not know the meaning of the word 'fear.' There are many other words he also does not know the meaning of. His blood group is 'O' positive which includes the X factor.

"W.O.2 Isaac is the man of whom Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery once said 'who?'

"During his service he has learned to ride a cycle and for this and numerous other achievements he is awarded the L.S. but G.C. (Long Service but Got Caught)."

In a more serious vein we all wish **W.O.2 Bob Isaac** and his charming wife, **Sue,** good luck in civilian life.

30th Signal Regiment

BLANDFORD CAMP

Sailing

THE Regiment has been very active in the sport during 1971. We have sailed in the Solent ad nauseum, with trips to Shoreham, Poole, Weymouth, Torquay, Dartmouth and, of course, Cherbourg and the Channel Islands.

We have had our fair share of drama, which included a plastic bag around the propeller in mid-Channel which **Sergeant Chris Jefford-Horn** removed having changed his skin colour from pink to blue in the process, and a sail change in rough seas during which the mainsail split, a creditable performance from **Captain Doug Willis** and **Lance-Corporal Chris Power** under stress! These incidents of course could not mar the thrill and satisfaction you feel when you see a light or headland you have been looking for over the last 20 miles of a passage.

Sailing is an adventure training sport and the financial assistance which is available brings the sport within the reach of all, but it is not everyone's idea of pleasure and the adage "You do not know until you have tried it" still applies.

We are nearly at the end of the season and are pleased with our achievements in terms of individual qualifications: **Colonel Rose, W.O.1 Coxon,** Mates certificates; **Sergeant Jefford-Horn, Lance-Corporal Power,** to Second Mate; **Lance-Corporal Parrotte** and **Corporal Dowling** to Off-Shore Hand, and in the pipeline—**Captain Willis** and **Sergeant Wall** to Off-Shore Hand.

Hockey

The unit entered two teams in the South-West District Six-a-Side Competition held at Perham Down on 8th September. The 'B' team was beaten in a hard-fought final after extra time and the 'A' finished second in their division winning three of their four games. A creditable performance by both teams as 20 units took part in the competition.

Change of Command

We sadly record the departure of **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose** and welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre** in command. We bade farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel Rose** in the traditional manner in all Messes of the Regiment and were pleased he was spared sufficiently from his duties with R.M.C.S. Shrivenham to be with us in Alderney.

Readers will also be interested to know that **Major (Q.M.) Jim Bevan, M.M.,** has retired after a long and distinguished career in the Corps.

News from Squadrons

20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (200) B.F.P.O. 41

HAVING received the ultimatum, "No WIRE notes — no leave pass!" the author has finally put pen to paper to review briefly the last few months.

Exercise 'Snow Queen'

First, a very belated note to record the fact that we spent January and February in Bavaria, pursuing the delights of ski-ing. Although it is impossible to mention all the escapades and personalities involved, it may be sufficient to confirm that **Sergeant Tony ('Avalanche') Rains** did kick the bucket, **Lance-Corporal Bill ('Alpine') Sykes** became proficient on the ski-lift after two weeks and that **Signalman ('You three are a right pair if ever I saw one') Thomas** is a champion woffler! We are all looking forward to 'Snow Queen 71.'

Athletics

The athletics team were much more successful this year than last in that we won both the Brigade and 4th Division competitions. However, once among the 'Kings' at the B.A.O.R. meeting we realised that our standards were not quite high enough for such competition.

During the week preceding the Morrison Cup competition we were fortunate enough to be able to train 'away from it all' with 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, to whom we are most grateful. Although our results at Mönchengladbach were not startling, the team is unanimously of the opinion that the training was of great value.

Swimming

It has again been a successful year for the swimming team. We won the Brigade competition and were runners-up in the major units water polo. Next we won the 4th Division minor units swimming, during which **Lance-Corporal Steve Dunnings** broke the 100 metre backstroke record. At the B.A.O.R. competition in Berlin we came runners-up in the minor units competition for the second year running. During the Berlin visit the team was accommodated and well looked after by 229 Signal Squadron.

Border patrols

The Squadron has carried out two Border patrols this year, both in the Helmsstedt area. The first, organised by Alpha Troop in March was a rather cold and dismal affair. The accommodation provided was not very good, there was little activity on the 'other side,' and it is reported that the only good thing was the beer.

The second patrol, a Bravo Troop affair, was carried out in July. This time we were accommodated in a 'Schutzhalle' attached to a 'Gasthaus.' Not only was it more comfortable, there was only a matter of ten yards to stagger between bar and bed, or vice versa. There was plenty to see on the border, where the 'sights' were pointed out to us by an expert from that most helpful organisation, the British Frontier Service. The highlight of our patrol, however, was a visit from **Mr. Jim Black,** a reporter for B.B.C. Local Radio, whose presence we found slightly more unnerving than that of the East Germans! We soon got used to his microphone, however, O.C. Bravo Troop practised his 'official spokesman' voice, and all went well. **Mr. Black** was heard to remark that it 'wasn't quite what he expected.'

Exercises

The first half of the exercise season has produced its usual crop of 'quotable quotes.' For example:

R.S.M. (whispering): "There's going to be a gas attack. Do you know what to do?"

Brigade H.Q. Sentry: "Er . . . get me gas mask, Sir?"

or perhaps:

Divisional Commcen (on engineering net): "We are shooting at you now."

20th Armoured Brigade: "Er . . . what with?"

The oldest known repair method for technical equipment (a kick) has proved its worth several times. Ably applied by a R.E.M.E. mechanic, it produced instant success with the Brigade Commander's refrigerator. Equally ably applied to a multiplexer by a frustrated technician, it restored perfect trunk communications after an all-night struggle.

The complicated system of remotes and inter-vehicle connections in the G complex is a story in itself. In this world of squawking loudspeakers, buzzing intercomms and ringing telephones even the Comms Captain is not immune: not content with distinguishing himself on 'Main Brace' by picking up the wrong headset and saying: "You rang?" to the Brigade Command Net, he added to his record on 'Summer Sales' by asking a confused staff officer in the next vehicle for a 'radio check!"



7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (207), B.F.P.O. 37

A Subaltern's eye view of the Desert Rat

AT the beginning of August there was an addition to the ranks of the Squadron in the form of **Lieutenant Lillie,** who came to us from Oxford, where he had read Russian and German. The Squadron takes its training for war so seriously that it now has an officer of its own to interrogate its prisoners! We only hope that he remembers to use English on the Brigade's own nets. His job in the Squadron is Second-in-Command 'Alfa' Troop, and as we have two exercises coming up very soon, **Corporal Colin Whall, Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' McCarthy** and **Signalman Mick Tharme** showed him around. For a long time afterwards he was to be seen wandering around camp in a dazed condition trying to remember how to tune a 432 and track bash a C42! Well, it's very difficult for someone to whom 'quad' means the front lawn.

As a light relief from this **Corporals 'Boggy' Marsh** and **Alan Berry** gave him a 'crash' course on Army vehicles, **Major Austin** on Army accounts, **Corporal 'Jock' Kelly** on soccer and **F. of S. Ray Tricker** on basketball. One great thing about 7 Brigade is that you don't have time to get bored!

Just to make sure he didn't go completely mad, **Signalmen Chris Chapman, 'Ginge' Nixon, Dave Kilby** took him down to the Jerboa at 'Happy Hour' and pumped him full of 'Carlys,' ably abetted in this noble task by **Lance-Corporal Pete Cranswick.** After that he was introduced to the Squadron duty system when he forgot to arrange Exercise 'Weekly Wash,' his grounds for doing so being that he had already had his.

The position at the moment is that he is trying to find his feet, and every time he looks like sinking, someone is detailed to rush him off and top up his alcohol level. Needless to say, he seems to be enjoying it.

5 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. Tidworth

THE one event that seemed to overshadow all others in the last three months was the summer block leave. Though as an opening remark that seems, upon reflection, to be slightly unfair. Although nominally stationed still in Tidworth, the Saxon Horse has roamed from Warcop to Dover via Stamford and Dartmoor, not forgetting the odd gallop to Salisbury Plain and back. All this, with the occasional weekend spent with various C.C.F.s and summer camps with Boy Scouts, has kept us busy, although 'Alfa' Troop would express it in a sligthly different way I fear.

Summer camp

Summer camp produced more than its fair share of incidents too. The Squadron moved into St. Martin's Plain Camp at Folkestone for 10 days during early May, and the O.C. **Major Micky Topple** started to put us through our paces. Most afternoons were spent sporting, including the occasional sail in Dover harbour. The Y. of S. **W.O.2 Robin Dodman** was lecturing capsize drill to his assembled multitude when **Staff Sergeant John (Rock) Richardson** neatly deposited his crew, **Captain Warren Armstrong** and dog Sandy, into the depths of Dover harbour. It is reported (falsely) that Sandy was the only one with the presence of mind to forsake the sinking dinghy and head for the shore. The Y. of S. had a difficult time persuading his disciples that there were quicker ways to right a capsized dinghy.

Shooting

The Squadron entered a team in the Southco/Stratco Skill-at-Arms meeting in June in which the team, although winning no prizes, finished in a spectable fourth place. However, our congratulations go to **Second-Lieutenant Jim Evans, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Robin Dodman, Sergeant Derek Frape** and **Signalman Dave Grant** who won the A.E.R. Cup for the minor units section match at the Corps meeting the following week.

Squadron Skill-at-Arms Meeting

A Squadron skill-at-arms competition, organised by **R.S.M. Brian Cook,** took place on Friday, 20th August. Teams from 'A' Troop, 'B' Troop, 'D' & 'E' Platoon, Admin. Troop and M.T./L.A.D. took part, there being 72 firers in all. Inter-Troop competition was fierce and many watchful eyes were kept on our chief scorer **Captain Andrew Martin.** The climax of the day was the 'falling plate' in which two more teams appeared, one from the Officers commanded by our O.C., **Major Micky Topple,** the other from the S.N.C.O.s led by the R.S.M. The S.N.C.O.s were quickly disposed of by 'B' Troop in the second round. The Officers however went on to better things, being beaten only in the final by one plate and one second. Our outgoing Quartermaster **Captain Mike Ham** astounded everyone by his agility and speed over 100 metres, not once but thrice.

Our thanks to **Colonel I. G. Swan** who kindly agreed to present the prizes as follows:

SLR team prizes, 'B' Troop; SMG team prizes, 'A' Troop; Section match, 'A' Troop; SLR individual winner, **Corporal Ian Durrant;** SMG individual winner, **Corporal George Carpenter;** Team Shield, 'A' Troop; Falling Plate, 'B' Troop.

Sports

Signalmen George Hardstaff and **Mark Tibble** should be congratulated on their fine efforts swimming for the Corps team on several occasions this season. The former has earned himself well-deserved Corps swimming colours.

Lieutenant Jim Evans has started off the rugby season well by leading his team to a resounding victory over a local team (Cainscross), winning by 22 points to three.

Signalman George Hardstaff represented the Corps well (again) by going to Cyprus with the Brigade R.C.T. Squadron as swimming and sailing instructor.

Arrivals and departures

We say a sad farewell this month to a lot of Squadron personalities. Our best wishes go to **Captain Peter Dale** who is posted to 28th Signal Regiment together with **Captain (Q.M.) Mike Ham.** Our M.T.O. **Captain Derek Brooks,** R.C.T., has passed on to the Services Booking Centre in London, and we wish him all the best in his new appointment after some two years of various experiences with an Airportable/Airmobile Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. **Peter Dale,** who was Second-in-Command, is relieved by **Captain Andy Martin,** our new Q.M. is **Captain (Q.M.) Geoff Granger,** and **Captain John Webber** takes over as the M.T.O. We extend to all three of them a warm welcome to Tidworth, though it is doubted that they will see much of the place.

For the Saxon Horse is again preparing to move. This time to Lurgan. N. Ireland calls . . .

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

FAMOUS DRINKS IN YOUR MESS

Rutherford and Miles OLD TRINITY HOUSE Bual Madeira

LEMON HART JAMAICA RUM.
LAMB'S NAVY RUM.
Tia Maria COFFEE LIQUEUR

Bénédictine DOM La Grande Liqueur Française

NOVAL LB
The style is Vintage but not the price

These and all other famous drinks are obtainable through N.A.A.F.I.

Lanson BLACK LABEL CHAMPAGNE

Drambuie
THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED

CROWN OF CROWNS LIEBFRAUMILCH

DUFF GORDON
EL CÍD
Amontillado Sherry

Deliciously Different
CINZANO
THE BIANCO

Offer your friends South African Sherry

HOME OWNERSHIP ASSURED

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier YOU start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a home for your family. ASK OUR ADVICE NOW. When writing please provide the following information: (1) Date of birth; (2) Price of House; (3) Loan required; (4) Date of intended purchase; (5) Details of life policies held; (6) Other details you consider will assist.

OUR SERVICE ADVISORY BUREAU is also available to give specialised advice to Members of H.M. Forces on all Assurance, Insurance and Mortgage matters. For full details of the advice we offer, please telephone or write in confidence to:

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. B. JOHNS, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) B.F.P.O. 801

WITH the end of our tour less than two months away our lives have been relatively quieter than our first three months in N. Ireland. We are hoping that this situation remains as our thoughts now run along the lines of "How are we going to get this lot back to Colchester?"

Medical Centre

Contrary to **Corporal Perrow's** remarks in last month's issue that the Medical Centre would not be ready until 1973, it has now been completed. He and **Private Duckworth** have utilised stretchers, not for casualties, but for transportation of medical supplies, office stationery and last but by no means least **Corporal Perrow's** abundant fishing tackle.

Accommodation and office furnishings

The Quartermaster's staff have really been earning their 'bread' these past two weeks. Sweat streaked faces could just be seen peering around and over mountains of chairs, tables, desks and lockers. The steel lockers presented the greatest problem in that due to the narrowness of the stairways, limiting the manoeuvrability, great chunks of plaster were being gouged out of the walls. **Captain Terry Licence** (Q.M.) could only stand it for five lockers. "Stop!" he commanded, "let me think again." Sure enough his inspiration came to the fore. "A winch is what we need," came back his answer. So with close liaison we were granted the aid of **Corporal Hatton** and **Sapper Partridge,** 33 Field Squadron R.E., and their mechanical hoist who took exactly one day to distribute 200 items to the correct floors in our multi-storey building.

S.D.S.

Our S.D.S. teams have been kept very busy and have been doing an excellent job. Unfortunately one crew met with an accident the other day. Due to a mechanical failure **Signalman Steve Mellish's** accelerator jammed whilst he was negotiating a bend. The momentum overturned the vehicle throwing **Signalman Zebedee Parry** and **Signalman Jimmy Holt** out. Fortunately no-one received any serious injuries.

Squadron Headquarters

The staff of the Orderly Room have changed round for the second half of the tour. **Corporal Johnnie Sharp,** Lance-Corporal **'Baz' Mansell** and **Signalman Joe Weeks** have returned to Rear Party in Colchester. Replacing them are **Corporal 'Mac' MacGregor** and **Signalman Brian Sharp** (**Johnnie's** younger, but not little, brother). **Lance-Corporal Bernie Hunt** has been having big 'grip' sessions as he is doing the complete tour.

Bernie is our movements king and has done an admirable job during the tour, but is worried he ends it with a hairline like **Mac's.** See Photo 4.

Communications

Our newly established Cipher/Commcen Exchange has now extended its range by the addition of three new teleprinter circuits in our now increased area.

The addition of the new area has given **Lieutenant Chris Smith** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Rocky' Wall** the excuse for a 'swan' to visit the new units under command.

Lance-Corporal Ollie Walton has just returned from 14/20 Hussars at Ballykinler where he has acted as O.C. T.P.'s driver operator.

The remainder of the Troop are still doing an excellent job of communication.

Arrivals and departures

Over the last month we have said goodbye to **Sergeant Gallagher,** R.A.P.C., **Sergeant Nimmons,** R.A.O.C., **Sergeant Smith,** R.E.M.E., **Sergeant Brooks, Corporal Dix, Corporal Donaldson, Lance-Corporal Paylor, Lance-Corporal Catlow,** R.A.O.C., and **Driver Swift,** R.C.T. We wish them all the best for the future.

We extend a welcome to **Sergeant Fielding,** R.A.P.C., **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Jackson, Sergeant Altham, Corporal Turner,** R.A.O.C., **Corporal Kenyon,** R.C.T., **Lance-Corporal Lance,** Intelligence Corps, and **Signalman Ingram** and we hope that their stay with us will be a happy one.

216 Parachute Signal Squadron
Aldershot

Northern Ireland (11th February - 5th June, 1971)

AFTER our 'Quick Move' to Northern Ireland in early February, we settled down to a very worthwhile and unforgettable tour.

Apart from the normal 'internal nets' and duties to run, we established an FSK C11/SSB link with Aldershot. With us in Lurgan was **Corporal 'Hotfingers' 'Andy' Fox** and detachment, whilst at the 'blunt' end was **Corporal 'Mat' McBirney** and detachment and between them much information was passed on the 'hot line.'

To kill time on 16th May, a rather slack Sunday, a road race was organised round Lough Neagh, between the 'Chiefs' and the 'Indians.' Twelve in each team—72 miles each team to cover—with two river crossings thrown in for good measure. The race was run and organised by **Captain 'Tony' Woodhouse** and **Sergeant 'Doug' Baikie.**

The race started and finished in Lurgan Park and for two-thirds of the way both teams were neck and neck, but the 'Indians' eventually forged ahead to win in an overall time of 7 hours 8 minutes (record). Our O.C., **Major 'Roy' Williams,** later presented the winning team with their medals.

Other activities included the Squadron submitting a close combat team to participate in a Tattoo for the local public. The team was trained by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) 'Ivor' Wells** and the commentary was done by **Corporal 'Steve' Marshall.**

In late April, patrols were sent into the Mourne Mountains and border area, working on A16's to a detachment on Slieve Croob and also in Lurgan.

Sport had its big moments, too, when the largest attendance was believed to be at the Sauna Baths in Portadown where many a pound was lost in weight, only to be added again in the 'Pedlers Inn' later on.

On detachment with 2 PARA is **Corporal 'Gus' Hartley, Signalman 'Jock' Clanachan** and the 'big fella,' **Signalman 'Jock' Grantiza,** who are soon to return to some well deserved leave.

Early June saw the welcome arrival of 19 Airportable Brigade and Signal Squadron and so, eagerly, after four months, we arrived back in Aldershot.

After Northern Ireland, and one week's leave, the Squadron was split into three parties:—

Re-training—Newquay. On 21st June the majority of the Squadron moved to Newquay to brush up on the military arts that had not been practiced in Ireland. The weather was good for the duration of our stay and there was much activity; with road runs starting the day (good for hangovers!), followed by lectures and practical demonstrations and the handling of equipment. We took an M.S.P. heavy drop platform with us, enabling the Squadron riggers to refresh their memories.

In the afternoons, sport was the main feature with each section battling it out against each other in a bid to gain points towards the overall competition, the prize for which was a barrel of beer.

At sea, each section piled into Gemini recce boats and raced back to the shore, through the heavy surf, with many going overboard in the high breakers. This was all run and organised by that old Sea Dog **Captain 'Clem' Palmer.**

Running in conjunction with this programme was an M.P.C. II Course, run by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) 'Ivor' Wells, Sergeant 'Doug' Baikie, Corporal 'Jimmy' Campbell** and **Corporal 'Andy' Fox.**

On the last evening, we fielded a soccer team against Perranporth, with the final score being 5-4 in our favour. This was followed by the winning section claiming their beer and retreating to the NAAFI with the other sections in hot pursuit.



"OUT TO SEA"
Left to right: Signalman "Pete" Martin, Signalman "Al" Blood and Corporal "Berni" Thomas



"SPORTS AFTERNOON"
Back row (left to right): Corporal "John" Bailey, Lance-Corporal "Jack" Ferguson, Signalman "Scouse" McKee
Front row (left to right): Corporal "Jimmy" Campbell, Lance-Corporal "Ian" Campbell, Staff-Sergeant "Jack" Frost

Ghana (23rd July-30th August). Captain **'Tony Woodhouse** and a party of twelve 'hairies,' attached to 3 PARA, left for a tour of six weeks for jungle training in Ghana. (More in next issue). Meanwhile, we have the 2nd Ghana Army with us in Aldershot on an exchange visit.

Exercise 'New Envoy.' Lieutenant **'Dick' Gittings** and his 'crew' were busy throughout June and early July preparing for the public mass which descended on Aldershot on 10th and 11th July for the Army Show. The detachments, run by **Sergeant 'Alan' Hogg, Sergeant 'Bob' Hutchings** and **Corporal 'Mick' Nash,** displayed items of radio and airborne equipment used in the Squadron.

Exercise 'Play-Safe' (20th July - 23rd July)

With the Army Show and Newquay behind us, it was exercise time. After Northern Ireland, and perhaps a little rusty, Exercise 'Play-Safe' enabled us to practice our parachuting RV Procedures, Rigging and all that is vital to make a successful and worthwhile exercise.

There were two phases:

On Tuesday, 20th July, a very hot day, 60 sweating, cursing men, with equipment, were crammed into a Hercules and dropped onto Everleigh DZ, which was closely followed by the second lift.

On the ground we were met with enemy machine gun fire, but they were soon dealt with by men with SMG's shouting 'Bang-Bang!'

An hour later, five platforms were dropped, expertly de-rigged and off the DZ inside 20 minutes.

On the Wednesday afternoon we moved in the usual Para DMS Boot transport for twelve miles to pick up point, which fortunately was a pub. First to arrive was **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Paddy' Boland** and his section, who eagerly showed us the route across country he had taken. (Funny—I didn't think a furniture removal van would have made it!).

From there, on to Devizes by transport to re-equip and prepare for a night descent on the following evening.

At 23.00 hours on Thursday, 22nd July, the first lift dropped 42 men and equipment, followed by the second lift dropping 44 men and equipment 15 seconds later, all on to Netheravon DZ.

The Heavy Drop, which was cancelled due to low cloud base, was de-rigged at Lyneham and driven to the exercise area.

The drop took place in pitch darkness and the following conversation was overheard:—

1st quiet voice in the dark: "Where's the RV?"
2nd quiet voice in the dark: "It should be a blue flashing light over there."
1st quiet voice in the dark: "Who's got the blue flashing light?"
2nd quiet voice in the dark: "The Sarne Major!"
1st quiet voice in the dark: "Where the hell is he?"
2nd quiet voice in the dark: "He's injured!"
1st quiet voice in the dark: "What happened?"
2nd quiet voice in the dark: "He landed on his container!"

Others injured were **W.O.1 (F. of S.) 'John' Kirton, Staff Sergeant 'Gordon' Haughie, Corporal 'Glynne' Darby** and **Corporal 'Paddy' Cardwell,** but despite their wounds, managed to soldier on throughout the exercise.

A point of interest and a lucky injury escape was made by **W.O.2 (C.S.M.) 'Pete' Pryor** (H.Q. Company, 16 Parachute Brigade) in that he landed in a horse trough. Remarkable! (Good for defence).

For **Signalman 'Jock' Milton,** this will surely be an exercise he will never forget, as he sat on the DZ all night without realising everyone had moved to the 1st location.

On Friday morning we 'marched' a further five miles to our pick-up point, where we were transported back to Aldershot and a well deserved weekend replacing the sweat we had liberally spread over Salisbury Plain!

223 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Winchester

Triumph for our cricketers

FOLLOWING up our report in the August-September WIRE about the Squadron's prowess at cricket, we felt we must come up with one final blast on our trumpet. The team, led by **Sergeant Pat Baldwin,** eclipsed all previous efforts by winning the final of the South East District Knockout competition by five wickets.

Of twenty-two matches played this season, all but two, when the team's regular opening bowlers were unable to turn out, were won. It is generally felt that at full strength they could cheerfully take on most major unit sides. This year only two teams managed to make more than a hundred runs against them.

The arrival of Combined Services bowler, **Lieutenant Nick Franks,** also **Sergeant 'Mo' Emmett** — a B.A.O.R. all-rounder — bodes well for an exciting '72 season. This, in spite of the departure of **Captain Stan Brice** and **Captain Keron Niquet,** our Royal Australian Signals liaison officer.

Tall story? How's this for an unlikely yarn?

Two members of our newly formed Canoe Club, our P.T.I., **Lance-Corporal Tony Lynn** and **Lance-Corporal Derek Coker,** spent an interesting afternoon on the local canal recently. Noticing a dark shape in the water, they reckoned it was a pike or something like that. No doubt remembering stories of fingers and toes nipped off the unwary 'dangler,' they could hardly be blamed for setting about it with their paddles.

Much to their surprise, the fish succumbed after a short battle and the interepid canoeists found themselves the envy of the longer-established fishing community. What is perhaps most surprising of all is that the fish is reported to have been a shark! You don't believe it? Then see for yourself overleaf.



SEEING IS BELIEVING

Lance-Corporal Lynn (*right*) with 'the one that didn't get away'. Some of the strain being taken by Corporal Scott, Training Centre

(see 223 sqn. notes on previous page)

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Troglodyte Technicians

THIS is not a new trade under the new structure, but an apt description of our technical members on the occasion of the farewell party to **Major Julian Jackson.**

For this party our technicians, under **W.O.1. John Bridgeman,** reverted to type, drove the hippies out of their cave on Petersberg Hill, then took it over for their party. This proved to be a regular concourse-de-hippie designed to assist **Major Jackson** to fit into the contemporary British scene.

Free from the inhibitions of furniture and the trappings of civilisation; generators, ice boxes, glasses and air mattresses excepted, they gave him a night to remember. This proved to be so wild that even the local hippies would not deign to gate crash and ruin their reputation.

Sergeants Carl Butler and **Chris Thorburn Bahadur** figured prominently in the organisation and produced transport for Julian with such appropriate slogans as 'Ram Ram Sahib' and 'Sahri Ramro Retirement Sahib,' others were hardly repeatable outside of Denmark. The local populace are convinced that the mad dogs have nothing on the English.

All other trades in the Squadron are now certain that the recruiting Sergeants have simply to walk to the nearest cave and drive out the inhabitants in order to find material suitable for training as Technicians.

Friends of **Julian** will be delighted to learn he emerged unscathed and has settled in Salisbury on his retirement from service life.

Made in England

'Yorkie' Trollope whilst on holiday in Austria recently, bought a rather striking tankard with a genuine horn handle. A memento typical of the mountainous area in which he was staying. On returning to Maastricht and examining it more closely he noticed on its bottom 'Made in Birmingham.' **'Yorkie'** vows he would have noticed it immediately had it been a young dolly.

Trips

These have been made by the Squadron children during the schools summer holidays; without Pot. The first one was to the Evoluon exhibition at Eindhoven. This is a modern imaginative exhibition covering man's evolution and in particular the technological developments of the past seventy-five years.

The whole is housed in a building shaped like a flying saucer. The exhibits are arranged on series of balconies within this structure which gives a total area of over 6,000 square yards.

The place is ideal for children in that it has been designed for maximum visitor participation. A veritable plethora of switches and buttons designed to tempt itchy little fingers was discovered immediately, and the organised party disintegrated. With whoops of joy the children took off to the four corners of the building on a frantic rave in. Demented attendants made superhuman efforts to prevent demonic little boys from climbing the tree of lights, which demonstrates the growth of Philips over the last seventy years or so. Sweet little girls attempted to garrot unco-operative little boys in order to monopolise working models.

The adults accompanying them, namely **Daphne Heaps, Mary Grants** and **Christine Jackson,** made vain attempts to restore order, reduce the mayhem and homicidal tendencies which were being exhibited, and maintain some decorum, but to no avail. Eventually the children exhausted their youthful exuberance and tired of their attempts to demolish the building and each other, and reductantly accepted authority plus a bribe of ice creams, which allowed them to be cornered and loaded on the bus.

Christine Jackson; who has only been married some four or five months; now has a fairly comprehensive appreciation of the trials and tribulations of Mother Hubbard. It says much for her love of children or stamina that she also volunteered to accompany the second trip.

The second of these trips was to De-Efteling, near Tilburg. This venue was considered a trifle more suited to the enthusiastic participation of our young gentlefolk.

The adults on this occasion arrived with a preconceived plan of campaign. The children were divided into parties and marched round the fairy tale wood, before being turned loose on the other attractions. This served two purposes, the children derived a lot of pleasure from the life-sized animated models depicting every conceivable fairy story, it also tended to sap some of their abundance of surplus energy. The children report that they had great difficulty in restraining **Mrs. Mary Bell** and preventing her stealing a ride on the flying carpet with the Arabian Prince, wild, amorous, impetuous girl.

Having exhausted the delights of fairyland the children were turned loose on the playground, steam carousel, diaorama, boating lakes and railway. These are all guaranteed childproof, well almost. The proprieters had visions of another great train robbery as the children took over the train which runs round the gardens. Apparently some of them had seen 'The Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery' and wanted a replay.

On reaching the playground **Mary Bell, Liz Easton** and **Ann Head,** along with the other adults, sited themselves strategically outside the cafe and turned the children free. **Christine Jackson** found it impossible to maintain a staid adult attitude, and was frequently absent whilst she joined the children on the swings and roundabouts.

After a very full day savouring the delights the children returned to Maastricht at nineteen hundred hours a little more subdued than normal. The general verdict was that in spite of the adults it had been a good day out.

Arrivals and departures

The Squadron welcomes **Captain (T.O.T.) Williams, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hillier, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) McHugh, Sergeants Belton, Lutterlock** and **Green, Corporal Murray, Signalmen Shaw, Artus** and **McCulloch.** Our recent departures are **Sergeant Ray Jefferys** to 7th Signal Regiment, **Corporal Marshall** and **Signalman Trollope** to civvy street, **Corporal Carnell** to 223 Signal Squadron and **Signalman Powsey** to 21st Signal Regiment. We take this opportunity of wishing them every success in their new posts.

Congratulations

To **Corporal Brian Latham** on his elevation to Sergeant.

244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) R.A.F. Benson

SINCE our last appearance on these hallowed pages it has all been happening and at great speed.

Change of Command

After a hectic two years endeavouring to obtain some work out of us, **Major Derek Poole** has left us (on 11th August) for sunnier climes—in fact he is now in Cyprus at H.Q. B.F.N.E. and word has reached us on the grapevine (!) that some elevation is to be expected. Our sincere congratulations and best wishes go with him. Needless to say, a farewell 'do' was held for **Major Derek,** this time at a new location—the Norman Knight in Wallingford. A very successful party at which we presented **Major Derek** with a T.S.B. stick suitably engraved and fashioned with the loving care and affection it deserved by **Y. of S. Alan Tasker,** with a little help from Station Workshops. Readers not 'in the know' should note that **Major Derek Poole** is renowned as far afield as the four corners of Salisbury Plain for his knobbly stick which he wields with great skill—unfortunately he is apt to leave it in strange places—hence the 'T.S.B.'

Major Poole's place has been taken by **Major Philip Spooner** who took command on 30th July having joined us from H.Q. A.F. (Gulf) which apparently is somewhere East of Suez and surrounded by sand. **Major Phi'ip's** Mercedes 220 is very impressive and appears to have managed the trip home very well. Tennis, soccer and parachuting seem to be **Major Philip's** strong points so everyone is now brushing up their tennis, soccer and parachuting!



ALL SMILES

Major W. D. A. Poole presents the awards at the Squadron orienteering shortly before leaving us for Cyprus. On the left is Lieutenant Elford and receiving his prize, Sergeant Hegan

They must be mad

Talking of parachuting—a couple of our seniors have followed **S.S.M. Joe Whalley's** lead.

It all started over a pint (or two) of beer in a warm friendly atmosphere and ended in a lonely field with only a collapsed parachute for company.

Two days of solid training, an undaunting will to survive and the expert tuition of instructors of the R.A.F. Sport Parachute Association enabled **Sergeants Bill Smith** and **George Gay** to achieve their ambitions of becoming free fall parachutists.

During the course it became apparent that **George Gay's** canopy had a fascination for mangle wurzles. A field full of the aforementioned, attracted **George's** canopy like soft iron to a magnet, although he attributed this strange phenomenon to bad luck and premature dispatching by a trainee instructor.

Bill Smith's experiences in the training harness cannot go unmentioned either. Whilst practicing exits and stable positions in the harness, the main point of suspension was released accidentally and **Bill** plummeted to the mats landing in such a manner as to raise the pitch of his voice several octaves. He recovered quickly though and went through the drill for a canopy malfunction.

The added incentive of female students undoubtedly played a great part in sustaining these two (brave) N.C.O.s in their training. Unfortunately the female element depleted somewhat during the actual jumping but their presence urged the two N.C.O.s on to final expertise.

Firmly bitten by the bug of free fall parachuting, **George Gay** and **Bill Smith** intend to further their newly attained skills by seizing every opportunity to attend club meetings at R.A.F. Weston-on-the-Green.



THEY ENJOY IT TOO!

All they now need is a bit of height! Sergeant George Gay and Sergeant Bill Smith all togged-up on their free-fall parachute course

On view

On 16th July the Squadron was paid a visit by **Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod, K.B.E., C.B.,** who is Director-General of Engineering R.A.F. As an Air Support Squadron we work very closely with the R.A.F. and we were pleased to be able to welcome the Air Marshal. A full-scale tactical demonstration was laid on in which he showed a great interest.

Home from home—a setback for Muffin the Mule

Readers will probably remember Muffin, the mascot of 255 Signal Squadron who appeared in glorious technicolour on the front of the March/April edition of THE WIRE. Well, we had aspirations of adopting him when 255 Signal Squadron disband, and indeed had reserved a place for him in a high class and very tasteful sanctuary for donkeys just down the road. However, when the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were consulted it was found that an import prohibition, due to African horse sickness, prevented us from carrying out our plan. We remonstrated with them, and pointed out that Muffin is neither African, horse nor sick, but they said that as far as the regulations were concerned Muffin is a soliped(?) and prohibition still applied. Sorry Muffin, but it can't be done.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to **Lance-Corporal Fred Mulley** for winning Corps colours for rugby and to **Signalman Malone** who is selected for the Army soccer team. Also, a little self congratulation is in order since the Squadron won the R.A.F. Benson athletic competition in July, led by **Staff Sergeant 'Fosbury Flop' Philemon.**

Signalman Mike Evans deserves a mention too—for winning the Squadron orienteering event—a pleasant day in the sun was had by all, and the winning team was from 'Mike' Troop who beat 'Bravo' Troop by one point!

Overseas

It happened at last! 'Bravo' Troop has been trying to get overseas for months and finally they achieved their aim, or at least that is their story. In fact they've been overseas twice recently—once when they flew to Cornwall for a summer camp at Penhale and the second time when on exercise in the wild and woolly Highlands. Both times, they assure us, the aircraft flew out over the Irish Sea! That, they say, is 'overseas.'

New and old

New to the Squadron, we welcome **Lieutenant Mike Rice** who is now Second-in-Command 'B' Troop, and we also say farewell to **Staff Sergeant Alan Burt** who has left us. His place is taken by a newly promoted **Staff Sergeant Wally Lockwood,** who has been with us for a long time as a Sergeant. Also newly posted in we welcome **Sergeant Barry Young, Corporals Pete Percival, Pete Murphy, Lance-Corporals Dave Barlow, Ian Cripps, Signalmen 'Tam' Hargetion, Dave Smith, Mick Pratt** and **Bob Ebrey.** Our best wishes go with **Corporal Dave Warwick** (Civvy Street), **Lance-Corporals Harry Dixon** (604 Signal Troop) and **Derek Roberts** (603 Signal Troop) and **Sergeant (erstwhile Corporal) Graham Fuller** who is off to H.Q. 1 B.R. Corps.

255 Signal Squadron
B.F.P.O. 63 & 64

Local gen

DURING the past month we have been subjected to yet more reductions and closing of ranks. We now have only nine Troops, some of which have absorbed men from the disbanded Troops. Anyone who left here more than a month ago would probably have difficulty recognising us. We are now only represented in strength in Iufair, Muharraq and Sharjah, with a detachment in Salalah. We welcome the formation of 603 Signal Troop at Masirah, commanded by **Captain (TOT) Ken Risby,** not only because it means we don't have to do the work there. Our TOT, **Major Vic Render,** is disappointed, for he was trying to set a record for the minimum time in Bahrain between visits down the Gulf and the maximum number of trips by Andovers and Argosies.

We only have one person to welcome, **Lance-Corporal Colin Cairns,** who eventually arrived here on 5th August to join our overworked Chief Clerk, **Corporal Chris Rogers.** However, amongst the departures for a spot of leave in sunny England before going to their new units are: **Corporal 'Coops' Cooper** of the R.R. Troop darts team, who are still doing fairly well without him; also from R.R. Troop, one of the Squadron gladiators, **Sergeant Pete Shawyer,** who could organise, and participate in, a game of anything with anyone, anytime.

Sports

Although a good deal of sport has had to be cancelled through too much sun (pale inhabitants of North West Europe and the British Isles please note), we still manage to distinguish ourselves. Line Troop have won the Squadron Volleyball Trophy, after many hard-fought matches, and S.H.Q./Tels. have won the darts championship, wresting it from Line Troop.

We are too scattered to form our own rugby team, but supply the bulk of the Garrison side, which is player/managed by **Captain Tim McCoy.** We provide the front row (**Lance-Corporal Steve Roberts. Captain McCoy** and **Signalman Dave Kerr**). the back row (**Corporals Harry Robinson, 'Rip' Kirby** and **Jim Egan**); the scrum-half is **Signalman Douggie Ellis** and one wing is **Corporal Kevin Bretherick.** So far we have played four matches, limited to 20 minutes each way because of the heat, and have notched up 69 points for only one penalty against.

The football (that other game) scene is also bright under the guidance of **Yeoman Jim Creevy.** We entered two teams in the Bahrain 5-a-side league, and finished with the 'B' team, skippered by **Lance-Corporal Dave Bottomley,** top of the Southern Division and the 'A' team, under **Corporal Vince Sills,** second in the Northern Division. **Signalman 'Tich' Hannah** of the 'A' team scored 39 goals in 14 matches and holds the record. Five members of the Squadron play for the Bahrain Army XI. They are: **Lance-Corporal Davie Griggs** (who also plays for Combined Services), **Signalmen 'Tich' Hannah, 'Scouse' Dalton** and **'Nasher' Nash,** and **Corporal Vince Sills.**

Communications

We also communicate. O.C. Operating Troop, **Lieutenant Lionel French,** has just followed the tradition set by his predecessors by going to Cyprus for two weeks. He claims it was to further his career. **Staff Sergeant Bob Tanner** spent some leave in Singapore, where he attended the final parade of 18th Signal Regiment. He was on parade with it when it formed, in 1959. Although the hierarchy of the Troop seem to get away the workers work. In the last year they have handled almost 300,000 signals.

Field Troop, having absorbed both the men from Commcen Bahrain and 607 P.F.A.C., has managed to send men all over the Gulf; exercises on Bahrain Island, in the Trucial States, and on board ship. The most noteworthy was a Jocomex with H.M.S. *London,* nearly 2,000 miles away. After a few hitches **Signalmen Pete Kennard** and **Steve Elliott** were able to tell the Troop Commander, **Captain Ron Abbott,** that he could speak to his brother, the Communications Officer on board. **Signalman Sid Siddle** has further expanded the Troop by recruiting four new members found in his Land Rover after it had been in L.A.D. — kittens.

The detachment in Salalah, provided by both Field Troop and Sharjah Signals Troop, totalling six men, has been fully occupied. In spite of working 24 hours on 24 hours off, the monsoon, no air conditioners, and accommodation not far off exercise standards, morale is reported as being surprisingly high.

See next month for the next exciting instalment of the Gulf run down.

259 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 53

Motor sports the theme

THIS month our theme is the fanaticism of the motor sports enthusiasts amongst us. In past months we have commented on the wide divergence of sporting interests in the Squadron. Let us now examine in more detail some of the strange creatures amongst us who gain their pleasure by driving brand new cars over goat tracks at lunatic speeds that would not be contemplated by any normally adjusted being; or by those who chase each other in circles (not the ever decreasing variety one hopes) on infernal machines evolved from cross-breeding motor mowers with iron bedsteads.

Go-Kart enthusiast

Our parent unit, R.A.F. Episkopi, runs a highly popular Go-Kart Club, a sport which has gained even more popularity with the Air Force than it has in the Army. The ranks of enthusiasts have recently been joined by **Lance-Corporal Radford,** of 259 Signal Squadron, who has proceeded to demonstrate to the R.A.F. how to fly — albeit only three inches above the ground. He has put up a very creditable performance by winning his class in the last two meetings held in Western Cyprus. He is now hoping to be picked for the local team to compete in the International Go-Kart meeting to be run in Cyprus next month.

Beating all works entered cars

Our other resident fanatics have been known locally in the motoring world for some time now, **Corporals Coates** and **Etchells** have had a very successful month in rally competitions. Their car, a 120 m.p.h., 117 b.p.h. 1300 c.c. Japanese Subaru has successfully beaten all works entered team cars from Fords, Fiat and Peugot in both the Rothman 'Stages' Rally and the Rally Taga Rusticana.

In the Rothmans Rally they completed eight stages averaging 60 m.p.h. on metalled roads and 45 m.p.h. on unmetalled tracks



RALLY ENTHUSIASTS
Corporals Coates and Etchells have had a very successful month in their 120 m.p.h. 1300 c.c. Japanese Subaru

in order to come second overall and first in their class. Their only casualty was the exhaust pipe which did not manage to do the 45 m.p.h. on the dirt tracks. The second rally, started by Miss Cyprus Hot Pants 1971 (yes, we have them here too), was far more vigorous and provided the 259 Squadron team with a tough test. They again came second overall. One works entered Ford Capri was not so lucky. It ended the Rally with the engine and front wheels hanging over a 120 foot drop. The crew could only extricate themselves safely after some rally marshalls sat on the boot of the car to counterbalance the engine.

Finally brief mention must be made here of the Squadron sailors, three of whom sailed for Army Cyprus against R.A.F. Cyprus and have been awarded their Colours. They are **Lieutenant Farey, Sergeant McGilp** and **Corporal Collins.**

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53



"SOPHIE" GETS INTO THE ACTION
From left to right: Staff-Sergeant Jeannie Kerr, Private Kay Hind, Private Ellie Lane, Corporal Jessie Provan, "SOPHIE," Corporal Jan Patilla, Corporal Nichie Nicholls, Corporal Cardyne Doig, Corporal Anne Worth

'Sophie' saves the day

The Squadron W.R.A.C. rounders team were really in a fix. One day before a match against 9th Signal Regiment, their keen rivals on the sports field, the Squadron were one player short. However, at the eleventh hour 'Sophie' volunteered to step in and the team was complete. The mysterious 'Sophie' caused a bit of a stir when 'she' appeared on the rounders pitch; one spectator was heard to enquire: "Who's the new lassie? Her face is vaguely familiar." The mystery was solved when, amid cheers from 'her' team mates, 'Sophie' removed 'her' wig and became recognisable as **Corporal Alan Guy!**

The team unfortunately, didn't win their game, but it is perhaps worth recording that defeat was not ignominious — one rounder was scored, by 'Sophie'! No wonder she is the new Squadron pin-up.

Comment from **Corporal Guy:** "I only did it for a laugh. I enjoyed myself, but never again!"

The Volunteers

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough

Regimental exercise (Exercise 'Jolly Julius')

DURING the weekend of 17th/18th July the whole Regiment exercised in the Catterick and Feldom training areas to test our communications in preparation for Annual Camp in B.A.O.R. in September. The exercise was well worth while and showed the aspects which require further attention before we exercise in Germany.

We were pleased to welcome our new Group Commander, **Brigadier H. A. J. Sturge,** who visited the Regiment during Exercise 'Jolly Julius' and again on 27th/28th July when he had a quick look at our peacetime locations. We were delighted to meet him and look forward to seeing more of him in the future.

This seems to be the season for changes in our permanent staff. We said farewell to our Regular R.Q.M.S., **Norman Salter,** and welcome him back as a civilian clerical officer in the Orderly Room, also we expect that he will be able to join as a volunteer. Our M.T.O., **W.O.1 Sam Peberdy,** is also to leave us soon but will be taking up his duties as an Administrative Assistant and Instructor with the A.C.F. at Brambles Farm T.A. Centre.

49 Signal Squadron, Leeds

On Saturday, 5th June, 1971, 49 Squadron put on a display of our latest equipment at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, Open Day, which received many compliments from the College staff, and helped to cement the very close liaison which exists between the College and the Regiment.

Several other recruiting displays and P.R. visits have been made by 49 Squadron, including the Printers Gala, U.K. Ladies Golf Championships and a rally at which **Sir Gerald Nabarro** spoke in his usual forthright manner. Despite his heavy programme he spoke to every member of the Squadron at the rally. We try to see that each recruiting/P.R. event is tied to one or two particular Signals Trades, thus enabling training, as well as recruiting, to be carried out.

On 28th June, 1971, 49 Squadron provided street-lining personnel for the visit of H.M. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh for the 1900th Anniversary Celebrations. The Squadron, O.C., **Major Jim Malcolm,** had the honour of being one of the military ushers for the Royal party.

On Friday, 30th July, 1971, the funeral took place of **Colonel Walter Boyle, O.B.E., T.D.,** our oldest surviving Honorary Colonel, who was commissioned into the 2nd W.Y. Engineer Volunteers in 1903, and who served continually until 1948, thereafter taking a very active interest in everything to do with the Corps and Royal Signals Old Comrades. The S.O.-in-C. was represented by **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** Commandant of the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, and the Regiment by **Maior G. J. Malcolm,** O.C. 49 Squadron at Leeds.

The Squadron is the first in the Regiment to pass the 100 per cent recruited figure, and is still increasing in size.

Another wedding in the Officers' Mess

There has been a second marriage between members of our Officers' Mess: last month **Captain Jim Storey,** the Regiment's L.A.D. commander, married **Lieutenant Barbara Bailey,** W.R.A.C., one of our Comcen Officers — we wish them all the very best. We now have two married couples in the Mess with **Captain Alan Coombes** and **Second-Lieutenant Angela Coombes,** who will unfortunately be leaving us soon as **Alan** is to be posted to Northern Ireland.

AN APOLOGY

It is regretted that in the August/September issue of THE WIRE two paragraphs under the side-heading 'Shooting' and 'Obituary' were published under 34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) notes. These paragraphs were, of course, part of 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V) notes, and we apologise for this inadvertent slip in making up the magazine.

38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Sheffield

Mud, mud, 'glorious' mud . . .

BUT the fortnight began so well as the Regiment assembled at Burnston Barracks, Scarborough, on 31st July, 1971. Despite 93 Squadron making a detour up Sutton Bank (1 in 4) to avoid holiday traffic, everyone arrived safely. Vehicles were accommodated at Burnston or, by kind permission of 'D' Company, 2 Yorks, at Coldy Hill T.A.V.R. Centre.

The church service on Sunday gave the first opportunity to hear the Band of the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers who provided music suitable for all occasions throughout camp and were spontaneously cheered by the whole assembly; a very welcome and tuneful addition to the Regiment. Also with us were six officers, two officer cadets, and 13 O.R.s from at least nine other Regiments, Corps and O.T.C.s. We enjoyed having them and hope (and believe) they enjoyed being with us.

Recruit Course and individual Trade Training began in earnest after church and continued each day during the first week. Trade tests on Friday showed very good results.

Evenings were also fully occupied with a daily 5-a-side football competition, netball for the W.R.A.C., a Regimental tug-of-war won by 87 Squadron (who made brim-full use of the cup), Squadron parties and Mess functions.

On Thursday the Regiment, played on by the L.A.V., paraded for inspection in No. 2 dress and medals before **Brigadier P. Robertson, O.B.E.,** Commander 13th Signal Group, who kindly presented the following awards:

Territorial Decoration — **Captain E. Pulford,** R.A.P.C.

Territorial Efficiency Medal — **S.S.M. E. W. Colton; Sergeant D. Wilkinson, W.O.2 M. J. Cox,** W.R.A.C., **Sergeant R. T. Wright.**

Lord Lieutenant's Commendation — **Lance-Corporal J. Norris; Staff Sergeant I. R. W. Bentley.**

Also during Thursday we were honoured to be visited by: G.O.C. Yorks District, **Major-General R. M. Sommerville, O.B.E.;** G.O.C. East Midlands District, **Major-General D. A. H. Toler, O.B.E., M.C.;** D.W.R.A.C., **Brigadier S. Heaney, M.B.E., T.D., accompanied** by A.D.W.R.A.C., Northern Command, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Engel,** and A.D.W.R.A.C., Western Command, **Lieutenant-Colonel U. Walker;** our Honorary Colonel, **Colonel J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, T.D., D.L.;** Secretary Yorkshire T.A.V.R.A., **Colonel M. St. G. Pallot;** and Band President, **Major E. Sowerby, T.D.**

On Saturday we had a short, but welcome visit from the Mayor of Scarborough, **Councillor Jaconelli, Chief Superintendent** and **Mrs. Brown,** and **Colonel** and **Mrs. Clinch.** Since Saturday was a free day for the Regiment, the parachute section decided to spend their day descending. 13 new members of the group successfully completed their day's training and obtained the coveted certificates for their first descent.

On Sunday the Regiment (less recruit course) packed up and moved out to exercise locations. 87 (Gateway) and H.Q. Squadrons moved to Feldom training area, and began communicating to R.N. Commcens at Portsmouth, Rosyth, Plymouth and Chatham (using morse) on schedule on Monday morning using Conrad procedure. The R.N. were very polite about our morse ops.! Rain began to fall horizontally and a reporter from the *Nottingham Evening Post* who accompanied the Squadrons to this site was well and truly initiated into the muddy conditions under which we sometimes work. But rain did not deter the Group Commander nor the recruit squad from visiting the site, although the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel K. R. Gill,** Second-in-Command, **Major P. Revill,** and senior W.R.A.C. Officer, **Major F. D. White,** were unable to fly down to Swynnerton and went by road instead. Unfortunately three attached members from Belfast left us on Wednesday to return home due to the situation over the water.

46 Squadron moved to Swynnerton training area, Staffs., where Squadron H.Q. received a night attack, but unceasing rain seems to have deterred the attackers from visiting the ready and waiting 876 and 877 Troops. Despite the damp conditions the Squadron rounded off the exercise with a rousing camp fire—good for drying damp socks!

64 Squadron departed for R.A.F. Swinderby and area in Lincolnshire. Communications were good (as were the various facilities, TV, hot and cold, etc.), but 872 Troop require a medic specially trained to treat sprained ankles and a purchaser for 200 tins of mashed potato powder held by S.H.Q. would be helpful.

93 Squadron arrived at Warcop training area to the accompaniment of incessant firing from artillery and machine guns. S.R.M. H.Q. captured the O.C. of the attacking enemy, saving A.F.H.Q. the trouble.

Communications closed at 12.00 hours on Wednesday whilst all Squadrons moved to new locations. Gateway was established in Proteus (Dukeries Training Area) in under 12 hours with the A.C.C. providing a meal under shelters within 40 minutes of arrival. 46 Squadron replaced 64 at Swinderby, 64 Squadron going on to the Brunting Thorpe Area where they were visited by the G.O.C. Yorks District on Thursday, and 93 to Leek, where the heavens 'leeked' and mud was again a problem. All communications re-established by 00.01 hours Thursday.

Friday the 13th. A day of finales. Recruits' pass-out parade at Scarborough, debrief at Gateway for all officers, exercise ended 17.00 hours, parties in locations. And despite the inclement weather on return to T.A.V.R. centres on Saturday, it was generally agreed that camp had been action-packed and enjoyable, and we may have a few transfers from the Emerald Isle.



39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V)



THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON GOES TO CAMP

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Studd, G.B.E., leaving the Tels Workshop, at 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V.) training camp at Scarborough. The Lord Mayor spent 24 hours at the camp. *From left to right:* General Sir Basil Eugster, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Sergeant R. E. Fox, Sergeant D. R. Lincoln and Captain J. Bedford

CAMP '71

CAMP 1971 happened in a variety of places. The training camp in Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, which was joined for phase II of the operational camp by our mobile communications set up, which worked to detachments in Cyprus (2), Gibraltar (1), B.A.O.R. (1) and Bavaria (12). We thank our friends in those places without whose help this sort of training would not be possible.

Training

The training camp provided instruction for about 120 trainees of all trades from Technician to Storeman via Cook, and has resulted in a great increase in our trained strength, basically the 120 trainees were those who have joined the Regiment since camp last year, though there were a number of 'upgradings.'

Visitors' Day

Visitors' Day at Scarborough took the form of a lunch party in the Mess, a look around the training and operational sites, followed by a Dinner Night in the Grand Hotel. We were most fortunate that The Lord Mayor of London, **Sir Peter Studd, G.B.E.,** could spare the time to spend 24 hours with us, he was a most welcome guest.

The future

Holiday time is now upon us, so there is little else to report in this issue, the time of 'Fitness' inspections is about to descend so there could be 'reports' of resounding interest next time!

Sport

Kiel 1971 — Pre Olympic Year

by Colonel E. J. Bardell, Commodore R.S.Y.C. (B.A.O.R.)

Black balls hoisted

THE pre-Olympics and the Royal Signals Regatta both took place in Kiel during August. It had been our intention to run a passage race, but instead of the light airs of last year, the black balls were hoisted on Bulk Lighthouse at the entrance to Kiel Fiord, and it was blowing 45 knots from the east. At the British Kiel Yacht Club the water was so high it slopped over the lower staging as the boats pulled at their mooring types.

Olympic village

The B.K.Y.C. were acting as hosts to the United Kingdom Olympics team, who were living in our barracks and using the club house. Rather than sit around on the first day tied to the moorings, the Royal Signals crews went visiting. We went out to the rapidly growing Olympic village on the west side of the fiord at Strande, and looked in envy at the boats — Dragon and Solings, Finns and others. They were all drawn up ashore, polished varnish and enamelled hulls. Russian and Swede, British and German. The new Olympic harbour was a mass of heaving water with the waves breaking over the sea wall. Back from the jetty the new village was growing rapidly, tall blocks containing hundreds of one and two-roomed flatlets, roads being laid, terraces levelled, central heating and power being installed. Intense activity. A scene of controlled chaos. Even before the Olympics all the flats have been sold for occupation after the 1972 Games. Around the city of Kiel vast autobahn projects are in hand and a giant new bridge already spans the Kiel Canal alongside the Kaiser's box girder construction built earlier in the century.

Storm jibs and reefed mainsails

That night, with low black clouds scudding across the sky we went to our bunks knowing the evening forecast was 'little change.' It never pays to be despondent about weather at Kiel, it can always change, and change suddenly. The following day after a visit to the mouth of the fiord at 05.00 hours, we delayed the start for an hour, and then sent both the Dan and Cutlass class away on a course out to Kiel 1. The committee restricted them to storm jibs and reefed mainsails. A wet drive to windward was included for good measure. On the way back two boats went aground off the Laboe Sands but managed to get off, one leaving its kedge anchor behind in the attempt. A hard race. During the afternoon we made a second start with *Petasus,* the committee boat, flying the Rear Commodore's burgee of the R.S.Y.C. She anchored on the line as the outer distance mark. **Colonel Eric Bardell** and family were manning her, with **Lance-Corporal John Perkin,** the new bosun. They discovered that the ooze by Stickhorn is not good holding ground, and despite three long warps on the anchor, she began to drag in the strong breeze. The start line got smaller and the steel piling of the jetty came nearer; two minutes to the 10 minute gun. Yes, you can guess, the engine decided not to start. But all was not lost — even though the line was by now two boats lengths wide. No. 1 son and the bosun hoisted the jib, father took the sheet and tiller and counted off the seconds, No. 2 son blew the fog horn, while mother hoisted Numeral Pennant 2, the class signal for the Dans. We sailed out the anchor, got back into position and the class made a good start across a line of reasonable length.

Later in the day **General Horsfield** and his family arrived. They had broken their journey from Oslo to Rheindahlen to join us for two days, and came out on the launch *Fanny Rosa* to see the last leg of the race that evening. Despite the choppy sea, the C.S.O. transferred dry shod from the launch to *Petasus* off Friedricksort Light.

A good day's sailing and a needle finish

On the following day we had an early start. The C.S.O. joined *Petasus* at 07.30 hours and the first boats were across the line by eight. The wind dropped and the course was shortened. Spirits dropped too, but the wind piped up once more and provided a good morning's racing. We passed through the pre-Olympic fleet going out to their various start lines and for some minutes sailed in company with the Russian Dragon entry; a beautifully varnished hull and a low cut genoa.

A glass of sherry as we saw the fleet round the windward mark and then back to take up our place on the finishing line to time the boats across. All were home by 13.00 hours. Some quick calculations and **Mrs. Horsfield** was able to present the prizes. For the first time in several years we had a good representation from the Rheindahlen area, with a crew from each of 13th, 16th and 21st Regiments. Behind the scenes and master of the organisation was **Major Errol Hunt,** of 1st Division, who runs *Petasus.* Despite the weather and changing plans he gave us a good regatta.

The final results were:

Dan Class: **Sergeant Willie Parker,** 13th Signal Regiment— three wins.

Cutless Class: **Captain Bennett,** 22nd Signal Regiment — three wins.

The overall winner to hold the Royal Signals Telescope was the 22nd Signal Regiment boat, and this was decided by the closest of margins, at the third place of decimals in the final calculation.

NOTE FOR YOUNG OFFICERS: There is room for new blood in B.A.O.R. sailing. Most of the Corps helmsmen I see at Kiel are ancient mariners. Come and try it for yourself. It is an exhilarating sport, but the sea does not suffer fools and rarely gives you a second chance. You will find that if you progress to ocean racing it stretches you to limits you had not thought possible — no bad thing. Give it a try.

8th Signal Regiment win Army Golf

We are glad to report at Tidworth on Friday, 24th September, the 8th Signal Regiment having gone through four rounds of the Army Golf Challenge Cup, beat the School of Infantry by nine holes in the final.

Members of the team were as follows: **Major A. Cook, M.B.E., M.C.,** R.A.P.C., **Captain D. F. Reed, Sergeant R. K. Millar, Signalman C. S. Carveth. Major G. C. Sandys** played for the first and second rounds but was subsequently posted.

It is of interest to note that this is the first time a Corps' unit has won the Cup and also the first time a soldier's name has appeared on the plinth since the cup was first played for in 1902.

(*Sport continued on page* 424)



Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army – or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain – and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain with rank, receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity, and your British Army service will count toward points for married quarters allocation, should you enlist within twelve months of your British Army discharge.

Don't leave it any longer!

Is your trade included in those listed? If so, this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London – or post the the coupon for all the facts.

Royal Australian Artillery
1. Physical Training Instructor – Sergeants

Royal Australian Survey Corps
1. Survey Photo Technician – Sergeants
2. Topographic Surveyor – Warrant Officers Class 2/Sergeants

Royal Australian Signals
1. Regimental Duty NCO – Sergeants and Corporals
2. Clerk R. Sigs. – Sergeants and Corporals
3. Radio Operator/Telegraph Operator – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Clerk Technical R. Sigs. – Corporals
5. Foremen of Signals – Warrant Officers Class 2
6. Terminal Equipment Technician – Sergeants and Corporals

Royal Australian Army Service Corps
1. Clerk G.D. – Sergeants
2. Clerk RAPC – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
1. Hygiene Assistant Class 1 – Sergeants
2. Hygiene Assistant Class 2 – Corporals
3. Clerk Medical – Sergeants/ Corporals
4. Radiographer Class 1 – Sergeants
5. Laboratory Technician Class 1 – Staff Sergeants

Royal Australian Ordnance Corps
1. Work Study Operator – Warrant Officers Class 2

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
1. Artificer Radar – Warrant Officers Class 1 and 2
2. Artificer Telecommunications – Staff Sergeants
3. Artificer Vehicle – Warrant Officers Class 2, Staff Sergeants
4. Fitter Armament, Fitter and Turner Gun – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Provost
1. R.M.P. Provost N.C.O. – Corporals
2. M.P.S.C. Instructor – Corporals

Australian Army Band Corps
1. Musician or Bandsman – vacancies exist in the rank of Private, for musicians specialised in the following instruments.

Flute	French Horn
Oboe	Cornet
Clarinet (B Flat)	Euphonium
Saxophone	Trombone
Bass	Percussion

Australian Services Canteen Organisation
1. Attendant canteen, or issuing point – Corporals
2. Manager canteen or issuing point – Sergeants

Come as you are- to Australia

If you're thinking about emigrating and you've acquired any of the specialist skills and ranks detailed above, you may be eligible for enlistment in the Australian Army.



Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Age ..... Married/Single .....

Rank ..... Corps .....

Trade .....

Anticipated Discharge Date .....

To: Capt. J. Gresty, Australian Army Staff, 2nd Flr., Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356

Corps Canoeists achieve National Status

During August four Corps canoeists participated in a number of canoeing events in Spain and in particular in the Sella long distance race. In this **Lance-Corporal Story** and **Corporal Bull** came in 17th and **Lance-Corporals Pawlow** and **Wink,** 21st—the latter competing as members of the Great Britain team. When it is considered that 350 boats entered of which only 100 finished the course it will be seen that these are very creditable results — especially as there were many national teams and individual crews from most countries of Western and Eastern Europe competing. In other events they achieved four 1st, four 2nd, one 3rd, six 4th, one 5th and one 11th placing.

Later at the 1971 National Long Distance and Sprint Championships at Worcester, they obtained the following results; these incidentally indicate their rating against all comers in Great Britain:

Long Distance: (1) K1 Class 1: **Lance-Corporal Pawlow,** 3rd; **Lance-Corporal Wink,** 5th; **Lance-Corporal Story,** 19th. (2) K2 Class 2: **Lance-Corporal Pawlow/Lance-Corporal Wink,** 5th; **Lance-Corporal Story/Corporal Bull,** 11th.

Sprint Championships: (1) K1 Class 1 (Senior): **Lance-Corporal Pawlow,** 4th. (2) K1 Class 1 (Junior): **Lance-Corporal Wink,** 2nd. (3) K2 Class 2 (Senior): **Lance-Corporal Pawlow/Lance-Corporal Wink,** 2nd.



CORPS CANOEISTS IN BRITISH TEAM
Corporal Duncan Wink (*left*) and Corporal Mick Pawlow

Royal Signals Gliding Club

Members should forward their claims for grants from the Royal Signals Games Fund for the period January-November, 1971.

Applications are required by 1st December, 1971, and should be addressed to:

Major P. Goldney, R. Signals,
C.D./O.R. Branch,
H.Q. Director of Army Aviation,
Middle Wallop,
Stockbridge,
Hants.

and should include the following information for the period:

a. Total flying fees paid.
b. Total launches during 1971.
c. Total flying hours during 1971.
d. Cross-country kilometres flown.
e. Results of any competitions or F.A.I. badges attempted.
f. Total gliding experience in launches and hours together with qualifications held.

Corps Hockey

Corps 0, Norton 5. Match played 26th September

The Corps fielded a young side including three Harrogate Apprentices. They were outclassed by a strong Norton side including seven County players.

Corps 3, Thistles 5. Match played 27th September.

A good, fast, open game. Royal Signals were two up in 15 minutes and the score was three-all at half-time. **Second-Lieutenant Crowley** scored two goals in his first match for the Corps; the other scorer was **Lieutenant Chubb.**

Obituary

Major N. C. B. Cleveley

After ten years in the ranks of the Corps, Norman Cleveley was commissioned in Malaya Command Signals on 30th October, 1941. Within four months he had become a prisoner-of-war in Sumatra under the Japanese and did not come into circulation again until 1946. In 1948-49 he commanded No. 3 Air Support Signal Unit in Germany. In the early fifties he served in Egypt and Malta on the staff of CAPSO Middle East Air Force. From 1958-1961 he commanded 242 Signal Squadron in Edinburgh and then retired to the Home Counties.

In retirement he served H.Q. London District as S.O.2 Signals. Norman was a popular and well-known personality at H.Q. London District during the many years he served there. It was he who was directly responsible to the C.S.O. for the communications on State occasions so necessary for split-second timing and which invariably worked well. He was a keen sportsman. He took up hockey in 1958 and by the end of the season had been selected to represent Scottish Command.

He was on his way to work when he died suddenly on 24th August, 1971. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Christine, in her great loss.

Mr. R. G. Williams M.M.

D.C.G. writes:

"It is with deep regret that I have to record the death of my uncle Mr. R. G. Williams—a founder member of the Corps —who died at his home at Baldock, Herts, on 30th August at the age of 74.

'Bob' Williams joined R.E. Signals during the first World War and saw service in France. Later he served at Cologne with the Occupation Forces. From there he went to Russia with the British Expeditionary Force and it was here that he was awarded the Military Medal.

Sometime in the late twenties and early thirties he was R.S.M. of 50 Div. Signals T.A. at Darlington, and upon his retirement from this appointment he joined the staff of Thomas Hedley's at Newcastle-on-Tyne to start their gift coupon department.

With the onset of the second World War he joined the Field Ambulance, a local T.A. unit, as Quartermaster and saw service with the 8th Army throughout the Desert Campaign. When hostilities ended he was a Major Registrar of a Base Hospital in Cairo, and returned to his civilian job finally retiring to Baldock, Herts., in 1962. He was an annual member of the Newcastle-on-Tyne branch of the Royal Signals Association and attended the Reunions at Catterick regularly."

'Bob' Williams was a man of many gifts and a strong sense of character—assets which he utilised to the full in any job he undertook in his service and civilian life.

He is survived by his wife, four children and seven grand-, children to whom deep sympathy is extended.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Being an army officer isn't all sunshine—

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hasting
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

BAOR.....?

—If you are arriving soon, or are here already, and interested in a new:—

TRIUMPH UP TO 15% OFF! FAMILY MODELS Toledo £660 1500 £788 2000 £1099!

OR

PEUGEOT LIST PRICES SLASHED! ALL MODELS DISCOUNT PRICES FROM ONLY £720!

Then for details of U.K./Germany Delivery, Specfications, Nato Prices, H.P., 'Partex, Call, 'Phone or Write to:

Mr. P. BRENNEN DUPLEIX
of **WALTER HAGEN & CO., GmbH**
415 KREFELD
Pestalozzistr.—WEST GERMANY
or **TELEPHONE KREFELD 751061** (10.30-12.00 hrs. preferably)

IMPORTER — SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

(We have Agents in the U.K. too)

RADIO OPERATORS

DO YOU HOLD
PMG II *OR* PMG I *OR* NEW GENERAL CERTIFICATE
OR
HAD TWO YEARS' RADIO OPERATING EXPERIENCE?

Looking for a secure job with good pay and conditions?

Then apply for a post with the Composite Signals Organisation. These are Civil Service posts, with opportunities for service abroad, and of becoming established, i.e., non-contributory pension scheme.

Specialist Training Course (free accommodation) starting April and September, 1972, anr January, 1973.

If you are British born and resident in the United Kingdom, under 35 years of age (40 for exceptionally well qualified candidates), write NOW for full details and an application form from:

Government Communications Headquarters,
Recruitment Officer,
Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL52 5AJ.
(Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270).

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS
AND
PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes

November-December 1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:
ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for :-
Convertible Whole Life
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust
Education Endowment
Retirement
House Purchase
Unit Trust Investment
Security for your Family

General Insurance for :-
Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR LEADING BUILDING SOCIETIES

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

PICKFORDS
Removers and Storers

PICKFORDS TRAVEL SERVICE

PICKFORDS

Removals and storage Household removals. Single items. Any size of job. Anywhere in Britain or overseas. Pickfords have the experience. Ask us for an estimate.

Travel service Benefit from our experience when you book holidays, travel tickets, reservations etc. No extra charge when you use Pickfords.

Once you use Pickfords, you'll never go without us

Our address is in the phone book

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON. D.S.O.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to : Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months **£1.20;** *single month,* **10p.**

☆

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1971

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our picture shows the Prime Minister, the **Right Honourable Edward Heath, M.B.E., M.P.,** inspecting a Guard of Recruits prior to the official opening by him of the splendid new Trade Training School at Catterick Camp. A full report is on pages 428-431. We must apologise for the quality of the picture which falls below our usual standards. We felt, however, that despite its shortcomings, a record in colour of this unique occasion must appear on the front cover of THE WIRE.

An evening to remember

Organised by the Cardiff Branch of the Association, an evening of splendid music was thoroughly enjoyed by a packed audience at the Cardiff City Hall Assembly Room on Friday, 8th October, 1971. A very happy combination of the Treorchy Male Choir (90 strong) and the Corps Band produced a sonorous and soul-stirring programme which included works such as 'Finlandia' and the Brahms 'Academic Festival Overture,' in which both choir and band played their parts—as well as individual performances by each on its own.

Amongst those present were **Colonel Sir Cennydd Traherne,** H.M. Lieutenant for Glamorgan and Honorary Colonel of the 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (V), the **Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff** and **Major-General A. J. Woodrow,** G.O.C. Wales and a Colonel Commandant of the Corps. Association Headquarters was represented by **Brigadier W. G. Tucker** (Chairman), **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson** (General Secretary) and **Mr. D. Greenbrook** (Assistant to the General Secretary).

An audience of some 800 filled the Assembly Room. A number of people paid to come in and stand and many had to be turned away. The warm applause, often breaking out before an item had been finished, indicated the audiences' deep appreciation of the varied and attractive programme and it was clear beyond doubt that the choir and the band were 'hitting it off together' in every sense of that expression. In fact, we now understand a combined gramophone recording is more than likely. To close the evening, **Lieutenant-Colonel Godfrey Curl,** C.O. of 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment and President of the Cardiff Branch of the Association, paid a very pleasant tribute to all concerned in the success of this memorable evening, thanking the Treorchy Choir in fluent Welsh for their great contribution. As a momento of the occasion he presented a Corps shield to the Choir's distinguished conductor, **Mr. John Cynan Jones**—incidentally an ex-Corp man.

So ended an occasion that must go down in the history of the Association as one of its greater moments. Did we say ended? In the early hours of the morning the Choir were still singing in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the 53rd (Welsh) Signal Squadron and later those with clear enough perception would have been interested to see certain members of the Choir wearing Corps ties and not a few Corps men wearing Treorchy ties. Undoubtedly a very happy get-together and much praise to **Mr. G. J. Rolls** (Chairman of the Cardiff Branch) and **Mr. M. H. Jones,** the hard-working Secretary, and their very efficient Committee. Also to **Captain F. Docherty,** vice-President of the Cardiff Branch, who laboured so hard to make the occasion a success.

A Farewell Tribute

Major-General P. F. Pentreath, MBE, Companion IEE
Signal Officer-in-Chief 1969-1971



PETER FRANCIS PENTREATH, son of the **Reverend A. G. Pentreath, D.D.,** a regular army chaplain, was born in England in 1919. He was educated at Michaelhouse, Natal. It was his intention to enter Cranwell on a scholarship he had won. However, he was injured in a motor cycle crash and missed his entry. When the Second World War began he realised that, although he might be fit for ground duties, it would be some time before he would be passed fit for flying. In November, 1939, therefore, he enlisted in the Coldstream Guards. At Caterham, where the Brigade Squad was oversubscribed with potential officers, he was invited to apply for training for a commission in Royal Signals, and this he did.

He was commissioned from 151 O.C.T.U. in January, 1940, and joined 11th Armoured Divisional Signals which was starting to form. He was one of 25 brand new Second-Lieutenants but **Lieutenant-Colonel (now Brigadier) Coryton** recalls him vividly because he was taller than the others and put in an application to transfer to the R.A.F. once a week. He became Adjutant in November, after exactly two years' total service. The unit moved to Egypt in 1942, as 'F' Divisional Signals, joining 10th Armoured Division on arrival. The first major battle in which they took part was Adam Halfa which lasted a week from 31st August, 1942. Shortly before El Alamein he contracted the jaundice which attacked so many officers in the desert, and missed the battle. On return to duty he joined 7th Armoured, having pursued their rear elements across the desert. He caught them up on the Cyrenaica border some 50 miles inland. He stayed with them throughout the remainder of the campaign.

The Division then landed as a follow-up division at Salerno in the Italian campaign, before returning to the U.K. to get ready for the Second Front.

Peter Pentreath's part in 'Overlord' was that of Brigade Signal Officer, 4th Armoured Brigade. It lasted only until D+1 when he was wounded and evacuated to the U.K. He grew impatient in hospital, discharged himself, and hitch-hiked across the Channel to rejoin the battle. It took three weeks to reach 4th Armoured Brigade, but it took him much longer to get his pay restarted, since he had been declared a deserter by the hospital.

4th Armoured Brigade played a major role in the subsequent campaign, notably the closing of the Falaise Gap, in the Brussels-Antwerp area, and in the Reichswald. **Peter Pentreath** was awarded the M.B.E. for services on the frontier between the Netherlands and Germany. In February, 1945, he allowed himself to be enticed onto the staff of C.S.O. 1 Corps. He was, for him, underemployed, so he applied for a job which was being advertised. This was O.C. Ship Signal Section aboard H.M.S. *Keren,* which was to be the Supreme Commander's headquarters ship for the attack on Singapore and Malaya, which in fact was not opposed.

He did well at the Staff College and emerged as D.A.Q.M.G. Far East Land Forces in 1949, in which appointment he was mentioned in despatches. His next spell of active service was on **Brigadier Tucker's** staff during the Near East operations of 1956. From 1957-1959 he was D.A.Q.M.G. of 7th Armoured (later 5th Infantry Division). He was promoted to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.

After attending the J.S.S.C. he commanded 7th Regiment from 1960 and was then assistant Adjutant General 1962-1965. He became C.S.O. Northern Command in 1965, and C.S.O. B.A.O.R. in 1968. He was then Brigadier i/c Administration Southern Command until taking up his final appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) in 1969.

He hands over the Corps in fine shape to his successor. At last the number of men is sufficient for the commitments, although naturally some will always be under training. He has given personal attention to all forms of recruiting and under him a new trade structure has been devised which will make the best use of the men available and will give every soldier the best chance of a successful career.

He is exceptional among senior signals officers in that the longest course he attended at Catterick lasted four days. However, five months at Fort Monmouth, N.J., on the Associate Advanced Signals Officers' Course helped him along.

In 1970 he presented a paper at the Joint Meeting between the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Royal Signals Institution. He was elected to the uncommon grade of Companion of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Peter Pentreath's service was over a wide field. He signalled successfully at all levels from the sharp end backwards. He was a skilled administrator and a good planner of the careers of his fellow officers. The impatience which he showed when young matured into drive and the Corps will miss him. He has worked at his utmost for many years, and we hope that he and his wife, **Elizabeth,** will enjoy the relaxation now possible and will have a happy silver wedding anniversary due shorty after his retirement.

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

THURSDAY, 9th September, saw the dining out of **Brigadier John Cubberley** as our Commandant. It was a sad occasion, with sentiment concealed beneath lively chatter, and the music of the band of the Royal Hussars which was present for the occasion.



Brigadier John Cubberley

At the end of the evening the Brigadier mounted on a Land Rover was towed away from the H.Q. Mess, the scene illuminated by flaming torches held by Officers of No. 76 Q Course.

Brigadier Cubberley has retired from the Army, and started a new career in Edinburgh with the Civil Service. Both he and his wife **Margaret** will be sadly missed in Blandford. We wish them success and happiness in their new environment.

To replace **Brigadier Cubberley** we welcome **Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E.,** and to him and his family go our best wishes for a pleasant stay in Dorset.

Signal Officer-in-Chief Designate



Brigadier J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.

We congratulate **Brigadier Max Sawers, M.B.E.,** on his appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army). He was commissioned from the 'Shop' in 1939 and by the end of 1940 was in a West African Brigade Signals. Soon he was O.C. Gambia Area Signals. He served in XIVth Army as Second-in-Command of 81st (W.A.) Divisional Signals from 1943-1945, being twice mentioned in despatches.

After the Staff College he had two posts in Berlin, those of D.A.A.G. and later G.S.O. 2 Allied Kommandanture. In Korea, where he was again mentioned, and awarded the M.B.E., he was a Squadron Commander in 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signals, 1952-53. He then took part in the Malaya operations as G.S.O. 2 Signals, Malaya Command.

From 1959-1962 he commanded 13th Regiment. In 1966 he was appointed B.G.S. Signals, and in 1968 C.C.R. Signals, 1 (British) Corps. He has also found time to be Chief Instructor and Deputy Commandant at the School of Signals, and has attended both the J.S.S.C. and the I.D.C.

MARRIAGE

On 20th November at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, **Major-General Richard J. Moberly** and **Vivien Mary (Pooh) Cameron,** widow of Colonel Alastair (Angus) Cameron, R.A.

Captain Heather Greenland, W.R.A.C.

All her many friends will be grieved to hear that **Captain Heather Greenland,** P.S.O., 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V) was involved in a water ski-ing accident in Cyprus which has resulted in the amputation of her left leg.

She is reported to be making good progress at the R.A.F. Hospital, Wroughton, Swindon, at the time of the receipt of the sad news. All will wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her 'in the chair' again in due course.

Sandringham 1944

On Christmas Day, 1944, a composite line/radio section of 55th Divisional Signals left Crawley for Sandringham for six weeks' duty with the Royal Guard.

A WIRE correspondent is anxious to make contact with those members of the Corps who took part in this duty.

The WIRE would like to hear from anyone who was there, or who can give the name of anyone he has heard speaking of having taken part, together with last known address.

The Catholic Servicemen's Year Book 1972

The United Services' Catholic Association's Year Book for 1972 will be available from 1st December. It can be ordered from your unit/station R.C. Chaplains and O.C.F.s or by post from The United Services' Catholic Association, Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. The price is 25p.

The Year Book includes feature articles and news items on religious and secular subjects, as well as a directory of Catholic Churches and chaplaincy services world wide and a reference section on boarding schools.

Oil Communications

From time to time vacancies occur in Shell International for experienced telecommunications engineers in various parts of the world. Such posts usually cover line, telephone exchanges, H.F./V.H.F./U.H.F. radio, radio-relay, microwave and tropscatter systems, and call for ability in overall systems planning, co-ordination and implementation. Any Foreman of Signals who is seeking a challenging and remunerative extension of his communications career should write to Shell Centre (PNEL/3), London, S.E.1, enclosing a synopsis of his technical experience and qualifications and details of overseas countries in which he has served.

Conditions of services are excellent—but oil is where you find it.



NEW JUNIOR RANKS' CLUB OPENS AT BLANDFORD

Mrs. Patricia Bate, wife of the Commandant, School of Signals opening the new Blandford Station Junior Ranks Club "The Cable Wagon" on Thursday 30th September 1971. Captain Dick Haywood, the Schools of Signals P.R.I., is holding the tape, watched by Miss Oliver, the N.A.A.F.I. Manageress and Mr. Ryan, the N.A.A.F.I. District Manager for J.R.C.s

Visit of the Prime Minister to Training Brigade



On the 24th September the Corps was privileged to receive the Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Edward Heath, M.B.E., M.P., on the occasion of the formal opening by him of the new Trade Training School at Catterick Camp.

We are happy to publish below a description of the Prime Minister's visit, including the introductory speech made by the Commander, Training Brigade, and the address given by the Prime Minister to mark this occasion.

Our photograph shows the Prime Minister accompanied by Major-General Pentreath, S.O.-in-C., and Brigadier Tighe, Commander Training Brigade, leaving after a tour round the Trade Training School.

IN January this year the Prime Minister was invited to visit Catterick to open the new Trade Training School, at that time still incomplete, and before leaving for the Singapore Conference he gave his agreement to do so on the 24th September. Several months of planning then followed, in the course of which it was decided to show **Mr Heath** a cross-section of the Corps from the recruit to the basic trainee and then to the trained soldiers.

Meantime the building had been completed and occupied by 8th Signal Regiment and by 24th September was in full working order.

The day of the visit dawned fair, and in brilliant sunshine the Prime Minister arrived at the large muster area alongside the Trade Training School with an escort of four outriders from the Display Team. Here he was met by the S.O.-in-C., **Major-General Pentreath, Major-General Woodrow,** a Colonel Commandant, and by the Commander Training Brigade, **Brigadier Tighe.**

Drawn up in a square formed by four large spectator stands were the Corps Band and a Guard of Recruits, who had just completed their seven weeks basic training, under the command of **Major R. W. Simmons.**

Having received a General Salute, **Mr. Heath** was escorted by **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood,** C.O. 11th Signal Regiment, to inspect the front rank of the Guard where he talked to almost every soldier, including a recruit from his own constituency. The good impression these young soldiers made on him was well expressed by **Mr. Heath** in his subsequent speech.

The Prime Minister then met many of the parents of the recruits on parade as well as **R.S.M. Markham** of 11th Signal Regiment.

It was then time to enter the bulding where he was first introduced by the V.Q.M.G., **Major-General M. S. Hancock,** to representatives of the Department of the Environment, and of Quartering Branches of the M.O.D.

Colonel W. A. Sykes, the C.O., and **Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman,** the Chief Instructor, of 8th Signal Regiment, escorted the Prime Minister on a tour of the building. This began in the 'Bruin' Auto Room where the Chief Instructor, **Major Collins,** assisted by **W.O.1 Peter Steeples** and **Staff Sergeant Mike Brett,** described the system and **Mr. Heath** dialled on a simulation of a Divisional layout. The call was made without error!



As Lieutenant Ian Cross stands to attention the Prime Minister inspects the recruit guard accompanied by Major Roy Simmons and Lieutenant-Colonel Freddie Lockwood



Lieutenant-Colonel Freddie Lockwood introduces the Prime Minister to some of the recruits' parents

Moving upstairs, **Captain (T.O.T.) Nigel Ribchester** showed him some Radio Relay Technicians under training and **Sergeant Mick Richards** the Facsimile Room, where some pictures of *Morning Cloud* caught the nautical eye.

In the Philco Laboratory Room **Mr. Peter Bailey,** a Chief Instructor and member of the Whitley Council, had a long chat and then in a diversion **Mr. Heath** talked to an overseas course, which included technicians from Uganda, the Sudan and Ghana, as well as six Gurkhas.

In the Operating Wing **Major Robinson** introduced **Mr. John Ring** and **Mr. Henry Hill** who, in turn, explained how a course of Data Telegraphists were learning to touch type on the T100 simulator.

Corporal A. S. Wilson had his moment in one of the six morse rooms where he explained the problems of getting speed on a morse key.

The girls were not forgotten, with a visit to a W.R.A.C. Switchboard Course where **Sergeant Carol Emery,** W.R.A.C., introduced some of the girls. All this took nearly half-an-hour and allowed the Prime Minister to see a cross-section of our major trades and also to talk to the senior instructors, **Mr. Peter Halsey** and **Mr. Jim Stainer** and the S.O. Training **Lieutenant-Colonel (retd.) 'Mustard' Colman.**

By now it was time to carry out the business of the day by unveiling a plaque. This was done in the entrance hall and those who could not be provided with seats watched the ceremony on TV in the cinema.

Colonel (retd.) John North, the P.L.O., introduced the architects and builders of the School before **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe** invited the Prime Minister to declare the building open.

In an amusing and highly complimentary speech, which is reproduced elsewhere, **Mr. Heath** rounded off this part of his visit in memorable style.

Before leaving the building, **Mr. Heath** inspected a Time Capsule presented by Richmond Rural District Council and met the Chairman, **Councillor Gill,** and the Clerk, **Mr. Hodge.** The contents caused some interest and included such items as coinage, old and new, two of which were Roman, the Corps March hand written by the Director of Music, a Common Market pamphlet, THE WIRE, White Lists and publications too numerous to mention, a bottle of Brandy donated by NAAFI, and even a tin of baked beans.

The Prime Minister then left the building, his last introduction being to **R.S.M. Knight,** of 8th Regiment, and escorted by **General Pentreath** went to the adjacent sports field to meet **Brigadier G. Proudman** and to inspect the Detachments of Strategic Command.

These included a C11 Detachment from 216 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, a Pink Panther Land Rover of 264 S.A.S. Signal Squadron and Spearhead Detachments of 30th Regiment. 244 Signal Squadron Air Support were working a B.A.S.O. link to R.A.F. Catterick and 3rd Regiment had a Bruin Air Portable Radio Relay Station on display.

Foreman Pat Hodgson from 14th Regiment demonstrated a Teleprinter link working to Krefeld on which the Prime Minister exchanged messages with C.S.O. B.A.O.R.

Finally the Prime Minister was shown a TSC 500 Satellite Ground Station working to H.M.S. *Fearless* in the Mediterranean. The accompanying photographs best illustrate all those he met and to whom he spoke.

The Prime Minister then went to Druggon House with the S.O.-in-C. where he was presented with a Silver Jimmy from all ranks of the Corps. **Mr. Heath** has subsequently written to say he is extremely grateful and will always treasure it as a memento of a happy day with Royal Signals.

Finally the Prime Minister was taken to the Royal Signals Mess where he attended a reception given by Officers of the Corps and took luncheon in a large marquee draped in Corps Colours, which he was glad to note also had a slight political familiarity.

This was a historic day for the Corps and one which those who were present will remember for a long time. The sun shone and our hearts were gay.



The Prime Minister meets Captain Roger Barry, Troop Commander of the Satellite detachment



Captain Neil Mackereth explains the role of his men to the Prime Minister

The Speeches

Introductory speech by Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E., Commander Training Brigade Royal Signals:

Prime Minister,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you to the Training Brigade Royal Signals. That you have found time in such a busy period of your office to keep this engagement is particularly appreciated by us all. We welcome you, not only as Prime Minister, but as a Gunner who has served in War and Peace.

You are I am sure no stranger to the Science of Communications with experience as a Commanding Officer, and indeed as the Operator of a Maritime Radio Station of, I imagine, some complexity. You have just seen a small part of our Trade Training and will shortly be seeing the Signals of Strategic Command. From this we hope you will gather some impression of the communication requirements of the modern Army.

For our soldiers Catterick is traditionally the Signals home. The many buildings throughout this Camp bear witness to our presence here for nearly half a century. This new building concentrates, for the first time, all our trade training under one roof. Its opening is thus a significant landmark in our Corps history. It also marks the completion of the first stage of a rebuild of our accommodation being carried out by the Department of the Environment for the Ministry of Defence.

A previous Opening Ceremony took place almost exactly 27 years ago when our then Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, opened a small single-storey building which is now Training Brigade Headquarters. Your presence here today, sir, is regarded with equal pride. A record of the occasion will be included in the Time Capsule presented by Richmond Rural District Council which is to be placed in this hall.

May I now ask you, sir, to commemorate the opening of this building by unveiling the plaque.

Address given by the Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Edward Heath, M.B.E., M.P., on the occasion of the opening of the Trade Training School, Royal Signals, on 24th September:

I am very honoured that you should ask me to come here today to open this building and to commemorate the occasion with the plaque which I will unveil quite shortly. I am delighted to accept this invitation.

I would like first of all to congratulate the Guard and the Guard Commander and to say how impressed I was with it and also with the assurance and the confidence of those to whom I spoke in the Guard. This made a particular impact upon me as they had far less hesitation in answering questions than most politicians with whom I come into contact and produced answers which seemed to me to be particularly related to the questions. This too is unusual. I was then able to meet the parents of some of those with whom I had talked and this gave me very great pleasure indeed and I realised then how proud they are of their sons, and rightly so.

You have given me a very warm welcome today and mentioned that I was a Gunner myself. It is almost 29 years since I was last in Catterick and at that time I was Adjutant of my Regiment which was stationed on the South Coast. You will realise that this was in the middle of the war and the War Office decided that we should move to Northumberland with our normal guns and transport, there to do our battle training. In their wisdom they decided that we should move over the three days of Christmas. We therefore arrived in Catterick at approximately 11 o'clock at night on Christmas Eve and by particular dispensation of somebody in command we were very kindly allowed to stay here for Christmas Day rather than moving on the road again on our way to Northumberland. I hope you will forgive me if I say that it was without exception quite the worst Christmas I have ever spent. I then made a very firm resolution that never again in my life would I come to Catterick but you have induced me to break this resolution with the opportunity of opening this splendid building which I have seen here today.

As a Gunner of course I recognise full well the value of communications and I don't think there has been any field in which technological advance has been more rapid or sustained than the field of telecommunications in these last few years. I think we are all still amazed at the communications provided for those that have the courage to go to the moon and into space. They seem to have a much easier task in maintaining communications and a much greater clarity of speech than those of us who try to use our normal telephone in this country between our homes.

The Corps of Signals, of course, provide communications worldwide as I have seen in my visits to the Forces in Rhine Army, in Cyprus, in Singapore and in Hong Kong. You also help to provide communications for the Navy and assist in training people in the Foreign Office whom I know of from my own experience when I was a Foreign Office Minister for the three years at the beginning of the sixties. Of course in Signals you are often deployed in small and isolated detachments and that is where, perhaps, the assurance and confidence that I noticed this morning as well as the training in one's own personal defence is all important. As a result in the Corps you have self reliant, adaptable soldiers who are at the same time highly trained and skilled in their own trade.

What is before everybody's minds in this country today and which we have just been debating for two days in the House of Commons is the situation in Ireland. There again the Corps has carried on its work with singular distinction in extraordinarily difficult conditions for the British Army and there they have maintained and progressively extended the required communications. Many in both Houses of Parliament in these last two days have paid tribute to the admirable work of the British Army in Northern Ireland and for the restraint which they have shown in almost intolerable conditions. I myself cannot speak highly enough of all those who are playing their part in these very difficult peace-keeping operations. They can be sure they will have the backing of Her Majesty's Government to the full.

I have just seen some of the training which goes on here and I have been very impressed with the up-to-date methods which are being used. Techniques which I think probably many in civil education up and down the country would like to emulate, and equipment which many of them must envy. But, it is right that you should have the very latest in these developments. I have just made a humble suggestion myself that with a little further research and a little further progress is would be possible for the leader of a course going into the room to switch on his machinery, receive the necessary lesson and then leave without having an instructor there at all. Thus bringing about a greater economy of effort and expenditure by the Ministry of Defence. This was not favourably received by the instructors to whom I suggested it and obviously I shall make no progress with that. However, the numbers in which you are dealing, some 4,000 throughout the year, shows the substantial scale of the work which is going on here and this is an invaluable contribution to our Services.

I have also met those who have been concerned with the design and construction of this building. I would like to congratulate them on the very high standards which they have achieved in both. I have a particular interest in contemporary architecture and in building of every kind. We are all today much concerned with our environment, of course this matters particularly as far as our countryside, the coast and the sea are concerned, but a great deal also depends on the buildings which we in our generation are going to leave to posterity. There is always a controversy in the following generation as to what has been created, that we accept; but years later the John Betjeman of his time comes along and points out that some of it is magnificent and must be retained. There are also others not quite as wise, who point out that because it's old it must be kept. This is not a school with which I always sympathise. Another school of which I have recently had experience says that something is so horrible that it must also be maintained to show following generations exactly how horrible that was. This also I have very little sympathy with. But I hope here at the beginning of the major part of the reconstruction of Catterick there has been erected a building which will be a tribute to the architects and to those who have built it and will be looked on by succeeding generations as being a remarkable aspect of the architecture of its time.

You recalled in your welcome that it is nearly 50 years since the Corps of Signals came here. The work of the Corps in its history has been quite remarkable and perhaps all too little known and outside the Services all too little appreciated. I hope you will see that by accepting your invitation to come here today I am demonstrating in some small way the appreciation which Her Majesty's Government has of the work of the Corps and the impressive place which it has in our military history and in our contemporary work.

I have not only enjoyed myself in coming here today, to which visit I have looked forward for a very great period of time, but I am also very honoured that you should have invited me to open this building. I am immensely impressed with everything which I have seen and it now gives me very great pleasure to declare this building formally open and to unveil the plaque.

Postscript

10 Downing Street
Whitehall

30 September 1971

Dear General.

I write to thank you and everyone concerned with my visit to the Royal Signals at Catterick for making it such a memorable occasion. You are indeed fortunate to have such a splendid new building, and, as I said, I am very proud to have been asked to open it.

I am also grateful to you and your fellow officers for your kind thought in presenting me with the splendid silver statuette of Mercury. It will always serve as a reminder of a most enjoyable day.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Edward Heath

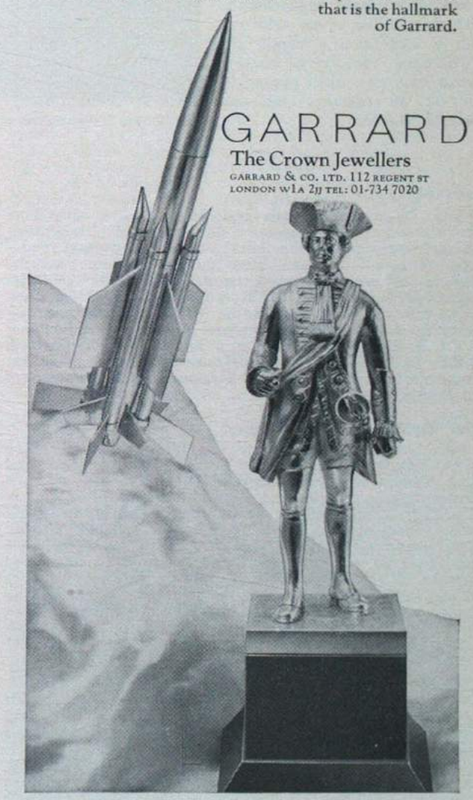
Major General P.F. Pentreath, M.B.E.

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, GOLDSMITHS & CROWN JEWELLERS, GARRARD & COMPANY LTD., LONDON

The Pride of the Regiment.

For over two hundred years Garrard have commemorated, in finely-worked silver, the achievements of great Regiments. Today this tradition of service to the military is firmly established.

As Regimental Silversmiths Garrard maintain close contact with a large number of regiments and individual serving members. We offer you unrivalled traditional skills of our designers and craftsmen and the personal service that is the hallmark of Garrard.



GARRARD
The Crown Jewellers
GARRARD & CO. LTD. 112 REGENT ST LONDON W1A 2JJ TEL: 01-734 7020

Master of Signals visits the Corps in BAOR

During September Major General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Master of Signals, made an extensive tour of Corps units in Germany. The tour which lasted twelve days included no less than nine units.

A feature of the visit was the very large number of Corps soldiers the Master was able to meet individually during his visit, while Mrs. Bradley had numerous pleasant engagements with the families of our soldiers.

It is clear that a happy air of informal friendliness marked a visit that was much appreciated by all members of the Corps in B.A.O.R.



The Master of Signals was met on arrival by Major-General David Horsfield (right) C.S.O., B.A.O.R.

Arrival

THE **Master of Signals and Mrs. Bradley** arrived at Dusseldorf Civil Airport on the evening of 12th September and were met by the A.D.C., **Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope,** of 16th Regiment. From there they were taken by Humber staff car to the residence of C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** where they stayed the night.

The following morning, with the A.D.C. in attendance, they set off for 1 (B.R.) Corps. First port of call was the residence of C.C.R. Signals, 1 (B.R.) Corps, **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E.,** for lunch. Here, **Second-Lieutenant Pope** handed over his mantle as A.D.C. to **Second-Lieutenant Ewan Cameron,** of 7th Regiment.

Old Regiment re-visited

After lunch the Master started his 1971 tour by re-visiting his old Regiment—7th Regiment. Two despatch riders, **Corporal H. E. Bishop** and **Lance-Corporal M. I. Donovan**—met the Master's car at the Herford Autobahn and escorted him to Maresfield Barracks, where he was met by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King,** the Adjutant, **Captain T. N. Singleton,** and the R.S.M., **W.O.1 E. T. A. Webster.** He then inspected a quarter guard mounted by 2 Squadron and commanded by **Sergeant D. L. Connbeere.** An introduction to the staff of Regimental Headquarters followed. Here the Master planted a tree to commemorate his visit and talked with **Frau Brose,** 7th Regiment's civil labour supervisor, who has been with the Regiment for 19 years and was here during 1952-1955 when the Master was in Command.

Tea with 125 W.O.s and Sergeants

Next came a tour of the Regiment, which included the drill square, where an M.P.C. course was being instructed by **Staff Sergeant D. A. Hughes,** and a cross-section of the Regiment's 328 vehicles. TARIF, Closed Circuit Television, C50 and C70 Radio Relay equipments, VHF rebroadcast detachments and the Command and Control cell of Headquarters Covering Force were all visited. The vehicles were fully crewed and this gave the Master the opportunity to talk with a large number of soldiers. The tour continued through the L.A.D. and the Telecommunications Workshops. At the close of the afternoon, **General Bradley** signed in at the Sergeants' Mess for tea; here he met and talked with many of the 125 members of the Mess. Another 'first' for 7th Regiment? The Master commented that it was the first time he had ever drunk tea in a Sergeants' Mess!

The same evening the Master returned to the Regiment accompanied by **Mrs. Bradley** and **Brigadier Sherratt** to join the officers and their ladies for a buffet supper party, followed by dancing to the band of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. The atmophere was relaxed and informal, and a most enjoyable evening was had by all.

On Tuesday morning, after spending the night at the residence of **Brigadier and Mrs. W. E. Sherratt,** the Master visited H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps, where he met the Corps Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir John Sharp, K.C.B., M.C.** After meeting the staff of H.Q. Royal Signals, the Master left for 4 Division Signal Regiment.

Star performers of the 'Big Top'

The visit of 4 Division Signal Regiment commenced with coffee with C.R. Signals, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Burrows,** and a talk with the Divisional Commander, after which the Master saw V.H.F. radio training in progress. A typical Main Division H.Q. Radio Complex had been set up; the Land Rover-mounted radios being grouped, as usual, round a central canvas shelter with the control desk in the middle. Here the Master met **Captain Stokes, Sergeant Bennett** and the other star performers of the 'Big Top.' Near at hand was also **Corporal MacIntyre's** rebroadcast station, complete with all the home comforts that the rebro crews devise to make their windy hilltops seem like home. Apart from meeting the soldiers, which he obviously enjoyed, the Master saw some of the V.H.F. innovations devised of late by C.C.R. Signals' staff and others, such as the **Grainger** and **James** antennas, and the **Goodman** box.

Certificates personally signed

After that piece of tactical realism, **Major-General Bradley** was taken to see the last M.P.C. 2/3 Course pass-off, 50-men strong. They gave a very fine demonstration of foot and arms drill under **Staff Sergeant K. C. Stewart,** including slow marching—*not* an easy feat in silent boots and without music. The Master presented certificates signed by himself personally to the best students: **Lance-Corporal Whittick** (best overall) **and Signalmen Turner, Gainsborough** and **Wilson** (best in their respective squads).

(Continued on page 433)

(Continued from page 432)

Major-General Bradley then visited R.H.Q. where he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) M. G. E. Hall** and **W.O.2 J. T. Driver.** Naturally, the next move had to be to the Sergeants' Mess, and finally to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

Family problems discussed

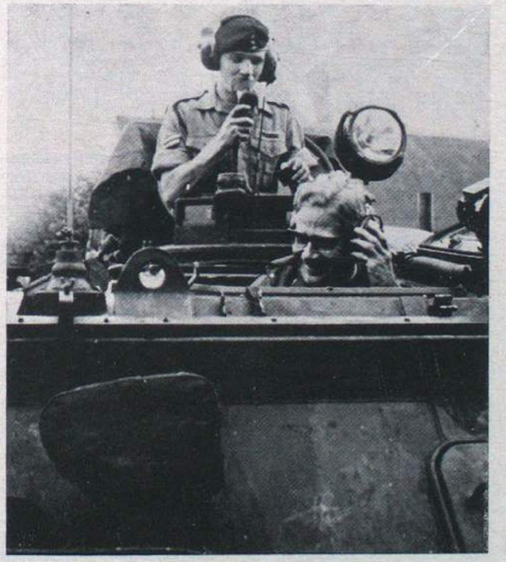
Meanwhile, **Mrs. Bradley** had been whisked away for an almost equally busy morning with the families. With **Mrs. O'Connor,** wife of the Second-in-Command, and **Captain Bailey,** the Unit Families' Officer and P.R.I., she visited **Mrs. Blench** in an A.D. hiring, **Mrs. Henderson** in an A.D. quarter and **Mrs. Sharp** in private accommodation. These ladies, who volunteered to be hostesses on this occasion, told **Mrs. Bradley** at first hand of the sort of problems which face the families here (much the same problems, alas, as there have always been), and how they and the Regiment try to overcome them. **Mrs. Bradley** was then given lunch by **Mrs. Anthonisz,** wife of S.O.2 (Signals).

After their respective lunches, the **Master of Signals** left by helicopter for 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron at Soltau, while **Mrs. Bradley** travelled by staff car.

Driving an A.F.V. 432

As the Master's visit to 7 Armoured Brigade Squadron was so short, it was made as informal as possible. Instead of providing a quarter guard he was given an A.F.V. 432 to drive! The Master was a bit reluctant to try his hand at first, but under the expert tuition of **Corporal 'Boggy' Marsh** he soon qualified himself for service in the Squadron. The Master then saw various aspects of the Squadron's work, speaking to every available soldier of the Corps in the Squadron as he did so. He ended up (inevitably!) in the Jerboa Club where he was presented with a glass tankard, on which was painted the Desert Rat and the word 'Master.' (7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron certainly hope, sir, that the tankard will serve as a reminder of Soltau every time you sample your home brew!).

While the Master was thus engaged, **Mrs. Bradley** met some of the wives of personnel of the Squadron and visited the Quarter of **Corporal and Mrs. Berry.**



THE MASTER GETS HIS ORDERS

"Now driver, push those tillers and we might get moving". Corporal 'Boggy' Marsh of 7 Armoured Brigade Squadron, commands the Master

The evening was spent with the Brigade Commander.

On Wednesday, 15th September, the **Master and Mrs. Bradley** visited 1 Division Signal Regiment. The **Master and Mrs. Bradley** arrived at Caithness Barracks at 10.15 hours and were met by **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Gittins.** From then on the Master and his wife were led off in separate directions.

Mrs. Bradley very kindly visited the Station Kindergarten, whilst the Master was being briefed on the role of the Regiment; following his briefing the Master met the G.O.C. 1st Division, **Major-General J. W. Harman, O.B.E., M.C.** During this time **Mrs. Bradley** had joined the wives at their club for coffee.

A word with everyone

Officer Commanding 3 Squadron, **Major Peter Brown,** opened up the doors of the Static Comcen to which the Master paid particular attention. From 3 Squadron on to 2 Squadron; the Master was met by **Major Bernard Allen,** the Officer Commanding, and was shown the Squadron vehicles which were almost ready for Exercise 'Eternal Triangle.' On to 1 Squadron, the Master was met by **Major John Swindells,** Officer Commanding; again he saw exercise preparations. During his walk round, the Master made a point of speaking to everyone.

At 12.15 it was drinks in the Sergeants' Mess and at 12.45 lunch in the Officers' Mess, during which time **Mrs. Bradley** was at a lunch party with **Mrs. Gittins** and other wives of the Regiment. After lunch, the Master left for Berlin.

Next stop — Berlin

The visit to Berlin commenced with a cocktail party that evening, arranged in the Master's honour by the Royal Signals officers in Berlin and at which he met the G.O.C. Berlin, **Major-General The Earl Cathcart,** and the Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade as well as many other guests.

The following morning the Master included in his programme a visit to 229 Squadron. He was accompanied by the C.S.O. Berlin, **Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. Haycock,** and the Squadron Second-in-Command, **Captain D. C. Podevin** (A.D.C. to the Master for his visit to Berlin). He was met by the O.C. Squadron, **Major A. B. Byng,** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) L. V. Stoneham** and invited to inspect the Quarter Guard (complete with bugler) before a tour of the unit.

The tour began with a visit to S.H.Q. and part of the soldiers' accommodation before going on to the three Troops of the Squadron. First Troop to be visited was Radio Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant V. F. M. Thom,** where the Master met and spoke to all the Detachment Operators and drivers and viewed the rather specialised radio equipment and vehicles unique to Berlin. Next it was the turn of M.Q. & L. Troop, commanded by **Major (T.O.T.) N. A. Cox,** where he met the technicians and storemen in the Workshops and Q departments, and later the Line detachments at the oddly named 'Teehaus' where the line equipment and static equipment is kept. Finally, after a brief interlude to see the Berrnet Tropo terminal maintained by Tels. Group, a visit to the Berlin Comcen to see Comcen Troop, commanded by **Y. of S. R. G. French,** concluded the 'formal' visit to the Squadron.



WITH THE CORPS IN BERLIN

Meeting Signalman Bob Tomblin and other members of Radio Troop, 229 Squadron

The 'formal' visit was not in fact very formal. The Master was good enough to talk to every member of the Squadron that he met. He may have been impressed by their cheerfulness but 229 Squadron certainly enjoyed his enthusiasm and thoroughly appreciated his presence in Berlin.

After a drink with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in their Mess and lunch at the Officers' Club the Master had a little time to see some of Berlin before leaving.

The **Master of Signals** arrived at 2 Division at 10.00 hours on 17th September. He was met at Tax House H.Q. 2 Division by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. Yeoman** who welcomed the Master on behalf of the Regiment and then accompanied him to meet the G.O.C. 2 Division, **Major-General H. R. S. Pain, M.C.**

After visiting the G.O.C. the Master met the S.O.II Signals **Major M. A. Petheram,** O.C. H.Q. Squadron **Major R. Savage** and the Royal Signals Officers of H.Q. Squadron.

Departing from Lubbecke the Master visited the Regimental canoeists practising on the River at Lohne where he met O.C. 2 Squadron, **Major H. S. de N. Rogers,** and **Sergeant Frith,** N.C.O. i/c canoeing. The Master spoke to a number of Regimental canoeists and commented on the high standard of canoeing attained.

On arrival at Birdwood Barracks the Master met the R.S.M. **W.O.I C. H. Richardson** and inspected the Quarter Guard. Leaving the Quarter Guard the Master then kindly agreed to open the Regimental Training Wing, meeting O.C. R.H.Q. Squadron **Major A. L. Watson,** the Training Officer **Lieutenant R. C. Breese** and **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) K. R. Dewis;** touring the Wing the Master spoke to soldiers carrying out conversion training and basic signalling skills.

The Master then visited 3 Squadron meeting the O.C., **Major R. Sampson,** who accompanied the Master on a tour of a Bruin Comhead and the staff vehicles in Complex. On finishing his tour the Master then visited the Sergeants' Mess for drinks where he met the Warrant Officers and S.N.C.O.s of the Regiment.

Moving to the Officers' Mess, where **Mrs. Bradley,** after her separate tour which included meeting the officers' wives and a visit to the Rahden outdoor museum, joined the Master for lunch with **Brigadier and Mrs. W. E. Sherratt** and all the Royal Signals officers and their wives.

The **Master and Mrs. Bradley** then returned to Minden.

The **Master and Mrs. Bradley** left Minden on the morning of 20th September after a weekend's rest and travelled to Rheindahlen by road. Lunch was taken with C.S.O. B.A.O.R. and **Second Lieutenants Cameron** and **Pope** once again exchanged mantles as A.D.C.

At H.Q., B.A.O.R.

The Master accompanied C.S.O. B.A.O.R. to H.Q. B.A.O.R. and met the Chief of Staff H.Q. B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. G. House, C.B.E., M.C.** He then walked through the many corridors of the J.H.Q. building until arriving at 'K' corridor, the home of Signal branch, H.Q. B.A.O.R. Here he met the G.S.O. 1, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Hart, O.B.E.,** who introduced the Master to the staff of the Branch. The Master was then taken by **W.O.1 R. C. Brodie,** the Staff Assistant, to introduce him to other W.O.s and S.N.C.O.s serving with H.Q. B.A.O.R. and H.Q. NORTHAG and who work in the J.H.Q. building. These included a large contingent from H.Q. B.A.O.R. Comcen who are members of 16th Regiment. Then followed a briefing by C.S.O. B.A.O.R.

The Master, suitably briefed, was then shown to the Visitors' Mess where, with **Mrs. Bradley,** he took tea with Royal Signals Officers and their wives serving in Rheindahlen. The **Master and Mrs. Bradley** then returned to the residence of C.S.O. B.A.O.R. for a couple of hours' respite before attending a dinner party given by the **C.S.O. and Mrs. Horsfield.**

T.A.V.R. come into the picture

The 21st September commenced with a visit to H.Q. 4 Signal Group where the Master was met by the Commander, **Colonel E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.** The Master then met the staff of 4 Signal Group and, as an unexpected bonus, the staff of 12 Signal Group (V) who had deserted their Chelsea home for T. & A.V.R. training in B.A.O.R. and were based upon 4 Signal Group. After a short briefing by the Commander, the Master left for 21st Regiment.

The Master was met by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Phippard,** on arrival at R.A.F. Wildenrath in fine, warm, sunny weather. The Quarter Guard, commanded by **Staff Sergeant Carr,** was drawn from all troops stationed at Wildenrath.

Increased 'Air Support' tasks

A presentation of the present tasks of the Regiment enabled the Master to appreciate the expansion of 'Air Support' over the last two years.

During a tour of H.Q. Squadron which followed, **Major Bill Judd,** the Quartermaster, recalled the time he was the Master's R.S.M. in 1951.

A visit to 2 Squadron gave the General an insight into Harrier aircraft operations and the communications provided by the Regiment to enable the aircraft to be tasked and supported in the Corps Area.

81 Squadron (V) were busy laying cables on the airfield and the General was able to meet members of the Squadron at work.

After lunch, at which the Officers of the Regiment and 81 Squadron were joined by the Station Commander, **Group Captain Scrimgeour,** a Scout helicopter of 669 Squadron, A.A.C., took **General Bradley** to the Regiment's remote Radio Relay station at Rotgen in the Eifel. Here the O.C., **Lieutenant Peter Reed,** was able to show the General over the new Tropospheric Scatter terminal which is being built.

The tour of the Regiment ended at R.A.F. Bruggen where the task of the airfield Troop, under command of **Lieutenant John Rose,** was seen against a background of Phantom aircraft.

Whilst **General Bradley** was visiting the unit **Mrs. Bradley** met **Mrs. Gillian Phippard** and wives of all ranks at a coffee morning at the Harrier Club and afterwards met **Mrs. Scrimgeour,** wife of the Station Commander, over drinks in the Officers' Mess.

Next it was the turn of 16th Regiment and the visit had a fortunate start with the weather, with Bradbury Barracks looking its best, with a touch of autumn in the many trees lining the roads and ringing West Park.

The Master's visit started with an inspection of the Quarter Guard, commanded by **Sergeant Whittingham** and provided by 3 Squadron. The guards' turnout and drill were worthy of their distinguished visitor, who was kind enough to compliment them. A tour of the Regiment followed, starting with a visit to 1 Squadron and the Tape Relay Centre, followed by 2 Squadron deployed in West Park, (3 Squadron, the second field Squadron, were out on exercise) and ending at the Training Wing. The Master must have created a record for Bradbury Barracks for talking to the greatest number of people in a short time. His interest in all the doings and the obvious concern that he showed for all aspects of the lives the soldiers lead made a deep impression on everyone.

Mrs. Bradley in the meantime, having met some of the officers' wives over coffee, then looked in at the Kindergarten in the Village Hall, and later met members of the Wives' Club while they were making one of their 'buying visits' at a local silk factory.

A families' lunch

The **Master and Mrs. Bradley** met up in the Officers' Mess for a families' lunch, after which the Master left to visit 36th Regiment (V), out in B.A.O.R. for their annual camp. **Mrs. Bradley** went out to a 'patch' at Neukirchen and met more of the wives over a cup of tea in **Lance-Corporal Chadwick's** flat. All the families who were fortunate enough to meet **Mrs. Bradley** have done little else since then but to sing her praises and agree that it was a delight to have had a visit from her.

Joint hosts

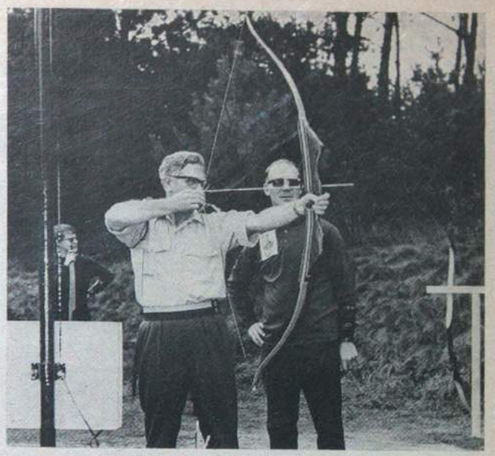
The evening entertainment followed the general pattern of the day, with meeting people high on the Master's list of priorities. 36th Regiment (V) and 16th Regiment were now joint hosts, and the barracks was creaking at the seams, with a supper party in the Officers' Mess, a social evening in the Sergeants' Mess and a swinging dance in the gymnasium. The two Commanding Officers experienced the only real difficulty in a memorable day when they attempted to prise their honoured guest away from two R.S.M.s and a doubly (in numbers) hospitable Mess.

Last day

Thursday, 23rd September, was the last full day of the Master's visit and a 'full' day it was too, with visits to both 28th and 13th Regiments. 28th Regiment were first on the Master's programme and he began his visit by inspecting a Quarter Guard and then went to the square where he took the pass-off parade of an M.P.C. II course. He first inspected the course making sure he had a word with each man before taking the salute as they marched off.



SIGN HERE PLEASE
Signing the Visitors' Book in the Corporals' Mess, 28th Regiment



WITH THE MERCURY BOWMEN
Taking aim under the expert eye of Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) R. H. Phippard, 13th Regiment

Following a briefing on the role of the Regiment he then visited the Corporals' Club where he is seen signing the visitors' book watched by **Corporal Ken Clarke.**

The **Master** then paid a quick visit to the Squadrons, spending about 15 minutes at each chatting to the soldiers.

The visit was rounded off with drinks in the Sergeants' Mess followed by more drinks and lunch in the Officers' Mess with all the officers and their wives.

While the **Master of Signals** was looking around the Regiment **Mrs. Bradley** was far from idle. Having arrived at the barracks she was escorted to the B.F.E.S. at Krefeld by **Mrs. J. MacDonald,** the C.O.'s wife. From there was a trip out to **Corporal Dave Falconer's** quarter to meet some wives for coffee, before returning to Krefeld for a shopping spree. After the shops it was back to the Regiment for lunch in the Officers' Mess before finally disappearing with the Master for 13th Regiment and the last part of their programme.

Many old friends recognised

Lunch over, the **Master and Mrs. Bradley** left for 13th Regiment. On arrival, the Master was soon hearing a briefing on the role of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Stephenson,** opened the briefing but most was done by the soldiers and W.R.A.C. who fully described their own jobs. The Master took a great deal of interest, as always, in individuals and recognised a surprising number of the people during the briefing. Meanwhile, **Mrs. Bradley** accompanied by **Mrs. Stephenson** visited the Birgelen Primary School and met the Headmaster, **Mr. Alan Bavage,** and his staff. She was very impressed with the new building and took a great interest in the children and their work. **Mrs. Bradley** then moved to the married quarters adjacent to the barracks. She visited **Corporal 'Jock' Fairley's** quarter and met **Mrs. Betty Fairley, Mrs. Pamela Filder** and **Mrs. Muriel Connell,** and crossing the road to No. 48 she met **Mrs. Pat Chalmers,** wife of **Corporal David Chalmers** of 1 Squadron.

The Mercury Bowmen

The **General and Mrs. Bradley** then re-united to meet the Mercury Bowmen. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob Phippard,** the team captain, explained the intricacies of the pursuit before introducing some of the other members of the team: **Sergeant Bob Vincent** (Int. Corps), **Corporal Ray Austin** (A.C.C.), **Corporal Mick Price** (Royal Signals), **Signalman Jimmy Lawless** (Royal Signals) and **Corporal Jim Crow** (A.C.C.). The visitors saw the trophies that the team had won, nine in all, in their first year in the Dutch Provincial Archery League. They were most impressed with the team's achievement in a highly competitive sport in such a short time.

The Bowmen gave a demonstration of their skill-at-arms. This complete, the Master drew a bow and after two unsuccessful attempts to hit the target scored two points with the third arrow. He then retired gracefully amidst cheers. We think he remembered the story of Robert the Bruce!

In a final chat, the Master talked of the Battle of Agincourt, where the 'arrows came down like rain,' and we are still not sure whether or not he was reminiscing!

The party moved on to the Mermaid Pool, where they met **S.S.I. Pete Scales.** The Pool and its area have been continuously developed since **Derek Nimmo** opened it on 30th May, and the visitors were duly impressed.

The final item on the formal programme was the presentation of the B.E.M. to **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) Fred Laverick.** After the ceremony **Mrs. Wendy Laverick** and their children, **Jane** and **Andrew,** met the **General and Mrs. Bradley,** as the W.O.s and Sergeants 'fell-in' for a Mess photograph with the Master.

To conclude the visit, the visitors adjourned to the Officers' Mess for tea. Here they met almost every officer and wife in the Regiment, and tea was a very happy, informal, social occasion. All felt that they were saying "au revoir" to old friends when they finally drove away en route for H.Q. B.A.O.R.

The visit to 13th and 28th Regiments over, the **Master and Mrs. Bradley** had one last night in the company of **Major-General and Mrs. Horsfield** before their return to U.K.

A last surprise

So came 24th September and the **Master and Mrs. Bradley** sped on their way to Dusseldorf Civil Airport to connect with their U.K. flight. On arrival at Dusseldorf there was one last surprise—**Lance-Corporal M. J. Donovan,** a D.R. from 7th Regiment, presented himself to the **Master and Mrs. Bradley** in the departure lounge and handed to the Master a photograph album containing a pictorial reminder of his visit to his old Regiment. The photographs had been taken by **Corporal G. J. Philbrook** and the album produced by 7th Regiment's draughtsmen, **Corporal G. M. Dickinson** and **Lance-Corporal D. Lloyd-Williams.**

So ended a very successful visit. All units in B.A.O.R. which had been visited by the Master and Mrs. Bradley were genuinely delighted in the interest that they took in both the military and welfare aspects of their lives here in B.A.O.R. The Master's enthusiasm, the searching questions he asked, the way he made all he spoke to (and he spoke to everyone he could) feel at ease, as well as his keen sense of humour made his tour a most enjoyable and memorable one which we hope he and Mrs. Bradley won't be too long in repeating.

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

LUCHON REVISITED 1971

By Major P. Krell, lecturer, Army Apprentices' College



Army Apprentices' College pipers bring out the onlookers in Luchon

FIVE years ago I accompanied the Army Apprentices' College Pipe Band when it visited Bagnères-de-Luchon, to take part in its annual Fête des Fleurs. Luchon is a town of fewer than 4,000 inhabitants, situated about 2,000 feet above sea level in the French Pyrenees. It is a well-known spa and because of this has become the twin town of Harrogate.

Advance party of one

Because of the good impression made on the previous visit it was decided to send our present College Pipe Band over there again to take part in this year's Fête des Fleurs, and I was the natural choice as the advance party of one. I flew out ahead, arriving in Luchon on Monday, 24th August, and was met by **M. Ferrage**, a Town Councillor and President of the Fête Committee, who settled me into l'Hôtel Bosquet, en pension.

Looking up old friends

The next few days were spent in looking up old friends and making new ones, making recces, inspecting arrangements for accommodation and feeding. The Band were to stay in a dormitory of the Lycée, which compared very favourably with our own barrack rooms. I arranged for an augmented 'petit déjeuner,' adding an egg or two and re-christening it 'le petit déjeuner écossais.' I also visited the Mayor, whose command of the English language seemed to be limited to "Thank you very much," so we conversed in French—*my* French. I gave him the best wishes of Harrogate, the Commandant and the Army Apprentices' College, pointing out that as we were the adopted sons of Harrogate, and Luchon was its twin town, he, the Mayor of Luchon, was practically our godfather.

I renewed my acquaintances with the Commissioner of Police and arranged for the agent de ville, who had been our personal policeman five years ago, to be allotted to us again. In this connection, one morning I saw a young woman pushing a pram decorated with the Black Watch Tartan and leading a small boy just over four years old. I wondered if there was any significance in this.

I also ordered a wreath, which was later to be laid on the War Memorial. I said that it was to be decorated with the French national colours of red, white and blue, which by a strange coincidence also happen to be our national colours.

On Friday evening, 27th August, **Mr. Ferrage,** our interpreter, **Francois,** a boy of 16, and I met the Pipe Band at the railway station and took them along to the lycée where they were installed in their dormitory and then given a meal; and while they ate I briefed them. I told them what their equivalent appointments were in French.

Appointments in French

Pipe Major Wilson was 'le maître des cornemuses,' Major of Bagpipes—after all we already have a Master of Signals. **A/T. Pipe Major Magee** was 'le maître-adjoint des cornemuses,' Assistant Master of Bagpipes. **A/T. Drum Major Price** was 'le Tambour-Major,' the drummers were 'Tambours,' **A/T.**

Keats, the bass drummer, was ' la Grosse Caisse ' (the big drum) and the pipers ' les Cornemuses ' after their pipes. **Private Kendrick,** A.C.C., was also one of the Band. I explained to him and to my French friends that he was not only a ' Chef de Cuisine ' but also a ' Chef des Cornemuses ' (a chief Bagpiper).

In this military atmosphere I was forced to resume my military rank and became ' le Major Krell, Commandant (French for Major) en retraite ' (retired).

At the War Memorial

On Saturday morning, 28th August, the Band marched, playing, from the lycée to the War Memorial, where, in the presence of the Mayor and several Councillors, **A/T. (now Signalman) Cowan,** one of the drummers, laid our wreath.

The Pipe Major played ' Flowers of the Forest ' and the Band then marched down the main street, L'Allées d'Etigny, preceded by our own personal policeman. The people lined the streets, clapping, cheering and taking photographs. They came in from the side-streets, attracted by the piping and drumming, reminding me of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. The Band appreciated all this and gave of their best playing all the way back to the lycée.

The grand procession

The afternoon was free, but that evening we formed up in la Place du Marché for the ' Retraite des Guides,' the grand procession. Here we formed up behind ' Les Fils De Luchon ' whose ages ranged from six to about 86. The girls were in colourful red costumes. Behind us were a troop of Drum Majorettes, a Banda Espagnole (with castanets) while the rear was brought up by mounted guides. Eventually we moved off. The scene was illuminated by flaming torches, fairy lights strung between the trees, and the flash bulbs of photographers. Again we marched through clapping, cheering crowds, some of whom threw streamers at us. We marched to the casino where the mounted guides gave a display of whip-cracking, the Banda Espagnole danced to castanets and we gave a display of piping and drumming.

We now watched a firework display and then the Band went back to the lycée to put their instruments away. They were now free to go out into the town in uniform to sample the sights and wines of the country. I later saw three A/T.s getting on very well with three Drum Majorettes. Language was no difficulty!

A tractor in the way

Next day, Sunday, 29th August, we formed up in la Place des Comminges and marched once more down the main street to the gardens of the Thermal Baths. Here we gave an 'Aubade,' a performance, but had to cut it short as a French Army Band was approaching rapidly. We now played our way to the Mairie of Saint Mamet, a hamlet about half-a-mile away. In the courtyard we came face to face with a farm tractor, but by now we were used to playing it off the cuff, side-stepped and gave another aubade. On the way back we were again confronted by the French Army Band and diplomatically gave way; after all, they were on their home ground and we were playing away—in both senses. We then marched back down the main street to the lycée for luncheon.

That afternoon we formed up at the railway station for the procession of the ' Chars,' flower-decorated floats, for the Fête des Fleurs. These floats were very impressive, each consisting of about 30,000 blooms. We were behind the Drum Majorettes. By this time the population of the town had risen from 4,000 to 44,000. The thrifty Council had erected barriers on all roads, and charged everyone two francs to enter the town.

Again we processed up the main street and took up station opposite the Official Tribunal and played for the Drum Majorettes. It was hot and thirsty work. Then at about 15.00 hours we marched to the Thermal Baths. Here, as in ' Alice In Wonderland,' everybody got a prize. **A/T. Corporal (now Signalman) Manger** received a banner from the Mayor, who to Manger's relief did not kiss him on both cheeks. Then to renewed cheering the Band returned to the lycée to change into relaxed dress and join in the evening's activities.

An evening full of activity

By now the streets were ankle-deep in confetti; bands were giving impromptu aubades; our A/T.s joined the French Army Band in a sing-song; there was dancing to pop music in the Market Place; the A/T. Drum Major conducted a Banda Espagnole from the steps of the Town Hall; and I danced in the street with the Patronne of my pension.



CHAMPAGNE PARTY

Apprentice Tradesmen getting integrated with "les Luchonnais"

Next day's papers gave us a write-up; the Band were referred to as ' la Coqueluche ' or darlings of Luchon; there was a photograph of **A/T. (now Signalman) Cowan,** laying the wreath; the Pipe Major, Drum Major and **Private Kendrick** were mentioned, and there was a slightly scurrilous reference to ' **le Major Krell,** petite moustache et noeud papillon ' (bow tie).

That day was free for the Band and that evening the Patronne of my pension threw a champagne party for them. The Pipe Major played his pipes, **A/T.s Magee** and **Keats** danced a jig, British Army songs were sung (luckily Madame la Patronne knows no English) and a good time was had by all.

A great fund of goodwill

Next morning, having been relieved of about eight Drapeaux Francais — " we found them lying about " — they were allowed to keep two — they just caught the train home. The 'jeunes soldats ' will surely remember their visit to France all their lives — I know I shall. The good people of Luchon fed and housed us during our stay there and put up unwincingly with my excruciating French pronunciation. Our fares were paid by kind contributions from the Royal Signals Corps funds, the Borough of Harrogate and the P.R.I. There is a great fund of goodwill towards us in Luchon which bodes well for the future.

As for myself, I feel that I have become a ' Luchonnais '; we do not say " adieu " but " au revoir."

CORPS' CIVILIAN ELEMENT DO A GREAT JOB

For the manning of its hundreds of comcens and switchboards, and in the administrative support of its regular units, 2 Signal Group has a large number of civilians on its strength.

Among the high proportion of Telecommunication Operators and Telephonists there are many possessing years of experience, which is evident from the dedicated manner in which they carry out their task of providing an efficient message passing service and a helpful and co-operative telephone service for the Army in the United Kingdom, by day and night.

Their relationship with Commanders and staffs is excellent and they meet all demands made upon them: this was highlighted during the recent Post Office industrial action when the volume of message and telephone traffic increased enormously. It has been displayed, too, during contingencies in the United Kingdom.

THE WIRE is happy to say thank you on behalf of Royal Signals for the invaluable support that they all give, whatever their employment; owing to space limitations, we show just a few (of the very many) photographed at their daily jobs.

Seldom in the limelight — they can be relied on

CIVILIAN STAFF OF 2 SIGNAL GROUP



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. **Chelsea Barracks Exchange** — **Miss Adcock, Mrs. Boggis (Supervisor), Mrs. Key, Mrs. Hart**
2. **Woolwich Arsenal Exchange** — **Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Connelly, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Nutkins (Supervisor)**
3. **York Comcen** — **Mrs. Collier, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Oldfield, Mr. Kendra, Mr. Murdie, Mrs. Kenny, Miss Markham**
4. **York Exchange** — **Miss Cade, Mrs. Blake, Mr. Wilson**
5. **Royal Herbert Hospital** — **Mr. Ward (70 years old), Mrs. Brooks**
6. **Edinburgh Exchange** — **Mrs. Hennessy, Mrs. Coghill**

A Fine Record!

Five B.E.M.s in one Squadron

We are more than pleased to record below some details of five British Empire Medals awarded in 1970 and 1971 to Corps soldiers serving or who have served in Northern Ireland, with 39 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

We can only give brief descriptions below each photo which do but slight justice to the sterling work done by these Corps soldiers.



CORPORAL JOHN ASKEW, B.E.M.

A radio operator, he commanded a rebroadcast detachment and was deployed for many months on end in isolated locations on remote hilltop sites often under extreme conditions of ice, rain, fog and gale force winds. Despite this his detachment could be completely relied on. Corporal Askew's leadership was such that notwithstanding the demands made on them his team was always characterised by a mix of cheerfulness and efficiency which overcame all problems and difficulties and which made light of personal inconvenience and discomfort



STAFF-SERGEANT PETER KINSEY, B.E.M. (left) SHAKES HANDS WITH CORPORAL (NOW SERGEANT) LOUIS SMITH, B.E.M.

Staff-Sergeant Kinsey combined the duties of technical radio supervision with that of Troop Sergeant. This included training personnel on new equipment as well as supervising operational nets and arranging the administration of isolated radio detachments. He maintained the very highest standards of technical proficiency by his own drive and leadership. He worked very long hours selflessly and far beyond the normal call of duty. As a consequence he ensured the efficiency of communications and the high morale and welfare of his soldiers

Corporal Smith was an electrician driver dealing with generators, battery charging and power supplies. He was responsible for not only 25 items of charging plant within the Squadron but also was called upon by neighbouring units to assist with their power problems, particularly battery charging. As the emergency developed his responsibilities increased and he became increasingly involved with numerous widely dispersed radio and rebroadcast sites. All this he took in his stride being on call continuously for very long periods. His rugged cheerfulness and singleminded unselfishness contributed greatly to the efficiency of communications



STAFF-SERGEANT (F. OF S.) STEVE WAUDBY, B.E.M.

By his drive and initiative he moulded his technicians into a highly skilled, dedicated and absolutely reliable repair team. Their efficiency was such that there was not one occasion when the Brigade communications suffered from faulty equipment. Frequently and for long periods he worked 20 hours a day and at times he had to be ordered to sleep. In addition to his normal tasks, as an expert, he was frequently called upon to advise others and this he willingly did often at the expense of his few hours of relaxation



STAFF-SERGEANT (NOW W.O.2) FRED LAVERICK, B.E.M.

He was Orderly Room Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant. Many soldiers passed through the Squadron on emergency tours and the increase in numbers and the turbulence brought him a multitude of administrative problems. Short of staff and with some of his clerks very inexperienced, he shouldered a heavy burden. For long periods he worked 16 hours a day seven days a week. The careful and sympathetic way he dealt with work and the problems of individuals won him a reputation for helpfulness and thoroughness. Many came to him for help and advice. He was a great source of strength to the unit in difficult times

14th Regiment find themselves in the South of France

THE Regiment normally deploys in penny packets and Exercise 'Wistful,' which took place in the South of France at Camp du Larzac, was the first occasion that a Squadron headquarters and two Troops have deployed together overseas. It was, therefore, with bated breath and perhaps some trepidation that 'Alpha' and 'Delta' Troops watched Headquarters 1 Squadron set up in the field. Below is an article entitled 'French Without Tears' which purports to highlight certain alleged incidents which took place during the exercise. The whole truth is not less vivid but quite unprintable.

The Squadron moved to France in two parties, air and road. The road move involved a Thorensen/Townsend ferry and six days' motoring through France. Nights were spent in French army barracks and it was interesting to see a foreign conscript army at close quarters. Living is very spartan by British standards and the whole atmosphere reminiscent of our training organisation in the early fifties. Regular soldiering has apparently little appeal to the average young Frenchman.

The party was shown great hospitality throughout the trip and it was gratifying to be welcomed with such genuine interest. B.A.O.R. experience accustoms most of us to the other armies and one becomes perhaps a little blasé to travelling through foreign countries. France, in fact, sees very little of the British army and from the enthusiastic waves and smiles as we drove through it became clear that for many this was a very reminiscent occasion.

The exercise itself involved establishing an SR E21 link to Cyprus and an SR D13 link to Worcester. Comcen operators from 30th Regiment manned the E21 comcen. The exercise was a success with a high degree of circuit availability being maintained throughout the 10 days.

French without tears

Lieutenant Graham Thomas writes with some feeling about Exercise 'Wistful':

It is a long way from the north to the south of France. With a large convoy it takes all of five days. If you wish to move with ease and security you should arrange an escort of two or more Gendarmes on large B.M.W. motor bikes and a couple of jeeps full of French Military Police, the circulation routiere. Then, with much whistle blowing, gallic gesticulation and blazing headlights and a vocabulary of rude French, your convoy will roll smoothly through town and village and over endless miles of dusty French roads, pausing only occasionally for 'le smoke-break.' (The French don't have a word for it!).

Le packed lunch

On the way you are advised to stay at French barracks; these are cheap and fairly efficient, if a little dusty and not too tidy. They are also noted for 'l'hospitalite' and 'l'entent cordiale' of which more later. As you set off each day you will be issued with 'le packed lunch'; this usually consists of: a tin of pâte or corned beef with garlic, some cheese, a bag of crisps, sometimes an apple or a peach and lastly, and most unusual as far as conservative British tastes are concerned, a yard of bread. This is no exaggeration as the long, thin loaves are often quite that long.

L'hospitalite

The French are noted for their hospitable natures and usually seize upon the arrival of 'le convoi Anglais' as an excuse for considerable celebration and rejoicing. This consists of much military reminiscing and swapping of badly translated jokes, and much alcoholic refreshment. British parties, it is found, quickly acquire a taste for Pernod, biere, vin rouge and even the lesser-known brandies such as Armagnac and Calvados. In fact the French usually remark that the wide range of their taste is exceeded only by the prodigiousness of their consumption. **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Dunlevy's** formidable moustache aroused much admiration wherever it went and it was the subject of so many toasts that it appeared at one stage to have taken on the distinctive hue of Pernod. It is reported that one of these sessions prompted a Frenchman to coin the nickname 'Jim le Terrible.' Although the best parties usually take place in 'Le Foyer' (the soldiers' canteen) and the Sergeants' Mess, you may find if you pass through Poitiers that the officers will be invited to take champagne with the General, and that even officers who do not usually drink alcohol can be persuaded to take a small glass. Furthermore, if you pass through Brive-le-Gaillard, you may find that certain Squadron Commanders will stay so late at dinner with 'Le Colonel' that they are obliged to climb over the gate in order to return to barracks. Also at Brive it is not unknown for a French W.O. (Adjutant Chef) to arrive in the N.C.O.s' accommodation at one in the morning waving several bottles of whisky and insisting upon drinking toasts 'Vive la France — Vive l'Angleterre' until four — or until the whisky is gone—whichever is later.

'Le hangover'

It is not necessary to learn the French for 'hangover.' **Sergeant Slavin** proved that if you walk into a 'bistro' looking sufficiently jaded they will immediately produce a large bottle of lemonade, a bucket of ice-cubes and a modicum of French sympathy.

Antennas and tanks do not mix

Upon arrival in Larzac you may find that you are required to set up your station on the rifle range. If you do so, be sure to warn other regiments in the camp who have tanks and FV432s. These consider the rifle range their personal playground and as 80ft. masts are not tank-proof the results can be expensive and embarrassing. A certain **Corporal Watson** is reputed to have frightened a tank away from his transmitter cabin by waving his arms at it, but a much more efficacious method is to point out to tank crews that there is 1 KW zonking out of those wires and 7½ KW zipping up and down these wires and they trespass at their own risk. Donkey wallopers have a great respect for kilowatts.

The moral climate

It is known that the French have less strict views than the English on certain matters of propriety, and thus when it was discovered that there was a nudist beach not far from the beach camp certain members are known to have decided that they should investigate this gallic idiosyncrasy. They went about it in a very military fashion so that reports filtered back of an assaut landing by sea from a pedalo (pedal boat to you). At this stage we draw a veil over further proceedings.

Here is the weather forecast . . .

When you arrive in Larzac beware of the strong gusty winds which blow from time to time. If you do not, you may find, like **Corporal Dorling,** that your 80ft. mast is in imminent danger of falling over. If you have as much courage and presence of mind as **Corporal Dorling** you will rush out and hang on to a flailing guy rope until help arrives. On the other hand you might think discretion the better part of valour.

A new game

If you mount a large exercise in France with more than one Troop participating you may find that your Squadron H.Q. will decide to accompany you. This provides a splendid opportunity to play a new game known as 'Moving the Squadron Office.' The players are: A Squadron Commander, an Admin. Officer, a Sergeant Major and a number of soldiers commanded by an N.C.O. To start the game the Squadron Commander should pace about, then say, "Put the Squadron Office here." The Admin. Officer relays this instruction to the N.C.O. who directs his men to put up the tent and erect the flag pole in

front of it. At this stage the Sergeant Major should intervene with orders that the office be moved over there. The N.C.O. and his men should craftily leave the flag pole where it is, and move the office as directed. At this stage this Squadron Commander should reappear and say, "On second thoughts perhaps over here would be better." Quickly relayed by the Admin. Officer this decision initiates another move of the tent. The Sergeant Major should now return as all players are by now getting the hang of the game. The ultimate aim is, of course, to get the tent to describe as large a circle as possible before returning to its final position in front of the flagpole. At this point it is perhaps relevant to note that we have proof that it is quite possible for an Admin. Officer to sustain the whole of a long exercise in France without once falling off his puttees.

Did they know we were coming?

It is the consensus of opinion that the French probably were forewarned of our arrival. Except for one or two exceptions they had certainly locked up their daughters before we got there. What do you do on a five-day convoy if you can't enjoy a little 'totty-spotting.'

Underestimating the opposition

It is felt that a warning to Foremen of Signals is apt in the light of recent experience. Be very wary of promising your Troop a barrel of beer for a day with over 90% traffic time on circuit. They may surprise you. Also a warning to Troop Staff Sergeants—Don't think they can't do it two days running. They can!



INDOOR WORKERS
Lance-Corporal "Lover" Lewis and Signalman Chris Whitehead look very technical



EXERCISE WISTFUL—OUTDOOR WORKERS
Lance-Corporal Geordie Richardson and Signalman Stuart Bland as combat powermen exude an air of quiet confidence



. . . AND THOSE – WHOSE WORK IS DONE
Lieutenant Graham Thomas and Sergeant Dave Diamond exchange reminiscences

Individual 'Wire' Subscribers

We enclose for the third month running a loose insert in red print in respect of increased subscriptions to 'The Wire.' If you have not already sent one in, will you please do so NOW! This simple act will be of the utmost help to our hard-pressed accounts staff.

Corps Diaries 1972

We have sold over 1,000 but have a fair stock left. 1972 draws near and you will want a new diary. The diary itself is of the slimfold type identical with the 1971 diary which proved so popular. They cost 30p each post free. Write now to Association Headquarters to ensure you receive your 1972 diary.

HOME OWNERSHIP ASSURED

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier YOU start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a home for your family. ASK OUR ADVICE NOW. When writing please provide the following information: (1) Date of birth; (2) Price of House; (3) Loan required; (4) Date of intended purchase; (5) Details of life policies held; (6) Other details you consider will assist.

OUR SERVICE ADVISORY BUREAU is also available to give specialised advice to Members of H.M. Forces on all Assurance, Insurance and Mortgage matters. For full details of the advice we offer, please telephone or write in confidence to:

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. B. JOHNS, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

Teleprinter Maintenance Technician

The Cable and Wireless Group of Companies, leader in the field of global telecommunications operations, has vacancies for Teleprinter Maintenance Technicians to work in its expanding Service Centres, throughout England.

Applicants should hold a current clean UK driving licence and have good practical experience of 5-unit telegraph machines including maintenance, trouble shooting and installation work. They should also be experienced in the use of Test equipment such as TDMS and Oscilloscopes, and be capable of following and understanding electrical/electronic circuits employing relay logic.

If you have suitable experience and are looking for secure pensionable employment in an expanding organisation, write for application form giving brief details of experience, age and present salary to:–

The Personnel Officer (Recruitment),
Dept. A291/565,
Cable and Wireless Limited,
Mercury House, Theobalds Road,
LONDON, WC1X 8RX.
Telephone:– 01-242 4433 Extension 211.

CABLE AND WIRELESS
WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS



ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

TIES		Crested Tankards	£3·50 / £4·50
Silk	£1·50	Silk Blazer Badges	£0·85
Terylene/Crimplene	£0·90	Gold Wire Blazer Badges	£3·00
Crested Terylene	£1·35	Wall Shields	£2·00
REME Institute Ties	£1·35	Car Badges	£2·10
Crested Cuff Links	£3·50		

Items made to your own design (by quotation)

U.K. Post Free Overseas Post Ties/Badges 10p
Other items 25p

Sharps 17 GABRIELS HILL
MAIDSTONE 56666/7

Reflections on Annual Camp

(This contribution, which comes from the 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), was prompted by an open letter in the winter, 1963, Journal, addressed to a regular officer posted to the T.A. as Adjutant.—Editor).

"A Reserve Army camp is like i'licit love— to be anticipated with relish, experienced with inconvenience and remembered with nostalgia." (Colonel Shrimpton in a lecture on the Reserve Army, 1962).

IT is hoped that this article will give those readers who have never served with the Reserve Army some idea of what does and doesn't go on at that yearly assembly, and awaken happy memories for those who have.

Camp happens around a number of events. The emphasis varies from year to year and unit to unit, but without them it would lose its essential character.

Conscience presents

There must be an opportunity to go shopping—some say for conscience presents for the wife. This depends where the unit is camping and the chances to misbehave offered by local distractions. Some people like the S.T.C. at Scarborough; others who have spent a number of camps there have been heard to utter a sigh of relief when another location was mooted . . .

The social side

The all ranks' dance. Now that nearly all Signals T.A.V.R. units are mixed, there aren't too many problems about partners, particularly if those concerned with recruiting have an eye for beauty. Some C.O.s consider it one of the Padre's duties to find additional partners (welfare) — one Padre this year declined, on the grounds that there was quite enough sin already without his condoning it by producing local talent. After camp he was promoted 'Major'—virtue rewarded?

The Sergeants' mess always hold a function and invite a number of the officers to join them. It is usually extremely well conducted whilst the officer guests are present, but we're not sure what happens later on. Then the Sergeants visit the Officers' mess, or vice versa; officially this is a lunchtime session, but programmed so that it can continue until after midnight if required. Not unlike its Regular equivalent, but less inhibited given the opportunity.

There are also Officers' mess functions, of course, including a guest night. The officers have a capacity to 'play games' second only to the Parachute Regiment in endurance, the aim being not to go to bed at all on at least one night during camp. Water is an essential ingredient for many, particularly when kilts are worn. One sure way of encouraging senior officers to leave the field of action is to start (gently) with soda syphons. R.H.Q. is inevitably called upon to defend their good name. Tips for the unitiated — don't join in individual bouts such as cockfighting until the keenest participants have worn themselves out in the early rounds. A degree of gamesmanship and a certain seniority may be necessary to achieve this. Don't allow your forces to be dissipated by individuals claiming they had had a heavy night previously and applying for exemption. N.B.—Remember to pull out the W.R.A.C. before you start, otherwise there will inevitably be complications of one sort or another. Whether sunglasses are permitted the next day depends on the state of R.H.Q. and not the weather.

On parade

The Regimental parade can be an important event. Units have been known to give individuals the option of going on it or spectating—perhaps because of bad planning, with the parade being held the morning after the all ranks' dance and the fear that some individuals wouldn't last the course. A parade is a popular feature, particularly if the Regiment has pipes and drums or a band to enliven proceedings. Individuals who have difficulty in marching, by a strange quirk of fate (or perhaps S.S.M.'s foresight), usually seem to be peeling potatoes or performing some other thankless task when parades are being held.

Sometimes the Padre takes over at the end, for a Drumhead Service. One this year chose to open his address with a reference to Bernadette Devlin and her (at that time) imminent motherhood — this was guaranteed to catch the attention of his mixed Irish and Scottish audience. The Padre too is a volunteer and so only sees his flock at camp—however such occasions do perhaps produce for him a somewhat larger congregation than he may expect on most of the other fifty weeks in the year.

Visitors

All volunteer units need the support of commanders and staffs, and the various Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations and so 'welcome' visits from them during camp. Whenever possible, they are invited on a specified visitors day which may include a lunch, cocktail party or other such function. In the past, many units regarded this as the event of camp with quarter guard being mounted to greet the most eminent guests. Times have changed, and there is rarely time now for such niceties.

The Q.M. comes into his own

Then there is the day when the Quartermasters take their staff out for lunch, eagerly watched for by the knowledgeable; many problems are pended for sorting out later on this particular day. Their absence from the scene makes everyone realise how indispensable they are, for inevitably things go wrong whilst they are celebrating and no one knows the antidote.

M.O.s are personalities

And every Regiment has its M.O. who frequently is a personality—such as one who had an aversion to getting wet in Officers' Mess activities and used to pursue the offender with a pair of pointed scissors. Fortunately at that stage of the evening his speed was always 'dead slow' so the scissors never found their target.

Honorary Colonels need handling

For those readers with a tidy mind, an explanation must be given of the member of the Regiment who appears to command it but isn't the C.O., who is dressed as a Colonel yet perhaps addressed as 'General.' He is the Regiment's Honorary Colonel — an appointment peculiar to the T.A.V.R. and a person clearly to be treated with respect. He will normally have served as a Regular or Volunteer in the Armed Forces, probably retiring as a senior officer. He will consider it his prerogative not to be over-organised and will always make a point of talking to everyone, particularly soldiers on onerous duties. The uncontrollable Honorary Colonel can usually be recognised because the C.O. or other senior R.H.Q. officer will be fully occupied trying to maintain some control over his activities!

Communicating

What else happens during camp depends on the individual unit and its mobilisation task. Every unit takes part in a major communications exercise once every two or three years in its N.A.T.O., B.A.O.R. or U.K.L.F. role as applicable. The intervening camps will be spent on individual and collective training in much the same cycle as in a Regular unit, except that the Volunteers have to train their own recruits. How effective is this training and the exercises which are their culmination?—very effective, particularly after two or three days when men (and girls) and equipment have had a chance to settle down in the job. And all this is achieved with an average of 24 days' training other than annual camp each year, which also has to include firing their annual range course and administrative commitments.

To sum up

If you, a Regular, were posted to a T. & A.V.R. unit would you enjoy it? The majority do, but it does require you to be adaptable. The work load on Permanent Staff Instructors (P.S.I.s) and time off varies from unit to unit. Those who are motivated don't seem to worry too much about the amount of time off as long as their families are settled and happy. I've enjoyed my tour with the T. &. A.V.R. and found it very worthwhile. Should you be posted to the T. & A.V.R., I hope you will enjoy it too. And for those readers who are leaving the Service and like the life, have you thought of continuing in the Corps as a Volunteer?

Soldiers of 18th Regiment take on Guerrilla Role

A last Jungle Exercise in Singapore

By Lieutenant John MacLean

40 Commando's last exercise in this theatre was marked by the provision of a particularly vicious guerrilla enemy, hard Communists to the core, with several days' growth of beard and distinguishable by their black O.G. uniforms. It fell to the lot of 18th Regiment (afterwards discovered to have been 'volunteered' by **Lieutenant John MacLean**) to provide part of this sizeable enemy force, to lay up in the jungle in an area about 20 miles to the west of Mersing and conduct terrorist operations which 40 Commando's exercise was designed to stop.

A 25-foot leap down

Shortly after dawn, 15 of us took off in two Wessex, to be dropped off at an L.S. in fairly virgin jungle. Unfortunately the site was barely suitable owing to a tight perimeter of large trees and we found ourselves leaping from about 25 feet—the pilots not being prepared to endanger themselves any more than the risk they were already taking—but our only injury was **Signalman Brian Gilmartin** who contrived to stick the spike of a trip flare stake well and truly into his forearm.



DROPPED INTO THE JUNGLE
Jumping the last 25 feet is Lance-Corporal Tommy Wilkinson with Signalman Jim Pegran in the foreground

Rounded up

The enemy in Company strength in our area landed two days later, having sent in a recce force previously that had failed to locate our Basha ('training camp') area. We were then hunted unmercifully especially as **Corporal Les Eagles** had done a particularly useful job in duffing up their landing. The distinction of first to be captured went to **Lance-Corporal Brian Coombes** and **Corporal Keith Wolstencroft** who were discovered eavesdropping at the Company H.Q. I regret that **Lieutenant John Barry** and his Company proved to be too great a match for us and after many diversionary tactics, including planting of false information and raiding a bridge in the process of construction by their assault engineers, our camp was stumbled upon and the occupants in it at the time were rounded up. **Sergeant Brian Alway** and **'Chief Comrade' MacLean** (no relation to **Burgess'** partner—Security please note) returned to their seemingly peaceful basha area and a trap. For misplacing his fist in the direction of the chin of one of his captors our comrade got the handcuff treatment and found himself laying face down on a mud and grit path at Commando H.Q. for some time!

Three daring terrorists

The exploits of **Corporal Peter White** with **Signalmen Jim Dear** and **Jim Carter** would cover a book in itself in that they evaded capture with the help of a private car, stole an F.F.R. Rover gaining complete Signal instructions which were immediately put to good use, raided 40 Commando ammunition dump on Mersing airstrip to replenish their own supplies, and took part in being on the receiving end of the final full Commando attack at Red Star, the guerrilla main base, no doubt all of them dying a terrorist hero's death!

A defector in our midst!

Meanwhile (back in the Ulu!) the remainder were inserted into another Company area to carry on the fight. This Company happened to have camped in a particularly foul part of jungle and we suffered from numerous leech and midge bites. However, we attacked Company H.Q. at night and presumably from the hot reception we received **Signalman Jim Pegram** was encouraged to pack his kit, slip quietly away at dawn and defect to the enemy. There he gave away all our secrets and we were completely wiped out by a well-placed ambush as we moved to set up another camp.

Thus ended an action-packed exercise, but we all certainly learned a bit more jungle lore and discovered the 'lot' of 'Freedom Fighters' when manoeuvring against extremely adept and experienced security forces of 40 Commando R.M.

Any amount of game

Of interest to the naturalist may be the time when we were patrolling a remote and undisturbed area which fairly hummed with game and, indeed, most of us expected to face a tiger or elephant at every turn! We happened to disturb somewhere in the order of several 'thousand' flying foxes.

An almost prehistoric, bat-like creature with a wing span of about four feet, they flew up like rooks from a rookery so that looking up between the foliage the sky appeared quite dark. The Singapore natural historians have confirmed that this is now a rare occurrence and expressed some interest in our report.

OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

Why not contact

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

THE Specialist Employment Bureau for Telex, Teleprinter and Telephone Operators where you are assured of a welcome and free advice and guidance on career prospects in the commercial world.

THE THREE TEES TRAINING SCHOOL has the full range of Telex and Teleprinter machines and Commercial Telephone Boards and offers free tuition to those seeking employment, both Permanent and Temporary.

Call, write or phone:

110 Fleet St., London, E.C.4. (01-353 3611)
124 Regent St., London, W.1. (01-734 0365)
20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)

3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, Bulford

THIS month the Regiment was engaged in various activities, nearly all strenuous, as we shook off the last of the suntans acquired on leave and started into a month notable for its military character.

Summer camp

The Regiment sent 257 of its members to Willsworthy Camp on Dartmoor. The weather varied from thick mists to brilliant sunshine, but the training continued unchanged. As part of this training **Lance-Corporal Trevor Stuart,** the canoeing instructor, endeavoured to impart some basic watermanship skills to soldiers who were continually being distracted by bikini-clad spectators. At the same time various other groups were hill climbing, cycle racing or taking part in an escape and evasion exercise organised by **Major Dick Johnson,** commanding 2 Squadron. Tuesday, 7th September, was an 'At Home' day and as if in response to advertisements in the local press, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs,** and **R.S.M. R. J. Judge** arrived. They found themselves entered for a night map-reading exercise and as darkness came they started ascending Hare Tor before they made a quick gallop down to the River Tavy. Praise must be given to **W.O.2 A. O'Neill,** A.P.T.C., who as a member of their party managed to find every hole and boggy marsh. The G.O.C., **Major-General G. C. A. Gilbert, M.C.,** visited the camp next day and though time did not allow him to visit all the training that was going on, he was given a good demonstration of how we keep our soldiers fit.

During the camp, visits were made in off-duty hours, to Bude, Paignton, Torquay and Plymouth, as well as various beach parties. Certain people, unnamed as yet, forgot that when the tide goes out it also comes back in and the Bedford 4-tonner that one group was using was soon masquerading as a submarine, under an unusually high tide. The combined efforts of two divers, a beach Recovery Tank, a D.U.K.W. and the Amphibious Experimental Establishment eventually returned it to its rightful role.

Exercise 'Roaming Wire'

"Let's have a communications exercise," "Let's go out without the staff." The cry echoed down from the 'Corridors of Power' and the Regiment launched itself onto Salisbury Plain where the Commanding Officer, to quote his own debrief, moved us with gusto. Every conceivable variation in our communications were tried and achieved eventually. As well as this, C.B. suits were broken out of wrappers, trenches were dug and respirators donned hastily as **Captain Ken Kennedy** gaily moved around locations liberally dispersing gas in all directions.

Cambrian Marches

Second-Lieutenant John Cook has been marching again. Having volunteered to lead the Regiment's team in the Cambrian Marches, he started training on the relatively soft areas of the plain, then he and his team disappeared for two weeks into the Lake District prior to taking part in the marches. After all the training it was bad luck when **Signalman Julius Munroe** sprained his ankle on the last day's training and he was unable to take part in the competition. Bad luck continued as **Signalman 'Jonah Jones'** had to drop out with a malfunctioning foot, but the team continued undaunted. **Signalman Al Parry** carried the A41 throughout the marches much to the relief of everyone else. There were amusing moments, such as on the river crossing when the team found a ford which allowed them to cross with the water no deeper than waist high. All the team, that is, except for **Signalman 'Geordie' Kerr** who had been facing towards the rear as last man in the patrol. Seeing the others on the far bank, wet only from the waist down, he fearlessly dashed into the river only to miss the ford by a good few feet. The most welcome sight of all though, was at the end of the four days when the Commanding Officer appeared with the beer.



TRAINING ON HELVELLYN

Members of the team rest after an early morning start. Sergeant John Barrowman, Corporal Tony Paines, Lance-Corporal Bob Finch and Signalmen Al Parry, Geordie Kerr, Jonah Jones, Ginge Singleton and Graham Watts

Sergeants' Mess notes

R.S.M. R. J. Judge reports that this month the Mess dined-in **Colonel C. B. Pollard** (Colonel G.S.) and the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs. Sergeant G. R. White,** who performed the duties of 'Mr. Vice,' made a first class job of it apparently and will never forget it. (The writer has enquired diligently amongst members of the Sergeants' Mess for an explanation for this statement, but has unfortunately failed. However he has been assured that the incident will soon be well known throughout the Corps). The evening went well and thanks are extended to all who worked so hard for this occasion.

LONDON

Telecommunications Engineer

(International Systems Planning)

Cable and Wireless is an international Company specialising in the engineering and operation of radio, cable, satellite earth station, telephone and computerised systems in some 53 countries.

A Systems Planning Engineer is required to investigate the operational significance of new types of systems and methods of working as related to international public service systems, and to assist in the preparation of systems plans. He would be based in central London.

Applicants should have passed at least City and Guilds 'C' level exams in Telecommunications, or HNC (Electronics) and must have an engineering background which includes several years experience of one or more of the following:– 1). Telephone or Telex switching. 2). High speed data. 3). Wideband transmission systems. 4). Communications satellite earth stations.

Salary £2,070 a year on career scale. 5 day, 36-hour week. Staff Restaurant. Contributory Pension Fund.

Write for application form to:–

Personnel Officer (Recruitment), Dept. A283/553, Cable and Wireless Limited, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8RX.

CABLE AND WIRELESS
WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

AFTER our contribution to the May/June issue we decided to give the hard-worked Editor a rest for a few months. But his holiday is now finished. (The Editor never has a holiday.—Editor).

Are you sitting comfortably (to attention)? Then I'll begin.



EXERCISE 'FOREFRONT VI'

A Signals operations trio — the Second-in-Command (Major O'Connor), the S.O.2 (Major Anthonisz), the T.O.T. (Captain Kimber)



EXERCISE 'FOREFRONT VI'

Native tea ceremony in Radio Village—Lance-Corporal Mullin, Yeoman Baker and S.S.M. Driver

Flattering comments

Of course, we've done all the usual sorts of training, culminating in the Divisional FTX, 'Forefront' by name. After CPXs, where the rate of movement is limited only by the ability of the staff to unroll fresh map-sheets, the FTX was almost dull. With real tanks, guns, A.P.C.s and bridging cluttering up the roads, our own movements became very gentlemanly. The communications worked very well indeed, and earned us some flattering comments from the G.O.C. downwards.

Probably the largest armoured parade since the war

To end these notes we will report our involvement in one particularly memorable event — the armoured review after Exercise 'Forefront VI.' At the end of that exercise over 500 tracked vehicles, including our Tac H.Q. FV432s, assembled on the Sennelager ranges to be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief B.A.O.R. It was a tremendous sight (and sound) as, for three hours, two brigade and divisional troops plus a German Panzer Regiment (equivalent to a brigade) and a Danish contingent received the C.-in-C. with a series of General Salutes, and then drove past. We were proud to be represented in what was probably the largest armoured parade since the Second World War—at least on this side of the Iron Curtain. It was also noteworthy that two of our Royal Signals subalterns (**Lieutenant Heath** and **Second-Lieutenant Reid**) were appointed crew commanders of German A.P.C.s bearing German Generals, for the duration of the parade. A rare distinction indeed!

Our canoeists going strong

We have done a good deal of canoeing. By running a small camp on the Weser for almost every weekend throughout the summer we have now got an enthusiastic and well-qualified group of canoeists, including five instructors—no mean feat. For 10 days in July we ran an intensive training camp, and this paid-off when we won the B.A.O.R. Sprint (junior class) at Silberhutte. We now reckon we have easily the best selection of canoes and kit in Royal Signals in B.A.O.R.—so if you are interested, why not join us for your next tour? Our current stars, largely trained here, are **Signalmen Gainsborough, Fitzsimmons** and **Green.**

In another sport—Trampoline—we are proud to report that two of our men distinguished themselves in the B.A.O.R. Championships. **Driver Brimson** took second place in the Individuals, and he and **Lance-Corporal McSween** were selected to represent B.A.O.R. in the Army Championships (since regrettably cancelled).

In July we also found time to run a tremendously successful fête for British and German charities. A number of local civic dignitaries attended and the show got a big write-up in the German press.

Coming and going

Arrivals and departures have of course been numerous, in five months. We have said goodbye to **Major Freddie Stork,** our Training Major, and welcomed in his place **Major Simms-Reeve. Major (Q.M.) T. P. O'Connor,** our Q.M. (Tech.), has been replaced by **Captain (Q.M.) J. Turner. Captain W. G. Green,** our R.C.T. M.T.O., has been replaced by **Captain D. Griffin. Lieutenant J. Bingham** and **Second-Lieutenant C. Harper** have left for Shrivenham and Cambridge respectively; while **Second-Lieutenant M. Reid** and **Lieutenant J. Simpson** have arrived in their place (the latter to disappear almost immediately to Blandford on a long course). **Lieutenant E. Sambell** has also said "Hallo-goodbye" en route to Blandford, and is, in theory anyway, on strength.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September, 1971:

	£ p
Commandant, The Royal School of Artillery	20.00
Station Staff Officer, Antwerp	15.00
Hon. Secretary Birmingham Branch Royal Signals Assoc.	5.00
Mr. T. F. Dunkley	1.00
Mr. G. D. Webster	75
Captain B. T. Lord	58
Mr. W. H. Hobby	50
Mr. A. S. Crocker	22
Total ...	£43.05



7th REGIMENT PARASHOT TEAM — RUNNERS-UP DAILY TELEGRAPH CUP

Left to right: Corporal Randerson, Corporal Robertson, Casper, guest jumper, Second-Lieutenant Robinson, Signalman Harris

7th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15

SEPTEMBER has, as always, been a hectic month. Exercises 'Eternal Triangle,' 'May Fly,' 'Northern Signal,' 'Crested Grebe,' 'Bronze Prince' and 'Snipe Song' have come and gone and if that sounds like a lot of work, rest assured it was. Particularly as, for a time, five of them were running simultaneously! Also in the month we have contrived to fit in a rugby tour to U.K. and a visit to the Regiment by a party of 20 schoolboys from Luton.

One of the happiest events of the month was the marriage of **Signalman Robert McGibbon** of 1 Squadron to **Patricia Mary Shevlin** in the Garrison Roman Catholic Church on 4th September. **Patricia** is one of those gorgeous telephone girls of Bielefeld Military Exchange, and how **Signalman McGibbon** managed to win one where so many others have failed is a secret he is not prepared to share! We wish them both every happiness.

EXERCISE 'PARASHOT'

Preliminary training

Although only one member of the team remained from last year, it was decided to 'have a go' at retaining the *Daily Telegraph* Trophy and also at capturing the Rothmans Trophy. **Second-Lieutenant Tony Robinson,** the team leader, and **Corporal Don Robertson,** the one remaining 'expert' from last year, took the task in hand. The other members of the team were **Corporal 'Randy' Randerson** and **Signalman 'Scouse' Harris** with **Second-Lieutenant Nick Mansfield** as reserve. Our team had done a fair amount of pre-exercise fitness training. They were given demolition instruction by **Corporal McKeen,** of the Regiment's Corps Lighting Troop R.E., and medical lectures and assistance by **Sergeant Marshall** and staff of the M.I. room. Free-fall experience was lacking, so the team went down to the Rhine Army Parachute Association's Centre at Bad Lippspringe over the August Bank Holiday period where three very frustrating days were spent 'hanging on' for the weather to clear.

The Rothman Trophy and we make third place

As only a couple of practice jumps were managed in training, we knew that we would have to make up points in the patrolling sections of the *Daily Telegraph* Trophy. Also we decided to use outside help in spotting the DZ, for which we forfeited 20 points. However, we still managed to make third place in the parachuting accuracy, 40 Heavy Regiment R.A. being the winners.

The 'Daily Telegraph' Cup—final result second overall

The patrolling was divided into sections. Parachuting, which included aircraft drills, style on leaving the aircraft, canopy handling, and DZ clearance. Here fitness told as we were the fastest team down and clear of the DZ. Patrolling, where we upset the 'applecart' by ambushing the ambush party who were waiting for us. Next came map reading, a demolition task in a closely guarded radar site, and an 'evacuation' where we 'ran' to a LZ and summoned two helicopters by radio whilst treating a medical casualty who had some horrifyingly realistic-looking 'wounds.' The team then emplaned in the

two Scouts and the team leader navigated them to a SMG range where various practices were fired.

We all waited on tenterhooks for the results—second place to 40 Heavy Regiment R.A.! Well done to 40 Heavy Regiment, but watch it for next year, we're after that Cup again.

Berlin Motor Cycle Trials

This year the Regiment was represented at the Berlin Motor Cycle Trials by two teams, consisting of the 'Old Stagers,' **Sergeant Vic Jinks, Corporal Harry Bishop, Corporal Mick Corrigan** (R.E.M.E.) and newcomers **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Donovan, Signalman 'Aussie' Davey** and **Second-Lieutenant Bob Hussey.**

The Berlin Motor Cycle Trial is well known to B.A.O.R. motor cyclists for its unusual nature, due to the restrictions placed upon the organisers by the urban surroundings. The competition started with a 15-mile map-reading course through the cobbled streets of Berlin against the clock. Perhaps it was no coincidence that it also happened to be the Berlin 'Safety Week' and the Military Police were out in force with their speed traps! Following this came the cross-country circuit, a tortuous four miles of deep sand that required every ounce of stamina and concentration from the riders. Then the final section . . . the hazards. These are specially selected obstacles for the competitors to negotiate, without 'dabbing' or putting a foot on the ground. All one can say of this section is that it is aptly named.

Our teams were hampered from the start with some bad luck with their machines, and it was to everyone's amusement when **Second-Lieutenant Bob Hussey** had to retire after his engine had seized on the cross-country section causing him to leave his machine and give a fair imitation of a jumbo jet attempting a wheels-up landing! However, the 'A' team went to to come 4th against pretty stiff opposition and **Corporal Mick Corrigan** was distinguished by coming second in the individual novice competition.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Double tops

A PLEASANT surprise for the Regiment on 23rd September when, at short notice, we received a visit from **Major-General A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.,** in the morning and from **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** S.O.-in-C., in the afternoon. **Major-General Woodrow** met the personalities of the Regiment and was then taken on a tour which included a visit to the Junior Signalman Troop. Speaking to each member of the Troop, **Major-General Woodrow** was able to see how the training of these young Signalmen is progressing. Certainly the answers he received to his questions showed the juniors to be happy and confident.

The visit of the S.O.-in-C. really started the previous day when at Darlington railway station **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** gave a lift to a young civilian looking for 11th Regiment. Delivered to the Regiment this young man, now known as **Junior Signalman Hinchcliffe,** was quite pleased that 'a Signals Officer' had given him a lift! Next day we told him who the officer was! Touring the Regiment **General Pentreath** visited the activity centres enjoyed by the juniors (these include canoe building and model making), and talked with the juniors or Junior and Intermediate Divisions (85 in all), before returning to R.H.Q.

Major-General Pentreath has visited 11th Regiment many times during his present appointment; this was, however, the first time he had seen the new Junior Signalman Troop in action. He appeared satisfied with the way this new source of recruits is developing.

In keeping with custom **Major-General Pentreath** had agreed to plant a tree at the entrance to Helles Barracks. This ceremony completed the General's visit.

Pass-off parades

Having completed their training on 3rd September No. 7 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant Alan Kennedy,** passed off. Best recruits of the two sections were **Signalman J. Smith** and **Signalman R. Niblock.** The inspecting officer was **Major-General R. M. Somerville, O.B.E.,** G.O.C. Yorkshire District. Fourteen days later, on 17th September, **Major-General G. T. A. Armitage, C.B.E.,** took the salute at the pass-off parade of



PASS OFF PARADE

Major-General R. M. Somerville, O.B.E., G.O.C. Yorkshire District, inspects members of 7 Troop on their Pass Off Parade 3rd September 1971. In the front of the photograph, Lieutenant A. Kennedy

No. 1 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant Steve Galpin.** Best recruit was **Signalman W. Cowie.** These recruits have now completed their leave and adventure training and now join 8th Regiment for their trade courses.

Sport

The winter season's sport has started well, with the soccer team winning against the King's Division 3-2. The rugby team have not lost a game out of their last five. The hockey team won their game against H.M.S. *Bristol.* As the season continues we hope to keep producing this type of result for the Regiment.

Farewell and welcome

Farewell to **Lieutenants T. G. B. Fish, S. D. Galpin, N. C. Fairley, A. T. B. Kimber, Sergeant Anderson** and **Corporal Cockett** and best wishes in their respective postings, also to Corps golfer **Signalman Carveth.**

Welcome to **Lieutenant Brian Chubb** (hockey team note), **Lance-Corporal Smith** and **Lance-Corporal Morris,** now settled in the Regiment.

Congratulations to **Lieutenant Alan Kennedy** and his wife, **Ann,** on the birth of their daughter.

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

The social scene

WITH the summer holidays only a memory and suntans already beginning to fade, the Regiment realised with the issue of the winter Regimental training programme that the holiday season was indeed at an end, and that B.E. tests now take pride of place. On the social scene, a most exciting sports quiz took place in the Border Inn when **Corporal Fred Irvine** retained his title for the second time. The runner-up was **Corporal Ralph Gwatkin** who was only one point behind the champion. The other finalists were **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' McCluskey, Corporal Tom Marshall** and **Corporal Alan Meir.** The Theatre Club are busily rehearsing for the Christmas Revue under the direction of **W.O.2 Dennis Connell.** Several of last year's cast have left the Regiment, but judging from the numbers attending the rehearsals the Regiment still has plenty of talent.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the Sergeants' Mess summer ball when the members and their ladies entertained the officers of the Regiment and their ladies. The evening was a complete success with non-stop dancing from nine 'til two with two bands on the stage. During the evening **S.S.M. John Jones** won an antique brass kettle in the raffle. The R.S.M. thought that a certain guest had won the kettle and so asked if he would be prepared to donate the kettle to add to the decor of Ye Olde Worlde Bar built by the Mess members. The guest was pleased to do so and the kettle now hangs in the bar inscribed, "Won by **S.S.M. Jones** and presented by **Major Swan.**"

Visits

The Regiment was honoured by a visit of the **Master of Signals and Mrs. Bradley** on 23rd September, and the details of the visit are reported elsewhere. Another welcome visit during the month was an informal one by the Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier G. E. Bavin.**

Gliding — a success story

Our gliding activity began in earnest this year when, as part of an adventure/initiative training scheme, **Sergeant John Lawless** took a group consisting of **Sergeant Angus MacRae, Corporal Jim Millar, Lance-Corporal John McLuskie** and **Signalman Bill Owens** on a gliding course; their aim was to learn to fly a glider in one week. This meant a hectic pace, and the 'gliding day' lasted from 08.00 hours to 21.00 hours non stop. Towards the end, the students were put through their paces in no uncertain manner when the instructors put the gliders into stalls, spins and other emergency situations. All the students survived and **Sergeants John Lawless, Angus MacRae** and **Signalman Bill Owens** emerged with their A.B. Solo Flying Certificate. Meanwhile, in the background, **Corporal Ralph Gwatkin** was getting stuck-in. He had been detailed one week-end in July to drive a party of gliding enthusiasts to Laarbruch. **Sergeant John Lawless** responded to the **Gwatkin** 'tick' en route by telling him all about gliding. As a result **Corporal Gwatkin** joined the Gliding Club and took to the air for the first time on 31st July. Every weekend thereafter he could be found gliding (second cloud on the left) and rapidly became proficient. On 19th September he passed the tests to get his A.B. Certificate, and now has his eye on further qualifications. At a cost of about £14, **Corporal Gwatkin** achieved a very creditable standard of gliding in an extremely short period.

Sergeants' Mess

As mentioned above the highlight of our month was our summer ball which was held on 4th September. Our thanks to the P.M.C. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Dennis Connell,** the P.E.C. **Staff Sergeant George Cox** and the committee for a wonderful evening. The Christmas draw is now well under way, with **W.O.2 Tom Cooper** and his team accosting members most evenings of the week. If their persistence is anything to go by, it should be a bumper draw.

Earlier this month we heard a cough, a splutter and then silence. A car door banged and into the bar walked a travel-weary gentleman who, after formal greetings, cried, "Gin and tonic old boy." The new arrival was none other than **W.O.2 Peter Jones** returning on posting after an absence of three years in U.K. Some members actually recognised the car, now sounding like a cross between a sewing machine and Concorde, even before it came to a halt. It is said that he taxed the resources of the A.A., R.A.C., Touring Club de Belgique and A.D.A.C. in getting across Europe. However, he arrived in one piece and we welcome him and his wife **Joy,** who followed him later in the month, back to the Mess.

We have quite a number of young Sergeants in the Mess and this month we are pleased to add to our list **Sergeants Barnett, Collins, Rowntree** and **Smee,** and congratulate them on their promotion.

The Sergeants' Mess also provided the setting for the final departure from the Regiment of **S.Q.M.S. Jim Goodridge** and **Sergeant Jim Smart. Staff Sergeant Goodridge** is leaving the Army after 22 years' service and **Sergeant Smart** is spending his last six months of service in Catterick prior to release. **R.S.M. Eric Filder** presented both members with a farewell gift from the Mess and wished them well in their second careers.

Photo of Officers and Sergeants — 1 Special Wire Regiment, 1947

We regret that owing to an unfortunate layout of names as received here, individuals were incorrectly designated in the above photo on page 405 of the October/November 'Wire.' Correct details of individuals should read:

Standing (l. to r.): Sergeant P. Eccles, Sergeant Frank Holford, Intelligence Corps, Captain Tom Graggs, 5th, 6th and 7th Intelligence Corps, Sergeant George Hutton, C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Johnny Harwood (now Major (T.O.T.)), Sergeant Frank Shaw, Sergeant Jimmy Flooks.

Seated (l. to r.): Major J. H. Smith (ex-Boy), R.Q.M.S. L. V. Stratton (ex-Boy), Major J. McD Glass, Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. (Sammy) Barton, O.B.E., C.S.M. J. F. McQuade (ex-Boy), Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. (Ted) Bradbury, C.Q.M.S. H. (Paddy) Ramsden.

14th Signal Regiment
Worcester

Under new management

AFTER over two-and-a-half years in command **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker** handed over to **Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Ward** on 23rd September. **Lieutenant-Colonel Baker** took command in January, 1969, shortly after the Regiment had moved from Gloucester to Norton Barracks, Worcester. The past two-and-a-half years have seen the Regiment become well established in, and impart fresh character to, the 100-year-old barracks. Strong local ties have also been established with Norton village and the City of Worcester. On the business side, the Regiment in its Force Rear Link role has been able to perpetuate the Corps expertise as professional long-haul communicators.



[Courtesy Berrows Newspapers

SIGN HERE!
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker (*standing*) signing the regiment over to Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Ward

In welcoming our new Commanding Officer we were relieved and pleased to note that his lineage is such that he can maintain the custom of having C.O.s who bring their own armorial bearings. For convenience these are displayed on the R.H.Q. privy door as below:

During the Commanding Officer's dining out by the

ARMORIAL BEARINGS CO'S PAST AND PRESENT 14TH SIGNAL REGIMENT

BAKERLOO

1969 – 1971

WARDROOM

1971 –

Sergeants' Mess he was presented with a splendidly designed miniature shed loo complete with 'Bakerloo' escutcheon, that would have done credit to the 'Specialist.'

A farewell parade was held under command of **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. K. Roberts, B.E.M.,** with Squadrons commanded by their S.S.M.s. The C.O. was piped off by **Lance-Corporal I. M. Urquhart** in full regalia. We welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Ward** and his wife to the Regiment and wish them a happy tour.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

C.O.	**Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson,** Royal Signals
Second-in-Command ...	**Major T. E. Grice,** Royal Signals
Adjutant	**Captain C. W. Collier,** Royal Signals
Admin. Officer	**Lieutenant J. N. Copley,** Royal Signals
O.C. H.Q. Squadron ...	**Major F. A. L. Terrey,** Royal Signals
O.C. 1 Squadron ...	**Major M. J. McCann,** Royal Signals
O.C. 2 Squadron ...	**Major C. T. Garton,** Royal Signals
O.C. 3 Squadron ...	**Major F. Smith,** Royal Signals
O.C. 4 Squadron ...	**Major W. R. Mayne,** Royal Signals
R.S.M.	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. M. Gittins**

1 Squadron Technicians win Regimental soccer tournament

1 Squadron for so long regarded by the rest of the Regiment as 'The Moles in the Hole,' are now emerging as a sporting force to be reckoned with in Regimental activities. On Thursday, 9th September, the new soccer officer decided to organise a Regimental five-a-side tournament to see just what soccer talent he had available for the Regimental team.

Altogether some 32 teams took part. It was organised into four leagues with each team playing games to decide league winners and runners-up; these eight teams then went into the quarter-finals. At this time the Squadron had three of its six teams still in; unfortunately the draw was such that they then had to play each other in the quarter-final and semi-final otherwise it could easily have been a 1 Squadron final.

The team I.E. raised from amongst the Technicians finally emerged as the finalists to meet five stalwarts of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. After a very tense and exciting five minutes each way the technicians won by two goals to nil. We are assured that the fact that **Sergeant Kent** is a black belt Tai-Kwan-Do enthusiast had nothing to do with the seniors falling down.



WINNERS OF A KEENLY CONTESTED SOCCER TOURNAMENT
1 Squadron Technicians (*left to right*): Sergeant Kent, Corporals Moore, Bell, Lance-Corporal Still, Corporal Bracey

The three Squadron teams that reached the quarter-finals were: Team 1D, **Sergeant Gordon, Lance-Corporal Allen, Signalman Walker,** eliminated in quarter-finals by team 1C from H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Troop, **Sergeant Easton, Lance-Corporals Younger, Blaikie, Taylor, Signalmen Watson, Gallacher,** who were eliminated in the semi-finals by the eventual winners team 1E, **Sergeant Kent, Corporals Moore, Bell, Bracey** and **Lance-Corporal Still.**

4 Squadron — Summer Camp 1971

It was with very mixed feelings that members (W.R.A.C. and soldiers) of 4 Squadron plus six W.R.A.C. of H.Q. Regiment 1 (B.R.) Corps set out on their way to Camp D'Elsenborn (Belgium) for 10 days' summer camp. All to join up with the Belgian and Dutch national servicemen who are part of the NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron who very kindly let us share their summer camp location.

However, all was not to be roses, especially when the 'campers' found there was a certain amount of work involved. Such highly interesting subjects as first aid, map reading, N.B.C. and the like. It was not to be such a complete swan as so many had hopefully anticipated.

The shock over they settled down to their gruelling tasks with equanimity. Our first lesson on the training programme was a very simple military training questionnaire paper; some of the answers were quite amusing, for instance:

Q: What does the following conventional sign mean (it was in fact a railway embankment)?

A: (From one W.R.A.C. Private) A lake!

After this things began to get more serious. The day started off at 08.30 hours with morning parade! They were not to be let off the hook—map reading was concentrated on in particular —for two reasons, first: There were to be one or two small exercises using map and compass; and secondly: For the orienteering competition which was to be held later in the week.

The combat race

This run over a course of some 8 km. was a great success. With the aid of a map and compass each team had to find it's way to eight different R.V.s. At each R.V. every member of the team was allotted a task. Ingenuity ran rife, the imagination was high and it was with evident pleasure that **Corporal Denise Sharman** came striding in leading her men and girls into first place. Other section leaders to complete the course were **Corporal Judy Collins** and **Corporal Brian White.** A very good effort by all.

There followed a comparatively useful wekend. All went canoeing under expert guidance of **Corporal Ray Hunter.** There were no fatal eskimo rolls — just a couple of cases of sunburn. **Private Kathy Tully** looked as if she had stepped straight out of a turkish bath, **Private Jill Raikes,** however, looked as if she had spent two weeks in the Bahamas. Our Second-in-Command **Lieutenant Jenny Baker** had a super suntan all over her face!! She kept on muttering something about "Damn these horseflies," which was a pity for all us men, who had been informed by reliable sources that our Second-in-Command had this very dishy bikini!! Sunday was taken up by a trip to Bastogne to visit the American War Museum and the Nuts Museum, so called because on being asked by the Germans to surrender, they sent back a signal, to the German High Command with one word of text — "Nuts".

Monday saw the briefing and preparation for the night exercises, this was a map reading exercise entailing small sections moving across strange country from point to point at night. **Corporal Judy Collins** brought her section back all safe but all tired, but thanks to **Staff Sergeant Berry, WRAC,** who ran the "Soup kitchen" at one of the check points, all had a very interesting exercise, even though **Private Terry Conroy** insisted it was a 'wild boar' that she had been chased by and not a large rabbit!

A very successful orienteering competition was held on the Tuesday. The course set was quite a difficult one, with 15 check points; once again the WRAC did extremely well with **Private Jackie Brown, Signalnam John Scurr, Signalman Tony Clark** and **Signalman Fred Hewlett** getting to all their points. **Privates Terry Conroy** and **Pat Howard** were in the winning team.

Aside from these activities several sports were organised under the capable hands of **Corporal Jenny McMahon** (H.Q. 1 BR Corps) including a potted sports competition. The winning team being **Signalman Tony Clark, Private Jackie Brown** and **Private Terry Conroy.**

Life settled down to a quieter pace of swimming and sunbathing all in preparation for an end of camp party on the Thursday and after the prize giving for the various activities we all got down to the serious pastime of drinking.

Friday morning saw some fond farewells and as vows of 'write soon' were made, the popular question of 'which is the quickest way from Bielefeld to Belgium?' was heard. We've already had one request to put-up three Dutch and two Belgian National Servicemen for a weekend! But we all agree on one thing. Belgian food isn't quite the same as British: this point being confirmed by **Signalman George Robertson** on getting one thin slice of cheese for breakfast!!!! with coffee, of course!

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

THE phone rings. O.C., speaking through a crackling mess that is now commonplace on this once immaculate system:

"You have nothing to do now, have you?"
"Only the interim 2048s, Release Testimonials, etc., Sir."
"Good. WIRE notes for September then."
"But the last notes were the last notes."
"But me no buts . . . "

Having read the Editor's comments in THE WIRE on the closure of the Regiment one would have expected little to report. However . . .

Departure of Commanding Officer

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.,** was suitably escorted to the plane, at Changi Airport, by an honour guard of W.O.s and N.C.O.s on 1st September, having handed the reins, and the staff car, to **Major Charles Bushell,** Officer Commanding Rear Details.

All members of the Regiment wish the the Commanding Officer and his wife, **Janet,** many happy days at the Staff College, Camberley.

Move of Line System Control

Captain Norman Walker, Sergeant Norman Pearson, the controllers and the civilian linemen of System Troop have moved from Tanglin to the Naval Base. They now work in close co-operation with the 9th Australian Signal Regiment preparing for the handover of the Island Cable Network. Asked how things are going one gets the reply 'fair dinkum'.

Operating Troop farewell dinner

It is not very often that any large operating troop in Royal Signals can really get together, because of the perpetual shift systems. However, with only two comcens left to run, well over 60 members of operating troop, with their ladies, were able to sit down to a farewell dinner in the Gardenia Room, of the Shangri-La Hotel, one of the most luxurious in Singapore. The organisers, **Sergeant Spike Lewin** and **Corporal Tony Goullee** were so proficient in their task that **Captain Max Nutt** was able to make some surprise presentations produced from the monies saved.

Afterwards, all 120 adjourned to the hotel's unique discotheque, 'The Lost Horizon,' where everyone sits in boats surrounded by fishing nets (and scantily clad girls) and is bedazzled by the psychedelic lighting effects and entertained by two lively groups.

'X' Troop tail-end

'X' Troop, the most recently formed (and yet with the oldest 'lags' in the theatre, former 'Alpha' Troop 249 Squadron animals will note) had a final party the other day. In sympathy with the troop being cut off in its prime by the regime, **Staff Sergeant Ralph Finch** had his moustache removed. Only part of the troop is shown in the pictures: **Lance-Corporal 'Slim' Worthington** is flat out horizontally behind the group and the rest are already on the loose down town.

We kept the farewell speeches to each other short and we will therefore keep this note equally so. Fading away (as old soldiers are wont to do) to the strains of Eskimo Nell to B.A.O.R., U.K. and discharges (honourable!) are all those of 'Alpha' then 'X' Troop who have kept the peace(?) in this far-off land.

That's it then—the end of the last notes from this Regiment. Or are they?

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 107

A lot of 'Bull'

THE following is an unexpurgated and unfabricated copy of a damage report submitted at the conclusion of a recent exercise.

Damage report

Sir,

I have the honour to report that on the evening of the 11th August what was taken as docile cows wandered across the field in which myself and my crew had erected a 36ft. mast and a 32ft. mast. These docile cows on further inspection turned out to be rather inquisitive and quite ferocious bulls. The largest one, weighing over a ton, decided to try and go to sleep standing against the mast which, although secured by pickets and eight guys, fell down. Retrieving the mast was virtually impossible as I found out when I went into the field. The bull didn't like my presence and decided to remove me; I strategically withdrew to the other side of the fence.

Upon advice from the Squadron Command Post I decided to retrieve most of the damaged mast but the bulls came back and I cleared out again. The bulls now decided to stay and at around 23.45 hours I again rang up the Squadron Command Post informing **Second-Lieutenant Burton** that I was worried about the 32ft. mast as the bulls were gathered around it. He said he would come to the location and investigate. Ten seconds later the 32ft. mast came down. While my crew, **Signalman Johnson,** kept away the bulls both myself and **Second-Lieutenant Burton** recovered the mast and estimated the damage so that spare kit could be supplied. This was:

Five mast sections bent, one reflector slightly bent, one antenna broken and bent.

I remain your obedient servant,

24149558 Signalman Bostock,
'Bravo' Troop 1 Squadron.

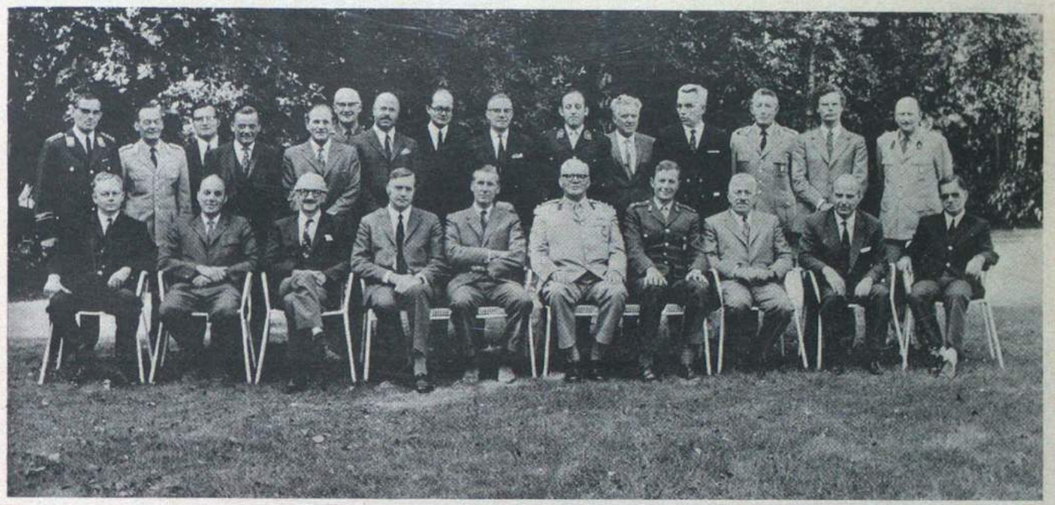
W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess—Tune trips from Amsteldam?

Friday, 25th September, was a rather special day for 24 members of our Sergeants' Mess. No work, civilian clothes and, for most, an early release from an exercise. The reason for all this was that we were about to prove that as well as being good communicators, we would, in spite of what others may think, organise a 'booze-up in a brewery'—a trip to the Amstel works in Amsterdam. The chief instigator of this potential disaster was **W.O.2 Bernie Tune,** who on the morning in question was to be found supervising the 'freight' loading —crates of Amstel (coals to Newcastle)—onto the coach. These were to provide some practice for the 'armbenders' during the trip.

The trip was uneventful until we reached the outskirts of Amsterdam. There for all to see were Amstel Brewery signs which our gallant leader chose to ignore, saying, "I know the way theer, them signs is for fools." So we had an interesting tour of Amsterdam and eventually arrived at the back of the brewery where the coach pulled into the loading area among wooden pallets piled high with thousands upon thousands of bottles of hidden promise.

It was suggested by some that we did a quick-loading job of our own and forget about the guided tour, but this was not to be as we were soon met by our guide and led to a cellar bar to quench our thirst on Amstel draught—very nice it was too. During the one hour tour, the brewing process was explained in great detail, which unfortunately it would take a better memory than mine to relate. The tour was impressive in that the brewery was huge and yet had so few workers since automation. I had always wondered why continental beers tended to have so much gas in them and why they were always at their best when served cold. The difference is in the yeast used and the temperature of the beer during brewing. Whereas the majority of English beers use a yeast that stays mostly on the surface, with beers like Amstel the yeast falls to the bottom of the vats and the gases given off rise through the beer. Secondly, beer usually tastes best at the temperature at which it is brewed and in the case of continental beers, this is low compared with their English equivalent. The tour concluded, once again we returned to the cellar bar and in the ensuing two hours, with the assistance of a very efficient waiter service, we consumed a respectable number of litres before pouring ourselves into the coach to seek places of local interest. Unfortunately we had found the brewery so interesting that time had slipped by and all the museums, galleries and places of cultural interest were closed. Apologising profusely, our leader parked the coach in the centre of the town where we were briefed on the area in very basic terms—the bars are in that direction, other places of interest elsewhere; given a deadline of 1 a.m. to be back at the coach there were very few casualties apart from the whistle stops on the way home.

Saturday morning saw us all safely back in Lippstadt, after a very interesting and worthwhile trip.



NATO MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Ever had to justify your Regimental expenditure to a 24 man committee? This is what the Commanding Officer of 28th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macdonald, has had to do! Nevertheless he looks quite cheerful (*4th from right front row*)

28th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

THE face-lift of the Regiment continues. **Major Tony Cheal** has arrived from Trucial Oman Scouts, shaken the sand from his boots and taken over as O.C. 2 Squadron from **Major Peter Thompson,** who has left us to join 31st Signal Regiment (V) in London. A reshuffle made room for **Major Ivor Amos** who has taken command of H.Q. Squadron. **S.S.M. Tony Jones** claims that it is not **Major Amos'** fault that he arrives late to the office in the morning as he still appears in the evenings for drill parades (shades of T. & A.V.R.).

August and September are traditionally quiet months—quiet that is for those going away on leave and most seem to have managed it. Those who were away missed the social occasion of the month, however, when on Saturday, 21st August, **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston** married **Fräulein Petra Schroeder** in the Garrison Church.

Orienteering

Back in September, 1970, the NORTHAG Signals Support Group orienteering meeting held at Eupen was declared 'null and void.' That was because check point number 7 disappeared. The meeting was thus 'bound over' and re-run on 24th August at Elsenborn in Belgium.

Organised by the Air Support Radio Squadron, it was a score competition as opposed to point-to-point. The route each competitor took and the distance he travelled to visit all the check points was therefore entirely his own choice. The course was designed so that competitors could visit four or five check points and return within 70 minutes. Imagine **Major John Garrats'** surprise when **Lance-Corporal Dave Vince** returned after only 62 minutes with nine check points stamped on his card. **Lance-Corporal Chris Herbert** was our next man home with **Lance-Corporal Bob Taylor** hard on his heels. Next in order of appearance were **Staff Sergeant Tony Whydell, Signalman Dick Taylor,** and (last year's champion) **Lance-Corporal Trevor Jones,** all of whom claimed it was their 'off day.' A most satisfying performance giving us the team championship.

A week later on 1st September the team was less successful in the Rhine Area Championship, which was run on a point-to-point basis, a fact unfortunately not remembered by all members of the team. As a result the team did not achieve a placing but **Lance-Corporal Chris Herbert** qualified to go forward to the B.A.O.R. individual championship.

Rugby

The season started with a series of practice matches against 16th Signal Regiment, our neighbours. The team is to play Regimental matches on Wednesdays and on Saturdays will combine with 16th Regiment to play as a Garrison team. In fact it is the Garrison team that has recorded our first successes. A combined team took part in the SHAPE 7-a-side competition and were winners of the plate competition. On 4th September the Garrison XV emulated last year's performance and won the 'Double Diamond' Trophy at R.A.F. Wildenrath, a fine performance against some stiff opposition.

Autumn fete

This year we were favoured with fine weather at our annual autumn fete. The event was well supported, not only by members of the Regiment but by our German friends from St. Tonis. A grand total of over D.M.5,400 profit was made. Special mention should be made of the Wives' Club who, under the leadership of **Mrs. Judy Macdonald,** put in such a lot of hard work to raise a total in excess of D.M.1,870. Well done ladies!

Visits

We were delighted to welcome **The Master of Signals and Mrs. Bradley,** who visited the Regiment on 23rd September. Details of the visit appear elsewhere in THE WIRE.

Royal Signals Society autumn meeting

The Regiment entered six players in the autumn meeting; **Corporal Carty** of the R.P.C. won the 36-hole Stableford.

End note

On 8th September we were visited by the full N.A.T.O. Military Budget Committee. Which other units would wish to be in the position of having to justify their every expenditure to this august body? Our photograph shows **Lieutenant-Co'onel I. Macdonald** looking surprisingly happy surrounded by his inquisitors.

Postscript

Congratulations to **Captain (T.O.T.) Reg Davies** and to **Corporal Tony Hunt** on being awarded Corps Colours for shooting (1971 season).

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Move to new barracks

FOLLOWING the successful visit of the Regimental detachment to Alderney at the beginning of September, the Regiment got down to the final phases of the move from the hutted accommodation in Evans Lines to the new accommodation adjacent to the School of Signals. To say the least it was a bit of a squeeze, and a good deal of pruning of items accumulated during 10 years in Evans Lines was done in order to fit the Regiment into synopsis scale of buildings. The Regiment is rapidly settling down to the new surroundings and we are pleased to report that the bulk of the work has been done although there are one or two adjustments yet to be made.

The other principal activity during the month was the successful detachment of a demonstration stand to Catterick for the visit of the Prime Minister on the occasion of the opening of 8th Signal Regiment, Trade Training School. This event will no doubt be reported more fully elsewhere in THE WIRE and it is sufficient to mention that our Regimental contribution was a spearhead detachment under command of **Sergeant 'Jock' Little** supported by all airportable detachment of **Sergeant Danny Lamberton, Corporal Harry Adcock, Sergeant 'Taff' Holverson** and **Corporal Charlie Peach** with a line detachment. All the detachments looked superbly turned out and the Prime Minister talked to most members about their activities around the world in support of Strategic Command activities.

1 Squadron

With the wind-up of Force Anguilla we have welcomed back those of the Squadron who made up the last detachment there. We have also received all their equipment, much of which we had forgotten all about anyway! The detachment were given very little notice to pack up and had many problems finding or making suitable packing cases for all the kit. This was made more difficult, apparently, by some of the locals who took great pleasure in removing pieces of scrap wood which the detachment had carefully earmarked to make boxes for their equipment.

Captain Derek McLean left the Squadron on 27th August for a visit to Suffield, Alberta, in Canada. He was the Royal Signals' representative on an M.O.D. recce team sent to finalise all the administrative details prior to the establishment of a British Force Permanent Staff co-located with the existing offices of the Canadian Defence Research Establishment, Suffield. His responsibilities were for telephone, radio and comcen communications for the permanent staff. The training area which comprises some 750 square miles of Alberta is due to open in June, 1972, for the purpose of providing live firing battle runs for B.A.O.R. Battle Groups. **Captain Derek McLean** returned full of prime beef steak and American jargon on 13th September and settles down at last, we hope, as Second-in-Command of the Squadron.

The Squadron has had a lot of departures recently and wishes good luck to **Sergeant 'Jock' Little** and **Sergeant Ernie de la Mare** and the 13 operators posted to form the Signal Squadron of 3rd Brigade. We are very reluctant to see such a splendid crew leave us for good and say thank you very much for all the work you have done during your stay in the Squadron.

3 Squadron

During the latter part of August and in September the A.M.F. (L) elements of 3 Squadron disappeared to the furthest extremities of B.A.O.R. and Greece. They were joined in Greece by the U.K. Battlion A.M.F. (L) Signal Troop. As we were about to move into new accommodation at this time it was necessary to dispose of the stock of the Squadron Club—this irksome task was undertaken with surprising enthusiasm by all involved.

The E.W. part of the Squadron, having recently returned from B.A.O.R., were thus free to devote their undivided attention to the problems of moving house in the A.M.F. (L) Troop's absence.

The Squadron has sponsored a stand at the Bournemouth Ideal Home Exhibition which (with the assistance of **Lieutenant Jack Fiskel** who has now moved to 1 Squadron) took the form of a dry ski slope. This attraction was extremely popular with the general public—possibly not so popular with **Lieutenant Jack Fiskel** and **Corporal 'Jock' Wilson** who have emerged from their two weeks' activities looking five pounds slimmer and slightly bruised.

Maritime activities

There is never a lack of volunteers from the Regiment to go to sea and readers will be interested to know the scope of these tasks. The Regiment's interest stems primarily from the role of acting as the parent unit for the Ship Signal Troops on the L.P.D.s H.M.S. *Fearless* and H.M.S. *Intrepid*. All reinforcements for these ships spend up to two months with this unit carrying out training with ourselves and Naval and Royal Marine units prior to joining their ship. At any given time there are 13 Royal Signals soldiers on board ship and a Yeoman of Signals, all under command of the Royal Signals troop commander so there is a regular flow of persons under training. The Regiment also runs familiarisation courses for Naval communications in Blandford to give them some idea of Army communication systems and the problems facing landing force signallers.

A familiar part of Joint Service Communications is the series of Joint Communication Exercises in which 1 Squadron regularly participate.

1 Squadron has worked on Naval ships of all types ranging from aircraft carriers to frigates sailing in many different parts of the world. The main value of these activities is familiarisation and practice in joint procedures and techniques but, as a bonus, a tremendous amount of goodwill and mutual respect accrues between the Navy and Army operators. The Regiment are not slow to attach operators to ships and many enjoyable voyages have been completed with Royal Signals operators on board H.M. ships.

INDIVIDUAL 'WIRE' SUBSCRIBERS

We enclose for the third month running a loose insert in red print in respect of increased subscriptions to 'The Wire.' If you have not already sent one in, will you please do so NOW! This simple act will be of the utmost help to our hard-pressed accounts staff.

News from Squadrons

19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) B.F.P.O. 801

IT is a very pleasant sight to see everyone packing cases for our return to Colchester from Northern Ireland. Our advance baggage has already left in two 30ft. containers and is now being unpacked by the rear party. Our pre-advance party under **Staff Sergeant Francis Quinn** left Lurgan yesterday, causing many an envious face from those left behind.

Communications Troop

Morale is high in the Troop with only two weeks to go. It would have been a lot higher but our rugby team got hammered 62-22 by Banbridge rugby team. **Signalman Jose Campbell** declared that he didn't want to see another rugby ball in his life.

On a semi-working visit to Enniskillen **Corporal 'Fergie' Fergusson, Lance-Corporal Dick Lewis** and **Signalman Bill Stevenson** managed to destroy an 80ft. mast. For sale: Twenty 4ft. masts, £1 o.n.o.

The comcen lads still claim that they are the hardest worked people in the Troop but a recent survey showed the S.D.S. drivers to be well ahead in hours worked.

Just recently we have had two bomb scares in the factory. The first one was at 8 o'clock in the evening and after a thorough search nothing was found. The second one occurred after midnight when over two-thirds of the Squadron were asleep. When everybody was on parade to determine who was missing it was discovered that young **Signalman Steve Mellish** had forgotten to put on his trousers in his rush to evacuate the building.

All in all it has been a good tour for Communications Troop with no accidental discharges at our loading and unloading bay, no serious injuries from any riots and no deaths reported from the cookhouse.

Radio Relay

The Radio Relay Detachment is situated on the sixth floor of the building. The detachments consists of **Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Cox, Signalman Terry Bogel Brewer** and **Corporal Tony Paines** (Technician). We are attached to Lurgan from 3 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. We work a radio path to 233 Signal Squadron at Lisburn with no actual traffic going out. The link is used in case the G.P.O. links all go out. Our latest addition to the radio relay shack is a television which helps to pass the time. We wish 19 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron a pleasant trip back and welcome 5 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron to Lurgan—what a mouthful!

'M' Troop

This month has seen a change in ownership of Mercury Electronics Ltd. with the departure of **F. of S. Brian Maltby** who has gone to Liverpool T.A. We welcome **F. of S. Joe Jackson** to the Troop and wish him a pleasant two years with the Brigade. **Sergeant John Wallace** has joined us from 22nd Regiment and everyone wants to know how he got his quarter so quickly!

Sergeants Brian Hudson and **Pete Hockram** are at present tramping the hallowed ground of Helles Barracks in an effort to pass the Staff Sergeants' Course.

Life in the technical workshop is quietening down now that 46 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., has taken over the responsibility for the Brigade area.

Arrivals and departures

We welcome to the unit **Major Abate, Captain Ayrton, Lieutenant Moore, W.O.2 Jackson, Sergeant Wallace** and **Sergeant Stubbings** and hope they enjoy their stay in the unit.

We say goodbye to **Major Allen, Captain Watts, Captain Smeeton** and **Corporal Clark** and wish them every happiness for the future.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Of mice and men

THE recent Exercise 'Trix 71/6' was the last exercise for our O.C. **Major Bill Morgan,** prior to his posting, in which mobile communication was deployed in the field. As always happens in the best works of ficton the finale was perfect. So much so that systems control had no work and the operators were feeding tapes into the circuits like automatons.

The O.C. and our T.O.T. **Captain Colin Williams,** decided that this was a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. To liven up proceedings they decided to inject faults by disconnecting the main microwave cable approximately halfway between the two sites. This project was cloaked in secrecy and was perpetrated with great stealth at 23.00 hours one evening when they left the operations area.

After a good night's sleep the T.O.T. repaired to the systems "Any trouble last night?" he asked with tongue in cheek. "No! Nice and quiet," was the answer he received. On checking the fault log he was mystified on discovering that there was no mention of circuit outage.

A hasty consultation with **W.O.1 (F. of S.) John Bridgeman** quickly restored his faith in his sanity. **John** explained that before going off shift that he had discovered a noisy pair and had changed over on to the spare cable, the labels had, of course, remained unchanged. Our conspirators had unwittingly uncoupled the spare.

With a Foreman capable of nullifying faults before they occur a new sense of confidence has been engendered in our systems.

Security

The same exercise highlighted how competely the O.C. has been inculcated with AFCENT's hypersensitive attitude to security.

During the course of the exercise he was observed taking colour slides of the various vehicles comprising mobile communication centre. These were intended to illustrate any talk on AFCENT organisation which he might be called upon to give in his new unit. We can only assume that it was the interest of security which prompted him to leave the lens cover on his camera.

Trampoline champion

Whilst sorting out entertainment for the summer fete we discovered that **Signalman Chris Birks** is a very talented trampolinist. Prior to joining the Corps he had competed in the All England Championships and finished in the first 12.

Having thrilled the children with a spectacular clown act on the trampoline in company with **Sergeant Carl Butler, Chris** decided to resume training and enter the B.A.O.R. Championships.

This he did to good effect and at the B.A.O.R. Championships staged at Sennelager on 16th September **Chris** won the Individual Trampoline Championship. He then went on to Berlin where he took part in the Berlin Tattoo.

Chris had also volunteered for parachute training and reports to Aldershot for a selection course in November of this year. We can see **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Tom Burke** going into deep mourning at the prospect of losing his star performer in the Squadron and AFCENT soccer teams.

Birdmen

Six members of the Squadron have now joined the AFCENT Parachute Club and are practising regularly at Geilenkirchen. These are **Corporal Keith Buckley** (six jumps), **Lance-Corporal 'Windy' Gale** (five jumps), **Corporal Pete Catterall** (four jumps), **Corporal Norman Troughton** (three jumps), **Signalman Mick Rennison** (two jumps) and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Mugford** (one jump). These six are also the leading lights in the Squadron marching team. All are very enthusiastic about the new sport and are looking forward to qualifying for a licence

and progressing to free fall. The jumps take place weekly, weather permitting, from a Cessna provided and piloted by the AFCENT Flying Club.

We look forward to having a free-fall display on our summer fete with members of the Squadron taking part.

October Fest

The German contingent here in Maastricht staged their annual Bier Fest on 11th and 12th September. This is their bacchanalian equivalent of our summer fete, and results in almost as many British casualties as were suffered in the 1939 to 1945 competition.

A large circus-type tent is erected on the sports field to accommodate half-a-dozen bars, assorted wurst stalls, a Bavarian band, large dance floor and seating for hundreds of revellers. The band is, of course, dressed in short leather trousers and Tyrolean hats.

Beer is served in huge litre mugs crowned with appetising foaming white heads. To assist the weary and provide a landmark, gas-filled balloons are on sale to tie to the handles. Providing one does not lose his grip these ensure that a vertical position is maintained. Waiters are trained to appear when the mug is half empty and thus speed up consumption. This practice also ensures maximum, if somewhat unsteady, participation in the dancing.

The music is lively with frequent demonstrations of the agile thigh-slapping technique typical of Bavarian folk dances. Our Squadron members participated with more enthusiasm than expertise. This fact is eloquently vouched for in the number of livid bruises sported by them.

The Squadron turned out in force for this delightful aspect of German tradition. A slight modification of British drinking habits was necessary to switch from pints to litres; this was acquired with fluid ease which bodes well for British entry into the Common Market.

A general concensus of the opinions of our inebriates revealed that they consider that this is an ideal way of providing a welcome break between carnivals.

Hospitality

Corporal Steve Stevens, R.A.F., our medical orderly, was entertained right royally at the farewell party of **Corporal Keith Roythorne.** This was held in the line shack with organisation by line section.

During the course of the party one of our linemen noticed that there was only one blue hat present. Realising that this was an obvious temptation for souvenir hunters, he took steps to safeguard it. His method was in the best line tradition—he nailed it to the floor.

Corporal Stevens is doubly indebted to him in that his hat was saved and he is the only person in AFCENT with an air-conditioned hat.

Departures

Recent departures have included **Captain Alan Pearce** to 28th Regiment where we trust he will have further successes with fetes, fireworks and other social functions. His hearty extrovert personality will be missed in the Squadron. **Sergeant Dennis (have you heard this one?) Bramley,** the Mess raconteur, leaves us to entertain 30th Regiment with his extensive repertoire of stories for sophisticated adults. **Sergeant Leo Smale** complete with fur-lined undies for AFNORTH in Norway. **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Derek Moat,** who is going to the sharp end as far as Irish problems are concerned, 33rd Regiment (Volunteers) in Liverpool. During his tour in AFCENT **Derek** has built up a fluid understanding of their problems whilst working with them on annual camps. We foresee no problem in **Derek** fitting in like one of the family and look forward to his annual visits with pleasure.

Arrivals

The Squadron welcomes **Leutenant 'Paddy' Henry** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) 'Mack' McHugh;** we hope they both have a happy and successful tour here with AFCENT.

229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
B.F.P.O. 45

AT the end of August the holiday season came to an abrupt close and we started great preparations for exercises and visiting Generals.

The mast that wouldn't go up

The Master of Signals visited us in mid-September and was assured by the many soldiers he spoke to that Berlin was still a good posting. The only complaint heard was from our O.C., **Major Arthur Byng,** which was that no one complained. The man least likely to forget the 'Master's' visit was without doubt **Lance-Corporal Joe Brown** who was requested by the **General** to erect his strange Telefunken telescopic mast. Alas the gremlins had been at work that day and amid mutterings that "It was alright a moment ago" and to the **General's** delight, the mast wouldn't go up. By the time he left the Squadron the **General** had met and spoken to nearly all the members of the Squadron personally and his somewhat mysterious title 'Master of Signals' was perhaps less of a mystery.

Three Generals in 10 days



C.-in-C. BAOR, accompanied by Major (T.O.T.) Norman Cox, talking to Members of Line Troop. *From left to right:* Corporal Geoff Farmer, Lance-Corporal Bill Laing and Signalman Charlie Stuart



C.S.O. BAOR CONVERSING WITH MEMBERS OF RADIO TROOP
From left to right: Signalman Sid Rawson, Corporal Mal Elliott, Lance-Corporals Martin Blacker and Joe Brown

The C.-in-C. B.A.O.R. **General Sir Peter Hunt** also visited us that week but unfortunately he only managed to make a short visit. There was enough time, however, to fit in a quick tour and explain our more obvious differences to a normal Brigade Signal Squadron.

Just after the C.-in-C.'s visit the C.S.O. B.A.O.R. **Major-General David Horsfield,** who stayed a few days in Berlin over the period of the British Berlin Tattoo, came to see us on 27th September. Three Generals in 10 days seemed quite a lot but we felt we had pretty well got the hang of how to conduct Generals through the Squadron lines.

An international Signal exercise with a difference

In the first week of October we warmed up for the exercise season with a unique exercise called 'Rondo.' This was a truly allied affair in which Signal detachments were deployed into the Grunewald for 24 hours to compete for a prize for the best signalling detachment. The difference, however, was that each detachment consisted of one British, one American and one French signaller who, whether they liked it or not, worked, ate, drove and slept together.

The exercise proved to be very amusing and remarkably valuable. Although we had expected quite a few problems to arise through this tripartite venture, precious few actually materialised and the communications were very good. The winning detachment was commanded by an American **Sergeant Lunkins,** aided by our **Signalman John Hall** and the Frenchman **Corporal Rejasse.** There is now a demand by the players, as well as those who could not compete, for a similar exercise in the spring.

Soccer—and watch those wives at netball

Winter days have brought out the round ball again and our soccer team has got off to a very fair start having (dare we say it) won all of its matches to date. We are now nicely placed at the top of the Berlin Minor Units League where it is hoped we will stay.

Not all our sporting talent lies with the men, however, as this autumn the Wives' Club took up that energetic game called netball. So popular has it proved that we can boast two teams. Our 'A' team played its first match last week against the 247 Provost Company ladies' team and won. Injuries in this friendly match were multiple lacerations caused by long nails and a broken nose! It looks as if its rather rougher than rugger and we are going to need all our 'B' team as reserves once they start the real play! More news later.

242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh

Assistance to West Highland Adventure Training School

THIS year the Squadron were again asked to provide W.R.A.C. assistance to the Adventure Training School at Applecross and the fortunate girls chosen were **Lance-Corporal 'Nid' Tombleson, Private Lyn Jackson** and **Private Maggie Inglis.**

Each girl is required to be a Squad leader of a party of girls aged between 11-16, looking after them whilst in Camp and organising them when they are on outdoor activities.

Overcoming the initial aches and pains **Lance-Corporal Tombleson** and party soon settled down to enjoying a hot sunny month of May trekking through the Applecross Hills. Their tan was the envy of all.

Summer camp

For a change of scenery and hopeful for better weather this year's Summer Camp was held in June on the banks of Loch Kishorn in the Western Highlands. The site was ideal, being adjacent to Loch Carron, overshadowed by the peaks of the Cuillens on Skye and with a view of the Isles of Rona, Scalpay and Raasay. Any tourist brochure would have been happy to advertise it as 'the ideal place to get away from it all' which was exactly our intention.

The advance party under **S.S.M. Tony Harris** volunteered to spend Whitsun erecting the camp—it rained throughout; however their spirits were not dampened and the camp was completed and ready to receive boarders by 1st June.

From the lessons learnt last year it was decided to split the camp into two parties. The first party under **Captain 'Des' Duncan** arrived to be greeted by glorious sunshine which lasted throughout their week. The second party under **Captain 'Pete' Swaby** was less fortunate and only managed to see glimpses of sunshine except on the last day when the sun beat down.

Activities were centred on sailing, trekking and sport. **Major 'Gerry' Fleming** and **Lance-Corporal Sheila Barnes-Cox** were responsible for sailing using Wayfarers. All the first party were fortunate to enjoy some good sailing. The weather was ideal for beginners and for the more experienced they could enjoy a sail towards Skye. The second party was less fortunate partly through poor weather but also through having one boat springing a leak. Some experienced hands did manage to get out but conditions were not for the faint-hearted.

Daily treks into the Applecross Hills were the 'in' thing for both sexes. Varying distances were undertaken starting from four miles on the first day and working up to 15 miles by the end of the week. The girls showed they were as good as the men and in some cases better. There were not many males to keep up with **Corporal Marlyn Weir** once she got the bit between her teeth. **Lance-Corporal 'Vari' Perrie, Private Brenda McHardy, Private Sue Preston** and **Private Liz Medcalf** were also up among the leaders.

Looking for more adventure **Corporal Ken Whitfield, Lance-Corporal George Mitchell** and **Signalman Mick Campbell** decided to trek through the Applecross Hills. The first day took them 14 miles to Kenmore where they stayed the night at a 'bothy' belonging to our hosts, West Highland Adventure Training School. On the second day they went a further 20 miles passing through Applecross Village, going over the famous Cattle Pass (2,000ft.) and back to camp. A fine achievement over difficult terrain.

This year we managed to obtain an R.E. Assault Craft. The 'Pong Prau,' as it came to be known, was used to dispose waste and refuse at sea but also was useful for taking parties to some of the islands in Loch Kishorn.

Fishing from an assault craft was another popular pastime with some; however, during the first week **(F. of S.) Ken Duffey and Alex Weir** (our tame carpenter) found their guile matched by the fish and couldn't even tell a tale of the one that got away — there weren't any! The second bunch of anglers, **R.Q.M.S. Stan Finlayson, Sergeant Jim Holland** and **Corporal Drew Robertson,** proved more successful when on the last day a couple of senile flounders tired of life and gave themselves up.

Social activities were not forgotten; evenings were occupied with film shows, social games, fancy dress nights and on one occasion a bonfire night.

All too quickly the camp came to an end. Even allowing for the weather everyone appeared to have enjoyed themselves and without doubt it proved to be a welcome break from the routine of Edinburgh.

261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
B.F.P.O. 53
Airfield Troop, RAF Akrotiri

Our role of prime importance

FOR the benefit of those who have not been fortunate enough to serve with Air Support Signals, the following is a very brief description of what it is all about. R.A.F. Akrotiri is now the largest and busiest station in the world; the Troop stationed here is responsible for providing all telephone circuits onto and around the airfield, in addition all telephone exchanges and instruments required for both administration and operational purposes.

The entire system is organised and maintained by the Troop, which is comprised of some 60 Combat Linemen, Technicians and Combat Drivers.

The above is only a very brief description of the role carried out by Royal Signals in support of the R.A.F. and to make a point, I quote, "Without efficient communications the R.A.F. is paralysed," we in the Royal Signals provide those communications.

Plenty of play as well as work

Of course life here at Akrotiri is not all work, even though we work a five-day week with working hours of 07.00 - 16.30

hours. Despite this our social activities are growing all the time, our past functions have included two beach parties at the 'Mermaid' on Ladies' Mile Beach; the first party went off extremely well, good food, drink and company being the basic ingredients for what can only be described as an excellent first timer. The latter one was even better and has since been called the 'Big Splash'; ask our Foreman of Signals **Staff Sergeant (Mick Scott),** he was amongst those thrown into the Mediterranean at 00.30 hours. The Med. at that time of the morning is very pleasant, but the sand does get into the most awkward places.

An excellent coach trip, which was organised by **Sergeant (Terry) Skinner,** took us to Kyrenia (Six-mile point) on Sunday, 29th August. Some 48 members of the Troop participated, departing from Limassol at 08.00 hours and returning at about 21.00 hours. So successful was the trip that many members of the Troop have asked for another day out; this has been arranged with an outing to 'Fig Tree Bay' near Famagusta.

Future social gatherings include a 'Kebab' supper with wives at the Britannia Bar in Limassol.

We are the professionals!

On a recent visit to the station by some 20 V.I.P.s from the U.K., the Troop was represented at a display showing various activities of station life, by **Corporal (Charlie) Manning** (a very experienced cable jointer) and **Signalman (Chris) Brooke** (under tuition), who were demonstrating the jointing of a 50-pair poly plastic. One of the V.I.P.s asked **Corporal Manning** the following question:

V.I.P.: "I have often wondered how you chaps know what you are doing with all those wires?"

Corporal: "Well sir, you see we are professionals."

V.I.P.: "Ah yes, I have read about you chaps in the newspapers."

(Moral, even V.I.P.s read the advertisements).

Family roll call

To conclude, I expect you know that Cyprus is called the island of Paradise and Love, the following families of the Troop are expecting additions in the near future; there must be a connection somewhere!

Sergeant (Andy) and Mrs. Vella, Lance-Corporal (Taff) and Mrs. Morgan, Signalman (Bob) and Mrs. Kaiser, Lance-Corporal (Alan) and Mrs. Bazeley.

Second-Lieutenant R. Dibley departed to the U.K. and within three weeks was back with his new wife. Congratulations to you both.

It is with regret that we say farewell to **Signalman (Roger) and Mrs. Spurgeon,** who leave us for the rigours of Germany. Our loss is your gain 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron.

Sport

Corps Canoeists capture all major Trophies in Army Championships

Major N. W. N. Van Loan, acting secretary, Royal Signals Canoe Club, writes:

I attach details of results achieved by Corps canoeists who competed in the 1971 Army and Inter-Service Canoe Championships. The Army Canoe Championships, held at Nottingham on 25th-26th September, saw the Corps canoeists, representing the School of Signals, Blandford, capture all the major trophies and win, on behalf of the School of Signals, the outright Canoe Championship.

The members of the School team were joined by members of other Signals regimental teams for the Inter-Service Championships held at Loch Faskely and on the River Tay, Scotland, 1st-3rd October. In these Championships the School team were primarily responsible for the Army retaining the Inter-Service Championship for the seventh year running. The Army Canoe Union has recognised the School team's contribution to the Army's success by allowing us to hold the Inter-Service Trophy on behalf of the Army for the next year.

Army Canoe Championships, held at Nottingham 25th-26th September. Team: Lieutenant Harrison, Sergeant D. Lunn, Corporal M. J. Bull, Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow, Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink, Lance-Corporal R. G. Story and Lance-Corporal S. Sudron.

Results. 1,000 metres sprint, Senior K1: 1st, Lance-Corporal Pawlow; 2nd, Lance-Corporal Wink; 4th, Lance-Corporal Story; 5th. Corporal Bull.
Intermediate K2: 2nd, Sergeant Lunn/Lance-Corporal Sudron.
Senior K2: 1st, Lance-Corporal Pawlow/Lance-Corporal Wink; 2nd, Corporal Bull/Lance-Corporal Story.
Intermediate Class 3: 1st, Sergeant Lunn; 3rd, Lieutenant Harrison; 4th, Lance-Corporal Sudron.
Intermediate Class 4: 1st Lieutenant Harrison/Lance-Corporal Sudron.
Long distance (12 miles). Senior K1: 1st. Lance-Corporal Wink. Senior K2: 1st, Corporal Bull/Lance-Corporal Story. Senior Class 3: 1st, Lieutenant Harrison.
Winners K1 Trophy: Royal Signals Canoe Club, Blandford.
Winners K2 Trophy: Royal Signals Canoe Club, Blandford.
Winners LD Trophy: Royal Signals Canoe Club. Blandford.
Overall winners Army Championships: Royal Signals Canoe Club, Blandford.

Inter-Service Canoe Championships, held Loch Faskely and River Tay, Scotland, 1st-3rd October. Selected to represent the Army in L.D. and Sprint from School of Signals, Blandford, were: Corporal M. J. Bull, Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow. Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink, Lance-Corporal R. G. Story, Lance-Corporal S. Sudron.

Results. 1,000 metres K1 Sprint: 2nd, Lance-Corporal Pawlow; 3rd, Lance-Corporal Wink; 6th, Lance-Corporal Story.

1,000 metres K2 Sprint: 1st, Lance-Corporal Wink/Lance-Corporal Pawlow; 3rd, Corporal Bull/Lance-Corporal Story.

Long distance (12 miles River Tay). K1: 1st, Lance-Corporal Story; 3rd, Corporal Bull. K2: 1st, Lance-Corporal Pawlow/Lance-Corporal Wink; 7th, Lance-Corporal Sudron (Sergeant Hartless, R.E.).

Also representing the Army in Sprint and L.D. from Royal Signals were: Staff Sergeant Brett, 8th Regiment (29th L.D.-K1); Corporal Cook, Lance-Corporal Rowley, A.A.C. Harrogate (8th 1,000 metres Sprint K2).

Winner Sprint Championship: Army.
Winners L.D. Championship: Army.
2nd in Slalom Championship: Army.

Overall winners of the Inter-Services Canoe Championships: The Army (for the seventh year running).

THEY GO FOR SPORT IN A BIG WAY

Our main picture shows the presentation of the Station Commander's Cup to **Staff Sergeant Leiper,** 259 Squadron team manager for the competition; also shown are some of the leading players in various sports in the competition. The cup is being presented by **Group Captain Farquharson,** the Station Commander at R.A.F. Episkopi. The players are: 1. **Corporal Hoyle,** 2. **Staff Sergeant Barnett,** 3. **Sergeant Lowry,** 4. **Sergeant Barwick,** 5. **Sergeant Evans,** 6. **Sergeant Joglekar.**

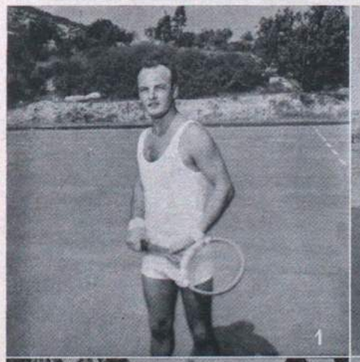
The competition which has run for the last 12 months consisted of tournaments in 14 different sports and competitors came from 20 units on the station. The table below indicates the results of the competition:

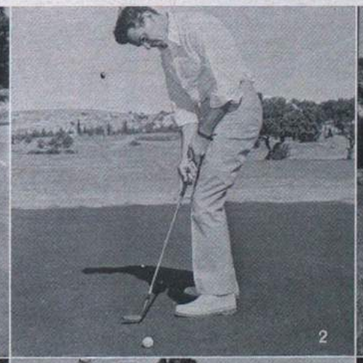
Sport	*Squadron Captain*	*Teams Entered*	*Squadron Position*
Soccer	Sergeant Lowry	20	2nd
Volleyball	W.O.1 Kenyon	20	5th
Hockey	Sergeant Luis	18	9th
Squash	Sergeant Joglekar	18	5th
Table Tennis	W.O.2 Lee	19	17th
Basketball	Sergeant Edwards	19	1st
Cross Country	Staff Sergeant Percival	14	5th
Badminton	Sergeant Joglekar	20	9th
Rugby	Sergeant Lowry	19	9th
Golf	Sergeant Stevens	20	3rd
Shooting	W.O.2 Courtenay	19	1st
Tennis	Sergeant Edwards	17	5th
Cricket	Sergeant Luis	19	1st
Swimming	Staff Sergeant Leiper	20	1st
Overall	Staff Sergeant Leiper	20	1st

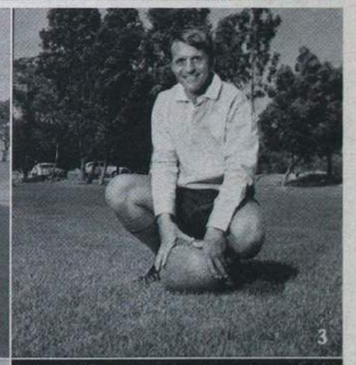
These results represent not only a fine sporting achievement on the part of many members of the Squadron but also much enthusiasm and hard work on the part of **Staff Sergeant Leiper.** By the time these words become print he will be posted on promotion. We wish him good fortune at the School of **Signals.**

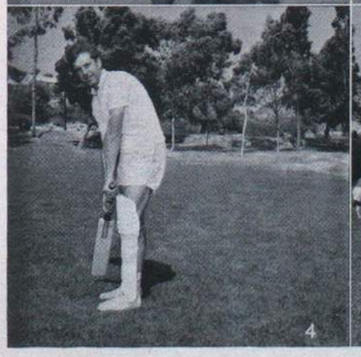
A Year's Sporting Achievement



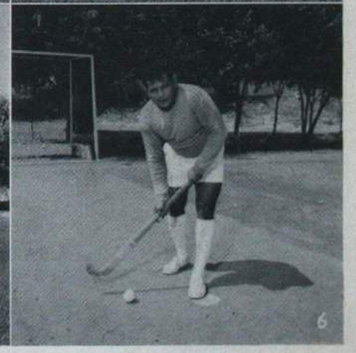












Personal Affairs

Obituary

The Reverend Walter Edmund Rayner, T.D.

(One time Brevet Colonel Royal Signals)

The Reverend Walter Edmund Rayner died in Bedford on 15th September, aged 81. Army signals having been a large part of his life, there will be many past and present members of the Corps who will grieve his going.

'Bill' Rayner enlisted in the Essex Yeomanry in 1912. Mounted exercises over the Essex countryside increased in tempo and frequency in those last pre-war years and the Yeomanry signal requirements were, if not sophisticated, at least highly demanding.

By Christmas 1914 he was on active service in France and, by the following summer, he had transferred to the R.E. Cavalry Corps Signals. For over two-and-a-half years, as trooper, sapper and lance-corporal, he served with the Cavalry Corps in France. This period saw the bonding of a remarkable common spirit amongst all ranks who shared those awful days. The survivors of 'ZCO' Signals '* still meet each year in the autumn and, up to last year, 'Bill' Rayner was amongst them. The numbers are now small, but their fine spirit is as bright as ever. At the time of writing the 1971 reunion is only a few days off.

In 1917, after S37 Cadet Course in Bedford, Second-Lieutenant 'Bill' Rayner was despatched back to France where he served with 10 Corps Signal Company until his return to the U.K. in 1919.

In 1920 he joined the 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals, R.E., and in the same year became a founder member of the Corps when the unit joined the new 'Corps of Signals.' He remained with the 54th through the between-war years, finally commanding them from 1932 to 1935.

On the outbreak of the Second World War he was again embodied, this time as D.C.S.O., Eastern Command. He served right through to 1945, including spells in North Africa and Italy. He will be remembered by many in the early war years when he was commanding the Depot Battalion (now 11th Signal Regiment). The famous Harry Stickley was R.S.M.

After the Second War and a few years in the War Damage Commission he was ordained and appointed to the living of Betchworth in Surrey. In 1965 he conducted a service of dedication of the 15th Signal Regiment on its re-formation. This was in Aden and his eldest son, John, was commanding. Bill's grandson, Second-Lieutenant John, is at present serving in the Corps in Northern Ireland.

To Bill's wife, May, now living in Bedford, we send our deepest sympathy.

* See pages 50-51 of 'Through to 1970.'

W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) D. W. Carr

33rd Signal Regiment (V), writes:

It is with deep regret that we report the death of W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Dave Carr after a short illness on 13th September.

He joined A.E.R. in May, 1952, for service with 22 Army Group Signal Regiment at Blacon Chester, followed by service with 84th Signal Regiment and 80th Signal Regiment at Blandford where he was appointed W.O.2 S.S.M.

On the formation of the T. & A.V.R. in 1967 he joined 33rd (Lancashire & Cheshire) Signal Regiment (V) as W.O.2 R.Q.M.S., in which appointment he was still serving at the time of his death.

A most valued and respected member of the Regiment whose loyalty and unstinting service was an example to all; he had a professional approach to Volunteer soldiering.

He was an enthusiastic and active member of the Sergeants' Mess and the Merseyside Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

A measure of his popularity was shown by the attendance at his funeral of some 150 of his friends in the Regiment and the National Giro.

He leaves a widow and two daughters Elaine, 21, and Vivian, 17, to whom we express our deepest sympathy.

Corporal James Barraclough

234 Signal Squadron (Malta) write:

We very much regret to report the death of Corporal James Barraclough of this unit. Corporal Barraclough died from drowning while sub-aqua diving off the coast of Malta on 29th August. To his wife and two children we offer our deepest sympathy.

Major W. ('Bill') Holmes, M.M.

We regret to record the death of Major W. ('Bill') Holmes, M.M., after a short illness on 29th September at the age of 77.

Major Holmes had had a varied and successful military career stretching back to nearly 35 years, 19 of which were spent with the Corps.

He enlisted in the R.F.A. in 1914 and was with the British Expeditionary Force in France during the years 1915 to 1917. During these years he transferred to R.E. Signals and was awarded the M.M. and bar. He was discharged at the end of the war in the rank of Sergeant, but a few weeks later he re-enlisted into the Royal Engineers. In 1920 he transferred to Royal Signals and served in the Corps for over 19 years being discharged in 1939 in the rank of C.S.M. (W.O.2.). With the outbreak of the Second World War 'Bill' Holmes was commissioned as a Lieutenant Q.M. with the 55th Liverpool Division and again went on active service.

He retired in the rank of Major in 1948. For some time after this he put his abilities and experience to good account by working with the T.A.

Major Holmes had a wide circle of friends who held him in great esteem both for his all-round abilities and for his sincerity. He leaves a wife, a daughter and son to whom deep sympathy is expressed.

His home address: 63 Speke Road, Liverpool, L25 8SA.

UK or European posting?

Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you fancy.

Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack**—*without obligation.* W11

Name..... *Rank*.....

Present Address.....

Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*

Tax paid for U.K. only.....*(tick)*

Delivery Date.....

NATOCARS

Movements

Officers

Captain (T.O.T.) D. P. Albas	...	To 10th Regiment
Major P. Ashlin	...	,, 37th Regiment (V)
Captain B. J. Austin	...	,, R.M.C. of S.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker	...	,, H.Q. B.A.O.R. SX Branch
Major W. Batty	...	,, A.W.S. Group
Captain (T.O.T.) D. A. Bowden	...	,, 11th Regiment HS (retiring)
Major M. F. H. Colman	...	,, J.O.C.P.F.
Captain G. M. Finney	...	,, 7th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant G. S. Hand	...	,, Cambridge University O.T.C.
Second-Lieutenant C. R. Harper	...	,, Cambridge University O.T.C.
Major R. F. Hills	...	,, H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Captain (T.O.T.) L. W. Leppington		,, 21st Regiment
Captain M. S. Louden	...	,, H.Q. Western Command
Major C. B. Mercer	...	,, 11th Regiment
A/Captain G. H. Mills	...	,, 4 Gds. Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant T. P. Mountford	...	,, 11th Regiment
Major T. J. Moynan	...	,, 10th Regiment
Major L. W. Prescot	...	,, 242 Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant A. J. Raper	...	,, Cambridge University O.T.C.
Lieutenant V. J. Reed	...	,, 21st Regiment
Major (Q.M.) W. A. Rowbory	...	,, 11th Regiment HS (retiring)
Captain R. A. C. Siderfin	...	,, R.M.C. of S.
Captain P. Stanley	...	,, B.D.L.S. Canberra
Captain (Q.M.) T. A. Swales	...	,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Major (Q.M.) L. J. Taylor, M.B.E.		,, 608 Signal Troop
Major R. M. Wright	...	,, M.O.D. (A.C.E.P.)

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. P. Steeples	...	To 7th Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) T. J. Everett	...	,, School of Signals
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. Morris	...	,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. E. Edgington	...	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.2 P. Jackson	...	,, 37th Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) T. L. Brown	...	,, 28th Regiment
W.O.2 E. R. Dodds	...	,, 1st Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 G. G. Eagle	...	,, 9th Regiment
W.O.2 S. R. Norris	...	,, 2nd Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 D. Shakespeare	...	,, 38th Regiment (V)
W.O.2 W. G. Wallace	...	,, 6th Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.2 R. J. Isaac	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
W.O.2 P. J. Freeston	...	,, 8th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.2 P. D. Studd	...	,, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant F. Jepson	...	,, 7th Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. Caffery	...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. C. Armstrong	...	,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. R. Beare	...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. J. A. Naismith	...	,, H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) N. C. Cowell		,, 63 (S.A.S.) Signal Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. A. H. Taylor		,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant P. Farrar	...	,, 259 Squadron
Sergeant R. Goodwin	...	,, SHAPE H.Q. Comd. and Sp. (B.E.)
Sergeant F. G. Howden	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. E. Trent	...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant P. D. Shawyer	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant L. Goodwin	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant A. D. Haworth	...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant P. Thomas	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant D. C. Toller	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. D. Brown	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant I. G. L. Greenall	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant B. F. Tuffin	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant A. W. Gillham	...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant R. T. McKinlay	...	,, 55 Squadron (V)
Sergeant T. Lowes	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Golding	...	,, 665 Troop
Sergeant B. Steele	...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant H. C. Stanley	...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant P. H. M. Toovey	...	,, 234 Squadron
Sergeant R. P. Orwin	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Smart	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron, Att. 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. J. C. Stokes	...	,, 3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. S. S. McKay	...	,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron, Att. 3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. P. Edison	...	,, 4th Gds. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
A/Sergeant D. G. Harrod	...	,, 259 Squadron
A/Sergeant J. Fowler	...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant D. Bramley	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant P. Simons	...	
Sergeant K. R. Finch	...	
Sergeant A. G. Rayner	...	
Sergeant O. S. Vannan	...	
Sergeant M. W. Watson	...	
Sergeant K. A. Allen	...	
Sergeant R. G. Pond	...	School of Signals
Sergeant D. P. Jackson	...	Y. of S. Course No. 21
Sergeant T. Wilkinson	...	
Sergeant L. G. F. Marchant	...	
Sergeant W. E. Clarke	...	
Sergeant P. G. Williams	...	
A/Sergeant D. G. Weston	...	
A/Sergeant E. Buck	...	
Sergeant M. D. Lockie	...	,, 24th Airptbl. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant C. Pritchard	...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant A. L. C. Plumbridge	...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant H. O'Halloran	...	,, 4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Lund	...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant B. E. Young	...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant T. Noonan	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. E. Loud	...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Scott	...	,, 604 Signal Troop
Sergeant T. D. A. Davis	...	,, 24th Airptbl. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Sergeant P. J. Hamilton	...	,, 3rd Division Signal Regiment (for 3rd Inf. Bde. Sig Sqn.)
A/Sergeant B. J. Alway	...	,, 3rd Division Signal Regiment
W.O.1 P. S. W. Johnson	...	To 35th Regiment (V)
W.O.1 (Y. of S.) H. E. Wright		,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.1 (Y. of S.) C. Speight	...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.2 E. Bailey	...	,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.2 D. M. Moynan	...	,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. K. Chapman		,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
W.O.2 J. W. A. Clarke	...	,, 19 Airptbl. Bde. Signal Sqn.
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) L. J. Kelly	...	,, 21st Regiment
W.O.2 A. G. M. Thomson	...	,, 30th Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. R. Souter		,, 27th Regiment
W.O.2 D. G. Goodwin	...	,, School of Signals
W.O.2 J. P. McMahon	...	,, M.O.D. Camp Commandant Central Staff
Staff Sergeant D. H. Carr	...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. Harle	...	,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. C. Davis	...	,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. C. Tibby	...	,, 35th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant J. J. McElvogue	...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. J. A. Beer		,, 34th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant E. W. Percival	...	,, 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) G. F. Devine		,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) W. J. Donnelly		,, 20 Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) W. R. F. Hall		,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. McGonagle	...	,, 8 Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant D. S. Berry	...	,, U.K. Mil. Rep. Comm. Staff & I.M.S. Brussels
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. M. Allison		,, Malawi Army
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. P. Coley		,, 21st Regiment

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Seniority Date*	*Old Seniority Date*	
To W.O.1					
Judge,	R. J.	A/W.O.1	27 Apr. 71	18 Jun. 68	
Meckings,	H. A. C.	A/W.O.1	18 May 71	26 Feb. 68	
To W.O.2					
Dodds,	E. R.	A/W.O.2	18 Jun. 71	17 Jun. 66	
Freeston,	P. J.	A/W.O.2	21 Jun. 71	22 Jun. 68	
Nutter,	F.	A/W.O.2	22 Jun. 71	14 Sep. 68	
Lakey,	J.	A/W.O.2	1 Jul. 71	30 Dec. 66	
Gaze,	A. J.	A/W.O.2	1 Jul. 71	23 Jul. 68	
To S Sgt.					
Platts,	G.	A/S Sgt.	23 May 71	25 Nov. 69	(ED)
Palmer,	D. G.	Sgt.	1 Jun. 71	3 Jun. 65	(Clk. Tech.)
Watson,	R.	Sgt.	1 Jun. 71	7 Jul. 65	(Tg. Op.)
Foster,	R. H.	Sgt.	19 Jun. 71	31 Mar. 59	(ED)
Bree,	J. C.	A/S Sgt.	20 Jun. 71	19 Dec. 63	(Lmn.)
Bartlett,	J. B.	A/S Sgt.	22 Jun. 71	26 Feb. 64	(R. Op.)
Banham,	E. J.	Sgt.	23 Jun. 71	1 Aug. 68	(Tg. Op.)
Holder,	D. E.	Sgt.	23 Jun. 71	9 Nov. 60	(Lmn.)
McDonald,	A.	Sgt.	2 Jul. 71	1 Jan. 63	(Tg. Op.)
Little,	M. F. P.	Sgt.	2 Jul. 71	4 Jun. 66	(Clk. Tech.)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.2					
Waudby,	S. H.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65	
Carr,	D.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65	
Phillips,	J. A.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65	
Truran,	M. A.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65	
Potter,	D. F.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65	
Tricker,	R. L.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65	
Thornber,	P. A.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65	
Paul,	H. J.	S Sgt.	19 Jul. 71	19 Jul. 65	

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Roberts,	B. D.	Sgt.	15 May 71	24 Mar. 70	(S. Op.)
Bandey,	J. E.	Sgt.	15 May 71	5 Aug. 70	(S. Op.)
Harle,	G.	Sgt.	15 May 71	30 Oct. 69	(S. Op.)
Fisher,	T. G.	Sgt.	15 May 71	22 Oct. 68	(S. Op.)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.2					
Brunt,	J.	S Sgt.	8 Jun. 71	16 Mar. 67	

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.					
Mason,	G. A.	Cpl.	17 Dec. 70	16 Sep. 66	
Morton,	E. A.	Cpl.	11 Feb. 71	19 Jun 69	
Shaw,	E.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	21 Jun. 67	
Webb,	R. T.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	12 Sep. 68	
Pennington,	J. R.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	22 Aug. 67	
Besant,	M. A. W.	Cpl.	15 Jul. 71	20 Oct. 67	

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.					
Gass,	M.	Cpl.	1 Jun. 71	30 Nov. 67	
Ogorman,	M.	A/Sgt.	8 Jun. 71	3 Oct. 61	

(Continued on page 464)

Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army – or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain – and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain with rank, receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity, and your British Army service will count toward points for married quarters allocation, should you enlist within twelve months of your British Army discharge.

Don't leave it any longer!

Is your trade included in those listed? If so, this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London – or post the the coupon for all the facts.

Royal Australian Artillery
1. Physical Training Instructor – Sergeants

Royal Australian Survey Corps
1. Survey Photo Technician – Sergeants
2. Topographic Surveyor – Warrant Officers Class 2/Sergeants

Royal Australian Signals
1. Regimental Duty NCO – Sergeants and Corporals
2. Clerk R. Sigs. – Sergeants and Corporals
3. Radio Operator/Telegraph Operator – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Clerk Technical R. Sigs. – Corporals
5. Foremen of Signals – Warrant Officers Class 2
6. Terminal Equipment Technician – Sergeants and Corporals

Royal Australian Army Service Corps
1. Clerk G.D. – Sergeants
2. Clerk RAPC – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
1. Hygiene Assistant Class 1 – Sergeants
2. Hygiene Assistant Class 2 – Corporals
3. Clerk Medical – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Radiographer Class 1 – Sergeants
5. Laboratory Technician Class 1 – Staff Sergeants

Royal Australian Ordnance Corps
1. Work Study Operator – Warrant Officers Class 2

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
1. Artificer Radar – Warrant Officers Class 1 and 2
2. Artificer Telecommunications – Staff Sergeants
3. Artificer Vehicle – Warrant Officers Class 2, Staff Sergeants
4. Fitter Armament, Fitter and Turner Gun – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Provost
1. R.M.P. Provost N.C.O. – Corporals
2. M.P.S.C. Instructor – Corporals

Australian Army Band Corps
1. Musician or Bandsman – vacancies exist in the rank of Private, for musicians specialised in the following instruments.

Flute	French Horn
Oboe	Cornet
Clarinet (B Flat)	Euphonium
Saxophone	Trombone
Bass	Percussion

Australian Services Canteen Organisation
1. Attendant canteen, or issuing point – Corporals
2. Manager canteen or issuing point – Sergeants

Come as you are- to Australia

If you're thinking about emigrating and you've acquired any of the specialist skills and ranks detailed above, you may be eligible for enlistment in the Australian Army.



Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Age ..... Married/Single .....

Rank ..... Corps .....

Trade .....

Anticipated Discharge Date .....

.....

To: Capt. J. Gresty, Australian Army Staff, 2nd Flr., Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 355



SUNBEAM RAPIER



UK TAX PAID PRICE £1471

TAX FREE SERVICES DISCOUNT PRICE £928

YOUR SAVING £543

Just one of CHRYSLER MILITARY'S

NATO COMMITMENTS

HERE'S MORE!

★ OVER TWENTY MODELS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE

★ DISCOUNTS UP TO 17½% FROM UK BASIC

★ "FAST FOR FORCES" FACTORY HELD PRIORITY STOCKS

★ COMPREHENSIVE "READY TO GO" STOCKS W. GERMANY

★ SPECIAL "NO PROBLEM" FINANCE, INSURANCE, DOCUMENTATION

★ PLANE, TRAIN, BOAT, CHRYSLER COURIER MEETING SERVICE UK

Send for your free info package

LET US TELL YOU MORE ABOUT OUR NATO COMMITMENTS

To INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS
Chrysler Military Sales Ltd., Halkin House, Halkin St., London, SW1.
Telephone 01-235 6484

or CHRYSLER MILITARY SALES CORP.,
Karlstrasse 16, Frankfurt, West Germany.

I am interested in:

For delivery UK ☐ W. Germany ☐ Tax Paid ☐

Name ..... Rank .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone No. ..... Ext. .....

(Continued from page 461)

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Name	Initials	Rank	New Sen. Roll	Old Sen. Roll
To Sgt. Ramsay,	J. B.	Cpl.	15 Jun. 71	20 Jul. 66

LINEMAN ROLL

To Sgt. Kerr,	G. W.	Cpl.	11 May 71	10 Jan. 63

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt. Lees,	M. D.	A/Sgt.	4 Feb. 71	22 May 64

DELETIONS

Name	Initials	Seniority Date

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.1		
Rose,	J. A.	1 Aug. 66
Surch,	C. H.	8 Oct. 68
Crampton,	R. A.	12 Dec. 68
Copley,	J. N.	9 Dec. 69
W.O.2		
Shaw,	R. G.	15 Aug. 64
Baigent,	G. M.	24 Aug. 65
Jones,	F. W.	24 May 66

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.1		
Gill,	P.	5 Aug. 68

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.1		
Brown,	P.	5 Aug. 69
W.O.2		
Purkiss,	R. V.	25 Mar. 65

TECHNICIANS ROLL

W.O.2		
Weighell, (BEM)	R. E.	31 Dec. 65
Sgt.		
Longstaff,	J. R.	5 Jul. 68
Jefferies,	E. G.	1 Apr. 69
Young,	J. C.	25 Jul. 68
Simms,	D. F.	1 Apr. 71
Walder,	P. M.	18 Oct. 69
Forster,	J. J.	27 Mar. 69
Stagg,	W. C.	6 Jun. 57

SPECIAL OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt. Wilson.	F. J.	29 Aug. 62

CLERK/DRAUGHTSMAN ROLL

Sgt. Stout.	J.	1 Jan. 71

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

To W.O.1				
Haydon	J. M.	A/W.O.1	24 Apr. 71	26 Jan. 69
Wood,	J. T.	A/W.O.1	18 May 71	14 Jun. 66
Webster,	E. T. A.	A/W.O.1	18 May 71	31 Jan. 66
Harris,	P. J.	A/W.O.1	2 Jul. 71	25 Jan. 69
Roberts,	J. K.	A/W.O.1	13 Jul. 71	30 Apr. 69
Cushen,	T. J.	A/W.O.1	23 Jul. 71	7 Jul. 64
To W.O.2				
Clarke,	J.	S Sgt.	3 Jul. 71	2 Mar. 69
Paterson,	R.	A/W.O.2	14 Jul. 71	28 Feb. 69
Wade,	R.	A/W.O.2	19 Jul. 71	9 Mar. 69
Uttridge	P. R.	S Sgt.	24 Jul. 71	11 Mar. 69
Simister,	H.	A/W.O.2	13 Aug. 71	21 Apr. 66
Smith,	G. F.	S Sgt.	17 Aug. 71	3 Aug. 66
To S Sgt.				
Ryan,	T.	Sgt.	15 Jul. 71	2 Jan. 69 (RR Man.)
Bingham	D.	A/S Sgt.	20 Jul. 71	31 Oct. 61 (Dvr.)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.2				
David,	J.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65
Doyle,	R. V.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65
Jackson,	J. H.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65
Harvey,	D. K.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65
McNaughton,	J.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65
Meachin,	B. A.	S Sgt.	17 Jul. 71	17 Jul. 65

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

To W.O.1				
Riddell,	A. G.	A/W.O.1	1 Apr. 71	2 Jul. 64

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.2				
Morrison,	J.	A/W.O.2	2 Jul. 71	8 Oct. 66

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

To S Sgt.				
Ryder,	I. K.	Sgt.	12 Jul. 71	19 Nov. 69

BAOR.....?

—If you are arriving soon, or are here already, and interested in a new:—

TRIUMPH UP TO 15% OFF! FAMILY MODELS Toledo £660 1500 £788 2000 £1099.

OR

PEUGEOT LIST PRICES SLASHED! ALL MODELS DISCOUNT PRICES FROM ONLY £720!

Then for details of U.K./Germany Delivery, Specfications, Nato Prices, H.P., 'Partex, Call, 'Phone or Write to:

Mr. P. BRENNEN DUPLEIX
of **WALTER HAGEN & CO., GmbH**
415 KREFELD
Pestalozzistr.—WEST GERMANY
or **TELEPHONE KREFELD 751061** (10.30-12.00 hrs. preferably)

IMPORTER — SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

(We have Agents in the U.K. too)

RADIO OPERATORS

DO YOU HOLD
PMG II *OR* PMG I *OR* NEW GENERAL CERTIFICATE
OR
HAD TWO YEARS' RADIO OPERATING EXPERIENCE?

Looking for a secure job with good pay and conditions?

Then apply for a post with the Composite Signals Organisation. These are Civil Service posts, with opportunities for service abroad, and of becoming established, i.e., non-contributory pension scheme.

Specialist Training Course (free accommodation) starting April and September, 1972, anr January, 1973.

If you are British born and resident in the United Kingdom, under 35 years of age (40 for exceptionally well qualified candidates), write NOW for full details and an application form from:

Government Communications Headquarters,
Recruitment Officer,
Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL52 5AJ.
(Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270).

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND **PRINTING**

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:
Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

Produced for the Publishers, THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68, Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9)

December-January 1971-1972

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



CALDER BROKER PARTNERS offer the most comprehensive service available to all members of the Armed Forces and as Specialist Service Brokers we believe that in the light of ever-changing circumstances it is now more important than ever before that all ranks should have the benefit of professional and personal attention.

Consult:

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS
BROKERS

Head Office:

ALBANY CHAMBERS, MARKET PLACE, RICHMOND, YORKS.
Tel. Richmond 2966 (3 lines)

Life Assurance for:-

Convertible Whole Life · Education Endowment · Unit Trust Investment
Officers' Terminal Grant Trust · Retirement · House Purchase · Security for your Family

General Insurance for:-

Kit Insurance, Motor - Comprehensive Rates, Home and Foreign Policies, Personal Accident, Household Effects and all other Insurances in the best Markets

AGENTS FOR LEADING BUILDING SOCIETIES

Represented throughout the U.K. with personal representation in more than 80 cities and towns

We are only a phone call away—make CALDER BROKER PARTNERS your Brokers

Wherever you go in the U.K. we have a man nearby to help you

CALDER BROKER PARTNERS TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE

Technical Officer

for the

Armoured Car Regiment of the Abu Dhabi Defence Force

A vacancy exists for a Technical Officer for the Armoured Car Regiment of the Abu Dhabi Defence Force. The applicant should be a SNCO with particular experience with AFVs and the normal fitments and harnesses associated with Ferrets, Saladins and Saracens. He would be offered the rank of Lieutenant and the pay (UK tax free) would be £237 per month for a single man and £272 for a married man. The post would be unaccompanied and a three year contract would be offered to the right man. The upper age limit would be 45. If you think you have the right qualifications please write direct to Major I. M. Craig-Adams (Retd.), Military Recruiting Officer, Office of the Government of Abu Dhabi, 30 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7 for further details, stating at the same time your release date from H. M. Forces.



THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
Mr. L. Wood

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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months **£1.20**; *single month,* **10p.**

☆

DECEMBER/JANUARY 1971/72

Vol. 25 *(New Series)* **No. 12**

The Master of Signals sends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ranks in the Corps, particularly those on emergency duty in Northern Ireland.

We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and all good fortune in 1972. We are most grateful to them for their support in 1971. From our point of view THE WIRE is a labour of love on behalf of the Corps in which we are greatly sustained by the generous encouragement we receive from many quarters. In particular we must thank all those who have contributed to our columns during the past year. We know just how much time and labour this involves and we would ask our contributors' kind indulgence when, with much reluctance, we are forced to prune their contributions or hold them over due to pressure on WIRE space.

We regret that we have had to increase the cost of THE WIRE from 10p to 15p for individual subscribers from 1st January, 1972 —but not for bulk orders supplied to units. Steadily mounting costs have forced this on us. Again, we are most encouraged by the large number of our readers who have accepted this increase by completing the loose-leaf pro forma inserted in recent WIRES. The pro forma appears again in this WIRE and we hope that those who have not already done so will take this last chance to regularise their subscription for 1972. This really will help us.

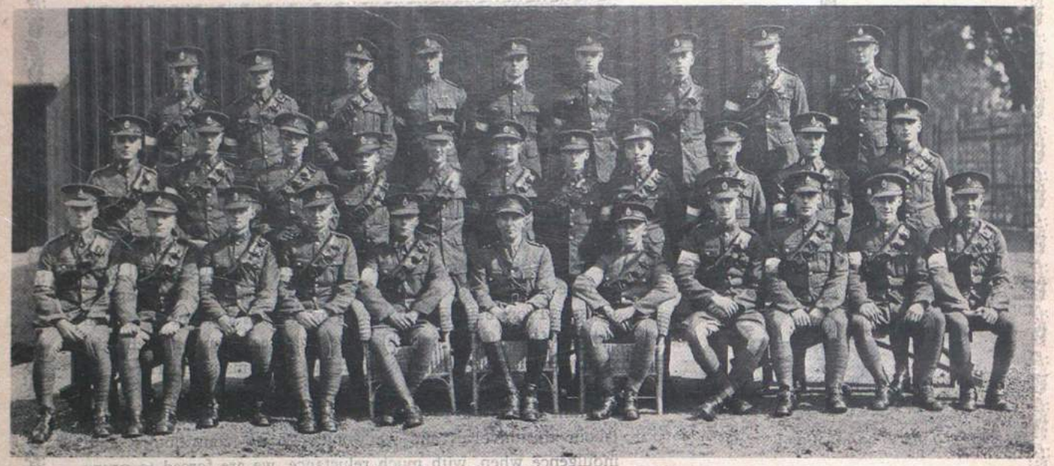
We must apologise to those whose copies of THE WIRE occasionally go astray. Due to postings our serving readers' addresses are constantly changing and errors do creep in here and there. Please let us know at once if your WIRE is not arriving so that we can take prompt action to rectify the situation.

Finally, we must thank Messrs. F. J. Parsons, our printers for very many years, for all their co-operation in printing and mailing THE WIRE. They are very good friends of ours.

Our Cover Picture

We are glad to feature this month the recently formed 28 ANZUK Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, currently stationed in Singapore. Descended by lineage from the very successful Commonwealth Divisional Signals of Korean fame, the Squadron is a happy amalgam of soldiers (mainly signallers) from the U.K., Australia and New Zealand. We welcome them to the pages of THE WIRE and we are sure they will establish as fine a reputation as their distinguished forebears. In the photo, on a jungle exercise, can be seen (left to right) **Corporal Fred Crawford** (New Zealand), **Lance-Corporal Andy Wilson** (U.K.) and **Signalman John Leonard** (Australia).

From our "In" Tray



Were You there? China — 1927

Sir,

With regard to the 1947 picture published in the October-November WIRE, perhaps you would be interested in the above picture, taken in 1927 (20 years previously) showing the 13th Indian (Jhansi) Infantry Brigade Signal Section, Shanghai, O.C. **Lieutenant T. C. Thompson.**

On arrival at Hong Kong via Colchester, Royal Albert Dock Woolwich, and s.s. *Karmala*, we camped under canvas along the west side of the railway, approximately 200 yards from Hong Kong railway station. A few days later we moved to Fanling near the border, still under canvas, and a few weeks later we moved to Shanghai via s.s. *Vasna* where we installed the Signal Office, and billets upon the third floor of the Australia and New Zealand Bank on the Bund, a few yards from Garden Bridge and Soochow Creek.

I wonder how many of those chaps (very efficient tradesmen) are still around.

Yours, **T. C. White.**

4 Park View Road,
Helston, Cornwall.

Calling old Friends

Ex-Signalman 'Ginger' Parsons (14414892)

Still at heart a devoted Corps man, **ex-Signalman 'Ginger' Parsons** would be delighted to contact any of his old friends serving or retired. Volunteering in 1942 he trained as a D.R. at Prestatyn. After serving with Northern Command Signals he found himself as a D.R. with 79th Armoured Division ending up at such well-known places as Belsen concentration camp and Lunneberg Heath.

Later from 1945 to 1948 he was in Palestine with 2nd Air Support Signal Unit where he was a prominent member of the motor cycle display team. On demob. he became a road patrolman with the R.A.C. and later an oil rig 'roughneck.' Now he is assistant head of his division with the Shell Oil Company after five years' North Sea exploration and posting to such places as Qatar, Nigeria, Pakistan, New Zealand, Indonesia and currently Borneo where he is Honorary Member of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess 2/2nd K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles.

Important events in his life:

1943—Escorted H.R.H. The late Princess Royal to Harewood House in Wetherby.

1951—Presented to H.M. The late King Haakon of Norway at Buckingham Palace.

1959—Introduced to **Group Captain Douglas Bader.**

1968—Welcomed **Mr. Edward Heath** aboard the oil rig 'Staflo' in North Sea.

1969—Re-assigned to Borneo after an absence of 12 years where he once more enjoys the atmosphere of Mess life even as a civvy—where to coin a phrase by a certain Mess member, "He's more army barmy than the ruddy army."

'Ginger' and his wife would be delighted to hear from any old friends or better still receive a visit. His address is: Mr. R. Parsons, Drilling Depot, Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Ltd., Seria, State of Brunei.

'Ex-Rats Reunion' (Covering all Ex-Boys)

Sir,

A letter published in THE WIRE earlier in the year outlining the intention to re-introduce an annual reunion of 'Ex-Rats' and asking those interested to get in touch with me met with little response; in fact I only received ten replies.

I would be grateful if you will allow me to make a further appeal in THE WIRE.

"If any of you 'Ex-Rats' are interested please write and let me know; leave it until later and you will surely forget."

Yours,
Fred Pavey (Major F. J. Pavey, Staff Q.M.).

28 Oak Avenue,
Penny Pot Lane,
Harrogate.

Northern Ireland.—We commend to our readers the account given by 39 Brigade Signal Squadron on Page 493.

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT - - each 70p
U.K. inc. P. Tax - " 76p
(Postage Extra)

T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY
Nr. DONCASTER

WHO IS THE SMART YOUNG HIGHLAND OFFICER? — CAPTAIN JOHN REED, ROYAL SIGNALS!



Nishan (it means aim and sight) is the annual shooting match between the member nations of the Central Treaty Organisation, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. 1971 was the year of Nishan VIII; previously the competition had been won three times by the Americans and four times by the Iranians—including the last three competitions in 1968, 1969 and 1970. Britain had never won the competition but this year she was represented by 1st Bn. Queen's Own Highlanders, a known 'shooting' Battalion who had fired in the competition in 1965.

Nishan is taken really seriously by the other nations. When they win the Iranian team are paid an extra year's pay!

This year the Queen's Own Highlanders, with the added support of certain attached marksmen, were able to pull off this keenly contested match with a grand total of 3,353 points. Second was the United States with 3,178, third Iran with 3,174 points and fourth Turkey with 2,739 points.

John Reed was brought in because of his prowess with the pistol and along with **Major Nason** of the Queen's Own Highlanders only allowed the strong U.S. and Iranian teams to draw ahead with the narrow margin of 20 points so helping towards the final victory.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during October, 1971:

	£ p
O.C., 83rd (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2.00
Mr. L. C. Hall	3.20
Lieutenant-Colonel R. V. Lester	2.10
Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E.	1.05
Mr. L. G. Toogood	1.00
Mr. J. Milburn	95
Revd. (Wing Commander) L. V. Henry, M.A., R.A.F.	50
Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E.	50
Various small donations	1.15
	£12.45

Clothing

Since the beginning of September, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following: Major and Mrs. P. G. Rogers, Mrs. F. Cooper, Mrs. J. Hewson, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr, W.O.2 D. Cox, W. E. Osborne Esq., Mrs. Heath, Mrs. I. D. Fry, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker, Captain R. O. Iliffe, Major-General and Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Mr. and Mrs. R. Goddard.

Miss Eversley, Captain and Mrs. R. N. Phillips, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Dally, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Welsford, 3 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, C. Fry Esq., Colonel and Mrs. E. J. Bardell, Mrs. W. A. Purser, Major and Mrs. C. R. C. Bunce, Mrs. Newsom, Major R. O. Edwards, Mrs. C. E. Page, The Wives Club, 7th Signal Regiment, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. D. Le Febvre, North London Branch, Royal Signals Association, Captain N. A. V. Ribchester, Mr. and Mrs. N. Church and A. Stokes Esq.

HELP!

The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team

Compiling historical information about the White Helmets is a hard job. If anybody can assist by amending the list of Team Commanders shown below we would be very grateful.

The 'approved' list is going to be carved onto a large board and so accuracy is very important.

Any comments and letters from ex-Team Commanders and Team Members will be gratefully received at this address:

White Helmets, Royal Signals Display Team, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

TEAM OFFICERS

Catterick Team

1930–34	Captain H. R. Firth
1932–37	Lieutenant H. N. Crawford
1938–39	Lieutenant H. L. B. Kealy

Tidworth Team

1928	
1929	
1930	Second-Lieutenant Dobson

City of London Team

1935	Lieutenant S. J. Lovegrove
1935–38	The Hon. Lieutenant R. E. Denison-Pender
	Second-Lieutenant Darkin

Post World War II Team

1947	Captain D. Galbreath
1947–48	Second-Lieutenant R. T. Dimmock
1947–48	Captain C. F. Jackman
1948	Major E. S. Colman
1948–50	Captain J. St. C. W. Robinson
1949	Captain N. G. R. Halliday
1950	Captain P. H. F. Webb
1951–52	Captain G. W. Nation
1951	Captain J. A. H. K. Findlater
1952–54	Captain S. L. Kemp
1953	Captain M. R. Potter
1954	Captain M. H. Cherry
1955	Captain D. G. Wright
1956–57	Captain G. C. A. Ridley
1958	Captain J. A. Montague
1959–60	Captain R. A. Burfitt
1960	Captain B. J. Burke
1961–62	Captain H. Taylor
1963–64	Captain R. Williams
1965	Captain C. D. A. Blessington
1965	Captain C. H. D. Cross
1966–67	Captain G. F. H. Grist
1968–69	Captain A. C. M. Prince
1969–71	Captain B. H. Rowe
1971	Captain J. K. C. Maclean



[*Courtesy: Western Mail*

AT THE RECENT VERY SUCCESSFUL CONCERT IN CARDIFF
The combination of the Treorchy Male Choir and the Corps Band filled Cardiff Assembly Hall to capacity. The Band and a portion of the Choir can be seen under the baton of Captain Keith Boulding—Director of Music



[*Courtesy: Newark Advertiser*

A WELL DESERVED AWARD
Mr. J. J. Dixon, Hon. Secretary of the Newark Branch, is seen being presented with an Honour Member's Badge by Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson at the Newark Branch Annual Dinner. This badge is awarded for outstanding services to the Association over a long period.
In the photo, left to right: Mr. F. C. Dixon (Chairman), Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson (General Secretary), Mr. J. J. Dixon (Hon. Secretary), Mr. C. Rollinson (Standard Bearer) and Mr. H. T. Clarke (Branch Treasurer)

Army Apprentices College Harrogate make a generous gesture

As readers of THE WIRE will recall, the College last term presented a specially adapted Ford 'Transit' 15-seater 'bus to the physically handicapped children of the Ian Tetley Memorial School at Killinghall.

This was delivered initially to a Ford distributor in Harrogate, and the task of collecting the 'bus fell to **Sergeant Ian Price, R.C.T.,** of the College's M.T. section. On his way back to the College he was struck by the thought that, for all its embellishments, something yet was missing—to wit, a radio to add to the children's enjoyment of their journeys.

A quiet word to the rest of the Section soon produced the answer. The hat was passed round, and the generous contributions of every member of M.T. provided the latest model Philips transistor car radio. This was duly fitted by **Corporal Dave Sullivan** on 16th October, and the children are already reaping the benefit of a very kind, thoughtful—and unobtrusive—gesture.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in October, 1971	30
Number of clothing parcels	46
Amount spent in grants and loans	£813.11

One of the Month's Cases

DRIVER, served from 1911 to 1923 in R.E. Signals and Royal Signals. He and his wife are now aged 80, and frail. Their married daughter and her son do all they can to help them, and have just decorated their flat for them as a birthday present. Royal Signals Association has helped them for some years with small cash gifts and clothing parcels, and a grant of £10 was sent as a 80th birthday present and to set them up with some of their winter needs. The daughter wrote to thank us, and her letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

I AM writing on behalf of my mum and dad to thank you very much for what you have done for them. When I came in, they were too full for words to tell me all you had done. They never thought that such people as you and the other good people were around today. It would be a great and better world to live in if they were. My mum and dad have both been hard working people, and now they have nothing but their pensions. My son and I try to help them to pay their electricity, for they have to have the heat on all the time. We only wish we could meet you to tell you how grateful they are; they say they are going to buy themselves a good pair of shoes for winter, and the rest on food. I will close now, thanking you all again from the bottom of our hearts.

A FEW MISGUIDED IDEAS ABOUT SACCONE & SPEED.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply French wines.

A lot of people think Saccone & Speed only supply the expensive vintages.

And now for the truth.

Saccone & Speed supply a wide range of excellent French wines.

Saccone & Speed also supply a superb selection of expensive vintage wines.

But what a lot of people don't realise is that we supply a whole range of surprisingly good quality inexpensive wines.

So if you don't feel like forking out for a Latour '49, we can always do you something nice for under a pound.

SACCONE & SPEED LTD.
In association with
Charles Kinloch & CO. LTD.
KINLOCH HOUSE,
17 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON NW10.

12th Signal Group (V) Train in BAOR

Volunteers' enthusiasm and effort highly creditable



[*Courtesy: Bedford County Press*

PLENTY OF ENTHUSIASM
Volunteers of 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment obviously in good heart

12 Signal Group (V) camped in B.A.O.R. between 11th September and 9th October.

34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) followed 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) in a tented camp on Egelsburgh, a grassy plateau a few miles north of Krefeld while 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) went to Olen, near Antwerp from 18th September to 3rd October. Warm sun favoured almost the entire month and each Regiment in turn went into the field to set up parts of a complex and extensive radio, telephone and teleprinter system covering a distance of 300 miles from end to end. Both men and women quickly settled into their jobs and though for many this was their first camp since recruit training their enthusiasm and effort, guided by the more experienced, produced results which would have done credit to far more seasoned troops.

During the month the Group Commander and his staff covered many hundreds of miles by car and helicopter visiting parts of the far-flung empire with each Regiment at different stages of its camp.

Altogether some 1,600 volunteers and nearly 400 vehicles were taken across the Channel with many more drawn from Ordnance depots for the two weeks of camp.

That the whole operation went so smoothly was a great credit to the detailed planning in the Regiments and the energy and co-operation of the many regular units concerned, in particular 16th Signal Regiment, H.Q., British Forces Antwerp, and 21st Signal Regiment.

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

Spartan but workmanlike

OVER 500 officers, men and women of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) trained at Annual Camp in Germany. The Camp had been erected by our sponsor Regiment, 16th Regiment, and was first occupied by 36th Signal Regiment (V) from whom we took over. The camp was comfortable if somewhat spartan, in contrast to the barrack accommodation with which we have been spoiled over recent years, and although we were fortunate to have dry weather, the nights tended to be rather chilly. The settling down period was more extended than usual due to the fact that the vehicles and most of the equipment did not arrive until the Monday morning. However, much useful training was done during this time and up to the beginning of the exercise on the Friday.

Cordial relations

Cordial relations between ourselves and 16th Regiment were rapidly cemented by exchange visits to the W.O.s and

Sergeants on the first Sunday and Monday evenings. This was duplicated by the officers on one evening in each week and culminated with a combined all ranks' dance at 16th Regiment towards the end of the second week.

During exercise preparation we were pleased to see the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** who visited both Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and spoke to many of the O.R.s

A great deal learned

Exercise 'Fair Weather' occupied five days, from Friday to Tuesday. This was successful both in terms of the communications established and the volume of traffic handled. The exercise was punctuated by inflicting three night moves on detachments which had established themselves comfortably in their original locations. These were executed in a most commendable way, communications being re-established within four hours in each case. We have learned a great deal from the experience and have increased confidence in our ability to fulfil our role.

Mayor's visit a highlight

The highlight of the post exercise period was the visit of the Mayor and Mayoress of Teesside, **Alderman Ron Hall** and **Mrs. Hall,** who were in Germany for educational and cultural exchanges including a visit to Teesside twin town Oberhausen. During the day the Mayor talked to many of the Teesside men and women. The Mayor and Mayoress later paid an official visit to the Burgomeister of Krefeld, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Stewart, T.D.,** and the Commanding Officer of 16th Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson.** This visit together with all the packing-up preparations for the return journey occupied the second Wednesday. Thursday was our only day off and say members of the Regiment spread over a wide area including Dusseldorf, Duisberg, Cologne and Krefeld and returning with a remarkable variety of objects as presents to take back home.



MAYOR'S VISIT WAS APPRECIATED
Privates Mary Rankin and Winifred Sigsworth clearly enjoyed their chat with the Mayor of Teeside, Alderman Ron Hall

Thank you—16th Regiment

In conclusion we wish to emphasise our thanks to 16th Regiment for all the assistance they gave us so willingly, both before the camp in helping to set it up, during the camp by their warm hospitality and also afterwards since it also fell to their lot to dismantle the camp. Without them our stay could not have been the success it was. Thank you 16th Regiment.

YOUR 1972 RESOLUTION!
I WILL BUY 'THE WIRE'
— NOT BORROW IT.

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)

A game of deduction

SPECULATING upon Camp prospects is an annual game played by Volunteers. It is a game of deduction based on long-range weather forecasts, knowledge of the venue, details of the training, and the normal working attitude of whomsoever you come under command. Progress is achieved by the free exchange of 'information,' and the winners are those who are eventually proved to have been misled by the fewest people. In accordance with tradition, R.H.Q. joined in the fun at the half-way stage, and fed in liaison notes, bulletins, forecasts of events and movement instructions, delicately impeded by cross-references, appendices and amendments.

Happy surprises

This year, Eglesberg fooled all of us. Firstly because of its six possible spellings, none of which appeared on any signpost. Secondly because of the incredibly good weather that lasted even for our major exercise. Principally, however, because of the fantastic achievement by 16th Regiment, in erecting a tented encampment for nearly 550 part-timers that was 'ready, willing and able" to be taken over. Who would have expected such wide angle views over the countryside, a gliding school in the next field, a windmill set against a skyline of Ruhr chimneys? Who would have believed that there really would be no practice march pasts, hardly any fatigues, or that the evening film shows would incorporate soundtracks that were understandable as well as being connected in parallel, rather than in series, to the lip movements?

There were other surprising twists. It is not expected, for instance, that you will lose a Second-in-Command a month or two before camp. Business regrettably transferred **Major Hart, T.D.,** at a very frivolous moment, and **Major Bamford, T.D.,** was appointed to succeed him, while **Captain Hall,** on promotion, took over 44 Squadron. Neither would one have envisaged that our road party of 187 vehicles and trailers would not have been allowed to complete the last few miles from the Dutch border owing to weekend convoy movement restrictions. This meant nearly a day's delay and their final arrival in an unknown foreign field in the small hours of Monday morning. Veterans from the air party, however, were at hand to marshall and to assist.

A Regiment again

Six hours later, we were a Regiment again. Roll calls, briefings, stores unloading—the pattern familiar to us all. By the following afternoon, half the Regiment were on the Leuth training area to practice detachment drills and communications, while others were recceing exercise locations, liasing in depth, or merely embussing for a bath in Bradbury Barracks.

Visits, of course

Visits began. Gradually the processions of Teutonic observers —happily inquisitive rather than acquisitive—gave way to the more welcome attentions of our Group Commander, **Brigadier H. A. J. Sturge,** the Honorary Colonel Commandant **Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.,** C.S.O. B.A.O.R. **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** and the A.D.W.R.A.C. **Lieutenant-Colonel A. Field.** Patrolling politzei, and representatives from local zeitungs (in even larger Mercedes) were as persistent as they were non-English speaking. By this time, our perimeter grazing had been occupied by exercising elements of Dutch and German units, together with some shorter-haired soldiers from 7th Regiment, and invitations to inspect each other's 'set-up' were exchanged.

Exercise 'O' Groups abounded. Bulging tests reverberated with the thud of annexures. Pink-eyed personnel called for fresh torch batteries.

Communications over an area 150 miles by 50

After a free day, when coaches sped to Amsterdam, Dusseldorf and Cologne, Exercise 'Triple Sword' began. Convoys departed in dust storms that would have alerted Peking, let alone Moscow. Destinations were reached, tails were laid and systems engineered. By the time traffic was due to begin, 27 speech and eight telegraph circuits were available for use over an area of 135 miles by 50. The two remaining teleprinter links were handed over seconds before the arrival of the Group Commander, and Deputy Commander, **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D.,**



[*Courtesy: Bedford County Press*
SERIOUS WORK
Signalman Bradley and Lance-Corporal Yates get the messages through in a highly professional manner



[*Courtesy: Bedford County Press*
W.R.A.C. WERE AS KEEN AS ANYONE
Privates Jiggles, Morris and Passfield take time off for a meal

A.D.C., a previous commanding officer of the Regiment. The Syscon vehicle slowly cooled down while the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D.,** conducted his visitors round the Regiment in a helicopter. An oil change for all generators was manipulated system by system, drivers became switchboard operators literally overnight, cooks worked miracles with Compo (would you believe roast turkey and cranberry sauce?), while sentries either had bottles thrown at them or were invited to parties by passing cars.

An honoured guest

We were honoured to receive a short visit from the Master of Signals, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** who, after lunching at Egelsburg Camp, saw the convoys returning from the exercise, and spoke with many of the crews. He also attended evening festivities held jointly with 16th Regiment.

Once again, it would be right to thank 16th Regiment for their splendid help and co-operation. Likewise, we would want to praise Movement Control for their excellent organisation. We also remember the lightning action taken for our compassionate cases.

Lighter moments

Funny stories? Plenty, but they tend to lose lustre when their background is removed. In general terms, however, perhaps the Troop that enterprisingly integrated their four days' compo with the rations of a nearby barracks cookhouse will be more alert in the future to the risk of a sudden move. Perhaps the Corporal who drove his vehicle into a farmer's manure pit will appreciate the wisdom of a quick recce before starting up. To be dropped in it is one thing, but to drive in up to the axles seemed unnecessarily masochistic. I liked the one about the clerk who handed the Padre his certificate of camp attendance explaining that it should be given to his employer. Quipped the Padre, "I think I should be passing pretty close on the return flight home. I'll drop it out of the window!" Finally, there was the young Signalman who asked the R.S.M. if he could see the Commanding Officer. After listening to a few well-chosen words on the subject of proper channels through Troop and Squadron, the soldier turned to leave, muttering that he only wished to tell the C.O. that he was wanted on the phone. And if you have a few moments to spare, what about the convoy navigator who asked, "Is Umleitung the German word for Rome?"

40th Ulster Signal Regt. (V) Belfast

From the Regimental historical record

THE advance party left Belfast on the evening of Tuesday, 14th September, travelling via Belfast-Liverpool, Hull and Rotterdam, arrived at Emblem Camp near Antwerp on the afternoon of Thursday, 16th September. The main party flew from R.A.F. Aldergrove on Saturday, 18th September, to Brussels Airport, thence to Olen Camp near Antwerp where they drew the complete Regiment's equipment and vehicles. On Sunday, 26th September, having checked, tested and practised with their equipment, the Regiment deployed for Exercise 'Moondust.' Within 24 hours the Regiment had established telephone and teleprinter circuits over C41 Radio Relay equipment and SR D11/R234 working FST, between Belgian coastal ports and Communication Centres near Krefeld and H.Q. Rhine Army, and were operating a Tape Relay Centre near Antwerp. The Exercise ended at 12.00 hours on Wednesday, 29th September, and by 21.00 hours that day the outlying detachments had made a tactical withdrawal and returned to their camp location.

In the following 48 hours, equipment was checked, serviced and returned to stockpile. On Saturday, 2nd October, the main party flew back to Ulster, via Brussels, received their training bounty, and had dispersed to their homes by 18.00 hours.

The background

Any such official history must omit the background flavour of a volunteer camp. We had very good weather, a comfortable brick camp, and a 48-hour break in the middle weekend, to go sightseeing in Antwerp, Amsterdam and Brussels. We were given great support by our sponsor unit, H.Q. British Forces Antwerp, together with 16th Regiment and 21st Regiment. The movement organisation was flawless and the Ordnance Depot were as eager as we were to correct anything found wrong in the equipment.

We were so spread out that the C.O. had to get about by Scout helicopter. He made several forced landings because of fog and low cloud, but feels that the Regiment must have its own flight, together with another R.R. Troop and Comcen Troop if we are really to cope with our new role.

Parties and parades, too

The hard slog of working up a full range of equipment and travelling nearly 48,000 miles on recce and deployment did not stop the parties or the parades. A sizeable detachment under **Lieutenant Brian Patterson,** in No. 2 Dress and complete with bagpiper, took part in the Menin Gate Ceremony. The shooting team went shooting with the Belgian Army Champions. The

Officers' Mess had two dinner nights with many distinguished guests. The Sergeants had one long party, and the Officers and Junior N.C.O.s joined in parts of it, and most troops and groups had their own party.

The Officers' Mess Staff, inspired by **Corporal Verlacque,** consumed 20 kilos of Moules Marinieres, and the 'Techs' had their party early to enable **F. of S. Yule** and his five technicians from 81 Squadron to join in. Many strange stories came out of Kanalstraate Amsterdam, where odd medals were won for unusual athletic feats and one man got no change from his 5,000 franc note! Meanwhile 81 Squadron were beavering away on R.A.F. airfields up-country, just too far away for our annual get-together. The C.O. and Hon. Colonel managed one visit and came back with stories of 100 pair plastic armoured cable, etc.

Keeping up to date

The Regiment was kept up to date with the happenings in Ulster. We had our own rearguard composed of **Staff Sergeant Johnson** and 15 brave Volunteers who had to be literally taken off the outgoing flights to guard the Training Centre during our absence. They sent a daily sitrep describing exactly where the shootings and explosions had taken place, which was closely studied, as were our two-day-old copies of the *Belfast Telegraph*. Morale stayed high though and was never affected by the, as usual, grossly exaggerated stories. Special arrangements for home phone calls on a welfare link were in frequent demand, particularly after it was learned that there would be no bill for a month or two.

Attached personnel pull their weight

Our attached personnel added to the general efficiency and gaiety. **Major George Dibley** (38th Regiment) who acted as our Traffic Officer, came to camp last year, and was welcomed again by all, particularly the W.R.A.C. **'Big John' Godley** (38th Regiment) our T.O.T. had only to stand up to his full 6ft. 7in. to command instant respect and close attention. **Lieutenant John Doody** (L.O. from 16th Regiment) impressed us by his mental computerisation of C41 frequencies and his local knowledge made a contribution to our final success, and **Lieutenant Hazel McKinlay's** (71st Regiment) cheerful efficiency, saucy hat and obvious Irishness baffled those who did not know she started her service with 66th Regiment in Belfast. We also had **Sergeant Miles,** R.E.M.E., from 102 Light Regiment R.A., and **Staff Sergeant Adams** and two girls from 39th Regiment. We hope the shillelaghs and ties the C.O. gave them on parting will bring them pleasant memories of the 40th.

Visitors

We were happy to greet **General Horsfield,** the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., **Colonel Geoffrey Dicker,** the Honorary Colonel Commandant, **Colonel Ann Field,** A.D.W.R.A.C. for B.A.O.R., **Colonel Bardell,** 4 Group Commander, and **Colonel Pagan,** Commander British Forces Antwerp, to mention but a few. Our new Group Commander, **Brigadier John Sturge,** and his staff spent some time with us, visiting every site they could find on our exercise, and our Honorary Colonel, **John McCann,** stayed with us for a week. They all know our worth much better now and realise it's not all blarney with the Irish.

It was the hardest camp we had ever done, but the most satisfying, and all ranks felt a sense of achievement as they climbed into the R.A.F. Britannias for their flight home.

Vignettes

—Detachment Commander: "I don't know how I got lost. They said follow the blue line round the issuing circuit."

Troop Commander: "Eejit! That blue line is the Albert Canal!"

—Belgian Marine Master at Arms at Zeebrugge Naval Barracks: "I know all about the Irish. I've been married to a girl from Carrickfergus for 20 years."

—F. of S.: "Dear God! All these coaxes have got ANTRAC terminations.

Young Technician: "What's an ANTRAC Foreman?"

F. of S. (sighs): "Never mind lad—before your time."

—S.O.3 12 Group: "Your grid reference was one figure out, that's why I spent the night in the back of my Land Rover."

Royal Signals Corps Mobile Display (Quicksilver)

'Quicksilver' Returns To Blandford—this is just one of the headlines which did not appear in the local evening newspaper.

After a very hectic but successful tour which found us as far south as Cornwall and as far north as Banffshire, 'Quicksilver' has returned to Blandford for the winter months.

School tours

The tour started with a series of school shows in the St. Albans area, and five shows in five days quickly dispelled any doubts that our newcomers had, in wondering what 'Quicksilver' was all about. It was also at these shows that our W.R.A.C. contingent of **Lance-Corporal Carole Wilson** and **Private Sandy Deakin** from 16th Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Shirley Ingram** from 10th Regiment and **Lance-Corporal Margaret Trembath** from 242 Squadron joined us.

Carole Wilson and **Shirley Ingram** soon discovered the perils of talking too much at the wrong time when they were doused in a very conveniently placed water tank.

The team Second-in-Command **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Dicky Dyer,** ably assisted by **Sergeant Vince Thomas** and **Signalman Martin Campbell,** initiated a **'Quicksilver Clothes Peg Club'** and after everyone had been issued with their personal clothes peg the back-biting capabilities of the team became quite prominent as several pegs mysteriously disappeared rending their owners liable to a fine for being caught without their pegs.

Mr. Magnetron in form

Magnetron, our famous and very lovable robot, was in fine fettle, and quite often delighted in embarrassing many of the senior staff officers who visited us.

Our visit to Aberdeen will not be easily forgotten thanks to the efforts of **Mrs. Phyliss Ellis** who has been our landlady for our last three visits to the city. She immediately brightened things up by sewing lace around the edges of the O.C. **Captain Mike Powell's** pyjamas, but it was all taken in the right spirit and a fair old battle of wits ensued. **Mrs. Ellis** has become so dear to us that for the second year running she was elected as our landlady of the year.

Whisky

A day off in Banff enabled us to make a visit to the Glenfidich whisky distillery in Dufftown, and I think it goes without saying that this was one visit that everyone enjoyed.

Private Sandy Deakin took pity on **Lance-Corporal Roy Bishop** and very kindly took him under her wing, but the results of the romance that blossomed from this have not yet come to light.

After one of our many celebration drinks **Corporal Jim Long** tried to demonstrate his yachting ability in Folkestone harbour but unfortunately he was the only one who did not notice that it was low tide and there was no water in the yacht basin.

Curry, too!

Staff Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell, our administrative N.C.O., was often frustrated by the insistence of **Sergeant Vince Thomas, Corporals Jim Long** and **Dave Lang** and **Lance-Corporals Alan** and **Roy Bishop** that our accommodation should always be within striking distance of an Indian curry house; their love of curry has led to the song 'Ring of Fire' being adopted as their signature tune.

The team has seen many changes during the last six months with the postings out of: **Captain Bill Backhouse** to 644 Troop, **Sergeant Chris Jefford-Horn** to 30th Regiment, **Corporal Phil Cotton** to 226 Squadron; **Corporal Roger Smith** to 8th Regiment, **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Evans** to 7th Regiment, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tom Stephenson** to Civvy Street,

And the postings in of: **Captain Mike Powell** from 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Lakey** from 16th Regiment, **Sergeant Vince Thomas** from 8th Regiment, **Corporal Dave Lang** from School of Signals, **Corporal Glen Morgan** from School of Signals, **Lance-Corporal 'Lofty' Booth** from 16th Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Ian Perkins** from 222 Troop, **Signalman Alan Murray** from School of Signals.

Cyprus International Motor Rally

Corporals Alan Coates and Frank Etchells take on the experts and victory is almost in their grasp when they break down with only 50 miles to go!



FINAL PREPARATIONS

Left to right: **Corporal Frank Etchells, Corporal Bill Hudson (obscured), Sergeant MacGilp, Corporal Alan Coats and Mrs. Anna Coates preparing their car before the start at the Nicosia Hilton**

This year the Cyprus International Rally attracted an entry of 59 cars, having for the first time gained the status of an international rally. Entries included 10 overseas competitors as well as works teams from Fiat, Colt, Peugeot and Ford. Amongst the starters at the Hilton Hotel Nicosia was the 259 Signal Squadron entry driven by **Corporals Etchells** and **Coates** of the Squadron. During the ensuing 24 hours they were to have a number of crises and to display some very fine driving against stiff opposition. It was sad indeed that they should break down when lying second and with only 50 miles to go.

The Rothmans International Cyprus Rally 1971

By Corporal Alan Coates

IMAGINE taking a £1,000 car, spending another £200 on it, working on the car 14 hours a day for three weeks and then attempting to smash it to pieces in the space of 24 hours — you will then have a good idea of what entering an International Rally involves.

Decision to enter

The Rothman's International Cyprus Rally was **Corporal Frank Etchells'** and my own first introduction in big-time rallying and gave us our first chance to compare ourselves with the professionals. We started preparations at the beginning of September when we parted with the £15 entry fee and started pulling our Subaru 1300 G to pieces and rebuilding it. We did not modify the car to any great extent as we wanted to stay in Group I where we thought we might stand a chance of collecting a cup, but we had to fit a sump guard as over 70 per cent of the route was on unsurfaced tracks.

The route was issued to us on 1st October, two weeks before the event, and this gave us a good chance to go round it and prepare ourselves for the worst. We did not manage to recce the complete route (750 miles) as work on the car did not progress as fast as we had hoped, but at least we did manage to have a good look at over half of it.



Morning in Kyrenia and going well

Scrutineering—and we are off

The scrutineering took place on Friday, 15th October, and at the rally headquarters in the Nicosia Hilton we got our first look at the competition. It was a very impressive line up. **Brian Culcheth,** the Scottish champion, in a Triumph 2.5 PI, three Works' Escorts, the Turkish champion in a BMW Alpina and a B.A.O.R. 1800, highly modified. Our unmodified Japanese 'wonder car' was looking rather insignificant.

Saturday, 16th October, saw us making an early start, in the Squadron J2, for Nicosia, where the cars had been locked up over night. The J2 was to be our service van for the rally and the service crew consisted of my wife **Anna, Sergeant MacGilp** and **Corporal Bill Hudson.**

The morning was taken up with last-minute adjustments, endless photo taking and general flapping and hoping that all would be well. Finally, at 14.35, we drew up onto the start ramp and were flagged away by the Cypriot Minister of Commerce.

Early snags

The first 60 miles were most uneventful as it was a steady drive along tarmac to get the competitors away from the main roads. Six miles after entering the mountains we passed our first casualty, a BMW which had shot off the road and fallen 50 feet into a gully. Nasty!

The main time control at the end of Section I (200 miles) was in Paphos. We arrived just about on time and were greeted by our hard-working service crew plus our O.C., **Major A. S. McK. Anderson.** The service crew had a quick look under the bonnet to check the oil and water and horror or horrors, the oil filler cap had broken off showering the engine with oil. So whilst **Corporals Etchells** and **Coates** noshed ever-welcome butties and drank coffee, the O.C. was enlisted as chief-oil-wiper-up-and-gasket-cutter!

Cheered on by the Squadron

All repaired and refuelled, we left Phaphos on time and started the 160-mile section to Limassol. Although this was the shortest section of the rally, we had already decided that it would be the toughest of the event as it included the notorious Kykos loop, a road so narrow, twisting and exposed that it is normally closed to all traffic. We managed to bounce, slide and skid our way to Limassol in one piece where our service crew changed our tyres, shock absorbers and refuelled both us and the car. Most of the Squadron was waiting for us in Limassol and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Len Sant** informed us that we were lying ninth overall at Paphos and they had just announced over the radio that we were sixth as at Limassol.

Several bent cars and we lie fourth

We left Limassol at 01.35 on Sunday the 17th and headed straight back into the mountains. During the section from Limassol to Famagusta (250 miles) cars and drivers were starting to get tired and we passed several very bent motor cars. One hundred and seventy-five miles after leaving Limassol we came out of the Troodos mountains and met our service crew. Whilst they filled the tank yet again, they informed us that we had moved up to fourth overall. So, with boosted confidence, we set off on the fast dash across to Famagusta.

A rest and now third place

At the main control in Famagusta we were on time and we had the luxury of a one hour rest. This gave us just enough time to give the car a quick 'once over' and have some breakast. It was 08.00 and glorious daylight again. Hardly had we finished our first bacon butties when we had another visitor. This time it was **W.O.1 (F. of S.) John Lee** and his wife, ex-259 now residing with 9th Regiment. He informed us that they had just announced on the radio that we were now lying third overall.

Dented by an Escort but up to second

We left Famagusta on the last leg to Nicosia full of hope and hardly able to contain our excitement. Fifty miles from Famagusta we had our first mishap, an argument with one of the Escorts and dented the near-side door. Still undaunted we carried on to Time Control 40 where we were informed by the Marshals that **Brian Culcheth** was having trouble with his throttle and we were now second overall. With 50 miles to go we set off with our hearts in our mouths.

Alas disaster

We managed another two miles when the engine just stopped firing. We jumped out of the car and lifted the bonnet. The battery mounting wing nuts had shaken loose and the battery had bounced all over the engine compartment cracking itself and covering the engine and wiring with red-hot acid.

Corporal Etchells, the mechanic of the team, worked like a madman trying to fix it but unfortunately even the alternator was damaged. Consequently with only 50 miles to go we had to retire.

OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

Why not contact

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

THE Specialist Employment Bureau for Telex, Teleprinter and Telephone Operators where you are assured of a welcome and free advice and guidance on career prospects in the commercial world.

THE THREE TEES TRAINING SCHOOL has the full range of Telex and Teleprinter machines and Commercial Telephone Boards and offers free tuition to those seeking employment, both Permanent and Temporary.

Call, write or phone:

110 Fleet St., London, E.C.4. (01-353 3611)

124 Regent St., London, W.1. (01-734 0365)

20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)

"The only All-Solid-State 100W broadband HF linear amplifiers in full scale production anywhere in the world"



We've already said a mouthful. But we must add that they cover the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any man-pack to form a 100W man-portable or vehicle station.

All solid state, they operate direct from their own batteries or from 24V vehicle supplies, without a converter.

After all this we still haven't mentioned that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as they are fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mis-matches such as broken or short-circuited aerials, they are virtually fault-proof.

One more word (or maybe two if you can bear with us). These amplifiers have already been delivered in quantity to British and many Overseas Armed Forces. In fact, there's two years of full-scale production behind this product. And it's available now.

REDIFON

Redifon Limited
Communications Division
Broomhill Road
London S.W.18.
Telephone: 01-874 7281

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

All Royal Signals crew compete and finish in the Fastnet Race 1971

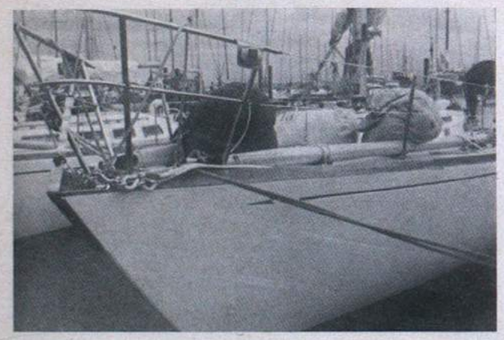
THE 'Fastnet' is the Royal Ocean Racing Club classic which takes place every two years. It marks the end of Cowes Week when ocean racers from all over the world gather to compete against each other in a series of long and short races. This year interest in the 'Fastnet' was higher than ever, because of the Prime Minister's participation as Captain of the British Admiral's Cup team, and some 240 yachts were entered.

An all Royal Signals crew if possible

In June **Mr. John Methuen** offered **Major Mike Miller,** of the School of Signals, the use of his yacht *Sakr-el-Bahr* for the Fastnet race. *Sakr-el-Bahr* is a 41 foot class II ocean racer, built by **Russel Anstey,** of Poole, in 1970. She is named after a legendary Arbar Corsair who was known as the 'Hawk of the Sea.' It was decided to form an all Royal Signals crew if possible. This posed considerable problems as it was essential in a race of this nature to have a hard core of experience amongst the crew, and to have a full complement of eight to enable proper watch keeping. Not everybody who was approached was willing, or could afford the time, but we finally sailed with the following: **Major Mike Miller** (skipper), **Major Roger Castle-Smith, M.B.E.** (navigator) and a crew comprising **Major Mark Barker, Mrs. Barker, Lieutenant-Colonel Jimmy Paterson, W.O.2 Wally Walton, Lance-Corporal Charles Holt** and **Corporal George Marshall.**

Working up

The crew assembled at Lymington marina on Tuesday evening, 3rd August, for three days work up training prior to the race, which was to start on the Saturday morning. During this time the owner gave valuable assistance, and very generously spared no expense to ensure that the yacht was fully inspected and equipped to meet the stringent R.O.R.C. safety regulations.



"SAKR-EL-BAHR"
Preparing to sail, Lymington

On the Friday evening we moored in Cowes, and were able to watch the magnificent firework display which traditionally takes place at the end of Cowes week. Cowes that evening was swarming with holidaymakers and yachtsmen of all nations and it was virtually impossible to get a drink in a pub, so we all turned in for an early night.

An excellent start

Saturday morning found us out in the Solent in good time ready for the start of the Class II and III boats at 11.30 hours. We made an excellent start, crossing the line some 10 seconds after the gun, and began an exciting beat down the Solent with the wind increasing in strength. Boats seemed to be everywhere, and with yachts crossing on opposite tracks a very careful lookout had to be maintained. By 13.00 hours we had taken down 1½ rolls in the main and changed to a smaller headsail. Already one of the smaller yachts had been dismasted, but by 14.00 hours we had cleared the Needles and were out in the Channel, in calmer conditions.

Navigation lights fail

By late evening on Saturday we were due south of Portland Bill and its sinister race, but had missed the tide. Space will allow only highlights of the race to be reported, and our first experience of trouble came in the early hours of Sunday morning, when our navigation lights failed. This was potentially serious, as the risk of collision in the crowded Channel is ever-present, but fortunately we had an emergency supply of dry battery lights. Wind force became light at this time and we made slow progress, and it was not until Monday morning that we finally rounded Land's End and set course for the Fastnet rock.



AT SEA
George Marshall goes forward to adjust the spinnaker

A force 8 gale

The weather forecast that evening gave the Fastnet area as force 4 to 5 due west, but this was to prove one of many inaccurate forecasts which were to bedevil the race. During the night the wind increased rapidly and the skipper was roused from his bunk to deal with the situation. A change to the smaller genoa, three rolls in the main, and washboards on the hatchway were ordered. But by 06.00 hours on Tuesday morning we were lashed by a full force 8 gale and were beating into heavy seas, waves well over 12 feet in height. Work on deck was difficult, and we hove to while the storm jib was hoisted and the mainsail reefed to the spreaders. Full praise is due to the crew that we were able to continue our beat to windward, on course, and make a steady six knots through the heavy seas. At 08.00 hours we witnessed the magnificent sight of the huge Italian Admiral's Cup entry, *Tarantella* running south at full speed under her enormous and sinister looking black spinnaker. She had rounded the Fastnet rock during the night, and was now surfing down the fronts of the seas as she roared past us barely 100 yards away.

For the rest of the day we beat steadily north, and sighted the Irish coast at 19.10 hours. The gale had passed on, and wind strengths were now much lower, so we did not sight our

(Continued on page 477)

(Continued from page 476)

objective, the Fastnet rock, until dusk. Finally, we rounded the rock at 12.00 hours on Wednesday morning, against a foul tide, and signalled our racing number to the lighthouse keeper. The spinnaker was quickly hoisted, and we began our run south.

Spinnaker torn

At about 09.00 hours with wind strength increasing once more, unfortunately *Sakr-el-Bahr* broached heavily in a strong gust and our spinnaker was torn. This was a serious handicap to our progress, as the reserve spinnaker did not have the same performance. By evening we were closing the Scillies very quickly, reaching before a force 6 wind, and it seemed clear that we were in for another blow. Visibility was poor in the rain squalls, and we had many anxious moments when darkness fell in avoiding other vessels, particularly trawlers, which seemed to be out in force in spite of the weather. By midnight the wind strength was up to force 8 and we were down to storm jib and 10 rolls in the main, travelling very fast with the wind just free as we passed the S.W. extremities of the Scillies (which must be left to port on the return leg of the race) and headed back to Land's End. The skipper remained on watch throughout the night, but by dawn the wind was beginning to abate.

Crossing the finishing line

The rest of Thursday was uneventful as we kept going with all possible speed for Plymouth. We crossed the finishing line at 16.40 hours, total elapsed time of the race being five days five hours and 10 minutes. We were much heartened to see a much larger class I yacht come in 10 minutes behind us!

The reception at Plymouth was good, and after we had a clean up and (for some anyway) managed to get showers, we all repaired to the Lord Mayors reception for free food and drink on the Plymouth Corporation.

So ended a very satisfying and demanding piece of 'adventure training.' Our final place was 162 out of 240, not very good, but to take part in and finish a Fastnet race is quite an achievement.

Appreciation

Our thanks are due to **Mr. A. J. Methuen** for his generosity and kindness in letting us enter his yacht for what was virtually a nominal charter fee.

(Condensed from a report by Major M. Y. Miller, Royal Signals)

Young Officers Find Their Sea-legs

Exercise Calypso

Robin Burrows and a scratch crew of young officers soon get to know the ropes in a cross-Channel cruise.

* * *

In recent summers, **Lieutenant Robin Burrows,** of the Corps, has abandoned his dinghies and spent a couple of weeks steering friends around Channel waters, with the intention of introducing them to the sport of sailing and giving a grounding of experience.

An ideal form of training

This offered an ideal form of adventurous training for officers from the Royal Military College of Science. It was a cold wet July day when seven subalterns, including **John Griffin,** a desk qualified navigator who was accompanied by his wife **Marion,** met at Marchwood. The crew crammed itself and its food onto *Calypso,* a 40-foot racing/cruiser yacht chartered from civilians.

Four days were spent in Solent waters with the crew gaining its sea legs and multiple bruising as heads continually misjudged low beams. **Robin** instructed his very inexperienced crew in the intricate art of harnessing this 'wooden beast' to sail in the right direction and not hit land or other yachts.

The first test

The first real test was to reach Cherbourg. Gentle winds bore us overnight across the Channel and we felt justly proud to be only 200 yards off course after a 70-mile passage.

We acquired another hundredweight of ballast from the duty-free warehouse and set off for the Channel Islands.

During the next 10 days the weather attempted to pound us into submission. Even in calm conditions this meeting place of Channel and Atlantic waters provides a real challenge. *Calypso* had to be sailed to her limit in order to negotiate the strong tidal currents. On two occasions we tacked for four hours averaging 5½ knots and yet only covered a couple of miles.

Hammered by heavy seas

When we turned to run with the nine-knot Alderney Race we were met head on by gale-force winds. For over two hours we were hammered by a heaving sea, with a couple of enormous waves breaking right over the boat. We suspect that it was on this day that some of our caulking sprang out, resulting in many blisters from bilge-pumping during the days to come.

Harbours became havens of refuge. Those who have visited Guernsey Marina (blasted out of solid rock) will not envy our task of trying to find the lead marks to the 30ft. wide entrance, in a Force 5 with spring tides and poor visibility. We gave ourselves time to recover from each battering, and admired the beauty of Alderney and inspected the night life of Guernsey and Jersey. **Bob Graham** set the style in après sailing gear, **Geoff Corrani** and **Dave Palmer** hunted the back street 'nesting spots,' while **Stephen Paul** would further torture our emptied stomachs by making us sample the local sea foods.



ROLLING SEA ON A DEAD RUN
Left to right: Lieutenants D. Palmer, R. Burrows, J. Griffin and S. Paul all of the Corps

Interlude in France

From Jersey we made for France. An initial tack West brought us amongst rain squall clouds, whose accompanying 30-knot winds keeled us over to what almost seemed horizontal at times. This was followed by an exhilarating nine-knot reach towards St. Malo.

We looked almost shabby compared with the impressive display of motor and sail yachts at the St. Malo Marina. We explored the fascinating ancient walled town, restored to the original after the Canadian flattened it in the last war. Another day was spent being carried up and down Mont St. Michel by the thousands of tourists.

By contrast we drifted further West to Paimpol, where we were overwhelmed by the friendliness of this small Bretagne sailing community.

From here we sadly returned. The wind was now in our favour and Yarmouth was comfortably reached in three passages on consecutive days. With a following Force 5 wind *Calypso* presented a spectacular sight as she partly surfed the rolling seas between Cherbourg and the Needles. Crew members perfected royal smiles and waves as cameras clicked on accompanying yachts. An eight-hour port-to-port dash is some experience on a dead run.

Cleaning up

Final repairs and maintenance were completed at Marchwood. **Robin, Bob** and **Paul Mumford** somehow ferried *Calypso* back

home to Cowes. The owners were so pleased with the condition of the boat on return that they forgave us for that beautiful lightweight masthead spinnaker we blew-out! It was the end of an adventurous three weeks, with just the right mixture of instruction, sightseeing and 'hairy' experiences to bore all our pub-friends for months to come.

In retrospect

—The weather just did not allow us to make Holland as we had hoped. A raw crew has to be broken in easily.

—Not even our resident R.C.T. officer (**Geoff Corrani**) is capable of sucking petrol from a tank or of cranking an engine to try and recharge our rapidly failing navigation lights, without being violently sick.

—Has **Mrs. John Griffin** set a new record by being seasick for 21 days running? Or for becoming pregnant at the same time? Congratulations!

Lieutenant R.M. Burrows is to represent Britain in the 'International Contender' World Championships in Holland next summer. This 16ft., single-man, trapeze boat is almost certain to be the next (1976) Olympic single-hander.

Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club

'BLITHE SPIRIT' 28th, 29th and 30th October



BLITHE SPIRIT

A scene from the Blandford Camp Drama Club's production of "Blithe Spirit"

From left to right: Tony Whipp as Dr. Bradman, Myra Saban as Madam Arcati, Hilary Owen as Mrs. Bradman, John Saban as Charles Condomine and Lilian Williams as Ruth Condomine

WHILST it is true that Service Drama Clubs suffer through the inevitable posting away of their members, it is equally true that reinforcements arrive from time to time. It is evident from the new faces in the Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club's producion of 'Blithe Spirit' that not only have reinforcements arrived, but they have brought with them a considerable experience and talent.

Noel Coward is not the easiest of playwrights for amateurs. When a successful production is achieved it is not always appreciated how much hard work it requires, for the success of projecting Coward lies in the fact that it must appear natural and relaxed. 'Blithe Spirit' demands just such treatment.

In this production the excellent pacing and capable acting of both the principals and supporting actors achieved a most pleasurable evening's entertainment. A strong cast led by **John Saban** as Charles Condomine and **Lilian Wi'liams** as Ruth, delievered their lines, at worst with competence, at best with enchantment. The inclusion in the cast of **Mildred Lewis** as Elvira, a newcomer with considerable stage experience, gave a chance to witness a comedy performance which combined both vivaciousness and charm. In particular her scenes with Charles, where both performers had mastered Noel Coward's delicate dialogue, were to my mind the highspots of the play.

Another newcomer, **Myra Saban,** played the part of Madam Arcati with obvious relish. This part, associated in many people's minds with Dame Margaret Rutherford, can so easily be reproduced by amateurs as a poor carbon copy of the original; the fact that **Myra Saban** managed to bring a variety of interpretation to the part reflects her not insignificant previous experience.

Valerie Austin as the maid, Edith, a small but important part, showed a natural sense of comedy and although this was, I understand, her first stage experience she more than held her own with a cast far more familiar with the techniques of the amateur stage. She gave a performance which I felt to be full of promise for the future.

The cast was completed by **Tony Whipp** and **Hilary Owen** who, with competent performances, maintained the even balance of the production as Doctor and Mrs. Bradman. The play was directed by **Michael Brown** who achieved the essential lightness in a production which is rich in laughs and notable for its ability always to hold the audiences' attention. The backstage members, under the direction of **Keith Gordon** also played their part in producing a set of some complexity on the slightly confined stage of the Princess Mary Hall.

How much the success of this production was attributable to the comfort of the modern auditorium in the Princess Mary Hall I cannot say, but to witness an amateur performance in such comfort is rare and I am sure helped to add considerably to the enjoyment of the evening's entertainment.

One Hundred and Twenty-Second Annual Carrousel at Samur

By Captain R. N. Phillips Royal Signals (V)

AT the end of July every year a display of cavalry and armoured forces is given at the Cavalry School of the French Army at Samur on the banks of the river Loire. It is rather like a tattoo but held in daylight, for four performances. The first half consists of demonstrations and competitions by cadre officers passing out at the end of the nine months' equitation course and also high-school demonstrations by the Cadre-Noir resembling the Spanish Riding School of Vienna in dress and exercises, but without the dismounted work of the latter.

The Cadre-Noir consists of equitation instructors wearing the black tunic and Spanish hat as of 150-years ago, and with the Commandant General, are hosts in the interval for refreshments (champagne) for all official guests and their wives. On Monday, 26th July, this year, we rubbed shoulders not only with representatives from N.A.T.O. countries but also Soviet and even Red Chinese in green Mao-type olive green jacket and cap, with the red star on the peak.

My own position was one of six from U.K. and we were instructed by the Military Attaché at our Paris Embassy to wear Service Dress for day-time and Mess Kit for the ball at the General's Residence in the evening. This was hotter for us than for the French wearing 'beige d'eté,' hotter probably, too, than the higher-ranking French officers wearing blue No. 1 dress.

The second half of the programme consisted of musical drives by four teams of jeeps and a motor-cycle display like our own White Helmets, except that it was performed on ashp'alt. The parade ended with the handing back of the standard to the Armoured Car Commander and the playing of the Last Post in memory of the fallen students of the school who held up the advance of the Germans in the 1940 'blitzkrieg' at a bridge at Gennes near Samur for three whole days. The celebrations end with a Ball in the garden of the residence of the Commandant-General, out of doors and floodlit, but with a large canopy along one side where sitting-out tables were arranged for supper. The General received all guests, kissing the hand of the ladies.

The two-day trip included a visit to the Cavalry Museum and should also have included a tour of the stables. The President of the French Army Reserve Forces Association entertained the British party to a barbecue which was followed by a visit to the Chateau de Cheverny to see the rooms of the stately house open to the public, and as all present were interested in equestrian pursuits, the **Marquis de Vilbraye** paraded for us his private pack of stag hounds. So ended a memorable 48 hours with a rush for the Channel ports because of a strike of junior officers on the French boats which provide the night service from Dieppe to Newhaven.



NO. 11 TRAFFIC OFFICERS AND YEOMAN OF SIGNALS REFRESHER COURSE

Standing: W.O.2 Cox, W.O.2 Cudlip, W.O.1 Durrant, W.O.2 Ferguson, W.O.2 Holmes, W.O.2 Tasker,
Sitting: W.O.1 Birkwood, W.O.1 Brown, Major Brandreth, Captain Clark, Captain Finister, Captain O'Toole

School of Signa's

Report from No. 11 Traffic Officers and Yeoman of Signals Refresher Course

NUMBER 11 Traffic Officers and Yeoman of Signals Refresher Course, having just completed its three weeks at the School and one week at the Training Brigade, have come away with the distinct impression that a new and strange language is beginning to emerge — a language that one would be well advised to learn. It is with this in mind that the following comments on the course have been compiled.

"The entrance of thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding to the simple." (Psalm 119, verse 130).

To those summoned by the **Recorder** to attend a Tfc/Y. of S. **Ref** we offer this **Feedback** to enable communicators to arrive at the School already knowing the **OK Cries!**

First you must possess **Ruggedability,** as the course takes place on a **Real Time** basis, as an **Interface Quality Control Node** aimed at the **Target Population** of the Traffic Officers/Y. of S. of the Corps. Having become part of the **Throughput** of the School you will undergo instruction, from the **Baseband** to the **Orbiting Celestial Vault** — details of which will be 'explained in the foreseeable future.'

When **Satcom** (sat comfortably!) in **Octal Linear** rows in the **Talk and Chalk Room,** one wonders at the **Cost Effectiveness** of such a **Highly Sophisticated** course. **Class Contact Time** is at a premium, and **Arithmetically** speaking, the **Digital Stream** in relation to the **Parity Bit** can produce ZZZ's from the **Student Response Unit.**

The **Peripherals** of this course can have a **Ricochet Effect** on the Traffic/Y. of S. type **Beastie,** and frequent visits by the instructors to the **Question Bank** are vital in order to carry out a **Quantisation Study,** which, in conjunction with a **Confidence Test,** assesses the **Feasibility** of the course in general.

Constant **Hamming** by the senior members of the course earned one officer the **BCD** (Binary Coded Decimal). However, the **Driving Module** of all the **Programme Units** was the appearance of **Fred** (Forecast Room Employment Device) whose effectiveness was only marred by his failure to include the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess Bar in the calculation, this being a fault in the use of **Ancient Modulation** principles.

Having read this article and remembered verbatim the words in **Heavy Print,** you can now attend such a course **Fully Switched On!**

In all seriousness, the course proved on the whole to be of great value to students and instructors alike. It also proved to all that, in these days of such rapidly advancing technology, five years between courses is longer than you think.

We can all say, with conviction, that we are the richer for getting out of our little corners, seeing once again the hub of the Corps, meeting old friends, and most important of all—exchanging ideas.

P.S. It's not the sun that shines, it's pie in the sky!

Extract from the Royal Artillery Magazine — The Gunner

(By kind permission of the Editor)

Flagbashers

Sir,

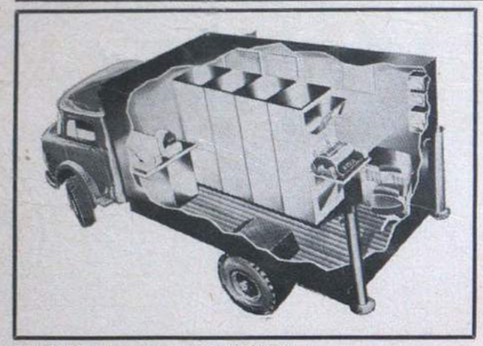
I cannot allow **Major Dixon-Didier** to get away with his denigration of the Heliograph, until 1939 (in a reliable climate) the most effective Gunner means of communication in reliability, range and speed. Its key was a delight to use and the signals were sharp and easy to read. With a little experience and average map-reading ability it was reasonably easy to establish communication with anyone whose approximate position was known. With the six-inch mirror I personally have used it up to 15 miles, while the old 12-inch mirror used in 1880 is reputed to have been reliable to over 60 miles. In the days of the helio and the artillery code our signallers were indeed artists.

I date the decline of Gunner signalling, now fast becoming decadent in its insistence on air-conditioned huts and complete protection from nature, to the abolition of the single flag. The power of the N.C.O. i/c Signals to give his command 'two alphabets' (for preference in a strong breeze) was a remarkable preventative of signalling sloth. As for silk flags—we Frontier Q'hais would have considered them as decadent as after shave.

Yours faithfully,
'DIEHARD.'

P.S. I qualified in the last Poona Instructors' course before radio telephony was put in the syllabus.

Military Communications Systems



COMRADE Mobile System-Equipment Vehicle

COMRADE

Computer Operated Message Routing And Despatch Equipment

COMRADE is a computer-controlled message switching system. Operating at the centre of a Telecommunication Network, it automates the relay function by receiving, analysing, queuing in precedence order and retransmitting messages to the appropriate output lines as they become free. This eliminates the slow and error-prone process of manual handling, and the equipment is a direct replacement for torn-tape relay centres.



Chieftain Tank in operation

CLANSMAN

Vehicular V.H.F./F.M. Radio

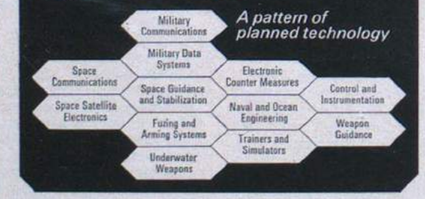
The UK/VRC 353 is an advanced v.h.f. radio telephone covering 30MHz to 75.975MHz with 25 or 50kHz channel spacing and having 4 r.f. power levels, from 50W reducing to 50mW. Power supply 24V d.c. nominal.

Although designed primarily for multi-set installations in armoured fighting vehicles, it is equally suitable for fixed or mobile ground stations and unattended repeaters.

COMRADE and CLANSMAN – just two of the Military Communications Systems produced by

(COMRADE)
Chobham Road, Frimley
Camberley, Surrey
Telephone:
Camberley (0276) 63311
Extension 134

Marconi Space and Defence Systems Limited



(CLANSMAN)
Brown's Lane, The Airport
Portsmouth, PO3 5PH
Telephone
Portsmouth (0705) 62271
Extension 330

A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company

LTD/SJ1

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Adventure training

IN October, 1 and 3 Squadrons chartered the R.S.Y.C. yacht, *Brigand of Changi* for two days adventure training. From the following accounts of their expeditions on the open sea, both within a period of four days, it can be seen that 1 Squadron had trials and tribulations galore, but, as we keep reminding them, it was 'adventure training!'

A CRUISE IN 'BRIGAND OF CHANGI' THROUGH 3 SQUADRON EYES

The Royal Signals Yacht Club ketch, *Brigand of Changi* was chartered by the Squadron for adventure training on 4th and 5th October. Our crew, selected some time before hand suffered several casualties shortly before the event and we finally finished up with six: **Major Forster, Sergeant Sharpe, Corporal Shepherd, Corporal Bishop, W/Sergeant Lambert** and **W/Lance-Corporal Owen.** None had ever sailed before other than **Major Forster** and **Corporal Shepherd** but by the end of the cruise the complete syllabus of training for qualification as off-shore hands had been covered and all could handle the boat competently under a variety of conditions.

We started the cruise under power from Famagusta Port in a flat calm. Eventually a light easterly wind blew up and we had a comfortable reach to Koma Tou Yialou on the Panhandle arriving just before dusk. We anchored in Koma and the girls did their best with a rather unappetising box of compo and produced a very edible meal. An anchor watch was mounted overnight and the following day we set sail again for Famagusta. This time the wind was a bit fresher so we spent part of the morning practising man overboard drill and picking up moorings before heading back to Famagusta on a beat.

We hove-to off Cape Eloea for lunch and a swim, and continued on a fairly slow course. Five miles out of Famagusta the wind veered and freshened and we creamed in on a spanking reach at 8½ knots.

Just outside the port the wind dropped to a whisper which was just as well because the engined refused to start and we had to sail in. We eventually tied up at 10 Port Squadron wharf at 7.30 p.m.

A SIMILAR CRUISE AS SEEN THROUGH 1 SQUADRON EYES

'Last night the moon had a golden ring' or 'I'll make S.O.-in-C. or drown'

Monday, 4th October

The prisoners **Dransfield** and **Broadbent** were observed loitering with intent in the vicinity of the coffee urn in a licentious manner. On questioning they broke down and confessed to being in possession of a biro which had been reported missing from the Chief Clerk's warehouse in late '45. After a good deal of leg (and finger nail) pulling they were brought before **'Oberchunkiebashenfuhrer' G. H. Monson** and summarily sentenced to life in Dhekelia range butts, However, after a discreet cough from **'Politischerchiefen' Danells** the sentence was commuted to two days voluntary adventure training on the prison hulk *The Brigand of Changi.*

Thursday, 7th October

Major Stewart Reed and **'Oberleutnant' Legge** received the prisoners on board Brigand moored at 10 Port Squadron in the backwater reserved for corn plasters, sea weed and sandwiches. Moorings were slipped and a course set for Larnaca. After a pleasant day spent holystoning the decks we rounded Cape Greco and ran into heavy seas. Concerned only for the safety of our vessel, we immediately put about and headed for home. Taking a quick fix from the third bedroom from the bootom in Julia Block (hirings on Famagusta front) we found ourselves more in danger of collecting a parking ticket than drowning. With midly controlled hysteria we started the engine and instantly the true worth of our ship became apparent. The prop shaft broke, the anchor chain parted and the rudder jammed! **Reed** volunteered to go over the blunt end and was helped, screaming, into the water by the willing hands of the crew. After a brief swim and having neglected to salute the poop deck on boarding, a fight ensued to recover his oilskins and personal possessions which had been democratically divided amongst the crew. We then set sail for the high seas and spent the night hove-to. Dawn came up, together with breakfast, lunch and last year's Christmas dinner!

Meanwhile, back at 'Stalag 9' **'Hashhound' Lettin** borrowed £30 from the C.O.'s public fund and made an urgent telephone call alerting the Air Sea Rescue . . . O.C. 10 Port Squadron requested his 'Z' craft crew not to throw empty beer cans around the Mediterranean in case they hit Brigand . . . 259 Signal Squadron at Cape Greco were requested to clean one of their windows and keep a sharp lookout. . . .

Friday 08.00 hours

Another quick star fix by the skipper put us definitely on the lower slopes of Troodos. Despite this the cabin was rapidly filling with water (trying to reconcile **Broadbent's** withered pumping arm and **Captain John Francis'** 'you might have to give her a little pump now then' was difficult). **Reed** and **Legge's** professional training came to the fore as they hurled themselves to the cabin floor to snorkel for the Pye radio on the off chance that it might have been waterproofed. It wasn't . . . and we reckoned that we might just make harbour before **'Pumper' Broadbent** mutinied.

Friday 15.00 hours

Pounding through the raging waves, escorted by two school-children in a dinghy, we made harbour, to be greeted by our worried friends. As we fell into an exhausted coma their anxious questions came gently to our ear . . . "Did you damage the boat?" "You've missed your Orderly Officer." "**Dransfield** and **Broadbent**—report to the ranges on Sunday."

Visitors to the Regiment

Monday, 4th October, was a high powered day for the Regiment. Not only was Officer i/c Royal Signals Records, **Colonel C. B. Masser,** visiting, but also **Lord Carrington,** Secretary of State for Defence. Included in the Minister's party were C.B.F.N.E., **Air Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.,** R.A.F.; A/G.O.C. **Brigadier R. C. Windsor Clive** and the Commander 3 Signal Group, **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.** After giving his lecture to Royal Signals N.C.O.s and men, **Colonel Masser** was entertained to drinks by the Sergeants' Mess and then moved to the Officers' Mess to join a luncheon party.

Another recent visitor has been the British High Commissioner, **Mr. R. H. G. Edmunds, C.M.G., M.B.E.,** who has recently arrived on the island.

Don't Forget that 1972 Diary!

We have sold over 1,200 but have a small stock left. 1972 draws near and you will want a new diary. The diary itself is of the slimfold type identical with the 1971 diary which proved so popular. They cost 30p each post free. Write now to Association Headquarters to ensure you receive your 1972 diary.

10th Signal Regiment Hounslow

SUMMER CAMP

Lost sheep

OUR mixed three-week summer camp started with a convoy pulling out on 4th September. However, due to atmospheric conditions sic! the convoy was split down the middle. Despite the fact that the convoy passed through the city of Balham three times they still managed to reach camp, much to the relief of the R.S.M. who covered 170 miles in his private car rounding up his lost sheep.

Fortunately the rest of the three weeks was a little more satisfactory, if you can discount two broken ankles (male and female), torn cartilages and two cases of German measles.

Midnight bathing was attempted but the chill autumn evenings put a damper on that idea.



LES GIRLS AT CAMP

Left to right: Private Andrea Bell, Lance-Corporal Lynn Curwen, Privates Georgina Hall, Lorainne Blackwell and Ann Gallagher



LES BOYS AT CAMP

Left to right: Corporal Curtis, Craftsman Daly, Lance-Corporal Race, Sergeant Crawford, Lance-Corporal Taylor, Corporal Baker

Thunderflashes to the fore

Night exercises were popular if only for the fact that the C.O. and R.S.M. spent some considerable time crouched in very wet grass trying to decide who was attacking who. It is rumoured that **R.S.M. Poss** who is a thunderflash addict got his best results when he ambushed a flock of sheep. There is also some speculation as to who it was threw thunderflashes at the W.R.A.C. camp after threats to debag the R.S.M.

Chief Clerk **Roy Fairhurst** arrived for his week's stint at the camp fully equipped for action towing his caravan. Nevertheless he makes a good curried Irish stew.

Captain 'Fidel Castro' Hoghton appeared for the nine-mile bash dressed to kill and was still exhibiting the 'war wounds' to his feet two weeks later. Due to his new type of footwear the Second-in-Command was heard to mention something about 'hush puppies.'

Wrong stick

Five Communications Sergeants arrived at camp to do the yearly route march but unfortunately got lost 'on route' to the annoyance of the R.S.M. who was driving the Land Rover at the time. Being a rather temperamental man he uttered a few choice words and waving his stick in the air. When he calmed down it was found to be the Land Rover gear stick he was waving much to the annoyance of M.T.

Shooting goes well

The Officers'/Senior N.C.O.s' shooting rodeo went very well on the C.Q.B. range at Hythe. **Colonel Barker** suggested everyone contribute 10p to a purse to go to the individual with the highest score; needless to say the Colonel won. We are sure that the fact that **Sergeant McDonald** was manipulating the targets and the R.S.M. conducting everyone round the course had no bearing on the fact that the Senior N.C.O.s won the team shoot.

Evening film shows were well received although on the last evening some difficulty was experienced in focussing the film correctly. The R.S.M. still aserts it was a fault in the projector and the numerous empty bacardi and coke glasses lying around had no bearing on the matter. We are sure everyone is looking forward to a return visit next year even if they do P.T. backwards.

FORCES U.K. TRADE-IN SCHEME

If you are to be posted overseas soon and wish to dispose of your present car, we will give you a high trade-in figure now against any future purchase.

FOR FULL DETAILS FILL IN THIS COUPON

NAME_____ RANK_____

ADDRESS_____

MAKE OF CAR_____ MODEL_____

MILEAGE_____ WHEN FIRST REGISTERED_____

COLOUR_____ EXTRAS FITTED_____

LHD ☐ RHD ☐

CONDITION

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Ghastly ☐

✳ Don't worry about HP settlements outstanding Purchase Tax liabilities or import duties, Weir Lodge will settle them all without any fuss or bother.

WEIR LODGE

WEIR LODGE GARAGE LTD.

Bridge Road, Chertsey. Surrey, Tel. Chertsey 64264/62047



WOs' and Sgts' Mess No.1 Wireless Regiment

Sgts. McKinnon Booth Walker Cregg Heyes Riddell Dawkins Moseley

Sgts. Coulthard Richards Lamb Smith Delf Patterson Elliot Carlile Wilby Dubois

Sgt Bayman SQMS Hudson S/Sgt Rush SQMS Tiffin Newton (Tofs) S/Sgt Kilby SSgt Orwin SQMS Howell

S/Sgt Crale SQMS Garland MacAdam Sgts Louzan Greenwood

WOs II Barnard Longstaff Cunningham Willoughby QMS Robertshaw (Tofs) Maj Stewart RSM Barnes Lt-Col Lonnon

WO1 Ferguson RQMS Buddery WOs II Bosten Ford Francis SQMS Stanley

13th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 40

The autumn scene

AT this time of the year, the attention of all and sundry passes from the vigorous outdoor pastimes to the rather less enervating indoor activities. Not all of the pastimes are gentle though, as is amply demonstrated by **S.S.I. Pete Scales** in the Judo evenings. **Captain Alec Tay'or** is our Judo Officer but despite his long term of office we haven't yet discovered whether he sports a belt and/or braces! Several wives have been attracted to the new Judo session, and we are waiting to see whether there is any noticeable change in the behaviour of their spouses! On the intellectual side, we have had the first rounds of our annual general knowledge quiz. Eighteen teams have entered and we still have our resident Quizmasters, **S.S.M.s Ken Kennington** and **Tony Orrell.** As before the rounds to date have been informative and amusing, and we look forward to the high-power battles ahead.

Sergeants' Mess

We did mention in last month's notes that we have quite a number of young Sergeants in the Mess and to the 'old uns' here it would appear that, like Policemen, Sergeants are getting younger every year.

Adding to the list of 'young uns,' this month we welcomed **Sergeant Jim Fowler** from 224 Squadron—taking over the shiny seat of Orderly Room Sergeant. **Jim** arrived a very worried man; however, a fortnight later he was all smiles for his wife had given birth to a 6lb. 4oz. bouncing baby girl. Having thoroughly wet the baby's head, **Jim** now looks forward to his wife **Lorraine** and daughter **Heather** joining him here.

Turning now to the 'old uns,' for many months now we have written about those members in the 1956 photograph. We now seem to have reached a full stop and cannot trace the others, therefore with kind permission of the Editor, we enclose this by now well-known photo for publication in the hope that we can complete the list (see above).

Visitors to the Mess this month included **W.O.2 (Sup. R) Pete Smith** now with 225 Squadron, and a real 'oldy' (sorry about that) ex-Sergeant 1 Wireless Regiment, Gluckstadt 1946, **Mr. J. P. Rhodes.**

Looking ahead and realising Christmas will be upon us when these notes are read, we conclude by wishing you all a 'Merry Christmas.'

Arrivals

Sergeant J. Fowler, Sergeant T. E. Loud, W/Sergeant J. Mackenzie.

Departures

W/Sergeant B. Parkin, Sergeant R. G. Woodward, R.A.O.C.

Sport

The soccer team captained by **Signalman Tony Higgs** has at last struck winning form and defeated 16th Signal Regiment and 23rd Regiment R.C.T. **Tony Higgs** has again been selected to play for the B.A.O.R. team in their forthcoming tour of Berlin. Our rugby team have also had a tough season to date, but they have supplied **Corporals Dev Devereux** and **Bud Cook** to take part in the Royal Signals trials in U.K. Dare we mention under this heading that we have very high hopes of retaining the Rhine Area Domino Trophy for the fourth year in succession? **Corporal 'Jock' Fairley,** the team captain, is very confident and can already point to three wins in league matches. We held our annual cross-country competition on 29th October. The event was organised by **Lieutenant Colin Smith,** and once again the 1 Squadron team were victorious. The team consisted of **W.O.2 Tom Neal, Staff Sergeant John Bandey, Corporal Dave Chalmers, Lance-Corporal Keith Baker, Lance-Corporal Bob Ravenscroft, Signalmen Mick Rideout, Brian Hall, Chris Roe; Signalman Rideout** was the individual winner, and we are pleased to report that the 'old uns' were grandly represented in the race by our new Sergeants' Mess steward, **C/Sergeant Mick Biggs** (ex-Para of course!). We are very pleased to report that **Signalman Mick Rideout** has been selected to represent

B.A.O.R. in the inter-Command cross-country championship in the U.K. on 3rd November, so despite varied fortunes in our Regimental games, we are still providing our quota of experts for the representative fixtures.

A sporting personality

W/Corporal Karen Libby, W.R.A.C., recently received her B.A.O.R. Squash Colours from the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson. Corporal Libby** has just left the Regiment after a tour of three years, during which she supported all activities with great enthusiasm. She excelled in squash, tennis and rounders, took part in marches in Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany. Unfortunately illness kept her out of our successful Nijmegen team for the first two days of the event, but she marched for the remaining two days and greatly encouraged her team mates. As she had not completed the full distance she did not qualify for a medal, but she earned our thanks for the grand sport she is. We were very sorry to loose her, and wish her a happy and successful tour with 9th Regiment.

16th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 35

SPORTING REVIEW

Regimental rugby — 1971/72 season (to date)

At the commencement of the season a few 'keen' players were to be seen shedding flesh and suntans in the Gymnasium, so that when the first match was played, as least we were able to complete it without feeling too ill! Since those early days, the Regimental team has gone from strength to strength. One early success was the Double Diamond Cup in which the team beat 40 Army Support Regimental R.E., Eindhoven R.F.C., 13th Regiment, and R.A.F. Wildenrath to reach the final, and then beat R.A.F. Laarbruck to win the cup. The following week the team also carried off the 'plate' in the SHAPE 7-a-side tournament.

The only defeat of the Regimental side so far has been that inflicted by 22 Light A.D. Regiment R.A. in the first round of the Army Cup, where after a very physical game we lost 14-7. The record to date reads as follows:

Played 8 — Won 7 — Drawn 0 — Lost 1.

Pts. for: 316 — Pts. against: 83.

Currently we have two players, **Corporal Ian Haldane** and **Signalman 'Taff' Davies,** away at Corps trials and have high hopes that both will be selected for the Corps team. We also have **Lance-Corporal 'Ginge' Baines** selected for the Rhine Area team in addition to **Haldane** and **Davies.**

Notable wins so far have been against R.A.F. Wildenrath by 28 to 18 and Rhino's R.F.C. Wednesday side by 25 to 14.

Golf

Once again the Regiment was the major participant in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Golf Meeting, producing no less than 12 players of the total entry of 33. The standard of golf in the Regiment continues to improve and our players managed to win the Regimental Foursomes Autumn Cup and four individual prizes. **Staff Sergeant Duncan Palmer,** R.A.P.C., was again well in the forefront winning the 18-hole Stableford with 33 points and partnering **W.O.1 Overton (Mr. O.)** in winning the Regimental Foursomes Cup with a nett 66. **Sergeant Dave Elcox,** a comparative newcomer to the game, had a magnificent round of 66 net to win the 18-hole Medal. Needless to say his handicap has been cut drastically. He was followed by **Corporal Alan Pennie** who took 2nd prize with a net score of 72. **Major 'Badger' Terrey** played consistent if not brilliant golf and took 2nd place in the 36-hole Stableford with two rounds of 31 and 32 points respectively. Two most enjoyable days of golf culminated in the presentation of prizes by **Mrs. Horsfield,** wife of **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** C.S.O. B.A.O.R., both of whom gave up some of their valuable time to 'walk the course' during the last afternoon and encouraged golfers by their presence and interest in the game.

Our picture shows **Mrs. Horsfield** presenting the Cup to **Mr. O.** and **Staff Sergeant Palmer** with **Major Terrey,** Secretary of Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Golf, in the background. **Mr. O.** leaves the Service soon and winning the Cup in his last Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Golf Meeting is a fitting end to a long and distinguished career as a soldier and sportsman.



PRESENTATION

Mrs. Horsefield presents the Regimental Foursomes Golf Cup to W.O.1 Overton (Mr. "O"). In the background his partner, Staff-Sergeant Duncan Palmer and Major 'Badgy' Terrey, Secretary Royal Signals B.A.O.R. golf

Cross-country

On Friday, 22nd October, over 140 runners lined up for the start of the Inter-Squadron Cross-Country Competition.

The four-mile course had been set over field and forest tracks by **S.I. McClure** and his staff. Such was the quality of the event that the Station Medical Officer not only competed himself but invited some of the less fit from another unit to accompany him around the course.

Corporal Jeff Lilley proved to be the outstanding runner by taking a well-timed first place and skippering 2 Squadron to a well-deserved team victory.

Photo: The Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson** presents **Corporal Jeff Lilley** with the Individual Winner's Prize. Holding the Team Cup is **Captain (Q.M.) Joe Adams,** Officer i/c cross-country.



STAMINA

Corporal Jeff Lilley receives the individual winner's prize out of a field of 140 cross-country runners from the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibsen

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Being an army officer isn't all sunshine–

A new command in Australia's Regular Army is the beginning of a challenging career for British Officers and ex-officers. It carries the professional salary and status that they enjoyed in the British Army as well as the cameraderie which makes service life uniquely satisfying.

If you hold, or have held, the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major you could be eligible for a Commission in the Australian Army. Men within the desirable maximum age limit of 32 years (42 years with special qualifications) are invited to inquire at the London office of the Australian Army Staff.

If you are nearing the end of your British Army engagement, your application can be processed to the point where you will be made an offer of service, which will include details of rank, seniority, and initial posting in Australia. Only then will you be requested to confirm your application.

Officers appointed to the Australian Army must undertake to serve anywhere within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Travel to Australia for officers and their families is by first-class air or sea passage at Australian Government expense. Salary commences on the day you are commissioned in Britain. With membership of one of the Commonwealth's finest fighting forces a whole continent of sunshine, opportunity and great open spaces awaits you and your family.

For complete details of this challenging new career, write or call:

Brigadier L. I. Hopton, M.B.E.
Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: 01-836 2435 Extension 356

but there's more of it in the Australian Army

19th Signal Regt.

c/o G.P.O. Singapore

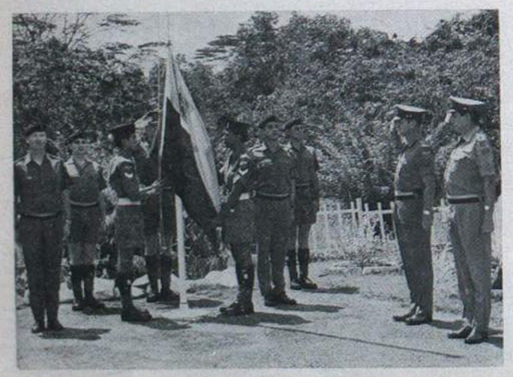
Final notes by Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert

Final hand-overs

THE last months of the Regiment have been spent in handing over our responsibilities to the Singapore Telephone Board and to the Singapore Armed Forces (S.A.F.). By far the most significant was the handing over of the island-wide Microwave System which the Regiment has been running since 1969. This took place in the first fortnight of September and entailed the detailed checking of each of ten stations on the island. The S.A.F. technicians, who have been trained by the Regiment, are now operating the complete system, though in the latter stages some British technicians were retained in an advisory and liaison capacity to safeguard U.K. circuit requirements. A small formal hand-over ceremony took place in the main terminal at Changi on 14th September when the Commanding Officer presented a specially inscribed plaque to the S.A.F. Unit, the Static Radio Relay Unit. This was accepted by the Chief, C. and E. Division, MINDEF, **Major Choo Bak Khoon,** who in turn presented the Regiment with a handsome Singapore Armed Forces plaque.



The Hand over Ceremony of the Microwave System to the Singapore Armed Forces



The Regimental Flag is lowered for the last time

On 15th November 19th Regiment (Air Support) formally ceased to exist. A simple ceremony took place outside R.H.Q., attended by those officers and soldiers left in the Unit, as the Regimental Flag was lowered for the last time.

Farewell to the Corps

Saying goodbye is always hard and I know I speak for all past members of this Regiment when I say that we shall all mourn the passing of the 19th. The Regiment has a fine record behind it; 27 years' continuous operational service in all parts of the Far East.

I can think of no better way of concluding this final contribution to our Corps Magazine than by quoting a message I received from **Colonel R. S. Smith, O.B.E., M.C., D.C.M.,** the first Commanding Officer of 19th Air Formation Signals.

"When I had the privilege of forming and commanding the 19th Air Formation Signals Unit at Huddersfield, Yorkshire, in late 1943, I never imagined that 28 years later I should be invited to say a few words on the occasion of its disbandment. The period of formation and training in the United Kingdom was beset with many difficulties primarily due to the priority needs of the 'Overlord' (Invasion of Normandy) Plan. However, individual and company training progressed fairly satisfactorily but, to my great dismay, mobilisation orders, for Burma, came to hand at a time when the unit was far from ready for undertaking an operational role. However, its subsequent history is such to give me a tremendous feeling of satisfaction in having taken some part in its formation. The unit has undoubtedly given outstanding service in a difficult theatre of operations and, I believe, it has earned for itself a tremendously high reputation which reflects great credit on everyone who has served in its ranks. Well done and good luck to you all."

A very excellent history of the 19th Signal Regiment, compiled by Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert, is now on sale at Association H.Q.—price 50p.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 42

SINCE our last notes we have had visits by a T.A.V.R. Squadron, a party of schoolboys (third this year!). Our summer camp at Cochem on the banks of the Moselle has enabled about 200 members of the unit to have an extra holiday when not working hard on basic signalling skills! But our notes would not be complete without some athletic successes.

R.A.F. Germany relay meeting

The Regiment provided not only the entire R.A.F. Wildenrath team but also a member of the R.A.F. Bruggen team in the inter-Station relay competition. R.A.F. Wildenrath won the inter-Station trophy and 21st Regiment won the open invitation event!

Orienteering

After coming a close third, one minute behind the second team, in the B.A.O.R. Orienteering Championship, the Regimental team travelled to U.K. and took part in the Army Championships. It was a different type of course, only 8km. long compared with 12km. for the B.A.O.R. course, set in the Cropton Forest area of the Yorkshire Wolds. We finished 8th having learnt more lessons in this new sport. Our congratulations to 8th Regiment who turned the tables on us this year.

Cross-country

The unit team travelled south to Aldershot and, joined by two runners from other B.A.O.R. units, competed as a B.A.O.R. team in the Inter-Command Cross-Country Competition. We came a close second to Southern Command. **Corporal Venus** is congratulated on coming 3rd individual.



TAKE OVER

Corporal Charlie Dowie takes over the Baton in the 4 x 400m. relay from Lieutenant Tom Moncur at the R.A.F. Germany Relay Meeting

Visit by 61 Squadron T.A.V.R.

The Squadron, 139 strong, were very welcome on their annual camp when they visited mainly Wildenrath and Gutersloh. On those two airfields they completed new cable projects which will much improve the facilities. Technicians and drivers were also very evident around all our airfields familiarising themselves with our work.

Schoolboys' visit

A group of 20 schoolboys from the Watford and Luton district visited the unit for a week. They were sponsored by a newspaper who paid the travelling costs. They saw not only the Regiment at work but also the R.A.F., Army Air Corps and the nearby R.A.O.C. Vehicle Depot. No doubt the tales of "When I sat in a Harrier" have been suitably embroidered and are, we hope, having a positive effect on recruiting the youths of the district into the services!

160 km. or 100 miles in one go!

Staff Sergeant Beare, of 3 Squadron, completed this at the Nijmegen-Rotterdam March in a time of 27hr. 25min. which, including compulsory rests, was an average marching time of 7km. per hour. **Staff Sergeant Beare** started at 11.05 hours on 18th September and finished at 14.25 hours on 19th September. This included a four-hour rest period. He states that the physical and mental discomfort experienced was beyond description—"just pure agony." He was presented with a diploma and is only the third British Serviceman to complete this particular march. Many of us know the Nijmegen Marches (40 or 50km. per day for four days running) but this one is for experts; 73 of the 78 entrants finished. **Staff Beare** marches for 'fun' regularly and attends most of the big events in Belgium and Holland — he is 39 next birthday but there is definitely no evidence of a middle-aged spread!

CAPTAIN (T.O.T.) DENNIS BOWDEN

Many who know that irrepressible character **'Busty' Bowden** will be unaware that he is shortly to leave the Corps on retirement. In keeping with the memorable events of his chequered career, Dame Fortune continues to smile on him and he leaves us attired in a golden bowler.



Dennis joined the Corps in 1943 as a boy and immediately embarked on a technical career, qualifying as a Radio Mechanic before leaving Boys' Company. Early service in the ranks saw him with the Army Wireless Chain where he cut his teeth on that now museum piece the SWB II transmitter. As a young Sergeant he served in Nigeria. The recall of his barterings with local tribal chiefs will raise a smile to the lips of those who know the tale.

Following his Foreman's Course he saw service in Gibraltar, Hong Kong (the old Murray Barracks perimeter will long be remembered!) and Germany. It was in Germany that he first took a serious interest in amateur radio, soon to be known by 'hams' world-wide.

Recently he served on secondment in Malaysia where he set up a new amateur record the highest number of diverse contacts.

His last post in Headquarters, R.A.F. Germany, as a member of 21st Signal Regiment, saw him in his inimitable way, fostering excellent relationships with those in blue. Whilst continuing his amateur radio activities and heading the R.A.F. Club, he was invaluable to the Education Squadron in arranging various extra mural pursuits.

The Corps' best wishes for continued good fortune and success in the future go to **Dennis,** his charming wife **Betty** and daughters **Carol** and **Denise.**

D.H.

22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 107

Continuous exercises

THE season of continuous exercises is with us now, with the majority of the Regiment seemingly spending more time out on exercise or detachment than in barracks. Elements have been involved in all three major divisional exercises, although we seem to have our fair share of remaining static while giving our support; Comcen Sierra (officially not in existence yet although the gallant members of that fine outfit may well wonder who on earth they have been communicating to all summer and autumn) distinguished themselves by churning up large quantities of the totenkopf, while allegedly immobile for ten days. In between these major efforts the Regiment has found itself in practically every location possible between Larzac and Berlin; if we had a deutschmark for every mile we have covered in the last couple of months, we could just about pay off the national debt! We have had our share of visitors, with teams from England all coming out to do their usual pre-Christmas shopping on the side, and the Regiment also acted as host for a number of men and women from 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment who stopped over on one of their far-flung exercises.

The result has been that the barracks has been very quiet especially as our colleagues in 27 Medium Regiment R.A. are now in Northern Ireland.

Annual Pistol Shoot

During this quiet spell the Officers and Warrant Officers held their annual pistol shoot. In a gallant shoot-out honour in the Commanding Officers' Cup competition went to our Assistant Adjutant **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Harry Bell;** he also pipped **Major Mike Miller** by one for the pool bull. The contractors also took advantage of the lull to move in and re-surface the whole of the M.T. Square; there is a strong rumour that if they continue at the present rate of progress, the job should be completed in time for Christmas—1972! The Quartermaster waits for nobody, however, and thus when we had fully five days in barracks recently, whole teams of Officers and Senior N.C.O.s were seen scuttling about taking stock of anything they could lay their hands on.

Drilling—in Flemish

In September the Regiment took part in the parade at Lüdenscheid for the 20th Anniversary of the 6th Belgian Signal

(*Continued on page* 489)

Lloyds Bank will obey all your standing orders.

Lloyds have been the Serviceman's bank for generations. We know a great deal about the Services; particularly when it comes to money.

We can give you advice on any financial matters, such as saving, investments, insurance–specially important if you're being posted overseas.

And we'll take care of your regular bills by banker's order.

In fact, whatever the standing order, we'll obey.

For full details of all our Services to the Services, post off the coupon or contact your local branch.

Lloyds Bank looks after people like you

To: Mr D. P. Gardiner T.D., Services Liaison Officer, Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London SW1
Please send me full details of all your services.

NAME_____

RANK_____

ADDRESS_____

L44

(*Continued from page* 487)

Battalion, with a smart drill troop under **Lieutenant Stewart Davies.** Having overcome the difficulty of interpreting orders given in Flemish, the subsequent entertainment included lavish hospitality for all concerned—a just reward for mastering the strange quirks of Belgian drill.

New cookhouse

At the end of September we were visited again by C.C.R. Signals — still recognisable even though heavily disguised in chef's hat and apron. The occasion was the opening of the first part of the new cookhouse and dining hall, which gives considerably more room and more cooking facilities than was available before. The second half is due for completion in due course, so that eventually the two regiments in the station can have their own cookhouse.

Getting together — Anglo-German joint effort

October, of course, featured Herbstwoche, although we were only back in Lippstadt for the end of it. The whole theme of the Regiment's contribution was that of Anglo-German Kameradenschaft. Elements of 22nd Regiment and 7th Fernmelde Battalion, as well as a detachment of the German Parachute Brigade stationed in Lippstadt, took part in a procession through the town, and on the Saturday of Herbstwoche, a joint equipment display was put on; this included equipment used by both Signal regiments and featured free-fall parachuting, organised by **Captain Hugh Bennett.** The feature of the afternoon was a joint Anglo-German Signals football team, who played the local German team from the town, SV Victoria; the kick-off was done by the free-fall parachutists, who jumped from a Sioux helicopter to land right in the centre of the pitch. The result of the game? Another victory for Kameradenschaft! In the evening, the officers of both the British and German garrisons threw a cocktail party for civic dignitaries, followed by a rousing band concert given by the band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Soccer

On the Regimental Soccer front, the team continue to flourish under the leadership of **Corporal Tierney** (and the watchful eyes of the R.S.M.). Now in his third season as captain of the B.A.O.R. team his able assistants include such stalwarts as the P.T.I., **Sergeant File, Signalmen Nicholson** and **Simpson,** and the daddy of them all, **W.O.2 Pfeiffer;** they only keep him on because he's now such an institution, but don't tell him so! In preliminary rounds of the B.A.O.R. Cup, we despatched 9th/12th Lancers by six goals to nil (perhaps a slightly flattering score, but pleasing nevertheless) and 4th/7th R.D.G. by two goals to one. We also beat 2nd Field Regiment, R.A., by 3-2 after being two goals down. So far we have been lucky to be drawn at home in every round; the support has consequently been vociferous to say the least—indeed on one occasion it was so loud that the Regimental hierarchy appeared to see what all the riotous commotion was for!

Sergeants' Mess record

Both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have recently entertained their colleagues from the 6th Belgian Signal Regiment; on the last dinner night in the Sergeants' Mess, 153 people sat down at table, thus establishing yet another record for the Mess —the P.M.C. **W.O.2 Bernie Tune** is obviously determined to establish his name indelibly in terms of sheer size!

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (Northag) B.F.P.O. 35

The quiet life

This is the season of comparative quiet with few exercises or major sports events to concentrate attention. Nevertheless a wide range of activities continue to fill all available time and cause one to wonder how coming inspections and Christmas activities can be squeezed in.

The square

With such commands as "Geef acht" and "Vorwaarts Marsch" our square has recently been enlivened by our Belgian friends. They were practising for the unit's 10th birthday parade. We were surprised that the form of drill was almost as different from ours as the language suggests, and anyone who considers our about turn to be a neat movement should see it done Belgian style! Needless to say the parade went well as did the entertainment which followed—we are still trying to discover when our birthday is.

Competition for the stamping ground has been keen. Various M.P.C. courses, inspections and riftings have vied with Mother Nature and her myriad leaves attempting a complete take-over bid. The **R.S.M. (W.O.1 Pete Harris)** reckons to be winning, if only just, though it must be admitted only a large leaf collecting vacuum cleaner made it at all possible.

The night life

The Corporals' Club cheese and wine evening, organised by **Corporals Ray Graves and 'Cap' Bowler,** was a popular event. Some unfortunate stories were put out about some of the cheeses but we cannot discover which cook was really responsible.

The Sergeants' Mess celebrated Hallowe en in the traditional manner. Witches, wizards and skeletons attended in large numbers and judging by their professional appearance serious doubts abuot many members were encouraged. Promoted Dracula-in-chief was **Staff Sergeant Pete Ridley.** Any mail for the witches coven should be addressed to **Mrs. Margaret Jones,** c/o **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tony Jones,** of this unit.

The Officers' Mess attended a Bavarian style evening with our German sister unit in Essen Kray. Eating off the table without a plate was a minor feature of an action packed evening which culminated in one of our hosts being hi-jacked for breakfast and a tour of our unit before being released.

The sports

The two forms of football have done fairly well this season with the oval ball gaining early honours though the round ball has had more Army Cup staying power.

However, these are not the only pursuits which embrace among others hockey, badminton, go-karting, ten-pin bowling and swimming. In secret training at the moment is a team for an unusual sport—watch this column for further news.

With a varied programme of winter sports being planned skiing terms are to be heard with increasing frequency in conversations. If any readers are posted here before 7th February, 1972, they may be lucky enough to get a place on Franski but competition is already keen for all forms of ski training.

The Benevolent Funds

Our annual fete proved to be a success despite a number of factors working against us. A Schutzenfest next door, exercises before and after, and a threatening spell of doubtful weather were overcome to give us a take slightly bigger than last year. Many funds benefited and high on our list was the Corps Benevolent Fund donation of £100.

In tandem with this effort the ladies of the Regiment helped to run a S.S.A.F.A. draw which raised £300 for that organisation. Sad to say another unit collected most of the prizes but that was the only shortcoming!

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Far and wide. . . .

OCTOBER has been another busy month at Blandford with the Regiment making an attempt to span the globe east to west with detachments, and this must surely be near to our record. In the Far East, we have operators and technicians in Korea and Hong Kong; travelling south, we have more technicians in sunny Australia, and across the Indian Ocean, in the Arabian peninsula, are more operators helping the Gunners in Salalah. Further north, in Cyprus, 644 Signal Troop are ever-present with H.Q. UNFICYP, and finally, west to the Bahamas, we are providing still more technicians for J.R.S., Nassau. We also contine to give our support to numerous units throughout the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. We send Christmas gretings to all members of our detachments, wherever you may be, and wish you a safe and speedy return to our new barracks in Blandford. For those members of the Regiment who have not been in Blandford

for the past three months, we hasten to add that Evans Lines has already gone under the auctioneers' hammer and much of the landscape has been changed, due to the activities of the contractors.

AMF(L) Force Radio Troop in Greece

We are fortunate in obtaining this report from **Captain Pat Dickinson,** who has been severely pressed with recce in Norway and a visit to Italy since he returned from Greece earlier in the month.

The Troop left Blandford on 23rd August and headed for an 'overnight' stop at Shorncliffe. The following morning, at 02.00 hours, the journey was resumed to Dover, where the Troop embarked for the Channel-crossing to Zeebrugge, and Birgelin as the destination for the second day. After enjoying the hospitality of 13th Regiment, the Troop were well fortified for the final leg of the journey to Mannheim, where all enjoyed a couple of days' relaxation over the August Bank Holiday, and some accomplished sight-seeing tours in Southern Germany. Later, the opportunity was taken to polish up V.H.F. rebroadcast procedures on a two-day exercise and during the brief stay with our U.S. allies a shield was presented to **Major Rice,** U.S. Army, the retiring A.M.F. Headquarter Company Commander.

By 8th September, the Troop was reassembled and flown to Thessaloniki and four days later all were redeployed to start Exercise 'Hellenic Express.' There followed 12 days of hard, tiring, but generally interesting work. The Greek people were found to be extremely friendly towards the members of the Troop and frequently turned out in force to give greetings as we drove through the villages. The countryside was mainly mountainous and quite ruggedly beautiful, with breathtaking views from the high vantage points of the superb rebroadcast locations. **Major Tom Blashill** had the fortune to visit us before the exercise concluded on 21st September. After two days' grace we were embarked once again having had an opportunity to witness an impressive parade at Serrai and get in some bathing in the Aegean Sea at Epanorui.

The voyage was calm and the weather continued throughout. The Troop put up a splendid show to reach the semi-final in the tug-of-war competition, especially against stiff opposition by the Royal Scots. The competition was won eventually by the Royal Marines who beat the Army officers in the final. By 12th October the Troop was returned complete to the U.K. after yet another memorable exercise with H.Q. A.M.F.

644 Signal Troop in Cyprus

In September, we said farewell to **Captain George Finney** and welcomed **Captain Bill Backhouse,** our new Troop Commander. We have also welcomed a visit from G.O.C. NEARELF, **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E.,** and Commander 3rd Signal Group, **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.** With the hot season now at a close, we are able to resume more active sports while **Corporal Jim Keighley** continues to organise the occasional fishing trip for the less capable.

Shooting

The last shoot of the season for the Regimental team was in the Dorset rifle meeting. The first six positions fell to the Regiment and **Lance-Corporal Colin Harris** was the top scorer beating last year's best total by 20 points.

The Worshipful Company of Dyers

On Wednesday, 13th October, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre,** and Adjutant, **Captain C. J. Grant,** represented the Regiment at the Swan dinner held at the Clothworkers' Hall, London. During the evening the C.O. was pleased to report the activities of the Regiment to the Prime Warden, **The Hon. S. R. Crawley, J.P.** A full account is in the Regimental newsletter, 'The Swan,' and we should like to take this opportunity to ask former members of the Regiment to write in and let us know about their activities.

Arrivals and departures

We welcome the return of **Captain Mike Payne,** from H.Q. 39 Infantry Brigade, and also recently joined **Major (Q.M.) Frank Stubbs, Lieutenant John Spiers** and **Second-Lieutenant Howard Ham.** Among those departing are **Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) John Douthwaite** to the School of Signals; **Lieutenants Jack Fiskel** and **John Thewlis** to the Training Brigade; and **Major (Q.M.) Ray Rose** who is retiring from the Service after a distinguished career in the Corps.

News from Squadrons

5 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron B.F.P.O. 801

. . . and the Saxon Horse has now arrived in N. Ireland, relieving 19 Airportable Brigade on 26th October. We would like to pay tribute to **Major Peter Reader** and his Squadron for the good grace with which they handed over to us. For some reason they seemed very pleased to see us.

Exercise 'Druids Castle'

At the end of September we took part in Exercise 'Druids Castle' as both a control and player headquarters. This was the largest formation exercise held in U.K. since 1968 so we had a fair number of visitors. It was a defence and withdrawal exercise and the Brigade H.Q. was assisted in its defence by two mobile diggers and about 10 tons of defence stores. **Staff Sergeant 'Taffy' Jones** could be heard using a few choice words whilst trying to account for all these stores in the middle of the night. **Sergeant Jimmy Lund,** R.P.C., constructed a highly integrated defence system which we were confident would have held off the whole Russian Army. In the event the enemy failed to find us and it was only put to the test when the Larkhill Hunt blundered into our position at first light! This time it was **R.S.M. Brian Cook** who was in full cry about the 'dogs' setting off the trip flares. The Echelon had a more exciting time as they were under constant attack for the whole of one night and managed to see off their aggressors and also get the rum ration out on time. The Q.M., **Captain Geoff Granger,** is alleged to have closed his eyes during a short lull and to have come to brandishing a broom stick and swearing death to his enemies which caused **Corporal Bob Murdie,** A.C.C., lying only a few feet away, to assume his commander had gone mad.

The communicators also earned their pay, particularly the linemen and D.R.s. During a long period of radio silence, line was laid forward to battalions and **Corporals Charlie Brown** and **Mick Marchant** and their line crews battled to keep the lines in whilst the tanks were turning them into spaghetti. We ended the exercise by introducing a new piece of engineer equipment called the 'airmobile digger.' This consisted of 50 men under **Captain Andy Martin,** armed with shovels G.S. in five Wessex Helicopters, being flown to our abandoned positions to fill in the holes made by the light mobile diggers.

I.S. Training

Prior to coming to N. Ireland we had a few days' I.S. Training under **C/Sergeant Schaefer,** 3 Para. Jellalabad Barracks echoed to the sound of small arms fire and the air was heavy with smoke, much to the consternation of the hospital next door.

Northern Ireland and a sad loss

Since these notes were drafted we have suffered the tragic loss of **Signalman Paul Genge,** who was shot dead while walking out off duty in Lurgan on 7th November. **Paul Genge** joined the Squadron in April from Harrogate. Our deepest sympathy goes to his parents, his two brothers also in the Corps and his sister. **Signalman Genge** was buried with full military honours in Wheelock Parish Church, Cheshire, on 11th November. Eleven members of the Squadron led the mourners, while 11th Regiment provided the bearer party and firing party. The Signal Officer-in-Chief was represented by **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.**

NORTHERN IRELAND

We would specially commend to our readers the graphic account of the daily round described in 39 Brigade Signal Squadron notes on page 493.

19 Airportable Brigade H.Q. Signal Squadron Colchester

Back home

AT last the Squadron has returned to Colchester from Northern Ireland. The handover/takeover with our counterparts in 5 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron went off without any major catastrophes and on 26th October **Major Peter Reader** handed over the communications of the Brigade area to **Major Micky Topple.**

On the return to England, the Squadron staged at Longkesh, awaiting embarkation into the Liverpool ferry. We are very grateful to 49 Field Squadron R.E. for being so helpful in providing food and entertainment during our wait.

After unloading all the equipment the Squadron has now proceeded on three weeks' block leave. On return the Squadron has got to catch up on the year's more unpleasant duties, the Annual Stocktaking Boards, U.E.I. inspections and the Winter Staff Ride exercises. This is followed on by more amenable tasks such as organising the Christmas festivities such as the children's and Mess festive functions.

Rear link Sergeants do their bit

Our rear link Sergeants with the Battalions in the Brigade very rarely get a mention in THE WIRE. **Sergeant John Myers** who is with the 2nd Bn. L.I., has just finished his second tour in Northern Ireland. **Sergeant Arthur Nash** is just finishing his tour with the 1st Bn. King's Own Borderers, as the Battalion is being posted out of the Brigade. **Arthur** spent his second consecutive summer in Malaysia when the Battalion went on a jungle training exercise. Rumour has it that he was very merry **when he successfully communicated to Colchester using a C11 SSB with a dipole antenna. Sergeant 'Jock' Hanlon,** rear link Sergeant with the 3rd R.H.A., is about to leave us on a posting to 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

Rear party

The Rear Party under command of **Captain Don Stokes,** R.R.F., have not been idle whilst the Squadron has been away. **Signalmen John Crossan** and **'Paddy' Thompson** spent most of their days grass-cutting in the married quarters; they have now found themselves redundant due to the return of the husbands. This redundancy soon came to an end when **Captain Don Stokes** had the rear party sweeping the camp of autumn debris (leaves), not once but four or five times a week in preparation for the return of the Brigade Staff. The orderly room have been kept busy getting everyone away on leave and under the ever-watchful eyes of **Captain Stokes, Corporal Johnnie Sharp** has had **Lance-Corporal 'Baz' Mansell** and **Signalman Joe Weeks** 'interpolating' all the filing brought back from Northern Ireland. When **Joe Weeks** was told we had to 'interpolate,' he replied, "Isn't that what the bees do to the flowers." **Lance-Corporal Dave Brown** is doing a grand job as our illustrious post N.C.O., but he will shortly be leaving the comforts of S.H.Q. on his return to 'Alpha' Troop.

Arrivals and departures

We welcome to the unit **Brigadier A. L. Watson** from 1 Black Watch who is now firmly established as our new Brigade Commander, and we hope that he will enjoy his stay with us.

Last week the Squadron said farewell to **Brigadier G. L. C. Cooper, M.C.,** who has been posted to the R.C.D.S. We also say goodbye to **Lance-Corporal Glen Pratt, Signalman Ian Cooper** and **Craftsman 'Andy' Hill,** R.E.M.E., and wish them every happiness for the future.

Welfare needs Clothing!

Uniform quality

always in a Gieves ready-to-wear



Appointed Tailors and Outfitters to the Royal Corps of Signals

Gieves

27 Old Bond Street, London, W.1

1 High Street, Camberley

Bath Bexhill Brockenhurst Cambridge
Cheltenham Chester Cranwell Eastbourne
Edinburgh Harrow Leicester Plymouth
Portsmouth Winchester Malta



THE TEAM HE WILL WORK WITH

The new Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. P. W. MacLellan, M.B.E., meets his rover group accompanied by O.C. Squadron, Major A. P. Fielding. *Left to right:* Corporal Dalton-Brockwell (obscured), Signalman Fugill, Corporal Davenport, Driver Taylor, Corporal Herrington, Private Nelson, Lance-Corporals Counsell and Simpson

8th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron, Londonderry

All go, in every sense of the word!

THE Squadron's first O.C., **Major M. F. H. Colman,** who formed the unit in Chester in 1969 has handed over to **Major A. P. Fielding** and moved to the more peaceful world of computers. Of course a few members of the Squadron could be said to be relieved that **Major Colman** has left. **R.S.M. Meyer** bore the brunt of his backseat driving as they drove around the Brigade area, with a stoicism that was almost heroic. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Goldsworthy** is more than relieved that the barrage of questions on computer technology and mathematics is at an end. He was almost out of cribs and his cuffs were threadbare. However, in every other respect we were all sad to see **Major Colman** and his wife, **Christine,** leave. We wish them every success in their new post and every happiness in the future. **Major Fielding** and his family are welcomed in their place. We commiserate with them over their unfortunate swop of the tropical delights of Singapore in exchange for Northern Ireland.

Now, after two years since the Brigade was formed, the wind of change is blowing steadily. In the last week the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier J. A. C. Cowan, M.B.E.,** paid his farewell visit to the Squadron and has handed over to **Brigadier A. P. W. MacLellan. R.Q.M.S. Goldsmith** leaves in December as does **Staff Sergeant Williams** and **Colour Sergeant McHenry** (Irish Guards). All our crew commanders are about to leave us too—**Corporal Dalton-Brockwell, Corporal Griffiths, Corporal Woodruff** and **Corporal Brennan,** all of whom took their turn in shepherding the Commander and his Rover Group through the streets of Derry on many a bitter night and who braved

(Continued on page 493)



FAREWELL PRESENTATION

The R.S.M., W.O.I R. C. Meyer (*left*) presenting a farewell gift to Major and Mrs. M. F. H. Coleman

(Continued from page 492)

the gales on Slieve Gallion commanding the rebroadcast detachments. Along with them we shall lose from 'Alpha' Troop **Sergeant Grey** to 7th Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Street, Lance-Corporal McAffer, Signalman Mansell, Signalman Seed, Signalman Stenner** and **Signalman Gallagher** our accomplished photographer. From 'Bravo' Troop we lose **Corporal Bell, Corporal Morgan, Corporal Formosa, Lance-Corporal Kay, Lance-Corporal Iseton, Corporal Hird** and last but not least **Sergeant Snowdon** who has done so much for the Squadron during his tour.

Hard work, long hours, little sleep

Of course we have many newcomers arriving everyday. Their initial apprehension and wariness fade as they become immersed in a welter of hard work, long hours and little sleep. Hard work, but justifiably rewarding. We doubt if there are many units that could claim **an unbroken command net for virtually eighteen months,** despite the ever-present reminder of terrorist activity. The nightly thump of high explosive, the sharp cracks of gunshots, nail bombs, petrol bombs, baton rounds and such-like keeps everyone on edge. Shopping expeditions for the families are limited and social activities such as dances are few and far between.

Stray bullet livens up the NAAFI

Most of the 'Agro,' however, goes on in the city across the river from Ebrington Barracks and rarely are we directly affected. However, the other day we had a freak fusillade of shots that winged their way across the square from the other side of the river. **Signalman McKerron** was in the NAAFI at the time, and flew out like a partridge from cover when a round punched a hole in the plate glass window, drove through the sofa on which he was sitting and embedded itself in the wall opposite. He will be able to dine out on that story for many a day.

Battle scarred vehicles

Driver Jessett, the O.C.'s driver, proudly shows the carefully preserved scars on his Land Rover to anyone who cares to waste his time, but although they have been honourably won, cannot compare with the battered Humber 'Pigs' that the infantry untactfully park beside it. These look as if they have had a load of rubble unloaded over them after a trip through the city into the Bogside and Creggan. The Squadron's vehicles are now clad in fibre glass protection kits and, although they tend to look like armadillos, do give a certain amount of protection against blast and petrol bombs. The old curse of sandbagging vehicles has been eliminated, thank goodness, and the Land Rover interiors are light and airy compared with the old canvas canopied version.

Just a little sport

All our sport and leisure activities are rigidly determined by the current security situation and jaunts and exercises have to be strictly off the cuff. We squeeze in the odd six-a-side between duties but even this is at times difficult and recourse to three plus **Captain Blessington's** Irish setter has been known to happen. We managed to complete an inter-Troop/department hockey competition within the Headquarters and Signal Squadron, eventually to be deservedly won by **Second-Lieutenant A. J. Hutt** and his team from 'Alpha' Troop.

We have optimistically acquired six fibre glass canoes and, the security situation permitting, look forward some time in the near future to sampling the great variety of waterways abounding within Ulster.

39 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron

39 Airportable Brigade is responsible for Belfast and Police Division 'R' (South Antrim); most of the action is taking place in Belfast, where are stationed the nine major units of the Brigade. The task of the Squadron is to provide communications from Brigade H.Q. to the H.Q.s of these units. Assistance is also provided with unit communications.

Radio

The Brigade Command Net works on Pye Westminster equipment, rebroadcast from Divis Peak overlooking the City. The net works very well, but equipment faults occur, and it is a Squadron responsibility to repair the sets and get them back on the air. This is where the **Foreman of Signals Rainer Friedrich Walter Livesey (Brian)** and his technicians come in. They turn out at all hours of day and night, grab toolkit, AVO, flak jacket and weapon, and set off into the City. The job takes them into all the trouble spots of the City, since this is where the units live.

No less exposed to the danger of ambush are the drivers, operators and escorts of the Brigade Rover vehicles. **Corporal 'Geordie' Swinhoe, Driver Chris Bangs, Corporal Pete Martin,** R.C.T., **Signalman 'Jock' Cain,** and the Deputy Commander's crew **Lance-Corporal Eric Thomson** and **Signalman Mike Thomas,** who accompany the Commanders in their frequent forays into the City, have had their share of excitement. So have the operators, like **Corporal Stretton,** who have to scramble about on city roofs to fix antennas. As these notes are being written the Brigade A.C.V., with **Corporal 'Chipps' Hyde** and **Signalman 'Scouse' Davis,** is providing the vital link in an operation to transfer internees from Crumlin Road Prison to Longkesh. **Second-Lieutenant John Rayner** is manning the set and reporting on the flow of aircraft.

Line

Also involved in this operation are **Corporal Tom Charteris** and his linemen. Gunmen or not, **Signalman 'Snowy' McKay, Corporal 'Taff' Bartlett** and **Signalman Billy Beevers** still have to climb telegraph poles in places like the Ardoyne, laying a line to a Company of the Green Howards, because the G.P.O. do not care to take the risk. Who can blame them?

S.D.S.

Twice a day, S.D.S. does a round of units in Belfast, and the S.D.S. vehicle by its very frequency and the law of averages, stands a very fair chance of being ambushed. It has happened twice recently. On the first occasion a bullet went through the windscreen, narrowly missing **Signalman Blick.** The second time they were not so lucky. A gunman with a rifle opened up at extremely close range as the vehicle approached Springfield down the lower Falls Road. Fifteen bullet holes were later found in the plastic armour of the Land Rover. **Private Jim Colbourne,** acting as escort, took the brunt of the attack, being hit twice in the back. Despite this he dismounted from the vehicle with his rifle, and staggered towards the gunman before collapsing in the road. **Signalman Tom Saveall,** the driver, was hit by fragments of metal from the rifle magazine, shattered by bullets. He too dismounted, but by this time a hostile crowd had gathered. **Private Colbourne** was rescued by a Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service van which happened to be passing, and **Tom Saveall** was left facing the crowd alone. Despite extreme shock, he had the presence of mind to salvage all his S.D.S. packages and dash round the corner into Springfield Road R.U.C. station, H.Q. of the Scots Guards.

This sort of incident can happen at any time to any military vehicle in Belfast. **Private Colbourne** is still in hospital, but is making a rapid recovery.

Comcen

The Brigade Comcen is the terminal of 16 telegraph links, and during the last month handled 12,000 messages. This keeps shifts of operators like **Corporal Richardson, Corporal Button, Lance-Corporal Easton** and **Signalman Westlake** extremely busy. Yet their work has drawn compliments from Brigade Staff Officers and others, who are very hard-pressed men themselves.

M.T.

The Royal Signals and R.C.T. drivers of the unit probably take as many chances as any one in Belfast as they undertake the innumerable runs into the City required by the Brigade H.Q. and the Signal Squadron. Work would come to a standstill without them and it is men like **Driver 'Geordie' Milfull, Signalman Pete Vayro** and **Corporal Al Hay** who keep the wheels turning.

Morale

Despite the risks, morale is high. All the tradesmen here are doing the job they were trained for, and they know that the jobs have to be done in spite of the opposition.

1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron B.F.P.O. 102

O.C.	Major P. R. Davies
Second-in-Command	Captain G. W. Howard
Q.M.	Captain E. Clowes, R.A.
O.C. Terminal Troop	Lieutenant A. H. Symmons
O.C. Radio Troop	Second-Lieutenant J. N. Allan
S.S.M.	W.O.2 (S.S.M.) C. Bedwell

EXERCISE 'May Fly' has been and gone and once again our heavy guns produced more satisfying 'crumps' than the lesser Divisional Artillery weapons. All the unit officers attended the C.C.R.A.'s pre-exercise cocktail party and many remarks were passed 'how did all these red-scarfed signallers get in here?'

Exercise 'Keystone II' found us providing Spectator Control in the field. The camp we erected eventually consisted of eight marquees and thirty 160 pounders, complete with lighting and power provided by the Corps Lighting Troop R.E., a bridge, D.T.L.S. and a trackway lovingly constructed by Corps sappers, and immaculate internal and external signing by a Corps R.M.P. detachment. We received, accommodated, fed, briefed and despatched with F.F.R. conducting officers over 35 officers. The biggest problem was star plates! Our M.A.s from London included a Lieutenant General, C.S.O. B.A.O.R. came, M.G.R.A. was supposed to come and Brigadiers abounded! One conducting officer (**Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Ferry,** R.A., C.O. Heavy Regiment) met and escorted the C-in-C B.A.O.R. and **Mr. Geoffrey Johnson-Smith.** In addition we were gratified to be visited and inspected by G.O.C. 2 Division, **Major General H. R. S. Pain,** M.C., whose Divisional F.T.X. we were supporting. Other welcome visitors were **Lieutenant-Colonel Jimmy Crow,** A.A.C. (late Royal Signals), **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yoeman** (C.R. Signals, 2 Division), **Major Mike Petheram** (S.O. 2nd Signals, 2 Division) and **Captain Peter Chaddock** (Adjutant, 2 Division Signal Regiment). Finally, after the visitors had gone, we struck camp (luckily in dry weather) and the Q.M. departed leading a convoy of 10 x 10 tonners back to Ordnance Stores. As he remarked after many days of arduous work: "My last ——— exercise in B.A.O.R!"

F.F.R. is two weeks away, then we relax over Christmas until our first exercise in 1972 — starting on 3rd January! Our cross-country runners are in strict training for the Brigade meeting, our soccer players continue to flourish (particularly when **Bombadier Smart** sticks to rugby) and our B.A.O.R. gliding pilot, **Sergeant Hardy,** is off again attempting to reach new heights.

To all our ex-members, including one with a broken leg and one dissipating himself at R.M.C.S., the Rams wish a Happy Christmas.

28 Anzuk Brigade H.Q. & Signal Sqn. c/o G.P.O. Singapore



Training

MOST of the Squadron have now been 'blooded' in the arts of providing communications in the jungle. During the latter half of September a Brigade CPX was held in the J.W.S. training area which if nothing else gave us a realistic idea of what the Brigade Staff expect of us and vice-versa. Conditions were not ideal (are they ever in the jungle) and it quickly became obvious that the techniques of driving a Land Rover down a jungle track are slightly different from those employed on the autobahn. **Lance-Corporal Peter Mallinder** is still experimenting in driving sideways and **Signalman Willy Wellard** is still indignant at the suggestion that he be used as 'ballast.'

The 'linies' in the persons of **Corporal John Dowty, Signalman Tony Dean** and **Signalman Bart McGovern** acquitted themselves most creditably and on the second move had telephones and remotes installed before the staff arrived.

Stores

Our stores and vehicles continue to arrive, though regrettably the list of deficiencies is still greater than items present. Fortunately the Q.M. in Arab Street still has a good stock though his source of supply remains unknown.

Visits

Our most distinguished visitors so far have been **The Right Honourable Geoffrey Johnson Smith, M.P.,** Under Secretary of State (Army) who visited the Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron in barracks on 6th September, and the Army Commander FARELF, **Major-General W. B. Thomas, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,** who visited the Squadron during the CPX on 23rd September. We hope that both these worthy gentlemen enjoyed their stay and look forward to meeting others in the future.



VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE—ARMY
Left to right: Lieutenant Lawrence (Australian Signals), Major Waumsley (Royal Signals) O.C. Squadron, the Right Honourable Geoffrey Johnson-Smith and Corporal Veall (Australian Signals)

Sport

The Squadron soccer team continues to prosper and one of our members, **Corporal Francis Brown,** has been recognised and played twice for the Army XI FARELF. Congratulations. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Don Prescott** is currently whipping up enthusiasm for the hockey season due to start in November and we wish him and the team every success.

Footnote

A message for **Major Thompson,** of Radio Div. School of Signals, from **Sergeant Foody,** 28 ANZUK:

"Sir, I now have the manpower, do you still want that antenna erected outside the 'Exercise Centre.'"

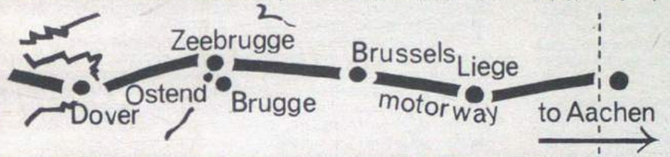
YOUR 1972 RESOLUTION!
I WILL BUY 'THE WIRE'
— NOT BORROW IT.

DAILY SAILINGS AT REDUCED FARES TO ENGLAND from Belgium & France to Dover by



TOWNSEND

CAR FERRIES ZEEBRUGGE-DOVER/CALAIS-DOVER
(Sea crossing approx. 4 hrs.) (Sea crossing approx. 1¾ hrs.)



TOWNSEND DRIVE-ON DRIVE-OFF CAR FERRIES

● Up to 6 SAILINGS A DAY from Zeebrugge. ● Reduced fares for British and Commonwealth Forces and dependants, and attached civilians ● Economical catering and bar prices aboard ● Go on the shorter sea crossing at lower rates with your family and car for home leave.

CARS, CARAVANS, TRAILERS, etc. taken for ONE HALF of NORMAL CHARGE from OCT. to MAY incl.

GET FULL DETAILS FROM

MILATRAVEL Offices, Local Travel Agents, G.S.N. Co., m.b.h., Graf-Adolf-Strasse 12, Dusseldorf 4, Furness Travel Line, Groenplatts 42, Antwerp, or Townsend Car Ferries Car Ferry Terminal, Zeebrugge or Gare de Transit, Calais. Travel on a British ship by the FREE ENTERPRISE LINE. U.K. Bookings through your nearest Motoring Organisation, Travel Agents or the Townsend offices at:

127 REGENT STREET, LONDON W.1 or P.O. BOX 12, DOVER.

LIFE ASSURANCE

ITS FUNCTION. The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

INVESTMENT. Life Assurance, especially Endowment Assurance, is however also the best possible long-term investment, because the money is invested wisely, and partly in "growth equities," by the Life Assurance Company *and* because it is the only form of investment subsidised by the Government. The subsidy consists of Income Tax Allowance on two-fifths of Premiums. For those liable to Tax at 38.75%, this means 15.5% abatement. Thus, a net outlay of £84.50 a year provides a premium of £100 a year, which is 18.34% increase.

SELECTION. There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

INFORMATION REQUIRED. May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

SURTAX and ESTATE DUTY. Suitable action can greatly reduce the burden. If these problems are at all large let me advise you how to increase your net income AND net estate.

GENERAL ASSURANCES. We also arrange Kit, Motor, Winter Sports and all other Insurances in the best markets.

Brigadier R. T. Williams F.C.I.B. — **R. T. WILLIAMS LTD.** — Major T. F. Williams F.C.I.B.

2, Duke Street, Brighton, BN1 1DE

Telephone Brighton 28181 (2 lines)

Incorporated Insurance Brokers
Incorporated Life Assurance Brokers
Member of the Services Insurance Brokers Association

223 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Winchester

WITH Christmas almost upon us, entertainments throughout the unit have been heavy. The administrators, no doubt with their eyes on our Fitness For Role Inspection early in the new year, have been tidying up the books and records.

The Officers made their regular sortie against the Sergeants' Mess at games, and were victorious. The Junior Ranks' Club report an enjoyable dance and cabaret, and the Officers entertained **Co'onel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** Commander 1 Signal Group.

The Wives' Club had such an enjoyable outing to the stage production of 'Salad Days' that they have booked up to see the 'Black and White Minstrel Show' when it comes into the area.

News from the motor-cycling front

Motor cycle team leader, 'Mr. Fix-it' **Sergeant Jimmy Rhind,** leaves us in March on posting to 1st Divsion H.Q. and Signal Regiment. He will be a great loss, for what **Sergeant Rhind** doesn't know about motor cycles—and cars for that matter—is not worth writing about.

Together with his standard Army machine he has been a regular participant in scrambles and trials throughout the country. Competition from souped-up civilian trials machines has never bothered him, and he is rightly famed for his ability to give the star riders a hard run for their money.

With **Corporal George Cardwell** also on the posting list, it remains to be seen whether the Squadron team will still hold together. It would be a pity if it were to fold and the sheer guts and effort put into it were wasted.



[Picture courtesy the Royal Marines Technical Training Wing

HE GIVES STAR RIDERS A HARD RUN FOR THEIR MONEY
Sergeant Jimmy Rhind and his 'beloved' machine (he has been known to call it other things) seen in action during the Royal Marine Motorcycle Championships 1971

Bonfire night

To celebrate Guy Fawkes' Day actually falling on the school children's half-term holiday, the skies opened up and the whole show had to be postponed until the 10th. However, the inconvenience of starting and finishing earlier passed quite unnoticed by the youngsters who gorged themselves on roast potatoes and hotdogs and went home happy.

Pentathlon

In an effort to keep the blood circulating rapidly through the veins of our desk-jockeys, all the Troops in the Squadron were invited to enter teams of four in a continuing Pentathlon which ran on through the summer months. After a protracted bout of assault-coursing, running, jumping and throwing things the winners have been announced as **Corporals Billy Button** and **Dave Foley** and **Signalmen Bob Bolt** and **Rick Morris.** All receive a rather nice silver ashtray with the Corps crest mounted on it.

Orienteering

With most of his successful team now posted, **Staff Sergeant Dave Etherton,** the orienteer-in-chief, is now in the throes of building up a new lot. Their first competition will be at Aldershot in December. New hopefuls are: **Corporals Billy Button** (that name again) and **Derek Scott, Lance-Corporal Tim Axtell** and **Signalman Rick Morris** (another repeat).

Through a very full 'hooter,' **Staff Etherton** told us he was looking forward to getting out into the woods again. "You dont' catch these dreadful codes in the dose," he explained.

Football

October saw the Squadron football team, run by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Pat Mahoney,** drawn against 1st Training Regiment Royal Engineers in the first round the Minor Units Cup (S.E. area). The game promised to be a hard-fought one as the team do not play regularly in an Army league, their normal meat being the Winchester Sunday Civilian league. The Engineers ran out winners 6-4 despite some power-house play by leading goal-scorer **Lieutenant Nick Franks,** and a fine display by sweeper — guess who? — that's right, **Corporal Billy Button. Corporal Pete Campbell,** again selected for the U.K. Corps squad, also had a good game.

Any Squadron 'rep' who fancies a friendly at home or away is invited to contact **Yeoman Mahoney.**

It's a gas

With B.E. tests, annual range classification, dental and medical checks all confirming that the F.F.R. is looming ever larger on the horizon, we have even been doing respirator checks. CS gas is nasty at the best of times, so getting just a whiff of the stuff is unpleasant. This leads **Sergeant Terry McGrath** to wonder if the end is nigh. Supervising these gas checks can be a risky business and he is celebrated as the man who reduced the S.S.M. to tears in nothing flat. Oh WO and thrice WO—but not for McGrath?

Telling of his own misfortunes in the 'gas chamber,' **Sergeant McGrath** says: "Doing the demonstration I had to take my respirator off. Somehow my sweater got hooked up and it took me five tearful minutes to get myself out of the place."

Christmas fare

One of the great complaints about Christmas—apart from the expense—is its sameness. There is always a Sergeants' Mess draw, each Mess or Club has the others in for a 'noggin' and there is certain to be the children's party. Striving to find something a bit different, it is planned to make this year's Christmas dinner a real all-ranks' affair.

This year, as many Officers and Senior N.C.O.s as can will pack into the dining hall. After serving each course, the 'waiters' will sit down and join in the feast, thereby legalising the 'snaffled sausage,' 'dubious drumstick' and 'purloined pudding' of the past. It should make for an interesting change.

O.C. wins his spurs

There is every trace in the rumour that the O.C., **Major John Ingledow,** had to fork up for a pound's worth of Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw tickets in order to get his spurs back for an important engagement. They had been 'acquired' during a dinner night in the Mess some days earlier!

Promotion, comings and goings

Congratulations go to **Staff Sergeant (S.R.Q.M.S.) Dave Poole** on his recent promotion to W.O.2. We extend a welcome to **Sergeant Jim Kelly** and his rather swish 3.4 Jaguar which does a lot for the Unit car park. At time of writing we expect **W.O.2 (R.S.) 'Jock' Wilson** to make his appearance on the scene daily.

On the debit side we have said goodbye to **Captain (Tfc. 'R') Stan Brice** whose sporting abilities and fund of 'unlikely' stories will be missed. **Sergeant Ron Crabtree** too has left us, having moved from the M.T. Section to similar work with Securicor. We wish him and his family all the best in the big, wide world outside. **Corporal Bill Garner** also has left us for 2 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

Finally, all that is left to say is a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Corps members past and present wherever they may be.

633 Signal Troop (Caribbean)

Notes by Signalman 'Paddy' Neary,
British Honduras Detachment

IN the tropical sunshine of Belize, British Honduras, the fourteen members of 633 Troop battle on gamely against such appalling hazards as 'swampy' (the local rum), over-friendly females and sunburn. However, life is not all play and we do find time to do a little work.

Hurricane season opens

The first week in June heralded the opening of the hurricane season and 633 got the production under way by joining in the annual hurricane practice with all the other members of the garrison. This entailed everybody simulating their role in the event of a hurricane. Our role in this was to provide a V.H.F. and H.F. radio net to be used to direct relief operations and also to provide voice communications between garrison H.Q. at the airport camp, and the Infantry Company detachments in Belize city. Needless to say everything went without a hitch in the competent hands of **Captain Gordon Giles,** who was visiting us at the time from Nassau. As the only Royal Signals officer in the Caribbean, he had to sally forth on regular expeditions to such barren shores as Nassau, Anguilla and Antigua, in order to visit the Corps detachments stationed here.

Brigadier Proudman visits

Having successfully completed the practice, we began to prepare for the visit of the Chief Signal Officer, **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.,** who was doing his annual tour of the Caribbean area. As we are such a small unit there was no parade as such, much to everybody's disappointment! Instead, the C.S.O. spoke to everyone individually at the transmitter site. Again, everything worked smoothly during his short stay and as no heads have since rolled, he cannot have been too displeased with us. In order to vary the 'backbreaking' routine of message handling, we organise day trips to the off-shore islands once a month. These normally provide a few amusing incidents, as large quantities of amstel are taken along for medicinal purposes. On the memorable occasion **Signalman Ron Galpin** heroically dived into the murky depths of Belize harbour to rescue a crate of beer which had been knocked overboard. As a special reward for this humanitarian gesture he was allowed to give the 'kiss of life' to half the contents of the case. The islands themselves are just coral beaches with a few palm trees, but underwater swimming and fishing provide experiences which few of us are likely to encounter again.

A real hurricane in the offing

On 9th September the entire garrison went to ground, on hearing the news that hurricane Edith was approaching Belize and almost certain to strike. After she had hit Nicaragua, where sustained winds of 160 m.p.h. were recorded, she continued on over the Bay of Honduras and towards Belize. By this time, however, the maximum wind speeds were only 80 m.p.h., and in the long run the hurricane missed us by a few miles. However, we had been able to put into practice everything which we had simulated previously.

Congratulations from Garrison Commander

Even though we had had to drop most of our aerial field before the hurricane it was business as usual in the transmitter site. which was also Garrison H.Q. during this period. Although we had to resort to CW transmissions instead of FSK, to Nassau relay station for brief periods, all traffic both to and from England was cleared with no delays at all. The Garrison Commander congratulated us on the polished performance of our job.

A pleasant change

In October the Troop took part in what was officially called an exercise, but what was in fact a working holiday on Ambergris Cay. Ambergris is the largest of the off-shore islands and has an army house there for the use of personnel on leave. The first party, consisting of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Ted Noon, Corporals John Smith, 'Grimsby' Gane** and **Signalmen Al Turner, 'Swampy' Hancock** and **'Nobby' Clarke** set off by sea, armed with various materials to be used for repairing and painting the island's residence. After one day's work and three days' leisure they returned and were replaced by a second party. This comprised of **W.O.2 Clive Walch** (R.A.O.C.), **Corporals Johnny Butler** and **'Swampy' Swindell** (R.E.), **Lance-Corporal Phil Tettersell** and **Signalmen John Grant, Ron Galpin** and **'Paddy' Neary.**

Fishing's the thing

After doing a day's work we concentrated on fishing both inside and outside the Great Barrier Reef which runs along the length of the country. A personal duel developed between **Corporal Butler** and **Signalman Neary** as to who would catch the most barracuda.

After **Corporal Butler** had opened up a lead of 3-1, **Signalman Neary** came with a late flourish to pip him 4-3. This left us with about 90 pounds of prime barracuda cutlets to get rid of. It certainly made a pleasant change from compo. Using improvised hand lines everyone caught plentiful supplies of such exotic fish as triggerfish, snappers, yellowtails, grunts and some sharks.

Night-life news

Ex-members of the Troop will be pleased to hear that such shady night-spots as 'Bamboo Bay' and 'Cheds' are still standing, and that those famous sirens, 'Punchy', 'Kipper-Feet' and 'Gang-Bang' are still comforting us in our hours of need.

Sport

SOCCER

Corps 1, R.A.O.C. 2

THE WIRE soccer correspondent reports:

This match was played at the Central Ground, Catterick Camp, on 27th October, and was watched by a large, enthusiastic crowd.

Both sides were obviously feeling their way, this being their first representative game and with new players to get used to, the opening of the match was very even. It wasn't until the 25th minute that the first good shot came from **Signalman Roberts,** a shot just past the right-hand post. From then onwards the Corps started to gain the slight advantage with the combination of **Signalmen Denham** and **Malone** working beautifully. **Sergeants Brooks** substituted for **Corporal MacOndochie** who was sent for an X-ray 10 minutes before the interval. Then, with only a minute of time left in the first half, a bad mistake by the Corps' goalkeeper—**Sergeant Owens** —from a soft shot by **Private Hutchinson** put the R.A.O.C. 1-0 up at half-time.

The second half saw the best football played and on many occasions saw the crowd rise to their feet. The Corps produced all the pressure and it seemed a goal had to come with shots from **Signalman Denham, Sergeant Brooks** and the best by **Signalman Malone,** only inches wide. The R.A.O.C. had one good break which produced a fine save by **Sergeant Owens** from **Corporal Gill.** The goal came from a corner which was partially cleared to **Sergeant Brooks** who made no mistake, bringing the score to 1-1 after 75 minutes. **Signalman Malone** seemed hampered with his ankle just out of plaster and it seemed to cut the Corps impetus.

Only four minutes later the R.A.O.C. struck back with a fine goal which **Corporal Gill** rounded four men before sliding the ball across the goalmouth for **Private Hutchinson** to slip the ball home into an open net.

The outstanding players on the Corps' side were the captain, **Sergeant Young, Signalman Malone, Signalman Denham** and **Lance-Corporal McBirnie,** but the man of the match was undoubtedly **Private James** of the R.A.O.C.

Royal Signals Corps' team from: **Sergeant Owens,** 8th Regiment; **Corporal Edwards,** 3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment; **Signalman Alves,** 244 Signal Squadron; **Corporal Brown,** 224 Signal Squadron; **Lance-Corporal McBirnie,** 216 Para. Signal Squadron; **Sergeant Young** (captain), 244 Signal Squadron; **Signalman Malone,** 244 Signal Squadron; **Signalman Scope,** 8th Regiment; **Signalman Roberts,** 10th Regiment; **Signalman Denham,** 216 Para. Signal Squadron; **Corporal MacOndochie,** 10th Regiment; **Sergeant Brooks,** 8th Regiment; **Signalman Behan,** 244 Signal Squadron; reserve 'keeper, **Sergeant Lyth,** 8th Regiment.



SPOILS OF VICTORY

The victorious 3 Squadron team of 9th Regiment with the local Cross-Country Trophy and their unofficial presentation, a crate of beer!

Royal Signals Yacht Club Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will be held at 11.00 hours on Wednesday, 12th January, 1972, in Conference Room 254 (second floor) of the Old War Office building. All members are invited to attend. Will those wishing to do so please notify the Hon. Secretary, in GS (OR) 1 (Plans), Main Building, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, S.W.1 (Tel.: Ext. 3094).

Members may also wish to note that the International Boat Show will take place at Earls Court during the period 5th to 15th January, 1972.

Full-Bore Shooting — Harrogate Apprentices Hit the Bull

At the Yorkshire District Skill-at-Arms Meeting, held on Strensall Ranges on 9th and 10th October, the College's full-bore shooting team scored their first success in open competition when they won the Lord Lieutenant's Cup for the visiting team championship. In so doing they scored 148 points; 60 Maintenance Squadron R.A.F. were placed second with 121 points, and the Army Youth Team, Doncaster, third with 107 points. The championship was decided on the aggregate scored in five competitions using S.L.R., S.M.G. and L.M.G.

This was no small achievement, for 38 teams were competing in what **Major-General R. M. Somerville, O.B.E.,** G.O.C. Yorkshire District, described as the second largest Army meeting in the country. In addition, the full-bore shooting club was formed only in March this year, over 50 per cent of the team being apprentices.

Officer i/c of the club is **Lieutenant John Howitt,** R.A.E.C., who himself took up full-bore shooting seriously only when he came to the College last December. He is the first to acknowledge the debt which the whole team owes to the skill and experience of **R.Q.M.S. Chris Easter** and **Sergeant Bill Grieve,** both of whom have shot for the Corps, and of **Staff Sergeant Dave Collingburn,** a former member of the renowned Worcesters' and Foresters' team.

Harrogate Apprentices retain Fraser Cup for Cycling

The Cycle Club of the College retained this year the Army Cycling Union Inter-Unit Challenge Cup, which they won for the first time ever last year.

The Fraser Cup—the Army's premier team award for cycling—is based on six events held throughout the season: Road time trials over 25 miles, 50 miles and 100 miles; a 1km. track time trial; a 100km. road race; and a hill climb.

Twenty-one teams competed this year for the trophy, open to units throughout the British Army, and the first three placings were: 1, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, 1,986 points; 2, Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow, 1,730 points; 3, 667 Squadron L.A.D. R.E.M.E., 730 points.

As can be seen from the following table, the College's success is based on solid team work, rather than upon the brilliance of individual riders. Scorers for Harrogate, with position and points, were:

25 miles T.T.		*50 miles T.T.*	
11. A/T. Dennis Mable	140	4. A/T. Calum Watt	147
12. A/T. S.S.M. Andy Hickling	139	6. A/T. S.S.M. Andy Hickling	145
13. A/T. Calum Watt	138	8. Captain Alan Slorick	143
100 miles T.T.		*Hill Climb*	
4. A/T. Watt	147	2. A/T. Cathal McGirr	149
1km. T.T. Track		*100km. R.R.*	
8. A/T. Watt	143	10. S/Sgt. Ron Hill	141
10. A/T. S.S.M. Andy Hickling	141	11. Sgt. Mick Lavery	140
11. A/T. Sgt. Dave Arnold	140	14. A/T. Sgt. Arnold	137

Aggregate Scores: A/T. Calum Watt, 575; A/T. S.S.M. Andy Hickling, 425; A/T. Sgt. Dave Arnold, 277. (The remainder scored once each).

Basketball

It is proposed to form a Corps' Basketball team in the early part of 1972, to compete against other Corps.

To this effect a series of trials are to be held at Blandford Camp, during certain weekends in January/February, 1972. Anyone interested in participating in these trials should forward their names and experience through unit commanders to:

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) H. Jennings, Royal Signals,
Secretary Corps Basketball,
30th Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset.

(Replies please by 10th January, 1972).

VACANCY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, T.A.V.R.

A vacancy for an Administrative Officer on consolidated rates of pay with 69 (North Irish Horse) Signal Squadron (V), Londonderry, will become available in near future.

The appointment calls for an Officer (or exceptionally a suitably qualified Warrant Officer Class I) with broad administrative experience; some knowledge of the T.A.V.R. or T.A. is desirable, but not essential. Terms of service are set out in Schedule XVI of Regulations for the T.A.V.R. 1967. The starting salary is £1,819.

Applicants should apply in writing giving date of birth and brief details of experience and qualifications to:

Commanding Officer, 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow G20 6JU.

Personal Affairs

Obituary

Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. S. Hurburgh, WRAC (Retd.)

It is with the greatest regret that we announce the death on 23rd October, 1971, of Lieutenant-Colonel 'Herbie' Hurburgh, late W.R.A.C., after a long illness bravely borne.

'Herbie' joined the A.T.S. as a private in 1939 and was commissioned in 1942. After serving in a number of regimental and staff appointments she was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel in 1953 and appointed A.D. W.R.A.C. 4 A.A. Group and later Deputy Officer-in-Charge Medical and W.R.A.C. Records. In 1958 she retired and was appointed to the W.R.A.C. Depot as a Retired Officer Grade 3, and joined Royal Signals Records in the same capacity in 1965.



During the six years that she was with Royal Signals Records she identified herself completely with the Corps of her adoption and by her fair and sympathetic handling of the posting, promotion and personal problems of the operating trades her name became a byeword among all units of the Corps worldwide.

With her death, Records and the soldiers of the Corps lose not only a loyal and selfless servant but a warm-hearted friend who at all times had the interests of the Corps and its soldiers at heart.

To her relatives we extend our deepest sympathy.

C.B.M.

The following deaths are notified with regret:

CAPTAIN (T.M.O.) W. GARROW (Retd.)

A life member of the association, he died on 18th October, Captain Garrow served with the pre-war T.A. and served in the Corps from 1938 to January, 1946, during which time he was awarded a wartime regular service commission. He was a member of the Liverpool Branch of the association. His address: 13 Lister Road, Liverpool, L7 0HE.

MR. W. A. DODSWORTH

Mr. Dodsworth, an ex-W.O.2, served in the Corps from 1939 to 1966. He was a life member of the association. Address: 4 Reinwood Avenue, Leeds, 8.

MR. ALLEN AMERS

A member of the Hull Branch of the association, he passed away on 20th September. A number of members of the branch—Messrs Cook, Lowe, Bentham, Abel, Maud, Bushnel and the Chairman of the branch, Mr. R. L. Stephenson — attended the funeral on the 24th.

EX-CORPORAL TIMOTHY CRAWLEY

Corporal Crawley served in the Corps for 15 years and finished his service with M.T. Troop, 30th Signal Regiment, in 1965. His service with the Corps had been wide and varied and with his friendly disposition and ever-present sense of humour, he built up a very wide circle of friends both among serving and ex-members of the Corps. He was an enthusiastic dart player and still continued to play for the Corporals' Mess dart team at Blandford. It was while playing that he died suddenly on 8th November, and our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow whose address is: 214 Blandford Road, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset.

EX-SERGEANT R. F. RYAN

Mr. R. Hinge, Hon. Secretary Chester Branch, writes:

It is with sincere regret that I have to record the death of ex-Sergeant R. F. Ryan who passed away on 14th September. Sergeant Ryan served with the Corps from 1920 until 1935. He was a Life Member of the Association and a Founder Member of the Branch. His address: 124 Sealand Road, Chester.

Association News

Northampton Branch

Mr. G. Dibley, Hon. Secretary of the branch writes:

With our President, **Lieutenant-Colonel S. Brock, M.B.E.,** presiding, we held a very successful dinner at the Franklins Garden Hotel on 7th October. We were delighted to have with us as guest **Major W. Baxter,** Royal Anglians, and his wife. **Major Baxter** takes a great interest in the activities of the branch and very kindly allows us to hold our meetings in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, T. & A.V.R. Centre, Clare Street, Northampton.

Our winter programme began with a social evening on the 28th October at the Old Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton, when we were entertained by the O.C.A. Northampton Regiment.

During August the branch visited 5 (Banbury) Squadron, 39th Signal Regiment, where we were shown the present day methods of training volunteers. The standards of training set and attained were excellent. Furthermore, the entertainment was of the same high quality, and we are very grateful for the time and effort given for our education.

Hon. Secretary's address: 27 Rushmere Road, Northampton.

Huddersfield Branch

Mr. Tom Mellor, Hon. Secretary of the branch writes:

We held our annual dinner and dance at the Central Restaurant, Cleckheaton, on Saturday, 16th October. Forty-five of us sat down to a choice meal.

Sidney Rose, a former chairman of the branch, admirably proposed the Loyal Toast. **Tom Mellor,** the Secretary in the role of toastmaster, introduced **Mr. David Greenbrook,** who as guest, had travelled up from London to represent the association.

Mr. Greenbrook first expressed his thanks for the invitation. He then referred to the evident enthusiasm in the branch. He spoke of the value of advertising and publicity to draw in younger members as they took discharge from the Corps. He hoped that some campaign might be initiated by the branch. The association could be relied upon for aid.

In a short speech the branch Chairman, **Bill Howells,** expressed his thanks, and hoped that it would be a successful and enjoyable evening. **Ken Nuttall,** the Treasurer, gathered in all the donated prizes and with other willing helpers, raffles were run their course, and dancing interspersed by a few games combined to produce a very successful function.

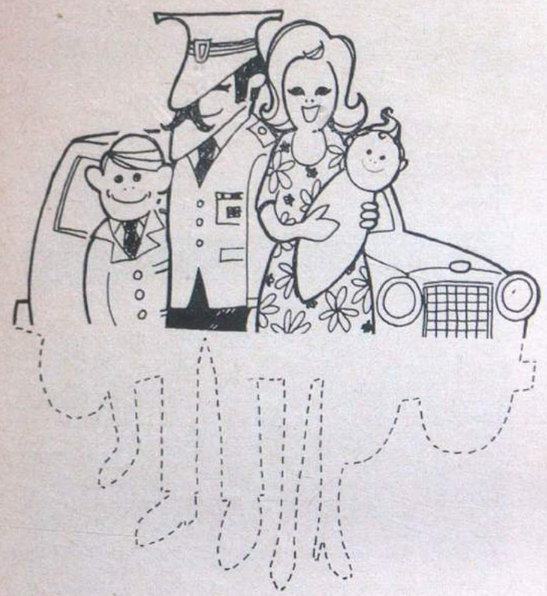
Midnight — although on schedule, came much too soon. we sang 'Auld Lang Syne' and reluctantly vacated the dance floor. Many members availed themselves of the coach transport which had been organised.

The Hon. Secretary's address is: Lea House, Shepley, Huddersfield, Yorks.

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

Why not do so now?

Take the whole family to and from Germany for almost the cost of half the family.



Any day of the week you can travel to and from Germany by Prins Ferries at half the adult price. And your wife and children over 14 can go with you at the same rate.

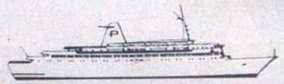
For children under 4 the terms get even better: they go free.

How much would it cost you? As a typical instance, a service family of 2 adults, one 14 year old and a baby could travel to Germany and back with their car for £32.30 – a saving of £27.80! Each fare* starts at £4.75 single (£8.50 return) and you can even take your car for as little as £3.85 (£6.80 return).

What do you get for your money?

You travel in luxury all the way Harwich to Hamburg or Harwich to Bremerhaven. You get a choice of dining facilities (Swedish Smörgåsbord or à la carte). There's dancing, casino, duty free bars and shops. And after you've enjoyed a wonderful evening you have the choice of a wide range of cabins and sleeperettes.

If you think it sounds almost too good to be true, contact your travel agent or write to the address below for full details.



PRINS FERRIES

Prins Ferries, 67 Grosvenor Street, London W1X OEA
Telephone 01-629 7961 also 491 7641
German Office: HADAG Seetouristik und Fährdienst AG 2000
Hamburg 11, Johannisbollwerk 6-8
Telephone (0411) 31961
or, Karl Geuther & Co. 2800 Bremen, Martinistrasse 58
Telephone (0421) 3 16 01

These prices come into effect from January 1st 1972 and are slightly higher July 15th—September 1st.

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant A. S. R. Alfred ... ... To 13th Regiment
Major J. O. C. Alexander ... ... ,, 7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Captain (Tfc.) W. B. Archer ... ... ,, Live Oak, H.Q. B.A.O.R., as Major
Lieutenant M. Butler ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant R. C. K. Baynes ... ... ,, 661 Aviation Squadron
Major J. J. Bally ... ... ,, Anzak Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Major A. R. Bushell ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. Cooper ... ,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Captain B. M. Cooke ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Major (Q.M.) T. P. Canham ... ,, Attd. 3 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Dacre, O.B.E. ,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major J. Fender ... ... ,, 226 Signal Squadron
Major E. M. Fox ... ... ,, H.Q. 3 Signal Group
Major J. G. Fleming ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
Lieutenant J. D. Griffiths ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Garratt ... ,, 38th Regiment (V)
Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, O.B.E. ,, H.Q. 4 Div. (Col. A/Q) as Col.
Major D. M. Humphries ... ... ,, H.Q. Training Brigade
Major J. K. Heyes ... ... ,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant J. P. Hayes ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Lieutenant P. B. R. Kent ... ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant W. A. Little ... ... ,, 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain (T.O.T.) A. J. Lees ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain (Q.M.) P. W. H. Lafferty ... ,, 38th Regiment (V)
Lieutenant J. K. C. MacLean ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) N. W. Merrifield ... ,, 37th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) J. J. M. Nutt ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Major M. G. Panton ... ... ,, Abu Dhabi Defence Force
Major W. H. H. Parkes ... ... ,, J.T.R., Troon
Captain A. J. Pearce ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Major E. Pickup ... ... ,, Trucial Oman Scouts
Lieutenant C. H. Richardson ... ,, 234 Signal Squadron, 1st com.
Major J. W. Roberts ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain B. Robinson ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) R. Stather ... ,, Attd. Joint Force H.Q. Far East
Major C. E. R. Story ... ... ,, D.A.D.P.T.C.
Captain (T.O.T.) P. F. Soward ... ,, M.O.D. Signals 35
Major (Q.M.) A. E. Smith ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain M. G. Taylor ... ... ,, 20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Walker ... ,, H.Q. Intelligence Centre (as Col.)
Major A. J. Welch ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Captain R. L. Windmill ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain M. J. M. Alden ... ... To H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps
Lieutenant J. R. S. Amberton ... ,, H.Q. 8 Inf. Bde.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. C. Baldwin ,, N.A.T.O. Defence College as Colonel
Captain (Tfc.) S. E. Brice ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Lieutenant A. Brown ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel N. A. Butler ... ,, A.A.C., Harrogate, as Colonel
Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Carnie, M.B.E. ,, 28th (B.R.) Signal Regiment as C.O.
Captain (Q.M.) P. Chilvers ... ... ,, 28th (B.R.) Signal Regiment
Colonel J. C. Clinch ... ... ,, 13 Signal Group as Brigadier
Captain (Tfc.) A. J. D. Davies ... ,, 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)
Lieutenant K. H. Dewis ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) R. A. Dolbear ... ,, 11th Regiment (to retire)
Captain J. McD. Edgar ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant N. C. Fairley ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain S. G. Falla ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant G. R. Farrell ... ... ,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant W. J. L. Fiskell ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant A. H. Gibbs ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Captain H. Grenville-Jones ... ... ,, 6 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E. ,, Staff College
Captain A. W. de V. Hunt ... ... ,, Sultan of Muscat Armed Forces
Captain J. I. Jenkins ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) T. Johnstone ... ... ,, A.A.C., Harrogate
Captain P. D. Jones ... ... ,, Indian Defence Services Staff College, Wellington
Captain C. D. McK. Kemp ... ... ,, 28th (B.R.) Signal Regiment
Major R. J. Lettin ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain W. G. Lidster, B.E.M. ... ,, 602 Signal Troop
A/Major D. J. D. McKail ... ... ,, Fortress H.Q., Gibraltar
Major M. Marples ... ... ,, 12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Major (T.O.T.) A. K. Mercer ... ,, 16th Regiment

Major D. G. Mitchell ... ... ,, 24 Airportable Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn. as O.C.
Lieutenant S. C. Moralee ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) G. Oakley ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Major K. H. Olds ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Captain J. R. S. Ovenden ... ... ,, 13th Regiment as Major
Lieutenant N. R. Pullman ... ... ,, 12 Mech. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
L/Major (Tfc.) R. J. Robinson, M.B.E. ,, H.Q. Army Strategic Comd.
Major E. L. Rogers ... ... ,, 11th Regiment H.S.
Captain J. F. Storr ... ... ,, Cambridge Univ. O.T.C.
Captain A. C. Stutchbury ... ... ,, H.Q. 3 Div. (S.C. 'Q')
Major C. R. A. Sumner ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain (Q.M.) A. Taylor ... ... ,, 71st Signal Regiment (V)
Major J. N. Taylor ... ... ,, H.Q. Eastern District
Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Captain R. F. Willsher ... ... ,, H.Q. British Gurkha L. of C., Dhahran

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. D. Carr ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant W. Duncan ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant R. P. Faulley ... ... ,, 242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant H. E. F. Nanty ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant K. Barnes ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Cambell ... ... ,, C.V. H.Q. & Trg. Wing
Sergeant K. E. Clark ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Downie ... ... ,, 641 Signal Troop
Sergeant R. A. Gosling ... ... ,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant T. D. Margrett ... ... ,, 260 Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. G. McInnes ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. D. Stewart ... ... ,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. P. McGrath ... ... ,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant M. H. French ... ... ,, 259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. C. Smale ... ... ,, H.Q. AFNORTH
Sergeant A. J. Chapman ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
Sergeant M. George ... ... ,, 240 Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. F. Marshall ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant M. P. Aldridge ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant R. W. Boyd ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant K. D. Vince ... ... ,, 27th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. James ... ... ,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant I. Holmes ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant K. V. Hawke ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant T. Lowes ... ... ,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant J. Smith ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Mosley ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant A. J. Halliwell ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Croad-Brangwyn ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant T. Bowman ... ... ,, 71st Regiment (V)
A/Sergeant M. G. Judge ... ... ,, H.Q. Northern Ireland
A/Sergeant M. J. McHale ... ... ,, 229 Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. G. Bird ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. T. Young ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant P. M. Hothersall ... ... ,, 244 Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant M. L. Stevens ... ... ,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant S. R. Soqo ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant B. Dulston ... ... ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course No. 21
Sergeant D. C. Snowdon ... ... ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course No. 21
Sergeant T. W. Sherwin ... ... ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course No. 21
Sergeant D. Grey ... ... ,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. J. O. King ... ... ,, 8 Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant T. Griffiin ... ... ,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant D. Boxall ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant K. E. Russell ... ... ,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant P. J. Mills ... ... ,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant T. H. Tate ... ... ,, 3 Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
W.O.2 T. Keany ... ... To SHAPE H.Q. Command & Support (B.E.)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) E. S. Storie ... ,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. G. French ... ,, 233 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 P. Goldsmith ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
W.O.2 J. W. Gray ... ... ,, 24 Airptbl. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. S. Wootton ... ,, 16th Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) H. M. Cooke ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) M. Harrison ... ,, 10th Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) M. Langford ... ,, 27th Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. K. Harvey ... ,, 10th Regiment
W.O.2 D. Walker ... ... ,, H.Q. Southern Command
W.O.2 L. Arrowsmith ... ... ,, 27th Regiment
W.O.2 E. D. Duncan ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) N. N. Anderson ,, 28 ANZUK Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant J. Quayle ... ... ,, 39th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant A. Williams ... ... ,, 12 Mech. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. Young ... ,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Cosser ... ... ,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. A. Finch ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. J. Hanlon ... ... ,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. Emslie ... ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. J. Latham ,, 240 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. J. Butcher ... ... ,, 11th Regiment Boys' Squadron
Sergeant M. Campbell ... ... ,, 39th Regiment (V)
Sergeant B. A. Foulger ... ... ,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Letori ... ... ,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. Paddison ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
A/Sergeant C. McLaren ... ... ,, 55 Signal Squadron (V)
Sergeant C. D. Brownhill ... ... ,, 227 Signal Squadron
Sergeant I. N. Messenger ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant H. Hagley ... ... ,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant J. S. Johnstone ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant N. Papanicolaou ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant C. S. Kennard ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant A. W. A. Bagwell ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. R. Gainford ... ... ,, 4 Gds. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
A/Sergeant M. FitzMaurice ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant N. A. Sheard ... ... ,, 37th Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. H. Davis ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant M. E. Everett ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Foster ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant T. Houston ... ... ,, 264 S.A.S. Signal Squadron
Sergeant W. Lawson ... ... ,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Smith ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant B. G. Watts ... ... ,, 227 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. L. Ball ... ... ,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. C. Howard ... ... ,, 11th Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant T. R. O'Dare ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Watson ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant J. B Burns ... ... ,, 252 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. M. Woodhouse ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
Sergeant R. P. Davies ... ... ,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant J. K. Nicholls ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant I. W. Davies ... ... ,, 262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. J. D. Brown Greaves ... ,, 262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. Cole ... ... ,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. D. G. Brown ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant A. C. R. Cole ... ... ,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

Promotions

Technicians Roll

To Sgt.				
Bennie,	R. Y.	Cpl.	13 Mar. 71	20 Sept. 66
Richardson,	E.	Cpl.	18 Mar. 71	22 Sept. 67
Cole,	J.	Cpl.	18 Mar. 71	18 Jun. 66
Flanigan,	P. R.	Cpl.	18 Mar. 71	14 Feb. 68
Gomersall,	D.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	14 Apr. 67
Strawn,	R. L.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	14 Apr. 67
McCluskie,	M.	Cpl.	14 Apr. 71	19 Oct. 67
Stickland,	R. P.	Cpl.	6 May 71	14 Apr. 67
Hirst,	D.	Cpl.	6 May 71	16 Jun. 67
Lock,	B. T.	Cpl.	6 May 71	13 Jul. 67
Rowntree,	C. H.	Cpl.	14 May 71	1 Jul. 67
Barnett,	B. J.	Cpl.	14 May 71	12 Jul. 67
Hyatt	P. L.	Cpl.	25 May 71	1 Oct. 66
Baynton	H. V.	Cpl.	27 May 71	21 Aug. 65
Mitchell,	P. B.	Cpl.	27 May 71	21 Dec. 67
Sloan,	D. H. O.	Cpl.	27 May 71	12 Sep. 68
Machell	I. H.	Cpl.	27 May 71	20 Mar. 69
Barwick,	T. G.	Cpl.	29 Jun. 71	13 Jul. 67
Moorhouse,	D. T.	Cpl.	29 Jun. 71	19 Jun. 69
Smith,	J. M.	Cpl.	29 Jun. 71	6 Aug. 69
Stanley,	P. J.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	19 Nov. 65
Indge,	B. J.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	7 Jun. 67
Edwards,	D. L.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	1 Jul. 67
Terras,	T. M.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	19 Aug. 67
Jennings,	R. S.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	19 Aug. 67
Birkett,	A. J.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	13 Dec. 67
Oram,	B. R.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	1 Oct. 68
Back,	G. R.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	20 Feb. 69
Fisher,	P. W.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	19 Jun. 69
Miller,	W. B.	Cpl.	15 Jul. 71	15 Jul. 67
West,	R. G.	Cpl.	15 Jul. 71	15 Jul. 67
Latham,	B. J.	Cpl.	29 Jul. 71	27 Feb. 67
Suckling,	K. W.	Cpl.	29 Jul. 71	21 Jun. 68
Duddridge,	J. M.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	11 Aug. 67
Lane,	C. J.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	11 Aug. 67
Parkhill,	D. A.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	11 Aug. 67
Sutherland,	P. K.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	19 Aug. 67
Mutlow,	M. F.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	29 Dec. 67
Hawke,	K. V.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	23 May 68
Birney,	M.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	30 May 68
Brockhurst	T. A.	Cpl.	17 Aug. 71	7 Dec. 66
Crowe	S. M.	Cpl.	9 Sep. 71	25 Sep 68

Special Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Wood,	T. W.	A/Sgt.	2 Aug. 71	26 Feb. 66
Byrne,	D. J.	A/Sgt.	3 Aug. 71	1 Feb. 66

Telegraph Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Morrow,	J. F.	Cpl.	1 Aug. 71	6 Nov. 62
Budden,	T. R.	Cpl.	3 Aug. 71	1 Feb. 67

Clerk/Draughtsman Roll

To Sgt.				
Harrod,	D. G.	A/Sgt.	1 Jul. 71	31 Oct. 66
Fuller,	G. L.	Cpl.	13 Jul. 71	31 May 69

Cipher Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Nelson,	G. T.	Cpl.	1 Aug. 71	7 Dec. 66

Communication Centre Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Johnstone,	J. S.	A/Sgt.	3 Jul. 71	21 Oct. 66
Whenlock,	A.	A/Sgt.	3 Aug. 71	3 Nov. 65

Lineman Roll

To Sgt.				
Taylor,	R.	A/Sgt.	20 Jun. 71	20 Jul. 61
Denniss,	M.	A/Sgt.	23 Jun. 71	30 Sep. 62
Vaughan,	M. R.	A/Sgt.	1 Jul. 71	30 Apr. 67
Garbutt,	J. W.	A/Sgt.	1 Jul. 71	31 May 65
Hornby,	T.	A/Sgt.	15 Jul. 71	31 Jul. 65
Hughes,	R.	A/Sgt.	4 Aug. 71	31 Jan. 66

(*Continued on page* 504)



Is this you?

You may be leaving the British Army – or have left in the last twelve months. You'll have achieved N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank. You'll have status and pay which you wish to retain – and improve on. You'll be under 42 and may be married with a family. Certainly you'll be looking for a new career that will make the most of your experience and offer plenty of scope.

This is us!

The Australian Army has many vacancies in specific trades. We offer you a career in the country of sunshine and opportunity. You will almost certainly keep your rank and pay, and by signing on in Britain with rank, receive pay from the day you enlist and you and your family travel to Australia free. The minimum engagement is for six years. All service qualifies for a pension or gratuity, and your British Army service will count toward points for married quarters allocation, should you enlist within twelve months of your British Army discharge.

Don't leave it any longer!

Is your trade included in those listed? If so, this could be the chance you and your family are looking for.

Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London – or post the the coupon for all the facts.

Royal Australian Artillery
1. Physical Training Instructor – Sergeants

Royal Australian Survey Corps
1. Survey Photo Technician – Sergeants
2. Topographic Surveyor – Warrant Officers Class 2/Sergeants

Royal Australian Signals
1. Regimental Duty NCO – Sergeants and Corporals
2. Clerk R. Sigs. – Sergeants and Corporals
3. Radio Operator/Telegraph Operator – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Clerk Technical R. Sigs. – Corporals
5. Foremen of Signals – Warrant Officers Class 2
6. Terminal Equipment Technician – Sergeants and Corporals

Royal Australian Army Service Corps
1. Clerk G.D. – Sergeants
2. Clerk RAPC – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
1. Hygiene Assistant Class 1 – Sergeants
2. Hygiene Assistant Class 2 – Corporals
3. Clerk Medical – Sergeants/Corporals
4. Radiographer Class 1 – Sergeants
5. Laboratory Technician Class 1 – Staff Sergeants

Royal Australian Ordnance Corps
1. Work Study Operator – Warrant Officers Class 2

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
1. Artificer Radar – Warrant Officers Class 1 and 2
2. Artificer Telecommunications – Staff Sergeants
3. Artificer Vehicle – Warrant Officers Class 2, Staff Sergeants
4. Fitter Armament, Fitter and Turner Gun – Sergeants

Royal Australian Army Provost
1. R.M.P. Provost N.C.O. – Corporals
2. M.P.S.C. Instructor – Corporals

Australian Army Band Corps
1. Musician or Bandsman – vacancies exist in the rank of Private, for musicians specialised in the following instruments.

Flute	French Horn
Oboe	Cornet
Clarinet (B Flat)	Euphonium
Saxophone	Trombone
Bass	Percussion

Australian Services Canteen Organisation
1. Attendant canteen, or issuing point – Corporals
2. Manager canteen or issuing point – Sergeants

Come as you are- to Australia

If you're thinking about emigrating and you've acquired any of the specialist skills and ranks detailed above, you may be eligible for enlistment in the Australian Army.



Please send details of careers in the Australian Army.

Name

Address

Age Married/Single

Rank Corps

Trade

Anticipated Discharge Date

To: Capt. J. Gresty, Australian Army Staff, 2nd Flr., Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356

(Continued from page 501)

DELETIONS

Name.	Initials.	Seniority Date.
Regimental Duty Roll		
W.O.2		
Salter,	N.	1 Mar. 63
Blackburn,	T.	5 Mar. 63
Blacklock	J.	3 May 65
S Sgt.		
Clothier,	R.	31 Jan. 66
Tempest,	J. W.	2 Aug. 70
Foreman of Signals Roll		
W.O.1		
Banham,	R.	4 Nov. 68
Yeoman of Signals Roll		
W.O.1		
Drugan,	J.	14 Apr. 64
Technicians Roll		
Sgts.		
Farmer,	R. W.	17 Jul. 68
Scottorn,	P. F.	19 Jul. 68
Greenall,	I. G. L.	1 Aug. 68
Crickmore,	T. M.	10 Sep. 68
Fincham,	I. J.	14 Nov. 68
Laing,	D. F. R.	28 May 69
Avon,	J. R.	14 Nov. 69
Crisp,	P. F.	19 Dec. 69
Telegraph Operator Roll		
Sgt.		
Baldock,	M. S.	26 Mar. 68
Cipher Operator Roll		
Sgt.		
Brooks,	H. J. F.	1 May 59
Communication Centre Operator Roll		
Sgt.		
Mallett,	B. D.	1 Jan. 63
Kingston,	D. A.	21 Jan. 63
Nicholson,	R. C.	2 Feb. 66
Driver Royal Signals Roll		
Sgt.		
Batten,	C. F. G.	1 Apr. 56
Radio Relayman Roll		
Sgt.		
McManus,	I. D.	27 Feb. 68
Stacey,	F. J.	25 Nov. 69

Regimental Duty Roll

Name	Initials	Rank	New Sen. Date	Old Sen. Date	
To W.O.1					
Williams,	F.	A/W.O.1	3 Aug. 71	19 Apr. 69	
Hall,	M. G. E.	A/W.O.1	16 Aug. 71	14 Feb. 68	
To W.O.2					
Fenney,	G.	A/W.O.2	4 Aug. 71	3 Jul. 65	
Forth,	C. V.	S Sgt.	13 Aug. 71	13 Apr. 66	
Sim,	A.	A/W.O.2	1 Sep. 71	20 Jun. 67	
To S Sgt.					
Hardwick,	P.	A/S Sgt.	4 Jul. 71	24 Sep. 68	(Dvr.)
Nurse,	C. G. C.	Sgt.	3 Aug. 71	17 Nov. 61	(ComcenOp)
Devey,	R.	Sgt.	4 Aug. 71	28 Feb. 62	(Lmn.)
Phin,	J. T.	A/S Sgt.	13 Aug. 71	31 May 62	(Dvr.)
Wright,	D.	A/S Sgt.	18 Aug. 71	24 Jan 64	(R. Op.)
Leggott,	D. H.	Sgt.	2 Sep. 71	20 May 64	(ComcenOp)

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.2				
Bland,	R. C.	S Sgt.	17 Aug. 71	4 May 67

Chief Clerk Roll

To S Sgt.				
Schneider,	A. J.	A/S Sgt.	29 Aug. 71	25 Jul. 68

Technicians Roll

To Sgt.				
Jack,	W. P.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 70	1 Aug. 67
Russell,	A. H.	Cpl.	1 Apr. 71	16 Dec. 66
Powell,	H. L.	Cpl.	6 May 71	4 Feb. 65
Marshall,	R. B.	Cpl.	6 May 71	10 Nov. 67
Sims,	R. J.	Cpl.	27 May 71	2 Aug. 67
Pickering,	E. R.	Cpl.	27 May 71	27 Jan. 68
Kingswell,	J. A.	Cpl.	29 Jun. 71	14 Jun. 67
Hindle,	A. R.	Cpl.	29 Jun. 71	4 Jul. 68
Thory,	R. J.	Cpl.	29 Jun. 71	13 Oct. 65
Collinson,	W. D.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	25 May 65
Hillman,	D. A.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	24 May 67
Everest,	R. M.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	13 Jul. 67
Cook,	M. J.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	27 Jan. 68
Borland,	I.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	17 Apr. 69
Boardman,	J. S.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 71	23 Oct. 69
Aston,	E. W. J.	Cpl.	29 Jul. 71	9 Nov. 67
Underhill,	L. G.	Cpl.	11 Aug. 71	11 Aug. 67
Kelly,	P. L.	Cpl.	6 Sep. 71	20 Feb. 69
East,	K. A.	Cpl.	9 Sep. 71	27 Jul. 69

Special Operator Roll

To Sgt.					
Groves,	J. W.	A/Sgt.	1 Aug. 71	1 Jun. 67	
Davies,	M. C.	A/Sgt.	3 Sep. 71	15 Jan. 67	
Stow,	D. S. J.	Cpl.	3 Oct. 71	1 Jun. 67	

Telegraph Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Smith,	D. S.	A/Sgt.	2 Aug. 71	1 Feb. 66
Reid,	J. W.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 71	1 Jan. 69

Clerk/Draughtsman Roll

To Sgt.				
Butterworth,	E.	A/Sgt.	1 Aug. 71	31 Mar. 65
Hilton,	P. J. E.	A/Sgt.	1 Aug. 71	31 Mar. 69
Long,	S. J.	A/Sgt.	29 Aug. 71	4 Sep. 66

Clerk Technical Roll

To Sgt.				
Mackintosh,	G. M.	A/Sgt.	1 Aug. 71	30 Nov. 67
McGuinness,	O. J.	Cpl.	2 Aug. 71	31 Mar. 69
Blakeway,	P. L.	A/Sgt.	2 Aug. 71	31 Jan. 63
Spring,	M. A.	Cpl.	4 Aug. 71	31 Dec. 66
Smith,	T. I.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 71	1 Dec. 60

Cipher Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Waring,	S. J.	A/Sgt.	4 Sep. 71	3 Nov. 65
Harrison,	M. M.	Cpl.	10 Sep. 71	3 Nov. 65
Hannaghan,	R.	Cpl.	30 Sep. 71	10 May 66
Downey,	G. N.	Cpl.	30 Sep. 71	1 Feb. 67

Communication Centre Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Wade,	M. J.	A/Sgt.	1 Sep. 71	18 Feb. 66
Fendley,	N.	Cpl.	2 Sep. 71	1 Feb. 66

Driver Royal Signals Roll

To Sgt.				
Shearer,	J.	A/Sgt.	2 Aug. 71	31 Oct. 64
Collins,	I.	Cpl.	3 Aug. 71	4 Apr. 62

Radio Operator Roll

To Sgt.				
Tunney,	J. P.	A/Sgt.	1 Aug. 71	2 Oct. 61
Sully,	M. P.	A/Sgt.	3 Aug. 71	1 Mar. 66
Myers,	J. B.	A/Sgt.	4 Aug. 71	2 Dec. 54
Hodgkiss,	J.	A/Sgt.	5 Aug. 71	9 Oct. 64
Paton,	G. L.	Cpl.	6 Aug. 71	2 Sep. 65

Radio Relayman Roll

To Sgt.				
McCrindle,	J. G.	A/Sgt.	2 Aug. 71	31 Jul. 65

DELETIONS

Name	Initials	Seniority Date
Regimental Duty Roll		
W.O.1		
Peake,	R. A.	11 Feb. 70
W.O.2		
Stephenson,	T.	31 Mar. 62
Howes,	D. W. M.	2 Nov. 65
Rothwell,	B. R.	15 May 69
S Sgt.		
Allcock,	R.	2 Jun. 59
Kilburn,	W. F.	14 Jun. 66
Foreman of Signals Roll		
W.O.1		
Walke,	J. L. E.	5 Dec. 68
W.O.2		
Noakes,	L. J.	5 Dec. 63
Carey,	J. R.	21 Jul. 69
Gardner,	J.	16 Jan. 71
Yeoman of Signals Roll		
S Sgts.		
Milne,	E.	28 Nov. 59
Chief Clerk Roll		
S Sgts.		
Francis,	F. E.	27 Feb. 70
Technician Roll		
Sgt.		
Goodwin,	L.	2 Dec. 54
Bayley,	G. E.	1 Jul. 55
Parker,	E. R.	9 Apr. 57
Casey,	M. A. C.	3 Jul. 63
Craine,	K. G.	11 Oct. 68
Derbyshire,	C. T.	1 Nov. 68
Brewster,	E. F.	1 Nov. 68
Whewell,	K. F. C.	14 Nov. 68
How,	M. R.	26 Nov. 68
Best,	M. J.	1 Nov. 69
Tuffin,	B. F.	14 Nov. 69
Ferguson,	R. D.	12 Aug. 70
Bonwick,	C. J. P.	6 May 57
Telegraph Operator Roll		
Sgt.		
Bladen,	J.	2 Apr. 70
Cipher Operator Roll		
Sgt.		
Thompson,	R.	1 Apr. 57
Communication Centre Operator Roll		
Sgt.		
Drummond,	K. G.	13 May 70
Radio Operator Roll		
Sgt.		
Kettell,	D. L. W.	26 Mar. 68

UK or European posting?

Step off the plane and into a new car!



Send now for FREE Information Pack

* Forces discount prices * Free transporter delivery * Special forces H.P. terms * Tax free or tax paid * 3 years to pay * All paperwork completed for you * Last minute orders no problem

Order your new car before you leave. When you get back it will be ready and waiting for you at the airport—fully insured, with all the paperwork completed for the U.K., Europe, or both. The Information Pack gives you the full gen: forces discounts, special H.P. terms, the lot. . . . **Plus a sheaf of colour brochures of all the latest models to browse through at leisure.** There's no obligation whatever. You can weigh everything up, take your time choosing—and take delivery wherever you land.

Post to: NATOCARS Ltd., Moorlinch Garage, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone: Ashcott 488

Please send me your **Information Pack***—without obligation.* W12

Name ..... *Rank* .....

Present Address .....

Tax free for U.K. and then ..... *(country)*

Tax paid for U.K. only ..... *(tick)*

Delivery Date .....



NATOCARS

RADIO OPERATORS

LEAVING THE SERVICE IN THE NEXT 2 YEARS?

If your trade involves radio operating, you qualify to be considered for a radio operator post with the Composite Signals Organisation.

On satisfactory completion of a 7 month specialist training course, successful applicants are paid on scale rising to £2,200 p.a.; commencing salary according to age—25 years and over £1,548 p.a. During training salary also by age, 25 and over £1,152 p.a. with free accommodation.

The future holds good opportunities for established (i.e. pensionable) status, service overseas and promotion.

Training courses commence every January, April and September. Earliest possible application advised.

Applications only from British-born U.K. residents up to 35 years of age (40 years if exceptionally well qualified) will be considered.

Full details from:

Recruitment Officer,
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley Priors Road,
Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.

Over a Century-old Partnership . . .



PARSONS AND PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, WC2N 6AY. Tel: 01-839 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes

HOME OWNERSHIP

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be** Home Owners who do not plan ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

SCHOOL FEES

In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

LIFE ASSURANCE + INVESTMENT

Conventional or Equity Linked Schemes

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£10.14 monthly** for those liable to tax at 39p in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next birthday **immediate family protection of £38,300** and an anticipated **cash** sum of around **£25,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65. This particular **Plan** is extremely flexible and **unique** in that it can be made to **mature** in part or total at an **earlier** age **or** be adapted to **provide an income** on retirement from the Service, **e.g. at age 55.**

For full details, please telephone or write in confidence to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

H. R. MARTIN & CO., LTD.

27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Brokers of Insurance to Members of H.M. Forces
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).