January-February 1973

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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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. 4RH. 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80**; *monthly* **15p.**
Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly **£1.20**; *monthly* **10p.**
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY ● 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 1**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Soldiers of the Corps seem to get to most places in the world. We are happy to feature a line detachment of 229 Squadron at work within a stone's throw of a very famous background — the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin. Berlin is, perhaps, one the Corps' most unusual postings. Almost everyone enjoys a tour of duty there. There are extensive lakes and forests within the city boundary which allow for sailing, canoeing and skin diving, and the general opportunities for sport and off-duty activities more than compensate for other restrictions.

Our photo shows the detachment checking telephones and cables along the Berlin Wall. Left to right: **Lance-Corporal Charlie Stuart, Signalman Graham Howard, Lance-Corporal Don Taylor** and **Signalman Jim Paterson.**

Corps Soldiers who really give

Looking through recent issues of THE WIRE one cannot help but be very impressed by some remarkable examples of generosity and consideration for others shown by a number of Corps soldiers.

Consider the following—there are probably others about whom we have not heard:

— **W.O.2 Jack Howker** of 7 Signal Regiment spends much of his spare time organising fund raising activities for Cancer Research. He recently handed over a cheque for £344 to the fund. Altogether he has collected about £1,200 for this humanitarian cause.

— **Staff Sergeant Ernie Unwin,** now at the School of Signals but previously at HQ Scotland, is an avid collector of sea shells which he converts into brooches, cuff links, pendants and other ornaments. While in Scotland he organised a sale of his wares and donated the proceeds of £55 to the Association Benevolent Fund "in appreciation of 20 happy years in the Corps."

— **Signalmen David Bell, Billy Malone** and **Raymond O'Donaghue** of 244 Signal Squadron walked voluntarily from Edinburgh to RAF, Benson, a distance of 375 miles, to raise money for a local charity. They had no training for this and took 12 days to complete their long hike, despite having been advised by an MO at Catterick to give up the attempt. Their remarkable effort helped to raise £300 for a minibus.

— **Lance-Corporal Harper** of 9 Signal Regiment, Cyprus, assisted by **Sergeants Skinner** and **Heagan, Corporal Muriel** and **Lance-Corporals Kerr, Brown, Parfitt, Goodman** and **Corner,** organised a sponsored 24-hour, non-stop run which raised some £250 for cancer, leukaemia and heart research funds.

— **A/T Corporal Bradley Prendergast** and **A/T David Street** of the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, help run the local youth club in their spare time. They also do a considerable amount for mentally handicapped children and along with other Apprentice Tradesmen organised a 'morse marathon' which raised £78 to help these children. They both gave up a week's summer leave to assist at a work camp to give mentally handicapped children a holiday. In another venture they collected some 250 books and games for Corps soldiers in N. Ireland. Full details of the activities of these young men are given on page 4 of this WIRE.

In these days when violence and self-interest tend to dominate the passing scene it is a wonderful tonic to read of soldiers of the Corps—many of them quite junior in rank—who are really prepared to **give** in the true sense of the word. The world is not such a bad place after all!

We are happy to accord them the publicity which we think they deserve although being generous and, no doubt, modest they will probably deprecate it!

From our "In" Tray

New Year's Honours

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

O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Stewart, TAVR.

M.B.E.

W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. Kenyon, Lieutenant R. F. Knight.

B.E.M.

Sergeant J. M. Evans, W.O.2 H. A. Sankey, Sergeant A. N. West.

Regimental Standards and Corps Colours

Sir,

Like, I hope, all members of the Corps both past and present, I was delighted with **Major 'Ted' Baxter's** article on the Queen's Guard and particularly that it could have been written at all. The Yeoman Warders, who were your earlier correspondents touching upon this subject, were certainly not alone in their views, and I am much relieved that ceremonial of the proper type still finds favour in the Corps.

For me, a point of great interest lay in the pennant which was clearly seen on the front cover of your last issue. Some older readers of the Journal of the Institute may recall a plea I made in the summer 1965 issue for Regimental Standards and a Corps Colour — an article which I recall generated an absolutely nil response, either positive or negative! What a pity it had to be left to the initiative of an enlightened Officer to fill the gap which should have been occupied by the Corps Colour, and what a splendid thing it was that he did so.

But the true gap remains and once again may I plead that while the Corps as an institution rightly has a House flag (the Corps flag), the Corps as a body of serving soldiers should have a Queen's Colour and each Regiment its own Standard (identical except for the number).

Finally, sir, may I ask through your coloumns:

a. Do we want Colours or Standards?

b. Are we satisfied with what we've got (i.e. Corps flags defaced with regimental numbers)?

c. Do we care at all?

Yours,
D. B. Emley

Ministry of Defence (Signals 37),
Old War Office Building,
Whitehall, London S.W.1 A 2EU.

WELL KNOWN CORPS PERSONALITY RETIRES

Major Brian Toy receiving a presentation gift from Colonel K. Bodenhausen of the German Army at Headquarters Northern Army Group

A War-Time Incident — First Heinkel to be downed

Mr. E. W. Pack, of 61 Sanspareil Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, Sheerness, Kent, ME 12 3LE, writes:

"'A' Company 3DB 3STC Whitby were stood easy on parade at approximately 0830 or 0900 hours on 3rd February, 1940, and cheered loudly as the Heinkel came down and landed about a mile from us.

The parade was taken by a Major Forsyth (a Boer war veteran). He said 'Let the troops see the fun' when asked by me to disperse the parade because of MG fire coming from seawards.

As CSM 'A' Company I was detailed to train a funeral party who were to give the two dead airmen a military funeral on the following Monday, 5th February, 1940. This was, however, cancelled later that weekend as the funeral was to be conducted at Catterick by the RAF I presumed.

Group Captain Peter Townsend, RAF, was credited with this Heinkel though he does not claim it.

'A' Company despatched a guard to secure the wrecked 'plane under command of a Lieutenant Paulus, Royal Signals, until the RAF party arrived.

Many souvenirs are held by ex-members of the Corps, I suppose. I did not obtain the tiniest fragment."

Farewell to Sergeant Ben Gunn — One of the Corp's best loved personalities

Departure from BAOR of a distinguished Officers' Mess Sergeant

Sergeant Ben Gunn, M.S.M. poses, holding his presentation clock, with Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson

Finally **Sergeant W. J. B. ('Ben') Gunn** has shaken the dust of the Limburg Plain from his heels for the last time. His long and distinguished career is drawing to a close, and sadly his Regiment in Germany has been obliged to lose him.

Dear old **Sergeant Gunn** was known and loved by a great many friends. His final tour of duty in BAOR was with 13 Signal Regiment, where VIPs on return visits always shook him warmly by the hand. Without fail their first question on approaching the Officers' Mess was, "How's old **Sergeant Gunn**? Still keeping you in good order?" And indeed he was, as he had done for many a long year.

Shortly before he left Birgelen he received from the Officers a presentation clock—perhaps hardly a fitting present for a man who has never watched one in his life. Our pictures show **Sergeant Gunn** with the present Commanding Officer of 13 Signal Regiment and his wife at the simple ceremony in the Mess. However, the biggest surprise for **Sergeant Gunn** was to come. At the conclusion of the ceremony he was asked by the CO to carry out one more small job—to announce the name of the new Mess bar, a closely guarded secret from everyone present until that moment.

Sergeant Gunn unwrapped the name plate and read aloud, not without emotion, "THE GUNN ROOM."

Sergeant Gunn enlisted in the Royal Ulster Rifles in July, 1940, transferring to Royal Signals in 1947. He has seen service in Austria, Singapore, Egypt, Cyprus and Germany, in which last-named country he married his charming, ever-patient wife. By 1962 he had reached the rank of Warrant Officer, voluntarily reverting in order to continue in the service to follow his chosen employment as an Officers' Mess Sergeant. Before he left 13 Signal Regiment he received the Meritorious Service Medal. All the Officers of the Regiment paraded before the Officers' Mess as the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.**, pinned on this very well-earned award. As the citation ran:

"Sergeant Gunn is one of that rare breed of men whose greatest pleasure in life is to render good and efficient service to all."

Promotions

It is planned to publish the 19th Edition of 'The Blue Book' in January, 1973.

No further details of promotions for promulgation in 'The Wire' will therefore be submitted until March, 1973. This list will cover promotions authorised in the period November, 1972, to February, 1973, for publication in the April, 1973, issue.

Clothing

Since the beginning of November, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Sergeant Rees, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker, Mr. S. G. Whenman, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Dickson, Mr. F. Littlefield, Mrs. T. H. Hesketh, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Major and Mrs. C. R. C. Bunce, Major P. D. E. Gregory, Major C. J. Bayfield, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. N. Ruff, Mrs. Moseley, Mrs. Todd, Mrs. Rayment, Corporal Manders, Mrs. McGowan, Miss Brady, Mrs. Woods, Mrs. D. H. Briggs, Corporal and Mrs. Holmes, The Wives' Club, 3 Division HQ & Signal Regiment, W.O.1 H. Meekings, W.O.2 V. Heath, 4 Squadron, 10 Signal Regiment, Royal Signals Association, London Branch, Mr. A. W. Smith, Major J. N. Evans, F. Veness, Esq., W. E. Osborne, Esq., W.O.1 (Y. of S.) A. W. Cudlip, Major and Mrs. A. E. Carter, Mr. Clarke, Major-General M. S. Hancock, Major and Mrs. G. W. Young, Mrs. J. Power, Major and Mrs. H. Marjoram, Miss Eversley, Miss G. Wood, Mrs. C. E. Page.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November, 1972:

	£ p
Officer Commanding, 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) ...	100.00
President, Wives' Club, 229 Signal Squadron	70.00
Commandant, School of Signals	35.00
Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V)	4.75
Officer Commanding, 11 Signal Regiment	70
Hon. Secretary, Huddersfield Branch, RSA	5.00
F. C. Wilson, Esq.	5.20
Treasurer, Lions Club, Richmond (through HQ Training Brigade Royal Signals	5.00
L. C. Hall, Esq.	3.20
Staff Sergeant D. Le Febvre	2.00
Mrs. I. Harvey	1.60
Miss Joan Power	1.50
Captain E. J. Brooks	1.20
J. F. Bedford, Esq	1.00
J. Neville, Esq	1.00
F. Veness, Esq. M.B.E.	1.00
G. A. Feakes, Esq.	1.00
Sergeant E. G. Bird	90
P. A. Alexander, Esq.	70
H. N. Fensome, Esq.	40
Various small donations	1.12
	£242.27

Westminster Abbey, 9th November, 1972

The Corps plot, Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey,

Her Majesty, The Queen Mother, admiring the Corps plot escorted (*on her left*) by General Sir Charles Jones, President of the Royal British Legion

19 Signal Regiment Reunion

A Reunion is being planned to take place in the London Area during late March, 1973. Any ex-members of 19 Signal Regiment interested in attending are requested to send their name and address to **Captain A. G. Harfield,** 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support), RAF Benson, Oxon. Members who have already submitted their names will be sent full details during January, 1973.

Special Mention

A FINE EXAMPLE – THESE YOUNG MEN REALLY GIVE

A.T. David Street of the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, presenting a cheque to Miss Reynolds, Headmistress of Springwater School for Mentally Handicapped Children. Also in the photograph are the Apprentices (now Signalmen) who had taken part in a morse marathon (see notes below). *Left to right front row:* A.T.s John Grey, David Appleyard, William Brennan, Bradley Prendergast, David Street, Richard Pickup. *Back row:* A.T.s David Randall, Michael Morby, Timothy Dale and Ken Bowe

Well done Bradley Prendergast and David Street!

A.T. Corporal Bradley Prendergast and **A.T. David Street** have worked hard as members helping to run Penny Pot Youth Club for the children of married families at the Apprentices' College (30 members, boys and girls aged from 11 to 18). They organise the cleaning after each youth club session, on Wednesday and Friday evenings, and more thorough cleaning at weekends.

They have also helped run projects for mentally handicapped children, notably a jumble sale which raised £56.50.

They helped organise a Morse marathon during the last open day. This consisted of eight apprentices receiving in relay over a period of 48 hours in two-hour shifts a target total of 100,000 letter groups, five letters to the group at a speed of not less than 18 groups per minute. This exercise was supervised and papers marked by **W.O.2 R Supervisor A. Cooper,** youth club treasurer, and **Mr. K. Thomas,** youth leader. Each apprentice taking part obtained his own sponsors, each being sponsored for a sum per 500 groups correctly received. The total raised in this event was £78.

A.T. Corporal Bradley Prendergast and **A.T. David Street** both attended, whenever possible, a special youth club in Harrogate for mentally handicapped children. They also gave up one week of their summer leave to help with other young people from the United Nations Association, at a work camp to give mentally handicapped children a holiday.

A.T. Corporal Bradley Prendergast attended a weekend course on activities in the youth club situation. He received the Harry Bolland award for best youth club member in Harrogate. This award won £25 for the youth club and a plaque for **Bradley Prendergast** for his personal retention.

A.T. David Street is an active member of the College drama club and if not taking part in a play he will be there helping in the wings.

The two apprentices collected approximately 250 books and assorted games for soldiers of HQ and Signal Squadron of 5 Airportable Brigade when the Brigade was stationed in Northern Ireland.

Both these apprentices are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at gold level. All these activities are carried out in off duty hours.

In support of the Harrier Force

One of the Corps' most interesting jobs

21 Signal Regiment reports:

We are often asked by members of the Corps from outside the Regiment to explain how we serve the Harrier Force, how it is progressing and what it is like working in close conjunction with the RAF in the field. Security considerations normally inhibit our replies to these questions, but a recent press release, quoted below, now provides a little more scope. It was released immediately prior to Exercise 'All Change,' the most ambitious Harrier Force exercise yet to be held.

Harrier hovering. This is the aircraft which 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt supports

"Newest Harriers Prove Their Worth —

Harrier 'Jump Jets' are at this moment operating from the woods and fields of central Germany in the largest field deployment exercise yet undertaken by the Royal Air Force's revolutionary new combat force. Flying from four rough field strips, aircraft from two squadrons of the Harrier Wing based at RAF Wildenrath in Germany are spending two weeks exercising their most unique capability—operating from unprepared sites, completely divorced from normal airfields and their facilities. All maintenance and support for the force is being provided in the field. The exercise, code-named 'All Change,' is also the first opportunity for Royal Air Force Germany, major user of the RAF Harriers, to test under operational field conditions the increased combat capability bestowed by the up-rated Pegasus 103 engine, which has been fitted retrospectively to the command's aircraft. The more powerful engine brings the Harrier up to the same standard of performance and load carrying capability as the aircraft supplied to the United States Marine Corps. The area in which the exercise is deployed is near one of the main front line bases of the British Army of the Rhine, and from their woodland hides the Harriers will take off on simulated ground support missions in support of a simultaneous exercise being held by 1 (British) Corps of BAOR. Personnel of 51 Squadron of the RAF Regiment have been deployed to provide ground defence for the dispersed Harrier sites, and during the exercise Phantom supersonic jets from RAF Germany's crack reconnaissance unit, 2 Squadron, which recently swept the board for the second time running in NATO's international reconnaissance contest 'Big Click'—will try to pinpoint the Harrier sites in an attempt to prove the effectiveness of the dispersed site camouflage. Harriers operating from the sites are drawn from 4 and 20 Squadrons. After allowing for peacetime considerations Exercise 'All Change' is an exact simulation of the way in which RAF Germany's Harrier Wing will operate in time of war."

NEWEST HARRIER PILOT!

The S.O.-inC. receives his first lesson in the cockpit of a Harrier of R.A.F. Wildenrath during his visit to 21 Signal Regiment on 14th November

How the Corps plays its part

2 Squadron of this Regiment provide the communications for this unique and devastating force in the field, using modern Bruin communications. It is one of the most interesting and rewarding tasks in the Corps. The Royal Signals communicator cannot normally see the bayonet he supports, though many are within earshot of the gunfire. Every soldier of our almost 200-strong 2 Squadron can actually see these aircraft taking off on missions only a few yards from where he is working. He has to nip out of their way when they are taxi-ing in and out of their hides, he is sometimes 'blinded' by the dust as they rise and descend in the woods, he talks to the men who fly and control them. He is accepted as part of the team and can directly hear and see the results of his work. He hears the tasking orders on his radio, sees the pilot being briefed, perhaps helps to 'de-cam' the aircraft and has the satisfaction of seeing the direct result of his contribution.

When he 'stands to,' the reason for the inconvenience looms directly behind him—a million pounds worth or more of aircraft, dripping like him under the inevitable rainstorm which traditionally seems to accompany every 'stand to.'

Incidentally, the supersonic jets from RAF Germany's crack reconnaissance Squadron did find one of the Harrier sites after a little while. After days of fruitless searching they followed the Padre's helicopter on a routine visit from RAF Gutersloh! Now that's cheating isn't it?

Finally, if you like the sound of soldiering in 2 Squadron with the Harrier Force, and are due for a posting, you may care to ask Officer i/c Royal Signals Manning and Records Office if you can be posted to the new troop which is being formed in mid 1973. Only apply, however, if you enjoy exercises and hard work. It is a most satisfying job working with the Harrier Force!

Ace High, Scotland, Calling!

A report from some of the Corps' lesser known and more remote postings in the U.K.

Submitted by 242 Squadron, Edinburgh

MORMOND HILL AND BUCHAN TAIL

TAKE a reasonable map and find Fraserburg in the north-east corner of Aberdeenshire. Roughly seven miles south you might find a spot height of 752 feet. That is Mormond Hill and up there is where two-thirds of our personnel work.

Now look about five miles south of Peterhead and find Boddam or Buchanness. Here is located RAF Buchan who accommodate us. The Buchan Tail station is about two miles further south co-located with the RAF technical site.

Our two stations function independently with **Sergeant Keith Pennington** as Supervisor at Buchan Tail, and myself, **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Garry Bradford,** as Supervisor at Mormond Hill. In all other respects we are a composite group of 18 removed some 150 miles from our parent Squadron.

Telephonic sitrep

We get our share of visitors from various sources but these only gently ripple our normal placid peaceful existence. The other day though, the dread summons came in the form of a telephone call from the Second-in-Command, "Why don't you come into my office and listen to my side of the conversation?"

"Hello . . . Supervisor, Mormond Hill."

"WIRE notes?—not me sir, you know I can't spell."

"No sir, try someone else—**Corporal Pete Rogers** for instance. He might even produce some photographs."

"Won't they? Never mind, I'll suggest he tries Playboy."

"No sir, even if I did write your notes I wouldn't include the hatches, matches and despatches."

"No! Not even though she was in the RAF."

"Oh, all right then, I will mention that **Corporal Jim Curran** recently married **Miss Marlene Kerr** and that we wish them every happiness—they won't be able to read this though, their glasses are still steamed up."

"No there's nothing else, nothing happens up here."

"Oh yes, you mean that rather fishy story when the OC made **Lance-Corporal Bill Gale** throw that 4½lb. trout back in because it was too small and then as proof of his own prowess he produced two minnows in a jam jar."

"That's right, gamesmanship isn't it? Oh, did you hear that **Signalman Willie Kirkland** helped the local police catch a bicycle thief last week?"

"Yes, he was leaning on a lamp post in town waiting for his girl friend when this bike bandit jumped on him, grabbed his moustache and tried to pedal off."

"No sir, only minor injuries—three strained hairs on the left and a small tuft missing from the right."

"He'll get over it sir, in time. You know we could mention **Lance-Corporal Dave Barnes** and his perilous vertical descent to rescue **Corporal Bob Pratten.**"

"Yes, it was dangerous from that height and at that time of night. **Bob Pratten** still swears though that someone pulled the bar stool away."

"No, the adventure training was a flop. You remember they had to make their way from Peterhead to Keith Inch Island without getting their feet wet. Well, as they stood there watching the fishing fleet gently slipping by, **Sergeant Dave Kingdom** and **Corporal Pete Woods** were quick to spot the danger and move away. Not so **Sergeant Charlie Hall**—the draw bridge came down and trapped his right foot."

"Don't worry sir, Lefty will be all right."

"Yes, I'd forgotten that ingenious electronic trap that **Sergeant Steve Gibson** and **Corporal Colin Nowell** designed and built. It was the Mk 2 version that finally caught it you know. The Mk 1 would have been effective but how **Sergeant John Muir** got his head trapped inside remains a mystery. We had to shave his head to get him out and he could only mumble omething like 'just inspecting the wiring.'"

"Sorry, the trap. Well it took three weeks to catch, but when we turned it around and let it run off the proper way round the hill, the expression of joy on the face of that cack-handed haggis made the effort worth while."

"There isn't much else of note. **Corporal Don Murray** is looking for a friendly oil man to move a rig into his back garden—his water well has dried up. **Keith Pennington** has just set a new record at Peterhead Golf Club—63—but they were halves. **Corporal Dave Mather** hasn't been here long enough to say anything about, mind you he hasn't been seen since he moved into his new house. **Sergeant Gerry Lowdon** has been here too long—I could write a book about him."

"Me sir? No, I never do anything out of the ordinary. I just sit here clacking my steel ball bearings."

"Yes, we should mention the ladies and thank them for their support. Let's see now, there are the two **Jans — Pennington** and **Kingdom, Megan Murray, Marlene Curran. Lynne Hall, Wendy Lowdon** (there's a cheeky lass) and **Cheryl Woods. Also Val Muir** (I do wish that she wouldn't wear pyjamas at badminton), **Pauline Mather, Jackie Gibson, Cris Nowell, Beryl Rogers** and **Winefride**—my wife. Thank ladies."

"You think that is enough for now. Good, will we see you at the Earls Lodge next week?"

MOSSY HILL

The highlight of the summer has been the visit of the Commander 2 Signal Group **Brigadier J. C. Clinch** together with **Mrs. Clinch.** A tour of our stations was made and all personnel and their families had the opportunity to meet our visitors and discuss the merits of breeding sheep or Shetland ponies.

Much of local interest

The three individual stations were to be visited starting with the most northerly Saxa Vord. This is 90 miles north of the Shetland airport, Sumburgh, and the journey was made in a nine-seater Britten-Norman Islander to the airstrip at Saxa Vord. **Sergeant Alan Harris** as Station Supervisor briefed the Commander on the work of his team and of their life with the Royal Air Force, apparently there is much to be gained by both. **Corporal Jim Murphy** is starting a canoeing club, **Corporal Geoff Turner,** as a brown belt, has managed to persuade £200 of equipment to be bought and together with personnel of the RAF has started a Judo club. The pop scene was enlivened by **Corporal Alan Gath's** guitar and amplifier whilst **Corporal Mel Pointon's** efforts were towards the rugby field and the gymnasium, meanwhile **Sergeant Harris** supervised as all good station supervisors should. One wonders if there are any others in the Corps serving a tour as far north.

A wonderful panorama

Having flown into Saxa Vord and seen the wonderful panorama of the islands from above, a closer look was made during the journey overland across the islands and by ferries, in very small boats, to the next station. At Collafirth Hill **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) George Turner** explained the technicalities of his station to **Brigadier J. C. Clinch** whilst **Mrs. Clinch** with **Mrs. Turner** had the chance to meet the ladies in their homes. Fishing is a great pastime with **Sergeant Dave Antcliff** and **Sergeant Howard Loates** and they left little to the imagination in describing the wonderful trout and lobster to be had for the enthusiast.

The next day **Brigadier J. C. Clinch** visited Mossy Hill with **Sergeant Don Lodey** as Technical Assistant explaining the lay-out. Meanwhile the Ladies' Club met in the Maybury to greet **Mrs. Clinch**—the delights of Shetland from a mother's point of view being the main topic.

The Commander's visit climaxed in a dinner at the Maybury Club when all ranks were honoured to receive the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland **Mr. R. H. W. Bruce, C.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Bruce.** An evening to be remembered.

ENTERTAINING THE LORD LIEUTENANT FOR SHETLAND, MR. R. H. W. BRUCE, C.B.E., AND MRS. BRUCE

Left to right: Mrs. Clinch, The Lord Lieutenant, Major L. W. Prescot, (O.C. 242 Squadron), Mrs. Bruce, Brigadier J. C. Clinch, (Commander 2 Signal Group), Captain J. C. Day, (O.C. Nato F.S.S. Shetland), Mrs. Day, W.O.1 H. W. L. Cage

Departures and arrivals—Cupid and mother nature assisting

We send our good wishes to **Sergeant Wilmot, Sergeant Wadley, Sergeant Auty** and **Sergeant Edwards** who came here as bachelors and left with Shetland brides. Also to **Sergeant and Mrs. Lodey** on the birth of their son **Christopher,** to **Sergeant and Mrs. Loates** on the arrival of their daughter and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) and Mrs. Turner** on their daughter who arrived as we write. An anxious **Corporal Bridge,** REME, is 'pacing the boards' as his first baby was due yesterday! Congratulations to you all.

COLLAFIRTH HILL

STATION STAFF

Station Supervisor ...	**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. G. Turner**
Technicians	**Sergeant D. Antcliff**
	Sergeant H. Loates
	Sergeant G. Collier
	Sergeant R. Paulley
	Sergeant H. Sharp
Driver	**Signalman M. Herd**
Cooks	**Corporal H. Clifton**
	Lance-Corporal J. Faulkes
	Private I. Smith

Just a few more notes to enlighten readers how we survive on this remote Northern Isle detachment.

The station is situated 40 miles north of Lerwick (county town) on the main island of the Shetland group. The surrounding countryside is rugged but attractive with numerous voes (inlets) and fresh water lochs which provide excellent fishing, an activity enjoyed by station staff and visitors (official and unofficial). Owing to its geographical location and environment many aspects of life in Shetland are 'strange' such as the lack of public transport, supermarkets, adequate roads, trees, independent television and a host of other everyday items/services taken for granted in other parts of the UK. The most endearing aspect of life in Shetland is the people who are extremely friendly and hospitable. The relationship between the station staff and local population is excellent which is borne out by the attendance at the numerous functions held in the station club, a high spot of social life in this part of Shetland.

The station staff assisted by the MOD police are kept busy by the normal station commitment but in addition, owing to the station location, many varied tasks have been offered to us and voluntarily undertaken. These include providing Lerwick Meteorological office with monthly rain/snow fall figures, AERC Harwell with air pollution reports based on results obtained from test equipment installed by them, Edinburgh university with reports on cloud formations and we even assist with the artificial mussel farm.

Life in Shetland is 'strange' but interesting and pleasant.

In passing we would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to **Sergeant Geoff Collier** and his wife **Shirley** on the birth of their daughter, and to **Private Willie Smith,** ACC, on his marriage to **Miss Maureen Sutherland.** We would also like to wish **Corporal Phil Davies** well in his new job with 227 Signal Squadron.

PESHAWAR DISTRICT

Were you there in December, 1932?

Mr. J. Ingledew, of Chiltern Lodge, Ledborough Lane, Beaconsfield, Bucks, and Mr. S. A. Huggett of Thurmore, 17 Dynevor Place, Fairlands Estate, Guildford, Surrey, would like to contact ony old friends with a view to a possible get together in 1973. Pass the word round.

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Not the Azores — The Faroes!

by Sergeant M. C. Smale, Signal Support Group, HQ AFNORTH

WHEN the HQ Signal Officer at AFNORTH in Oslo, Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Skelly, told me that I would be spending most of September in the Faroe Islands my reaction was one of surprise. Especially as he went on to say that I would be assisting Mr. Rolf Rise, a Norwegian Radio Technician, in the running of the AFNORTH Radio Station there. The occasion was Exercise 'Strong Express.'

Journey to the unknown

Here at AFNORTH the word 'exercise' does not immediately conjure up images of mud and camouflage. Neither does it bring to mind the first-class hotel and pleasant, unhurried working conditions which were in store for me. So, as **Rolf** and I sat in the departure lounge of Oslo airport early on the morning of 4th September I had no idea what I was in for.

The first leg of the journey was by SAS DC-9 to Bergen where we were handed over to Dan-Air.

Bergen is a mere hop (433 miles) from the Faroes but the journey lasted three days. I won't bore you with the details but during that time our trusty Fokker Friendship (Certa Cito?) flew us to the Faroes, where it could not land, on to the Orkneys, back to Norway, down to Denmark and finally to the Faroes again where we landed without incident. A total of 4,500 miles. All this was caused by a storm centred on the Islands stubbornly refusing to move. Our trip was by no means unusual. Many people I met during my stay spoke of days spent in the Orkneys or Shetlands waiting for the weather to change.

Two taxis, a ferry and pouring rain

From the airport on Vagar, the third largest of the 18 Faroe Islands, we travelled to Thorshavn, the capital. Thorshavn is on Streymoy the largest island and this, the final leg of our journey, was accomplished in two taxis, a ferry and pouring rain. The clouds had closed in again and there were to be no more aircraft for five days.

Well-wishers(?) claiming an intimate knowledge of the Faroes had briefed me before I left and by the following morning when we left our hotel for our first day's work, I had confirmed two facts. Yes, it is wet; last year it rained 262 days—an average year. And, yes, it is dry, or nearly so, due to the drinking laws dating back 65 years.

Dangerous going

After leaving the main road 10 miles north of Thorshavn, the track serving the radio site winds steeply up the side of a mountain for two miles. On that first day, as we bounced along at a steady 15 mph, I was much comforted by the barriers on the 'down' side at each corner. I learned later that the barriers are there, not to keep careless drivers on the straight and narrow, but to stop them being blown off the mountains by gale force winds which can spring up virtually unheralded. A more common hazard is the fog which sweeps in from the sea reducing visibility to a few yards in a matter of minutes. On one occasion I found myself walking just inside the limit of the Land Rover's headlights, one eye on the marker posts, one eye on the vehicle and an ear cocked listening for anything coming the other way. That left me the other ear for rockfalls although I wasn't told they were prevalent until we reached the top.

Perpetually wreathed in cloud

The Station, perched 2,000 feet above the Atlantic and perpetually wreathed in cloud, presents a forbidding exterior with its huge grey 'billboard' antennae. Primarily for Tropo-scatter, the station also houses HF receivers which **Rolf** and I were to operate and maintain in service throughout the exercise. Inside, the noise of fans, air conditioners and generators, punctuated by the occasional alarm bell, was deafening at first but seemed to fade after a few hours. Our introductory tour of the building ended in a well-appointed rest room where over the next few weeks we were to play game after game of chess. (Five hundred miles to the north, in Reykjavik, Spassky and Fischer had just finished their confrontation).

After a week spent restoring and testing the system the exercise started and everything ran like clockwork. **Rolf** and I worked alternate days which gave us ample time for sightseeing.

The Faroes are really a range of mountains whose tops rise above the surface of the Atlantic. Volcanic in origin, they carry a thin veneer of grass and are virtually treeless. The few trees that there are (the Faroese refer to them as 'artificial' trees), grow in plantations started within the last 20 years. The language spoken is derived from a very old Norse rather like Icelandic and I was highly amused when **Rolf** had to use Danish or even English to make himself understood. There is a little sheep farming but the main industry is, of course, fishing. We were served a variety of sea-food in the hotel restaurant and although I acquired a taste for pickled herring which came with every meal, I could not get used to cold fish and chips.

Fishing is also the islanders' favourite pastime—fresh water fishing that is. I was persuaded to join one fishing party and although standing thigh deep in freezing water is not my idea of how an afternoon off should be spent, I relished the thought of a whole salmon to myself. Between us we caught one fish which we had to return to the water having left our milligramme scales behind!

At the end of the exercise I was ready to leave. I had an urge to see the sun again.

120 whales!

Our homeward journey was nearly as protracted as the outward one. The drive from Thorshavn to the airport was uneventful until we reached the ferry. Approaching the ferry terminal we noticed that the sea was blood red along the shore line. We were witnessing the aftermath of a whale hunt in which a whole village was involved. The ferryman could not be found and while our driver went off to hire a boat to take us across and a taxi to meet us on the other side, we walked along the beach. One hundred and twenty pilot whales had been caught varying in length from six to 12 feet.

There were tails, fins, bones, heads, intestines and unidentifiable pieces scattered all over the beach but not one complete whale to be seen.

No flights today

The dainty appearance of the traditional Faroese fishing boat is deceptive and the seamanship of the fishermen superb. Still, I had some misgivings as we crossed the channel in which I had been told large Grimsby trawlers could be held with their engines 'full ahead' by the current. A few moments' hesitation though and we were through. The taxi was waiting and we sped towards the airport. After three miles and with 30 minutes to take off we were stopped by workmen who had just blasted a few tons of rock across the road. The minutes ticked away as they cleared the road but arriving at the airport we learned there would be no flights until the following day. Thoroughly cheesed off, we retraced our steps to the hotel through the rain that was keeping us there.

The sun again

Our last day in the Faroes, we hoped, dawned bright and clear. Repeating the previous day's journey, without the interruptions, we were soon aboard the aircraft and on our way to Bergen. There being no connection at Bergen, we had to fly to Oslo via Copenhagen and the sun shone all day. Marvellous. I am sorry that there are no photographs to illustrate this short article, but I didn't think the editor or the readers really need to see pictures of low clouds viewed from inside.

A few words to explain the title. On my return to work I met **W.O.2 Bob Burgess** who had just arrived at AFNORTH. Having misheard my whereabouts for the past month his first words were. "Hello Leo, and how were the Azores?" I suffered in silence.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

'A' TROOP 3 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON—PLENTY OF SPIRIT HERE

Front Row (left to right): Corporal Tom Parker, Corporal Steve Wright, Corporal Tony Hatch, Signalman 'Duke' Dukelowe, Signalman Bob Pakes, Signalman 'Mac' McLuckie, Corporal Dave Simpson

Centre Row (left to right): Signalman 'Monti' Monti-Colombi, Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Harrison, Signalman Clive Parker, Lance-Corporal Dave Cormack, Signalman 'Sparks' Robinson, Lance-Corporal 'Taffy' Howells

Back Row (left to right): Staff-Sergeant 'Old man of the Troop' Hamilton, Signalman Phil Seaton, Signalman 'Polly' Barratt, Signalman Ray Cox

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

BOMBS and bullets continue to disturb the peace of Lurgan while the central heating contractors drill their way (pneumatically) through the factory and the RSM drills whoever he can find (regimentally) on the road outside. The Irish mists and rain have returned and even the hot air generated by the staff can't eliminate the winter cold. The Officers' Mess rebuild is at last finished, a relief to all as, somehow, the Officers' comfort seems an important factor in everyone else's peace and comfort. The contractors still manage to stretch out all the other work as though they had no where else to go! However, a great deal has been done and earlier incumbents wouldn't recognise the place.

Visits and social

There have been a multitude of visits and social events in recent weeks (we have to make our own entertainment you understand) so, in order not to bore, a brief resume only.

Early in October **Mrs. Whitelaw** visited the factory and the quarters and met many of the wives. Her conducted tour of 'the patch' was a great success and the wives expressed their views on the situation and gave one or two tips which didn't appear in the Green Paper.

Later the same month the SO-in-C came, through thick fog, to look at our knicker factory. He seemed duly impressed, acknowledged our man-power problems, toured all seven floors including lingerie (technical workshops), removed the word secure from a staff officer's privacy telephone, visited 'A' Troop in 'Corsets and Bras' (very cramped) and met many soldiers in the limited time available.

Next came **Lady Windlesham,** wife of the Under Secretary of State, NI office. She visited various quarters and the wives were able to report on their role in NI and express the views they'd forgotten to tell **Mrs. Whitelaw.** Again a very successful visit.

Other calls too numerous to mention by name have led us to instigate Mk 1, 2 and 3 tours which depend on the visitor's technical knowledge, military knowledge and rank or standing in the community. Often in some obscure corner of the factory the OC, with a gaggle of 'brass hats,' meets the Second-in-Command, with a group of 'thickies,' as they tour in opposite directions. Planned routes and conductors notes are available to would-be guides.

The main event of note for parties was the first anniversary of the re-establishment of 3 Brigade on 25th October. There were various celebrations including an Officers' Mess cocktail party on 25th October, a Junior Ranks' Club party on 26th October and a Sergeants' Mess dinner on 27th October. One

1

2

3

4

Moments grave and gay with 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, N. Ireland

1. Brigade Sign—Ulster style

The embellishment is an I.R.A. rocket!

2. S.O. in C.'s Visit

"Take your partners cross to the centre" Local square dance. (Left to right): Lieutenant-Colonel Rigby (not approving), Staff-Sergeant Wade (doubtful), Captain Mackereth, S.O.-in-C. (we like it) and Major Ryding (caller)

3. Tramps Ball

Some of the 'rough and readies' of 3 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron

4. Success

The volley ball team that defeated the N. Ireland national side. (Back row, left to right): W.O.2 (F. of S.) Jackson, Sergeant Downie, W.O.2 Waugh, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dunbar, Sergeant Lawrence (R.A.O.C.), W.O.2 Tuppenney, Staff-Sergeant Wade. (Kneeling): Staff-Sergeant Wilkinson, Corporal Brett, Lance-Corporal McCall (A. & S.H.), Lance-Corporal Barron, Signalman Jarwood

or two gregarious people managed to attend all three and they reported all as excellent but they weren't very sociable on 28th October.

The Junior Ranks' Club rounded off the celebrations with a 'Tramps' ball' in November which looked like a gathering of the everyday occupants of Lurgan's back streets. The colourful costumes were suitably scruffy though some managed to look smarter as tramps than they do as soldiers (RSM's comment). Everyone, and there were about 200 there, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and plans are secretly being layed for a 'Pyjama party' or 'Roman orgy' to follow this great success.

As well as the entertainments already mentioned we have had a small CSE show, a band concert and a disco—so Ireland is not all work and no play. We are now, of course, looking forward to Christmas and 'Strangulated 3 Brigade Artists' are busily preparing 'Factory Frolics' for public performance. The Pioneer Ballet Team are often seen limbering up around the factory, the 'B' Troop Belly Dancers and the MT Drag Queen are also rehearsing in quiet corners. But more of that, with the rest of our very full Christmas programme, in our next bulletin.

Operational

So as not to give completely the wrong impression, over now to 'Alpha' Troop whose roving reporter has dashed in during a lull in the barrage. He states that, confidentially, the Troop suspect the OC of a secret liaison with Royal Signals Manning as they keep being sent to dangerous border outposts where 'Saracens fear to tread.' The Troop are definitely the fastest aerial erectors in the business and the speed increases in direct proportion to their closeness to the border. They are certainly kept very busy on border operations, but judging by their happy smiling faces in the Troop photograph they are none the worse for wear.

Sport

The unfortunate soccer team are still suffering from lack of training and pitches, they claim operational duties as their excuse, having played five, won one, drawn one and lost three in the league. Things are better in the minor units cup as we have reached the semi-finals. We are also running a continuous five-a-side competition with 12 teams within the Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron which is very enthusiastically supported.

Now our real success story—we recently accepted a challenge to play the Northern Ireland national volleyball team. The first set we lost 15-8 and the pessimists thought this indicated the trend of the match but honour was restored by **Yeoman Dunbar** slamming anything that moved into the NI side and the second set was won 15-12. The third set was so even that all players deserve a mention. The NI team showed considerable skill close to the net and won 16-14. The fourth set was really the Squadron's best and **Corporal Brett** and **Signalman Jarwood** proved that lack of height can be overcome by determination and technique to give the Squadron a 15-8 win. With all on the last set the Squadron took a quick lead 14-7 but NI fought back to 14-12 when both teams missed services thus raising the tension until **Signalman Jarwood** slammed in the winning ball to make it 15-12.

The game was replayed ball by ball in the canteen over refreshments and we hope this is the first of many games to come.

And now for something completely different. Our man in Craigavon the Second-in-Command getting air at a local garage.

"As it you sur I've given you a few extra lbs in each tyre!"

Farewells

Finally we say farewell to **Signalman McLuckie** who is off to 30 Signal Regiment where he says he's going to have a well-earned rest! To our Second-in-Command **Captain Mackereth** (our Second-in-Command? How can I be our Second-in-Command?). Anyway I'm off, via No 15 JCSC at Warminster (to learn to write), to 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment—that can't be bad—Bye bye.

Stop Press

The Documentation Team arrive with a bang!

On the evening of the arrival of the Documents Inspection Team, **W.O.1 Williams** and **Staff Sergeant Russell,** the factory came under attack. Two rockets were fired. One entered the back of a four-ton Bedford where it exploded having first passed straight through an RCT coach, both vehicles being just outside the Squadron offices. Seven men of the resident rouelement company of 1 Staffs were injured, one seriously, having just dismounted from the four-toner. The other rocket finished up in the Headquarters sign—see photograph.

The Documents Team have decided to go back a day early!

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A statisticians month

IF it takes ten men to do a job in one day, how long does it take two men? Before slide rules and pocket calculators are presented by budding Einsteins I will tell you — about two days. So put away those mathematical aids. This is a new form of vulgar fractions — it's called Northern Ireland mathematics (NIMs). Another example: If you double a commitment but retain the same man-power do you know if you are on your head or your heels? Or do you have a Combat Schizophrenic? Is the result the same if you retain the same commitment but have only half the original man-power? Statistically you should either have to work twice as long or become twice as efficient but according to NIM it's all the same. Perhaps Professor Parkinson could throw some light on the subject. Even BAOR veterans who have spent years cultivating a harrassed expression and the correct carrying angle of a millboard have had to admit defeat on joining our ranks. One or two have even gone to lengths of self sacrifice to volunteer to return to the arduous life of LOA and Duty Free.

This is all a very long winded way of saying we have been a trifle stretched during the past few weeks. It all began with OC Alpha taking a 'few' men to Cyprus. Then OC B decided the weather was sufficiently foul to undergo a course in purgatory in the Welsh Mountains to gain his Mountain Leadership Certificate. The Second-in-Command then remembered (between courses) that there was this 'exam' in the first week of December and that he ought to do some concentrated studying. The Yeoman felt it was about time he saw his family again and the Foreman had to attend a course at Cambridge to acquaint himself with our new radio fit. . . .

Enough! If our readers can still continue through misty eyes we'll tell you what we have been doing.

Exercise 'Hot Sand' — and it's away to sunny Cyprus

On a very dull Irish morning, 25 men from assorted units gathered on the square at Ebrington Barracks. The bus was late, because the Irish driver had gone on strike in support of the demands to remove the Paras from Belfast. The destination of this group of men was Cyprus, and driving through the rain to Aldergrove airport, the sooner they saw the sun, the happier they would be.

This then was the start of Exercise 'Hot Sand.' The aim was to get as many of the single men serving on two year tours in Northern Ireland to 'sunny Cyprus.'

The method was by RAF Britannia from Aldergrove to Akrotiri, with a refueling stop at Brize Norton, and there were to be three two week exercises, of which 'Hot Sand' was the first.

Having held up the plane for an hour, we got a large cheer from the remaining 60 men who were waiting in a hangar at Aldergrove Airport.

The trip to Cyprus was uneventful, and after a night's sleep we woke up wondering what we were going to do next. Two lectures were first in order. One from the G2 of Dhekelia Garrison on the security problem in Cyprus and one from the Second-in-Command of the RMP Detachment on where not to go, and what not to do whilst in Cyprus.

Having hoisted in these valuable tit-bits, everyone then went their own way. Most people clubbed together to hire cars and explore the island. Others went on a sub-aqua course, run by the members of the Dhekelia sub-aqua club. In this way, four soldiers who had never been underwater before, ended up doing two dives a day. (They also made quite a few night dives, but not underwater).

A trip to the Carlsberg brewery was arranged. This seemed to go off quite well, as everyone made it back to camp, and no one was drowned in the vats.

Stories came filtering back from time to time. Most of them were quite unprintable but suffice to say that we left a considerable list of clubs and bars for the next exercise to try out.

We were constantly receiving invitations from Messes and units for us to go over for the evening, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank 9 Signal Regiment and 261 Signal Squadron for their hospitality.

All good things must come to an end, and after two weeks of sun and fun, we packed our bags to return, reluctantly, to Northern Ireland. It was, however, not as easy as we thought; due to technical trouble, the aircraft was delayed at both Akrotiri and Brize Norton. After two days travelling we touched down at RAF Aldergrove and were back to the reality of Northern Ireland.

This reality became all too apparent when we had Exercise 'Symptom.'

Withdrawal from Slieve Gallion

Exercise 'Symptom' was the name given to the withdrawal from the manned radio rebroadcast site at Slieve Gallion. Great relief is now felt by OC A Troop and his followers who thought they would spend the highest Christmas in Northern Ireland this year. Three Sangars, three quarters of a mile of Dannert wire and three small huts were demolished in a day which went to prove that A Troop can work when they want to.

I Field Squadron, RE, sent a section of eight men who were the brains and 25 men from the Squadron were the brawn. **Lance-Corporal Talbot** and three men from MT made the vehicles work whilst three groups of Alfa Troop and Engineers pulled everything down. The D and E Platoon guards **Privates Robinson, Sey, Waddington** and **Hodkinson** continued to guard us from IRA attack and **Sergeant Frank Running** of M Troop made the Auto Pye radio station work. **Private Davidson,** ACC, cooked breakfast and lunch for us all, and kept the tea and coffee on the brew until just before OC Alfa led the convoy of vehicles off the mountain back to Londonderry. Thus endeth the second saga of Slieve Gallion, but we are prepared for Act III at any moment.

More statistics—if you can bear them

Ending, as we began, with statistics, how about the following earth shattering information:

Did you know that a married man, going for lunch each day from Ebrington Barracks to his quarter would go over 44,928 bumps of the road security ramps in a two year tour?

And how about this:

A four month emergency tour unit in the city would undergo 10,540,800 pips from that radio? (excluding the time spent over the hot breakfast).

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Comcen

IT would appear that no month can go by without some of our members being able to relate their war experiences.

The latest escapade involved **Corporals Pete Colwell** and **Alan Wilson,** two of our Cipher Operators. On a recent Admin run around Belfast their Land Rovers came under fire on the Falls Road. (It all happens on the 'Falls Road'—see also recent issues of THE WIRE). One Land Rover got a bullet through the windscreen and the other got one through the side window. Luckily there were no casualties. Watch this space for the continuing war stories of the Comcen.

Looking on the brighter side of life, three of our workers have found time to relax in Cyprus. **Lance-Corporal Lofts** was the 'pathfinder' enjoying 13 days of winter sunshine, followed by **Signalman 'Taff' Powell** who managed 17 days. With his tales of nights of gay abandon he holds an audience nightly in his spell as he drinks their free beer. **Signalman Wright** is still in Cyprus and we await his return for confirmation of at least some of **'Taffy's'** tales.

We have celebrated three weddings in the Comcen, **Corporal Phil Stapley** hitched his star to **Miss Val Sader, Lance-Corporal Pete Hall** assumed responsibility for **Miss Carol Geary** and **Signalman 'Smudge' Smith** 'bought out' **Private Pat Lewis** from the WRAC. Congratulations and good luck to you all.

The turnover of workers has been quite heavy. **Sergeant and Mrs. 'Taff' Protheroe** left us for Berlin, followed by **Signalman Dave Simpson** also to Berlin. **Lance-Corporal 'Jinx' Jenkins** and **Signalman Westlake** have both left us for 16 Signal Regiment, and we also wish good luck to **Lance-Corporal 'Brummy' Noakes** in Catterick.

We welcome to the fold **Sergeant Hamer** and **Corporal Tate** from 16 and 28 Signal Regiments respectively.

For the statistically minded reader, a check on our traffic totals show that in the past year they have jumped from 11,000 to 24,000 per month. How's that for inflation? All that and still the same four-man shift—Records please note.

We had our first Christmas card on 23rd November. Thank you 3 Brigade Comcen. We workers must stick together.

Tech Workshops

It is not often that the average 'Tech Workshops' can find time for WIRE notes, being so overworked and all that. However, being perhaps the most top heavy Signal Squadron Workshop in the Corps, a suitable Anon has been found to act as scribe.

Amongst the comings and goings of aerial riggers (who are here with obvious intentions) and ergonimic experts (who are here to explain to the Brigade Staff what they, the staff, need in the way of five star ops room facilities). We have said our farewells to **Chris Hemming** and **Colin Tadd.** Their departure leaves vacancies for Stentophone and Voicemaster experts, so if you are looking for a job in one of the more interesting workshops in the Corps and you don't mind rewarding work any time of any day (or night), then this is your scene. Some people even apply to stay here.

'Q' department

Since the last issue of WIRE notes, various changes have taken place in the 'Q' Stores. We have said farewell to **Staff Sergeant Tom Sinon,** departing to the Seychelles Islands on this mysterious leave called Domcol. After his three months' leave we wish him luck with his Staff Sergeants' course.

Arrivals have been **Staff Sergeant Wally Cutler** into the SQMS Tech's chair and **Sergeant Sid Gardiner** late of 3 Division.

Workwise, Pye Equipment is still rolling in by the truck load and our boast is that we have a larger assortment of Pyes than the NAAFI. At present everyone is eagerly awaiting the pending move to the Education Centre; once this occurs our stores can be turned back into living accommodation. Living-in members of the Squadron will be most thankful when this occurs, as in their present condition they are more than a little cramped.

Commander's and Deputy Commander's crews

Although members of the Royal Signals play an extremely important part on the operating side, particularly with the radio equipment, the majority of members are from other arms. **Sergeant Few** retains command of the crews which are comprised of seven Royal Signals, six RCT and seven RPC.

Since 'Operation Motorman' the excursions of the crews into the former 'No-Go' areas have increased considerably. Our admiration must be particularly accorded to our RPC

DEPUTY COMMANDER'S CREW UNDER FIRE

Left to right: Sergeant Few (R. Signals), Private Hudson, (R.P.C.), Lance-Corporal Kelly, (R.C.T.), one bullet hole, Lance-Corporal Thompson, (R. Signals), Lance-Corporal Leppard, (R. Signals)

members ably led by ex-Legionaire **Lance-Corporal 'Pierre' Davison.**

Our congratulations are due to **John 'Chippy' Hyde** on his promotion to Sergeant; his talents are now being directed, by the RSM, in the direction of the Sergeants' Mess. Belated congratulations also to **Signalman 'Scouse' Davies** on his marriage, on 14th October, 1972, to a local girl; our best wishes go with them both on posting to 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment after having survived two years in Northern Ireland.

Our photograph shows that nobody is immune from the gunman's bullet. Fortunately the bullet missed the Deputy Commander and his crew, but sadly an innocent civilian received severe gunshot wounds.

MT Troop

November commenced with the annual REME VEE Inspection, which kept all members of the Troop fully employed; our efforts were well rewarded with a very satisfactory report.

We would like to congratulate **Signalman Armstrong** who has been accepted for training with the Royal Signals motor cycle trials team; unfortunately we were unable to celebrate his departure in the true MT Troop fashion as he left saying, "See you on return from my course." We have subsequently discovered that successful candidate do not RTU; we all wish him well in his new venture.

Corporal Reid has now returned from the Army School of Transport as a qualified HGV Driving Instructor. However, one or two of the RCT Troop inmates appear a little sceptical about receiving driving tuition from a Royal Signals NCO.

Christmas is almost upon us once again and providing the sword of Damocles does not strike the Club before the festive season, the bar profits should increase if all goes according to plan.

Sergeants' Mess

It is many a day since the Mess contributed to this worthy magazine. It would be hard to record everything that has happened since the last notes. It all happens here! People come and people go. In a 21-day period we had 45 new arrivals. There are far too many changes of face to record them all but one or two are outstanding—like the WRMP now living in our Mess—a most welcome addition and 'bon voyage' to Aldergrove.

With the limitations on outside social activities forced upon us by the situation here, our Mess socials are the highlight of the week. A fancy dress Hallowe'en night produced some excellent costumes, and as the night wore on it was hard to tell who still had their masks on!

A football match against the Garrison Mess resulted in an 8-0 defeat for our gladiators, but no blame can be attached to our 'keeper **W.O.1 Mike (there's no business like show business) Owen,** REME.

For 'ex-39ers' you may like to know that the caravans are now behind the Mess but still no warmer in the winter.

Our Christmas draw plans are well advanced and at the time of writing we are past the £500 mark and on our way to the £1,000.

We have a hectic Christmas period laid on, and news of these events will be passed on in the next notes.

THIS WIRE IS TOO LARGE!

Despite considerable pruning we have had to go to press with 52 pages — 12 more than we would like from an economical point of view. Unit correspondents are urged to try and keep their notes a little shorter and more to the point particularly in respect of the more routine day to day occurrences which are common to most units and not very newsworthy.

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VOLVO

[Photo: Captain C. B. Storey, B.Sc., R.A.E.C.

The College Mascot "Colonel Johnny" with Sergeant Lavery

Potential Apprentice Tradesman 'Colonel Johnny'

FOR the second time in our history we welcomed to the College this term a **Colonel Johnny.** If they differed in appearance—the present incumbent certainly has much longer hair!—a very similar reputation preceded them both, that of being a bit of a fire-eater. Thus it was with at least mixed feelings that we awaited the arrival on 23rd October of **Colonel Johnny Mark II**—our Shetland pony stallion mascot, fresh from the wilds of the Island of Mousa.

We were, of course, fortunate in preparing for his arrival, to be able to call upon the long cavalry experience of **Major R. O. G. Wood** of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and Phillips Squadron. It was with stoic and commendable fortitude that he accepted his inevitable appointment as our first 'Pony Major.' He was almost as quick to appoint, as the pony's 'handler,' **Sergeant Michael Lavery,** Royal Signals, whose five years' experience of breaking and schooling racehorses would clearly be a valuable asset.

Came the day of the pony's arrival, and those concerned were none too cheered to hear that it had taken the united efforts of the whole of 242 Signal Squadron to get him into the horse box kindly lent by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlands to bring him down from Edinburgh. Most of us had visions of a wild-eyed, bucking, bouncing bundle of gnashing teeth and flailing hooves, as soon as the tailboard was lowered. When in fact nothing emerged more alarming than 'Colonel Johnny's' attractive escort, 18-year-old **Private Mary Bell,** WRAC, it took **Sergeant Lavery** and **S.S.M. Froggatt** to virtually carry the pony to his new home, a carefully wired-off paddock between gym and dining-hall.

Here we were soon to discover the ruling passion of our new mascot's life—grass! Within seconds he was browsing contentedly and with utter unconcern in pastures new and clearly lusher than he had met before.

Within almost minutes he had struck up a firm friendship with **Sergeant Lavery.** Within days he was following him everywhere with the devotion of an overgrown labrador. Since his arrival he has accepted every new experience—including football matches, visits to the guard room, the YMCA and the band practice room in full swing, RSM's drill parade and such like, with philosophical aplomb. Even a personal benefit pibroch by **Pipe Major Archie Cross,** QOH, aroused merely an appreciative cocking of the ears.

He has, in short, proved so amenable that hopes are high that he will be able to attend this term's Recruits' Pass-Off — though only as a spectator. It is likely to be much longer before he passes his individual drill test under the eagle eye of the Adjutant, and is thus fit to undertake full ceremonial duties. Certainly we look forward to being able soon to delete the 'Potential' from his present rank.

The pony's name, of course, stems from the fact that he was presented to the College by **Brigadier Johnny Clinch,** as a memento of his short but happy tour as Commandant. We are sure that **Brigadier Clinch** will be delighted to know that his namesake bids fair to be regarded by all ranks with as much affection as he commanded himself.

[Photo: Captain C. B. Storey, B.Sc., R.A.E.C.

SHE WILL BE REMEMBERED
Escorted by the Commandant, Mrs. Joan Hiscocks, W.R.V.S., takes the salute at the Recruits Pass Off parade

Mrs Joan Hiscocks

One of the saddest events that we must record this term is the retirement of Mrs. Joan Hiscocks, our WRVS lady.

During her two years at the College, Mrs. Hiscocks has, in the words of the Commandant Colonel Norman Butler, "provided a mother figure, and she has done this supremely well. The boys have poured out their sorrows and she has gently listened. They have loved her" — surely because she has so obviously loved them.

Her door was never closed to anyone — apprentice or staff — who needed her help and advice; all could be sure of a ready and sympathetic ear. Perhaps her greatest gift was the ability to make you feel that you were the one person in the world, more than any other, whom she wanted to listen to.

While she was always prepared to mother us all, however, the bulk of Mrs. Hiscocks' work was naturally with recruits. "They are all children to me when they arrive," she says, "but great big chaps when they leave." Because of this, Colonel Butler invited Mrs. Hiscocks to take the Salute at this term's — the largest ever — recruits' pass-off.

Although she, by nature, shuns any kind of limelight, she carried this out with the poise and gracious charm that have typified her throughout her too short stay at the College. "I have never felt so proud in my life," she said, "though I still don't know what I have done to deserve such an honour."

We, of the College, could have told her.

Recruits' pass-off — Winter 1972

Saturday 2nd December, saw a record number of 337 recruits pass-off — and an imposing sight they made too. The one thousand-odd parents and relatives assembled were clearly impressed by the astonishing high standard of drill and turnout which the boys had achieved in little over ten weeks—a standard upon which the Reviewing Officer, **Colonel N. A. Butler,** was quick to congratulate them. Their smartness on parade would have done credit to soldiers of far greater seniority, especially in view of the very poor weather.

Royal Signals plaques were presented to the best recruits of each Squadron. Winners of these coveted awards were as follows: Bradley Squadron, **A.T. David Gunn;** Penney Squadron, **A.T. John Chapman;** Phillips Squadron, **A.T. Mark White;** Rawson Squadron, **A.T. Kevin Livermore;** Scott Squadron, **A.T. Donald Acton.**

A sixth notable recruit also passed-off, in the person of 'Colonel Johnny' the College's Shetland pony mascot. Although his steadfastness on parade on this occasion was exemplary, his plaque was witheld because of two previous lapses of virtue; once when he was 'absent from his place of duty' (or paddock) by the simple expedient of charging through the fence, and once when he committed an act hiighly 'prejudicial to good order' by taking a sudden dislike to the martial music of the band and causing his patient handler, **Sergeant 'Paddy' Lavery** to toboggan right across the parade ground without the benefit of a sledge! To his infinite regret this was one of the rare occasions when our new College photographer, **Captain Colin Storey,** RAEC, was not present.

After the parade, **Major Alan Pigney,** the catering officer, and his gallant band of ACC chefs fed not only the whole of the College, but the 1,000 spectators as well; as a result many a mum went off to look to her laurels.

In the afternoon the recruits showed their visitors — **A.T. Mark White** took the prize with no fewer than 14! — round the College, to see the facilities and chat, if they wished, to individual members of the staff. That so many of them did wish, and expressed themselves satisfied with all they had seen, was most gratifying, and made complete what is always one of the College's happiest occasions.

[Photo: Captain C. B. Storey, B.Sc., R.A.E.C.

THE COLLEGE CYCLE CLUB WITH THIS SEASON'S HAUL

The Team: *Kneeling:* A/T.s Steve Aitken and Phil Edwards. *Standing:* A/T. Steve Buxton, A/T. Lance-Corporal Pete Smith, Captain Doug Fryer, R.A.E.C., A/T. Mick Scull, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Hill, Mr. Alan Green, A/T. Dave Smith and A/T. Mark May

The Trophies: *Behind:* The Army Inter-Unit Challenge Cup (The Fraser Cup); The Triangular Games Bowl; The Army Inter-Unit Roller-Racing Cup (The Soldier Magazine Cup). *In front:* The Army Inter-Unit Challenge Shield (B.A.R.); Northern Command B.A.R. Cup; Northern Command Spring League Shield; Northern Command Roller-Racing Cup; Army Junior B.A.R. Shield

Football

Penney Squadron won the Army Apprentices Challenge Cup competition on 9th December, by beating B Company AAC Aborfield, 5-1.

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Much coming and going — but oh! that hurricane

NOVEMBER saw many comings and goings in Verden, but nobody planned the hurricane on the 13th of all days (reported below). What with the RSO's convention, SO-in-C's visit, various recruiting teams and storm damage playing a game of musical buildings, we are well pleased to see the 'normality' of the festive season upon us. We were very sad to see **Major John Booth** depart but wish him every success as CO of 33 Signal Regiment (V) in Liverpool, and welcome **Major Ron Tanner** into the Second-in-Command's chair.

The dawn broke on the fateful Monday, 13th November, 1972. Grey clouds skudded across the sky. Prelude to a storm! Wind with ever increasing units of kph came in the main gate without even a courteous 'by your leave.'

First to go were a number of tiles from the roof of the Corporals' Mess/Pay Office. Then RHQ lost some of its roof with 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons also suffering. The TOT, who moved

NOVEMBER HURRICANE
"For once it did jump out at me!"

office the very day before, was heard to remark that "As soon as I leave this place, it falls to pieces," which is correct if one cares to look at the workshops. The RSM was seen being chased by a No Entry sign, while attempting to bring to the attention of the tiles that they must stand still and keep their dressing. Several trees were blown down in the camp, the most spectacular being a veritable colossus and producer of many leaves during the autumn months. SSM 2 was astounded by the lack of thoroughness in completing the area cleaning and decreed that whoever was responsible would be a qualified woodman before the day was out. Instantly, four intrepid souls attacked the fallen monster with an assortment of weapons brought from all parts of the globe. The finale of this disaster happened in the Superintending Clerk's office where a double window blew in. But above the howling gale a calm voice was heard to shriek, "File it under discharges."

Currently a sweepstake is being run to see whose roof gets fixed first by our DOE.

Signal Officer-in-Chief welcomed

On Wednesday, 8th November, we welcomed the Signal Officer-in-Chief. **Staff Sergeant Ted Banham** commanded an excellent Quarter Guard and the brief visit included a tour of the Squadrons and was rounded off by **General and Mrs. Sawers** having tea with Sergeants' Mess members and their 'better halves.'

PLEASANT INTERLUDE
The S.O.-in-C. chatting with Mrs. Godwin and Mrs. Lidgbird—what delightful wives the Corps chooses!

1 SQUADRON

November saw our Squadron Commander **Major Ron Tanner** change jobs and we welcome **Major Ron Saville.** Sport played a large part in this month's conquests. We won the inter-Squadron cross-country, rugby and basketball, with **Corporal Stephenson** achieving second place in the individual cross-country placings. We are pleased to announce that **Signalmen 'Smudge' Smith** and **'Bovver' Long** were joint winners in the onion eating competition.

Postscript to Exercise 'Triangle'

We include a photograph of **Captain Martin Roberts** and his gang presenting 200DM to the local Burgermeister and receiving a plaque. This prompted the following article in the local press.

"Almost unnoticed by the public there were guests in our town from 22nd September to 15th October. A unit of the Scottish 1 Division HQ Signal Regiment, Comcen Delta, from Verden, camped near the town on the occasion of Exercise 'Eternal Triangle VII.' Their leisure time, as far as leisure time could be granted, the members of this unit spent in the town. At the conclusion of the exercise on 12th October the (Liaison) Officer commanding the Scottish unit, **Captain M. W. H. Roberts,** who could speak excellent German, handed over 200DM for public funds to **Burgermeister Walter Theil** as a 'thank you' gesture for the helpful support. **Walter Theil** thanked for this donation and presented **Captain Roberts** with a plaque with a coat of arms of the town as a memento."

We query the fluency of the 'Scottish Captain.'

COMCEN Delta making a presentation to a local Burgermeister. Local press styled them as a "Scottish" unit

2 SQUADRON

We are happy — come what may!

In retrospect the hoped for peaceful month just did not materialise. Having come to an exercising halt for the year, the first of the series of annual PRE inspections loomed. Throughout the month, when other events permitted, the scraping, painting, greasing, dusting, counting and inspecting has gone on. Still, as all assure me, from between tightly gritted teeth, we are happy!

The events which interrupted our labours were not, for a change, all man made. Taking them chronologically, it was all men to the woods on 2nd November when the first leg of the Regimental cross-country took place. Designed to get the whole Regiment out for a breath of air the Squadron fielded 70 of the 280 starters in this event. By dint of much puff the Squadron finished overall second at the end of that afternoon. To round off the cross-country, but jumping to the end of the month, we also did well in the second leg of the cross-country as it was won by **Lance-Corporal Bruce Mansley** and with **Corporal Geoff Young** coming a game fourth.

The 8th of the month saw two events. In the morning the Regiment was host to many of the RSOs of the Division, who were attending a short convention, and in the afternoon we were pleased to be visited by the SO-in-C, **Major-General Sawers.**

Welcome and congratulatory

To round off, welcome new arrivals to the Squadron are: **Second-Lieutenant John Fletcher, Sergeants Peacock** and **Anderson, Corporal Hodsoll** and **Signalman Swietonowski.** Congratulations to **Sergeant and Mrs. Threlfall-Searson** on the birth of their son, **Simon Paul,** on 28th November. **Mrs. T-S** had promised to 'hang on' until her husband returned from the F of S selection board in UK. True to her word and much to the relief of their emergency standby driver, neighbour **Staff Sergeant Eddie Davis,** she made it with but hours to spare.

Finally, congratulations, too, to **Lance-Corporal Ian Cross** and welcome to his new wife **Diane** after their recent marriage in Harrogate.

Postscript on Olympic yachting

Friday, 22nd September, saw the formation of a new 'troop' in 2 Squadron. The strength of the 'troop' was four: **Sergeant Arthur ('T.S.') Threlfall-Searson, Corporal 'Rocky' Stone, Corporal 'Wally' Walton** and **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Thompson.** The role of the 'troop' was to broadcast late weather forecasts to the British team launches in the Olympic Games at Kiel. Saturday 23rd and the crew was off to Kiel with one C11 detachment and six R209 receivers.

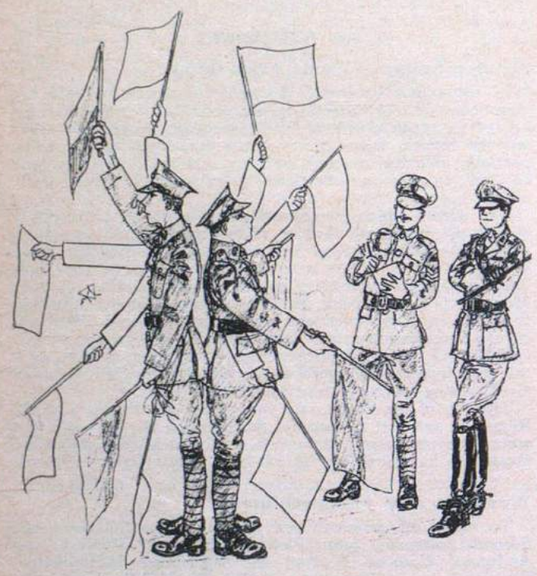
On the Sunday the four team boats were fitted with an R209 and a 12A/75AH battery each. This task was very much Heath Robinson, with sets lashed firmly in wherever they would fit. Installation completed and the boats were despatched to the course to check the communications.

On Monday the normal work programme started: 0800 hours report to Kiel Schilksee and carry out checks on the equipment before the boats left for the courses; 0900 hours start half-hourly broadcasts of weather forecast changes until 1100 with a final broadcast at 1115, five minutes before the 10-minute gun, after which no communications were allowed. These forecast amendments were provided by the team's meteorologist, **Mr. David Halton,** only one day was 'duff gen' passed. A veer was forecast which never materialised. Unfortunately **Patrick Pym,** competing in the Finn class, had positioned himself for the veer and sank rather badly down the field.

After the last 'sched' the time up till 1600 hours was free to wander about the Olympic Village sightseeing, following the racing bulletins and signing autographs on mechanics' overalls!

Then meet the boats on their return to check that all was well with the equipment and off 'home' to the Kiel Training Centre.

Thanks are due to the RE unit at Kiel. They are a small unit and had people from all over BAOR descending on them for accommodation for the period of the Olympics, much of it in connection with the Prime Minister's visit. They coped marvellously and looked after us very well indeed. **Lance-Corporal Thompson** could not get over having breakfast 'with' a General!



CORPS TECHNICALITIES EXPLAINED
"BACK TO BACK TEST"
Drawn by 2nd Lieutenant Sheenan

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2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

Work at 2

THIS has been one of 'those' months apart from the damp and cold it is also culminated in the FFR Inspection held in Bunde and Lubbecke by the Garrison Commander **Brigadier T. S. C. Streatfield.** I am glad to say all went well and it is pleasant to feel that we can now relax for the Christmas festivities which start on 1st December with a ladies' dinner night in the Officers' Mess.

Sport at 2

The Regiment succeeded in winning their first round in the Army Cup hockey with a comfortable 3-0 victory over 25 Engineer Regiment. With 5 Divisional players, **Captain Gus Vigurs, Lance-Corporal Harry Kirkham, Major John Heyes, Y. of S. Des Heyes** and **Signalman 'Mitch' Mitchell,** we have high hopes of doing as well as the cricket XI who won the Major Units' Cricket Cup this summer (see the November/December issue if you can find it!).

We also have high hopes for our ski-ing team under **Lieutenant 'Paddy' Hughes** who are, I'm assured, undergoing arduous training at Civinia and Livignia in preparation for the BAOR/Army Ski Meeting, whilst **Messrs. Elliot** and **Dillon-White,** our two most experienced skiers, are training with the British team in Norway.

Presentation at 2

During the FFR the LS & GC medals were presented to the following: **W.O.1 Gibson** our local DOE supporter, **W.O.1 Aldridge,** RSM HQ Squadron at Lubbecke, and **C/Sergeant Edwards** who also trains our tug-of-war team.

From 2 Squadron of 2

Following a succesful summer camp as guests of the town and police of Velsen, near Amsterdam, 2 Squadron were hosts to 21 policemen and five members of the town council for a long weekend just prior to the FFR.

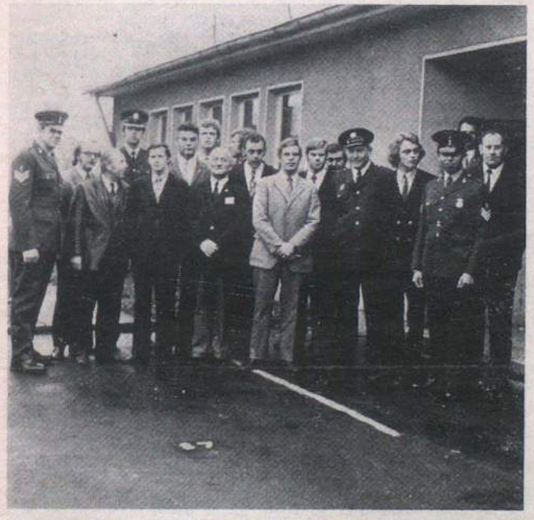
The police arrived on Thursday afternoon. Having surprise on their side, they quickly overran a demonstration of a radio village which was laid on for the divisional RSO's Convention. However the Yeoman, **Staff Sergeant Mick Drugan,** abandoning the OC to a group of RSOs rapidly ushered them away to a greater attraction where they spent the evening getting acquainted with the local German brew.

VISIT OF DUTCH POLICE TO 2nd DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Corporal Spike Naylor and Signalman Al Wonderling show off one of their vehicles to Dutch visitors

In the morning those who had recovered sufficiently were given some practice on the range under the instruction of **Sergeant Des McGonigle** and the Yeoman. Their accuracy with pistols boded ill for the crooks in the Velsen area and for us in the competition; however, after a highly dangerous practice with the SMG we began to feel a little better. The football match between the police and the squadron was played in a bitterly cold wind in the afternoon. Despite the valiant efforts of the Squadron team, in particular **Bombadier 'Geordie' Richardson, Signalman Alf Thornley, Signalman Charlie Holding** and **Sergeant Tom Carter,** RE, we lost disastrously 9-4 although there was some spectacular play on both sides. It was something of a comedown as we had won in Holland. However, in the bar that night we won the boat race hands down—as well as the rest of the games night.

In the morning the less hungover had a conducted shopping expedition in which the Dutch seemed to be buying up the town. By afternoon sufficient had emerged for the shooting competition to get under way with heavy support on both sides. As expected the police won the pistol by a large margin but the Squadron team pulled back on the SMG. The .22 stage was shot off with quickening interest. After a recount we won with about 100 points between the scores of the order of two-and-a-half thousand. Back in the bar the shooting trophy was handed over to us for the first time in three years.

On Saturday night a bar social was laid on in the Sergeants' Mess which went into the early hours. Later in the morning the entire party attended the Remembrance Sunday Service. This was followed by a curry lunch after which our guests tottered off, breathing brandy and benevolence, to their cars for the journey back to Holland.



VISIT OF DUTCH POLICE TO 2nd DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT
After Service on Remembrance Sunday

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

General

WHAT November lacked in major exercises it more than made up for in activity. Bonfire Night, the bright spot in the month one might say, was celebrated on the 4th for a change. The CO **Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs,** had a marathon inspection of the Regimental premises and then followed it up with a drill parade to inspect all the Regimental persons. Nearly 200 men spent a very busy two weeks honing up their military prowess at Garelochhead in Scotland at the Autumn Camp, while others engaged in the White Water Canoeing and a multitude of other sporting activities.

It's all go in 3rd Regiment.

Exercise 'Garelochhead'

Between 6th-17th November the Regiment ran an autumn camp at Garelochhead in Scotland. Having always admired the hills of Scotland we ventured out to climb them in style. The party was split up into a number of troops which competed against one another in military skills and sports. The camp was commanded by **Major John Barratt** who was noted for saying, "Oh ye'll take the high road and I'll take the low road and I'll have time for another cup of coffee!" We thank him also for remembering the evening conference which reminded us of home!

During the camp HMS Neptune kindly offered their lavish sports facilities, which included an indoor heated swimming pool, a first class gymnasium containing layouts for five-a-side football, hockey, badminton, volleyball and squash. There were also two floodlit football pitches close at hand. The inter-Troop sports which ensued seemed to be dominated by 3 Squadron who won the football, ring-a-stick and hockey competitions despite the umpire, **Captain George Hayes** of 1 Squadron. Also their 'unbudgeable' tug-of-war team which weighed in at 112 stones remained unmoved. Fortunately some semblance of balance was retained by Alpha Troop squash representatives, **Lieutenant Mike Anderson** and **Sergeant Brian Boucher,** who were the unbeaten champions.

Some memorable feats were performed during the military phases of the exercise such as **Corporal Bruce Cook's** dare-devil dive into a water-filled mortar hole, and **Signalman 'Mac' McCarthy's** swim across a raging stream. **Lance-Corporal Andy Potter's** contribution was happiness! Perhaps the best sight of all was **Corporal 'Paddy' Magee,** the barmaid, who gave the lads their daily pinta and is now the Regiment's answer to Danny La Rue! Alas, rumours that a deep freeze breakfast cooked in one pound of Lurpack was being given new field trials are coldly denied. Before the Regiment departed a sign was erected outside the main gate of the camp; it read, "Welcome to Gareloch Training Camp! The barbed wire and guard dogs are only for your own protection."

White water

On the weekend 25th/26th November **Sergeant Major Colin Johnson** led a party of keen canoeists north to Richmond in Yorkshire to take part in the Army white water canoe championships. The team consisted of **Lance-Corporal John Smith, Private Malcolm Bourne, Private Michael Gordon** and **Private Steven King** all of the Royal Pioneer Corps and members of the Defence Platoon.

Due to lack of rain the river Swale did not have as much water as is normally expected at this time of year. However, this did not lighten the hazards on the tricky course as **Michael Gordon,** who came to grief in a very rough grade three rapid, will confirm. Similarly **Malcolm Bourne** and **Steven King** who are also novices were unable to negotiate a particularly rocky and shallow part of the river with the result that they capsized within yards of each other two miles from the start. Events went better for **Lance-Corporal John Smith** who made full use of his considerable experience by successfully completing the five-mile course.

Well done, lads! The next white water event takes place in the Lake District during January and the Rive Tyne in February, which means you'll need an ice-breaker with you!

Hockey

The Regimental hockey team has got off to a good start this season, six wins, one draw and one defeat. On 21st November the team beat 1 Royal Scots (1-0) in a hard-fought match in the first round of the South West District competition. The Regiment was the first to settle down into its stride and soon had the Scots' goal under pressure. Although only one goal was scored a few chances were missed which **Sergeant Keith Purkiss** swears were not due to his early crack on the forehead. The team did well to contain the Scots who fought back with alarming skill and persistence in the second half. Credit for outstanding performances on the day go to **Sergeant Peter**

Mills (shorts folded please), **Major Bill Barnard** and **Lieutenant John Cook** who has sadly played his last game for us. **John,** who captained the team last season, deserves our warmest thanks for his hard work and enthusiasm and we hope he will continue lowering his standards by playing for the Corps!

Cross-country

On 1st December the Regiment held its annual inter-Troop and individual cross-country match. The conditions were far from ideal, with strong wind and rain making running difficult over the 3½ mile course. The CO started the inter-Troop race and departed with **R.S.M. R. J. Judge** to give encouragement to the runners as they went round the course. Fifteen minutes later the Second-in-Command, **Major Guy Rogers,** started the rest of the Regiment off in their race.

It was obvious that the teams had trained very hard for this event and the organisers just managed to get from the start area to the finish area as the leading runner came into finish. The Alpha Troop team, very ably trained and led by **Sergeant Brian Boucher,** did well and their team was in very quickly. The Headquarter Squadron 'A' team also did well and their runners were not very far behind.

The individual race was won by **Signalman Phil Harland** of Alpha Troop in a time of 20 minutes 21 seconds, which was a minute faster than last year's time. **Signalman Martin Rye** came second and **Sergeant Brian Boucher** came a close third. The team prize was won by Alpha Troop.

After the match the CO congratulated the competitors for their performance and presented the prizes.

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

Regimental business

HAVING spent much of September and all of October building, running and then dismantling a tented Control HQ camp for over 500 people, with the associated offices and communications, we returned to barracks at the beginning of November with less than four weeks to prepare for all the annual REME Inspections (vehicles, telecommunications, weapons—the lot). Just to prevent us from concentrating too much on those, November was liberally laced with other pre-FFR inspections—Pay, Education, Postal, Ordnance and so on. The Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** visited us, and saw how we set up a main divisional radio complex—amongst other things. He spoke to many, and left us all with a feeling of renewed confidence in ourselves and the Corps.

As November drew to a close a growing stream of specialist inspection reports began flowing into RHQ which indicated that all the hard work was producing the right results. Phrases like "Even better than last year"; "Best we have seen so far" and even "Probably the best in BAOR" make sweet music in the ears of those who have toiled to clean vehicles (often not their own), check paperwork, adjust telecommunications equipment and then do it again and again.

We are approaching the last few days before the final event, the CRA's administrative visit, feeling pretty proud of ourselves.

Cross-country—but the RSM has the edge at Squash

The Regiment is fielding a strong team in this year's Westphalia cross-country league, and in the first meeting at Paderborn the Regiment was placed 3rd overall, **Sergeant Mick Stocks** gaining 2nd place individual. Both **R.S.M. Hall** and **Signalman Jack Christian** of the orderly room are members of the team and an interesting feature of our first race was that **Signalman Christian** came in one step ahead of **R.S.M. Hall** in 19th place. It's just as well the RSM had the edge at Squash.

Orienteering

The Divisional Orienteering championships this year turned out to be a **Royal Signals field day.**

7 Signal Regiment won the cup and we were runners-up. In the BAOR championships held in Lubbecke, we came 5th overall (this time beating 7 Signal Regiment) but unfortunately missed the opportunity of competing in the Army championships by a mere two minutes; but then there is always next year.

Canoeing

Exercise 'Indian Chief,' our last Adventure Training Scheme this year, took place from 8th to 17th September along the rivers south of Hoxter, including the Weser, Diemel and Nethe. The aim of the exercise was to carry out advanced canoe training in preparation for the ACU instructors' test held shortly afterwards. Of the 10 who attended the exercise four were later to pass the instructors' test and these were **Major Mike Simms-Reeve, Lance-Corporal Frank Kelly, Lance-Corporal John Fitzsimmons** (who has since been posted to an amphibious RCT Squadron to continue growing webbed feet) and **Signalman 'Chuck' Walker.**

In spite of generally poor weather conditions the programme was carried out to the icy end. Fours orders for wet-suits have already been taken since the end of the exercise!

In addition to skills training, 24-hour and 48-hour expeditions were included without any administrative support for the canoeists.

Some of the rivers proved just a little too difficult, as our resident pathfinder **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' O'Reilly** will no doubt confirm having spent hours up to his waist in cold water inside his canoe.

As a fitting climax to the exercise we decided to attempt an international white water course below the Diemel See. This was a raging torrent 8 km long with 10 weirs to shoot of assorted heights and difficulty.

An obstruction at the 4th weir turned everybody out of their canoes and the flow of the water was too fast to retrieve anything but oneself. An attempt to rescue a canoe resulted in it being snapped in half by the force of the current.

Despite this setback the sheer exhilaration of disappearing in a sea of froth below an eight foot weir, and reappearing at the far end some seconds later not really knowing what would hit you next, made the attempt worthwhile.

The exercise was a great success and has provided the Regiment with instructors to carry on in the future.

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

LIFE in 7 Signal Regiment remains varied — exercises, adventurous training, sports and Swedish air halls are the topics of the moment.

Exercises, exercises, exercises . . .

The exercise season is still upon us, we have all been busy. Members of 'B' Troop 4 Squadron were involved in 'Eternal Triangle'—a 1st Division exercise, Rebros being attached to the Brigades under command and to the Headquarters itself. The main purpose of our involvement was to provide communications on the control net. It was interesting as well as instructive to see just how fast the brigades moved. Distances were small compared with our more usual Corps tasks and despite the rapid movement all went well.

4th Division Exercise 'Forefront' IV involved 1 and 5 Squadrons for almost a month. For the last weeks of the exercise 2 Squadron replaced 1 Squadron but intrepid 5 Squadron saw the exercise through to the end. Whilst in the field a party of officers from the School of Signals visited the exercise and fired searching questions at all whom they met. 5 Squadron are happy to report that as usual there was nothing with which they could not cope, and the course was sent back to Blandford with a variety of facts and figures and a number of trick questions to baffle any examiner they might meet on their return.

Exercise 'Novice Hurdle' involved 5 and 2 Squadrons. 5 Squadron have now been in the field for 114 days since 1st January, 1972, and must undoubtedly be one of the most active Signal Squadrons in BAOR.

In addition to all this the Regiment turned out en masse for Exercise 'Shrikes Thorn.' Many new faces have appeared recently but the new boys soon settled down and we all worked well together. We were pleased to welcome on the last day of the exercise our Signal Officer-in-Chief **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E. General Sawers** toured Comcen Bravo and Comhead Oscar. He met a number of the new boys and renewed old acquaintances. The visit was a great boost to our morale and we are grateful to him for taking time off during a very hectic programme to join us in the field.

THE S.O.-in-C. IN THE FIELD

Left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King, (C.O.), W.O.1 (R.S.M.), G. J. McKie, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) J. Bowman, Major-General J. M. Sawers

Visit to Norway

During the summer **Lieutenant Ewen Cameron** and **Second-Lieutenant Tony Wood** attended a course at the BOBC Mountain Wing in Norway. With this background they gave lectures to members of their Squadrons on first aid, map reading and mountain craft before taking a party of 16 of them back to BOBC based on Isefjear. If any of them thought they might have an easy time these ideas were dashed when after a 24-hour journey they were told to leave their baggage, find their swimming costumes and swim 50 yards across a fjord in preparation for the canoeing part of their expedition. The instructors said that the water was warm, but all things are relative and it is arguable whether their bodies or the air around them was bluer. All 16 spent five days trekking along the fjords. These five days were for ever characterised by optimistic exhortations of their leaders, "Won't be long now lads," "Over the next hill and it's only one more 'K' to go!" Eventually their misplaced faith was justified and the end of the trek was reached.

The five days were not without incident. **Signalman Bob Short** fell and twisted his knee and had to be carried back to civilization—no mean feat. **Signalman Kev Carr** slipped and fell 30ft. down a cliff. No permanent harm was done and he was able to complete the return journey by canoe with the remainder of the party who paddled down the River Otro and back to Isefjear. Part of the journey took them across the open sea, a wet and hair-raising experience, but there were nevertheless no capsizes—the sum total of all injuries amounting to a series of blisters!

WIRE readers will be interested to know that this party from 7 Signal Regiment were asked to try out a new route for future expeditions. Those who follow in the trail-blazers' footsteps will be glad to know that although arduous and testing the time spent in Norway is exhilarating, enjoyable and satisfying (afterwards!).

Rugby—and a good start to the season

The 1972-73 season for the Rugby Club started as last year with a tour of the UK. Six games were played and the team lost only one against Salisbury RFC who repeated their victory of last season. Consolation can be taken, however, because although very strong they helped our team to raise the standard of their game. During the tour the Regimental 7-a-side team entered the Poole RFC Sevens competition and after a series of hard games were successful in the final, beating in extra time the ATURM Seven. The victorious team was **Lieutenant Bob Wannell, Corporal Mel Wilson, Lance-Corporals Allen James, Charlie Abbot, David Higgins,** and **Signalmen John Burdis** and **Vince Fallon.**

The highlights of the rugby season so far, however, has been the club victory over 1 RRW in a friendly game. Yes—1 RRW! This is the team which eliminated us in the BAOR semi-final of the ARUCC competition and old hands will appreciate just what this means to the team at this stage of the Army Cup battle. The final score in the 1 RRW game was 21 points to 11, first blood going to the Regiment. **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbot** scored 13 points from the boot. He has just joined the club from AAC Harrogate and is an obvious asset to the team. Another new arrival, **Signalman Bill McLoud** from Catterick, had a fine opportunity to test his skills as hooker against the hard and professional Welsh pack. These new arrivals, together with a new rugby playing Padre, **Rev. Alistair Heagerty,** who is an excellent scrum-half, helped us beat the Welshmen for the first time ever. (We now know why our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King,** spent so much time with the Chaplain General when he last visited us!).

OFFICERS' MESS ACTIVITIES

Recently the Officers' Mess entertained our Corps Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir Roland Gibbs, K.C.B. C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** to a guest night. He was accompanied by his ADC **Captain N. J. Mangnall,** RGJ, CRAC **Brigadier M. H. Sinnatt** and CC Signals **Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane.** All were formally 'dined in' on a typical guest night for which 7 Signal Regiment is becoming well known and our senior guests all left the Mess in good spirits.

A new acquisition—an air hall

Also recently, members of the Regiment were seen digging a series of trenches on 'the Regiment Square.' Later in the dusk of one twilight evening, slowly, but with the assurance of a science fiction happening, out from the trenches of 7 Signal Regiment rose our eighth mighty wonder (we already have seven Squadrons!). Within minutes a billowing green and white envelope took shape, and so it was that we added another and long awaited amenity to Maresfield Barracks. All was now plain, the trenches had been dug to secure the skirt of a very large Air Hall—a Swedish concept in instant buildings. The Air Hall is 130ft. x 50ft. and sufficiently high to take all ball and court games with ease. Although its primary use will be as a gymnasium, it has unlimited uses: from meeting place and cinema, to dance hall or even indoor drill shed; and a lot of ingenuity and effort on behalf of the Second-in-Command, **Major G. J. Chitty,** and the PT Staff under the direction of **C.S.M.I. P. O. Seddon,** is at last paying dividends.

From a varied past and a hectic present we look forward to a busy future, with, as usual, more exercises, visits and the FFR inspection. Absorbed readers, regrettably, must wait for the next edition of THE WIRE for our report of these.

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Camp

REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON

The Regimental Recruit Information Team

THE team consists of **Sergeant 'Fingers' Abel, Corporal Alan Willians** and **Lance-Corporal 'Geordy' Hilton.** From June to September they have spent their weeks at fairs, carnivals, cadet camps and open days throughout the length and breadth of Northern Command, attempting to persuade the impressionable youth of the nation of the multiple benefits of a career in Royal Signals.

The team is managed by **Lieutenant Jim Lawrence** and is under the protective wing of 1 Squadron, although preparation of the trailer involved much hard work throughout the Regiment.

They are now repairing the havoc wrought by a hard summer's campaigning, alas without **'Geordy' Hilton,** who is repairing the damages done to his person in a recent car accident. We wish him a speedy recovery — we need him next year.

Technical achievements

One of the most recent technician upgrading courses contained in its numbers **Corporal** (now Sergeant) **Kevin Bradley.** He not only obtained 'A' gradings throughout the course and on his final trade tests but collected the prize, for being the best student on his course and a special prize for his 'A'

grading. He is also the first technician to be awarded the Royal Signals Institute prize for attainment in trade training. He is now posted to 'M' Troop in the Regiment and is continuing his studies in Higher National Certificate which he hopes to pass in 1973.

Christmas pantomime

Rehearsals for this year's pantomime are now in full swing. The production is entitled 'Hoods in the Woods' and is a liberal adaptation of 'Babes in the Woods.' Star parts are being played by **Captain Gordon Davies,** who still manages to sound remarkably like Elvis Presley, ten years after the event, **Signalman David Morris,** whose grovelling portrayel of the downtrodden squire obviously benefits from moments spent in the SSM's office.

Second-Lieutenant Wendy Hall, WRAC, provides the glamour of the leading lady and **Captain Tony Hutt** plays the dame, despite the fact he has just suffered a most un-dame like operation. **Major Bernard Strange** and **Sergeant Pete Franks** make an efficient pair of slave drivers as producer and director respectively, forcing the chorus line to abandon the delights of Gaza NAAFI for the less salubrious confines of North Hall. A lot of hard work has been put in by all concerned so far and with luck and an inebriated audience it should be a great success.

Army Open White Water Canoe Racing Championships 1972

On Sunday, 26th November, 300 competitors assembled at Marske Bridge to take part in the Army open white water canoe championships. The event was organised and admirably run by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brett** from TE Group and attracted an extremely wide and high quality entry. Included in the race were a dozen internationals, a Norwegian officer, a WRAC officer and a corporal from Germany and six competitors from Northern Ireland. The course was from Marske Bridge to Richmond weir, along the River Swale, and fast low water made conditions difficult on the day. Despite one or two upsets and the fact that **Captain Peter Hallett** was last seen sitting on a rock in the middle of the Swale soaking wet and nursing his knee, the day was a great success and **Foreman Brett's** organisation, though stretched by the huge entry, managed to cope extremely well. It is pleasing to note that **Lance-Corporal Storey** of the Corps won the Army championship and **Don Smith** was the victor in the civilian race.

The race was **Foreman Brett's** swan song for the Regiment as he is shortly off to the Marines.

Badminton

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT CONTINGENT AT THE COMMAND BADMINTON FINALS

Back row left to right: Corporal Harvey, Signalman Smith, Sergeant Sahari-Bin-Ubu, Corporal Branson and Captain Heasman. *Front row left to right:* Corporal Proven, Sergeant Jackson and Corporal Panting

So far this season we have had mixed fortunes in the badminton world. Perhaps we shold start by mentioning the ladies as it is our ladies that are producing the results. **Sergeant Beryl Jackson** is now playing for the WRAC in company with **W.O.2 Katie Bettison,** SOPT, York. In the Command finals played in York on 24th November, **Sergeant Jackson** won the singles, the open doubles with **W.O.2 Bettison** and the unit doubles with **Corporal Panting** and came runner-up in the mixed doubles with **Captain Ted Heasman.** In the open doubles ladies we supplied the other finalists in **Corporal Jessie Proven** and **Corporal Panting.**

The achievements of the men are in comparison quite modest. **Captain Heasman** and **Corporal Harvey** have represented the Corps II against Royal Signals I, REME I, RE I and RCT. We went to the Command championships in force, confident and favourites for all except the singles events, the results were disappointing. In the team event we finished as runners-up to the RPC training centre for the second year in succession, **Sergeant Harry Sahari-Bin-Ubu** and **Corporal Bob Branson** played particularly well, not dropping a game all the way through the competition. **Signalman Ian Smith** came up against **C.S.M.I. Robin Shuttle** (an appropriate name!) in the singles and in spite of a brave effort went down in two straight games. The first doubles pair in the team, unit doubles and open doubles was **Captain Heasman** and **Corporal Harvey,** in these events we finished as runners-up.

It is always said that every picture tells a story, we have therefore, sent a selection in the hope that the editor just happens to be looking for photographs this month.

Looking to the future there are the Corps championships in Blandford 23rd-27th January, can our ladies make an impression there? We have not yet heard the results of the Command selectors deliberations, could it be that they feel some of our players warrant a chance in the Army championships 6th-9th March?

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

Summer camp 1972

DESPITE an injured back requiring hospitalisation, a broken ankle, a few torn shoulder muscles and some facial hair destroyed by fire, it can be said that this year's open-air sortie achieved its aim.

Both the broken ankle and the shoulder injury were incurred during the field craft demonstration by **Corporal John Innis** and **Sergeant Eddie Dixon** respectively. The part being demonstrated by **Corporal Innis** required him to be running, falling and screaming in quick succession. The RSM, who was directing the demonstration, went forward, with words of benevolent praise on his lips, after such an enthusiastic effort played out with such commendable realism. "I heard it crack, sir," says the intrepid Corporal from the prone position. He was carried from the field and, within 15 minutes, was being admired and fussed over in Folkestone MRS resplendent in his camouflage cream and attached foliage.

The star performer in the fire incident was **Corporal 'Jock' Jack** who, along with **Signalman 'Taff' Thomas,** was the Cordon Bleu à la Compo producer at Detachment Two. Having got up sufficient pressure on the number two burner he struck and applied a match. The result was a splendid facsimile of a Texas gusher coming in. Reflex action—first class. Again the RSM happened to be on the spot. A quick journey back to base camp in Folkestone, followed by an inspection of the devastated area, revealed eyebrows and lashes deficient and the natural fall-out of hair accelerated by about 40 per cent. A hot bath followed by a night in a proper bed and our **'Jock'** was on the range the following day with his detachment for their classification. It has since been ascertained that hair pieces are definitely not available on the National Health.

You might have the impression that it was all injuries and ill winds. It wasn't. The camp covered a three-week period with a different mixed party of WRAC and soldiers arriving each Sunday and departing each Friday evening. Monday was spent welding everyone together, the men being formed into two detachments and the girls into several small sections, both factions having its own training programme. The men commenced the day at 0615 with PT. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent out in the hilly country above Folkestone with all detachments and sections under canvas. Each working day, with night exercises, was approximately 16 hours. Thursday morning, after an 0500 start, camp was broken and all kit returned to the SQMS stores at base camp, followed by a day on Hythe ranges. Thursday evening saw everyone back into base at about 1700 shattered and aching. But a quick bath in three-and-a-half inches of water, two or three ounces of after shave, some clean clothes and everyone was ready to freak out at the 'Blister Ball' disco night. One of our technicians, quietly sipping his Tia Maria, was heard to comment that he deduced that, one man leaping about on the dance floor from 2000 to 2359 would cover half the distance covered in the BE route—squared!

Our base camp administration was carried out in a very smooth fashion by **Captain Fred Hardy** and his team. Stores, equipment and supplies were kept provided for by **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Gordon Henry** helped and assisted by **Lance-Corporal Dave Lilley, Signalmen Danny Chittenden** and **George McNaulty.** The hustle and bustle of the Orderly Room was all smoothed out by **Signalman 'Yakkie' Yates** who also doubled as our projectionist.

Responsibility for the terrors of the training side of things must go to the R.S.M. who was enthusiastically assisted by **Sergeant 'Smudger' Smith** and also, for the last two weeks, by **Sergeant Eddie Dixon,** who fortunately did not sustain his shoulder injury until day 20. **Sergeant Smith** inspired everyone by leading out the BE march each week pausing only once on the way to do half a dozen press-ups, viewed by the other marchers with a somewhat jaundiced eye. The first week for **Sergeant Smith** was spoiled when he discovered that a SNCO in Detachment One also had a whistle. Another light-hearted moment was provided by an unfortunate soldier in Detachment Two, third week, who, whilst pursuing a very personal activity, discovered some bounder had covered the 'Elsan' seat with cam cream. Also a very irreverent WRAC subaltern immobilised the RSM's Land Rover by shoving a potato up the exhaust pipe. Mention must also be made of the last week's 'Blister Ball.' **Sergeant Smith** arrived resplendent in stylish civvies and reeking of Brute after shave. No sooner had he sauntered through the door when he was pounced upon by the Braves of Detachment One, stripped to the waist, tied to a chair and liberally applied with sticky cam cream. He was then lifted onto a table as the centre-piece to a crazy war dance. All of which he bore with commendable stoicism. Fortunately all of this occurred before the arrival of the Commanding Officer accompanied by our visiting VIP, **Brigadier Clinch.**

I started out by saying that our aim was achieved and it certainly was. Every single soldier at the camp passed his BE tests, all left with a better understanding of field craft and its role in our Corps and the weapon handling as well as the shooting was much improved. What is more—we all had a great time!

Visit of Director WRAC and Deputy Director — 2 Squadron

On 27th October, 1972, the WRAC of 2 Squadron were visited in their working locations by **Colonel B. M. Metcalfe, M.B.E.,** Deputy Director WRAC. She went to London District Comcen and the JSBC Comcen. This was followed by the visit of the Director WRAC, **Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney, M.B.E., T.D., A.D.C.,** on 1st November, 1972, to the WRAC in Hounslow. During the afternoon she visited 2 Squadron and was so interested that she left half-an-hour late. She inspected the MT, even the inside of **Private Carol Clew's** car, and met **Corporal Chris Kempton** who is now the Senior WRAC NCO with this Squadron. At tea in the Bruno Club she was presented with a Bruno brooch by the Commanding Officer and met the Squadron Second-in-Command, **Lieutenant 'Doug' Romsey** whom she now refers to as the 'father confessor' of 2 Squadron! Everyone was able to talk informally to the Brigadier and they enioyed being able to say just what they thought of the shift roster and how they enioyed annual camp and even being in Hounslow! It was a good day.

W.O.1 (Yeoman of Signals) Peter Durrant, 2 Squadron — commissioned

Yeoman of Signals Peter Durrant was commissioned on 6th November, 1972. The Editor would never consider allowing enough space to recount his entire career, but probably he met most of us who knew him in the Signal Training Centre Far East.

He certainly made his mark in 10 Signal Regiment and so it was that on 13th October, 1972, all ranks of the Regiment gathered in our Bruno Club to wish him well for the future. The Commanding Officer, after reminding us of his fascinating career, presented him with his spurs. In return, the Regiment received two pictures to be hung in the Club. Definitely an event 'to be entered in the diary.'

Major Greta Baylis gets the cup — 4 Squadron

The major autumn event of 4 Squadron was the presentation of the Royal Signals prize for WRAC. As most members of the Corps will know the award takes the form of a silver rose bowl and it is awarded annually to the WRAC officer who has given the most meritorious service to the Royal Corps of Signals.

Major Baylis was awarded the coveted prize for her work as Chief Duty Signal Officer in charge of the Salisbury Comcen at HQ UKLF Wilton. The presentation was made in the presence of many senior officers at pre-lunch drinks in the UKLF Officers' Mess. The Commander in Chief, **General Sir Basil Eugster, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** handed her the trophy. This was followed by Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** giving **Major Baylis** a small silver vase which she will keep for ever. The rose bowl is kept in the Officers' Mess of the WRAC College, Camberley. **Major Baylis** has now got 30 years' service behind her. She joined the ATS in 1942 and was commissioned in 1963. She was promoted Major in March, 1972.

Major Greta Baylis, W.R.A.C., is presented with the Royal Signals rose bowl by the Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, General Sir Basil Eugster

Wilton Jottings by Carpetman (4 Squadron) Comstar award scheme

At 1430 hours on 10th November, 1972, the SO2 Signals HQ South West District, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell,** and the OC 4 Squadron, **Major G. J. H. Grist,** were present in the Exeter Records Office Comcen when the GOC South West District, **Major-General H. P. Cunningham, O.B.E.,** presented the two civilian operators, **Mr. Vic King** and **Mrs. Margaret Steer,** with a Silver Comstar award. Our congratulations to Exeter. This is a very busy little Comcen which makes the award more notable.

Views on the Comstar award scheme are many and varied, but it is noticeable that awards are always most prominently displayed!

Our belated congratulations to the following 4 Squadron Comcens for their awards as follows:

Devizes — Gold, October, 1971; Bronze, August, 1970.
Marchwood — Silver, August, 1971.
Taunton — Silver, February, 1972.

48 years with the Corps

In November of last year **Major George West** finally said goodbye to the Corps and to 10 Signal Regiment in particular.

From his enlistment in 1925 at the age of 17 George served in a variety of exotic sounding places including India, Egypt and Palestine. Commissioned in 1940 he at last put his roots down in Bulford SWS Troop in 1948. After commanding this unit till 1956 he remained with it as Technical Officer until his retirement this year. Our thanks go to George for his long service with the Regiment and our best wishes to him and his wife for their retirement.

We are very sorry to report that Mr. Frank Bradley of Old Sarum Telephone Exchange died at home on the evening of 25th October, 1972. The CO, Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith, was represented by Major Grist at the funeral service held at Salisbury Crematorium and many of his friends were also able to be present. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Bradley and family.

11 Sig Regt Catterick Camp

Personalities

Commanding Officer ...	Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt
Second-in-Command ...	Major C. B. Mercer
Adjutant	Captain R. M. Goymour
R.S.M.	W.O.1 J. R. Markham
O.C. HQ Squadron	Major H. A. J. Alexander, M.B.E.
O.C. 1 Squadron	Major M. C. Deverill
O.C. 2 Squadron	Major W. P. B. Thomas
O.C. 3 Squadron	Major J. W. Roberts
O.C. Instr Wing	Major P. D. Templeman-Evans
Q.M.	Major T. Jones, B.E.M.

Pass-off parades

October has seen two pass-off parades. The first was on 6th October, when 2 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant Dick Sanders** and 4 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant Ian Cross** were inspected by **Colonel A. A. Dacre, O.B.E.**

The best recruit from 2 Troop was **Signalman Keith Harris** who is now training to be a Combat Powerman and from 4 Troop, **Signalman Johan Howes** who is now training to be a technician.

The second was on 20th October, when 6 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant Chris Donaghy,** was inspected by **Colonel P. J. E. Durant. M.B.E.,** Colonel AQ Headquarters North East District. The best recruit was **Signalman Norman Riach** who is now training to be a Telecommunications Mechanic.

November produced some variable weather up here in Catterick from thunder and lightening to snow and the odd sunny interval, which coincided miraculously, with our pass-off parades. We had two, in the month — the first was 8 Troop who passed-off on a pleasant sunny day, **Signalman Nightingale** was best recruit and best shot was **Signalman Wiss,** they received prizes from **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Garratt,** who was the Inspecting Officer that day. No. 8 Troop was commanded by **W.O.1 Gordon Penman.**

After two weeks of frost and one or two falls of snow we had another pass-off parade. No. 3 Troop commanded by **W.O.1 Bill Ayres** passed-off on 17th November. It was another dry day but 'as cold as Catterick' as one unrealising parent was heard to say. The Inspecting Officer was **Major-General G. T. A. Armitage, C.B.E.,** GOC Northumbrian District. He presented prizes to **Signalman Weedy** who was best recruit and **Signalman Jackson** who was best shot

Orienteering

As a Regiment we are trying to form a strong orienteering team based on two good runners to tackle some of the civilian clubs. It is the civilian events that are the greatest fun. They lay on championship courses in the forests of the north with the minimum of fuss and with smooth organisation — a healthy contrast to some military meetings. We sent a team, rather depleted after one member found himself on Garrison duty and the other overslept, to the Blue Star Trophy Northern Championships. Our team ran the B course which was tough and exacting running through the Kielder forest in Northumberland. The course took us up and down some spectacular gorges. There was snow in the rides and all forest tracks were sheet ice. Though the civilian winner completed the course in 65 minutes, **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones** did well to complete in 83 minutes followed closely by **Lieutenant Robin Hill** in 96 minutes. Our aim is to build up a Brigade or even a Royal Signals orienteering team that can make its mark at civilian competitions in the same way as for example the Royal Marines.

In our previous bulletin we reported that we had qualified to participate in the Army orienteering championships at Haslemere. We duly entered a team, but unfortunately it did not meet with much success, the team did not finish, however, **Lieutenant Robin Hill** did very well to come fifth

Triathlon

This competition is held annually and consists of three events; pistol shooting, running two-and-a-half miles, and swimming for 200 metres.

A team from the Regiment won the Northern Command triathlon championships which were held at Catterick on 10th October. In all, four teams from the Regiment competed in the senior event.

The A team, **Corporals Johns, Scott** and **Hodges,** representing the Weapon Training Cadre, finished in a courageous 12th position.

The B team, **Corporal Tofield** and **Lance-Corporals Girvan** and **Varley** from the PT staff finished seventh. **Lance-Corporal Girvan** also finished fifth in the individual results.

The C team, **Major Templeman-Evans, Captain Enright** and **Lieutenant Hill** won the championships with a 20 points lead over the runners up, 8 Signal Regiment's A team. **Lieutenant Hill** was the individual winner, with **Captain Enright** ninth.

The final team was from PO Troop, which came eight in the competition.

Leeds and West Yorkshire Branch Industrial Catering Association Open Competition

This competition was held at the Civil Hall, Brighouse, Yorkshire, on Saturday, 28th October, and was well supported by the majority of Army units in Northern Command with entries from York, Ripon, Harrogate and Catterick.

Of the units in Catterick, 11 Signal Regiment submitted a total of seven entries which eventually took four awards, a not unimpressive achievement.

The entrants included five military cooks and two civilian cooks employed by the Regiment. The following were placed in the various classes:

Sergeant Robinson, ACC, table centre piece, first place, challenge trophy; **Private Rimmington,** ACC, cold fish dish, third place; **Mr. Smith,** garnished saddle of lamb, second place; **Mr. Stevens,** cold sweet (rice based), second place.

Police dog trials

Between 9th and 12th October, 2 Squadron acted as hosts for the police dog trials organised by the York and North-east Yorkshire police. Hooge and Menin lines, the home of the Depot Squadron, was the trials HQ and 65 police judges and competitors were accommodated and fed in the lines. The police dogs, great ferocious looking Alsatians staved during the nights of their stay, in their mobile kennels, although docile with their handlers a quick word of command and they grabbed at anyone moving and didn't let go! Such was the fame of these dogs that 2 Squadron was distinctly left alone by RHO that week.

The Home Office set up a private radio net for the trials covering the area where the tracking events took place on Feldom ranges to the woods above Vimy lines where the night searching event was staged, with every policeman having a personal radio there was even one for **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Pete Gray,** who could be seen, transmitter in one pocket and receiver in another directing operations around the Squadron. For an ex-Lineman his voice procedure was no better than the police.

The evening's entertainment every night turned out to be a marathon games and drinking contest with a games evening at the Sergeants' Mess one night, a social and cabaret evening at 8 Signal Regiment Sergeants' Mess another, and the final presentation dinner at the Sergeants' Mess on the last night. It is said that the Sergeants' Mess takings went up £700 that week.

The police were most grateful to the Regiment for our assistance and we in turn enjoyed having them and look forward to seeing them again in March, 1973, for a further dog trial.

Hockey

This month has seen a vast improvement in the performance of the hockey team.

During the month of November we have played four games, winning all our games quite decisively.

In the first round of the Minor Units Cup we were drawn against the Depot Kings Division, we produced quite a strong side and we won relatively easily finding that the only difficulty was scoring goals. We scored two early in the game, the first was scored by **Captain Mike Carson** the second by **W.O.2 Bruce Howie.** 2-0 was to be the final score.

However, the team is improving with every game played, and we look forward to the quarter-finals and then a place in the semi-finals.

No 3 (Junior Signalman) Squadron

Junior Signalman Squadron commenced the winter term with a bumper intake of nearly 100 entrants which meant the forming of 3 Junior Troops. Training was soon under way, the early effects at least on the cadre element could be judged by the amount of throat tablets issued by the medical centre.

The gladiators of the Squadron are meeting with a certain measure of success, the tetrahlon team under the leadership of **Captain Chris Enright,** assisted by **Corporal Brian Cartwright** have also managed to obtain the expert services of **Captain Normban,** APTC, who has represented Great Britain at the Oympic Games as a pentathlete. The team competed in the Northern Command Championships and obtained fourth place overall, a very creditable performance for five weeks training.

The Squadron football and hockey teams have also played Squadron representative games against the Junior Soldiers of the King's Division Depot at Strensall.

The second in command of the Squadron, **Captain Mike Galloway,** has been busy planning the Squadron winter camp at Otterburn where it is intended to exercise the Junior Signalmen from a military aspect, as opposed to the adventure training of previous camps.

JUNIOR SIGNALMEN ON THE PENNINE-WAY
Left to right: J/Signalmen Andy Macey, Alan McCarthy, Ge McManus, Adolf Hines and Pat Pattison

The hobbies evenings are very well attended and an amazing number of models have now appeared as decoration, the ACF/CCP NET room could at times be mistaken for a mystic gathering due to the chanting of 92 Alpha by the assembled, ably led by **Y. of S. Ron Butcher,** they have also managed to make a number of contacts and are busy constructing a board to show off the QSL Cards (Contact Cards).

November came upon us with a rush. First we were redesignated and then the two tetrathlon teams left sunny Catterick, Bovington bound. The teams were A team, **Junior Signalmen David Littlewood, Bob Any, John Carpenter,** B team **Junior Signalmen Stephen Hunter, Peter Garside** and **Peter Onn.** The lads did very well in the Junior (Army) Tethrathlon competition, especially **Junior Signalman Littlewood** who came fifth overall in the running and **Junior Signalman Hunter** who came third in fencing having met an epee for the first time only eight weeks earlier.

Congratulations

To **Captain Chris Enright** who had to jump into both his blues and his car to head to Shrewsbury to play best man at **Lieutenant Jim Stablers** wedding, to **Lieutenant Lynn Womack,** WRAC. **Lyn** is the catering officer for Catterick Military Hospital and **Jim** says she is an excellent cook for 150 or more, but cooking for two starts with 'take one bucket of rice . . .'

We wish them both all the happiness in the world and to **Jim** hope you enjoy BOAR.

Departures

Sad farewells go to **Lieutenant Peter Bowles,** and Dillon his dog, who leaves us for Germany and to **Sergeant Ron Hails** lucky chap bound for Cyprus. We say goodbye from the Army to our faithful servant **Corporal Jimmy Jardine** who leaves us to become a civilian.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Corporal Austin's youngest son Robert, aged two, who died as a result of an accident. He was buried at Catterick Garrison Military Cemetery, on 27th November. Amongst those attending were W.O.2 (S.S.M.) P. L. Gray, B.E.M., representing the Regiment, Corporal Brace, representing the Corporals' Club and Signalman Bowman, representing the transitees and soldiers of the Depot. Our sincere condolences to Corporal and Mrs. Austin on their tragic loss.

13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

CHRISTMAS is coming the geese are getting fat; which is more than can be said for the members of 13 Signal Regiment. Survival camp, circuit training and visitors have combined to produce a lean and healthy lot within the confines of Mercury Barracks. We are physically prepared for the rigours of the Christmas month.

Visits

Our first really distinguished visitor on 9th November was **Sir Leonard Hooper K.C.M.G., C.B.E.** The first quarter guard earned a high commendation. A dinner night with **Sir Leonard** as the honoured guest of the evening on the 10th November, was the gala occasion of the year with Cambrai staff band of the Royal Tank Regiment in attendance. Many in the Corps will remember the Director of Music, **Captain Roy Hunt,** as a personality in Royal Signals band for many years.

The S.O.-in-C., **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** paid his first visit to the Regiment on the 14th November. Having commanded the Regiment from 1959-62, the Barracks was well known to him. Quarter guard number two distinquished itself on this occasion. The SO-in-C presented the MSM to **Sergeant Ben Gunn,** the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Peter Gray,** water polo colour to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Jones** and badminton colour to **W/Corporal Normanna Thompson,** WRAC, and then toured the Regiment. **Mrs. Sawers** met the ladies over coffee in the Junior Ranks' Club, visited the BFES Primary School and then squeezed in a quick visit to the shops in Roermond. Regrettably time would only allow for a lunch and we could not entertain our guests at our real speciality — dinner.

Brigadier R. M. Bremner, O.B.E., ADC, the Inspector of the

Intelligence Corps visited the Regiment on the 22nd November. Quarter guard number three proved no less successful than numbers one and two. This was **Brigadier Bremner's** farewell visit. We take this opportunity of again wishing **Brigadier Bremner** and his family bon voyage and every success in the future.

The fourth visitor of note was **Colonel A. A. Dacre, O.B.E.,** AAG, AG11, on the 28th November.

October and November are our 'months for visitors,' regrettably we cannot mention them all without the Editor of THE WIRE reaching for his pruning shears. Suffice it to say, we welcome them all.

Regimental club and activities

All systems are go for Christmas, the problems set by — dare I mention them — DCIs, have been overcome and we are fully insured.

The first of our four Mirror dinghy kits have arrived and is literally taking shape under the hands of the Sailing Club.

After many weeks of destruction followed by construction the new Quicksilver Bar in the JRC was formally opened on the 18th November. **Signalman Mick Hellewell** carried off the prize for selecting the name.

What with a new Sergeants 'Mess bar followed by a new Junior Ranks' Mess bar, the Officers of the Regiment directed the PMC and a committee of workers to bring the Officers' Mess into line. Needles to say, the Mess now boasts of the finest bar in the Regiment. (PMC and workers have no doubt that it is the finest in BAOR). The name selected for the bar — The Gunn Room — yes, **Sergeant Ben Gunn** officially opened the bar for the Mess and it was so named to honour his 32 years in the service, his five years unremitting and cheerful care of the Mess and Mess members and his retirement from the service.

It is all hustle and bustle in the gymnasium as **Captain 'Airy odd father' Alfred** and his team of 50 put the final touches to the Regimental pantomime Mercury Cinders. This is a freely adapted and modernised version of a well known pantomime set in the gentle rolling countryside on the German/Dutch border. Anything can, and probably will happen.

Women's Lib is on the move again. The scant mention of the thorough drubbing given to the Sergeants' Mess by their ladies requires a little more explanation. As will be expected, one of the ladies acted as referee. Gentlemen do not normally wish to make a claim of bias but at least one goal resulted from the ball being popped under the back of the net after the cry of 'lost ball' was heard. The Mess also suffered severely under a local rule broadly headed ungentlemanly conduct — well!

LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM

Back row: Mrs. A. Cooper, Mrs. J. Macrae, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. P. Jones, Mrs. B. Nelson, Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. V. Law, Mrs. P. Feldon, Mrs. J. Lawrence, Mrs. D. Chard, (Ref.). *Front row:* Mrs. Williams, Mrs. A. Austin, Mrs. M. Berry, Mrs. E. Gray, W/Sergeant McKenzie, W/Staff-Sergeant Dick. *Lying down:* Mrs. V. Connor

For sports generally, hockey goes very well with every game a winner. Rugger every game but one a winner. Football, well, we play very hard but cannot report the success of the other two. At basketball we lie third in the league of eight and finally at cross-country we sit about mid-way.

Staying with cross-country, the inter-Squadron team run resulted in the narrowest of wins by I Squadron over HQ Squadron — after a recount!

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

Football

Our Mess football team has at long last found its form and on Sunday, 26th November, beat 4 Division, RCT, in a Kensitas Cup game four goals to one, scorers being **Trev Ryan** 2 and **Rick Irvine** 2. The Mess team is now through to the semi-finals.

Although this was a convincing win, the team were completely outclassed and outplayed earlier in the month when they played a team consisting of the ladies of the Mess. No one seems to know the final score but it was something like 15-0 to the ladies. At times, the men's goalkeeper, **Sergeant Charlie Morgan,** RAOC, looked quite petrified as **Staff Sergeant Nessie Dick,** WRAC, came charging towards him with the ball clutched firmly in her arms to hurl herself and the ball firmly in the back of the net. During the match a collection was made for 'Wireless for the Blind.'

Entertainment

On Friday, 17th November, a dinner night with ladies was held. A very successful night rounded off with dancing to 'The Germs.' The Mess the next morning resembled a battlefield but it all seemed worthwhile.

On Saturday, 25th November, we tried something different, a folk night. The group we had playing were so new they hadn't even got themselves a name, but despite the fact that they had only just formed, they played really well together and will obviously go from strength to strength. The group consisted of **Lance-Corporal Gwen Barker,** WRAC, **Signalmen 'Baby' McNaught** and **Mick Hellewell,** ably assisted by one of our Canadian members, **Sergeant Don Deveau.**

Comings and goings

We said farewell in November to **W.O.2 (Sup R) Norman Elliott** and his wife **Lee, Staff Sergeant (Sup R) John Wesley** and his wife **Barbara** and **Sergeant Ben Gunn.**

We welcome to the Mess **Sergeants Jim Claffey, Trev Ryan, Rick Irvine** and **Sergeant Bill Henderson,** RTR.

Other farewells and hellos

Lieutenant David Dobson left us this month for 260 Signal Squadron. He will be remembered by so many in the Corps as Courses Officer for the old MPC 1 Courses and the new Detachment Commanders' Courses. The Regiment will miss **Judy** and **David Dobson;** we can only wish them every success in the future.

It is farewell also to **Captain Jack (Anglo-German) Hedison;** only farewell as he goes to HQ BAOR and will still be within calling distance—good luck **Anne, Jack** and family.

It is welcome once more to **Captain Mike Clowser** and family and **Captain Mike Dawkins** and family. All have quickly settled back into the family life of XIII.

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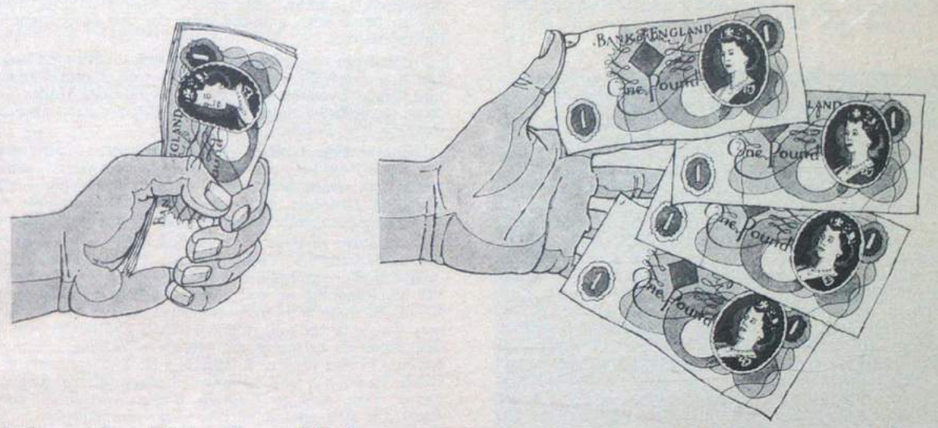

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14 Sig Regt Worcester

ONCE again we have reports from our correspondents in all corners of the world in addition to our reports from home.

Visit of Commander-in-Chief

The Regiment was visited by **General Sir Basil Eugster, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, on 14th November. The General arrived by helicopter at Norton Barracks at 1100 hours and was met by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Ward** and the acting RSM **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Frost.** He was then given a short briefing by the CO, followed by a tour of the Regiment to see the various types of equipment. A D13 station, under command of **Lieutenant Thomas** and ably supported by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Gould,** was visited first. This was followed by a close look at the intricacies of the E21, under command of **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Thompson.** Then on to the satellite station, which had fairly recently completed a tour in Northern Ireland, and where the C-in-C met OC 2 Squadron **Major Grundy** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Morris** and members of 'T' Troop. The C-in-C then visited the Sergeants' Mess and met WOs and Senior NCOs, followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess. He expressed great interest and enjoyment in his visit and it was a pleasure to have such a distinguished visitor to Norton Barracks.

Exercise in the Solomon Islands

Echo of course being 'E' Troop of 14 Signal Regiment led by **Captain Dakin.** On this particular exercise we were joined by members of 30 Signal Regiment and RAF Benson. The former were guided by **Lieutenant Fairley** and the latter by **Sergeant Fitzgibbon** whose likeness to **Harry Worth** is incredible. A rare sight in KD is **Sergeant Fitzgibbon.** At this point I should also mention the Navy in the form of **L.R.O. Ferguson** who spent the entire exercise dressed in OGs complete with Signals cap badge—a real credit to the Corps. **Sergeant Bell** led a team of three Aussies from 6 Signal Regiment, Melbourne, and I must say they survived a fair amount of mickey taking with no casualties. So our full strength was 67 men of different arms and countries.

During the exercise period we were working to Singapore and Melbourne, and I think it is true to say that all three stations learnt something from the others. At various times during the exercise we held teleconferences with UK and these were conducted under the eagle eye of our Y. of S., **W.O.2 Golledge.** Our aims were achieved on the Solomons and this can be judged from previous exercises in the area.

Moving to the tech scene let me mention **Sergeant Dutton** who continues to mother' his transmitters very successfully; **Sergeant Rodgers** who, apart from a fitness kick, tells me that he's not only the greatest system controller but he also managed to keep the station communicating. Then there was an oft heard cry of 'Supertech' coming from the Comcem. This was attributed to one **Sergeant Evers** whose green/red fingers did very well in unmentionable areas.

Our location in the Solomons was in fact on Guadalcanal (did you think it was American as well?), a place better known for the real thing rather than exercises. To me, the island seemed to be nine-tenths jungle and the remaining area is where it is all supposed to happen. Certainly it happened there in 1942, as the many relics show. Shells and hand-grenades are like pebbles on the beach. Tanks and aircraft are a little more difficult to find but not much. One of the biggest battles on the island was on a suitably named area 'Bloody Ridge.' This was a do or die effort by the Japs who lost many thousands. Under **W.O.2 Golledge** and **Staff Sergeant Edmonds** a search of the area was carried out and the best find was a pocket watch marked 'made in America.' I wonder what stories the watch could tell. Various other excursions to look for the past were made by such notable explorers as **Corporal Bradley, Signalman Shimmin, Signalman Williams,** in fact so many people got into one wagon that we thought a pocket of resistance had been found—or something.

Our Troop appears to be blessed (or blighted) by a continuing flow of would-be pop stars. On Ascension it was **Lance-Corporal Edler** and this time it was **Signalman Croy** who used his considerable talent to entertain the locals, and very successfully too. I'm afraid **Staff Sergeant Heeley** did not always agree with **Signalman Croy's** timing, but the road to fame is often rocky. It comes to mind that there was one other musician, one **Signalman Griffiths,** who would persist in trying to beat himself to death with a tambourine. In this field there was only limited success.

Apart from war relics the island was a haven for bug hunters. Yes, you are right, we had those as well. **Lance-Corporal Edler** and **Signal Leonard** filled this slot. The cry 'Edler' was used more frequently than DDT to rid the bar area of flying monstrosities during the evening.

The sporting exploits of the force were many and varied. We played cricket, basketball, water polo, darts, table tennis, football all against local teams. As before, the results will remain classified. However, let is be known the water polo team produced some magnificent results and emerged as overall winners.

I am sorry to have to write that this report is the last that will come from 'E' Troop as many of us have known it. Due to operational commitments the two existing E21 Troops 'D' and 'E' are breaking up and will constantly be re-formed by new blood. To those who, in future, form either Echo or Delta Troop may you have the enjoyment we have had in the past. To those who have left or are in the process of leaving I wish you good fortune in the future. A special hail and farewell to **Captain Dakin** (leaving), may he have photographs to remind him of happy days, and to **Captain Bowen** (arriving), may he be stationary long enough to take some photographs.

Readers of this article from 30 Signals may well wonder why they are not mentioned. The reason is that I am sure they will be providing their own story from the Pacific Islands; surely someone will pen the exploits of **Staff Sergeant Edmonds** and **Sergeant Miller.**

Singapore visited

'B' Troop's Far-Eastern adventure in November took place in Singapore, and as far as travelling goes it took us four days to get there, having a variety of accommodation en route from the luxury of Gateway House at Brize Norton to the tents of Masirah.

However, on reaching the Republic we were billeted at the Anzuk base and had to contend with Aussies and Kiwis and a smattering of Brits and so we were thankful for any link with civilisation. The Aussies appear to like a good solid breakfast which accounted for the chips and stew on the servery and what we thought was an urn of milk turned out to be iced coffee. There are no Brit cooks in the kitchen which could be gathered from looking at the menu. One tea-time for instance there were eight choices available which seems very reasonable until you read the small print.

Sausages with bean stew, scallops with bean stew, spaghetti with bean stew, onions with bean stew, pies (we thought we'd cracked the system with this, but no, it had bean stew filling), bean stew (actually on its own) and so on and so on . . . it is OK once you are used to it.

Having got the radio camp set up things began to start running smoothly with our 'first time out of UK' **Lieutenant Prymaka** in charge, and **S.S.M. Homewood** ably commanding the admin side. Our OC would keep insisting that all the shops were 'fixed price'; no doubt after a few more trips abroad he will be a veteran bargainer like the rest of us.

We communicated manfully through unimaginable difficulties —even hurricanes.

Naturally we managed to keep smiling and indulged ourselves in other enlightening activities as well. The OC proved to be a keen sailor and took our **Corporals Orman, Inman** and **Archard** to show them the ropes and they had a good time. A couple of the lads also went water ski-ing.

In the latter stages of the exercise we were joined by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hodgson** who had been in Melbourne awaiting to hear from us and discovered at the last minute that that phase of the scheme had been cancelled.

The whole exercise was a great success, and it is nice to be in a Regiment that really does go to all corners of the globe.

16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

Preamble

THIS is the time of year that one reads in THE WIRE about Fitness for Role Inspections. All we are going to say is that ours is now over for this year and **Colonel J. L. Akass,** Commander 4 Signal Group, presented **Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Keating, Staff Sergeant Gerry Lowe** and **Sergeant Jim Smith** their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

Travel column — guide to Krefeld

When you find that your number comes up on the 'Lotto-Totto' at Manning and Records Office to say that you are posted, your immediate reaction is to try and find out something about your unit. One seldom, if ever, sees in print anything about the town that you will live in for the next four, five or even more years, so relax, and let me tell you about Krefeld, yes, Krefeld. 'Oh you mean the town on the Dutch border?' Well I for one would not like to walk to the border as it happens to be 30 miles away.

The town of Krefeld is situated on the Rhine, north of Köln. In fact within a 50-mile radius you can travel to Bonn and Dusseldorf as well as to Holland and Belgium. The local population is in excess of 230,000 which for Germany is a large town. For those of you that wish to take advantage of the winter rates of sea travel, Ostend is just three-and-a-half hours travelling time away.

The climate some will say is the same as England, but I think that most people will agree that it is a shade hotter in the summer and colder in the winter, so as regards clothing, normal English clothing is fine.

The main industries of the town are silk, steel and beer. It boasts of an old castle, a very good museum, an excellent ice stadium together with a large heated indoor swimming pool. For those that like to follow the horses there is a good race track. Krefeld is also a supporter of the arts with a theatre, opera house and several cinemas. The local shops are well stocked and vegetables and fruit are reasonably priced but you will find meat expensive. Prices in Holland are on a par with Germany and some of the families look forward to a trip to Roermond or Venlo just 30 miles away.

The Regiment has quarters in Krefeld, Neukirchen, Willich and Hubbelrath and these are allocated in the normal manner through the station housing committee. We pride ourselves in having one of the shortest waiting lists in BAOR. (Approximately three months). Flats are very popular in Germany and should you have a small family you will more than likely find yourself allocated a flat. They all have central heating and have the normal scale of furniture and fittings as provided in a house.

We are well served on the medical and SSAFA side of life having within the barracks our own medical and dental centre, and SSAFA nursing sister who looks after infant welfare and ante natal clinic. Our local hospital is RAF Wegberg some 20 miles away.

The children's education is in the hands of British Forces education service with comprehensive education at Krefeld and Hubbelrath.

Secondary education is provided by Kent School, Hostert, or Queens School, Rheindahlen, and transport is provided to and from the schools and the normal school meals are also provided on repayment.

Located within Bradbury Barracks is a 'B' type NAAFI with a self service foodhall and butcher shop. Transport is provided once per week for wives to visit JHQ Rheindahlen.

The single soldier is well taken care of with an excellent Four Square Club with lounge, restaurant and discotheque. The WRVS have a well furnished lounge complete with colour TV, table tennis and billiard rooms. In the Barracks is the YMCA where you can obtain all manner of books, daily and Sunday newspapers together with a large range of stationary and games. There is a large outdoor swimming pool and SKC cinema.

WRAC orienteering

The WRAC orienteering team is to be congratulated on winning the BAOR inter-unit championship. **Captain Ruth Pearse** is our team captain, as well as holding the BAOR (UK) individual title. This was an extremely well organised championship and a well thought out course. It was run by HQ 4 Division and held in the Wiehen — Gebirge near Lubbecke and was a seven kilometre course with 11 check points. The terrain was close woods and very hilly. At the end of the course the girls all looked as if they could run another seven kilometres. They had obviously enjoyed themselves. Well done **Captain Ruth Pearse, Iris Hastie, Mary Jenkins, Kathy Tully** and **Lin Jeffries.** They are now looking forward to the UK competition. Unfortunately **Ruth** will not be a member of our team as she is soon to be posted to the UK.

I must say thank you and goodbye to **Ruth;** in her year with the Squadron she did a great deal to put the Squadron on the sporting map and we are all very sorry to see her leave.

W.R.A.C. Orienteering Team

Left to right (Back): Major Bill Mayne, (Squadron Commander), Lance-Corporal Mary Jenkins, Captain Ruth Pearse (2 I/C), Lance-Corporal Kath Tully, W.O.2 Joe Farmer, (S.S.M.). *(Front):* Corporal Iris Hastie, Private Lin Jeffery

In the next breath I welcome our new Second-in-Command, **Captain Anna Barcroft,** WRAC. **Captain Anna Barcroft** joined the Squadron from the Junior Leaders Regiment, RA, at Bramcote; she spent seven weeks in Hong Kong running two adventure training courses for Chinese girls. In the courses, the girls were taught swimming canoeing, rock climbing, map reading and first aid. **Captain Barcroft** is an instructor in swimming and canoeing and was WRAC canoeing champion in 1971, and runner-up in 1972; she also completed the 100-mile canoe test on the River Wye in three days. She is shortly going to England to compete in the Army open white water racing championships. We wish her every success.

Hellos

Lieutenant Wendy Le Gassick, Sergeant Nerys Owen, Staff Sergeant Dorothy Bond, Corporal Jane Lake, Lance-Corporal Jane Needham, Lance-Corporal Eileen Hobson. Lance-Corporal Jane Donne Private Ann McAuley, Private Pauline Webster, Private Elizabeth Brooks, Private Sandra Barrett, Private Rona Andrews, Private Liz Briscoe, Private Barbara Hayes, Corporal Ken Ross, Corporal Michael Lewis.

Goodbyes

Captain Ruth Pearse, Staff Sergeant Freda Berry, Sergeant Denise Sharman, Private Moira Wright, Private Sue Denton, Private Nancy Harpley, Private Winnie Liddle.

WOs' and Sergeants' Mess

As ever, Mess activities have been numerous and all Mess members have had a full programme of entertainments and Mess sporting activities to keep Mess life moving along as it should.

Recently we had a 'Cafe Continental' night which was extremely well attended and consisted of dinner — T-bone steaks with all trimmings, preceded and followed by numerous

other courses, needless to say the music for dancing which followed the dinner, was of the slower variety.

Decoration of the Mess on a self help basis is proceeding to plan and the Mess looks much brighter for it, the main painters, decorators and cleaners up being **Sergeant Jack Thompson**, our caterer, **Sergeant Nick Knight, W.O.2 Dave Wootten, W.O.2 Tony Cole, Staff Sergeant Jimmy Hehir, Staff Sergeant Brian Rice, Staff Sergeant John Nicholls, W.O.2 Ian McDonald, Sergeant Nick Naylor, Sergeant Lenie Lomas, Sergeant 'Taff' Cleverdon** (REME), and many others, including a visiting civilian who shall remain nameless, who discovered that it is not possible to balance a bucket of paint on top of a lineman's ladder and paint at the same time and who, like someone out of an Abbott and Costello film, ended up on the floor with the lineman's ladder and bucket on top of himself, covered from head to foot in paint. His job in civvie street being an insurance broker — needless to say witticisms flew thick and fast.

The RSM as shop steward has ensured that the Mess painters and decorators got their regulation amount of 'tea breaks' during the specified times for decorating.

On the sporting side of life our Mess darts team are more than holding their own in the local league and we expect them to do well, the stalwarts of the team being **Sergeant Joe Gibson** (captain), **Sergeant Keith Morrisey, Staff Sergeant Jimmy Hehir, Staff Sergeant Pete Barnett, Sergeant Derek Le-Carpentier, Sergeant 'Taff' Cleverdon** (REME), **W.O.2 Rodger Burton** (RE), **Sergeant Archie Moore, Sergeant 'Taff' Edwards, Staff Sergeant Brian Rice, Sergeant Keith Williams** (RAOC) and **W.O.2 Tony Cole.**

Our recently formed Mess football team have just gained entry into the Rhine area Sergeants' Mess league, got off to a good start by winning their first league game against league leaders and close rivals 28 (BR) Signal Regiment Mess, 3-2, but unfortunately got knocked out in the first round of the Rhine area cup by Dusseldorf Station 3-4.

The team is ably managed by player/manager **Staff Sergeant Duncan Palmer** (RAPC) and the mainstays of the team are **Sergeant Nick Knight** (captain), **Sergeant Pat Gallagher, Sergeant Mo Nelson, Sergeant Nick Nixon, Staff Sergeant Harry McClure** (APTC), **Staff Sergeant Bob Duff, Sergeant Mick Kent, Sergeant John Harper, Staff Sergeant Pete Barnett, Sergeant Joe Gibson, Sergeant Bob Gordon, W.O.2 Jim Phillips** and **Sergeant Eddie Newman (RE),** whenever and wherever they play, the Mess team are well supported and we hope that with a bit of luck they will do well this season.

We offer our congratulations to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jean Gray** (WRAC), **Staff Sergeant** (S.Q.M.S.) **Gerry Lowe, Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Keating** and **Sergeant Jim Smith** on receiving their LS and GC medals recently and take this opportunity of wishing **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jean Gray** (WRAC) every success in her new posting.

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

Busy bees

WHILST 2 Squadron may have seemed to have stolen the limelight in this WIRE (see page 5), life in the other Squadrons is far from dormant. One Squadron will be quick to comment that one doesn't takeover a Troposheric Scatter terminal everyday, as indeed they did in November. 3 Squadron are involved in some intellectual studies of 'Rapid Repair Techniques' under NBC conditions (see photograph) whilst, of course, continuing a multitude of airfield lines projects which are always required for completion 'the day before yesterday.' The 'old and bold' of HQ Squadron are largely involved in supporting Exercise 'Snow Queen' — the Regiment being the only unit in Rhine Area which participates in this very rewarding exercise.

The Regiment was delighted to receive a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief in mid-November, and is relieved that its annual FFR inspection, which was held two days later, is concluded. Looking back on November, it has been quite a month — MT, Tels and about six other specialist inspections, SO-in-C's visit, FFR inspection, a week's Harrier exercise, 'Quick Train,' study day, takeover Tropo link and inter-troop competitions at football, hockey and cross-country. If any reader thinks that life west of the Rhine is 'quiet' he is both mistaken and not a little biased.

In late October, **Lieutenant John Griffiths** our assistant Adjutant led a party of seven divers from the RAF Wildenrath

We take NBC seriously! Linemen practising rapid repair techniques during an alert

sub-aqua club in a diving expedition to Cyprus. This was the club's first major expedition, but heartened by their success, support and new equipment they are already planning future expeditions to Gan, Elba and Mauritius.

Each diver made up to three daily dives which ranged from 30 to 125 feet, off the Akrotiri Peninsula. The area of the fish reserve was particularly interesting. The fish were so tame that they could be fed by hand. Noted specimens included grouper, sentex, sea bream, wrasse, mullet, soldier, scorpion, weaver, catfish, ray, moray eel, octopus and crayfish. Some hammerhead and grey sharks were known to be in the area but were not seen. It was also noted that some fish, normally only found in the Indian Ocean, are moving into this area.

A total of 98 dives were recorded with a total of almost 52 diving hours.

Sub Aqua Club in Cyprus. Lieutenant John Griffiths in the centre

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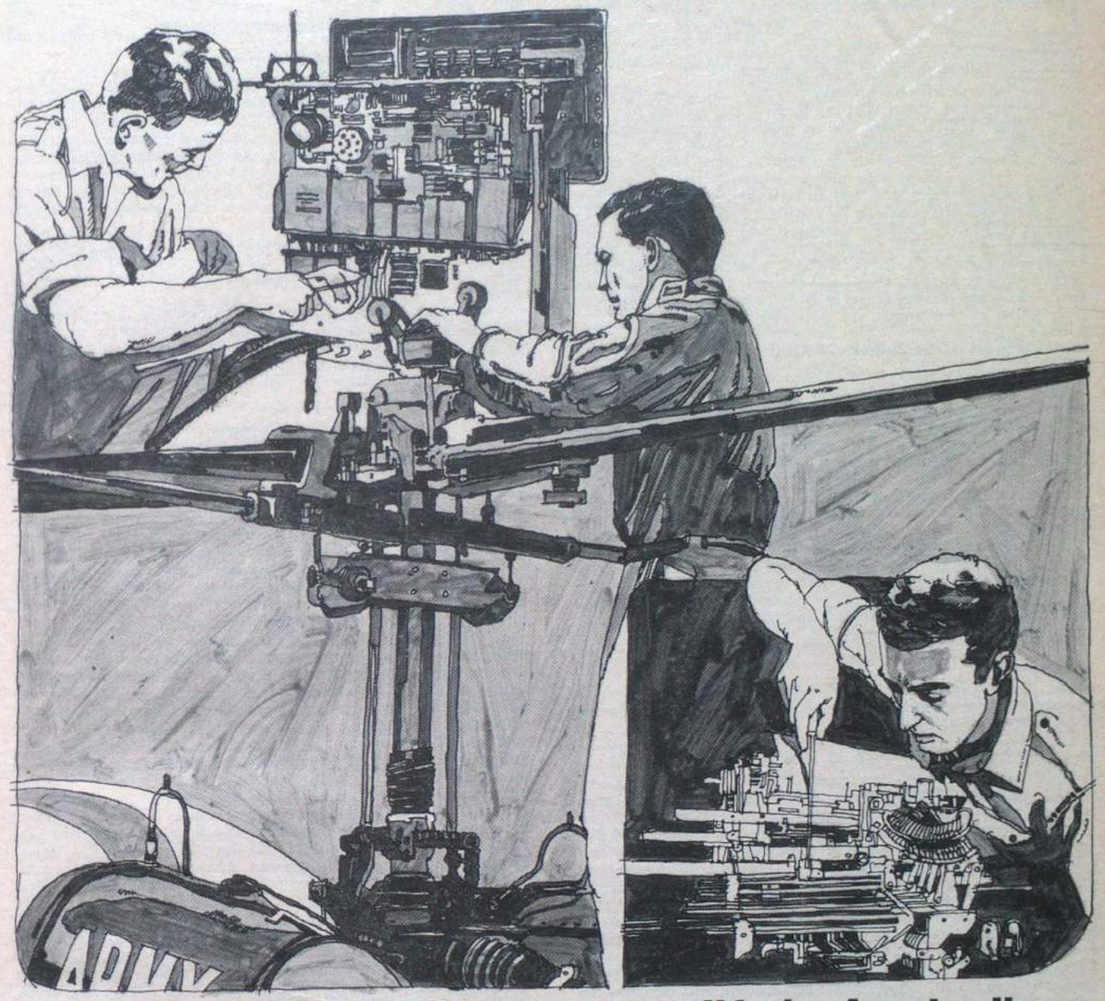

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28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

FFR Inspections come and go and haggard faces are replaced by happy faces and in our case peace has once again settled over the Franciscan woods that surround us. The inspections are over for a time and the rabbits are back on the sports field as though nothing has happened!

Some light relief was provided on the day when the final stage of the Inter Troop Driving Skills Competitions was held on the Square. MT Troop had assembled a cunning series of traps and hazards from narrow garages to offset alleys, to test skill of drivers of both heavy and light vehicles. Marker drums tumbled noisily and wooden garages disintegrated to the competitive cries of the spectators! It was all time well spent and a totally impartial marking system erected by the RMTD **Captain (Q.M.) P. Chilvers** produced MT Troop, would you believe it, as the overall winners! As the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Carnie** said, however, it would have been a little strange if they hadn't been! To prove the point **Lance-Corporal David Hatton** of MT Troop did an impromptu clear round of the course, the only one of the day!

Soccer notes—best ever start

So far we have had our best ever start to the season. At the halfway stage in the Rhine Area League we are running in second place to RAF Laarbruch and have two games in hand of the leaders, whom we have yet to play. A good start has also been made in the BAOR stage of the Army Cup. Wins over British Forces Antwerp (0-3) and 28 Regiment RCT (2-6) have put the team into a fighting mood for our next opponents The Queen's Own Highlanders (flash—we beat them 3-1). Congratulations too for three team members who have just been awarded BAOR Colours, **Corporal Jackie Snaith** as captain of BAOR and **Lance-Corporal Tom Reilly** and **Tommy Hope**. Apparently **Tommy Hope's** goal against the Netherlands Army team was worthy of praise. On 29th November, 1972, all three have again been selected to play against the Bundeswere team. This team is all National Service and has five Under 23 Internationals in the side.

Rugby note

Our Chief Clerk **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) Bob Pearce** refereed an international match between Germany and Yugoslavia on 22nd November at Cologne.

Diving

November was a very good month for our two diving experts **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Tony Jones** and **Sergeant Bill McAlister** who are busy building up a branch of the BAOR Sub Aqua Federation in Krefeld. They are both opaque creatures of the deep grappling and groping their way around many lakes and pools of this part of Germany and in Belgium. It is said that on a clear day they can spot a transparent bikini from a depth of 300 feet! It was, however, on a murky night in Munster recently when they really came into their own. On a recent exercise in that area our Senior Foreman of Signals was taking a short cut across a skiddy patch of the barracks clutching two items of secret equipment, a bottle of whisky and associated paperwork and mail. Through the driving rain and darkness he sped and across a patch of asphalt glistening in the gloom. Except the asphalt was in fact an unfenced emergency water tank into whose depths our Foreman sank, immediately losing contact with equipment, whiskey and all. He and they sank to the horrid ooze at the bottom of the tank. In due course the Foreman gained buoyancy and rose to the surface of the asphalt sea but 'sans' everything he had been carrying! Thus our two divers were sent for and given the task of recovering the two secret and unmentionable pieces of equipment with a secondary bonus for the recapture of the whiskey, etc. However the equipment was of such a nature apparently as to render it unsafe to be seen by the divers' naked eyes. The Squadron Commander to whose location the Foreman was hurrying on his ill-fated mission insisted on covering a similar item with a towel and only allowing the two divers to grope and not gaze upon this awful aspect! So thus without even descending into the tank they did not know exactly what they were looking for!

Of course they recovered the equipment and a broken polluted bottle of Scotch together with two dead rats, a waterlogged pram and what could only be a mediaeval chastity belt!

Quote of the month

"Now we know that WOs Class 1 can't walk on water."

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

More like the Guards' Depot

AFTER a somewhat hectic period when the Regiment seemed more like the 'Guards' Depot' with well-drilled bodies of men marching to and from the Guardroom collecting arms and practising marching past for both Queen's Guard duty and for the parade to celebrate the Freedom of Blandford, we are hopefully settling down to a quieter period—Christmas!

We have heard a whisper that the Corps has been invited back to London so that we can keep our hand in at guarding the Royal Palaces.

Just to show that we still have time to get in some interesting signalling training each of our Squadron reports in this edition deals with some of the tasks we find ourselves with around the world.

This month we say goodbye to **Staff Sergeant Tom Robinson** who leaves us for civilian life. As a farewell tribute to him it must be said that without his absolute devotion the camp Youth Club would not have been able to operate half as successfully as it did. We wish him all the best and say a hearty thank you!

1 SQUADRON

Exercise 'Squint' — An expedition to the Solomon Islands

Exercise 'Squint' was a joint communications exercise held in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. Apart from ourselves there were men from 14 Signal Regiment, 38 Group RAF TCW, Royal Navy and the Australian Army and Airforce.

The Regiment's role was to test the internal communications in the islands and to work in close contact with the local Police. Our contingent of 25 was split, with three in Singapore, three to aid 14 Signal Regiment, one cook and 18 workers.

After a pleasant unscheduled stop in Australia, it was not long before we got to work with a short patrol exercise. After this we tried a static exercise. Then it was back to the bush with the police. We carried out four long patrol exercises in varied terrain ranging from mountains to swamps and very occasional flat land. The police taught us how to live and survive in the bush, and some very palatial bashas were built. It was voted that **Staff Sergeant Dougy Edmond** be transferred to the ACC having continually fed us on sausage and baked bean curry. As the exercises progressed the amount of kit taken got less and less and at one stage someone actually suggested that the A13s should be ditched. The flow of knowledge was not all one way as we also taught the police numerous Anglo-Saxon prases during hill climbing. There was much comradeship between members of the police and ourselves and this was particularly noticeable at get-togethers between exercises.

On rest days in Honiara many sports fixtures were played. The Regiment was well represented in all teams and produced most of the stars. To mention a few—(soccer) **Lance-Corporal Sean Hussey, Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' McEvoy, Signalman Willie Hutchinson** and **Signalman 'Wee Joc' McKelvie,** (waterpolo) **Signalman Keith Brownless** and **Signalman Russ Thomson.** Other sports played were hockey, cricket and of course darts, billiards and table tennis.

Our final and most enjoyable exercise was held on Malaita, another island 80 miles away. We travelled over as deck cargo on a boat. Whilst over there much of the patrolling was by canoe.

Wherever we went in the islands the reception and hospitality shown by the locals was fantastic. The exercise apart from its success as a communicating exercise was a great and memorable experience to all those who took part.

We got home on time and look forward to the next exercise of this type.

Footnote: Another first — **Signalman 'Wee Joc' McKelvie** blasted Royal Signals' first missile skywards. An overdose of petrol lifted one thunderbox towards the sun.

2 SQUADRON

NBC training — courtesy Lieutenant Wheelock

On Tuesday mornings in 30 Signal Regiment everyone appears to go on leave and in their places emerge brown clad, gnome-like creatures with black faces, large glass eyes, and cylindrical-shaped mouths built onto their left cheeks, used presumably to drink soup without making a noise. The method of communication between these strange humanoids seems to be a series of muffled grunts accompanied by much sign language. Occasionally one can see what must be the female of the species. She seems to convey intelligence by banging two metal objects together. After two or three hours everyone comes back off leave. This is usually signalled by all telephones ringing at once, large clouds of tobacco smoke issuing from most offices, and trays of coffee rattling up and down the corridors. A takeover bid by men from Mars? The black plague? No! Regimental NBC training under the direction of **Lieutenant Rosemary Wheelock,** WRAC.

A line detachment in Gibraltar or 'Wot no grass'

An unabridged report by Corporal Charlie Peach and Signalman Bill Barlow.

We left Blandford on 30th August for Brize Norton to arrive at 1700 hours. At approximately 1900 hours we were informed that as there was no free accommodation at Brize Norton we would have to go to Lyneham. When we reached Lyneham we were told "No room at the inn, you'll have to sleep in the cowshed!" Whereupon **Corporal Charlie Peach** spent most of the night looking for big shining stars and three wise men!

We were woken at 0500 hours and taken back to Brize Norton where we finally boarded the plane at 1030 hours. The flight was uneventful, **Signalman Bill (Ziz) Barlow** slept, **'Legs' Walker** was in a first class seat (snob), **Charlie Peach** murdered **'Chippy' Monk** at Chinese patience, **Bill (You wear it well) Petcher** trimmed his moustache and **Joe Barallon** was in the baggage compartment.

Arriving at Gibraltar we were met by **Sergeant Barry Williams, Corporal Ted Fitzsimonds** of 642 Signal Troop and a detachment of RAF Police who could not understand how we got six linemen, one technician, one draughtsman and 18 suitcases in one long wheel base Land Rover.

Having thus made our presence felt we settled down to the job. After much deliberation and bartering with the local DOE representative we finally had a clear idea of what was required and we spent the next two weeks putting 1,800 yards of draw wire through some quite nasty ducts; this was inevitably followed by 1,800 yards of cable, the majority of which was 100 pr 20lb plastic. When we asked for assistance from 642 Signal Troop's civilian labour force, we were given two Moroccans who, although small in stature proved to be quite helpful even though **Joe Barallon** had to be brought in to act as interpreter.

The remainder of the project went quite smoothly with a few minor mutterings from **F. of S. Mortison.** Sorry F. of S. if we drank all your coffee, blame the wife.

During the fifth week of the project **Corporal Charlie Peach,** the TOT, **Major Dale** and FSO **Major McKail** had a conference and decided that another three weeks would be needed to complete the final stage of the project which involved drilling along the top of the sea wall. Which, as **Bill Barlow** will testify, was —— hard work. We had completed approximately a quarter of the wall when we were informed, "You'll have to finish the terminations off, because you are going back next Friday!" (two weeks early). So after working all week and three nights we finished the project. All that remained was to organise a small party to announce our departure, much to the delight of the RAF Police. We enjoyed Gib very much and we were much appreciated by the 'Blue Jobs' especially **Bill Pearson, Phil Restall, Roger Glynn** and **'Chas the Punch.'**

We offer our deepest apologies to **Mr. 'I've no transport' Nunez** for causing him so much work, but then again, the show must go on.

3 SQUADRON

Exercise 'Fjord Test/Strong Express' — Exercising with NATO

Mid August this year saw Force Radio Troop of 30 Signal Regiment leaving Blandford to take part in one of the largest NATO exercises ever held, Exercise 'Strong Express.' In preparation for this, the Troop crossed the Channel, Dover to Zeebrugge, and motored down to Bruchsal in Southern Germany to take part in Exercise 'Fjord Test,' the preliminary CPX for the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (AMF(L)).

En route to the south, we staged at 16 Signal Regiment, Krefeld, and spent a happy evening meeting old friends. After a rather hectic journey, during which a certain **Yeoman** (no names) decided to take his packet of vehicles to see the sights of Dusseldorf, we settled in with the German Parachute Signal Battalion at Eichelberg Kaserne.

After a free weekend to prepare for the exercise (or visit the Olympic Games at Munich) we moved out on Exercise 'Fjord Test.' The next three weeks were spent in the field where we worked closely with the Americans and at the end of which everyone seemed satisfied that at least the HQ of the Force knew what they were doing. Congratulations must go to **Lance-Corporal John Taylor** and **Lance-Corporal Rod Wood** who ran our bar so efficiently they are considering retiring on the profit!

At 1200 hours on 11th September we redeployed to Northern Norway by courtesy of the USAFE and three hours later our Starlifter landed in the rain and mist of Bardufoss airfield. From here we moved straight into the field and spent the next two weeks communicating and trying to survive on 'good old compo.' The admin side of the Troop run by **Staff Sergeant Tony McDonald,** however, swear blind that the steaks they enjoyed grew in abundance on the trees in their part of the wood, and **Lance-Corporal Bob Chesterman** must be thanked for providing such an excellent restaurant in Tac HQ during the lull in the fighting. The weather remained poor throughout with continuous rain and cool weather which together with 8in. of mud, provided us with a setting very similar to the Eastern Front. However, spirits remained high and everyone enjoyed working as part of a multi-national force—especially **Sergeant Terry Peacock** who was so obviously thrilled at the sight of so many stores in such a small area.

NATO Challenge Cup winners

On the last day of the exercise, Force Radio Troop entered a team of 26, led by **Second-Lieutenant Mike Telfer,** in the NATO Challenge Cup Competition, in which all units competed. The competition involved an eight-mile march and shoot within a set time and after a great effort by the Troop we succeeded in winning the Support Units Cup which was presented to us by **Major-General J. Groven,** GOC, AMF(L) Belgian Army.

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Gurkha Signals

BRITISH AND GURKHA OFFICERS—GURKHA SIGNALS

Sitting (left to right): Captain M. J. Young, Captain (Q.M.) E. Moloney, Royal Irish, Captain (Q.G.O.) Dorjay Thendup Sherpa, Major F. R. Fletcher, Captain (Q.G.O.) Jitman Gurung, Major A. V. Swindale, Major (Q.G.O.) Bhupal Gurung, Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Lewis, Captain (Q.G.O.) Pritamsing Gurung, Major P. H. Ridlington, Captain (Q.G.O.) Tangham Limbu, Major P. R. Buchanan, Captain (Q.G.O.) Humbahadur Gurung, Captain J. F. Clark, R.A.E.C., Captain J. H. Fisher

Standing (left to right): Second-Lieutenant K. K. W. Parsons, Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Motilal Thapa, Lieutenant P. L. Maloney, Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Bishnuparsad Thapa, Captain H. M. Adams, Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Kishorkumar Gurung, Captain S. M. A. Lee, Captain (Q.G.O.) Balbir Thapa, Captain Lalbir Limbu, 7 G.R., Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Sangdup Tamang, Captain C. H. Dark, G.T.R., Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Balbahadur Gurung, Lieutenant R. A. L. Anderson, Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Damberbahadur Rai, Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Gobindabahadur Mall

THE more diligent reader may have noticed that mention has been made of Gurkha Signals in recent issues of THE WIRE. Others however are obviously of the opinion that we faded away about 1970. Dashera greetings addressed to 27 Signal Regiment made it quite clear to your correspondent that a little more publicity might not come amiss.

Our group photograph, taken just before the departure of **Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Lewis,** Commander Gurkha Signals for the past year, of the British and Gurkha Officers assembled in Hong Kong, has more officers on it than the last one taken in 1969. There must be some significance in this.

Senior appointments are currently as follows:

HQ Gurkha Signal Regiment

Commander Gurkha Signals	**Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow**
Second-in-Command ...	**Major A. V. Swindale**
Gurkha Major	**Major (QGO) Bhupal Gurung**
Head Clerk	**Captain (QGO) Dorjay Thendup Sherpa**
RSM	**W.O.1 (RSM) Lalkaji Gurung**

48 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron

Officer Commanding ...	**Major P. R. Buchanan**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain S. M. A. Lee**
Senior QGO	**Captain (QGO) Pritamsing Gurung**
SSM	**W.O.2 Sombahadur Gurung**

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron

Officer Commanding ...	**Major F. R. Fletcher**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain J. H. Fisher**
Senior QGO	**Captain (QGO) Tanghum Limbu**
SSM	**W.O.2 Sherbahadur Gurung**

We also fill the following posts elsewhere in the Far East:

Second-in-Command Record Office, The Brigade of Gurkhas	**Major P. H. Ridlington**
Staff Captain HQ Brigloc, Nepal	**Captain R. F. Willsher**
Second-in-Command Jungle Warfare Wing of the School of Infantry, Singapore	**Captain H. M. Adams**
Assistant RSO of 6 Gurkha Rifles, Brunei	**Lieutenant A. W. Merrick**

The run down of the Brigade of Gurkhas from 15,000 to 6,700 was completed last year. Gurkha Signals has been reduced over the past six years from a Regiment and three Brigade Signal Squadrons to a Regimental Headquarters and two Squadrons—over 1,100 and all ranks to 416! 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment left Seremban in 1970, and was disbanded in Singapore on 31st July, 1971. However, as you can see Gurkha Signals is far from dead.

During mid-1971, all the Regimental silver and property was boxed and sent to Hong Kong. 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron was re-formed in Singapore at the same time to provide the second squadron and training organisation. Its move to Hong Kong was completed in August, 1971, to start a new phase in the Regimental History.

For those who know Hong Kong, HQ Gurkha Signals, 48 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, Training Troop and the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are in Sek Kong. 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron is in Sham Shui Po.

Last year on the 23rd of September, our 18th official birthday, but in the 23rd year since the formation of Gurkha Signals in 1949, we were honoured by the presence of the SO-in-C for the first time at a Regimental birthday celebration.

A little less involved than some of our previous birthdays, **General Sawers** presented the prizes to the winners of the inter-troop hockey, football and basketball competitions. The less said about the Officers v Sergeants tug-of-war the better.

We have been affiliated to 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) — formerly 51 (H) Signal Regiment, TA, — for many years now, and our pipes and drums have worn the Grant Tartan since their formation. During the years a number of officers who have served in Gurkha Signals have also served in and on one occasion commanded our affiliated Regiment. Since our affiiliation we have not been able to entertain any of the volunteer officers on our own grounds. It therefore gave us great pleasure last year to be able to invite **Major Nina Havergal,** senior WRAC officer of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment, and her husband **Dr. Henry Havergal** to join us for Dashera. **Major Havergal** also did her two week attachment in lieu of camp with 27 Signal Regiment in Hong Kong — but we won't go into that!

Enough then to establish our continued presence. I leave it now to the Squadrons and Troops to fill in the details in subsequent issues!

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 37

Hit by a 110 mph hurricane

ALTHOUGH the exercise season is over, the Squadron has not been able to relax. On Monday, 13th November, our morning was shattered by the gales that hit North Germany. Gusts of 110 mph were recorded in the barracks by the Aviation Squadron.

The gales only lasted about three hours, but in that time Soltau was completely cut off by road and rail by fallen trees and the damage had to be seen to be believed. Every roof in the barracks was damaged in one way or another. The children from the nursery school had to be taken home in a Saracen because of the danger of flying roof tiles. One hundred and fifty schoolchildren from the nearby German school had to lunch in the barracks as they could not get home. Our chief lineman, **Sergeant Bill Burley,** quickly volunteered his line detachment to help the Bundespost restore the local telephone services, while the remainder of the Squadron worked to make temporary repairs to roofs, and to move fallen trees.

Visit by Royal College of Defence studies

On 22nd November the Squadron set up the Brigade Headquarters in the field on Hohne ranges for the visit of the Royal College of Defence Studies. Eighty-one Senior Officers from the navies, armies and air forces of the world were taken round the Headquarters and chatted to the soldiers on duty in the various vehicles.

Preceding the visit to the Headquarters the RCDS visitors saw a battle group demonstration by 4 RTR. **F. of S. Keith Bamforth** set up an impressive public address system to re-broadcast the battle group radio nets, both to the back of stalwarts from which the spectators followed the battle and for spectator stands at the final objective.

A satisfactory inspection

After the visit the Squadron then started to work flat out for the FFR which took place on 5th December. The inspection was by the Commander 7th Armoured Brigade, **Brigadier I. H. Baker, M.B.E.**

The Brigadier congratulated the Squadron on its efficiency and preparedness. The inspection was followed by a 'Drive Past' of all vehicles of the Squadron.

DRIVE PAST

Lieutenant P. L. McDouall salutes Brigadier Baker, (Commander 7th Armoured Brigade). Flanking the Brigadier is Major J. O. C. Alexander, (Squadron Commander) and Major J. H. Ingram, (Commander 657 Aviation Squadron)

11th Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 29

HAVING entered the business of writing notes for THE WIRE by our submission in the September - October issue, it has now become the vogue in the Squadron to snow the Second-in-Command under with jottings, photographs, anecdotes, etc., of life in Minden. The problem now is not "What on earth can we write about?" but "How much shall we submit this month?"

Orienteering—Army Minor Units champions

The Squadron is very proud to inform the world that we are the Army Minor Units Orienteering Champions. The event held on 29th October rounded off a highly successful season in which we won the 11 Armoured Brigade, 1 Division, 2 Division (guest team), BAOR and now the Army Minor Units events.

It is difficult to pick out individuals for special mention when we have such a good team, but nevertheless the fact that **Major Mike Heath** came 2nd at Aldershot and **Second-Lieutenant Gordon Hughes** 11th does warrant a passing look. Having blown our own trumpets, sung our own praises and duly inscribed the Squadron honours board, we are left, sadly to reflect, with the knowledge that the team will not orienteer together again. Because of change of affiliation, postings and the normal wear and tear of Army life, we must start next season with a new team. To the more serious minded this seems to be a case of the phoenix (or is it battleaxe) rising from the ashes.

This Army Championship more than acts as compensation for our defeat in the final of the BAOR Minor Units Cricket Cup and our third place in the BAOR Minor Units Athletics.

ARMY MINOR UNITS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS 1972

11 Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron. *Standing (left to right):* Lance-Corporal T. Barnes, R.M.P., Corporal A. R. Joels, R.M.P., 2nd Lieutenant G. D. Hughes, R. Signals, Corporal M. J. Long, R.M.P., Staff-Sergeant R. Giles, R.E.M.E. *Seated (left to right):* Major M. S. Heath, R.E. (Team Captain), Major R. K. Ward, R. Signals (O.C.), Captain R. B. Field, R.M.P. (O.C. Minden Det. R.M.P.)

Warriors at Ease

'A' TROOP 11 ARMD BDE HQ & SIG SQN

Rugby—BAOR Minor Units finalists

The Squadron team has had a cracking start to the season. With 14 games played we have won 12 and drawn two. The points tally so far is 397 for and 65 against. Matches have been played against major unit 1st XVs as well as against minor units. The BAOR Minor Units Cup Competition has been successfully fought so far, and we now find ourselves in the final. Hard battles in the quarter and semi-finals (the latter against 12 Mechanised Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron) gave us a fright but nevertheless in the next edition of THE WIRE we hope to report that we are the champions!

Soccer

The soccer team has had its ups and downs but on the whole the season has been successful. We reached the quarter-finals of the BAOR Minor Units Cup but here we bowed out to a good 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron side. We wish them well in the final stages. In the local league we hold second place but have four games in hand over the leaders.

Other sports

With apologies to our many soldiers who participate in other sports there is no offering this month. This is solely because exercise and other commitments have prevented a prompt start to the winter season. As the season progresses, however, each and every team will get its chance of immortality in these notes (whether or not they are doing well).

Troop activities

During the next few months each Troop will submit, in turn, notes on activities, both in and out of working hours. This month we start the series with 'A' Troop who have also submitted a photograph of themselves, in, shall we say, casual pose. The Troop Commander, **Captain Gareth Mann**, wishes to assure all readers that this photograph was taken on one of the few occasion when they could afford a few minutes away from their heavy work load. The original of this photograph has been enlarged to enormous proportions and now, suitably framed, adorns 'A' Troop office. The following notes, subject to minimal censorship, have been written by **Lance-Corporal Marsh.**

'A' Troop

This month's WIRE notes are being supplied by Alpha Troop. Next month we hope that Bravo Troop will put pen to paper and give account of their own interests, characters and adventures.

We have just entered our quiet period of the year and until January the whole Troop, or rather the Squadron, will be busy preparing for the PRE and FFR.

Exercise 'Eternal Triangle VII'

This year the Troop found itself once again on Soltau Training Area in a static location. Alpha Troop's own little coffee and gin palace, the TSB was as usual a hive of activity with the Troop OC and Communications Officer, **Captain Gareth Mann,** ably assisted by **Lieutenant Steve Siddall,** controlling the Brigade communications.

Sergeants Steve Barnett, 'Birdy' Peacock and **Andy Boyle,** the two 'step-up' Sergeants and Admin Sergeant respectively, found plenty of work on their hands trying to find guards, radio shifts and Royal Signals commandos to give our battalions an enemy. A special mention must be given to **Andy Boyle** who reduced three millboards to cigarette-paper thickness in two weeks although, unfortunately, the Guinness Book of Records would not recognise this as a world's best performance. The two weeks and two days soon passed and we all found ourselves back in Minden on 5th October. After working until five o'clock in the morning the Troop earned a long weekend which was spent, by most, in bed!

Postings in — Postings out

We recently said goodbye to **Corporal Keith Hudson,** his wife and children to 30 Signal Regiment. We are also losing **Lance-Corporal Tommy Slater** to the School of Signals. We wish them well in their new units.

The Troop welcomes all newcomers over the past few months and we hope that they enjoy their tour in Germany as much as those who are leaving us have. We also welcome **Lance-Corporal Joe Ashton** to the Troop from Bravo Troop and are glad that someone has at least seen the light.

The Troop has its share of players in various Squadron sports teams, but for the not quite so active we have a rapidly expanding group of model makers. The model makers, mostly unmarried, have turned the living accommodation into a veritable tank museum being led and advised by **Corporal 'Tubby' Garnett** with two close followers in the form of our twins **John** and **Jim Paine,** the terrible two.

Farewell

By the time these notes appear **Captain Gareth Mann,** our Communications Officer for the last two years, will have left us. He is posted to 28 Signal Regiment, by way of the Junior Command and Staff Course. Everyone in the Squadron wishes **Captain Mann** and his wife **Jenny** the best of luck for the future and says thank you for all their efforts.

12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 36

NOVEMBER was the month preceding the FFR and consequently a month of considerable activity, checks, inspections and general nausea. Add to this 'Quick Train' (which at the time of writing with four days to go, still has not been called) and a visit from the SO-in-C, and you may wonder how we had time for other activities described in these notes.

The Inter-Troop Lance Competition got under way with the first round of the soccer, rugger and hockey contests, and the cross-country. At this stage 'Alfa' Troop look to be in a good position having had a convincing win in the cross-country, but there is a long way to go, with such horrors as the drill and assault course phases to be done.

The Squadron provided a display for the 2 Division RSO's convention at Bunde. No doubt a full report will appear in 2 Division notes, which is just as well since the author of these notes cannot remember a great deal of what went on as a result of the excellent guest night that rounded off the proceedings. All that he does remember is that on returning next morning to repeat the demonstration for the aforementioned SO-in-C's visit he found he had left his beret at Bunde. An interesting time and space appreciation was then played for real, the climax coming when **Driver Sutherland** and **General Sawers** were practically both trying to get into the Brigade HQ APC cruciform simultaneously, the former trying to return the beret of OC 'Alfa' Troop before he met the latter.

Friday, 24th November, was a sad night for the Officers of the Squadron for two reasons. We said goodbye to the Brigade Major, **Major Peter Stevenson,** who leaves us on promotion to join the Abu Dhabi Defence Force. To him and his wife **Angela** who have both been such loyal members of the Squadron we wish them the best of luck. In his place we welcome **Major Percival,** 1 Cheshire.

Later that evening the Officers reported to the Sergeants' Mess for a games night. I suppose it was coincidence that by the end of the evening the result hinged on the boat race. Twenty-two pints disappeared at lightning speed, but not all down throats; the Officers' Mess dry cleaning bill is likely to be large. Anyway the boat race clinched it for the seniors, thus rounding off a very enjoyable evening. Most important of all—the aim was achieved, a large number of Christmas draw tickets were sold.

Finally it must be recorded that the Hash, the 'Officers' Non Athletics Running Club,' is alive and flourishing in Osnabruck, the 'On On Sec' being **Nigel Pullman.** Hashers of old, who have not indulged since leaving FARELF, will be interested to know that with minor modifications (sawdust instead of paper trail), that most noble of sports, Hashing, can be pursued in temperate climes. Our 'On Sec' would be happy to hear from any past Hashers, especially if they have any new jokes. Readers of his newsletter will vouch for the fact that he is desperately short of these.

227 Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 18

Guy Fawkes and all that

SINCE the 3rd of November, when the Squadron celebrated Guy Fawkes' abortive attempt at parliamentary reform, the citizens of Maastricht have been quaking in fear convinced that the third world war has commenced. In less than 30 minutes the heavens were rent with a plethora of pyrotechnics, whilst the ear was assailed with a cacophony of thunderous explosions, piercing screams, high pitched whistles and the 'oohs' of jubilant juveniles, as £160 worth of fireworks were detonated by the Squadron's answer to the angry brigade.

Lieutenant 'Paddy' Henry was most put out when he was not allowed to load the fireworks into his car and park it next to the OC. This, he insisted, was an old Irish Guy Fawkes custom very popular in Belfast.

The firing parties under **Sergeants Ted Fendley** and **Jim Redgrave** had an international flavour with specialist **Thomas Taylor,** American Army, joining his British colleagues. This was designed to give us some fourth of July expertise. On seeing the size of some of the shells he almost had second thoughts. He confesed, that he had thought the only shells of that calibre were being fired in Vietnam. After this display we feel sure that he must qualify for a medal.

Signalman Mick Rennison dashed round with his usual elan as the self appointed duty bomb. His claim that he is asbestos was adequately proved as incandescent chemicals frequently cascaded around his ears. This claim was further substantiated when he survived a veritable torrent of scalding invective from the **R.Q.M.S. Bert Bowes** when he tried to walk into the tent containing the fireworks with a lighted portlight. The RQ's worry was prompted by the fact that he has much smaller feet than his predecessor, **Colin Johnson.** Fortunately he was not required to emulate **Colin's** feat and save the tent.

Signalman Garth Pickersgill resplendent in flowing overcoat gave a passable imitation of either an American Civil War General or a hell fire and damnation preacher as he strode phlegmatically through the holocaust. The children were convinced his coat tails were bound to burst into flames as they brushed over exploding mortars and ground mines. Alas, they were disappointed and his coat survived until next year.

The bonfire was lit by **Signalman Chris Dean** who proved himself to be an excellent arsonist with just a dash of pyromania. Mess treasurers and account holders wishing to avail themselves of his services should apply direct to our MT Sergeant, **Bill Chubb.**

Mrs. Daphne Heaps and **Mary Davis,** with their respective daughters **Jacqueline** and **Fiona** produced 200 toffee apples which proved very popular. We are assured that the Yeoman will return to work just as soon as he can prise himself loose from the toffee left on his kitchen floor.

Sergeant Tony Stavely was a genial host of the 'Incendiary Inn' and kept up a lively trade with those who believe in getting outside the spirit of the thing. The inner man was also catered for by our cooks under **Sergeant Bert Gent,** these produced such traditional British fare as hamburgers and hot dogs.

Captain Duggie Burt put in an appearance but failed to get the PRI books on the fire. He is now somewhat relieved to discover that all the Squadron assets did not go up in smoke.

We are informed by a usually reliable source that the whole of the Maastricht populace is now contemplating taking its annual holiday the first two weeks in November next year. We can but wonder at the capricious ideas of the Dutch.

American jargon but British veneer prevails

The OC, **Major Peter Riding,** on returning from Oberammergau recently reported with some regret that he had discovered he was two years too late for the passion and eight years early for the play. Unlike his predecessor he was not even fortunate enough to have his course coincide with the carnival in Munich. Just how unlucky can one get?

He found the ACE staff officers orientation course very interesting. It gave him a comprehensive knowledge of, American tactical doctrine based on Vietnam, the high incidence of fragging in combat units, the preponderance of Wild West philosophy amongst American servicemen and a wide repertoire of American jokes.

In addition he had also acquired a marked American vocabulary, so much so that he appeared intent on founding SPIT (Society for the Proliferation of Inadvertent Transatlanticisms). A prolonged spell with **Lieutenant 'Paddy'** (Goddam Yankees) **Henry,** the Squadron confederate, has successfully eradicated this tendency and succeeded in anglicising his diction once more.

On return from his present course at JWE we anticipate that any remaining vestige of American influence will be absolved to be replaced with a true British veneer once more.

Self induction

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Watts recently went out to check one of our PTT pick-up points in one of the more rural areas of Belgium. To assist him with the language problem he took along one of the AFCENT interpreters.

On setting up and jacking into the circuit **Brian's** equipment indicated a space condition. He requested the interpreter to call the switching centre and ascertain what conditions they were receiving from the distant terminal. When he was informed that they were receiving a mark he asked if they had a teleprinter on the circuit. He was told that they had no terminal equipment available at the switching centre.

He then asked the interpreter to check what current they were receiving and was informed that they had no meter either. **Brian** then asked how they knew there was no current, if they had no measuring instruments. The interpreter smiled and explained "Quite simple sir, he simply wets his fingers and puts them on the line."

Brian is now producing a thesis on 'Communication Problems in EEC.'

Vice-versa

The following exchange was overheard in the unit cinema:

Data Telegraphist: "I didn't think much of the book of this film, I couldn't follow it."

Combat Powerman: "That's not surprising idiot, you started at the front."

Data Telegraphist: "And where else would you start a book genius?"

Combat Powerman: "From the back of course, the plot is always easier to follow."

Arrivals and departures

The Squadron welcomes:

Captain J. Jupe, Sergeants Dempster, Stavely, Provart, Baird, Corporals Lord, Bradbury, Luke (REME), **Davies, Lyons, Cummings, Sayers, White, Lance-Corporal Lakin, Signalmen Dingwall, Flanagan** and **Cfn. Johnson** (REME), and bids bon voyage to:

Captain M. Edge, W.O.1 Bridgeman, W.O.2 Johnson, Sergeants McCall, Edwards, Waters, Hosey, Benwell, Rees, Corporals Arundel, Balmforth (REME), **Reid** (REME), **Signalmen Daly, Searle** and **Philip.**

229 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 45

STAFF LIST

Officer Commanding	...	**Major A. B. Byng**
Second-in-Command	...	**Maptain D. C. Podevin**
T.O.T.	...	**Captain I. R. Lidstone**
Radio Officer	...	**Lieutenant J. P. Beasley**
S.S.M.	...	**W.O.2 L. V. Stoneham**
Yeoman	...	**W.O.2 D. J. Phillips**
Foreman	...	**W.O.2 T. Hill**
Chief Clerk	...	**Sergeant M. J. McHale**

As we approach the end of 1972, it seems a good idea to look back at a busy year. The time has gone so quickly that many events in the earlier part of the year still seem quite close. We had a very mild winter, where the coldest night in the Berlin Grunewald was only −25°C. It just happened that on the same night Brigade HQ (and therefore the Squadron) was practising night moves. Most people were more concerned with staying unfrozen than anything else.

Plenty going on

Spring brought us the new soccer league championship and Exercise 'Rondo II.' For the latter French, American and British radio operators were mixed in detachments and competed against each other for pewter tankards which were won by **Corporal Phillips'** detachment. Then we had the Allied Forces Day Parade along 17 Juni Strasse, where the 'ladies of pleasure' were displaced by tanks, lorries and marching troops for a day, and the Queen's Birthday Parade where several thousand Berliners gathered on the Olympic Stadium Maifeld to see **Princess Margaret,** the massed bands of the British Regiments and the Trooping of the Colour. Apart from the ceremonial events in Berlin in which the Squadron play an important part, the cricketers, athletes, swimmers and ten-pin bowlers could be seen limbering up for the summer sports — especially in 229 Signal Squadron. The cricketers and athletes were keen but not as successful as the swimmers and bowlers. The Squadron water polo players had the distinction of being the only team to beat the Army champions in the Army Cup — and it was no fluke! **Signalman C. Sandford,** our star player who has since played for the Army, was wonderfully supported by a gamut of hard-training and tough-playing young swimmers under the encouragement of **Sergeant Wardle.** Incidentally, **Sergeant Wardle** has gone to join **'Doc,' W.O.2 Docherty,** with 36 Signal Regiment (TA) in London. God help the Londoners!

We also had to bid farewell to **Captain Vic Thom,** who was the senior manager of the football team, and as a part time job looked after the Radio Troop with **'Doc'** and **Sergeant Wardle.** The ten-pin bowlers won the Berlin championships and an enormous trophy just before the dovens of the team, **Sergeant** and **Mrs. Marsh,** left for 71 Signal Regiment (V).

Squadron wives excel themselves

As the summer evenings began to shorten we prepared for the autumn events. 'Rondo III' went off well and was won by **Lance-Corporal John Chapman's** detachment, and was memorable for the quantity of French bread and wine, American hamburgers and British chickens consumed at the end-of-exercise barbecue. The combined British and French exercise, 'Porte Cullis,' was memorable for the soldier who asked over the radio what the French word was for 'rendezvous;' and most gratifying was the result of the Wives' Club autumn fair. From September to mid-November a busy party of Squadron wives had sewed, knitted, collected and cooked an amazing variety of attractive, and very saleable items. On 11th November, St. George's Hall was like the first day of the sales and at the end of the afternoon a beaming **Mrs. Byng** was able to declare a profit of nearly £100. Seventy pounds of this has been donated by the wives of the Squadron to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. (A very fine effort — Editor).

The football team missed **Lance-Corporal Joe Brown's** and **Corporal Les Morris'** supporters club on the touchline but after a shakey start are now on top again. **Major Byng** and his family were absent from the touchline for a few games while winning the British Berlin Yacht Club Commodore's Cup. (Who was the **Major J. M. Sawyers,** Royal Signals, who won it in 1954?)

We are off to West Germany next week for one of our annual exercises in wide open spaces, and when we return we can look forward to the Christmas hectivities including the children's party and the Squadron dance on the opening night of the new Squadron club room. Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all.

The Autumn was marred by the tragic and unexpected death of Sergeant E. J. Hall, on 27th September, two days after the birth of his second child. Mrs. Hall has our deepest sympathy and admiration for the way she bore her sad loss and our heartfelt good wishes for the future.

234 Sig Sqn (Malta), B.F.P.O. 51

In retrospect

MUCH has happened here since we last wrote. To refresh your memories Malta is an island a bit smaller than the Isle of Wight about 60 miles south of Sicily. It is very roughly 1,000 miles from England and Cyprus. The island is rocky with low terraced hills and small cultivated valleys, but no rivers. The population is some 330,000 and there are approximately 6,000 servicemen and attached civilians based here. The weather is hot in summer and mild in winter, the temperature rarely exceeding 100°F or falling below 40°F.

The Squadron provides static communications for the three services in Malta using over 2,000 miles of U G Cable, six auto exchanges and a radio relay system. The unit strength comprises seven officers, 43 UK soldiers, 71 locally enlisted soldiers and 204 locally engaged civilians.

At the end of December, 1971, the British Forces were given an ultimatum to leave which was extended eventually up to 31st March. This was a busy period since not only were we busy packing up but we had of course to maintain communications, and indeed carry out more work than normal. The telephones became more mobile than the radios to keep up with units and headquarters during the early 'crashmove' stage of the evacuation. Much credit goes to the LEP and LEC who worked so hard even though they were going to lose their jobs. Much credit also goes to our Q.M., **Captain Don Stanley,** and his staff for the way they managed to acquire packing material and despatch everything so smoothly.

No doubt some of you saw our obituary in Soldier (May, 1972). Even as we were holding our disbandment parade the Maltese Prime Minister was preparing to fly to London to sign a new agreement. The rear party thus became the advance party and we take up the tale from there, troop by troop.

Advance party

The advance party was formed from the rear party of linemen from Airfield Troop under **Captain Mike Macklin** and **Staff Sergeant Pat Toovey,** the LEP under **W.O.2 Joe Grech,** and the civilian element of the Squadron. We occupied a hangar at Luqa where **W.O.2 Grech** and **Sergeant Tony Parnis** set about rewriting all the line records before we had subscribers to contend with again!

Main body

Meantime back at Colchester the 'main body' under **Major 'Sandy' Hewson** was sorting out the return of the Squadron. On evacuation we lost the 'roof' of Headquarters British Troops Malta and had it replaced by the umbrellas of UKLF, 1 Signal Group and Commander British Forces Malta. We have taken under our wing the Army elements in Malta and are now No 14 Overseas Detachment UKLF.

SHQ and HQ Troop

Since the return SHQ and HQ Troop have worked hard to get the Squadron going again. **Major 'Sandy' Hewson** has left after safely seeing the Squadron through a very difficult time and we wish him and **Kay** a pleasant stay in London. In his stead we welcome **Major Ian Robinson** and his wife **Pam** from the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland. **Lieutenant Colin Richardson** and **Ralph Abdilla,** our new civil admin officer look after our administrative problems. We have now become the administrative unit for all the Army in Malta excluding 41 Commando Group and this has increased the work.

Line Troop

Line Troop is back home now with most of the old faces and four new ones, **Sergeant Jim Lindsay, Corporal Rod Parker** (who has come all the way from Airfield Troop) **Lance-Corporal Tony Patrick** and **Signalman Neil Thomas.** No sooner had **Signalman Neil Thomas** arrived than we sent him off on a cruise on HMS *Intrepid* with 661 Signal Troop (LPD) on which he reports that "space is not taken into consideration except you've got enough room to get down on your knees and scrub the decks" and "although it might seem a bit tedious I can assure you they make up for it ashore especially in Sicily, Trieste, Venice and Cyprus." He ends by saluting the sailing Signallers. — Thank you 661.

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti** who was chosen as water polo player of the year by the Malta Amateur Swimming Association. He has helped his own club, Neptunes win the league championship and the White Label cup and captained the Maltese team in a six-nation international tournament in which he was the joint highest scorer.

Airfield Troop

With the dust just beginning to settle after the trials and tribulations of the early months of 1972 the scribe has condecended to unpack his 'quill' (recently returned from Donnington) and begin the recount the Airfield Troop experiences of the past few months. Life has been interesting to say the least during the reaction of the Luqa airfield and working with the RAF, always an experience, remains the same!

Sport

Our soccer team with **Lance-Corporals Charlie Mifsud** and **Eddie Xuereb** cracking in the goals and some good support from **Corporal 'JT' Witherington** and **Lance-Corporal Derek Moody** is doing quite well at present. The Troop also has a team in the RAF Luqa ten-pin bowling league and are currently hovering around the middle of the league. If **Signalman Alan Mills** tries harder, he might lift the lowest score prize. He is certainly well ahead in the race to see who can get most balls down the 'gutter.'

Arrivals, departures and congratulations

Farewell to **'Scouse' Humphries** and all the best in civvie street. Welcome **Captain David Case, Corporals Pope, Witherington, Medway** and **Signalmen Bancroft** and **Mills.** Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Cipriott** on swelling the population of Malta yet again.

TM Troop

Nobody is quite sure what TM Troop is up to but **Sergeants Don Butchers** and **'Geordie' Robson** claim they are reinstalling the 900 line exchange at Luqa and that **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Callow** still has time to play hockey. **Captain Bob Stather** has logged his first quarter century of projects and is looking for the second.

Officers' Mess

The withdrawal and return to Malta established the Mess well and truly. We have held three dinner nights and numerous small functions. Now that HQ British Troops Malta has left we have the only Army Mess on the island and have been pleased to welcome in some outsiders and have several more knocking at the door.

WOs' and Sergeants' Mess

The WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, always a thriving concern is back in business as strong as ever. Under **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Roy Stark** we have held several successful parties including a summer ball and a ladies' dinner night. With RE, RAOC and Intelligence Corps members we represent all sides of the Army in Malta and are glad to welcome them.

Sport

We have not got to the decisive stage of the leagues yet but our hockey and football teams are well able to hold their own against the other services who have more people to choose from. In a local six-a-side hockey tournament in which there were 24 service and local teams the hockey team was only narrowly defeated in the final. We are fortunate to be able to call on several players from outside the Squadron.

Visits

We have been pleased to receive visits from **Brigadier P. C. Bull,** Brigadier Overseas Detachments UKLF, who came for four days in July and **Colonel D. L. Sylvester Bradley,** Commander 1 Signal Group who was with us for a week in October. We have also had several visits from Fixed Projects Division School of Signals to advise on the radio relay project and our telephone exchange.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley (Commander I Signal Group) talking with Sergeants Ramsden, Robertson and Fountain and W.O.2 (F. of S.) Callow during his visit in October

Overheard here and there

Good new chaps you are selected to form the rear party for the withdrawal from Malta!

Next day. — Even better news chaps, we are now the advance party for the return to Malta!

"I've been here for three weeks and haven't had a telephone installed" — Did you ask for one, sir. — "Oh should I have done."

"I want a telephone in my office but it must not have any of those nasty looking wires fixed to the wall."

"I want the bell removed from my telephone — it disturbs me."

244 Sig Sqn. R.A.F. Benson

Farewell to Staff Sergeant Barlow — Mercury dinner night

AFTER 28 years, one month and 17 days' erstwhile sober service to the Corps, one expects a farewell to be remembered. On Friday, 13th October, the WOs and SNCOs of the Squadron dined out **Staff Sergeant Denis Barlow.**

The Mercury dinner night held in Sergeants' Mess RAF Benson was a night to be remembered not only for **Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Barlow** and the official guests, but also by a very awe-struck and much impressed Royal Air Force Sergeants' Mess.

The dinner night, presided over by **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. S. Bresloff** (7 Brigade please note, King Rat left you for a far more important role) was attended by all W.O.s and SNCOs with their ladies. The Station Commander, Squadron Commander, Second-in-Command and Chairman of the Mess Committee (RAF) were our guests.

The Mess manager, **Flight Sergeant George Graham,** supervised the catering. Differences of Mess dining procedures were soon solved, and rumour has it the RSM had to diplomatically explain that Corps dinners did not normally include 'hot dogs'!

The after-dinner speeches were confined to tributes to **Denis Barlow.** The RSM then read telegrams from many prominent members of the Corps and when a final telegram was read from a lady of doubtful antecedents in Cyprus **Denis Barlow** visibly paled.

The Officers, WOs and SNCOs presented **Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Barlow** with a silver condiment set which was suitably inscribed.

Final departure

On Friday, 1st December, 1972, **Staff Sergeant Denis Barlow** finally departed from the Squadron. He said farewell to the Squadron Commander, **Major P. A. Spooner,** and was towed by Squadron personnel to the gate of RAF Benson in the OC's Land Rover, with canopy removed. The whole Squadron turned out to line the route and to wish this popular Corps senior NCO farewell. At the gate of the RAF Station **Sergeant Williamson** had arranged for a bottle of champagne to be presented to **Mr. Denis Barlow**—this was duly opened and consumed on the spot!

Red Hand Old Boys

It is only fitting that a unit with the reputation of being the top soccer Squadron of the Corps (and we can prove it) should have a team of Senior Citizens, called 'Red Hand Old Boys.'

The qualifications for entry into this newly formed team are sagging paunch and balding head.

The team manager and captain is **Staff Sergeant Wally Lockwood.** Other team members include **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Stonewall' McLoughlin, Sergeant 'Goals' Lawrance** and **Sergeant Brian Young** (the Corps soccer captain).

Our first match was against the Officers, WOs and Sergeants of 3 Division Signal Regiment at Bulford, which resulted in an 8-3 victory for us. 3 Division Signal Regiment Sergeants' Mess entertained players, spectators, their wives and children to an excellent lunch and post match drinks.

More news of our future victories will follow. Local units please note we are open to challenge.

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

Welcome and farewell

ON 2nd October the Squadron W.O.s and Sergeants held a formal dinner night in the Mess to dine out **Major and Mrs. S. W. Read** and dine in **Major and Mrs. L. A. Woods.**

In an after dinner speech, the S.S.M. **W.O.2 R. J. Mathieson** thanked **Major and Mrs. Read** for their efforts in all fields of Squadron life and welcomed **Major and Mrs. Woods** to Cyprus.

DINING OUT—AND DINING IN

Left to right: W.O.2 (S.S.M.) R. J. Mathieson, B.E.M., Major S. W. Read, Mrs. Mathieson, Mrs. Read, Mrs. Woods and Major L. A. Woods

Dhekelia fete and fireworks

At 1615 hours on 4th November a deadly hush fell over the Dhekelia Ranges (you could have heard an 84mm rocket going off!). The finalists in the chariot race were under starter's orders. This event was one of the highlights of the Dhekelia Garrison annual charity fete which includes, amongst other things, mock battles, helicopter displays, Beating of Retreat and of course a fireworks display. Each unit provides its share of stalls—as usual all part of training for war!

The Squadron 'A' team which comprised of **S.S.M. Rod Mathieson, Sergeant Dave Sloan, Sergeant Pat Quinn** and **Sergeant Mick Johnson** had battled their way through to the final in fine style and were firm favourites in the tote.

"Go," the starter cried and they went! The SSM and **Pat Quinn** grabbed the stretcher and surged forward whilst **Mick Johnson** and **Dave Sloan** ran ahead, picked up the 'patient' (a dummy fortunately for him) and were ready to put it onto the stretcher in one smooth movement. On to the barrel jumps—but wait, the opposition had moved ahead on the parallel course! Encouraging cries came from the Squadron supporters. Up the ladder, across the top ramp and down the end ladder neck and neck. The two leggy ones, **Mick Johnson** and **Dave Sloan,** were ahead with the canvas sheeting held high when the SSM and **Pat Quinn** arrived at high speed. Unfortunately they dropped it rather too early and almost decapitated **Pat Quinn.** Muffled protests poured forth from the lump in the canvas, with the other team now quite well ahead. All the stops were pulled out and on completion of the last two obstacles, climbing through the tyre and crossing and logs, our team were once again abreast of their opponents. With only a 200 metre sprint, pulling a heavy four-wheel barrow, to finish the race, the team forged ahead and won by 50 metres. Our prize, a large tankard each and the Bonfire Trophy. Actually it's very well made and most original.

262 (Olympic) Squadron!

"How do they manage it?" is the usual cry as we win something else. "Something they call PFA Training" is the invariable answer from the uninitiated. Well, the Squadron scribe is absolutely certain that although the PFA standard is nearly impossible for most units to achieve, it nevertheless makes the individuals who have to train up to it very fit. This has played a large part in our sporting successes which are summarised here. Firstly, let us mention hockey. The Squadron six-a-side hockey team won the 9 Signal Regiment (many other unit entries) six-a-side cup in a very exciting and close game. Other successes are the squash team with four league wins of 3-0 each and no losses. The football team have played 10 league games, won nine and drawn 1. In the minor unit rugby seven-a-side knockout competition we reached the semi-final and lost over a disagreement on which we were eventually proved right. We only managed 4th in the Dhekelia dash (a 14-mile relay race) so I'll sign off there. Latest news! Even one of the Squadron budgies has been in training, it won 2nd prize in its class at Famagusta, thanks to its trainer **Signalman Jim Linehan.** Keep it up 262!

262 SQUADRON SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY WINNERS

Left to right: Sergeant Pat Quinn, Lance-Corporal Ron Coburn, Corporal Dave Lumb (259E Tp.), Sergeant GerryWhelan (259E Tp.), Signalman Don Boscoe and Signalman Alex Hamilton

Comcen Troop

Although it is not really the Comcen's turn to feature, **Staff Sergeant Jeannie Kerr** (WRAC) was itching to have a go, and so, having been lumbered by our illustrious Second-in-Command **Captain James 'Robertson Justice' Budd,** to write the Comcen's "month's screed for THE WIRE" (his words), I sit here in the Comcen at Dhekelia wondering how to pack all the exciting events of the last few weeks into the small space we are allowed!

The event of the month was our presentation by **Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E.,** of our 'Hatpin' award. It is similar to the Comstar award scheme, but involves only Comcens in the Near East network. We won the award for being the most accurate Comcen in the Near East during the last quarter of 1971. It was rather warm when the Commander handed it over—we haven't yet found out who had been sitting on it!

Girls of 262 Squadron receive award from Brigadier P. Robertson for most efficient COMCEN

The Israeli Women's Army had nothing on us during the Squadron summer camp. With very few exceptions the girls joined in and completed the arduous 24-hour exercises which involved a beach landing, an ambush (with interrogation for those who were captured!), a dawn attack, a 7km march wearing respirators, clothed of course, and a sabotage espionage exercise! Everyone enjoyed the whole camp tremendously. Must deal with all these applications for postings when I've finished writing this article!

The comings and goings in Comcen Troop over the last few months are really too numerous to mention individually, but we'd like to send our regards to those who have left us, particularly **Captain and Mrs. T. C. O'Toole,** and also extend a hearty welcome to the new arrivals and to those who will be joining us shortly.

This month's howler (joker to remain nameless):

Cyprus Telecommunications Lineman: "I've come about Private Wire 446622."

WRAC Operator: "Private Wire? I don't think she's in our Squadron!"

Have you Ordered your Corps Table and Cocktail Mats yet?

See November/December Wire Editorial page for full details. Over half our stock has now been sold.

Prices:

Table mats — boxes of 6 ...	**£3.25+25p postage**
Cocktail mats — boxes of 6 ...	**£1.05+ 8p postage**

Force Sig Sqn
Sultan's Armed Forces
Oman

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Staff Sergeant Nabi Hussain Shah

WE are sure that all ex-members of SAF Signals will be delighted to hear that on 16th December, 1972, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said was graciously pleased to present the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to **Staff Sergeant Nabi Hussain Shah.** His history in Force Signals is interesting and gives a very good outline of the developments in Force Signals. When **Staff Sergeant Shah** first joined the Force on secondment from Pakistani Army in 1959, all Battalion communications were by flag and heliograph. He was posted in as one of two radio operators for the Bait-al-Falaj to Nizwa Link. He began training other operators and by 1960 there were 63 local operators in the Force. In 1961 the Force Signal underwent a complete reorganisation. A Signals Centre was established. Infantry Battalions were given their own Signal troops. The SAF Command net was implemented. Much of the planning for this was done by **Staff Sergeant Shah.** Thus in 1961, before his tour finished, he found himself responsible for the running of the training school, the supervision of the Signals Centre. He was also responsible for discipline, the stores and the administration of the Orderly Room.

In 1962 he returned to the Pakistan Signal Corps. He returned on Contrace five years later. On his return he was appointed Chief Clerk. He is a father figure of Force Signals and we were all very pleased when he was presented with his very much deserved medal.

Captain J. A. Speakes, Royal Signals

We were also very pleased to hear that the Sultan had approved the award of the Sultan's Commendation to **Captain John Speakes.** He departed from here in the direction of 63 (SAS) Signal Squadron. **Captain Speakes** was responsible for the formation of the Dhofar Brigade Signals Troop which has provided all communications for the Dhofar Brigade since its inception.

Second-Lieutenant Lal Bux Mosar

Again ex-members of SAF Signals will know **Second-Lieutenant Lal Bux** as one of the characters of the Squadron. He has been awarded the Sultan's Commendation. **Second-Lieutenant Lal Bux** joined the Sultan's Armed Forces as a recruit in 1959 and served in the Muscat Regiment Signal Troop until 1967. He was then posted to HQ SAF on promotion to Sergeant. He was commissioned in 1971 and became Officer Commanding Signals Training School. The Training School has produced 190 telegraph operators this year which was an extremely good effort and a reflection on the enthusiasm of its Commanding Officer.

Sergeant R. Orton, Royal Signals

Sergeant R. Orton was also awarded the Sultan's Commendation. We were particularly pleased about this as this was the first time that such an award has been conferred upon a British NCO. **Sergeant Orton** was seconded to the Sultan's Armed Forces in August, 1970. At that time he was the only Cipher operator in the Force. This meant that at periods he was placed under a great deal of pressure handling up to 65,000 ciphered groups a month. When DCN Cipher facilities were transferred to the British Embassy he maintained an essential liaison. He ensured the smooth passage of messages between the British Embassy and the Sultan's Armed Forces and by his own personality overcame any difficulties which may have arisen. We were very sorry to lose **Sergeant Orton** who was posted to 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron.

New arrivals

We are very pleased to welcome **Staff Sergeant D. Freeman** from 35 Signal Regiment (V). He is the first radio telegraphist Sergeant that we have had and already we are feeling the benefit.

Commissions

Ex-members of SAF will be pleased to hear that both **Sergeant Rashid Abdullah** and **Sergeant Major Behram Said Mohammad** have been commissioned as Second Lieutenants. **Second-Lieutenant Rashid** is now the Regimental Signals Officer of the Oman Gendarmerie and **Second-Lieutenant Behram** is now an Askar Officer in the Baluch Guard.

Future events

On 1st January the Signals Squadron becomes a Signal Regiment. We will give more details in our next WIRE contribution.

642 Sig Tp, Gibraltar

AS it is some time since notes appeared in THE WIRE from this quarter, we felt that old members of the Troop might think the Corps was no longer on the Rock, so to put this right at last pen has been put to paper.

We are having a 70 per cent turnover of military personnel just now, exchanging Linemen for Telecommunications Mechanics. Our losses include **Sergeants Jim Henderson, Jim Morrissey and Derrick Fred** with **Corporals Neil Rhodes** and **Ted 'The Fitz' Fitzsimons.** We wish them the best of luck on their courses. On the plus side we welcome newly 'converted' **Sergeants 'Taff' Wathen** and **'Mac' Vaughan** and hope that they enjoy their stay on the Rock.

Celebration dinner

On the evening of 21st November, 1972, all 'resident' members of the Royal Signals in Gibraltar sat down to a turkey dinner in the United Services Officers' Club. The celebration was to commemorate the formation of the First Royal Signals Unit on the Rock 50 years previously, and taking over responsibility for Command communications.

Our guests on this occasion were the Deputy Fortress Commander and his wife, **Brigadier and Mrs. M. C. Thursby Pelham,** and the Officer Commanding RE Troops and his wife, **Major and Mrs. D. L. McKay.** Royal Signals' representatives were the Fortress Signals Officer, **Major Jim McKail,** the serving members of 642 Signal Troop, all 665 Signal Troop (which consists of **Sergeant Jim 'empire building' Golding**) and the Detachment Commander, **Lieutenant Thomas,** with some of his detachment from 14 Signal Regiment who were exercising on the Rock.

Major McKay presented a plaque to the Officer Commanding 642 Signal Troop, **Major (TOT) Peter Dale,** and then informed the company that signalling was conducted differently 50 years previously. Evidently, carrier pigeons were in use. These, it seems, have certain advantages over the Clansman Range. In particular, they can be eaten. Do they really do that in the Sappers?

Wellington Front

Yes! We still occupy Wellington Front after 50 years, having moved there on 21st August, 1922. The winds of change blow very gently in Gibraltar, if they blow at all. We are promised a modernisation by the DOE next year and not before time. Those members of the Corps who have 'done' the Rock would see ltitle changed. Our chargeman, **John Ferro,** can be seen each morning organising the work parties in the 'Patio' and the test clerk, **Manolo Perea,** conducts operations from his records cabinet with a battery of telephones.

Our storekeepers, **Mr. Trinidad** and **'Merci'** keep us supplied from the ever-expanding stores. **'Willy,' Mr. Williamson,** the telephone 'wizard,' keeps our instruments in working order and still finds time to provide the Rock with PA.

Sport

Despite our lack of numbers, we produce a fine rugby team and a football team which win their share of games. To produce the rugby team we had to resort to a little trickery. Our star players are **Sergeants Tab Hunter** and **'Taff' Wathen** and **Corporal Ted Fitzsimons;** the other 12 players are provided by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. To appease the majority, we call the team the 1 RRF XV. This strategy worked so well that we used to field a football XI which we call First Fortress Squadron RE. **Sergeants Tab Hunter** and **'Taff' Wathen** and **Corporal Eddie Sykes** form the backbone of the side and we borrow eight players from the RE Squadron.

Most members of the Troop indulge in a little fishing or sailing. The facilities on the Rock for these sports are very good. **Corporals Ted Fitzsimons** and **Neil Rhodes** both qualified on the yacht 'Levante' and **Sergeants Tab Hunter** and **'Taff' Wathen** are dinghy sailors.

Sergeant Barry Williams recently landed a 17lb. conger while fishing for mackerel. Probably because of this, **Sergeant 'Mac' Vaughan** has taken the plunge and bought all necessary kit for fishing. Knowing that **'Mac'** was going on a couple of fishing trips, we left these notes open to report on his luck . . .

In case the impression is given by these notes that it is all hunting, sailing and fishing here, we do occasionally work providing and maintaining communications for the Army, Royal Air Force and, to a limited extent, the Royal Navy. This is our day-to-day commitment and then the odd exercise, remotes for 14 Signal Regiment detachment, air defence communications for 12 Light AD Regiment, and so on.

And to keep the record straight, the remaining serving members of the Troop are **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. P. Mortenson** and **Corporal S. Buckley.**

Signal Works Service Troop
4 Signal Group, B.F.P.O. 16

COLONEL JOHN AKASS, COMMANDER 4 SIGNAL GROUP AND HIS 'OLDIES'
Standing: Herr Austerschmidt, Mr. Davis, Herr Kleinert, Herr Schroeter, Herr Bolle
Sitting: Herr Schimon, W.O.2 Naismith, Major (Retired) Connett, Colonel Akass, W.O.2 Hunt, Herr Lipinski

NAMES such as **Lipinski, Laskowski, Krakofsky, Bo!le, Schimon, Walkenhorst, Austerschmidt, Schmelzer** and **Osieka** are rarely seen in THE WIRE, but these are a few of the German civilians employed by our Troop.

In June, 1945, this unit was formed from prisoners of war and consisted mainly of German national refugees. About four of these ex-POWs are still serving, but the majority have since retired, after giving long and loyal service to Royal Signals in BAOR.

The Unit is tasked to carry out Signal Works Services throughout British Forces Germany and Antwerp and to maintain installations such as those in the complex network of ranges in Sennelager, and in the BAOR Petrol and Ammunition Depots.

We are commanded by **Major (retd) Bill Connett,** who has served as a TOT in most parts of the globe. He is assisted by a military element of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gerry Hunt** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bill Naismith,** both now thoroughly versed in Signal Works Services, UK and German pattern.

We recently changed our unit designation from the jawbreaking title of Mobile Civilian Signal Construction and Stores Troop, and take this opportunity of introducing ourselves in our new guise to readers of WIRE.

Most British and other NATO troops visit the vast training area at Sennelager on exercise sometime in their careers, and those who have had telephone communication problems in their own barracks in BAOR, will already know us. To the rare few who have not been so lucky, our 'oldies' who fix-em when you break-em, are to be seen repairing cables, exchanges and telephones, mostly as a 'fire-brigade' repair service, all over BAOR.

The unit is based at Alanbrooke Barracks, Paderborn, and we are always delighted to see members of the Corps who find themselves in the area.

Even if you are NOT trying to scrounge anything, pop in and see us. We make a good cup of coffee!

The Volunteers

32 Sig Regt (V), Glasgow

WHAT did November bring in the Unit? Well, from my calendar it should be Miss Pennington and negligee (it is elegant when worn this way). Instead the only bright event was the Sergeants' Mess St. Andrew's ball, but even amongst the members, their wives and guests, although elegant in their evening gowns and Mess kit, there was alas no Miss Pennington.

The ball was its normal great success, with **Sergeant Tommy (Top Cat) Craigon** giving his usual Fred Astair twinkling toes around the dance floor.

Captain Bill Barnes found out that his partner in the ladies' 'excuse me' dance, resplendent in silver, gold lamé and tartan, was none other than **Captain (now Major) Eric Sutherland,** in full Highland dress. We are wondering if he cannot get his sporan opened enough to afford Mess kit like us lowly mortals.

Regarding the adoption of our new trade and rank structure which has boiled down to people doing their thing, the first fruit appears to be our brave officers who are facing a weekend training session at Crieff Hydro on 9th/10th December. The Crieff Hydro being a temperance hotel, all Senior NCOs wish them a happy weekend. We of the permanent staff will be all interested to see if our Honorary Colonel manages to get them all in trews!

Perhaps the biggest training weekend was that for the drivers, this being held at Drip training camp near Stirling.

The training started on the Thursday, so did the first of the HGV tests. **Staff Sergeant Roger French,** our Regimental QTO, took it into his head to fail the first few drivers for such trivial things as driving on the wrong side of the road and brushing against other HG vehicles.

The testing and instruction on Friday, despite the weather, continued well, with, to the excitement of all volunteer drivers, a pass for **Signalman McCall** of 52 (Lowland) Signal Squadron. By Saturday lunchtime the number of cartoons depicting QTOs (**Roger French** had by this time been reinforced by **W.O.2 McColl,** from 15 (V) Battalion Parachute Regiment, and **Sergeant Hatfield** from the QDG) being chased by Bedfords, Hung, etc., had started to appear (even next to Kilroy). The entrance to the hot plate in the dining room had its two doors marked Pass and Fail. **Craftsman Gilmour** and **Signalman McCall** had the only keys for the Pass side. Whilst at Drip Camp we had a troop of the recruits from 11 Signal Regiment, in charge of **W.O.1 Bill Ayrs,** in the camp with us. A few wee nips were exchanged between the recruits and some of the Oldi volunteers, Detachment Officer **Lieutenant West** being unforgivenly mistaken for one of the recruits.

Promotions

Congratulations to: **Private A. C. Elliott,** RAPC, on promotion to Corporal; **Corporal B. Ferrick,** Royal Signals, on promotion to Sergeant; **Corporal D. Henderson,** REME, on promotion to Sergeant; **Lance-Corporal Jarvis,** Royal Signals, on promotion to Corporal; **Lance-Corporal D. C. L. McTaggart,** REME, on promotion to Corporal.

A big blow to our new Pipe Major **Mr. H. Hepburn**—the Pipe Band is now well on its way to formation and should be ready for the Regiment Camp next year.

34 Sig Regt (V) Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

Exercise 'Pied Piper'

ON 7th October a team from 49 Squadron joined 22 other sub-unit teams, mostly Infantry, at Catterick for the start of an 'all arms patrol competition' known as Exercise 'Pied Piper.' After an initial inspection (and quick wheel change) their two vehicles set off on the vehicle patrol, which was mainly a test of map reading. Both vehicles did well on the course and we finished this section in 4th place.

Then the hard part started—digging a defensive position. It was at this stage that one of the DS is believed to have asked if the team leader worked for Wimpeys. The answer is NO, and he still has scars to prove it. Eventually the slit trenches were dug, bivouacs were erected and the evening meal prepared, **Signalman Shevill** earning us 1st place in the Camp Cooking Section. Darkness fell, and it was time to start the night patrol, with the emphasis placed on navigation and speed. On a starlight night, the check points were readily located and another stage was soon completed? Well, there was still the camouflage cream to get off.

With the dawn came the start of the final day's activities. Slit trenches were filled, breakfast prepared, and the site cleared. A check on the scoreboard showed we had moved up to 3rd place, and so we set off with renewed enthusiasm. Perhaps it would be better to say no more about the forced march and the shooting. Nevertheless, when it was all over we had held on to 3rd place, and just missed 2nd by one mark out of a possible 1,000. It was all very different from line laying or radio path line ups, and our thanks go to the organising staff of Northumbrian District (and the weather) for an enjoyable weekend.

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

Annual Camp BAOR 1972

THE day finally dawned when each one of the Regiment realised, with relief, that no matter what we had left undone it was now too late to worry. On the evening of Friday, 6th October, five convoys of various sizes and numerous little detachments from the Regiments TACs at Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Rugby, Newcastle under Lyme and Hereford started to move out across England towards the port of embarkation—Dover.

On arrival at St. Martins Plain the Regimental MTO **W.O.1 Phil Johnson,** complete with cans of coloured paint, black and white flags, green flags, blue flags, pink, yellow, blue and red stickers, sorted the Regiments MT into order in preparation for the move across the North Sea. Whilst the movement of vehicles by sea was in progress, the remainder of the Regiment's 200 men and women were flying to Wildenrath from Brize Norton. The Regiment finally arrived complete at the base camp in Leuth in the early morning of 9th October.

The 9th was taken up with settling down, pay and the preparation of the vehicles for Exercise 'Fransystem.'

Exercise 'Fransystem'

This exercise was used to consolidate SOPs for voice and telegraph circuits and to practice interface and engineering techniques with elements of 28 Signal Regiment. These elements were sited on the square at 28 Signal Regiment with the radio relay paths being simulated by using 26 pair cables. The exercise continued over the period 9th and 10th October and proved once again the adaptability of the Regiment.

Exercise 'Autumn Leaf'

This was a radio relay exercise which took place from a.m. Tuesday, 10th October, until mid-day Wednesday, 11th October. All six radio relay troops took part in this exercise which was designed to recce relay sites, test frequencies, analyse path profile and generally prepare for Exercise 'Nothern Signals 3.'

The day off

Thursday 12th was blissfully the day off and the Squadrons took full advantage of this period of rest with visits to Amsterdam, Koln, Krefeld, Dusseldorf, Rüdesheim, and some like the Commanding Officer just closed the flap and went to bed. The censor has banned the publication of any further details of this exercise.

Exercise 'Northern Signals 3' (13th to 18th October)

Exercise 'Northern Signals 3' was a communications exercise sponsored and conducted by Commander NORTHAG Signal Support Group with the aim of practicing communications deployment.

The Regiment's HF Troop, 'Bravo' Troop was detached to 13 (RE) Signal Battalion Radio Squadron.

This was the first time that two NORTHAG switching centres had been deployed and the Regimental Volunteers once again proved their worth as they settled down to provide excellent communications, with our WRAC contingent working a three-shift system and managing to cope with the heavy flow of traffic, without too much traffic ending up in file 13!

During the exercise we were very fortunate to receive a visit from **Major-General Von H. H. Hinckelday,** COS, and **Major-General Floquet,** DCOS/G1/G4/G5, who were shown round the regimental area by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge.** Other welcome visitors included the Commander, 11 Signal Group, **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E., Brigadier A. G. C. Jones,** ACOS G3, **Colonel Schneider,** Commander NSSG, **Colonel Servais,** DA COS, **Colonel Bodenhausen,** ACOS, C and E, **Lieutenant-Colonel Sterkens,** Chief Ops and E, **Lieutenant-Colonel M. U. Walker,** WRAC, ADWRAC BAOR.

On the 18th the Regiment moved back to base camp at Leuth with all Volunteers visibly four inches taller but five days more tired.

Radio relay cup

The Woodbridge Cup which has been presented to the Regiment by the Commanding Officer for the best radio relay troop each year, was won by 'Romeo' Troop of 58 (Staffs) Signal Squadron (V) from Newcastle under Lyme

OFFICERS' MESS

Cocktail party

Despite the head shaking and rather dire forebodings on the advisability of holding a cocktail party in a marquee in the middle of October in a German wood, the Officers' Mess committee decided to go ahead and prepare for the worst. As it transpired the weather was kind, and this, together with the enthusiasm and energy put in by the committee in preparing a most attractive setting, the party was a great success. Some 30 guests and their wives having braved the wood and the marquee appeared to enjoy themselves immensely.

Regimental dinner

The other main function planned for the evening prior to the return move to UK was a Regimental dinner held at a delightfully situated hotel overlooking the lakes near Hinsbeck, where the opportunity was taken to entertain the senior officers of Northern Army Signals Group.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Farewell lunch

On Thursday, 19th October, during a farewell lunch in the Sergeants' Mess the Commanding Officer was presented with a silver gallery tray by **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) P. A. Noble** on behalf of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. After lunch the CO was towed from the Sergeants' Mess to the Officers' Mess on the top of a one-ton water trailer which, unfortunately, only has significance to the Regiment, and the story is much too involved to report here.

The same evening it was **R.S.M. Phil Noble's** turn to be surprised when during a Mess night out he was presented with a silver candelabra by the Mess as he leaves on commissioning shortly after the Regiment's return to UK.

The return

Early in the morning of Friday, 20th October, the same convoys left Leuth bound for Europort Rotterdam, and shortly afterwards the air party moved to RAF Wildenrath. The early arrivals at Europort left at 1500 hours, whilst the main body left at 1800 hours. The journey this time was far from uneventful, with the early party taking 28 hours (this must be some kind of record for a North Sea crossing). This was due to the stormy conditions of the sea. These conditions, much to the RSM's relief, put paid to the forecasted night of revelry on board, as most of the travellers had gone to bed by 2000 hours. It was so rough it has been rumoured that a certain Squadron Sergeant Major of 48 Squadron, who shall be nameless, slept in his life jacket.

Owing to the storm it was early Sunday morning on 22nd October before the last of the Regiment vehicles arrived back in the TACs.

16 and 28 Regiments

Life would have been a lot more difficult without the help of 16 and 28 Signal Regiment who proved to be as before very good hosts.

Arrivals/departures

Since our last article we have said goodbye to **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bruce Graham** who has gone to an easier life in Tidworth. We welcome in his place **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Jim Rayment** who, much to the RSM's dismay, does not play golf, thus he may have to start paying for his lessons; also to the fold we are joined by **Sergeant Ged Curran** from the School of Signals.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

Exercise 'All Change' (or almost!)

DURING October, all Squadrons saw changes in their OC or Second-in-Command following the retirement of **Major James Tasker** (HQ Squadron) and the transfer to the unposted list of **Major Ted Gabbott** (93 Squadron), in each case due to their civilian commitments.

Major Nick Bradley moves over the Pennines from 64 Squadron to 93 Squadron, **Major Alan Hawksworth** moves north from 87 Squadron to replace him at 64 Squadron and **Major Alan Ripley** takes over 87 Squadron, **Major Iain McCulloch** takes over HQ Squadron and 46 Squadron have a new Second-in-Command, **Captain John Rose.**

Following the sad loss of **Major John Walmsley-Cotham,** our Adjutant, **Jim Potts** becomes Training Major and we welcome to the Regiment our new Adjutant **Captain Jim Gittins** from 8 Signal Regiment. 46 Squadron have a new Admin Officer **Captain Chris Longmore,** and we wish a long and happy retirement to **Captain Tom Brookes.** To all the above officers we offer our congratulations upon their appointments.

Someone who made her mark — Corporal Mary Ostler

Corporal Ostler joined the TA in September, 1950, and became a private with a WRAC Company attached to a Battalion of the East Lancashire Volunteers. During her time, which spanned several reorganisations of the volunteer service, she tried her hand at many trades, to wit:

Records Office Clerk, Batwoman, Officers' Mess Stewardess, Cook, and finally Comcen Operator. She was made a substansive Lance-Corporal in 1961, and Corporal in 1963. In the same year she was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal. She made her mark in this regiment by presenting the winning design in the regimental 'choose a design for the regimental tie' competition. On her last drill night she was presented with a bar to her TEM, by our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Garratt.** Her long experience with the volunteer services was invaluable, and her dedication was an example to us all. As recognition for her services she has been awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Services.

News from the Squadrons

HQ Squadron have said goodbye to **Foreman McMullen** who has moved his HQ down to Nottingham. He will be sadly missed, but his problems will not! The FFR inspection 21st-22nd October was a great success. It also saw the formation of the most expensive advance fatigue party on record — three W.O.1s, two W.O.2s, a Staff Sergeant, a Lance-Corporal and one solitary Signalman! It is reported that the marquees have never been erected so fast but the Signalman collapsed with the strain of it all!

64 Squadron's **Sergeant Brian Eason** swapped, temporarily, his leasurely 110 hours per week sinecure as Squadron PSI for a Staff Sergeants' course at Catterick. 6th October saw the Squadron joining the rest of the Regiment in the first winter training weekend at Scarborough, whilst the 20th of the month marked the last outdoor comms exercise. On the sporting front HQ and 64 Squadrons, the Regiment's Sheffield based units,

38th REGIMENT'S ORIENTEERING TEAM—A GOOD BEGINNING

Left to right: Sergeant Simmons, Corporal Smith, Signalman Matthewman, Corporal Hill, W.O.1 Sivell, Corporal Eyre, Second-Lieutenant Fleming, Private Beck, Lieutenant Trayers, Corporal Sewell, Corporal Feirn

put out a combined orienteering team in the Northern Command Championships after only 12 weekends' training — literally from scratch. In the novices all comers event our chaps got 6th, 8th and 9th places while in the women's T & AVR event **Second-Lieutenant Judith Fleming** came second and was selected for the Army T & AVR event at the end of October where she came 4th. Our other ranks' WRAC would also have gained good placings but, unfortunately, ran past the last check point and were disqualified—cunning people these orienteers.

39 Sig Regt (V) London

AUTUMN in 39th Signal Regiment is always busy! The annual cocktail party was held at Skinners Hall, 8½ Dowgate Hill, on the 29th September. The Regiment was adopted by the Worshipful Company of Skinners in 1954. Among those present were The Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, **Brigadier M. P. O'Cock, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, Brigadier S. A. E. Heany,** WRAC, **Colonel B. R. Wood** and **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley.**

Autumn exercise

The cocktail party was closely followed by the autumn exercise, 'Red Grouse.' Detachments were communicating from as far afield as Denmark, Germany, Gibraltar and Cyprus, as well as Scotland which some people term as 'abroad.'

Handover of CO

It was with regret we said goodbye to **Lieutenant-Colonel John Findlater** at the beginning of November. The Colonel and his wife were dined out by the Officers' Mess at Worship Street. Seventy-five people sat down to dinner and we were extremely lucky in having the Corps Band who entertained us during the dinner. We wish **Colonel John** and his family a happy tour in Berlin. It is rumoured Berlin is the 'in place' to go for holidays in 1973!

At the same time we would like to welcome our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith White**, to the Regiment.

PSO

There seems to have been a complete change in permanent staff recently. **Captain Heather Greenland, WRAC,** left us to get married on the 4th November. A guard of honour was provided by the Officers of the Regiment. We would like to wish **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Derek Maldwyn Jones** every happiness.

We would also like to welcome **Captain Ruth Pearse,** WRAC, who has taken over as PSO and hope she enjoys her tour with us.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

Troop projects

THE Regiment sent a party of 100 to England on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Sir Tristram*. The party left Belfast on Friday, 24th November, and returned in the early hours of Monday, 27th November, 1972.

The party consisted of four separate detachments. Recruit Troop under **Lieutenant Brian Patterson,** which went to Altcar ranges, Medium Radio Troop under **Lieutenant John Anderson** which went to 8 Signal Regiment at Catterick, 821 Troop under **Captain Dennis Gilpin,** which went to Wales for initiative tests and 825 Troop under **Lieutenant Brian Mitchell,** which went to Derbyshire for adventure training. Everyone enjoyed themselves and our thanks go to the Captain and ships company of the *Sir Tristram* for looking after us during the crossing from and to Belfast/Liverpool.

The following is an account of three of the troops activities:

85 (Ulster) Signal Squadron 'got away from it all' for a weekend in November when they took the 'mainland' by storm. As a swansong for the Brick Troop establishments, each troop carried out a project 'somewhere in the U.K.'

821 Troop

The old 821 Troop, based in Lurgan, County Armagh were forced (but pleasantly) by their forceful (but pleasant, though I do say it myself) Troop Comd **Captain Denis Gilpin** to find their own way from Liverpool to Aberystwyth. Just to add a little spice they had to arrive at their destination bearing trophies collected in certain scattered named towns en route. The 'Boys from the County Armagh' started of in dets of three and chatted up, cajoled and threatened their merry way over about 250-300 miles of Welsh mountains and Welsh and English towns, spreading the gospel according to **Staff Sergeant Denis Rainbow** (who did the trip by ¼-ton Land Rover) until they arrived wet, swearing but jubilant at Aberystwyth TAVR centre, kindly loaned to us for the night by D Company 3 Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The following morning at 08.00 hours, Aberystwyth was rudely awakened by the revving and snorting of our 'sick' four-tonner as we started back for Liverpool and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Sir Tristram*. Somewhere near Mold we were obliged to stop 'to compute results of the trip' in a roadside tavern named appropriately enough 'The Rainbow Inn.' Our Staff Sergeant immediately put his hand in his pocket and ordered everyone else to buy him a drink.

The results were duly tabulated at this location and **Corporal Roy McDowell, Lance-Corporal Alec Doak** and **Signalman Jim Cousins** announced as winning det having produced evidence of visits to eight towns including a hard-boiled egg with signature on it and a whisky bottle (empty of course) stamped with a hotel credit card stamp.

The final stage included a not very good guided tour of Liverpool as we frantically searched for the West Gladstone Dock, finally succeeding as the ship's crew was despairing for our arrival.

825 Troop

825 Signal Troop (old title), the Squadron's Sabre Troop, were taken to the Peak District where they were encouraged to walk by **Lieutenant Brian Mitchell.** Having had a pleasant cruise over to Liverpool, they set off in a four-tonner to go to Bollington in Cheshire where the hike was due to start. Suspiciously, however, the aforesaid vehicle had a seizure just outside an attractive pub in Prestbury, a village famous for its 50 Rolls Royces. Leaving **Lieutenant Adrian Scott** to arrange a means of getting home, and **Lance-Corporal Andy Bowden,** who had fought with a water bowser on the ship, to recuperate, the troop set off undaunted on foot. After walking for 14 miles through pouring rain and facing such hazards as hills, darkness, traffic and wayside inns, they eventually stopped for the night at a local farmer's pigsty, which looked less inviting the following morning than it did the night before.

On the Sunday they were rescued and taken back to Liverpool for the voyage home. Stopping on the way at a hostelry, **Sergeant David Doherty** delighted the barmaid by asking for 26 pints and 26 rolls, whilst **Signalman Harry Gregg** confused her later by asking for 'another one of those baps.'

Medium Radio Troop

Unlike the other troops, Medium Radio Troop, being gentlemen, decided on a civilised project. Tramping around the Welsh countryside is all very well for our country bum . . . sorry, country cousins from Lurgan, but it is not really a pursuit for the intelligentsia from Belfast.

So we forsake the wickedness of Wales and the charms of Cheshire for the culture of Catterick. There was of course one other practical consideration which influenced us — the Troop Commander couldn't quite see **Corporal Bill Johnston** asking the way to Aberystwyth with his loose dentures! A special mention at this stage must be made about **Lance-Corporal Jim Cairns** who despite sustaining serious injuries recently, boldly decided to take part — a gesture that was widely appreciated by everyone except Medium Radio Troop. On the Saturday morning aboard ship he was a striking sight as he made his way to the washroom without glasses but with blue beard, heavy limp, arm in sling — as **Corporal Frank Tompkins** put it, 'he would have made Frankenstein look effeminate!' Anyway, on with the tale . . .

On arrival at Liverpool, **Lance-Corporal Maurice Stanley,** an enthusiastic pathfinder, eagerly volunteered as map reader for the drive to Catterick. The Troop Commander subsequently redelegated the task to **Lance-Corporal John Welsh** while we were stopped at some traffic lights in Aberdeen.

When we arrived at 8th Regiment in Catterick, it was perfectly obvious that they knew we were coming — the place was deserted (just a joke, 8th Regiment, just a joke). No indeed, we were treated with the hospitality which we in 40th who have visited 8th before have come to accept and appreciate, and our sincere thanks to our patient instructors, **Sergeant Bartlett** and the old D11 King himself — **Mr. Robinson.** The Regiment did everything they could to make us feel at home, even to the point of arranging a bomb scare on the night of the 25th — it is little things like this that mean a lot! Speaking of pubs, after training the Troop Commander rather reluctantly accepted the Troop's invitation to join them for a drink — he says reluctantly because the sight of Medium Radio Troop in full alcoholic fling is not a sight for anyone of a sensitive disposition! This ranges from **Corporal Frank Tompkins'** farmyard impersonations, **Lance - Corporal John Welsh's** garbled rendering of Nellie Dean, **Lance-Corporal Ken Jones'** spontaneous fits of hysterical laughter right through to **Corporal Bill Johnston** playing Amazing Grace on the comb — all incidentally taking place at the same time!

On the morning of the 26th we bade farewell to our friends at 8th Regiment and departed for Everton — sorry, Liverpool. To be on the safe side the OC personally decided to be navigator this time. He subsequently redelegated the task to **Lance-Corporal Ken Jones** while we were stopped at some traffic lights . . . in Colchester.

Here the tale temporarily comes to an end, and if there are no actions taken against us for libel, the saga will be continued at some future date. It only remains for us to wish everyone in 8th from everyone in 40th the compliments of the season.

Fitness For Role Inspection

Our annual Fitness For Role Inspection took place on Sunday, 3rd December, when we were inspected by our Group Commander, **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.** During the parades at Belfast and Lurgan, members of the Regiment were presented with awards as follows:

Brigadier O. J. Peck, Commander 12 Signal Group (Volunteers) talking to Staff-Sergeant Carol Cameron on the occasion of the Regiment's F.F.R. Inspection

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Mitchell, Corporal Jim Taplin, Corporal Jim Girvan, Lance-Corporal Tommy Erskine, Lance-Corporal Norman McKee and **Signalman Jim Weir** were all awarded the TAVR Efficiency Medal, while **Corporal Bill Percy** was awarded a clasp with two roses to his Efficiency Medal.

The draw for our recruit incentive scheme, in which prizes are awarded to the soldier who recommends volunteers to join the Regiment, took place at the end of the FFR Inspection. The winner was **Signalman David Elliott,** and a special prize was awarded to **Private Ellen Williamson** who has recruited four new members to the Regiment.

Sport

Corps Football

RAPC 2, CORPS 3

Played at Worthy Down, 27th November.

The game was played on a wet sloping pitch with a very strong blustery wind blowing diagonally across the slope which would be the envy of any Yeovil Town supporters. A fast open game which was entertaining to watch, both teams overcoming the bad conditions to produce a match devoid of fouls and full of good football.

Playing for the Corps: **Signalman Burgess,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant Gent,** 244 Signal Squadron; **Lance-Corporal Chew,** 244 Signal Squadron; **Lance-Corporal Petrie,** School of Signals; **Signalman Brown,** Training Centre Int Corps; **Signalman Malone,** 244 Signal Squadron; **Sergeant Young** (Capt.), 244 Signal Squadron; **Sergeant Tierney,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Signalman Boyd,** School of Signals; **Corporal Campbell,** 223 Signal Squadron; **Corporal Walker,** School of Signals. Sub: **Signalman Horan,** 8 Signal Regiment.

RCT 1, CORPS 1

Played at Bulford, 29th November.

After their win over the Pay Corps the team morale was high and they were determined to avenge their defeat of the previous season at Catterick. Once again the conditions were terrible—driving rain and a very sharp wind blowing length-

wise, not ideal conditions for good football. In fact the match proved to be another fair, exciting, game with good football coming from both sides.

The Corps side remained unchanged.

RAOC 1, CORPS 2

The final match of the tour was played in pouring rain and gale force winds, but again both teams played some good football. For the first time the distribution of the ball by the Corps team was much improved and they seldom appeared to be in any trouble from the opposing team.

The Corps team made one change, **Signalman Alves** of 244 Signal Squadron, coming into the side and **Signalman Brown** was substitute.

A TRIP TO CHERBOURG

Report by Lance-Corporal D. R. McClelland of the School of Signals

Crew: **Corporal Marshal, permanent skipper, Captain Roper, W.O.1 (F. of S.) Graham, M.B.E., Lance-Corporal Tegg, Lance-Corporal McClelland.**

A quiet start

AT 2100 hours on 9th October the crew met **Corporal Marshal** and embarked on the Corps yacht 'Skywave.' After loading stores and equipment we left Marchwood for the Hamble. The weather was squally with heavy rain showers.

On 10th October at 0300 hours we arrived in the Hamble, found a berth, had supper and went to bed.

The morning of 10th October found us with heavy showers and very little wind, so we purchased fresh provisions and generally spent the morning sorting odds and ends before putting to sea. At 1330 hours there was very little wind and it was raining. We put to sea under power on a bearing for Poole Harbour.

The weather slowly improved but the wind remained very light. We arrived in Poole at 1900 hours and berthed along Poole Quay. Everybody was quite happy to be away from Southampton and the Solent. At 2300 hours the weather forecast predicted poor visibility and little wind, so we spent the night on Poole Quay.

Rough seas and out with the storm jib

The morning of the 11th brought good news and a favourable weather forecast of 4-5 from the east. At 0900 hours we set sail in a 3-4 wind making good headway for Alderney. It was very wet in the cockpit so we worked a four-hour watch two per watch. By 1630 hours the wind had increased to a 5 or 6 so we set the No. 1 jib and reefed down the main. From here on the wind increased and the sea got rougher. At 1800 hours it was blowing really hard so we dropped the main and set the storm jib, which proved to be quite a hair-raising experience; safety harnesses were worn by all. At 1900 hours we sighted Alderney lighthouse, but due to heavy seas, high winds and not the best of visibility we failed to pick up the harbour leading lights. After a short while a decision was made to head back out to sea as there were some very dangerous rocks along the coast in the direction we were being swept by the tide. Once out at sea a course was set for Portland, the wind was still very high and the sea very rough. By this time everybody was wet and cold, and more than a little worried as to what the next few hours would bring. The wind blew a hard force 8 or 9 until about 0500 hours, when it suddenly dropped off to nothing. We switched on the engine and motored the rest of the way into Weymouth, arriving there about 1000 hours on the 12th. Once we were moored we had a hot meal and began the process of drying out.

Staying put

The morning of the 13th gave us a bad weather forecast so we decided to stay over the night in the hope of a better forecast.

On the 1400 hours' forecast of the 13th gales were forecast for Wight, Portland and Plymouth; needless to say we stayed put, nobody was prepared to go in for another rough crossing.

On the 14th gales were again forecast, so we didn't move. The day was spent by tidying up in general.

Alderney

The 15th brought better news. It was still a windy NE 5-6 but we left Weymouth and streamed the ships log at 1000 hours off the Shambles light-ship. We were on a bearing for Alderney. After a very fast crossing averaging very nearly 7 kts, we were within one hour of Alderney when the wind yet again increased to a force 7 or 8 which made it very dodgy getting in the harbour and getting the sails down. We moored alongside the quay next to a fishing boat. After sorting out the equipment and donning some dry clothing we went ashore for a meal.

The 16th-19th inclusive brought gale warnings, so we stayed in the harbour. By the 19th we were seriously thinking of catching a plane home, but the weather became better and on the afternoon of the 20th we set sail for home. The wind was against us which meant a hard beat all the way. At about 1600 hours the wind started increasing and at 1800 hours there was a forecast of Gale 8 in Wight (our destination). We immediately bore away on to a bearing for Cherbourg, and by dusk we had picked up the lights of Cherbourg. We moored in the Marina about 2100 hours. After a very exciting meal of corned beef and pom everybody settled down to the most comfortable night of the trip.

The morning of the 21st gave us a good forecast of northerly veering north-westerly 4-5. We left Cherbourg at 1400 hours on a heading for the Nab tower.

We learnt a lot

We had to put a tack in halfway across the Channel and we passed the Nab at about 0600 hours the following day. Due to a foul tide the motor was used up Southampton water. We arrived at Marchwood around 1200 hours, and after clearing Customs, arranging transport and cleaning the boat, we arrived in Blandford at 1630 hours a much more experienced crew in keel-boat sailing.

TWO DAY MOUNTAIN MARATHON SIGNALS SHOW THEIR COLOURS

Contributed by Lance-Corporal Paul Lee

The Two-day Mountain Marathon was first staged in September, 1968, by a group of orienteers who had some years earlier been responsible for developing orienteering as a sport.

At this time there were a number of long distance endurance events in the athletic calendar, but emphasis in these events was largely placed on running endurance rather than navigational skill. It was apparent that a demand existed for a new form of competition, which ideally should test the enduronce of the competitors over considerable distances, over difficult hill terrain, presenting problems and at the same time embodying other skills of mountaineering, like the safe traverse of hazardous ground, the carrying of a loaded rucksack containing all the essential provisions for a two-day excursion, and further demonstrating independence and self-sufficiency in making an overnight camp.

After four successful promotions in different locations the 1972 event, (in September), was moved north to Scotland, seeking a new form of challenge in the beautiful hills of Ettrick Forest, surrounding St. Mary's Loch, and for the first time the race attracted international entries with teams from Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The only British Army teams were from Royal Signals. **Lieutenant P. Richards** and **Lance-Corporal Simpson** represented No 4 AYT, and 8 Signal Regiment entered three teams; **Corporal Mick Bailes** and **Signalman Gill, Signalman Mulholland** and **Signalman Norrie Gibson,** and **Lance-Corporal Paul Lee** and **Signalman Geoff Graham.** All the Regiment's other regular orienteers gave themselves the weekend off, after our achievement the weekend before, when we had taken first and second place in the Northern Command orienteering championships major unit team event.

Looking at the start list we were a little awed by the number of well known orienteers and mountain men, but we set out to show the civvies that the Royal Signals are learning fast.

Most of the civvies teams were carrying ultra light equipment. Each team had to take at least the following; a tent, sleeping bag, spare clothing, food for two days and a stove. One team had its kit down to 6lb. per man. Our teams had their kit between 10 and 20lbs. depending on what could be scrounged off friends. Next time I think all will be lighter and wiser especially **Lieutenant Richards** and **Lance-Corporal Simpson** who came unsuspecting with a load of 35lbs. each, but still finished in 36th place.

On a cold and windy Saturday morning we set off up the first hillside and as the day wore on, the hills seemed steeper and steeper. The emphasis was on navigation with three or more choices of route. The competitors were soon spread far and wide. At check point three, one of our teams retired with technical troubles, but at the mid-way camp the leading 8 Signal Regiment team was in 22nd place, out of the 64 teams who had started.

The following morning at 07.30 hours the 50 teams still in the event lined up to receive their check point lists. Three Royal Signals' teams were going strong with one in 17th place at check point two and the same team in 12th place at number three, finishing in 11th place for that day. However, it was the overall time that counted, so the best Royal Signals team was 17th overall, the others were 36th and 39th.

Not bad for a first attempt! Perhaps next year a Royal Signals team will be in the coveted first five. I am sure someone should try; the civilian teams have dominated the event for too long.

Army Apprentice College Cycle Club has a good Season

THE Cycle Club of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, has recently completed its most successful year 'on the road' by winning the Army senior inter-unit roller racing cup (the Soldier Magazine cup). We already held the Army Cycling Union inter-unit challenge cup (the Fraser cup) and the Army Cycling Union best-all-round team shield, and so we repeated our unique performance of 1970 by winning all three Army senior cycling trophies in one year. These successes added to our Northern Command championship and victory over both Chepstow and Arborfield in the triangular games mean that the College holds seven major cycling trophies this year.

Two of the leading cyclists have been awarded Army colours, **A.T. Mich Scull** and **A.T. Mark May.** The former is this season's Army senior 1500 metres roller champion and the latter is the Army junior best-all-rounder champion for 1972.

Another of the team, **A.T. Steve Buxton,** wrote his name in the record books by setting a new Army junior 100 mile RTT record with a time of 4 hours 59 minutes 18 second. This makes him the third member of the College junior team to hold an Army junior record, **A.T. Nigel Cartlidge** and **A.T. Sergeant** (now Signalman) **George Dewar** being the other two.

Our oldest club member is **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Hill** who joined to lose weight and has since represented the College at distances up to and including 50 miles. At 41 he still has some time to go before joining the touring club.

Team manager and this year's Army racing secretary is Mr. Alan Green, a lecturer in physics at the College. He joined the club because he was standing still at the wrong moment four years ago, but since then the cycle club has had a record it can rightly be proud of.

Thrice Army inter-unit league and BAR champions, twice Army inter-unit roller champions, four times Northern Command champions, five Army Colours, two Army junior BAR champions and ten Combined Services Cycling Association certificates, show how successfully the College now competes in service cycling.

Report on Royal Signals Rugby Autumn Tour, 1972

THE trials for the tour took place at Blandford on the 18th and 19th November. The first was in the form of three half hour sessions and involving 39 players. Although played on a snow covered pitch it was a very useful trial. Sadly many of the older, established players were absent, but there were compensations in the number of young new faces who turned out. Throughout the tour many of the youngsters were chosen, and although our results may not have shown many victories, future seasons should show the profit from blooding the new contenders.

On Sunday 19th, we fielded a team against a Dorset county side. From the start Signals pinned their opponents in their own half, but too many movements broke down in the centres. A score came after 30 minutes when skipper **Ian Cairns** burst from a ruck. He was able to feed **Vince Fallon** backing up, who touched down. The rain poured down throughout the game, but this was no reason for the Corps to ease the pressure. Unfortunately this is what they did and the county side took full advantage and scored two tries and two penalties within 20 minutes. Signals fought back and might easily have won had they been better in control of their own eagerness and the very greasy ball.

The side travelled to Aborfield on Wednesday, 22nd November, and notched victory from a patchy game against REME. The Corps opened well and it was an unfortunate interception which let REME score a try after ten minutes. Despite our pressure and some near misses it was half an hour before some good passing led to **Cue Gilder** crossing, **Charlie Abbott** converted. In the second half REME got in to their stride and we defended desperately for 15 minutes before conceeding a second try. The pressure was maintained but in the final ten minutes the Corps hit back with a try by **'Geordie' Gainford** which **Charlie Abbott** converted. The final whistle came with **Al Ewing** brought down a foot away from a further try.

Two days later we met the Gunners at Blandford. Perhaps mistakenly we included in the team all those who had not played in the previous two games. It also helped to rest players required for the next game a day later. The game was scrappy and we lost by 12 points. The first of these came from a foot rush which travelled the length of the field. Gunners were as surprised as everyone else to have got an early try against the run of play. Signals strove desperately, and although they came near to scoring on a number of occasions the bounce of the ball and over eagerness was against them. Very late in the game the Gunners got two further tries, neither of which were converted.

On Saturday 25th, we played RMCS at Shrivenham, and fielded our strongest XV. In the event we again went down by 12 points. Once more the play was scrappy, but our weakness in the three-quarters was again pinpointed. Both teams kicked overmuch and Signals received harsh treatment for minor infringements. It was late in the first half when R.M.C.S. scored a try. Signals poured on pressure in the second half but scores would not come. Unfortunately **Ian Cairns** was injured and down to hobbling in the last 20 minutes. RMCS got two further tries before the end. The best bit of rugby came from our half backs, **'Geordie' Gainford** and **Alun James** who made a blindside break interpassing for 30 yards before linking with the forwards. The move was stopped on the line.

Following the Shrivenham game the 7th Signal Regiment party left for BAOR and it meant that we were to meet the Sappers on 29th November, bereft of their service. The team needed a lot of juggling and despite going down to a strong side at Chatham by 31 points, the Signals XV played well and never gave up. Young **Brian Thomson** a scrum-half had been suffering from injury but made his debut as a wing and had an excellent game. Other young players who showed up well in this game were **Tommy Aitken** as wing-forward, **Peter Whitehead** a scrum-half playing at full-back, and **Chris Donaghy** brought in to prop, stuck to his task against a heavier opponent. We were giving a lot of weight and height in the pack, and although we took our share of ball it was seldom clean. **Peter Stuart** brought in at centre also had a good game, making two very fine runs before being brought down near the line.

All is not lost in Corps rugby. Some reflected glory comes from **Lieutenant Chris Wright** who has represented Dorset and Wiltshire in their county games this season. And one that got away — **Clive Sullivan** late of 24 Signal Regiment and 216 (Para) Signal Squadron skippered the Great Britain rugby league side to the World Cup success earlier in the season.

FARAWAY PLACES! — UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

Movements

Officers

A/Major J. H. Almonds	... ...	To RMC of S
Captain P. H. Dale	... ...	
Captain G. W. Howard	... ...	
Captain W. Roper	... ...	
Captain J. J. Ventham	... ...	
Major J. E. L. Adams	... ...	,, 11 Regiment (HS) to retire
Lieutenant J. D. Ambrose	... ...	,, HQ 3 Infantry Brigade
Lieutenant P. J. Bowles	... ...	,, 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
A/Major P. J. R. Brown	... ...	,, AAC Harrogate
Captain A. F. Browne	... ...	,, 6 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain (Tfc) D. A. Burge	... ...	,, Computer Centre HQ BAOR
Lieutenant E. C. Cameron	... ...	,, JTR Troon
Major A. H. Carling	... ...	,, 11 Regiment (HS)
Major R. B. Carroll	... ...	,, 10 Regiment
Captain M. J. C. Cartwright	...	,, HQ Training Brigade
Major (TOT) L. R. Churchill	...	,, HQ 2 ATAF
Lieutenant A. J. Clark	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant W. Coxon	... ...	,, 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Major C. J. Crow	... ...	,, 1 Artillery Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
A/Major R. Dorrell	... ...	,, Royal Naval Staff College
Major D. G. Dudley	... ...	,, MOD D/S6o
Captain J. McD. Edgar	... ...	,, 1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment (as Major)
Lieutenant G. R. Elliot	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) J. J. Elliott, M.B.E.	...	,, SHAPE (IHSC)
Lieutenant M. J. M. Emslie	...	,, 14/20 Kings Hussars
Lieutenant R. J. Evans	... ...	,, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards
Captain R. H. Farey	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Major J. V. Fielding	... ...	,, MOD(PE) LTP12
Major S. G. McK. Gordon	... ...	,, DOAE
Captain C. B. Greig	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Major M. J. Hales	... ...	,, MOD Signals 37
Major (QM) J. V. Harding	... ...	,, 30 Signal Regiment
Captain G. Harrison	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
A/Major D. Hazel	... ...	,, JOCPT (Haig) HQ BOAR
Captain (Tfc) G. S. Heasman	...	,, DADPTC
Major A. J. Hill	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Major J. M. Hincks	... ...	,, 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain N. A. Horler	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain (QM) R. E. Howard	... ...	,, 10 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. H. Hoyle	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Captain (QM) G. James	...	,, 226 Signal Squadron
Major G. N. Jenkins	... ...	,, HQ 38 Group RAF
Major W. C. A. Kennedy	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Captain I. E. Kerr	... ...	,, RAF Staff College
Lieutenant I. R. Knock	... ...	,, JTR Rhyl
Lieutenant-Colonel C. N. Le-Gassick, M.B.E.		,, HQ Radio Group BAOR
Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Lloyd	...	,, HQ Scotland (CSO)
Major G. D. A. Mackay	... ...	,, 229 Signal Squadron
Captain D. J. McLean	... ...	,, 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Major F. V. B. Philp	... ...	,, AYSC Harrogate
Captain V. J. Reed	... ...	,, 234 Signal Squadron
Captain D. C. Richardson	... ...	,, JTR Troon
Major A. R. Seward	... ...	,, MOD(PE) SRDE
Captain F. Souter, B.E.M.	... ...	,, 28 Signal Regiment
Major I. O. J. Spackling	... ...	,, 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain (TOT) A. H. Spurgin	...	,, 261 Signal Squadron
Major B. F. Strange	... ...	,, 3 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant J. R. Stuart	... ...	,, 48 Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain W. H. Turney	... ...	,, 13 Signal Regiment (as Major)
Major M. J. P. Vann	... ...	,, MOD (MD51)
Lieutenant M. E. Wilson	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Major G. W. Young	... ...	,, School of Signals

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. E. Rowland	...	To School of Signals
W.O.1 (F. of S.) D. O'Connor	...	,, 2 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. D. Price	...	,, 4 Division Signal Regiment
A/W.O.2 C. R. Shaw	... ...	,, 59 AYT
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) K. Grenville	...	,, 10 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. D. F. Falconer		,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. G. M. Kirkham		,, 32 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. David	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment, 2 Squadron
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. E. Newson	...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 M. D. McMahon	... ...	,, 30 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 W. C. Wheeler	... ...	,, 37 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. Ruff	... ...	,, 27 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) C. J. Shone		,, 241 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) S. W. Allen		,, 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. Smith	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Brown	...	,, 27 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. D. McGinn		,, 36 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant G. Platts	... ...	,, 35 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant R. C. Briant	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) F. W. Kendall		,, 227 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. J. Whydell		,, RMA, Sandhurst
Sergeant T. G. Heath	... ...	,, 242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. C. Thurston	... ...	,, 242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. C. Boys	... ...	,, 243 Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. R. Barry	... ...	,, 242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. C. Hunt	... ...	,, 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Waring	... ...	,, 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant S. J. Holmes	... ...	,, 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Hayes	... ...	,, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. F. Chaloner	... ...	,, CV HQ & Training Wing Royal Signals
Sergeant C. R. Worthing	... ...	,, CV HQ & Training Wing Royal Signals
Sergeant P. Clarke	... ...	,, 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. Butler	... ...	,, 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant Vella	... ...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant H. R. S. Gilmer	... ...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. K. Welsh	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant Woodruffe	... ...	,, 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. F. Escott	... ...	,, 260 Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. S. Goatley	... ...	,, 603 Signal Troop
Sergeant A. G. White	... ...	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant H. Rowlands	... ...	,, 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. W. Jones	... ...	,, 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant F. W. Baker	... ...	,, 260 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. Hails	... ...	,, 9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. T. Honor	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant B. P. Neillings	... ...	,, RMA Sandhurst
Sergeant P. M. Omahony	... ...	,, 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. T. Obrien	... ...	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant R. Paterson	... ...	,, 39 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant R. L. Comber	... ...	,, 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Hails	... ...	,, 9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant E. W. Whiffen	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant W. J. Adams	... ...	,, 30 Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant R. Jolley	... ...	,, 19 Cadet Training Team
Sergeant L. Harris	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
A/Sergeant S. A. Vivian	... ...	,, 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant R. G. Whitfield	... ...	,, 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Radford	... ...	,, 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. P. Edison	... ...	,, 21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. S. Frape	... ...	,, 260 Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. Costigan	... ...	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant R. Turner	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in November	45
Number of clothing parcels sent	71
Amounts spent	£1,349.65

One of the Month's Cases

WIDOW of a Sergeant who served for 20 years in RE Signals and Royal Signals. She nursed him through a long illness until his death last year. Immediately after this, her son persuaded her to lend him all her savings for the purpose of starting a business, and then absconded, leaving her penniless. She is now aged 74 and in poor health. The Association made her a grant of £50 for clothing needs, fuel for the winter, and the current Gas and Electricity accounts. Her letter is printed below:

One of the Month's Letters

I WISH to thank you very sincerely for the generous grant you have made me, and I can assure you it will be the greatest help for the coming winter. Wishing you all the best in your good work, and I thank God my husband's old Corps hadn't forgotten him

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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).

February-March 1973

wire

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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. 4RH. 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80**; *monthly* **15p.**
Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly **£1.20**; *monthly* **10p.**
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

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FEBRUARY/MARCH • 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Good recruiting is the lifeblood of the Corps—both Regular and TAVR. We are pleased to feature on our front cover an excellent effort on the part of one of our TAVR Regiments in this respect. The photograph shows the recruiting room of the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment in action. Those in the picture include **Major Ted Russell,** the Regimental recruiting officer, supervising, while **Second-Lieutenant Robin Foster,** WRAC, interviews a potential recruit. **Miss June McGee** looks on.

The good recruiting figures of all our TAVR Regiments are very heartening and we are pleased to hear that the 40th Regiment are, literally, going from strength to strength. The 'buddy' system is proving extremely successful.

We feel it may be helpful if we try and give some modest guidance to those who kindly volunteer—or have been detailed as volunteers—to submit unit notes to THE WIRE.

It is hoped that this may make their task a little easier and brighten up unit notes which, with the best will in the world, can sometimes make rather dull reading. We would stress here that a number of our correspondents are adept at writing up their unit's activities and what is written below is more for the unsuspecting who find the mantle of unit scribe suddenly descend on them at short notice.

As we see it there are two main headings to which attention must be paid when about to write for THE WIRE. These are 'subject matter' and 'presentation.' Dealing with these in turn:

Subject Matter

For a start if there is nothing really worth writing about, don't write at all or at least be brief. 'Padded out' descriptions of trivial happenings can be so very dull. When setting out to write unit notes try and avoid stereo-typed, factual reports on everyday military, sporting or social events. Pick out the highlights and expand on these with particular reference to the human aspect, making full play of any humorous incidents that may have occurred. Often it will pay to write up a particular squadron, troop or detachment rather than make a complete survey of unit activities. Again remember the human angle. Do mention any individuals who merit a little limelight because they have done something out of the ordinary or are good sportsmen or are unit 'characters.' A number of units, because of unusual locations or roles, can from time to time develop on these lines as a theme so providing interesting reading for readers outside the unit. Small detachments in out-of-the-way places or doing unusual jobs lend themselves particularly well to WIRE presentation and the Corps is lucky in having a number of these. Please do not write at length on:

— The weather.
— The writer's reactions on being asked to write WIRE notes.
— Christmas festivities which will not be read until February or March.
— Local funny happenings which have no meaning outside unit circles.

Presentation

While the editor will do what he can to help towards good presentation there are several things unit correspondents can do to help themselves in this respect. The first and obvious one is really good accompanying photographs. It is stressed that these should be large, sharp, black and white photographs on glossy paper. Human beings—preferably not formally posed—make the best subjects and the nearer they are to the camera the better. Try and avoid more formal and commonplace subjects such as guards of honour, medal presentations, parades being inspected and so on, although on important

(Continued on next page)

occasions these may of necessity have to be included. The ideal photograph is often that which features a group of individuals engaged in some activity unaware that they are being caught by the camera.

The second point to watch is suitable paragraphing of notes with side headings. Even the best written notes set out in a long column can look dull whereas a little judicious paragraphing with side headings breaks up the monotony and catches the eye. It is important that the side headings should be original, if possible. Avoid stereotyped headings such as 'Sport,' 'Training,' 'Officers' Mess' and such-like and try and think of something that will draw the reader's eye to the paragraph in question. This is not easy and the editor spends much time in endeavouring to graft side headings on to notes where they do not exist—not always with great success.

Please use individuals' names — including Christian names — as much as possible rather than appointments. This gives a good deal of pleasure and interest all round.

Please, please avoid proliferation of capital letters at the beginning of so many words. While appropriate to royalty and unit titles, 'Parade Ground,' 'Ration Store,' 'Guard Dog,' 'Football Pitch' do not merit them and your editor suffers writer's cramp in endeavouring to cross out at least some of them.

Finally, do remember that the 12th of the month is the closing day for the receipt of WIRE contributions. Anything coming in after that date is in danger of not going to press. As we write this today (15th January) no less than seven contributions have come in—several dated the 12th. Once again we shall have to impose on the goodwill of our printers.

This issue of 'The Wire' has had to be cut back by nearly four pages to avoid undue expenditure. To achieve this we have, in many cases, been obliged to cut out detailed descriptions of Christmas festivities which, like slices of cold plum pudding, are now becoming a little indigestible.

—From our "In" Tray—

Devotion to Duty

The GOC has awarded his Commendation to the following for devotion to duty in Northern Ireland:

Corporal J. R. Elliott — CR Signals Branch
Corporal P. B. Walker — now with 223 Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. E. Young — now with 16 Signal Regiment

Royal Signals Cup in Nigeria

Sir,

I have just returned from a holiday in Nigeria where I was invited to play in the Nigerian Polo Association Kaduna tournament. There was prodigious hospitality in Kaduna during the eight days of polo and I must confess that I saw more of the Polo Club bar than that of the Nigerian countryside! Above the bar is a glass-fronted display case containing some ten or 12 cups. You can imagine my interest when I noticed that the plinth of one bore a silver medallion nicely engraved with our Royal Signals crest. I asked could I have the cup down for a closer look, 'Do you mean the Royal Signals Cup?' And that is what it proved to be. On examination I found that it is inscribed: Royal Signals Polo Challenge Cup. It has an octagonal plinth, the forward face bearing the medallion that first caught my attention. On the right of this is a silver plate with the legend:

Presented to the Nigerian Polo Association by:
Major R. F. B. Naylor;
Captain W. A. Dimoline;
Lieutenant H. K. Treaseder;
Lieutenant C. C. Danby.

On the left of the medallion there is a plaque showing the team that first won this fine trophy in 1935. There are similar plaques for the years '36 to '39, and it has been played for regularly since, except for the war years. The plinth has been neatly extended above and below the original to accommodate the many additional plaques needed, for this cup is still played for annually and was last won by Kaduna Polo Club, my hosts, in the 1972 Zaria tournament. There were 14 teams entered for the Kaduna tournament from eight different clubs. Polo flourishes in Nigeria and the Nigerians play with great style and elan. If in presenting to the NPA the Royal Signals Cup, the intention was to foster polo in Nigeria it was a seed well sown.

D. L. Sylvester-Bradley,
Colonel

HQ 1 Signal Group,
Old Sarum.

Nishan Small Arms Competition 1973

The SO-in-C Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E., writes:

The CGS has approved the selection of Royal Signals to represent the British Army in the CENTO small arms competition in 1973. This is an honour and a challenge for the Corps and recognition of our success in small arms competitions in recent years.

The competition will be held in Turkey in August/September and our selected regimental team will be entered for competition experience in the ARA meeting at Bisley after our own Corps meeting. The team will complete its training programme and acclimatise in Cyprus a month before the competition.

The team will be selected from volunteers in UK and BAOR and attached to a regiment in UK for the competition. Details of the competition and selection of the team will follow.

This is a priority task for the Corps in 1973 and I expect our best shots to be made available for what is one of the most testing of shooting competitions. **The eyes of the Army will be upon us.**

Ex-Corps Cadet Officer gets B.E.M.

The presentation of the B.E.M., was made to **Mr. Thomas F. Dunkley** by **Major-General F. A. H. Ling, C.B., C.B.E. D.S.O., D.L.**, the Deputy Colonel of the Queen's Regiment at Surrey ACF, HQ at Guildford in the presence of many members of the South East TAVR Association and friends.

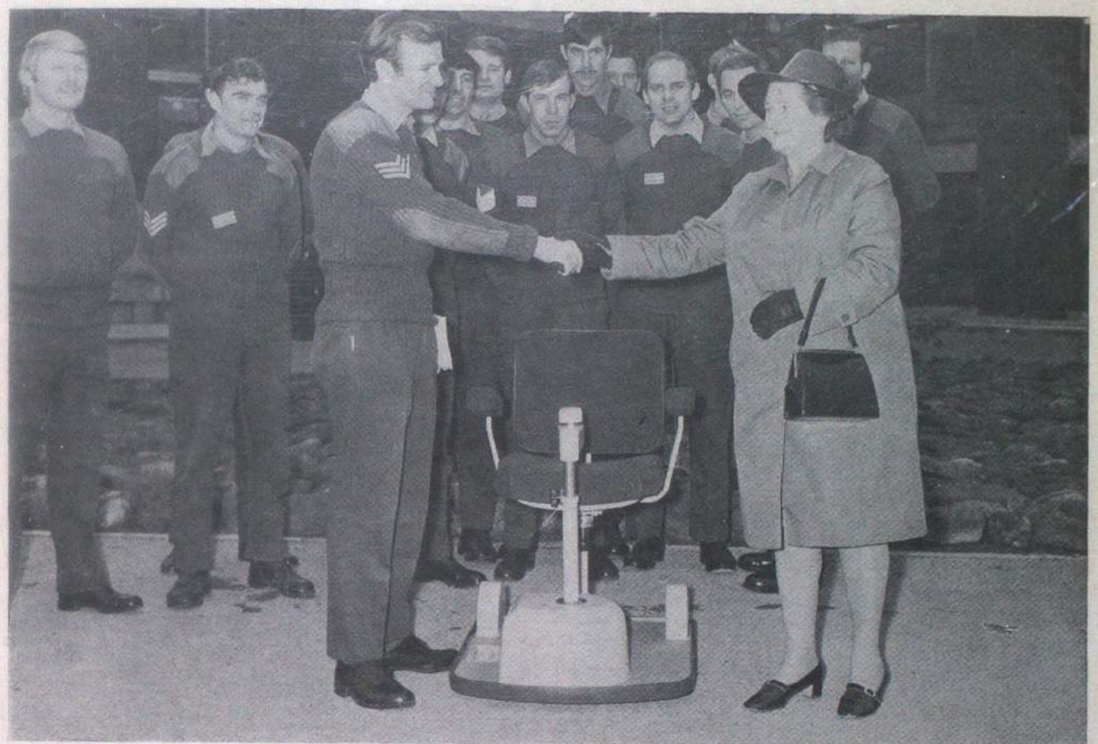
Mr. Dunkley will be retiring shortly after many years of service with the Regular Army, the Territorial Army and the ACF. He enlisted in Royal Signals in 1928, and joined Surrey ACF in 1949. From 1958 to 1967 he served with the TA, after which he again joined Surrey ACF.

Mr. Dunkley's many friends will be delighted by this award marking as it does his valuable and enthusiastic service stretching back nearly 45 years.

249 Sig Sqn Reunion

The 1973 reunion for all ex-members of 249 Signal Squadron is to be held on weekend 14th/15th April at 16 Signal Regiment Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, BFPO 35. Details can be obtained from your Unit Orderly Room, or by application direct to Captain L. T. Waumsley, 21 Signal Regiment, BFPO 42.

Special Mention



A Fine Effort

Mrs C. R. J. Mitchell accepting the Chairmobile on behalf of Blandford and District Club for the Disabled from members of 23 Yeoman of Signals Course

At a brief ceremony on Thursday, 21st December, 1972, outside the main entrance to the School of Signals, a Chairmobile was presented by students of 23 Yeoman of Signals Course to **Mrs. C. R. J. Mitchell**, Chairman of Blandford and District Club for the Disabled. This mechanical chair is battery operated and equipped with a steering arm and very simple controls, and will provide a disabled person with a considerable degree of mobility. It was purchased by the students for £113, from money raised in a variety of methods, such as car washing, raffles, gardening, window cleaning, furniture removing, car servicing, plant selling and designing and selling Christmas cards. The students advertised their services with this slogan:

That job or task you've always shirked,
Call in the Jimmys and we'll do the work.

All jobs were done in off-duty hours. Those taking part in the project were: **Sergeants Phil Castle, John Chapman, Jim Doherty, Colin Eastland, Dave Elcox, Joe Farndon, John Greatbanks, Rod Lingard, Tony Lomax, Dickie Richardson, Dave Rowlings, Bernie Smith, George Stubbings** and **Dave Thomas.**

Mrs. Mitchell, in accepting the Chairmobile, paid tribute to the unselfish efforts of the students on behalf of their less fortunate fellows. We would like to add our thanks and appreciation for a splendid example of how to make the best possible use of spare time.

Public Duties - London

Royal Signals are providing the Guards for Public Duties in London on the following dates:

23rd February, 26th February, 1st March, 4th March, 7th March.

It is permissable to watch the mounting parade from the forecourt of Buckingham Palace providing prior notice is given to the Palace authorities.

The names of anyone wishing to watch the parade should be forwarded to CSO London District, either in writing, or by telephone, London District Military Ext. 441/444, giving 14 days notice.

Clothing

Since the beginning of December, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Major G. Corden; Mr. and Mrs. C. Fry; Lieutenant-Colonel G. Byrom; Mrs. E. Fladgate; Lieutenant and Mrs. M. E. Wilson; Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham; Major-General R. J. Moberly; Major C. J. Bayfield; Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) N. Crowder; Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. W. Gahan; Brigadier H. R. Firth; Mr. and Mrs. A. Morgan; Royal Signals Association, North London Branch; H. W. Doze, Esq.; Mrs. D. M. Purser; Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson; Mr. W. E. Osborne.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E. finally retires from the Corps

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL Reg Atkinson finally left the Corps on 22nd December, after nearly 47 years service. His last appointment was that of RO2 with 11 Signal Regiment. To mark his retirement the officers' of the Regiment presented him with a silver cruet set.

Reg Atkinson joined Royal Signals at the age of 18, on 21st February, 1926. He reported to the Depot Battalion Royal Signals at Catterick Camp where he trained as a Draughtsman Signals.

In 1927, he was posted to Aldershot, where he was employed as draughtsman to CSO Aldershot Command. During this posting he represented the Corps and Aldershot Command at cricket and the Corps at rugby.

In 1938, he went to India and joined Peshawar District Signals on April Fools' Day. He was promoted to Sergeant and qualified himself in the additional trades of Lineman, Operator and Clerk and became a Section Sergeant.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson when Mayor of Richmond

In February, 1940, 14 years after enlistment, he was commissioned from the rank of Acting Sergeant-Major. On commissioning he was posted to 10 (Indian) Infantry Brigade Signal Section in Meerut. He moved to Western District Signals, Quetta, for the winter of 1940 and then to the Signal Training Centre Bangalore as a Company Commander. He became Second-in-Command of the Military Training Battalion in 1941.

Early in 1942, he moved to 23 (Indian) Division Signals as Second-in-Command, joining the unit in Ranchi and moving them into the Burma Campaign with 14 Army.

Reg was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel (in battle) in March, 1943. He was awarded the O.B.E. and then commanded 23 (Indian) Division Signals in Assam, Burma, Malaya and Java, returning to UK in 1946, having been Mentioned in Despatches on four occasions.

He went back to India in November, 1946, to command 4 (Indian) Infantry Division Signals in Poona and commanded that unit throughout the partition of India during which time he was also Chief Signal Officer of the Punjab Boundary Force. After partition of India he moved the Muslim Troops of the Indian Signal Corps from Lahore to Rawalpindi and took over command of 7 Pakistan Division Signals.

He was posted from Rawalpindi to Quetta early in 1948, to form, command and train 8 Pakistan Division Signals, accompanying them on service to the Kashmir Border.

In December, 1950, he returned to the U.K. and was appointed to command 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals (now 8 Signal Regiment) where he remained until May, 1954. These were the years of the outstanding rugby XV of 1 Training Regiment, when. under the guidance of the late Major Gordon Fraser, the Regiment won the Army Rugby Cup on five occasions, and the Yorkshire Rugby Cup once. They also won the Army cross-country and Army athletics championships.

In May, 1954, he was appointed Commanding Officer of 43 (Wessex) Division Signal Regiment (TA), where he served until retiring from the Army in August, 1957.

On retirement he was appointed RO2 with 7 Training Regiment, now 11 Signal Regiment.

Retirement saw Reg Atkinson just as active as when he was serving. In 1958, he was elected to the Richmond, Yorkshire, Borough Council. and he also found time to join the Civil Defence Corps. He attended the Civil Defence Staff College and was appointed Civil Defence Controller of the Richmond Sub Area.

In 1961, he was elected Mayor of Richmond. He was elected Mayor again for further term in 1970, the Jubilee Year of the Corps. In 1971, he was elected an Alderman of the Borough of Richmond.

He has been Secretary and Treasurer of No. 26 Unit Branch Royal Signals Association, 11 Signal Regiment, since early 1959 and has, during that time, enrolled and documented over 5,000 members of the Association passing through his Regiment prior to the introduction of the one day's pay scheme.

He has also been Vice-chairman of the Catterick and District Branch of the Association siince 1958, and was made an Honour Member of the Association in 1971, for long and distinguished service to the Association.

There are certain achievements in his career which reflect great credit on Reg.

The meteoric rise between February, 1940, and March, 1943, from Acting Sergeant-Major to Lieutenant-Colonel commanding a Divisional Signal Regiment.

His election as Mayor of Richmond in 1961, and again in 1970, and his election as Alderman of the Borough of Richmond in 1971, and his devoted service to the Royal Signals Association throughout the years.

Reg Atkinson has not yet declared his plans for his second retirement but after 47 very active and full years it is difficult to imagine him sitting in front of the television.

The wishes of the entire Corps go with Reg, and his wife Hilda, as they leave Royal Signals for the last time. Hilda will be missed just as much as Reg. She is always at his side, whether the occasion is military or civic, and her friendly advice and help to wives will be a sad loss. We wish them both every happiness for many years of retirement and hope to see them at Corps functions whenever they are able to attend.

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APPRENTICES AT SEA

A party from Harrogate learn a thing or two aboard the Training Brig *Royalist*

NOVEMBER, 1972, was possibly the first time since the 41st or Berkshire Regiment of Foot served as marines in the 18th century that soldiers have gone to sea in a square rigger. This time they were not serving as marines, however, but as hands 'before the mast.'

They were members of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, who spent a week as part of the crew of the Training Brig *Royalist* (**Commander J. Wheeler, O.B.E.**, R.N. (ret.)) through the courtesy of the Sea Cadet Corps, who own the ship.

The party consisted of **Lieutenant-Commander (ret.) R. S. Harrison** (a civilian lecturer at the College who is Officer i/c Offshore Sailing), **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) J. Scrutton, Sergeant J. Vincent, A/T Lance-Corporal M. J. Sturney** and **A/Ts R. C. Taylor** and **T. P. West.** Many others had applied to go but, as it was in term time, only those who were cleared by Trade were allowed to go.

The *Royalist* is a modified copy of one of the old gun brigs (a 12-14 gun warship with two square rigged masts, though, of course, no guns are carried today). She makes cruises of, usually, one week's duration, changing crews for every trip. Some of you may have seen her: she appeared in the BBC television feature 'The Week We Caught Sea Fever' in August, and has also been seen in some episodes of 'The Onedin Line.'

After joining the ship in Portsmouth we were allowed at least 10 minutes to unpack and change into 'No 8s' (seaman's working rig)—in our case denims and H/D pullovers—and then practised climbing the masts. Some of us were a bit alarmed to find that this involved hanging back downwards when we came to the tops (a working platform part way up the mast). After being shown how a sail was set and furled we then set to and did it ourselves. This involves walking out on footropes suspended from the yards and then either casting loose the bands holding the sail fast, or else gathering up the sail in a neat furl—a thing which is not quite as easy as it looks, though the work is made easier by hauling on lines from the deck which loosely brail up the sail to the yard.

As soon as we had breakfasted on the second day we motored out of harbour, setting the sails as we went. For the whole of the day we practised every conceivable manoeuvre in the Spithead area. It was then that the OC discovered that he was not as young as he was when he first practised the art of 'laying aloft'! The eighth time of taking in sail in three hours proved this to him.

On one occasion during these drills there was a call to furl both top gallants (the uppermost sail of the three on each mast). Four figures sprang to the rigging and raced aloft. After a minute the Captain was heard to say "Who's on the t'ga'nts?" The reply from the Sailing Master: "My God! They're all Army" (**S.S.M. Scrutton, A/T Taylor, Sergeant Vincent** and **A/T West**).

After returning to Portsmouth for the night we sailed towards Caen. (A sailing ship never sails to a place; life under sail is too uncertain for you to state definitely that you will get there).

The weather was light, but sufficient to knock out some of the hands as soon as we cleared the Isle of Wight. *Royalist* made good time and so we shortened sail at sunset so that we would not arrive too early to use the lock at Ouistreham.

During the passage up the canal to Caen all hands were employed cleaning up brasswork about the deck. The modern soldier finds this rather a novel experience in these days of anodised buttons and badges!

After lunch most of the crew were able to go ashore and sample the delights of Caen. None of us managed to see the Bayeux Tapestry as it is rather far out of town; but several saw the impressive Norman castle and the Gothic Cathedral. Others discovered that 'bière' isn't quite the same as 'beer'! (It is not known whether anyone found themselves saddled with a Byrrh!).

The 'pongoes' distinguished themselves the next morning when those who had enjoyed shore leave on the previous day 'cleaned ship' below decks. Rumour has it that **Sergeant Vincent** may be offered an appointment as Captain (of the Heads) RN. (An obscure naval-type joke; the heads are the lavatories on a ship and the chief of the cleaning party is the

THE HARROGATE PARTY

Front to rear: S.S.M. Scrutton, Lieutenant-Commander Harrison, A/T. West, A/T Corporal Sturney, Sergeant Vincent

Hauling in the Jib Sheet

Captain of the Heads). The Captain remarked during rounds that they had never looked so well as they did after **Sergeant Vincent's** party had finished with them!

A party of French Sea Scouts came on board for the trip down the canal to Ouistreham. One rather delightful story was told by a very small Sea Cadet: "When the Captain ordered us to brace round the yards, I couldn't get at my brace. There was a great lump of a French boy in the way. I asked him to move but he just stayed there. Then I pushed him but he was too big to shift. So I kicked him—he moved then!"

The wind was nearly dead ahead and fresh so it was some time before any canvas could be set. Eventually the fore and aft sails (like the jibs of a yacht) were set but the engines were kept turning over to help us to windward. They, in fact, remained in use until we reached Poole at 08.30 on Thursday morning.

We stayed in Poole only long enough to clear Customs and then sailed with a freshening wind on the quarter.

As we cleared the lee of the land on our course for St. Catherine's Point the seas started to build up. The Cadets were unable to manage the wheel in these conditions and so the OC and **Sergeant Vincent** shared the whole of the watch between them. At times it was all that they could do to prevent the ship rounding up into the wind as she surged forward on the crest of each wave.

After rounding Dunnose the seas moderated somewhat but **S.S.M. Scrutton** probably found the steering little easier because the ship rolled a great deal as the wind drew aft.

By the middle of the afternoon we were again in Spithead and the Captain decided to sail up the Solent, carrying out helmsman's tests on the way.

The wind continued to freshen and, as we came to an anchor in Osborne Bay it became almost of gale-force and became a full gale during the night. However, we were in a snug berth and had little fear of dragging. An anchor watch was kept during the night though.

We carried out further tests on the way into Portsmouth where we secured to a catamaran at HMS *Dolphin* at 11.30. Then all hands set to clean and provision ship ready for the next crew, before returning by train to Harrogate.

All the party had an enjoyable time, and it was probably good training too, as it takes some doing to persuade oneself to climb 60 feet up a mast which may be rolling over 20 degrees either way.

The Captain in his farewell speech to the crew said that he hoped that he would see further parties from Harrogate; and we certainly hope—training permitting—to send a party again. One day, who knows, there might even be a complete crew of us!

R. S. Harrison
Officer-in-Charge Offshore Sailing

REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

DECEMBER has proved to be a quiet month for the Squadron as far as operations are concerned. Probably a good thing, as the social calendar was too full to permit interference by rockets, bombs and other likely disturbances to the peace and good will season.

The month unfortunately started on a gloomy note with a fatality. As a result of a mortar attack on the Squadron on the 5th December, Sergeant Roy Hills, RAOC, a Brigade ATO was killed. Since then, however, it seems that the IRA have knocked off for Christmas, giving a pleasant interlude of relative calm.

Visits

On the 19th December, **Lord Carrington,** the Secretary of State for Defence, honoured our knicker factory with a flying visit. After a quick lunch he just had time to speak to a few members of the Squadron before shooting off to visit other Brigade units.

Entertainments

Apart from two concerts, one by the Portadown male voice choir, and the other by the band of the 9/12 Lancers, the highlight of the winter entertainments was undoubtedly the Squadron revue 'Factory Frolics.'

The sketches were all of a surprisingly high standard involving a lot of detailed preparation and hardwork by all concerned. But perhaps the two most memorable sketches were the 'MT Fashion Show' and the 'Whistling Men of Borneo.' **Staff Sergeant Bob Foster** modelled the latest sportswear for the heavyweight elderly lady in Northern Ireland, with **W.O.2 Tony Waugh** as compere in the background. The whistling men of Borneo, **Captain Neil Mackereth** and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Jim Thornton** had everyone guessing.

Social

The many and varied Christmas social events culminated in two memorable events, the Sergeants' Mess draw and the Junior Ranks' Club dance.

The Sergeants' Mess draw was ably organised by the Committee, **W.O.2 Tony Waugh, Staff Sergeant Les Wilkinson** and **Sergeants Les Downie** and **Tony Collard.** The noise of the band though loud could not be used as an excuse for the many fudled heads the next morning, though everyone agreed they enjoyed themselves immensely. The evening was tinged with a degree of sadness as it was the 'final' farewell to the Squadron Second-in-Command **Captain Niel Mackereth** and his wife **Dona.** All the best to you both in Germany, leave some duty free booze for us! Almost forgot an important event; the RSM won a Hoover vacuum cleaner at the draw.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE VISITS

Lord Carrington talking to the Brigade Commander's crew. *From left to right:* the Squadron O.C., Major K. Ryding, Lord Carrington, Signalman "Monty" Monti Colombi, Lance-Corporal Geordie Harrison, Signalmen Bob Hanlon and Bob Daly.

Sport

The Squadron beat 12 Int and Sy Company, at soccer, 4-1 in the semi-finals of the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cup. We go on to play the Depot Kings Division in the finals on the 10th January. The team is in rigorous training under the RSM, 'the squad will score goals by numbers, Squad one. . . !'

Our basketball team has also been in hard training under **Y. of S. Alan Dunbar** as they prepare for the semi-final of the

SQUADRON REVIEW

Staff-Sergeant Bob Foster models the latest in sports wear

IN HAPPY MOOD—CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF VISITS

On 11th January the Squadron was honoured by a visit from the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Carver. He had an extremely full programme for his tour of Ulster and we are most grateful to him for spending so long with the Squadron and for talking to so many of our soldiers

The photograph shows how cosmopolitan we are in 39 Brigade. *From left to right:* General Carver, R.S.M. Connell's cheek, Sergeant "Chippy" Hyde, Royal Signals, Lance-Corporal Chris Bangs, R.C.T. and Lance-Corporal "Pierre" Davison R.P.C.

Northern Ireland zone of the Army Cup, against 233 Signal Squadron.

Stop Press: Unfortunately we have to report a defeat of 27 points to 19 points and regrettably one casualty, that of our main striker **Y. of S. Dunbar** who received a potts fracture to the right ankle. That's the only excuse we can offer. Well played 233, may you go on to win the final.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

Squadron HQ

SINCE our last WIRE notes the typewriters and pens have had to be put down for a few days, and our hands have been getting dirty while the office moved to a new abode.

It was all 'grunt' and 'hump' as the clerks put their muscles into their work instead of their heads, **Corporal Tony Kelly** (who after the move was offered a job by Pickfords) supervised most of the operation but did, however, manage to lend a hand with the work and as the day progressed we managed to get something in the way of an office into shape. This was only due to the determination of 'the workers' who were, **Lance-Corporal Barry Marsh** (recently promoted), **Signalman Mick Gillan, Signalman (SDS) Bill De Sykes** and **Signalman Jim Lawless.**

Corporal Ken Yarker who was tied up with the never ending job of movements did manage to transfer a chair and his warrant book from one office to the other and eventually sat down hugging the phone whilst the perspiration fell by the bucket full, and at the end of the day we were more or less settled in.

Anyway, there is no rest for the clerks and the work must go on, so the pens and typewriters were brought out again and work commenced to catch up on the backlog. **Signalman (SDS) Bill De Sykes,** on receipt of his brand new despatch office made his momentous, daredevil, Pony Express run to the post office and the wheels were once again set in motion for the 'three weeks to do' **Staff Sergeant 'Slim' Cheetham. Signalman Jim Lawless** continued to grumble his way through his typing and **Signalman Mick Gillan** plods on regardless with the Part 2/3 Orders. **Corporal Tony Kelly** and **Lance-Corporal Barry Marsh** continued to do, nobody knows what, and so the small but efficient team carried on ignoring the hours to get the work done.

The Adjutant, **Captain (Q.M.) G. Bedford,** RCT, sits patiently watching the walls of his office assemble around him and the OC, **Major J. D. Bromley,** continues to wear a happy smile after he had staked his claim on the sunlit office at the end of the block; everybody seems very happy. It is a great pity that nobody realises the time and effort put in to keeping the Squadron an efficient one. Our thanks to the clerks for a tremendous task being very well done.

Comeen

'WIRE notes to be on the Adjutants desk on 1st January,' unquote. Through the haze of New Year's Eve celebrations I will attempt to beat the deadline.

December was the quietest month for us since June. Traffic totals below 20,000, no attempts to shoot up any of our sturdy workers, leaves me little to write about.

We welcome **Corporals John Speers** and **Jim Tate,** and have said goodbye to **Lance-Corporal 'Jinks' Jenkins.**

In the 'hatch and match' departments **Signalman Dave King** became a proud daddy, congratulations to all three Kings (shades of Christmas). **Corporal 'Ginge' Baker** wed **Private Pat King** (WRAC), a stewardess from the Officers' Mess.

The biggest event of the month was the arrival of most of our outstanding tankards, and these have been duly despatched to all points of the globe to our past members.

Not much news, but thats a sign of the real improvement in the general situation here.

Tech. workshops

For those lucky fellows who knew the Tech workshop here, the big news is that we have traded our old snug (living in each other's pockets) environment for three palatial rooms occupying a complete corridor of the new Squadron Headquarters building. Only the present atmosphere of unification all round prevented us from declaring independence and issuing our own passports. We've settled instead for keeping the workshop door locked and obliging all comers to first 'sound

a bell' before entering the hallowed halls. Our city detachment got a belated visit from Father Christmas (who they don't believe in anyway) when TOT puffed up all those stairs bearing a hamper donated jointly by our good Wives' Club, the Royal Irish Rangers and the cookhouse.

MT Troop

The festive season has now passed and life is returning to normal with much relief. Most of the troop were able to celebrate Christmas within the restrictions of the situation. However, there were still a few unfortunates who were required for duty.

Unfortunately, we start the New Year with the sad news that the Troop Club must close and there has been a strong temptation to sit down and finish off the remaining stock behind the bar.

The SDS section has considered applying to the GPO for a week's wages, having delivered sack loads of Christmas cards to the Battalions in the city. However, it is doubtful that the Post Master General will be very receptive.

The New Year is now upon us and MT Troop would like to take this opportunity of wishing one and all a happy New Year and ask you to share with us the hopes that 1973 will bring an improvement to the situation in Ulster.

Sergeants' Mess

As in most Sergeants' Messes, December has been our busiest month of the year, with the majority of the activities squeezed into the last fortnight.

Apart from the usual Saturday night 'hoolies' we did a lot of entertaining of the less fortunates.

We entertained some of the residents of the Thompson House for the disabled, to a party, and 36 stalwarts in wheelchairs were transported to the mess. With a big spread of food and free drinks, followed by Santa with his 'donkey' (**Staff Sergeant Bob Swain** front — **Staff Sergeant Wally Cutler** in the rear), it produced a memorable afternoon.

Later we had children from the Lisburn and Belfast orphanages and again a good time was had by all. (No free beer though!).

Our big night of course was the Christmas draw. A mad rush for tickets on the night produced a total of nearly £700 for prizes. To show how fair it all was, the 'head of the shed,' **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Denis Connell,** with 900 tickets, could only manage one prize, a brief case. Our cabaret was a great hit, with stars of Ulster television helping to produce a memorable night.

With the usual 'us' to the Officers' Mess and the Officers' Mess to 'us,' and a New Year Eve dance, what a welcome for 1973.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

IN November our scribe (the OC) produced some lengthy statistics which were meant to prove how hard we (he) had worked and how pushed we (he) was/were to meet our commitments.

The real workers, the Second-in-Command and the Yeoman, thought November was really a pretty quiet month and they were (as usual) proved correct. December beat all records!

Despite this fact, we were determined to play it cool this month, less we bore our enthusiastic readers (?) and simply submit a few pictures showing the FFR, Squadron revue, Christmas draw, the Squadron dance, the childrens' party, etc. However, our photographer, intoxicated with our many successes, somehow only managed to produce four suitable pictures out of some reels of film. (He is being replaced).

Two of these pictures are shown below and together with the preceding paragraphs will serve as our notes for December. To write a full account would involve a relay of secretaries and an edition of THE WIRE to ourselves. We intend, in Janaury, to write a revue of the past year and we hope the Editor will therefore notice our commendable brevity in this edition. Here endeth 1972.

F.F.R. INSPECTION. QUARTER GUARD

Corporal Smith sounds off. Others in the picture are, *from left to right:* Sergeant McGimpsey, Corporal Byrne, Lance-Corporal Wright (R.A.O.C.), Lance-Corporal Hunter, Corporal Hetherington (R.P.C.), Signalman Gray, Lance-Corporal Smith (A.C.C.), Guardsman Brown (Grenadier Guards)

The Children's Party

233 Sig Sqn, Lisburn

Divis radio site

IT will be of great interest to the hundreds of ex-Divis 'campers' that the new accommodation, planned so long ago, has at last been completed. The Divis radio site is probably the most exposed and isolated of all Ulster's little detachments and its communication value is invaluable to the Province's security forces. Built hurriedly early in 1971 it consisted of six small individual elephant shelters and a crude ablution.

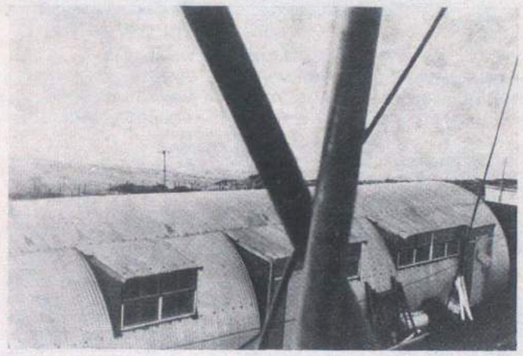
Early 1972, the site was reduced to five shelters — following the demolition of the cookhouse in a gas explosion. However, two portakabins were airlifted in to cover the loss and provide extra staging room during the rebuild. The kindest thing ever said about the conditions was 'it's better than a tent.'

The new acommodation comprising one large Nissen hut, houses all services under one roof including the ablutions.

(*Continued on page* 61)

(*Continued from page* 60)

Mount Divis Accommodation—Old style



The Divis Hilton—Accommodation *1973* style!

The latter is still very much an antiquated affair but it is hoped that some improvement can be made at a later date. Meanwhile, the weekly airlift of supplies and water continues when the mist lifts.

The rebuild was started by 33 Field Squadron, RE, and completed by 60 Field Squadron, RE, and the whole project was supervised by **W.O.1 R. C. Pearce,** Clerk of Works (Construction) Northern Ireland to whom we owe many thanks.

Working at Divis may never be the most sought after job, but at least the future inhabitants will have it more comfortable than their predecessors.

Recreation and sport

We would now like to take the spotlight off the more serious aspects of operations and life over here and deal with some of those activities which keep our spirits high whatever the operational situation may be.

Firstly, an account by **Corporal 'Nev' Juggins** of a communications test which gave a few members of Comms Troop the chance to visit the Isle of Man:

Operation 'New Fields' was designed to test HF communications to Royal Navy ships operating in local waters when out of range of the Northern Ireland VHF system.

It was decided to use Jurby Camp on the Isle of Man to simulate the working conditions and ranges required.

We were to take a K9 D11 station and Land Rover reconnaissance vehicle crewed by **Sergeant John F. Beavis, Corporal John Stirling, Lance-Corporal 'Rab' Galbraith, Signalman 'Nagasaki' Gough** and myself.

Unfortunately the K9 was too large to accompany us on the passenger ferry to Douglas, so it had to travel two days later by cargo boat carrying anything from sheep to sugar.

Arriving at Jurby we were a little put out to find we were to pitch our tent right beside empty but furnished huts. However, thanks to the help of the local police and his dog we managed to persuade the Camp Commandant, **Colonel R. J. W. Lace,** to lend us a billet for the week. Unfortunately it had no electricity or water, the latter being rectified after a convivial evening at the Jurby Hotel with the local plumber.

Our D-11 arrived two days later, undamaged but smelling suspiciously of sweet sheep droppings and after some heated discussions on antenna propagation we finally worked back to Lisburn.

Some judicious wiring got us generator mains throughout the building with hot water and heating. After some initial teething troubles we finally managed to establish a good circuit to Lisburn.

Communicating was interspersed with sightseeing trips round the island in our Land Rover and with the help of **'Pathfinder' Beavis** and **'Bogger' Stirling,** who must have thought we were in a DUKW, we managed to bounce off every beach on the island.

As all good 'holidays' must end, ours came to an end all too quickly and our main hope is that we may be allowed to do another visit in the summer months.

Rugby

"We'll raise a rugby team if I have to detail the first 15 men on parade in the morning!" With these ominous words from the OC, **Major Brian Blackwell,** the rugby team was born. Built around a nucleus of **Signalmen Joe Jennings, Eddie Millar, Brian Parry** and **Alan Kirton, Corporals Dave Milner, Sam Mitchell, 'Scouse' Jenkins** and **Billy Laing, Sergeant Brian Davies, Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope** and the OC all of whom had played rugby before at sometime the team was made up of gladiators from the football and basketball teams together with the SSM, **W.O.2 Derek Leggott.** These 'willing' volunteers attending conversion training under the OC most mornings before work. The result is a very fair team with a terrific spirit.

In the Army Minor Units competition our results were creditable: Defeated in the Northern Ireland cup-final by 59 Commando Squadron, RE, 8-3. Defeated in the Army quarter-finals by 3 Field Squadron, RE, 12-3. In both these games we were leading until the last ten minutes when our opponents' greater experience proved decisive.

Some of the most notable converts were **Lance-Corporal Michael Palmer** from the basketball team and **Corporals Bob Turner, Les Farrant** and **Signalman Alan Taylor** from the football team.

We intend to do better in the Minor Units competition next year but we need a scrum half badly, so if there is a scrum half in the Corps who wants a regular game of rugby with a General Service Medal thrown in, then volunteer for 233!

Soccer

The Squadron won the Northern Ireland Minor Units autumn league competition which comprised 14 units. We finished our fixtures with the same number of points as the Depot Kings Division (Royal Irish) and played off for the trophy. The Depot Kings Division was the team that defeated us in the semi-final of the Army Minor Units Cup (NI section) so we had an old score to settle. The first half was all 233 Signal Squadron and by half-time we were three goals up thanks to **Corporal Les Farrant** (twice) and **Signalman Steve Morton.** In the second-half the Infantrymen fought back strongly, scoring one good goal and accepting a gift from **Signalman Ray Carroll,** our goalkeeper, to make it 3-2. We managed to hold out however, and were presented with the league statue at the end of the match. The spring competition is now due to begin and we are determined to keep hold of the trophy if at all possible.

Movement since last notes

Departures. **Sergeant Broadbent, Corporals Milner** and **Warburton, Signalmen Connett, Curran, Griffiths** and **Waller.** Our thanks to you all for your sterling work and our best wishes to you and your families in the future.

Arrivals. **Sergeant McElvie, Corporals Brewster** and **Brians, Signalmen Ager, Duncan, Herbison, McNulty, Tracey** and **Wallis.**

News from Regiments

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

CAPTAIN (T.O.T.) C. A. King was presented with the LS and GC medal at a brief ceremony in Headquarters Mess recently. The presentation was made by **Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E.**; among those present were **Captain King's** wife, **Betty,** and his parents **Mr.** and **Mrs. C. G. King.** It was particularly appropriate that **Brigadier Bate** should make the presentation, for as he said in his speech, it was in 1954 that he and **Captain King** last met. Then as Captain Bate, Adjutant of 1 Training Regiment, he administered the oath of loyalty to Signalman King, C. A., who says he could not afford to stay a National Serviceman.

After the presentation, the King family were entertained to lunch by **Brigadier** and **Mrs. Bate; Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Oehlers** were also present. As **Captain King** said on leaving the Mess, "If you are going to be late for work, there's nothing like having your Commandant and Supervising Instructor with you!"

L.S. & G.C. PRESENTATION

Captain (T.O.T.) C. A. King with his wife Betty and parents Mr. & Mrs. C. G. King photographed in the H.Q. Mess, Blandford on the occasion of the presentation to Captain King of the L.S. & G.C. Medal by the Commandant, School of Signals, Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E.

Army Apprentices' College
Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY — WINTER 1972

Graduation day

GRADUATION Day for the Winter Term 1972 was held at the College on Friday, 15th December, when the Reviewing Officer was **Lieutenant-General Sir William Jackson, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command.

Once again our luck held as regards the weather. Dawn was grey and drizzly, but by 10.30 hours the clouds had broken, and the parade was held in bright, if intermittent, sunshine. This, incidentally, coupled with a wet square, caused great difficulty to the photographers.

But it did not seem to trouble the 600 Apprentices on parade, under command of **A/T R.S.M. David Rudd,** an 18-year-old Terminal Equipment Technician, whose home is in Stockton-on-Tees. Indeed, the Reviewing Officer was later to say that all aspects of the parade earned a grading of Very Good, 'which adds up to Excellent'—in spite of the onslaught of 'flu.

(Photo: Captain C. B. Storey, R.A.E.C.)

GRADUATION, DECEMBER 15th 1972

After the Parade, the Commandant introduced to the Reviewing Officer the College's three Regimental Sergeant Majors: (*left to right*) A/T R.S.M. D. Rudd, R.S.M. A. W. Cunningham, I.G. and R.S.M. L. Meade, S.G.

In the background is the Adjutant, Major G. R. T. Hargreaves, QLR

It was a proud day too for 'Colonel Johnny,' the College's Shetland pony mascot, for the first time leading a full-scale Graduation Parade. Apart from a quick slip of his head-collar, his conduct, we are pleased to report, was pretty well exemplary.

In his prizegiving speech, the Commandant, before reviewing the term's events, welcomed the many parents, relatives and distinguished guests. The latter included **Brigadier Johnny Clinch,** who was officially meeting for the first time his namesake 'Colonel Johnny.' In publicly thanking **Brigadier Clinch** for his generous and unusual bequest, the Commandant noted that so far the pony had proved rather 'easier to control than his donor!'

Goodbyes

Colonel Butler, on behalf of the College, said goodbye to a number of members of the staff who were leaving this term, including **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Paddy' Furniss,** RAEC, the SEO, who is to control the supply of books to all three Services; **Mrs. Joan Hiscocks,** WRVS, who, in taking the salute at Recruits' Pass-off, received more press notice than did the contemporaneously elected Miss World; **Major Rodney Dorrell,** OC Penney Squadron, who is undertaking various Joint Services ventures; **R.S.M. Alfred Cunningham,** Irish Guards, who, on being commissioned, is to become an Army Schools' Liaison Officer; and **Lieutenant-General Sir William Jackson,** who is to become Quartermaster General, in which capacity, we hope, he will not lose touch with the College.

Reviewing Officer's remarks

Before presenting the prizes, the Reviewing Officer spoke to the different sectors of the College community. To the parents he explained that the Army was very much a family affair, and he hoped that henceforth they would speak of the Army as 'we.' To the Apprentices, he said that they had made a good start in Army life, but warned them that this had been pretty sheltered so far. The staff he thanked for all their hard work which had produced such high standards during his tenure of command. To everyone he wished a very happy Christmas, and to the Senior Squadron a happy career as well.

Main prizewinners were:

Commandant's Prize 'for conduct, discipline and example':
A/T R.S.M. David Rudd, 18, of Stockton-on-Tees.

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award 'for the Best, All-round Tradesman of the Senior Term':
A/T James Parkinson, 18, of Manchester.

Royal Signals Corps Committee Prizes 'for those Apprentices who have made best use of their opportunities at the College':
Technician — **A/T Corporal Colin Roberts,** 19, of Huddersfield.
Telegraphist — **A/T S.S.M. Robert Scott,** of Wolverhampton.

The Borough of Harrogate Prize 'for the Best Essay on Local Government':
Technician — **A/T Lance-Corporal Nigel Cartlidge,** 18, of Congleton.
— **A/T Alexander Clarke,** 17, of Mintlaw, Aberdeen.
Telegraphist — **A/T Roger Doe,** 18, of Reading.

Champion Squadron Cup:
Phillips Squadron.

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

RHQ

IT was a sad farewell to **Captain Ian Turner** (ex-Adjutant) in the festive season but we wish him all the best in his new appointment with the 'Mods and Rockers.'

SERGEANTS' MESS

Our Christmas ball and draw organised by **S.S.M. Colin French** and his committee surpassed all expectations. First prize was a new car and all the other prizes were of top quality. **Sergeant Norman Larke,** ACC, proved his catering staffs' abilities by feeding 600 guests with continuous cordon bleu quality. Our thanks go to all organisers, helpers and guests who helped make it a very memorable evening.

RADIO TECHNICIANS

Government Communications Headquarters has vacancies for Radio Technicians. Applicants should be 19 or over.

Standards required call for a sound knowledge of the principles of electricity and radio, together with experience of using and maintaining radio and electronic test gear.

Duties cover highly skilled Telecommunications/electronic work, including the contruction, installation, maintenance and testing of radio and radar telecommunications equipment and advanced computer and analytic machinery.

Qualifications: Candidates must hold either the City and Guilds Telecommunications Technician Part I (Intermediate) Certificate or acceptable equivalent or higher technical qualifications.

Salary scale from £1155 at 19 to £1715 at 25 (highest pay on entry) rising to £2025 with opportunity for advancement to higher grades up to £2275 with a few posts carrying still higher salaries.

Annual Leave allowance is 4 weeks rising to 6 weeks after 27 years service.

Opportunities for service overseas.

APPLICATIONS ONLY FROM BRITISH BORN U.K. RESIDENTS.

Full details from:

Recruitment Officer (RT7),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road,
Cheltenham, Glos., GL52 5AJ.
Tel: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270
(STD 0242-21491)

1 SQUADRON

A prime

As everyone knows December is the month in which that human desire to punish one's body in name of enjoyment comes to a climax. The members of 1 Squadron are not immune from the desire and to make their intentions for the month quite clear the two Troops 'C' and 'D' set the ball rolling downhill by having their parties on the very first day of the month. This use of the same date was, like greatness to some, thrust upon 'Delta' Troop who would otherwise have had the second. In the event the arrangement gave a beneficial spin off as there were no gate crashers from the other lot. The only people put out by the arrangement were the OC Squadron and the SSM, having supped with 'Charlies' (under the Bates, Long and Long sound, talking was impossible), they scuttled to the opposite end of the chosen village to start the process again with 'Delta' (a much quieter lot). In fact, both parties were a credit to the organisers (at least they should have been considering the price of drinks!).

After the hectic preparation for the PRE vehicle inspection the Squadron signature tune is now almost certain to be taken from the musical 'Paint Your Wagon,' **Sergeants Judd, Smith** and **Fairhurst** have now moved into block 81 permanently. It is said their main difficulty is **Signalman Ryall** who insists on driving the prepared vehicles into each other. There is no truth in this for it is well known that their real problem is to achieve throughput in a garage with only one door 'Per Ardua ad Astra'!

2 SQUADRON

Christmas has passed. The break and festivities so eagerly awaited came, were enjoyed and now only exist as a pleasant(?) hangover.

But for the festivities there is little to report other than the steady, planned, progress of preparation for the annual hurdles (FFR). Test equipment went well (damn that loose glass), the vehicles look almost new rather than the weary beasts they really are and the radios are almost playing stereo.

With the long hours of the break in mind the Squadron repair, painting and decorating team, led by **Corporal 'Rocky' Stone,** set about refurbishing the 'Stagger Inn.' Although we say it but shouldn't—a jolly good job they have made of it too. We live in hopes of having all the living accommodation improved to the same high standard. We suspect, however, that the further they get from the bar the more their enthusiasm will wane.

The Squadron Christmas party and draw was again held in the Wesserlust Hotel in Barme when 153 members of the Squadron with their ladies dined to 'soft' music. Towards the close of play **Staff Sergeant Robin Stanley-Jones** surprised us all by giving a few tuneful renditions of popular ditties — accompanied by the band of course.

Finally a belated welcome to **Sergeant and Mrs. Barry Mills. Sergeant Mills** has been with us since September and has been hard at it getting vehicles into shape. **Mrs. Mills** has just joined him in Verden. Welcome too to **Sergeant John Hunt,** the only true reinforcement this month.

3 SQUADRON

Yet again the Squadron is undergoing what is now termed a quiet period, that is apart from preparing for PRE, TELS, FFR, Christmas festivities and trying to fit in leave, there is very little to do. It is now accepted that one soldier can do the work of six, that is at the same time and in different places.

The start of December still saw parties of soldiers clearing up the wreckage after November's gale. We had various groups working with the town authorities to help clear wreckage in Verden, with Parmley's Commandoes and Jones' Joiners being well to the fore. Mutters were heard that we should have more storms to break the monotony of office routine and vehicle cleaning.

Most of the Troops this month have been engaged in vehicle maintenance prior to PRE in early January. It is said in well informed circles that one can eat meals from the vehicles, without the use of plates. Judging from the amount of paint, rags, etc., used this could well be true!

The technicians have been busy preparing for the annual Telecommunications inspection, and good results were produced.

The Squadron draw and dance was held on 19th December when over 300 members of the Squadron and their ladies had a good time. We were pleased to welcome the GOC, **Major-**

General E. N. W. and Mrs. Bramall (a member of the Squadron). After seeing the GOC cutting a dash on the dance floor it appears they both had a good time. Wilt and Stilt and Taffy the Disco went down really well with all musical tastes being catered for. The buffet as usual was excellent and it was agreed that the cooks seem to surpass themselves every year.

Medical Branch did well in the draw with **W.O.2 Bob Brewster** winning the star prize—a portable TV. He then drew **Sergeant Terry Braithwaite's** ticket—yes he's Medical Branch as well. When the **S.S.M. Colin French** won a lady's wrist-watch cries of fiddle could be heard. Was it because he organised the draw and his wife **Jackie** wanted a watch?

The night was voted a big hit by all who attended and judging from appearances next morning this was true. Thanks are expressed to all who worked so hard to ensure a good and successful dance and draw.

"BRUIN" TECHNICALITIES EXPLAINED
"TRIPPING OUT"

(Drawn by Second-Lieutenant Sheenan)

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

Regimental appointments

Commanding Officer	...	**Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs**
Second-in-Command	...	**Major J. P. Brian**
Adjutant	...	**Captain W. J. Armstrong**
Training Major	...	**Major B. F. Strange**
RSM	...	**W.O.1 R. J. Judge**
OC 1 Squadron	...	**Major G. T. Mills**
OC 2 Squadron	...	**Captain R. C. Etheridge**
		Major L. D. Morris—designate
OC 3 Squadron	...	**Major J. Barrett**
OC HQ Squadron	...	**Major N. L. Chesher, RTR**
QM (Tech)	...	**Major T. Canham**
QM (Admin) ...	...	**Major D. M. Stow, M.B.E., 1 Green Howards**
TOT	...	**Major L. F. Knight**
Traffic Officer ...	...	**Captain W. R. S. Kennedy**

The festive season!

THE festive month has at last passed by in a haze of empty wine and beer bottles, cold turkey and foggy minds. If one reaches back into the recesses of memory one can just recall the guard of honour for the visit of the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** a muddy Exercise 'Staff Ride Nine,' the Terry Wogan Show and a senior citizens band concert. Time is also taking its toll amongst the senior appointments of the Regiment because so many established members have been posted on. The Regimental telephone lists are out of date as soon as they are produced. We have finally said farewell to **Major Guy Rogers,** the Second-in-Command, and **Major Hamish McGill,** the Paymaster, and welcomed in their places **Major John Brian** and **Major Bryan Innes respectively.** However, to stop this fluctuating picture an up to date Regimental senior appointments list corrected to the date of this issue of THE WIRE is shown.

Visit of Signal Officer-in-Chief

On 7th December, the Regiment was visited by the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** He began his visit by inspecting the guard of honour commanded by **Sergeant Pete Mills** and consisting of **Corporal Les Dinsdale, Lance-Corporal 'Mac' Ellis, Signalman 'Aggie' Aggett, Signalman Simon Greatrix, Signalman 'Tich' Thomas, Signalman Mervin Abbott,** and **Signalman Phil Couchman.**

Afterwards he visited selected parts of the Regiment where he had an opportunity to meet and talk to the men. Having been fortified by coffee and biscuits in the Sergeants' Mess he concluded his tour with a visit to the Divisional Headquarters, where he met the Chief Signal Officer, **Colonel I. G. Swan,** and the General Officer Commanding, **Major-General R. E. Worsley, O.B.E. Major-General Sawers** lunched in the Headquarters Officers' Mess before departing.

The Terry Wogan Show

The suggestion that the Regimental communications system is in any way limited was finally scotched when at 07.00 hours on Friday, 8th December, the whole nation awoke to the voice of **Terry Wogan** quote "Coming to you live from the Officers' Mess annex, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire," unquote. The occasion was part of a prize for **Avril,** wife of **Lance-Corporal Frank Del-Pinto,** C3 Troop, 1 Squadron, who won a competition in Reveille magazine. A night out in London with all the BBC disc-jockeys was the other part of their prize but staging a live broadcast from their army flat raised technical problems, for the flat was too small for BBC technicians not used to working under field conditions, so the Regiment offered the facilities of the Officers' Mess annex in Carter Barracks, and **Major Guy Rogers,** a man of many roles, was tasked with laying on all the arrangements with the BBC.

TERRY WOGAN SHOW

Terry Wogan hands over the contents of the Unit swear box (£50) to Miss Nixon of Oldstock Hospital for Handicapped Children, while two principal donators Corporal T. W. Brown Royal Anglians and Lance-Corporal B. Hickson R.C.T. give moral support

ON THE AIR

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. J. Judge had a word or two to say to Terry Wogan—fight on flab, indeed!

There was an early start for all concerned, with **Avril, Frank** and **Frank** junior in the limelight. Many of their friends and neighbours had come along to watch the show and all hoped to be interviewed by **Terry Wogan.** The programme ran very smoothly, oiled by gallons of coffee provided by **Mrs. Morgan** and administered in larger quantities by **Second-Lieutenant Dave Lynam.** Although the Terry Wogan Show is not basically a 'chat' programme, on this occasion they bent the rules and many were interviewed. These included **Lance-Corporal Bob Finch,** who gave a physical fitness lesson to the nation, **Sergeant 'Dusty' Curry** and his Great Dane 'Nero,' **W.O.2 Jim Pollard** (ACC) who finally confirmed the rumours that 3 Division is working an eight day week, **Sergeant Stewart Waring, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. J. Judge, Major Guy Rogers, Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Briggs** and of course the **Del-Pintos.** Two hours is not as long as you think and all too quickly the progarmme was over. **Terry Wogan** and the production team then thanked the Regiment for their co-operation and left after the usual autograph singing and photographs. All was again quiet and it was only left for **Mrs. Del-Pinto** to say ". . . and now I'm going home to have a couple more hours sleep!"

Champion Squadron, Champion Soldier and Soldier of the year, champions one and all

On Wednesday, 20th December, the Commanding Officer addressed the Regiment on its many achievements during 1972 and commitments in 1973. He also presented 2 Squadron with the Champion Suadron Trophy, **Lance-Corporal Bill Bailey** with the cup for the Champion Soldier and **Lance-Corporal Steve Holmes** with the Soldier of the Year Award.

Lance-Corporal Bailey is the Squadron Clerk of 2 Squadron and he really deserves his award for all the hard work and peculiar hours which he has worked (and also for retaining his sanity whilst those around him were losing their's!). Not less deserving is Soldier of the Year **Lance-Corporal Steve Holmes** who spent five months in the jungle with the Darien Gap Expedition. **Steve,** a Radio Telegraphist Class I, worked cheerfully and unselfishly as the expedition's Radio Operator despite the excruciating conditions and his own discomfort. He is heartily congratulated on this monumental performance.

The senior citizens' band concert

This band concert was an innovation to the Regimental Christmas programme and the result of a magnanimous gesture made by the junior ranks of the Regiment who volunteered to forego their traditional slap-up Christmas dinner to put the money saved towards helping the old folk. As a result **Captain Harry Hamer,** our friendly PRI officer, went about rounding up 45 senior citizens from the town of Amesbury and surrounding district. At last, by 18th December, everything had been arranged and the senior citizens sat down to a slap-up tea in the junior ranks' restaurant. The meal was followed by the music of the band of the Royal Hussars (PWO) directed by their Bandmaster **W.O.1 A. R. Jeffs** by kind permission of their Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. H. Ben-Gough.**

During the interval several Christmas boxes were given out by the musicians of the band. To conclude the evening, each guest was presented with a free Christmas hamper of food to take home. Those of the Regiment who helped out as hosts (and here all levels of rank and departments were represented) and those who offered but were not needed are heartily thanked for their kind consideration and hospitality.

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

AS usual, December proved to be a hectic month with the normal routine of the Regiment overlaid with our FFR Inspection, Tels Inspection, a visit from the Command Secretary and various preparations for the Christmas festivities. However, a busy life is never a dull one and no one here would have called December dull.

Semi-final of BAOR rugby

Followers of 7's fortune on the rugby field may remember that a year ago the Regiment was beaten 6-4 by 1 RRW in the BAOR semi-final of ARUCC competition. This narrow defeat was truly avenged when, on 13th December, 1972, 7 Signal Regiment beat the 1st Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Wales, by the handsome margin of 14-0 in the semi-final stage of this year's competition.

This match was played before a large crowd at 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment ground at Bünde. Conditions were good and we kicked off with a cross-wind slightly to our advantage. Play quickly settled down into a typical cup game with both fly-halves kicking hard to test out the opposing defences.

After 15 minutes the Welsh full-back slipped and was caught in possession by our back row. The ball was quickly won from the loose maul and **Signalman Bill McConnell** touched down a good try. **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbot,** faced as he was with an awkward shot and a gusting cross-wind, failed to convert.

Five minutes later, following a kick ahead by **Lance-Corporal Alun James,** the Welsh full-back made another mistake and was again caught in possession enabling our chaplain and scrum-half, **Captain Alastair Heagerty, R.A.Ch.D.,** to score out on the left wing. Once again, the attempt to convert the try failed.

Ten minutes later 7's backs got a good movement going and **Sergeant Sam Degei** broke through only to be tackled just short of the line; his impetus, however, carried him over and this time **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbot** made no mistake with the kick to make the score 14-0.

Just before half-time the Welsh almost won a push-over try but **Captain Alastair Heagerty** went into the Welsh second row and touched down.

The second half was a dogged display of determination by both sides. The Welsh won a lot of possessions from the tight scrum but 7's cover and defence never let up. **Lance-Corporal Chinook,** 1 RRW's Army winger, was played out of the game by **Signalman Ian Cooper. Lance-Corporal 'Q' Gilder** on the right wing very nearly increased 7's lead following a run down the wing. The Welsh centres were allowed no room to move by **Sergeant Sam Degei** and **Corporal Joeli Cagilaba** and for the last 20 minutes the terrific pressure on the Welsh line made it seem as though we must score again. However, there was no further score and the final whistle blew with the score still 14-0.

Thanks are due to 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment for hosting the game and for looking after the teams so well after the game. We must also say 'thank-you' to 1 RRW team for being such sporting losers and for their good wishes to us.

The BAOR final is scheduled for 14th February, when our opponents will be 49th Field Regiment RA. Who knows? Perhaps 1973 will be the year that the Army Rugby Cup returns to Maresfield Barracks!

Will they make the Army Cup this year?
7th Regiment's Rugby Team

Standing (left to right): Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins, Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott, Lieutenant Mark Riley, Captain Alastair Heagerty, Corporal Mel Wilson, Major John Billingham, Lance-Corporal Mick Johnson, Lieutenant Bob Wannell, Sergeant 'Chalky' White, Sergeant Jim Tunney, Lance-Corporal Alan Ewing

Kneeling (left to right): Signalman Ian Cooper, Lance-Corporal 'Q' Gilder, Singalman Vince Fallon, Corporal Joeli Cagilaba, Sergeant Sammy Degei, Signalman Bill McConnell, Lance-Corporal Alun James

FFR inspection

On 5th December at 10.00 hours **Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane,** CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps, arrived escorted by Regimental outriders and was greeted by a Quarter Guard. The Regimental Battle Cry warned us all to stand by. Having inspected the Quarter Guard **Brigadier Macfarlane** called a 'O' Group and laid down detailed tasks for the day—all to be closely supervised by the inspecting team of seven who had arrived earlier in the morning.

1 Squadron found itself ordered to a 10-mile march in full battle order. This was accomplished in good order and in a fast time, and so much so that a DR had to be despatched to ensure that they did not reach their destination too early and miss their reception committee.

2 Squadron, already busily engaged in a handover between Squadron Commanders, had its stores and offices subjected to a 'fine toothcomb' treatment; in the meantime 3 Squadron was loading its vehicles 'ready for war' and donning NBC equipment prior to a drive round a testing circuit in respirators. 4 Squadron was given a detailed loading and technical inspection of its vehicles, equipment and generators formed up on the square. 5 Squadron was required to tackle the newly constructed assault course. The fastest performers on this hair-raising course were the Corps Lighting Troop RE closely followed by **Brigadier Macfarlane** himself!

6 Squadron, our 'front line' covering force Squadron, found itself in the less than usual role of parading in No 2 Dress as well as having its barrack accommodation inspected. HQ Squadron en masse completed the full series of Army physical fitness assessment tests, in our new Air Hall Gymnasium — in addition to all this a variety of detailed probes by the experts into training, administration, organisation, security, technical management and so on were met, held and, we hope, repulsed.

Brigadier Macfarlane left at 17.00 hours with a final 'present arms' from the Quarter Guard.

All in all it was an extremely testing and thorough inspection but a satisfying one and we were very pleased with the comments of CCR Signals prior to his departure, and the 'day off' from the Commanding Officer the following weekend.

18,000 Limbless Ex-Service men need your help

We urgently need money to help these men to conquer their handicap. And to equip and maintain homes in which they convalesce and are given care and comfort in their old age.

We are not aided by the State. So we depend on you. These veterans gave much when they lost arms or legs or eyes fighting for their country. Now won't you give something? Please, please help.

Please remember them in your will and send a donation to Major the Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD, Midland Bank Limited, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Eight W.O.1's in a Row—the dining out of W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. Bramhall

From left to right: W.O.1 L. G. H. Storey, W.O.1 P. Radnidge, W.O.1 J. M. Higgins, W.O.1 A. G. Riddell, W.O.1 B. P. Jakeman, W.O.1 J. R. Crellin, R.A.F., W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. Bramhall, W.O.1 J. Goldsmith

9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 53

Commanding Officer	...	**Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.**
Second-in-Command	...	**Major F. C. Lettin**
Adjutant	...	**Captain W. V. Legge**
OC 1 Squadron ...	...	**Major A. J. Welch**
OC 2 Squadron ...	...	**Major E. T. Bolt**
OC 3 Squadron ...	...	**Major J. H. Forster,** Int Corps
QM	...	**Captain (QM) A. A. J. Reed**

Introduction

THE grape harvest has been picked, packed and processed, and now the citrus season is upon us. The orange, lemon and grapefruit groves are pictures of industry. The busy roads between the groves and the port, reflect these hives of activity in the convoys of trundling, decrepit Bedford lorries travelling to and fro.

At this time of year, we leave the roads to the lorries and last handful of tourists, and carry on our sport, entertainment and work well away from the hurly-burly.

Below is the Regiment at work and play.

An R.S.M.'s farewell

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. Bramhall was dined out this month by his mess prior to returning to the UK and civilian life.

After an excellent meal, comments and valedictions were made by **W.O. Crellin** (RAF), **W.O.1 Riddell** (R. Signals), **W.O.1 Goldsmith** (Int Corps) and **Mr. W. Chitticks** on behalf of the civilian members. A presentation was made to the RSM of a silver tea service from the mess and he was also presented with an Intelligence Corps wall plaque. As a finale to the proceedings **R.S.M. Bramhall** was marched into a court martial (carefully pre-arranged in the next room), where he was charged, 'That he, during his tour of duty, did not consume alcohol.' Sentence, which was not subject to confirmation, was that he be dragged to the bar....

Volleyball

The final of the ESBA (Eastern Sovereign Base Area) knock-out volleyball competition this year was won by 1 Squadron, when they played 2 Squadron with a score 15-6, 15-8, 15-6.

The winning team, captained by **Sergeant Napier** and with star strikers **Sergeant Illingworth** and **Sergeant Braddon,** went on to win the 10 Port Squadron, RCT, open invitation tournament again from 2 Squadron.

Watch it 1 Squadron, the positions could be reversed next season.

Rugby

Watched by some 400 spectators in glorious sunshine the Army (Cyprus) Minor Units rugby seven-a-side was held in Dhekelia with 16 teams competing.

The winners, 3 Battalion Parachute Regiment 'A' team beat our 3 Squadron team in the quarter final and 2 Squadron team in the semi final, to go on to win a well earned victory with a total score of 120 points for, none against.

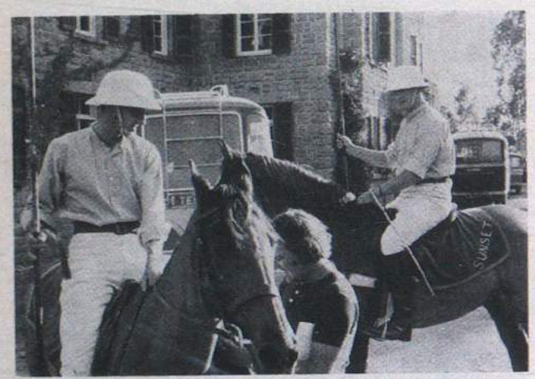
The cup and trophies, were presented to the victors by the wife of the Commanding Officer,**Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.,** Chairman of the Army (Cyprus) Rugby Union.

THE SEMI-FINALISTS OF THE ARMY (CYPRUS) MINOR UNITS RUGBY SEVEN-A-SIDE

Standing: Sergeant Rush, Lance-Corporal Pickersgill, Captain Reading, Corporal Nex

Kneeling: Corporal Templeton, Staff-Sergeant Hague, Signalman Wilson

BEAUTY AT 9th SIGNAL REGIMENT
Lance-Corporal C. Silva, Lance-Corporal Gullis, Private J. Coombes, Corporal C. Moore enjoy the warm Mediterranean at Nissi Beach. The unit scribe wonders whether any other unit can beat this quartet for good looks



Sergeant Mackay and Staff-Sergeant Crookes being checked by wardrobe before shooting for the B.B.C. film "The Regiment", in which they featured in a tent pegging scene

Military skills

How about this for a test . . . 'Milskills 1972.' What are they? Well read on —

Phase I — Inspection of individual weapons, clothing and equipment
Phase II — Range team battle shoot
Phase III — First aid test
Phase IV — Map reading, individual
Phase V — Signals and voice procedure
Phase VI — Group initiative test
Phase VII — Establish and protection of second patrol base
Phase VIII — 7 mile tactical march
Phase IX — Falling plate competition

— If you think that is not enough in addition to this at unit level, personnel selected at random by the inspecting team were questioned on general military subjects, amongst these were weapon handling and NBC training. You might ask what does it all add up to? The aim of this Cyprus annual competition is to test minor non teeth-arm units in basic military skills and is conducted over a two-day period by a neutral testing team, this year from the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment.

The highest possible score that could be obtained was 2,250 points.

The overall winners for the second year in succession were 48 Command Workshops, with our 1 Squadron earning a well deserved third place.

Congratulations!

The 'Dhekelia Dash'

The 'Dhekelia Dash' is a 15-mile road run in a temperature of 90, yes 90° F, from the Regiment to Dhekelia, with each member of the team running one mile. The Regiment entered three teams for this competition, but the torch was carried by 1 Squadron, who managed a well deserved second place to the BMH team. 2 and 3 Squadrons completed the course, but didn't quite get their names in lights. The 1 Squadron team was: **Signalman Wykes, Sergeant Braddon, W.O.2 Frost, Sergeant Bass, Squadron Leader Cheesman, Lance-Corporal Kerr, Corporal Goodman, Private Farmer, Corporal Gray, Sergeant Sinclair, Corporal Harper, Corporal Marshall, Corporal Reynolds, Corporal Muriel** and **Sergeant Bartliff.**

Lance-Corporal Steve Pilkington

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of Lance-Corporal S. G. Pilkington, who died in a traffic accident on 17th November. He had been in the Regiment for over two years and worked in Communications Troop. Mrs. Pilkington was also a member of the WRAC contingent in the Regiment.

As a memorial to her husband, Mrs. Pilkington has presented a trophy, to be known as the 'Steve and Brenda Trophy.' Her husband was a keen volleyball player and the trophy will be competed for annually in a winter inter-troop volleyball competition.

Twelve teams will be competing for the trophy in 1973, the competition and finals will take place at the end of January.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Pilkington and to Lance-Corporal Pilkington's parents.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

A visit that went well

THE 'chopper' was arranged, the Quarter Guard drilled and inspected to perfection, the mechanical sweeper had been scurrying about and **Lieutenant Rumsey's** smile was now back in place, if a little fixed. All was ready and at 09.30 on the button the SO-in-C's staff car swung through the gate.

Our sentry, **Signalman 'Lofty' Dalton,** bellowed his "Guard turnout" bit and out poured **Sergeant Smith** followed by his guard, all high-stepping in grand style. So began a day the detail for which had been meticulously planned. The whole visit went off extremely well, with everything that was planned having taken place and **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** leaving the Officers' Mess at 11.30 p.m. expressing the view that he had been well pleased with all that he had seen.

Gone with the wind

There were surprisingly few ups and downs during the preparation. The worst, or the funniest, depending on your own personal involvement, was the near total destruction of our Regimental Recruiting Display just 18 hours before the arrival of the SO-in-C; hence the earlier reference to **Lieutenant Rumsey,** the officer commanding the display. The time, 'D' minus one. The place, a patch of green behind the NAAFI. The occasion, the final dress rehearsal. The scene, the Commanding Officer, preceded by the RSM, approaching at a fair rate of knots the location of the display. The RSM's step faltered as he observed, moving towards him at an even greater rate of knots, the sturdy form of **Lieutenant Rumsey,** ashen-faced and incoherent. "It's blown away RSM." It had! The blue and white striped tent housing the recruit enticement kit had raised itself gracefully into the air and enjoyed a few seconds of free flight in competition with our well-known local airways before crashing to the ground some distance away. Against the roar of a force 10 gale the CO remained quite calm. "I know you will have it ready by 09.30, Doug." A combination of brute force, welding equipment and leadership ensured that it was.

The S.O.-in-C. meets W.O.2 (F. of S.) Pete Thornber

The S.O.-in-C. meets Sergeant Gary Clements

A 2,200 square mile parish

The General's visit did in fact cover almost all of the Regiment's 2,200 square mile parish, only Wilton being left out. The hectic day-long round trip, by Allouette helicopter, took in, apart from Hounslow, the 'Ace High' station at Maidstone, where **Sergeant Clive Oliver** was presented with his LS and GC; the Troposcatter station at Dover, where the General had a 'pub-lunch' with the station staff, and 3 Squadron at Aldershot.

Having returned to Hounslow, the General was entertained at a Regimental dinner night, the guests at which included **Brigadier J. C. Clinch,** Commander 2 Signal Group.

RADIO TROOP

Troop nominal roll

OC/Troop Sergeant, **Sergeant Alan Doane;** Troop Corporal, **Corporal Colin Hadden; Corporal 'Biff' Bailey, Lance-Corporal Keith Bolton, Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Buckley, Lance-Corporal John Hatton, Lance-Corporal Ian Henshall, Signalman 'Jock' Anderson, Signalman Dave Collins, Signalman Derek Cocks-Alty, Signalman Brian 'Lofty' Dalton, Signalman Steve Harrison, Signalman 'Taff' Thomas, Signalman Geoff Walker.** Honorary member: **Lieutenant Doug Rumsey,** Royal Signals.

How Radio Troop look after their senior citizens

Being given the freedom of the Borough of Hounslow in October, 1969, it was only fitting that we should do something to help the old and needy folk of the local community.

During October the Troop were thinking of something that

(*Courtesy Middlesex Chronicle*)
MUCH APPRECIATED
Radio Troop Senior Citizens Christmas Party

they could do to help the old folk of our community. Well, **Signalman 'Lofty' Dalton** came up with the idea of a Christmas dinner and party.

The idea was put to the Troop and to a rousing chorus of ayes and yeahs we proceeded to thrash out the details of timings, transport, recreation and the menu for the feast. Then we all agreed (well nearly all; **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Buckley** being on a 'Satisfied Soldier Scheme' in Jersey, became a victim of democracy) to pay £1.00 to cover the cost of a food parcel which would be given to each person upon leaving. But to get things in their correct perspective. Firstly we approached our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith,** who naturally gave us his full support and recommendation that the party could take place, our only proviso being that it would be a Radio Troop affair administered and arranged solely by the Troop, their wives and **Lieutenant Doug Rumsey** ably assisted by his wife, **Pam.**

Well, with the go-ahead being given, a venue was next on the agenda. This was decided upon to be the Regimental Club, the 'Bruno.' Without further ado we gained permission to use the club rooms, bars and to extract up to £30 from the PRI fund.

The next task was a Troop meeting, with the wives, to thrash out who was going to do what.

Well, **Lieutenant Doug Rumsey** was unanimously voted as the co-ordinating officer and tasked to print the invitation cards.

He and **Sergeant Alan Doane** took care of the stores department and the liaison with the cook, **Sergeant Terry Stuart,** ACC, who produced the meal. The stores, incidentally, consisted of the silverware and china from the Officers' Mess (hence the large sigh on Monday morning when the stores were returned all accounted for to the care of the Mess steward, **Mr. Jari).**

Corporal Colin Hadden and **Lance-Corporal Keith Bolton** were the decoration committee. **Corporal 'Biff' Bailey** and **Signalman 'Lofty' Dalton** contacted the local Welfare Officer to supply us with 26 names. This figure by the night had, in fact, reduced to 21, due to the 'flu bug.

Mrs. Mary Doane made the Christmas puds and the flower decorations; **Mrs. Pat Hatton** made the Christmas cake; **Mrs. Pam Rumsey, Frances Henshall, June Walker** and **Kate Bailey** made the mince pies.

Lance-Corporal John Hatton (who was i/c transport) arranged for the safe collection and return of the senior citizens, nobly and ably assisted by **Signalman Geoff Walker** and **Corporal 'Biff' Bailey.**

Our pianist, **Cliff Bird,** a civilian lineman of 10 Signal Regiment, gave us a varied evening's music, ranging from 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag' to the popular tune of 'My Ding-a-Ling.' His keenest fan was 81-year-old **Mrs. Winnie Bassett.**

We must not forget **Lance-Corporal Alan Yates** who ran the bar and served the pre-dinner drinks and dinner wine. The dinner itself was served by the Troop ladies. The Commanding Officer, who visited us at the beginning of the evening, noted the Corps colours displayed down the centre of the table (**Lieutenant Doug Rumsey** had left his mark).

At about 22.00 hours, after a couple of hours of singing and dancing (yes dancing, some old ladies who never normally

walk without a stick were showing some of the younger elements in the Troop a thing or two), the evening came to a finish with the Troop members handing out Christmas presents and Winnie saying a thank you speech and three cheers for the Radio Troop on behalf of the old folk. They stated that they were overwhelmed by the kindness and enthusiasm shown, and phrases like "It's the first time I've been asked out for two years," "I've eaten more tonight than I normally eat in a week," could be heard echoing around the Club. A couple of the local papers were present and the subsequent write-ups and photos appeared in the following week's edition.

On that happy (but far from sober) note, we wish all officers, soldiers, wives and relatives of the Corps a healthy and prosperous New Year. Good luck to you all.

Award of the M.B.E. to Major Patricia Crowe, WRAC

Major Patricia Crowe, WRAC, was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List for her services as DSO in the SE District Comcen at the time of the Aldershot bomb outrage. The award was celebrated with a champagne breakfast in the Officers' Mess on New Year's morning. **Patricia** joined the Regiment from BAOR in January, 1971, and until November, 1972, was in charge of the Aldershot Comcen. She then moved to Hounslow, on promotion, to take over as senior WRAC Adviser and Training Officer for the Regiment.

1973 is clearly her year for, in addition to her award, she is to be married in April and will then, unfortunately for us, leave the Service.

We all offer her our warmest congratulations on her well-earned award, and wish her the very best of good luck and happiness in her future life.

Major Patricia Crowe, M.B.E., W.R.A.C.

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Camp

Departures and arrivals

THE Regiment bids farewell to the following, and wishes them every success in the New Year and for the future: **Major Tommy Jones,** Royal Signals, **Captain M. K. Carson,** Royal Signals, **Captain Alan Browne,** Royal Signals, **W.O.2 'Chief' Thomas, Signalman Bertenshaw.**

We welcome: **Captain Chris Greig, Lieutenant Dick Hoyle, Signalman Siveright, Signalman Camello, A/Sergeant Clark, Private Mitchell** (ACC), **Staff Sergeant Briant,** all very recently arrived in Catterick.

We also say farewell and good wishes for the future to **Sergeant 'Paddy' Malone** and **Sergeant 'Paddy' Porter,** who are retiring from the Army after 22 years.

Notes on a Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course in general (and Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course No 71 in particular)

I would think that any responsible, keen Senior NCO is aware of what is required of him on the RSSSC, fitness, alertness, good turnout and a sense of humour. This was borne out by the letter of introduction sent out by the OC, **Major P. D. Templeman-Evans,** Royal Signals. However, the OC failed to mention the other qualities required such as waterproof skin, little wheels (preferably power assisted) attached to one's feet, and stainless steel universal joints in preference to our inefficient, bony, ball and socket joints. The need for these extra qualities will become apparent later.

The course assembled on the evening of Monday, 13th November, when 18 bright young men of the Corps, three not so young, and one who could pass as middle-aged (**Sergeant Bob McInnes** accounted for this wearied look through 'Sharp End' service in 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment). The Course was supplemented by **Sergeant Bob Ellis,** RTR, on temporary loan from AAC Harrogate. Introduction to Instruction Wing Instructors took place at 18.30 hours on the day of assembly, this was followed by drinks in the Mess with the Second-in-Command of the Regiment, **Major C. B. Mercer,** OC Instruction Wing, **Captain Hackett,** Worcesters and Foresters, The Infantry Adviser, and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. R. Markham.** The gleam in the RSM's eyes explained itself the following day when 22 bleary-eyed, heavy-headed, leaden-footed soldiers paraded for his inspection and approval / disapproval (delete as not required). It was decided by the RSM that more work was required on Best Kit.

This was but a prelude to drill (square dancing) ably conducted by our bi-lingual **S.S.I. Bill Leslie.** The two languages were English and Glaswegian. The Glaswegian being reserved for verbal intercourse with the aforementioned haggard-looking member of the course.

Introduction to 'Q' Accounts was like a mid-week bingo session with **Staff Sergeant Paul Greenhalgh** calling the numbers. After 40 periods of intensive study the course pledged sympathy to all members of the QM Staff throughout the Corps.

Service funds, under the expert guidance of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Eddie Cooley,** seemed to be understood by everyone. However, when **Sergeant Brian Smith** returned a bar profit of 40 per cent the Instructor was left in some doubt . . .

In view of the excellent instruction by the overworked Weapon Training Staff, **W.O.2 John Atkin, Sergeants Barry Minter** and **Dave Scott,** the course kindly volunteered to take over the duties of instruction for two days during the final week. These, however, will be known as Teaching Practice days.

Possibly the highlight of the course was the week spent at Warcop. This was a week of extreme wetness and discomfort coupled with moments of humour and some thoroughly enjoyable episodes. Monday afternoon was taken up by an appreciation of the Defence of a Comcen at Kirby Hill. **Sergeant Garry Sharp** was ably led astray in his Defence Plan by **Sergeants John Mellors** and **'Chalky' White.** I mention in passing that lunch was partaken of in the local hostelry, but do not infer that this had any bearing on the decision that the enemy would advance over open ground. Tuesday saw rain which I would not have sent a dog into. However, not being dogs, we ventured onto the moors for Section Attacks. The attacking section staggered through some 50 yards distant. **Sergeant Pete Dowdall** enthralled the crowd with his forward somersaults over the barrel of an SLR.

A large part of the week was spent in close quarter battle training, a subject enjoyed by all. A small monetary prize kept the wits sharp and trigger fingers happy. **Sergeants Brian Carter** and **Gary Sharp** shared the sharp-shooter's prize with a total of 78 points out of a possible 104. A commendable result.

The last day was taken up with a visit to the grenade range, with the majority of the course having their first experience of live throwing. This was followed by the final two section attacks. At this stage apologies should be extended to **Captain Hackett** for jeopardising his health. His heart must have been in his mouth at times at the sight of 10 rifle muzzles being waved in the air like so many walking sticks.

And so back to Catterick.

At the time of going to press, the final week still has four days left, so as yet the success rate of the course is not yet known. obviously everyone hopes to have passed.

(Continued on page 72)

Radio Station PRC 320

Comprehensive tactical communications for long range patrols . . . artillery . . . commando, mountain and ranger units . . . amphibious parachute operations . . . by ground- and sky-wave over short and long distances . . .

This advanced and thoroughly versatile equipment is a lightweight h.f. s.s.b. radio system which provides command communications at all levels in infantry, artillery, armoured, naval and airborne units and supporting services.

This maid-of-all-work, the all-solid-state PRC 320, is in full production now. After intensive laboratory tests and field trials it has received full acceptance for service by the British Army as part of the *Clansman* range of tactical radios. Particularly simple to operate, it provides 280 000 switched channels in the 2 to 29.9999 MHz band by means of an advanced digital frequency synthesizer. The wide range of ancillary equipment enables it to go into action as a man-pack, a ground station or a vehicle station. It is also suitable for use in light aircraft and small ships.

- s.s.b., a.m., c.w. (wide and narrow)
- weight less than 12 kg (in man-pack role)
- compact, extremely rugged construction—suitable for parachuting
- tough but light metal case - sealed against water and corrosion
- outstanding frequency stability (1 in 10^6 over six months)
- low power consumption (170 mA on receive; 2·6A on transmit)
- 30 W p.e.p. transmitter output
- ancillaries include
  - hand generator
  - rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries
  - a.c. and d.c. charging units
  - remote control system
  - vehicle mountings
  - whip, dipole and end-fed antennas; fibreglass mast kit
- full after-sales support, including guaranteed long-term spares availability.

Stringent user trials in tropical and sub-zero temperatures, jungle and mountainous terrain, including parachute drops and immersion tests, have fully demonstrated the performance and durability of this advanced radio.

Please ask for complete technical data.

PLESSEY
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Ilford, Essex, England. Telex: 23166

(Continued from page 70)

The course would like to extend their thanks to the Staff of Instruction Wing for their excellent instruction, and to **Staff Sergeant Leslie** in particular for his excellent administration.

Before closing, a thought from Chairman Mao.

"Orders should always be given on the right foot. This does not mean that the right foot is always the right foot, as sometimes the right foot is the left foot, and the left foot is the right foot." (See HMSO Publication Army Code 70166).

CT Troop, 11 Signal Regiment, run a Christmas message from Scarborough to Richmond

Continuation Training Troop, perhaps a unit unknown to many of our readers, is based at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, and is engaged in carrying out adventure training for trained soldiers who are awaiting allocation to trade courses at the training school 8 Signal Regiment.

'Adventure' is the operative word, and it was with this in mind that the Troop embarked on a project to run in relay 150 miles with a Christmas message from the Mayor of Scarborough to the Mayor of Richmond, returning by the same means with a reciprocal message. The date was set for Wednesday, 20th December, with the first runner leaving barracks at 01.30 hours. That was the plan. But wait! That seasonal phenomenon, fog, didn't enter into our reckoning, when at about 16.00 hours on the afternoon of Tuesday 19th the project seemed doomed to cancellation as a thick, murky blanket reduced visibility to less than 40 yards. Hurried calls to the Meteorological Office and Police met with the same foreboding remarks, "Forget the run," we were advised. The council of Squadron Headquarters was sought and the decision to cancel the run was made half-an-hour later. The message would still be carried, only now by Despatch Riders provided by the White Helmets. So the message was collected in ceremonious fashion the evening before from the Mayor, **Councillor I. C. Slarke,** who gave the Troop an official send off from the steps of the Town Hall, Scarborough. The runners were escorted through the town to the barracks by DRs. This was at 18.00 hours and it could be said then that visibility was still rather poor and likely to persist.

The runners, 25 in all, were stood down and allowed to wend their thirsty ways in pursuit of the bars and clubs in Scarborough, satisfied in their own minds that if nothing else the training they received in the preparation for the run had done them no harm. All except **Corporal Don Holton** who felt he had a point to prove with his invention of a hurriedly devised crash course to which the runners had been subjected.

At about 22.00 hours the Troop Commander, **W.O.2 Bruce Howie,** received a call from the Orderly Officer of the Regiment. Wait for it! Yes, the fog had lifted, clear skies, could we uncancel? Another call to **Captain Tim Mountford,** the chief co-ordinator, requesting two coaches with drivers, to help with the run, and then the final word came from the Commanding Officer. Go!

Hell broke loose. The runners! Where were they and how could they be reached? Had they had too much to drink? Such imponderables. Within half-an-hour they were all gathered in barracks thanks to the assistance given by cinema and night club PA systems, three police panda cars broadcasting, fetching and carrying. It all helped to get us off, or rather on the ground.

Having exhausted supplies of coffee, drunk by the mugful black and neat, and complete with all the necessitities for a 16-hour journey, the first runner made his way out of camp at 01.30 hours as originally planned. We were to cover the first 20 miles getting on and off the troop 4-tonner until such time as the two coaches despatched from Catterick met us. This took place outside Pickering on the A 170 much to the relief of the runners who were by this time beginning to feel the effects of travelling in open transport. The Troop Commander raced ahead to check on fog and other hazards. All was well except for patches of fog at Sutton Bank escarpment. However, this was overcome by Police escorts at Helmsley who kindly saw the party through using their patrol car sirens.

On through the night, checking out and in, changing over vehicles, watching the clock, stepping up and steadying the pace, distributing glucose, dealing with cramp, keenly watching the morale and talking to sleep those who were resting were but some of the tasks and responsibilities squarely on the shoulders of **Corporals Don Holton** and **Sam Dool.** It could be said their jobs were the most difficult of all.

Breakfast was taken at 08.00 hours outside Bedale. Fatigue was beginning to show. Scarborough seemed a long time away —Richmond another two hours ahead. Eventually, Richmond was in sight and phase one neared completion. The runners were lined up outside the Town Hall and awaited the arrival of the last messenger carrying the Christmas message. At exactly 10.00 hours he appeared with motor cycle escorts and the ceremony of handing and receiving Christmas messages to and from the Mayor of Richmond got under way.

Five minutes later saw the first runners set off with the reciprocal Christmas message. Destination Scarborough!

The long haul across Sutton Bank had to be negotiated, gradient 1 in 4. But once at the top—lunch! And from there the final stage Helmsley to Scarborough, some 35 miles and four hours away.

Finally, the high transmitter towers at Irton Moor and we knew we had made it. At 18.00 hours the message was delivered to the Mayor of Scarborough in the Town Hall and everyone was generously invited to hot refreshments made available by the Town Hall welcoming committee in the warmth of the Mayor's parlour.

And so what started as an adventure training exercise was seen through with great reward and satisfaction by all those who participated. And here the last word must surely be for those young soldiers, average age 17½ years old, who undertook this project with much enthusiasm and gusto.

Junior Signalman Squadron

Major John Roberts has just completed his second Pass-off Parade as the Junior Signalman Squadron's Commander, but the first parade to be entirely made up of boy soldiers. Eighty-one juniors passed out on Thursday, 14th December, out of the 87 that arrived in Catterick last September. The salute was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt,** Royal Signals, the Regiment's new Commanding Officer, and was watched and appreciated by some 180 parents and friends.

The term has seen many successes in both the sporting world and the less glamorous sphere of education. Twenty-two boys sat for EPC Communication Skills and Military Calculations, a very high percentage for the new system of EPC is designed for Corporals recommended for promotion to Sergeant.

The Squadron entered the Army Tetrathlon event at Bovington and whilst not winning the event as a team, **Junior Signalman Hunter** and **Junior Signalman Littlewood,** who came third and fifth respectively in the fencing and cross-country, deserve congratulating for a fine first effort. **Junior Signalman Jones** finished seventh in his class in the Army Open White Water Canoe Championships, another fine performance for a young man who had done no canoeing until he joined the Army.

The Squadron has had a good but busy term and all the permanent staff are now having a well-deserved rest. This term we say goodbye to **Sergeant Ron Hails** who is posted to Cyprus, and **Corporal Jimmy Jardine** who leaves the services in February. We welcome back **Sergeant Les Grubb** after his hospital engagement, minus a few toes, and look forward to his inspiring presence next term.

Pass-off parade for 81 Junior Signalmen

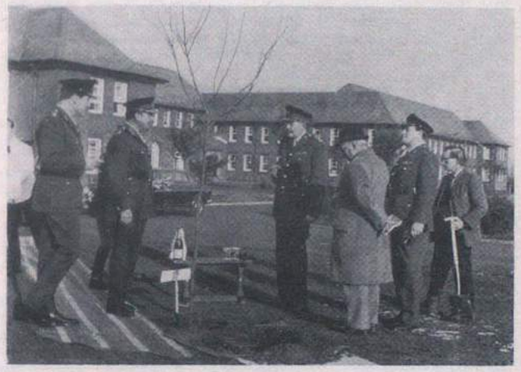
JUNIOR SIGNALMAN SQUADRON WINTER TERM 1972

PRIZES

1. **Troop Prizes**
   a. Inter Troop Competition Cup — 3 Troop
   b. Inter Troop Drill Cup — 2 Troop

2. **Military Prizes**
   a. Best at Military Training — **J/Signalman James** — 1 Troop
   b. Best recruit No 1 Troop — **J/Signalman Coupland**
   c. Best recruit No 2 Troop — **J/Signalman Piper**
   d. Best recruit No 3 Troop — **J/Signalman Haynes**

3. **Education Prizes**
   a. Military Calculations — **J/Signalman Norris**—1 Troop
   b. Communications skills — **J/Signalman Fox**—2 Troop
   c. General Studies — **J/Signalman Smith**—1 Troop
   d. Map reading — **J/Signalman Higgins**—2 Troop
   e. Education prize for general overall performance — **J/Signalman Cooke**—1 Troop



Major General G. T. A. Armitage, C.B.E., G.O.C., Northumbrian District visits 11th Signal Regiment for the last time before his retirement from the Army and the closure of his headquarters. His visit is marked by the planting of a tree. *Left to right:* Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt, Commanding Officer, Major General G. T. A. Armitage, C.B.E., Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E., Commander Training Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., P.R.I., Major H. A. J. Alexander, M.B.E., O.C. H.Q. Squadron, Mr. R. King, Head Gardner

Richmond '65' Association — Christmas party, 1972

The annual Christmas party was held in the Town Hall, Richmond, on Wednesday, 13th December, 1972.

Tea was provided by members of the committee for some 170 senior citizens of the borough, following which a free draw was held, the majority of the prizes for which were provided by the members of No 1 Squadron, 11 Signal Regiment, who also defrayed the cost of hiring the hall. The draw was made by **Mrs. Harding,** wife of **Sergeant-Major Harding,** of 11 Signal Regiment, who attended representing the Regiment. It is interesting to note that the prizes were obtained by recruits of the Regiment donating cigarette coupons of various brands of cigarettes over a long period, these being exchanged for gifts which were passed on for the draw. Entertainment was provided after tea by young ladies from the Convent of the Assumption followed by a showing of films of the Richmond 900th Celebrations of 1971 and the Richmond Pageant of 1929 by **Mr. J. K. Hendren** of Richmond Lions Club. The evening concluded with a concert by the 'Bright Sparks.'

The Worshipful The Mayor was unable to attend the function and was represented by **Alderman Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E.,** who expressed the appreciation of the Chairman, members of the committee and the senior citizens of the borough for the magnificent way 11 Signal Regiment has helped during the past year, recalling the outing to Scarborough for 400 senior citizens in the summer, the assistance given on the occasion of the Lighting of the Beacon and finally the provision of the prizes for this free draw. He asked **Sergeant-Major Harding** to convey to **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** and all ranks of 11 Signal Regiment sincere thanks of all the senior citizens of Richmond.

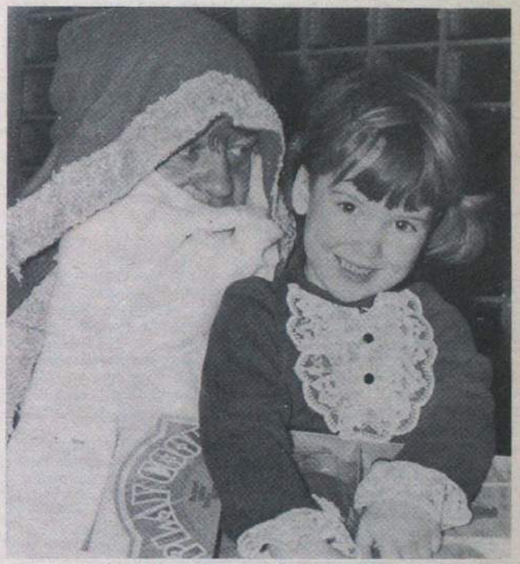
Sad loss

It is with deep regret that the death of Sergeant Harland's son Wayne is announced.

13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

THE Christmas season has been and gone, leaving most of us with hazy memories of it and with rather disgruntled bank managers. To say that we enjoyed ourselves would be an understatement for somehow the Regiment managed to hold Squadron, Troop and civil labour Christmas parties and even an Officers' guest night in the hectic 21 days before Christmas.

It is unfair to single out any particular function held before Christmas for a 'mention in dispatches,' they were all super. However, the HQ Squadron and the children's Christmas party must be mentioned.



ONE PERSON WHO REALLY ENJOYED CHRISTMAS
Miss Sally Cox and 13th Regiment's own Santa—Staff-Sergeant Peter 'Thin' Finnigan

The panto

And what a pantomime it was! Producer and 'Airy Odd Father' **Captain Alan Alfred** certainly waved his magic wand to produce a side-splitting local 'Mercury Cinders' theme. **Mrs. Ann Wright** was a beautiful Cinders, **Lance-Corporal Joe Pearson** a suave and handsome Prince Charming. The ugly sisters, **Mrs. Betty Roberts** and **Mrs. Ruth Mortimer,** normally so charming, looked gruesomely delightful in issue underwear. **Staff Sergeant George Cox** and **Sergeant Jim McDermott** moved very smoothly through their roles of Dandini and Buttons whilst **S.S.M. John Jones** gave a most impressive performance as a somewhat inebriated **S.S.M. Crouch,** the father of the sisters. The executive of the Regiment all suffered, albeit in a very pleasant way, from the wit of 'airy oddfather' and song-writer **Captain Alan Alfred.** Last but not least, the large supporting cast including a group composed of **Signalman Mike Helliwell, Lance-Corporal Gwen Barker,** WRAC, and **Signalman 'Baby' McNaught** and **Private Phil Cotton,** RPC, singing his own songs, all contrived to produce a show to be remembered. Thank you, The Borderliners.

Now to give our readers some news of two of the institutions of the Regiment, namely our eager-beavers in the Comcen and our 'Brigade of Guards' type personnel—the Training Wing.

'O' Troop

In a corner of the Regiment, tucked away behind locked doors, lies the Comcen, manned by what we call 'O' Troop (don't ask us what it means!). The Troop currently holds the Inter-Troop volleyball cup, and we provide four football, two hockey and six rugby players for the Regimental teams. As our OC, **Captain Colin Smith,** also runs the cross-country (and **W.O.1 Peter Gray,** our Yeoman, is his Second-in-Command!) we think that we don't do badly for our small size of 35. Nevertheless we do do some work!

As a Troop, we have done our bit to aid the population explosion by producing over the past 18 months no less than 12 babies.

Training Wing

The Training Wing has been preparing itself for the arrival of the first Detachment Commanders' Course of 1973; Friday, 5th January, should see the arrival of 23 rather apprehensive Junior NCOs all aspiring to become future field marshals—that is if they can get through the hazards and dangers that **Captain Alan Alfred** and **Lieutenant Phil Noble** (who recently joined us from 35 (V) Signal Regiment) have in store for them. Not to mention a rather friendly little Staffordshire Bull Terrier!

December has seen the departure of **Sergeant T. C. Smith,** our drill instructor, to civilian life. We hear that he is to be seen in Cardiff with his pace stick under his arm and moustache a-bristling, marching motorists to and from their cars in his new capacity as a Traffic Warden. Any visitors to Cardiff are warned!

We welcome **Sergeant Ronald Roberts** from 21 Signal Regiment who has joined us to become our new drill instructor. He has now had his regulation guards-hair-cut and is growing a suitable moustache.

Rugger

On Saturday, 9th December, we saw a memorable game of rugger between ourselves and 16 Signal Regiment. We were after revenge, for in November 16 had beaten us. The match started badly for us by 16 getting a try but by half-time we had managed to get into a 6-4 lead.

The second half saw the rain come down in earnest and both teams had many dropped balls and kicking was bad. However, 16 scored three more tries making the score 16-6. 13 rallied and with some very good play by our forwards managed to equalise.

Ten minutes before the end 16 were awarded a penalty and took the lead. This saw the start of good fast rugby being played by both teams. With two minutes to go we were awarded a penalty and **Signalman Ray Whitehead,** our up-and-coming hooker, kicked superbly for our equaliser. And so ended a very good and hard-fought match with the score at 19-19.

We look forward to playing with 16 again in the new year when we feel certain we will give them a good game.

Hockey

We sit very comfortably at the top of the Rhine Area League having played 11 games and scored eleven wins.

Sergeants' Mess

Our footballers still continue to take the bit between their teeth. After hearing that we were not doing too well the CO invited the whole of the Officers' Mess to support us. We won. Then the Officers put the tactics they had learnt from us to good use when we joined them to play the traditional game against the Junior Ranks on Boxing Day, which we won, I think.

The Mess draw got off to a good start when the gymnasium was taken over after HQ Squadron had run their dance. A few refinements included the whole of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, some prizes and a really good band. A good evening was had by all, with the RSM getting booked for speeding at 5 a.m. in the morning on his new Chopper bike.

Congratulations are in order to **Lew Hammond** on his promotion to WO1 and **Andy Roberts** who had the distinction of receiving his warrant from the Commanding Officer before a parade of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. We say a sad farewell to **Sergeant T. C. Smith** and his wife **Rita** who were posted to UK for their last six months in the service. We welcome **Sergeant Roberts** who takes over **Sergeant Smith's** job in the Training Wing.

The entertainment committee under the leadership of **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Norman Mortimer** made sure we saw the 'new year in' in great style, with his secret weapon in the guise of **Sergeant Boxall's** 'Disco' which provided such excellent music.

Welcome it is to **Major Bill Turney,** our new OC HQ Squadron, and his wife **Dulcie.** They have already settled into the Regiment and the Strasse. A hearty welcome also to **Lieutenant Phil Noble, Sandra** and family; the Training Wing is very active.

14 Sig Regt Worcester

THE Regiment had a most successful Christmas, with the usual number of parties, indeed it has been rumoured that there have been members of the Regiment who have had an almost permanent hangover for the last three weeks. But some at least had an excuse, **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Roberts** and his seniors had a complete new bar installed in the Mess. It wasn't just another piece of furniture, as you might suppose, but rather a large room that has turned the entire building into a sort of superior Yates' Wine Lodge. The WOs' and Sergeants' Mess ran the most successful dance too, which incidentally was held in the Junior Ranks' Club, because it is said that they have so many members that they can't all fit into their own Mess when they are all there. From the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess I have received the following notes:

WOs' and Sergeants' Mess

The members have had a hectic year what with commitments foreign, Mess functions, and the building of a new extension as in the photos. We finally obtained financial approval for the latter through the efforts of a lot of people, not the least being **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Coleman** who gets our thanks as a successful —— nuisance. Needless to say both he and the RSM spent many hours with the contractors, whips in hand, though they were finally laid aside for cash.

The various functions culminated with a champagne party at midnight on New Year's Eve, the results of which were bleary eyes and, dare I say, the occasional 'thick head'—with no offence meant to our many technicians.

Officers' Mess

One cannot let the opportunity pass by without mentioning the most successful Officers' Mess Christmas ladies' evening, masterminded by the PMC, **Major Simmons, B.E.M.,** and ably carried out under the directions of the Mess Sergeant — **Sergeant Currums** — and the steward, **Mr. Windsor.** All went most smoothly, a triumph for all concerned. It was too quite an occasion for the members as two of the Regiment's officers and their wives were dined out for the last time as they were leaving the service. They were **Major Lockett,** the Second-in-Command, and **Captain Grosvenor,** the paymaster. We were sad to see them go but then they are both off to make their fortunes in the wide world. We welcomed most cordially their replacements **Major Bunce** and **Captain (soon to be Major) Wilmot,** RAPC.

Children's Christmas party

Mention must be made of the great success of the children's Christmas party which was so well organised by OC HQ Squadron **Major Botterill** and his SSM **W.O.2 Yates.** Perhaps the highlight of the event was the appearance of Father Christmas provided by **Mr. Ring** of the MT Troop who was so accomplished in his performance that one feels that he would be as happy looking after reindeer as vehicles. The prizes were organised by the well-known Regimental benefactor **Major Cooper, M.B.E.** (PRI).

There were many other functions that time and space unfortunately prevent discussion, but I think that it would be fair to say that the Regiment has had a successful year all round and we look forward to an equally successful 1973.

May we, in conclusion, wish the very best for the New Year to all of the many who have shown such a kind interest in the Regiment in 1972.

Arrivals and departures

We say hello to our arrivals: **Major Bunce, Lieutenant Whitemore, Signalmen Stoney, Rose, Pollard, Lance-Corporal Dunne, Sergeant Trundle.**

We say goodbye to our departures, and no doubt we will see most of you again at some time: **Captain Grosvenor, Major Lockett, Staff Sergeant Gould, Corporal Cherry, Sergeant Dickenson, W.O.1 Berry, Sergeant Munro,** REME.

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

General

WIRE notes this time of the year inevitably sound like a social roll call or Regimental, Squadron and Mess events. We, in this Regiment, had our fair share and a good time was had by one and all.

Visits

One of the highlights of a festive season that was an outstanding social occasion was the visit to the Regiment of the Lord Mayor of Leicester. The party, consisting of eight members of the City of Leicester arrived in Krefeld on 27th December and that evening they were entertained by the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

Thursday, 28th December, saw the Lord Mayor and members of the City Council, along with the Regiment, play host to some 300 German orphans, the Lord Mayor having donated £100 to help cover the cost of presents that the children received. That evening the Officers' Mess entertained the Lord Mayor to a buffet supper in the Mess. The following morning saw the party paying a visit to Koln to see the Cathedral and lunch was provided by the City of Krefeld. Saturday, the party returned to Leicester, tired but well satisfied with their visit.

THE LORD MAYOR OF LEICESTER (ALDERMAN STANLEY TOMLINSON) MEETS SOLDIERS FROM LEICESTER
(From left to right): Signalman Jim Walton, Signalman Kevin Ward, Sergeant Brian Jolley

SQUADRON NOTES

Super Two

Super Two started December with a Christmas party to enable us to dine out the SSM, **W.O.2 (Finger) H. G. Arnold.** He is now RQMS (Tech) of the Regiment, in charge of career prospects. Gone but not forgotten, and when the Regiment staged its Christmas Revue, several well-known mannerisms appeared on the stage. **Lance-Corporal (A/U/SSM) Terry Hague** must, however, brush up on his stick drill and pointing with the index finger. Other members of the Squadron took part in the Revue, notably **Signalman Tom Power** and **Bill Share** and in spite of being padded in all the right places were not exactly dolly birds and the Squadron Commander was heard to remark: "They didn't exactly turn me on."

Super Two drew the middle-age bracket for the children's Christmas party—too old for Mother Goose but too young for Lolita. **Staff Sergeant Jerry Lowe** made prolonged attempts to keep them organised, but eventually gave up and let them fight it out amongst themselves. **Mrs. Webb** played the piano until the keyboard was stolen. The Squadron Commander having been kicked by a charming eight-year-old was last seen limping into the wilderness muttering: "No one gets into Super Two from now on without proof of vasectomy."

We welcome to Super Two **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bill Nasmith** along with **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Araniello, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Keith Hall.** We also say farewell and thank you to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) George Emslie** to 1 Squadron and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Nicholls** to the Training Wing where he will learn to run courses without instructors. This could be a useful trick.

Shiny Three

Shiny Three, like other parts of the Regiment, has also seen changes in the past 12 months. We have seen three Sergeant-Majors, **W.O.2 Bill McIntosh** (now RQ Gen), **W.O.2 Nick Scott, W.O.2 Brian Cummings,** and now we welcome **W.O.2 Barnie Barnett.** We will also see a change of command very soon when **Major Frank Smith** hands over Shiny Three to **Major Mike McCann** of 1 Squadron and **Major Frank Smith** will then command 1 Squadron.

Our Second-in-Command, **Captain Les Waumsley,** having just got settled, is now handing over to **Captain John Stroud.** We bid him welcome and wish **Captain Les Waumsley** good flying with 21 Signal Regiment.

Looking back on the year, it proved remarkably uneventful, as even the linemen continued to uphold their well-known reputation; otherwise communications were generally immaculately maintained (ha-ha!).

The month of September saw **Lieutenant Paul Holden** and party on a KAPE tour in the United Kingdom, **Second-Lieutenant James Shaw** took a detachment to Kiel and **Second-Lieutenant Charles Day** continually running out of petrol by trying to further his military career in Rheindahlen by night.

In the world of sport the Squadron has held its own and **Corporal Alan Darwin, Signalman Paul Baines, Corporal Mick Pawlack, Signalman Paul Heywood, Signalman Fred Howes, Lance-Corporal Mick Steel** and others having represented the Regiment at most sports.

Headquarters Squadron

HQ Squadron has not gone unnoticed and again we record a change of Command. **Major 'Badger' Terrey** retired after 40 years' service and **Major Jimmy Fyfe** is now in the saddle. On 9th December at HQ Squadron Christmas party, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Ian McDonald** presented **Major 'Badger' Terrey** on behalf of HQ Squadron with a silver salver and candlesticks. All members of the Regiment both past and present wish **Major 'Badger' Terrey** and his wife every happiness in their retirement.

The Regiment marriage bureau is in full swing. On 23rd December, **Captain Ann Walters,** WRAC, and **Second-Lieutenant Phil Sharman** (28 Signals) were married in the Garrison Church and the following are scheduled for the New Year: **Second-Lieutenant Sue Terry** to **Lieutenant Paul Holden, Lieutenant Wendy Le Gassick** to **Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope,** and we wish them all every happiness and may all their troubles be little ones.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during December, 1972:

	£.p
Officer Commanding, The White Helmets, The Royal Signals Display Team	135.00
Officer Commanding, 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)	30.00
Officer Commanding, 31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V)	2.59
Mrs. F. Stanley	10.50
Mrs. A. M. Mayhew	5.00
H. Liley, Esq.	3.20
J. W. Ingledew, Esq.	2.90
G. D. Webster, Esq	1.00
Anonymous	1.00
B. J. Jordan, Esq.	87
Various small donations	1.95
	£194.01

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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.

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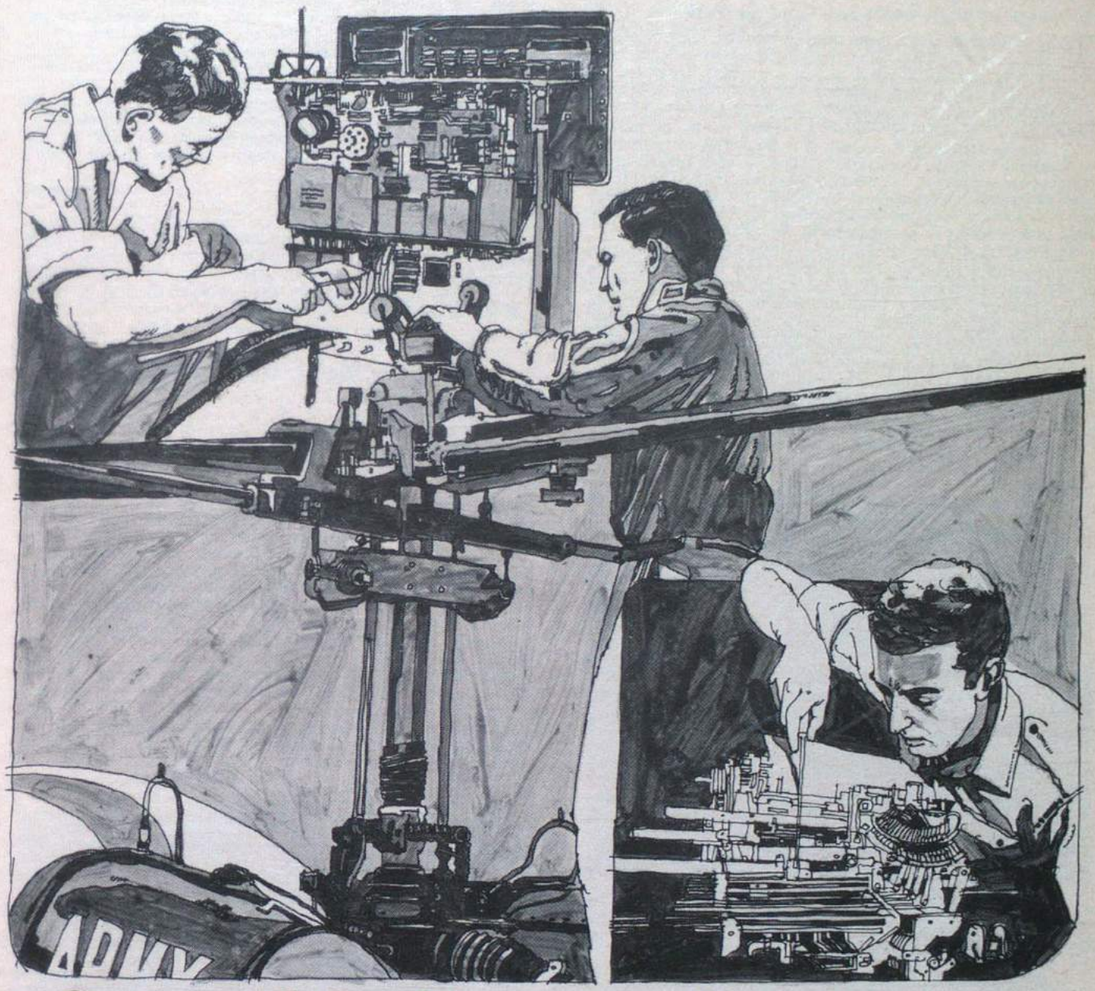

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21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

A troop of high efficiency and morale

THE impression may have been gained by readers of the last issue of THE WIRE that 2 Squadron is concerned entirely with Harrier Support. It has even been suggested on occasion that RHQ itself suffers under this misapprehension! Therefore the moment has arrived to inform the Corps of the Regiment's most recent prodigy—'J' Troop.

'J' Troop was formed as part of 2 Squadron early in 1972 and moved to RAF Gutersloh in June to give ground communications support to 18 (Wessex) Squadron RAF. The Troop, now 38-strong, is commanded by **Lieutenant C. P. P. Barnes** and has already operated in all the major BAOR exercises of 1972 plus a six-week detachment in the South of France.

This has been quite a strenuous 'work-up' period, but it has produced a troop of high efficiency and morale, with one of the most interesting tasks in the Corps. Supporting a fleet of the expensive Wessex 2 helicopters with their powerful twin 1,250 shp turbine engines is also a very responsible task, demanding an abnormally high team spirit with no 'weak links.'

The majority of the Troop are radio telegraphists and combat radiomen. Their transport and attitude of mind reflects the highly mobile and detached role which they have to play. You cannot be slow when supporting such a mobile force, though it is sometimes suspected that the troop commander would prefer to operate on horseback in summer, and skis in winter.

"J" TROOP PERSONALITIES

Left to right: Corporal John Dickenson, Lance-Corporal Philip Rumsey and Signalman Christopher Redman. "Look at our nice new combat suits".

Strong association with RAF squadron

Since its arrival in Gutersloh the Troop has formed a strong association with 18 Squadron and soon discovered the advantages of working with helicopters. The Troop now gives active support not only to the Squadron's work but also to its extensive sporting and social commitments. Among the gladiators within the Troop are **Sergeant Steve Harrison** and **Corporal 'Dutch' Holland,** who recently represented RAF Gutersloh at basketball in Berlin, **Corporal John Dickenson** and **Lance-Corporal Harry Brant** who play football regularly for 18 Squadron, and **Corporal John Campbell** who runs for the station as well as for the Regiment.

Lighthearted activities

Two noteworthy incidents occurred over the recent Christmas grant. The first was a station bar competition in which each barrack block produced its own bar. The competition was to be judged by the Station Commander in a pub crawl on 22nd December. The Troop entred this competition with a fervour never previously witnessed by the Troop Commander. Such was their enthusiasm that the bar was completed and opened, at a hastily organised ceremony, a clear three weeks before the competition. In spite of this apparant advantage the prize for the best bar went to the only other members of the Regiment on the Station — 'N' Troop!

The second incident was the fancy dress football match against 'N' Troop. It is reliably reported that the match was won by 'J' Troop due to overwhelming numbers, a biased referee, spectators armed with flour bombs and low level helicopter support.

However, lest it should be thought that the Troop confines its sporting activities to Gutersloh it should be pointed out now that the most recent competition to be held in the Regiment, the inter-Troop basketball, was won by 'J' Troop. Happy birthday 'J' Troop!

Stop press

21 Signal Regiment congratulate the very fine 28 Signal Regiment football team which so decisively beat them in the Rhine Area final on 31st January, by 12 goals to 2½. Half a goal? Well, we did hit their crossbar! Now go and take that BAOR title!

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

A Corps union

"LIEUTENANT **Gale** to parade with seven subalterns, MTO to detail CO's staff car and driver, QM (Admin) to be responsible for rations, Second-in-Command to be co-ordinator and toast master." Thus read the admin order, and as with all well planned military operations, people moved, mill boards appeared, problems were overcome and the result . . . a military wedding.

At a quiet wedding on Thursday 14th December, **Captain (T.O.T.) Peter Swaby,** Royal Signals, was married to **Captain Ann Meiklejohn,** WRAC, attached Royal Signals. A reception was held in the regimental Officers' Mess, where relations, friends, fellow officers and their families were guests of the the bride's mother **Mrs. B. Meiklejohn.** After wining and dining, the happy couple were sent on their way in the traditional manner. The CO's car was suitably adorned so all locals would be in no doubt as to the state of the two passengers.

The officers and soldiers of 22 Signal Regiment are sure all readers will join with them in wishing **Ann** and **Peter** all happiness for the future.

Ann and Peter Swaby cut their wedding cake

A change is as good as . . .

It was perhaps fitting that **Captain Paul Whittaker's** farewell gift to the Regiment was a small model of 'Lucy' (of Peanuts fame) suitably inscribed 'Look out I am going to be crabby.' All soldiers who have come into contact with **Paul** before ten o'clock in the morning will no doubt derive some amusement from the inscription. Now he has gone. Our departing adjutant was given a suitable send off to the world of newspapers by the subalterns. His departing car is not to be confused with that in the first article. Good luck in civilian life **Paul,** as Lucy herself would say 'We will miss you . . . honest.'

Captain Peter Dick takes over as adjutant. Fresh from a course, we expect him to produce fresh idiosyncrasies around RHQ.

Sports roundup

Considering the amount of festive spirit that has passed through the Regiment this month, the sportsmen of the Regiment have continued to give good service and achieved results.

Canoeing — Training is well under way for the Devizes/Westminster race and the Army (BAOR) Slalom Championships taking place next spring. Enthusiasm is high, even to the extent of **Lieutenant John Macleod, Corporal Hugh Dillon** and **Signalman 'Cookie' Burns,** breaking the ice on the local waterways so that they can train. Training continued even when two of the team fell through the ice.

Rugby — The rugby team has played a full fixture list prior to Christmas, with varied results. Good wins have been scored over 6 Brigade, 1 RTR, 27 Medium Regiment, RA. Notable defeats suffered by the team have been at the hands of 8 Regiment, RCT, and also by the 1st British Corps team. We did, however, hold the 1st British Corps team to a 12-12 draw in the return game. The team will be depleted in the New Year. **Lieutenant Andy Gale** is off on yet another course. **Corporal Bob Allen** is on a long leave. **Corporal Jim Griffiths** has transferred to the Metropolitan Police, and **Lieutenant John Burnage** has been posted.

Skiing — The Regimental skiing team is at present in Norway undergoing strict training under **Lieutenant Roland Ebdon.** We await their return in the hope that all their effort produces results.

Cross-country — Though trying very hard the cross-country team is not doing as well as it might. The majority of the better runners are at present in Norway with the Regimental Langlauf team. We have hosted a very good meeting, which almost added a new dimension to the sport. The planned course was hurriedly changed when it was discovered that the local farmers were planning to shoot over the ground on the same day as the race.

Motor sport — The up and coming sport in the Regiment. No longer do we hear war stories in the bars but 'how I lost the rally.' Success has been achieved in the recent Soest area Christmas rally. First was **Sergeant Bob Taylor,** second **Corporal Roger Lelacheur,** fourth **Signalman Dave Goshawk,** fifth **Lieutenant Mike Stanners** crewed by **Captain Doug Braid** (REME) . . . all from this Regiment. Well done.

FFR

Oh yes. We also managed to fit in our fitness for role inspection this month. The inspecting officer was the CCR Signals, **Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane.** 1 Squadron were sent for a ten mile walk. 2 Squadron subalterns put on a presentation 'How to defend a Comcen' whilst the remainder of their Squadron drove their vehicles in their NBC clothing. 4 Squadron had their vehicles inspected whilst 3 Squadron put on the comedy act, going over the assault course ably led by their officers. All emerged covered from head to foot in thick red mud much to the delight of the inspecting officer.

The day was highlighted by the presentation of a birthday cake complete with a great number of candles to **Colonel 'Lucky' Fenton,** one of the team of inspecting officers, who says our spies don't work?

Greetings

All ranks of 22 Signal Regiment would like to wish a belated merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all members of the Corps past and present and to all who read THE WIRE or help produce it.

PS

For sale; one only, brand new, 1973 model, no previous owners though author has been offered it. One ex-Regimental duty officer, 1st January, 1973. Start your year right.

Late flash

Major Hugh Bonaker after performing so well on the march, see FFR above, has been selected to command the next Royal Signals guard on public duties at Buckingham Palace in the New Year.

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27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

Personalities

Commanding Officer	...	**Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow**
Second-in-Command	...	**Major P. F. Larrington**
SO Tels/Wks	...	**Major (T.O.T.) N. W. Merrifield**
Adjutant	...	**Captain C. J. Walters**
SO 3	...	**Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) V. H. Martin, MC**
ORQMS	...	**W.O.2 L. Arrow-Smith**
ORS	...	**Sergeant P. D. Hinton**

THE festive season is over and we are looking for Chinese New Year to provide the entertainments of the next few weeks; any excuse will do.

The CO is revitalised after his visit to Brunei and Singapore but now everyone wants to go.

Sport

Sport has played a major part in our activities of the past month. **Signalman Mark Tibble** is to be congratulated on being the first Signaller home in the cross-country championships. Fitness must be directly related to running up and down the RHQ corridor carrying mounds of files. The hockey team is still unbeaten in the league but somhow they managed to slip eight past **Sergeant 'Paddy' Kelly** in the Major Units Cup. 'Concentrate on the league' is the new motto.

The Quicksilver squash teams are both doing well in their respective leagues and **Lance-Corporal Paul Hawkins** is still unbeaten.

Lineman's course

The course for Hong Kong soldiers is now well under way. The end of the course will be highlighted by the top four tradesmen being selected to install a PA system in the Junk Bay Hospital. **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Mike Langford** (better known as a star of this year's 'Aladdin') will direct operations and **Signalman 'Taff' Trenchard** will 'steer the boat.'

Departures

Unfortunately we have to say 'aufwiedersehen' to our live-wire of the social scene **Captain Maggie Silcock.** We wish her the best of luck in her new venture; marriage, and bid 'welcome on board' to **Captain Heather Cary.**

28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

Looking back

WRITING these notes at the beginning of a new year gives an opportunity to look back over 1972 and to recall that all those indispensable stalwarts who left us have been replaced, with a few exceptions, by equally indispensable stalwarts; that despite various technical difficulties the Tropo-scatter Troop is showing its true worth; that the re-equipment programme promised for the last few years has given us some new Mercedes vehicles, new circuit control installations and the long-awaited TARE. Not all our readers may be aware that most of our equipment is purchased direct from civilian agencies and not obtained through ordnance channels as with British units and conception to delivery is usually much in excess of nine months.

1973 promises to be an exciting year for the Regiment taking into use these newly acquired equipments.

1972 did not see the realisation of our early hopes in the sporting field though our successes included winning the Rhine Area Inter-Unit Soccer Cup defeating 36 Heavy AD Regiment RA who beat us in the final of the BAOR Cup. The Athletics team were runners-up to the all-conquering 21 Regiment team in the Rhine Area Championship, achieved sixth position in the BAOR Championship and gained a commendable third place in the Morrison Cup.

Soccer was undoubtedly our most successful sport in 1972 and we are hoping for even greater glory in 1973. The Regimental team has reached the semi-finals of both the BAOR and Rhine Area Cup Competitions despite the absence of the team's mentor **Captain Brian Green** who is being toughened up at the RAF Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court. The spirit in the team, generated by that indefatigable mighty mouse **Sergeant 'Bunny' Rea,** APTC, has been a great contributory factor. Long may it continue.

Not to be outdone the Sergeants' Mess team are current leaders of the Sergeants' Mess Sunday League and have won a place in the semi-final of the Cup Competition. When the RSM plays soccer everyone plays soccer!

(Rhine Area soccer cup — see end of 21 Signal Regiment's notes on page 78).

December celebrations

In addition to the customary children's parties, all ranks' dance and the spectacular Sergeants' Mess draw compered by that master of MCs **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tom Brown** we also had other causes for celebration.

A Regimental wedding is always something to be remembered but to have two officers join the married ranks in the week before Christmas made Christmas 1972 quite unforgettable. The week in fact started with **Chrissy,** wife of the Chief Clerk **Bob Pearce,** giving birth to a son, **David,** on 18th December in RAF Hospital Wegberg.

The first of the weddings took place in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Paul's on Friday, 22nd December, when **Chris Greig** celebrated his promotion to Captain by marrying **Miss Pauline Maxwell,** who has been teaching at the BFES Junior School here in Krefeld. They have now left us for Catterick and we wish them both every happiness in their future together.

Philip Sharman overjoyed that, after 18 months as the junior officer in the regiment, not one but two newly commissioned subalterns were to join us, promptly announced his intention of leaving the Mess. On Saturday, 23rd December, **Phil** married **Captain Ann Walters,** WRAC, in the Garrison Church of St. James'.

Final jottings

—**Lieutenant Doug Conran** has returned from his tour in N. Ireland with 2 Royal Anglian full of 'warry' stories.

—**Major Tony Cheal** was quick to take up the offer advertised in the June-July WIRE and promptly acquired **Doug** as his Second-in-Command.

—Useful misprint 'Data Yelegraphist'—when all else fails he may get through.

—**Signalman Bill Savin** achieved the impossible by continuing to sleep soundly while **Staff Sergeant Pete Ridley** 'murdered' his bag-pipes during gun-fire on Christmas morning.

A 30th Signal Regiment Christmas Ode

Twas the week before Christmas in Blandford
and the parties were going full tilt;

The JRC looked like a snow cave
with the glitter of silver and gilt.

Now each Squadron had its own party
improving it hoped on the last,

The standard was set by the music —
and seeing how loud it could blast.

The first party off was the Wives' Club
who dined by themselves — without men;

They voted the evening a great hit
and vowed to soon do it again.

The next on the stocks came 2 Squadron —
the smallest but some say the best,

And the tone that they set was the yardstick
by which we would soon judge the rest.

It took just five days to recover
till the Junior Ranks' Smoker took place;

The food was the greatest as usual
and the beer flowed like a mill race.

3 Squadron made whoopee the next day
and decided to go discotheque;

The music was so loud that some said
that their ears felt like a stiff neck.

On Friday the 15th December
the WOs and Sergeants had fun,

The prizes were greatly admired —
most of all by the people who won.

On Sunday the music continued
with carols and lessons for all;

Enjoying a joke at the J.R.C. Dance are (*left to right*): Corporals Alan Clarke, Jon Kelway and his wife Jackie and Terry Jack with his wife Rose-Ann

The spirit of Christmas shone brightly
as the voices re-echoed the call.

The parties continued on Monday,
HQ Squadron leading the rest,

And judging by volume of music
they certainly came out the best.

The last of the Squadrons to celebrate
was 1 Squadron — second to none.

Their music was voted the quietest —
it just proves what deafness had done.

The last night of all for the grown-ups
was the JRC Happening next day;

With the misses, the wives and the girlfriends
it was voted a capital A.

Now Christmas is all about children,
and they were soon having a ball;

Their party was almost as noisy —
without any music at all!

They saw films and a great entertainer,
they ate trifles and mince pies and sweets.

They had crackers (to pull — not the dry sort)
and many such similar treats.

But the greatest of all their great moments
was when Santa started his rounds;

And their joy as each got a present
was worth more to me than ten pounds.

The last day of work in the unit
we sang carols in church — which we chose,

And this point reminds me that shortly
my tale must be brought to a close.

It's all over now and the New Year
has started the cycle once more,

So its work hard and long live the turkey,
at least till we take it from store.

We wish all our readers and units
all that they wish that they had,

And with that kind thought I must finish —
I've run out of pencil and pad!

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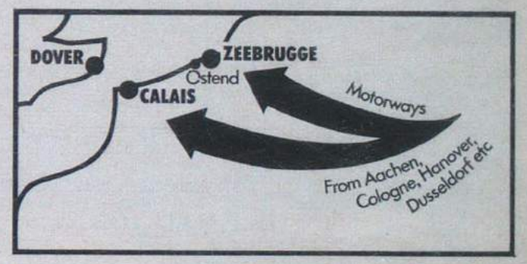

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1 ARTILLERY BRIGADE H.Q. & SIGNAL SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM—1972/73 SEASON

Left to right: Corporal Thompson, Lance-Corporal Ball, Signalmen Hutchins, Scott, Crowder, Patten, Staff-Sergeant Driscoll (Trainer/Coach), Gunner Gabites, Signalman Nicholson, Corporal Rodgers, Corporal Garner, Signalman Jess, Signalman Drummond

1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 102

Officer Commanding ...	**Major P. R. Davies**
Officer Commanding (Desig)	**Major C. J. Crow**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain M. A. Payne**
QM	**Captain (Q.M.) C. C. McCarthy**
OC A Troop	**Second-Lieutenant B. J. Scott-Morton**
OC B Troop	**Captain A. H. Symmons**
SSM	**W.O.2 J. H. Richardson**
Y of S	**Staff Sergeant D. C. Snowdon**
F of S	**Staff Sergeant W. Sugden**
Chief Clerk	**Sergeant J. M. Powles**

Events in general

CHRISTMAS has passed and the Squadron is now engaged in clearing up the debris and preparing its collective mind for a hectic period of stores accounting in anticipation of the arrival of our new OC, **Major Jim Crow,** who takes over from **Major Peter Davies** in early February.

The Squadron hockey team is lying fourth in the Soltau Garrison minor units league (New Year's resolution for **F. of S. Wally Sugden,** sometime umpire, 'I promise I'll learn the offside rule this year'); the soccer team is also lying fourth in the same league and the rugby team is lying prostrate on the rugby field (although to be fair they have won nearly as many matches as they have lost so far this season).

Enjoying the Squadron Christmas Party

Left to right: Corporal Powell, Lance-Corporal Gale, Mrs. Powell

The Squadron wishes all ex-Rams everywhere a splendid 1973.

We suffered in the severe gales last month as did most units in Germany. **Lance-Corporal Walt Moir** just got his 6 KVA generator connected to the local telephone exchange when the mains power came back on. You can't win them all! One tree came down on the cars of both **Corporal Tom Muir** and **Lance-Corporal Chris Ball.** Somebody up there doesn't like R Tgs!

Tying up loose ends . . .

The Squadron Club, 'The Woodstock,' is now completed. Challenge to all other Squadrons; the Woodstock is the plushest club in BAOR.

Our MT Sergeant, **Sergeant Alan (Bottles) Smart** (see last issue) has gone and is replaced by **Sergeant Arthur Beaumont,** RA, to whom we bid welcome.

Welcome also to **Staff Sergeant Frank Stevenson** from 7 Signal Regiment.

Congratulations to **Corporal Pete Jenkins** and **Signalman John Mountcastle** on their marriages (not to each other).

Skiver of the month award to **Corporal Ian Pickthall** who managed a month (including Christmas and New Year) in Bavaria — on duty.

BAOR REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS' CONVENTION 3 NOVEMBER 1972

Back row (left to right): W.O.1 (R.S.M.s) Rogers, Goodyer, Markie, Cushen, Williams

Front row (left to right): W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Gardiner, Lieutenant-Colonel Baker, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Meekings, Major Moss

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

READERS of THE WIRE will no doubt be relieved to hear of the continued existence of 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron despite the recent removal from uniforms of the 'ever open eye' formation sign and the absence of news in these columns. Our last notes appeared at about the time we were moving into the field on the autumn exercises. Since then much has occurred which is worthy of note and probably quite a lot that is best left unrecorded for posterity. The FFR is over and done with for another year except in the case of the Adjutant who is still working off the bill for the disappearing cherry brandy! Incidentally, our new Adjutant, **Lieutenant Gordon Whitehead,** better known as 'Bunny' will be well known to many officers commissioned from Sandhurst. He was originally a sergeant instructor in Gaza Company, became CSM of Rhine Company from 1965-68 and was Old College Sergeant Major form 1969-71.

Brigade R.S.M.s Convention

We were hosts in 1972 to the BAOR Brigade RSMs' convention which was held on 3rd November. There were six RSMs present together with **W.O.1 (S.C.) Don Goodyer,** who was attending for the first time as the HQ Royal Signals representative. **R.S.M. Terry Cushen** made a great effort and arrived early (as usual). He said it was the fog but we knew differently, this being his third convention. The last to arrive was **R.S.M. Colin Markie** resplendent in his red woolly pully! Do they really wear those things in 20 Brigade? The visitors were met in the Mess by the Royal Signals Officers and SNCOs of the Squadron over a buffet lunch, and many old friendships and acquaintances were renewed.

The afternoon conference was opened by **Major Noel Moss** who gave a short opening address. Afterwards a very interesting three hours were spent in discussing points on the agenda.

In the evening a dinner was held in the Mess at which CC Royal Signals was represented by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Baker.** Afterwards the company retired upstairs where they again met the Royal Signals' SNCOs and were entertained by the Mess choir under the conductorship of **R.S.M. Harry Meekings.** Pride of place went to 'Landlords, Landlords' and 'If I Was Not Upon The Stage;' **R.S.M.s Frank Williams**

and **Frank Rogers** were anxious to participate but at this stage were still too sober.

Regretfully, this was the last convention for **R.S.M Fred Gardiner** for he is to be commissioned in January. Note: There is no truth in the rumour that the OC, **Major Noel Moss**, is now watching vehicles instead of soldiers.

Sport

All our sports teams are in great form but pride of place must go to the soccer team who have now reached the semi-finals of the BAOR Minor units competition. The path they have followed to this stage is:

1st round v 15 BOD, won 5-2 (after replay).
2nd round v 6 Field Workshop, REME, won 5-1.
3rd round v 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, won 4-1.
Quarter-final v 17 BVD, won 2-1.

The toughest match was probably that against our opposite numbers from 11 Armoured Brigade, who were actually in the lead for a period in the first half. Our supporters club, however, under the able direction of **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Young,** helped to raise our game and we ran out eventual winners thanks to some sterling play by **Corporal 'Boss' Durow,** the captain, **Lance-Corporal Billy Adam** and **Lance-Corporal Luigi Lawrence** (now back on full spaghetti rations). The quarter-final match was a very close game in which it looked at the last as though our opponents had forced a draw but fortunately the referee disallowed the equaliser scored in the closing seconds. The next round is against 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron at neutral Minden in early February.

The cross-country team can claim even more success than the footballers for they have already won both the Brigade and Divisional Minor Units championships. We are expecting great things of them in the BAOR meeting on 13th February. The foundation of the team's success has been the running of **Lance-Corporal Colin Campbell** who won the Brigade event and came second in the Divisional meeting. He has been most ably supported by his fellow PTIs **Lance-Corporal Gerry Heggarty** and **Mike Toole** and also by **Signalmen Roy Coatman** and **Derek Lamb** not forgetting **Private Cliff Golding** and **Trooper 'Tich' Fowle.**

Only the modesty of the OC has relegated hockey to last place in the sporting section of these notes. Although the average age of the team, ably managed by **Sergeant Bill Tatnall,** is high it has just about kept pace with the achievements of other Squadron sportsmen by reaching the Divisional final. This stage has been attained by wins against 2 Division Aviation Regiment and 6 Field Workshop (after a replay). The link-men think these results are entirely due to them but are prepared to admit, on reflection, that the others helped a bit as well.

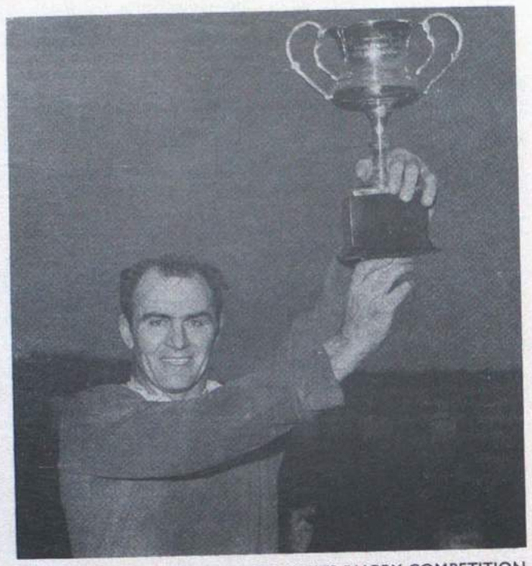
11 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 29

Review of 1972

1972 was a spectacular year for the Squadron, culminating in the BAOR Minor Units Rugby Cup coming to Minden. Over 40 per cent of the manpower changed, Brigade HQ staff changed and only the MSO 'soldiered on.' Perhaps the best way to deal with the review of the year is to take each subject in turn.

Manpower

During 1972 a total of 81 officers and men were posted out and 84 posted in; a net gain of three. This, of course, led to a certain amount of upheaval within the troops, particularly as most of the postings took place in the middle of the exercise season. No two exercises produced the same crew lists but as no two exercises were of the same type everyone was in the same boat anyway. One of the very few that saw the whole year in the Squadron was our OC, **Major Roy Ward.** He has only just managed it, however, as by the time this review



FIRST WINNERS B.A.O.R. MINOR UNITS RUGBY COMPETITION W.O.I Stone (Team Captain) holds the Cup aloft after 11 Armoured Brigade Headquarters & Signal Squadron had beaten R.A.O.C. Wolfen by 23 pts to 16 pts (see notes)

appears he will be CI Signals at Sandhurst, having handed over the trials and tribulations of running a Brigade Squadron to **Major Ian Sprackling.**

Captain Sam Cowan handed over his duties as Second-in-Command, in double time, and left **Captain Phillip Bye,** straight from two years in Canada, in the hot seat. Gone were the mad Irish oaths from the PRI office but in their place the Squadron has had to suffer such North American colonial expressions as "Hi guys" and "Is it ever good." Permanent inhabitants of the Squadron (ie those that have lasted throughout 1972) are left to wonder which is worse—Irishisms or Canadianisms! Even the RSM **Fred Gardner** could not stand the pace and right at the end of the year decided he had had enough. He accepted a commission and vanished to the relative tranquility of 14 Signal Regiment, in Worcester.

Exercises and training

The traditional concept of life in BAOR is that the exercise season runs during the warmer months and that the winter is for individual training in the warmth of barracks. Now is the time to forget tradition! 1972 saw the start of the season on 13th March and the end on 20th December. That is not all! The 1973 season starts on 13th February. "OK," you, the reader, might say, "you've still got two months for individual training." To quote our pseudo-Canadian Second-in-Command "Forget it, guys." We are losing January 1973 to FFRs, PREs and a multitude of other inspections. At the latest count we have six days in which to train the Squadron in individual skills. However, we digress—back to 1972.

Looking back at the 1972 calendar it is difficult to find a period of more than one week when the Squadron was free of exercises. Even though the official season ended on 9th October we still had two 'Gaelic Holidays' to run. For the uninitiated a Gaelic Holiday is an exercise for those units destined for four months in Ulster. We attempt to provide realistic training on the life and type of incident our comrades are likely to encounter whilst in the Emerald Isle.

Sport

1972 was such a fabulous sporting year (between exercises) that it would be easy to ramble on for hours. The easiest way is just to list our major achievements and say to all other minor units "Beat that in 1973."

Orienteering: Army Minor Units champions, BAOR Minor Units champions, 1 Division Minor Units champions; 11 Brigade Minor Units champions. Rugby: BAOR Minor Units champions, 1 Division Minor Units runners-up. Hockey: 1 Division Minor Units runners-up. Athletics: 1 Division Minor Units runners-up, 11 Brigade Minor Units runners-up; BAOR Minor Units third; Morrison Cup Minor Units runners-up. Tug-of-war: Morrison Cup Minor Units champions; 11 Brigade Minor Units champions. Cricket: 1 Division Minor Units champions, BAOR Minor Units runners-up. Cross-country: 11 Brigade Minor Units champions; 1 Division Minor Units champions; Westfalen Minor Units League champions.

Although we did not manage a clean sweep of everything we are consoled by the fact that, in most cases, we were beaten by other Royal Signals Units.

Finale

It would be remiss of the Squadron not to make mention of those members who have left us during 1972. To each and every one we offer our thanks for making 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron a fine place to be.

At the latest assessment it looks as though the team for 1973 will be:

OC	**Major I. O. J. Sprackling**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain P. L. Bye**
Adjutant	**Lieutenant T. E. Broughton**
QM	**Major (Q.M.) J. Wadmore**
MTO	**Captain C. M. Lake**
Communications Officer ...	**Captain S. M. Siddall**
OC 'A' Troop	**Lieutenant P. J. Bowles**
OC 'B' Troop	**Second-Lieutenant S. G. Hughes**
RSM	**W.O.1 C. E. Stephens**

Our resolution for 1973 is to keep the above team intact and to do as well as our predecessors.

12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 36

NOW that 1973 has finally arrived we can forget Christmas for another year. The endless rounds of parties, Christmas draws and New Year's Eve dances are over and perhaps a few early nights would help us have a happy start to 1973. At this point I would like to wish all our readers, and in particular past members of the Squadron, a happy and prosperous new year.

Boxing

The Divisional boxing final took place on 22nd November and once again the Squadron were represented against 12 OFP RAOC.

In the first bout of the evening **Signalman Barry McMillan** came out fighting and turned out to be the winner on points.

Next for the Squadron was **Corporal Dennis Parkinson** who won by a knockout in the second round.

The place was in uproar as it looked as if the Squadron was going to walk away with the shield. However this was not to be because in the following four bouts 12 OFP showed their colours by beating **Signalman David Ross** on points, knocking out **Corporal Andy Shepherd,** and then **Signalman Wally Lockhart** and **Signalman Bob Loveridge** lost on points.

The tide had turned and the Squadron, 4-2 down with only one bout to go, had lost the shield.

In the last bout **Signalman Terry Rocque** with a series of punches quicker than the eye could see left his opponent lying on the canvas out for the count, making the final result a 4-3 win for 12 OFP.

Taking the runners-up shield this year the fighting 12th will be back in 1973 to bring back the winner's shield to its home again in the Squadron.

Divisional cross-country

The Divisional Cross-country final took place on 12th December in Osnabruck.

On the morning of the run the Squadron were still looking for runners; eventually six turned up at the start. These were **Lieutenant Mike Jefferis, Signalman Dave Ross, Sergeant Jim Hawkins, Lance-Corporal Dave Duncan** (REME), **Craftsman Bob Ingram** and **Signalman Michael Cox.**

Competing over a tricky course with mud patches making it difficult even to stand the Squadron took 4th place over all.

Out of 250 starters the Squadrons individual placings were:

Signalman Dave Ross 40th, **Craftsman Bob Ingram** 81st, **Signalman Michael Cox** 113th, **Lieutenant Mike Jefferis** 116th, **Lance-Corporal Dave Duncan** 161st, **Sergeant Jim Hawkins** 198th.

Adventure training canoeing

Sergeant Tony Ashton, REME, and five other members of the Squadron are planning to canoe from Chur in Switzerland to the Hook of Holland in June.

The trip, with a total of 822 miles, will take them all the way on the River Rhine through Switzerland, Austria, Lichtenstein, France and Holland. They are also setting out to beat the unofficial record of 17½ days.

Congratulations

The Squadron congratulates the RSM **W.O.1 Frank Williams** on notification of his forthcoming commission.

Departures

We would like to bid farewell to **Lance-Corporal Phil Jubb, Lance-Corporal Pete Tapsell, Signalman 'Paddy' Moraghan, Lance-Corporal Pete Leybourne** and **Lance-Corporal Joe Tolan.** We wish them well in their new jobs.

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20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 41

THE period has been a very busy one, amply filled with various specialist inspections and, of course, the Christmas celebrations.

PRE

We returned from Exercise 'Forefront 72' in late October to realise that there were only three weeks to prepare for our PRE! Sounds plenty of time until it dawned on us that we also had to prepare for a visit by the SO-in-C, a Remembrance Day parade and remain fully alert for a 'Crash Out.' For several days harrassed Troop Commanders were seen wandering about with dark faces, muttering under their breath and snarling at anyone who came within range! Foul rumours flew about concerning 12-hour working days, no free weekends and First Parades at dawn! However, commonsense prevailed and under the expert guidance of our MTO, **Captain L. C. W. Reason,** RCT, and the ASM, **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Tony Hartley,** we managed to struggle through a rather overfull four weeks very well indeed.

SO-in-C's visit

On 7th November we were visited by the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** The visit was only for a day and so the programme had, of necessity, to be rather condensed. On his arrival the SO-in-C was met by our Squadron Commander, **Major D. C. Whitehead,** and a 'highly polished' Quarter Guard. Our 'resident bugler' **Corporal Terry Beckett** accompanied the General Salute with a very polished performance. The SO-in-C inspected the guard and was then introduced to the Officers and Warrant Officers of the Squadron before meeting the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier R. G. Lawson, D.S.O., O.B.E.,** for lunch.

During the afternoon both Troops laid on demonstrations which provided the SO-in-C with an ideal opportunity to talk to members of the Unit about their jobs. **Corporal Tony Couper** 'bent the SO-in-C's ear' about his particularly evil petrol engined 432 and now it looks as if a new diesel 432 is on the way . . . Thank you, **Corporal Couper!**

Finally **General Sawers** went to our Squadron Club to have tea with the remaining members of the Squadron. This marked the end of a particularly pleasant and successful visit for us and, we hope, an interesting one for the SO-in-C.

Annual FFR inspection

As soon as the PRE was over we caught our breath and started to prepare for our FFR Inspection. This was carried out by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier R. G. Lawson, D.S.O., O.B.E.,** who, having seen us at work in barracks and on exercise, decided that he hadn't seen us on the parade ground! He therefore tasked us to mount a ceremonial parade which was to be followed by a walk round the Unit, culminating with Christmas lunch for all ranks.

We set about preparing for this rather unusual programme with gusto. Albeit some were heard to mutter about "drill being for guardsmen and not for tradesmen"! However, Senior NCOs began to scratch their heads and recall drill courses of long ago. Officers dug frantically in dusty MFO boxes for swords and faint sounds of 'Officers Sword Drill' came from secluded places in the Squadron.

We had a number of practice parades during which many cobwebs were brushed away from the drill of a unit made up of representatives from many Arms and Services. The Squadron Commander had a little difficulty making himself heard above the noise of helicopters being tested but, on the day, we managed to persuade Army Aviation not to sabotage the parade! The parade itself was a great success, in spite of a rather cold and misty day. The Band of the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry accompanied the Squadron on parade and played superbly for us. They also managed to restrain themselves to our pace!

After the parade and a superb Christmas lunch, the Squadron breathed a deafening sigh of relief and set about preparing for the Christmas festivities. In the event this proved to be an equally exhausting four weeks—but much more enjoyable!

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CHRISTMAS LUNCH AFTER THE F.F.R. INSPECTION
Left to right: Lance-Corporal Pape, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Markle, Brigadier R. G. Lawson, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major D. C. Whitehead, Corporal Gregory, Corporal Ward, W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Hartley

48 Gurkha Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 1

Dashera

IN the six months or so since the Squadron last appeared in THE WIRE a great deal has happened including the first Colony FTX for many years in Hong Kong. However, on serious reflection, the event which took up most time, caused more work than any major exercise was undoubtedly Dashera.

Dashera officially took place between the 14th and 17th of October, but in fact it really began for the Squadron on the 23rd September. This is Gurkha Signals Regimental birthday and a regimental inter-troop sports meeting was held at Sek Kong. We were fortunate also to be visited on this day by the Signal Officer in Chief, **Major General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** The General later visited HQ 48 Brigade and the comcen and then watched the sports. Afterwards **General Sawers** was entertained in the cockhouse, WOs and Sergeants' Mess, and finally to a curry lunch in the Officers' Mess as is the custom on the Regimental Birthday.

The diary then began to fill up rapidly with Regimental parties, Squadron parties, mess parties, Troop parties and family parties. The next major occasion for the Squadron was on the 7th October when we held a combined Dashera party and farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Lewis,** Commander Gurkha Signals. Colonel Lewis was presented with a silver statuette of a Gurkha soldier. We were also very happy to welcome the new Commander Gurkha Signals and his wife, **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. R. Benbow.** With Dashera 'proper' came the very welcome arrival of **Co'onel A. A. Dacre, O.B.E., A.G. (11)** on his timely official visit.

Dashera allegedly ended on the 19th October with the traditional Regimental farewell to **Colonel Lewis.** It is however, of interest to note that on return from Exercise 'Eastern Triangle,' some Gurkha officers were still attending Dashera functions as late as 11th of November.

Miscellaneous happenings

The OC, **Major Peter Buchanan,** went off on a trek to West Nepal from mid-September to mid-October. He returned to get straight into the middle of the Dashera activities.

While the OC was 'swaning' the rest of the Squadron and in particular the Foreman, technicians and the MT and the LAD were preparing us for the PRE inspection. We got a report we are all very proud of.

Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Gobindabahadur Mall took a party of 9 Gurkhas to Fiji in suport of a 10 GR Company. We are still trying to work out what exactly they did in Fiji. Whatever it was they are all anxious to return next year.

Lieutenant Richard Anderson led an Army mountaineering foray into the Annapurna region of Nepal. This expedition, we hope, will make it possible for the Second-in-Command, **Captain Mervyn Lee,** to lead an Army climbing expedition to the same area in March. We also hope to get **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Balbahadur Gurung** away as Second-in-Command of a climbing expedition in New Zealand in January. The Adjutant is currently applying for the unit title to be amended to '48 Gurkha (The expedition) Squadron.'

At the time of writing, **Second-Lieutenant John Davies** had just departed with 15 Gurkhas to spend a happy Christmas in the jungles of Brunei. There should be some 'hairy' stories to report in our next WIRE notes!

W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) John Harvey, B.E.M., has had a good year. After years of trying he finally managed to visit Nepal in November, and see the other end of the line and on the 7th December, during the Squadron's FFR inspection, he was presented with the LS and GC medal from the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier B. C. Hickey, O.B.E., MC.** It was only half way through his citation that the period counting towards this LS and GC medal started. His contribution in the World War was mentioned 'en passant.' Just in case there are any jokers it was the 1939-45 war. Well done 'RQ!'

Arrivals and departures

Captain and Mrs. Tim Maloney, RIR, left in October. **Captain Maloney** was the Garrison Quartermaster and we wish him and his family good luck and perhaps a quieter time in their new posting in U.K.

Major Tony Moore, RAPC, left the Garrison pay office in August for higher places in the Command pay office on Hong Kong Island.

In their places we welcome the new Quartermaster and his wife, **Captain** and **Mrs. Reg Creamer** and the new paymaster and his wife **Captain** and **Mrs. Bill Crossfield.**

Finally our latest officer to arrive is **Second-Lieutenant Ian Robertson** whose father **Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E.,** commanded Gurkha Signals in Seremban.

227 Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 18

Visit of CSO BAOR

ON the 11th of December, **Major-General H. E. Roper** visited the Squadron. A Quarter Guard trained by our recently arrived **S.S.M. Brian Cumming,** provided his introduction to Squadron personnel, their precision drill set the tone for the visit and impressed the other nationalities in AFCENT.

The CSO took the opportunity of speaking to every member of the guard before continuing on to inspect the Squadron technical vehicles. During a brief but enjoyable visit **General Roper** managed to have a few words with a majority of Squadron personnel and also met a number of the other nationalities working under our OC, **Major Peter Riding** in the Mobile Communication Centre.

In an informal ceremony the CSO presented **Sergeant Pat Fraser** with his LS and GC medal. The question, "Have you actually managed 18 crime free years?" only managed to elicit an enigmatic smile from **Pat.** On completion of the ceremony all the Squadron officers and senior NCOs repaired to the senior NCO club to wet **Pat's** medal.

VISIT OF C.S.O. B.A.O.R.
Major General H. E. Roper has a word with Lance-Corporal J. Smith during his inspection of the Quarter Guard

VISIT OF C.S.O. B.A.O.R.
Major General H. E. Roper meets Hwf Wolfgang Schultz during his tour of Support Section. Looking on: Hptmn Junge, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Gundersen, B.E.M., Corporal G. Adams and Major P. E. Riding

Top of the hit parade

This month's indisputable leader of the charts compiled by our MTO, **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) 'Taff' Gundersen,** is undoubtedly **Lance-Corporal Ernie Lakin.** This singular success he modestly attributes to his innate ability to extemporise on an old theme to produce new and interesting variations. His biggest success to date came when he hit Deputy Cincent's, **Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Rosier,** staff car with a Bedford four-ton 4X4.

Fortunately the air marshal was not in the car at the time, or **Ernie** may now have been extemporising on a medley consisting of 'The Convicts Chorus,' 'Jailer Bring Me Water' and 'Jailhouse Rock.'

Sergeant Jim Beddow who was accompanying **Lance-Corporal Lakin** at the time, took charge of traffic control with a panache which drew cries of admiration from the bystanders. In fact one of these was heard to remark that **Jim's** display was evocative of a Parisienne gendarme on duty at the Arc De Triomphe during rush hour.

The driver of the staff car was completely blase about the hit of the month, but not, I might add, speechless. **Jim** reports that his vocabulary has increased considerably as a result of listening to the tirade from the staff car driver. **Lance-Corporal Lakin** insists that it was nothing out of the ordinary, and nonchalantly dismisses this stream of vituperation as a characteristic reaction of chauffeurs reconciling themselves to the vicissitudes of fortuitous contact with combat drivers.

The OC will undoubtedly make a financial adjustment, which will convince **Lance-Corporal Lakin** that remuneration for military hit stars will never compare with that of civilian pop idols.

The new, New Seekers

W.O.1 (F. of S.) Mike Truran and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Watts** have recently completed a series of liaison visits to Signals Unit in Germany. During these they have made contact with their opposite numbers in national units and shown the acquisitive nature of Steptoe and Son. This prospensity to collect anything and everything which looks remotely useful, has led to the suggestion that they adopt the Seekers hit song, 'You Know I'll Beg, Steal Or Borrow,' as their signature tune.

Brian confessees that whilst he does not mind the liaison the bits in between are nerve wracking. **Mike** flys (?) a Hunter. **Brian** is looking for a technically minded RAF pilot with a few moments to spare, who can explain the difference in aerodynamics between the RAF and Hillman version. He feels sure that Hillman never intended **Mike** to fill his tank with aviation gas. **Brian** insists that on the return journey the first landfall was when **Mike** landed at Bruggen then taxied down to Maastricht. **Mike** maintains, that if the makers had not intended him to fly his Hunter, they would not have put wings on it.

Recognition

During a recent visit to the AFCENT mini shop **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Colin Heaps** met **Pamela,** the three year old daughter of **Corporal Alex Cameron.** Having an eye for pretty girls and never missing a chance he bought her a number of chocolate Christmas tree novelties. These he hung from the buttons on her coat. On returning to her mother **Pamela** was asked, 'Who bought you those?' Without hesitation she answered sweetly, 'dat cookie monster over der,' pointing to the Yeoman.

Since their encounter the Yeoman has availed himself of the opportunity to watch 'Sesame Street.' He is now frantically consulting the Yellow Pages in search of either, a plastic surgeon who will let no problem daunt him, or, an optician to remedy **Miss Cameron's** visual deficiencies. A concensus of opinion in the Squadron reveals that the majority favour the former remedy.

Observation has shown that the Yeoman is sensitive about the matter. At the childrens' party he studiously avoided cakes, biscuits and **Pamela Cameron.**

Above and beyond

Sergeant Dave Smith has now earned himself a niche in the Squadron's history. After completing a Squadron duty he went home to wash up and change his uniform. On his return to camp he met **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Mike Truran** who looked surprised and asked what he was doing. **Dave** explained, that he had been on duty the previous night and was reporting in for work.

The Foreman sat him down, then showed him the section leave chart explaining gently that he had been on leave since after duty the previous day. We feel that any tech sergeant who shows such devotion to duty that he forgets that he is on leave deserves a place in any Squadron's history.

644 Signal Troop H.Q. UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 567

WINTER was officially declared 'in' on 12th November, 1972; however, somebody forget to send the Part II order to the great RHQ in the sky and now, in January, we are still sweating during the day with temperatures in the high 60s. Only one fall of snow on Troodos, and that lasted two days.

On the sporting scene, the Troop is more than holding its own.

Soccer

Two teams are being run at the moment, one is a combined 11 with Camp HQ UNFICYP making up the numbers, whilst

(*Continued on page* 89)

(*Continued from page* 88)

the second team is composed of all 644 players. Both teams at the moment are holding central positions in their respective leagues, but we are hoping for better things to come.

Rugby

Although we don't field our own team, we are well represented by **Lieutenant Nigel Fairley, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bill Cheesman** and **Lance-Corporal John Topping** — all making a small contribution to the weight in the pack of 'The Blues' (about 45 stone at the last weigh in). This team is run by RAF Nicosia but is made up of two RAF, two civilians and 11 United Nations personnel. The team isn't doing too badly, at least we are winning more than we are losing.

Hockey

Once again we don't field our own team, but our old friends RAF Nicosia allow **Lieutenant Nigel Fairley, W.O.2 Bill Cheesman, Staff Sergeant Ron Watson, Corporal Jim Taylor, Lance-Corporal 'Scotty' Scott** and **Signalman Tom Wright** to play for them and can field a very strong side when the occasion demands.

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings we hold a 'Quiz Night' in the Mercury Club; it is a test of general knowledge in which eight teams of four from the Troop compete against each other. The only thing in doubt at the moment is whether **Corporal Eric Pomroy's** 'The Rum Bums' or **Corporal Jake Cook's** 'The Chaplain's Department' are going to get the lowest score. The question most frequently asked at the moment is "When is the Yeoman going to run out of those —— spelling questions?" The highlight of the quiz season will undoubtedly be on 27th February when the cream of 'The rest' take on the Officers and Senior NCOs of the Troop.

On the work scene, things proceed apace. Radio Section are running round building new Jontz masts and taking down old ones. Line Section are still finding it difficult to keep up with the leisurely pace of Cyprus Telephones; however, **Sergeant Bill Thorne** is managing to keep smiling—or is it a fixed grin? In the Comcen we are able to move around without tripping over any spare bodies, and in the stores **Staff Sergeant Ron Watson** and **Lance-Corporal 'Scotty' Scott** keep the coffee pot going whilst tossing occasional tit-bits to **Sergeant Pat Orwin** in the MT Section next door. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mike Pittock** arrived in the Tech Workshop in December and has managed, somehow, to get through a terriffic workload which still seems to be endless. We must not forget to mention our Canadian friends who man the detachments at Xeros with the Danish contingent and Famagusta with the Swedish contingent, as well as supplying the NCO i/c and half the detachment for our Troodos rebro/relay shack.

So dear friends, there it is. Rest assured that 'Jimmie' will be almost as well known throughout the United Nations as it is in our own country by the time this lot is over. When will that be? Your guess is as good as mine.

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

FFR inspection

262 Signal Squadron FFR Inspection took place on 24th November, 1972, and the inspection officer was **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** Commander 3rd Signal Group. Despite a short shower at the helipad, the rain that had threatened to drench the radio detachments displaying aspects of their role did not materialise. The success of the inspection was omened when the Commander drew ticket number 262 out of the hat for the Wives' Club coffee morning raffle.

After a tour of the Squadron, the Commander was shown a film taken during summer camp by **Sergeant W. P. Jack,** which will now form part of the Squadron archives.

The Squadron received a shock when it achieved an 'A' Grading in the Physical Fitness Assessment when a random 50 per cent were checked. How are we going to live up to it?

Squadron football

The Squadron football team captained by 'Iron man' **Sergeant John Fuller** and managed by **Sergeant Clive Thompson** is riding the crest of the wave at the moment. They have played 16 games, winning 15 and drawing one. They are now top of the ESBA Minor Units League.

At the moment of writing the Squadron has just beaten

SQUADRON FOOTBALLERS EXCEL
Back, left to right: Lance-Corporal Ted Kember, Lance-Corporal Charlie Pearson, Corporal 'Scouse' Kidd, Lance-Corporal Gerry McGivern, Sergeant John Fuller, (Signalman Tex Saul just off photo)
Front, left to right: Signalman Alex Hamilton, Sergeant Len Payne, Signalman Ted Dobbinson, Corporal Nobby Clark and Sergeant Carnegie

1 Squadron 9 Signal Regiment by four goals to two, to reach the semi-finals of the league cup.

Like most units we suffer from postings. Team members having left us since the beginning of the season are—**Corporal Jim McCabe, Signalman Gordon Scott, Signalman Don Boscoe** and **Corporal Ron Foote.**

Signalman Alex Hamilton has been representing the Army team this season, as have **Lance-Corporal Ted Kember,** RPC and **Sergeant John Fuller** on occasions.

Members of 259 (East Troop) help to make up the team and competition is fierce, and **Sergeant Don Shrives** acts as scout for any possible footballer in the Cape Greco area.

THE VOLUNTEERS

31 Sig Regt (V)

Presentation of Efficiency Medal

DURING the annual FFR Inspection carried out by CSO UKLF **Brigadier D. E. Warren, A.D.C.,** on 25th November and 2nd December, 1972, the inspecting officer presented Efficiency Medals (TAVR) and clasps to several members and ex-members of the Regiment.

The following received clasps to their medals: **W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. T. Fowler, Staff Sergeant D. L. Gunter, Sergeant R. B. Hillbourne, Corporal A. H. Pain, Corporal L. E. Cross.**

The following received medals: **Staff Sergeant J. Mileham, Sergeant W. F. Williams, Sergeant B. H. Dart, Sergeant F. G. T. Spiers,** REME, **Sergeant G. W. Collins,** REME, **Sergeant J. Whadams** (retired), **Sergeant L. J. Fleming** (retired).

Corporal Pain had in fact qualified for his second clasp by the day of the presentation but it could not be obtained in time.

Christmas functions

Squadron dinner dances were held as usual this year. HQ and 41 held their combined event at Hammersmith on 2nd December. The guests of honour were the Honorary Colonel, the Commanding Officer and their wives. Also on that date 47 Squadron (Harrow) held their event at which the principle guests were **Mr. Hugh Dukes,** M.P., and his wife, **Councillor and Mrs. Lovel** representing the Mayor and Mayoress, and the Second-in-Command, **Major J. C. Eversfield** and **Mrs. Eversfield.**

83 Squadron held their dinner/dance on the following Saturday. Their guests were the Mayor of Wandsworth **Alderman Mrs. Jean Standing,** J.P., the Deputy Lieutenant for Wandsworth, **Colonel Sir Thomas Roberts,** and the Com-

[Photograph by courtesy of Ben Bennett Photopraghy

PLENTY OF MEDALS TO WET HERE

Sergeant Dart, Staff-Sergeant Gunter, W.O.I (F. of S.) Fowler, Staff-Sergeant Mileham, Sergeants Hillbourne and Williams photographed at T.A.V.R. Centre, Southfields after presentation of their Efficiency Medals and Clasps. Brigadier D. E.Warren, A.D.C. stands on the left of the picture and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. B. Crawford, E.R.D. and the Adjutant, Major T. E. Knight are on the right

manding Officer. **Alderman Standing** did in fact prefer to dine with 83 Squadron rather than attend a dinner of Labour Mayors of London where the Leader of the Opposition and other leading figures of the Labour party were guests. This we take as the compliment it was intended to be. **Mrs. Standing** explained in her speech her particular affection for Royal Signals since she met her husband attending a Royal Signals unit dance. She herself came from an army family being born in the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe.

W.O.1 B. Fisher

In October, 1972, **W.O.1 Fisher,** RSM of this Regiment for over two years, left the Regiment and the army at the end of his service. This service commenced in 1947 when he joined the Boys' Squadron in Somne Lines, Catterick Camp. This Squadron was of course disbanded in 1948 and **Boy Fisher** was transferred to the Army Apprentices' School at Harrogate where he became the first Drum Major of the AAS Band. He left the School in 1950 to commence his training as a technician in 1 Training Regiment. During his subsequent career he served in a wide variety of units including Army Wireless Chain Units and West Africa. He was RQMS of 249 Signal Squadron and then MT Warrant Officer in 227 Signal Squadron at AFCENT where he gained an outstanding reputation for the quiet efficiency and courtesy which has been the hallmark of his service. As RSM in this Regiment he has been effective, respected and popular and he has contributed much to the development of the Regiment. At the end of his service he was the senior RSM of the Corps. He takes the very best wishes of all ranks of the Regiment with him to Australia where he has emigrated and we are sure his very many friends throughout the Corps join us in this.

Arrivals

W.O.1 (S.C.) Tom Cran, although not a member of the Regiment, has given us stirling service since his attachment to us from HQ 11 Signal Group (V), and we all hope he will remain with us for a longer period than forecasted.

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ian Slieghthom whom we hope will enjoy his stay with us. Although we deeply mourn the loss of his car when attending his first game of football on our behalf.

Sergeants Geoff Fenge and **Arthur Harfield** to bolster up our technicians.

We have recently been visited by **Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Mullin,** at present at the AAC, who is soon to join us and who is obviously going to be a valuable asset.

Departures

W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Roy Newson who done us proud.

Corporal Colin Bleasdale to the pleasant climate of Belfast.

Sergeant Jones for his Foreman's Course.

W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) 'Nobby' Hall, a volunteer who left us on retirement. **'Nobby'** has continuous service in the TA after completing his WWII Service and his services are greatly missed.

[Photograph by courtesy of Ben Bennett Photography

AT 83 SQUADRON ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Left to right: Major J. Greenhill, T.D., Mr. Standing, The Mayor of Wandsworth, Mrs. Jean Standing, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. B. Crawford, The Deputy Lieutenant for Wandsworth, Colonel Sir Thomas Roberts, Major and Mrs. W. Sinclair

34 Sig Regt (V)
Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

Busy social month

DECEMBER has been a busy social month in the Regiment. On the 9th the Sergeants' Mess held their Christmas dance and draw at Brambles Farm. About 150 attended in formal dress and the evening was a great success thanks to the RSM, **W.O.1 Brian Overland,** the PEC, **Staff Sergeant Ken Woods,** and the Mess Committee. On Sunday, 10th December, the childrens' Christmas party was held. Although he retired from the TAVR three months ago — due to outside business commitments — **ex-Sergeant George Punchon** performed as Father Christmas in his usual efficient manner. The party was planned and organised by the Wives' Club, but our thanks must go to **Major Jim Smiles,** OC HQ Squadron — not only did he organise the catering, he was also the projectionist for the film show, and conducted the carol singing.

Parachuting

Parachuting is still a popular sport in the Regiment, and on Sunday, 26th November, two of our WRAC girls, **Privates Phyllis Radley** and **Shelagh Watson,** made another descent at Bridlington. More parachuting is planned for January and rumour has it that the CO and the RSM will be joining this 'healthy sport.' Not to be done out of the sporting highlights, the skiers, under **Lieutenant Richard Chevis,** are planning for the New Year's snow. They have plans for training on the dry ski-slop at Catterick, and on the Pennines, before going up to Scotland in April. With the number of keen new skiers we have, we should have a good season. Another sport we are planning is canoeing, and with expert instructor, **Staff Sergeant Ken Woods,** the PSI of 90 Signal Squadron, we should soon be in the cold waters of the North-east.

Farewell

After over four years' in the Regiment, in January we will be saying 'farewell' and 'thank you' to **Captain (Q.M.) Keith Rothwell,** who is leaving us for a staff appointment in Belgium. He will be missed by all ranks in the Regiment as he has looked after us particularly well, and has always produced what is required to make us an efficient communicating and well-dressed Regiment. We welcome his successor, **Captain 'Ginger' Cockcroft** from 8 Signal Regiment.

New Year's award

All ranks were delighted with the news that our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Stewart,** TD, was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List, and also that he has been selected for promotion to Colonel from May, 1973, when he will be appointed TAVR Colonel North East District. After over 22 years' service as a volunteer officer in the Corps, we are losing a proficient communicator and administrator, and an expert on Signals in the TAVR, and we all hope that 34 Regiment will be in his 'parish' and we will still be able to have his expert advice and assistance.

An Ex-Corps man's impression of a Volunteer Regiment

By: Fred Steel, 29 Sherwood Drive, Marske-by-the-Sea, Redcar, Teesside.

ON a bleak November morning in the atmosphere of Armistice Sunday, 34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) paraded at the Cenotaph in Middlesbrough, Teesside.

Along with other units and ex-Service Associations, their striking smartness and soldierly bearing showed that Royal Signals are still a Corps to be proud of. After the solemnity of the Armistice Service, it was a pleasure to return to the Sergeants' Mess as guests of the unit. Along with members of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association, we were received warmly and in a most hospitable manner. **R.S.M. Overland** as always welcomed us, together with **R.Q.M.S. Alec Sim,** and **Staff Sergeant Bryan Hayward,** who is the Chief Clerk. It is always a great pleasure to meet **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Stewart, O.B.E.,** TD, and his charming wife. **Colonel Stewart** told me that in April we shall have a new Colonel, but that he will still be associated with the Regiment. For the first time I had the pleasure of meeting someone whose name has been a household, well-respected, word throughout this area, so when the name Fairweather is mentioned, you take notice. It was **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E.,** TD, DL, JP, and also his delightful wife whom I met. We talked of old friends of the Corps, and of course we eventually mentioned Dunkirk.

Circulating amongst some of our hosts, I came across **Captain Margaret Hope,** of course belonging to the WRAC, and an admin officer with the Regiment. For 33 years she has served faithfully and with distinction; a long time by any standards and she has enjoyed every minute of it without any regrets. Long may she continue.

As the annual dinner and Christmas party was being held on the 9th December, I thought I would combine both stories in one.

Forgive me if I keep repeating the word 'wonderful' but it was! There were 62 prizes — a wonderful effort had been made to collect these prizes. A buffet dinner (I got fed this time), old time music, old-fashioned talk, the air full of the Christmas spirit and wham another 'smash hit.'

Of course these things don't just happen. A lot of hard work, planning and organising had been done by **Staff Sergeant Ken Wood** and his helpers.

It was one big happy family and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

There are always good things around the corner if you look.

Whilst in Dunkirk this year I was denied the privilege of laying the wreaths at the British Cemetery and at Le-Paradis. This was due to the wreaths being misrouted by the Royal British Legion. However, our respects and homage were paid at both these venues. This costs so little, but means so much both to myself and the other Royal Signals personnel who were on the Dunkirk Pilgrimage.

At least we know the wreaths are there for next year.

So with a bit of solemnity, a bit of hilarity, and a certain amount of give and take, I would like to wish one and all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

By the right

IT may seem odd that an honour should be honoured between a military Regiment and a civic Council neither of which existed in title when the original honour was bestowed, but such is one of the anomalies, and certainly one of the more pleasing aspects, of hereditary privilege.

Last September, marching and motorised contingents of 36 Signal Regiment formed procession along Ilford High Road. Sons, so to speak, of 'the old forty-fivers' (not to be confused with those who celebrate the doubtful desirability of a Jacobite ancestry) were exercising their right to the freedom of the Borough of Redbridge (nee Wanstead and Woodford).

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D. presenting a plaque to His Worship the Mayor and the Mayoress of Redbridge

With gleaming swords, bayonets, windscreens or tow-chains, as befitted one's role, the column was led by our Corps of Drums. The salute was taken from the Town Hall steps by His Worship the Mayor together with **Colonel Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt., T.D., J.P.** (Honorary Colonel 36 Signal Regiment) and **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.** (Commander 12 Group). A running commentary, relayed by public address system, introduced and described each passing formation to the many military and civic visitors as indeed it did to both the local townspeople marooned by the police cordon.

Later, during the official reception, the Corps of Drums gave a superb display, and **Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D.** (Commanding Officer) presented His Worship with a Regimental plaque.

A change from Stanford PTA

At the end of October, 54 Signal Squadron embarked on a night exploration and assault upon the more inaccessible regions of the Norfolk Broads. (To allay the fears of any chance trans-Atlantic reader, it should be emphasised that the English definition of the term Norfolk Broads does not refer to the masses of mini-skirted misses who attempt to alienate the affections of Americans on the airfields of Anglia).

The exercise, competitively run on a Troop basis by **Lieutenant Sexton** and aided by our WRAC and a detachment of 257 General Hospital RAMC, called for infiltration by land and water, a forced march, river map-reading, compass work, voice procedure over VHF sets, and a knowledge of first aid and NBC. Control points were set up and marks awarded for various tasks performed as well as overall speeds between controls. Orders suggested that a change of clothing should be carried, for as **Lieutenant Williams** reports, local knowledge is not everything for a team with a 17ft. assault craft and outboard motor as companions for the whole night.

755 Troop, under **Corporal Martin,** just stole the glory from 707 Troop led by **Lance-Corporal Howes,** and a cup, given by **Captain D. Morfoot, T.D.** (Squadron Second-in-Command) was presented to the winners by **Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.,** Honorary Colonel Commandant, who spoke of his long association with Royal Signals at Norwich and his delight at seeing the enthusiasm, spirit and attendance for this exercise.

We have splashdown

Shortly before Christmas, an illuminated aquarium began to infuse the sombre depths of RHQ with a brilliance not immediately associated with such corridors of power. One of those ominous millboards that inevitably hang around all military establishments silently proclaims the duties of the Regimental Fish Orderly, who, apart from holding early morning swimming parades and ensuring that the use of rods fishing will cease forthwith, must, it seems, mount a 24-hour guard during the mating season 'when assistance on the drill may be requested from **W.O.1 Goldsmith.**' The piscine mind boggles!

ATTENTION !

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VOLVO

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

Christmas festivities

THE 40th celebrated Christmas in traditional style; the festivities began with the children's Christmas party attended by some 200 children. Santa was expected to arrive by helicopter and because helicopters are a familiar sight over Belfast and a number of these machines hovered over the centre, there was a great deal of excitement among our expectant children. Finally Santa arrived (a heavily disguised **Corporal Tommy Steed**) and was greeted with the traditional enthusiasm.

During that evening a disco was run for the benefit of our older children which was so successful that it will no doubt form an integral part of our future Christmas festivities.

In a very heavily disguised Drill Hall the Sergeants' Mess held their annual Christmas draw and dance. Directed by **R.Q.M.S. Brian Appleby** everything went with a swing. Winning tickets appeared to be shared equally between the RSM, **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Dave Jones** and **Staff Sergeant Billy Carey** who won amongst other prizes a hair drier for his bald pate. An outstanding buffet was provided by the Regiment's cooks, ably led by **Sergeant Jim Dunseith** and **Corporal Terry Burtonwood.**

On the 23rd December the Regiment held our traditional Christmas carol service conducted by **Rev. Robin Lavery.** The organ was superbly played by our Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Iain Smith.** After the service the Drill Hall was cleared and the Regiment sat down to the traditional Christmas luncheon served by the Officers. As the Officers' Mess Sergeant, **Sergeant Charlie Cook,** remarked, "It was nice to see the Officers sweat it out for a change."

After lunch a Christmas draw was held with prizes of bottles of spirits, and cigarettes. This was followed by entertainment by **Mr. Tom Raymond,** an Ulster comedian well know in the province for his regular appearances on TV and stage.

A welcome visitor during this period was an old member of the Regiment now residing in Canada — **ex-Corporal Dickie Henderson** who returned to the old country for his Christmas holidays (beg pardon, vacation).

Shooting enthusiasts hold party

During the Christmas break the Regimental shooting team held their dinner/dance for their members, at which trophies were presented by 11-year-old **Miss Heather Wenborn.** the daughter of **Sergeant Sid Wenborn,** to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Rogers** (best SLR shot), **Lieutenant Brian Patterson** (best SMG shot), **Sergeant Sid Wenborn** (the person who had done most for the club). **Sergeant Reggie Shanks** (best all round shot), **Corporal Alan Vance** (best pistol shot), **Corporal Dave Cameron** (best LMG shot) and **Private Anna Neagle** (best WRAC shot).

On the 30th December the Junior Ranks of the Regiment held their New (Old?) Year's Eve dance. This was an outstanding success and all that attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

May we take this opportunity of wishing former members of the Regiment and all readers the very best for 1973.

Sport

"Without Favour or Affection"

The Army White Water Canoe Championships

by Lieutenant A. H. Gibb

FOR some it was the end of a lot of hard work, for others it was just the beginning. The Army White Water Canoe Championships were held on the River Swale between Marske and Richmond. On Sunday, 26th November, 1972. The water level was unfortunately low, but this was not enough to deter 250 canoeists from competing in the race.

Captain Peter Hallett and Lieutenant Tony Gibb in their Canadian Double. They shot Richmond Falls (9 foot drop) but capsized!

Most competitors spent the weekend in local accommodation or in the various camps within Catterick area, but the diehards brought their tents and pitched them in the camp site organised by **Staff Sergeant Mike Brett** and laid out by **Sergeant Stevens.**

The start of the race was at Marske bridge on the river Swale and the finish at Richmond falls, five and a half miles down stream with a total fall of about 100 feet over that distance there were several rapids of various degrees of difficulty which made an excellent course for both novice and expert.

After the breifing at the start by **Staff Sergeant Mike Brett** the canoeists had their craft checked by **Sergeant Grubb** and his team from 11 Signal Regiment. Then the paddlers were called forward under the eyes of the BBC 'Look North' camera crew to be started by **Staff Sergeant Richardson** and **Sergeant Pearson.** From there on you were alone, if you fell in or hit a rock and sank then you baled out and carried on to the finish.

The finish itself was above Richmond falls but competitors could, if they were mad enough, shoot the nine foot drop and thus qualify for a certificate from **Major Brian Ackers,** Medical Officer of 8 Signal Regiment. This stated that the competitor should 'in no way be considered a sane or competent canoeist' One competitor even shot the falls backwards, but the best effort was by **Captain Peter Hallett** and **Lieutenant Tony Gibb** who were the only people to shoot it in a Canadian Double. Unfortunately they landed upside down at the bottom.

The results team of **Sergeant Wooden** and **Mrs. Jan Gibb** had a hard job working out the timings. Everything was a rush, especially as prizegiving had to be held before it got dark. Despite the occasional objection they completed their task in time for **Mrs. Diana Hart** to present the prizes.

Amongst the winners were, in the Army kayaks, **Lance-Corporal Bob Storey** (1st). **Staff Sergeant Mike Brett** (3rd); in the Canadian singles **Sergeant Bill White** (2nd); in the Canadian doubles, **Captain Peter Hallett** and **Lieutenant Tony Gibb** (1st); in the Army juniors **A/T Weatherall** (2nd) and **A/T Declancy** (3rd), both of Harrogate.

Corps Football

Corps 1, Sheffield University 1. Match played at Catterick on 10th January.

Our football correspondent writes:

The match began with the Sheffield team dictating the pace and trying to pressure us into an earlier mistake, meanwhile the Corps spent the first 20 minutes familiarising themselves with what were in a lot of cases unfamiliar roles.

Eventually the Corps began to put their game together and seek the initiative, but play by both teams was restricted to midfield and neither attack making any impression on what appeared to be two quite capable defences. It was little surprise therefore to see the half-time score sheet read Royal Signals 0, Sheffield University 0. The second half began with the substi-

tution of **Sergeant Jim Tierney** by **Signalman Tony Horan, Tierney** having paid the penalty for his bravado by sustaining what appeared to be a serious injury to an already damaged knee. **Horan** made an immediate impression on the game by some effective solo runs at the Sheffield defence that began to create a few problems for them and spur his own team into some decisive action. Their efforts paid off when after 63 minutes, **Horan** lobbed a ball over the Sheffield defence and there followed a race between the Sheffield centre half and centre forward **Corporal Pete Campbell,** who had already shown some of his skill and speed, and **Campbell** did well under pressure from the centre half and the advancing goalkeeper to hit a shot which the goalkeeper could only watch disappear over his left shoulder into the net. The goal appeared to lift the pressure off the Corps team and they settled down to control the game and play some good football, but Sheffield had a left winger who persistently caused problems for our defence and created chances which his team mates failed to capitalise on. The game again appeared to settle down in the midfield and both teams seemed to have no interest in scoring again.

In the 78th minute the game was thrown wide open when after one of his runs, the Sheffield winger won a corner for himself. The ball was crossed high and hard across the face of the Corps goal, but appeared no more ominous than many balls that had previously been handled quite capably by twin centre halves **Lance-Corporal Alec Petrie** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Alves.** It was **Alves** who went forward to clear the cross, but at the same time goalkeeper **Corporal Barry Warburton** called for the ball and came off his line to collect it; half-way out he hesitated and **Alves** in his attempts to duck and leave the ball for **Warburton** succeeded only in glancing the ball into his own empty net. Taking heart from this the Sheffield team began to wrest the initiative from a somewhat despondent Corps side and began to apply a little pressure, but the Corps held out well thanks to a first class save by goalkeeper **Warburton** after a defensive mix-up left a Sheffield player completely clear inside the 18-yard box and the final score read Royal Signals 1, Sheffield University 1.

Anybody expecting to see a classic match must have been disappointed but from the Corps point of view, with injuries and the shortage of players available it was a relative success and they remain undefeated after four games so far this season.

February sees the next Corps game and it is hoped to see a few more members of the squad available to ensure even more success.

The Corps team selected from: Corporal Warburton (8 Signal Regiment), Sergeant K. Gent (244 Signal Squadron), Lance-Corporal P. Alves (244 Signal Squadron), Lance-Corporal A. Petrie (School of Signals), Corporal W. Behan (244 Signal Squadron), Sergeant J. Terney (8 Signal Regiment), Sergeant B. Young (captain) (244 Signal Squadron), Signalman W. Malone (244 Signal Squadron), Signalman T. German (8 Signal Regiment), Corporal P. Campbell (223 Signal Squadron), Signalman J. Cunningham (8 Signal Regiment), and subs. Signalman T. Horan (8 Signal Regiment) and Lance-Corporal A. Chew (244 Signal Squadron).

Association News

York Branch

Despite the ravages of the 'flu epidemic, which unfortunately prevented the attendance of the General Secretary, **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson,** some 80 members and guests attended the annual dinner of the York Branch on 12th January.

The Branch Chairman, **Mr. J. Varlow,** welcomed the members and guests especially **Mr. Dave Greenbrook** from Association Headquarters and some of the veteran members including **Dave Hargrave.**

The Branch President, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. 'Nat' Gould,** proposed the toast of the Corps and the Association and paid tribute to the hard work put in by branch officials and helpers in rehabilitating the club after the fire damage, with a special mention for **Ernie and Betty Hedge** and **John Varlow.**

Dave Greenbrook proposed the toast of York Branch and gave an interesting review of Corps and Association affairs and promised to convey the good wishes of the York Branch to all those Royal Signals personnel serving in Northern Ireland.

A notable personality at the dinner was **'Darkie' Fowler** of Corps boxing team fame who produced a faded photograph with some very famous names and faces then prominent in that great team.

The dinner closed with dancing and a well-attended bar and was unanimously voted a great success.

Obituary

Major F. W. Oakes, MBE

Brigadier the Reverend C. Nettleship, O.B.E., TD, DL, writes:

A member of that decreasing number of Royal Engineers upon which our Corps was founded, 'Freddie' Oakes passed peacefully away on the 4th January, at Horsham.

Born on 24th January, 1900, the son of a Sapper, Freddie enlisted in the Royal Engineers as a boy soldier on 17th July, 1915. Just missing the First World War campaigns, he saw active service in North Russia during 1919. Then Germany from 1920 until 1926 during which time he transferred to the newly created Royal Corps of Signals, and married the girl he had met whilst undergoing trade training in the Dublin Post Office. Service with 'A' Corps Signals in Karachi was followed by a spell with 3 Divisional Signals at Bulford, then four years with the Supplementary Reserve at Birmingham. From 1 Divisional Signals, Aldershot, he returned to India early in 1934 to join 1st Indian Divisional Signals in Rawalpindi. He was a well known trades instructor during the 'hill seasons' in Upper Topa in the Murree Hills, and then in 1937, he again was on active service during the Mohmand Operations on the North West Frontier. Returning to the UK in 1938, he was discharged in January, 1939. To his delight he was recalled to the Colours at the outbreak of war and was commissioned on 15th October, 1940. He spent the rest of the war with 2 Divisional Signals in India and Burma and was awarded the M.B.E. in January, 1944. He finally retired in October, 1945, and joined the Civil Service.

It was in India and Burma that I remember Freddie Oakes best, particularly during the Assam and Burma campaigns, with 2 Divisional Signals. Always immaculately turned out, he was quite 'unflappable,' and his work for the unit was as faultless as his turnout. Full of fun and a great practical joker, he was a great asset to the Mess. In Burma his duties kept him mainly at Rear Division (which I felt, too, his comparative age in that place merited) but he was never happier than when visiting forward, which he did at the slightest excuse or none at all, quite unabashed by any schemozzle he might encounter on his way, on that most fluid of fronts. The practical result of all this was that not once had I to turn my head to call for administrative support, it was invariably anticipated by this excellent Administrative Officer. It was during these visits that Freddie, with quiet pride, would often tell me of the exploits of his son, with the Corps, supporting the Maquis then, 'somewhere in France.'

Freddie's wife Eily, having pre-deceased him in 1965, we extend our sympathy and sure hope to his son, Major Freddie Oakes, still serving the Corps, and like his father and grandfather before him, the Army, now in Northern Ireland. He, and his two sons, have much in their forbears of which to be proud, much to emulate, and all his many old comrades and friends will long remember, Major 'Freddie' Oakes. For myself, I know it was an honour and pleasure to serve with, and learn from, such a 'good soldier.'

Lieutenant Colonel H W Hose MC CEng MIEE

It is with regret that we report the death of **Lieutenant-Co'onel Harold Hose** on 10th October, 1972. He was born in 1882 and gave a total of 46 years' continuous service to the Army. He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1900 and was commissioned in the Field whilst serving with III Corps Signal Company in France in 1915, when he was awarded the MC. He took part in the second battle of the Somme and the defence of Amiens. For three years he was with the Army of Occupation in Germany and transferred to the Corps in 1921 where he was officer in charge of trade training at Maresfield. Between the wars he served with field units in the UK until taking up his last appointment before retirement as a staff officer at the War Office. He retired in 1932 but continued at the War Office as an RO. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he was recalled and served at the Ministry of Supply until 1946. After final retirement he settled in Christchurch.

We offer our sincere condolences to his widow and son.

Movements

Officers

Major N. C. Grayson	... ...	To School (ULO)
Lieutenant A. Helm	... ...	„ 50 Missile Regiment RA Signal Troop
Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Hibberd	...	„ HQ 1 Signal Group
Major P. D. Jones	... ...	„ 5 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain (Tfc) W. A. Littlejohn	...	„ School
Captain M. J. Macklin	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Major D. M. O. Miller	... ...	„ 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Milton	...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant C. H. Moody	... ...	„ 4 AYT
Captain (T.O.T.) B. R. Moxon	...	„ AAC Harrogate
Major (Tfc) J. J. M. Nutt	... ...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Phippard	...	„ School as Colonel
Major D. Pitkin	... ...	„ 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant P. Richards	... ...	„ 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain (Q.M.) C. E. Timson, B.E.M.		„ 8 Signal Regiment
Captain K. G. Turner	... ...	„ 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major H. S. Wilson	... ...	„ 225 Signal Squadron
Captain L. T. Waumsley	... ...	„ 21 Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

W.O.2 F. C. O'Brien	... ...	To 224 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 A. E. Abbott	... ...	„ 71 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 E. Hall	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.2 A. J. Tookey	... ...	„ 37 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. H. Gurr	...	„ HQ UKLF
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. Howker	... ...	„ 39 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) G. H. Nickson	...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. Cheetham	... ...	„ HQ 3 Signal Group
Staff Sergeant D. G. Holland	...	„ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. McGonagle	...	„ 4 Communications Unit
Staff Sergeant M. Altham	... ...	„ School of Signals (Y. of S. Course No. 24)
Staff Sergeant M. Mullin	... ...	„ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant E. J. P. Kellett	...	„ 71 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant J. D. Howes	... ...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant B. J. Peters	...	„ PEPS
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) H. A. McHugh		„ 7 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. A. G. Allen		„ Royal Brunei Malay Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. G. H. Campbell		„ 10 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. D. Pyke		„ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. G. Grant	... ...	„ RMA Sandhurst
Sergeant D. J. Poole	... ...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant S. J. Harmsworth	... ...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Smith	... ...	„ 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. Jones	... ...	„ 28 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. Lutterworth	... ...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. M. Terras	... ...	„ 10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. G. Mills	... ...	„ 71 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant L. G. Drayton	... ...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. C. Reynolds	... ...	„ School of Signals
Sergeant D. H. Muir	... ...	„ 226 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. Lowdon	... ...	„ 252 Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. Fotheringham	... ...	„ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. J. Antcliff	... ...	„ 4 Division Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. F. Bailey	... ...	„ 216 Para Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. B. Stevens	... ...	„ 244 Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant M. F. Schnable	... ...	„ 244 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. J. Whall	... ...	„ 233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. Smith	... ...	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. Johnson	... ...	„ 665 Signal Troop
Sergeant P. R. Urry	... ...	„ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. W. H. Martin	... ...	„ MOD Camp Comd (AD)
Sergeant J. D. Dove	... ...	„ 225 Signal Squadron
Sergeant K. W. Addison	... ...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Evans	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant J. T. Cross	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
A/Sergeant E. R. Sreeves	... ...	„ 1 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant L. Duncan	... ...	„ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Lincoln	... ...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. J. Manning	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. P. D. Roberts	... ...	„ 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Henderson	... ...	„ 28 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. T. M. Andrews	... ...	„ RMA Sandhurst
Sergeant S. Barnett	... ...	„ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. H. C. Cartwright	... ...	
Sergeant R. C. W. Chisholm	... ...	
Sergeant B. J. Gilhooly	... ...	
Sergeant P. J. Skinner	... ...	
Sergeant D. A. Swann	... ...	School of Signals (Y. of S. Course No. 24)
Sergeant C. P. Travlor	... ...	
A/Sergeant N. J. H. Naylor	... ...	
Sergeant J. Isherwood	... ...	
A/Sergeant B. J. Alway	... ...	
Sergeant D. C. Lister	... ...	
Sergeant D. T. McGurk	... ...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant P. Harding	... ...	„ 13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. J. Crofts	... ...	„ Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
A/Sergeant R. Betteridge	... ...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment

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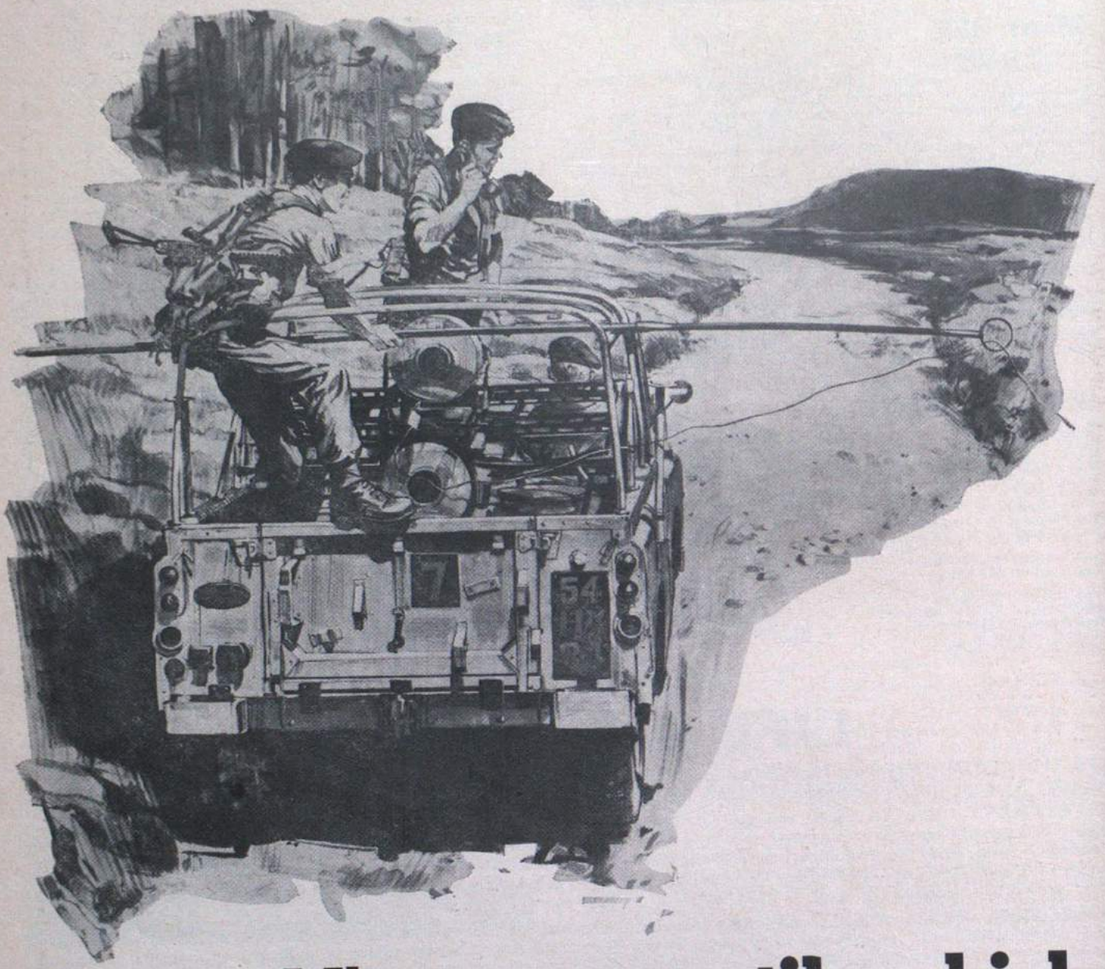

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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by 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).

March-April 1973

wire

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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. 4RH. 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
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☆

MARCH/APRIL • 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

'Faraway places — unusual jobs.' This is one of the basic themes we try to emphasise in THE WIRE. Our cover picture is an example. In it we see **Corporals Weightman** and **Neary** signalling with a lamp on HMAV Aachen. The Corps has a number of telegraphists under a Yeoman of Signals attached to 20 Maritime Regiment, RCT, for duty in that regiment's sea-going vessels. Not only do our telegraphists man ships' radios, but they also operate signalling lamps, hoist flag signals and generally run the ship's office. An unusual duty, perhaps, is the requirement to make any necessary 'pipes' with a bosun's whistle — not strictly in the Catterick training curriculum but just one of the unusual jobs that comes our way. For fuller details read the article on page 108.

Looking back over the last ten years, monthly circulation figures for THE WIRE have remained remarkably constant, despite considerable changes in the size of the Corps as well as three increases in the price of THE WIRE. Peak sales of 6,000 copies a month were achieved in 1963 since when sales have levelled off at a figure varying between 5,400 and 5,600. There has been in recent months, however, an encouraging tendency for WIRE sales to go up and we hope that once again we may achieve the 6,000 figure if this trend continues. Main support comes from bulk sales to units and it is good to note that *over 20 units have increased their bulk orders during the last 6-9 months* —in one case a Squadron quadrupled its order.

Increased circulation can help to reduce production costs but any significant reduction could only be achieved by a dramatic upsurge in sales. However, things seem to be moving modestly in the right direction and we do hope that Commanding Officers and Unit PRIs—if they have not already done so—will keep their WIRE bulk orders under review with a view to increasing them if and when circumstances permit.

One principle that we intend to adhere to is to keep the cost of WIRES ordered in bulk down to a reasonable price—this is in some small recognition of the generous support given by the serving Corps to the Day's Pay Scheme. To achieve this will mean a measure of subsidy in the face of ever-increasing printing and postal charges but it is felt that this is only fair. It also falls squarely within the charter of the Association to keep serving and retired members of the Corps in touch with each other. This does not mean the Editor has a free hand to go to Press with large and expensive editions of THE WIRE. He is still charged with the duty of trying, within reason, to keep THE WIRE down to an economical size and this will as often as not mean some pruning of contributions and the publication of a black and white photo on the front cover from time to time.

In conclusion your Editor would like to thank all those who contribute to the pages of THE WIRE. Your support is quite remarkable and the standard of article submitted is an accurate reflection of the high morale and lively outlook of our present-day Corps.

Special Mention

Awards for Service in Northern Ireland

All will be pleased to hear that the following have recently been Mentioned in Despatches for services rendered in Northern Ireland:

W.O.2 W. E. Green,
Major D. J. Jolly,
Major P. B. Leonard,

A remarkable example of service and kindness to the Corps

The Corps has many friends outside its own ranks, but few will compare with a remarkable old lady who lives in Scotland. We refer to **Mrs. Constance Fairlie,** mother of **Captain David Fairlie,** late of the Corps. Ever since 1951 she has been sending parcels of books and magazines to units of the Corps in isolated and lonely parts of the world or on active service. Recipients of parcels from **Mrs. Fairlie** have been:

1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment 1951-54	286	parcels
Royal Signals, Malaya and 17 Gurkha Signals Regiment, 1955-65	220	,,
Joint Communications Unit, Borneo 1966 ...	22	,,
632 Signal Troop, Benbecula, 1961-73	294	,,
605 Signal Troop, RAF Gan, 1967-73	178	,,

This all adds up to 1,000 parcels and as each parcel contains an average of four books and 11 magazines, **Mrs. Fairlie** will have despatched about 15,000 items in all — enough to stock a fair sized library!

What a wonderful record of service and devotion to the Corps! In 1954 the Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment sent **Mrs. Fairlie** a Corps Shield in appreciation of all she had done for them. This year the Corps will again mark its sincere gratitude to **Mrs. Fairlie.** The Signal-Officer-in-Chief is presenting her with a suitably inscribed 'Jimmy' statuette on behalf of the serving Corps. The Royal Signals Association is making her an Association Life Member — an honour only given to the few who have done something very much out of the ordinary on behalf of the Corps or Association.

Finally, **Major-General David Price,** chairman of the Association, is writing on behalf of the serving and retired Corps, to express their deep appreciation to this kind lady in Scotland who has done so much to bring pleasure to the off-duty hours of Corps soldiers in faraway places.

Mrs. Fairlie lives at Myres Castle, Auchtermuchty, Fife, KY14 7EW.

Shooting for the Army

30th Regiment in the limelight

Against international competition

AS reported elsewhere in THE WIRE, the Corps has been selected to represent the Army in the CENTO annual inter-Army small arms competition — Nishan. 30 Signal Regiment has been given the honour of training and acting as the parent unit for the team, and we feel that a short explanation of what this competition is, will be of assistance to non-shooters in understanding future articles in THE WIRE on this subject.

Venue — Turkey

The competition is known as Nishan; this is a CENTO term meaning aim and sight. Teams representing the Armies of Iran, Turkey, USA, Pakistan and the UK compete against each other with the rifle, GPMG and pistol. Each country takes its turn to host the meeting — this year our hosts are the Turks. The meeting will take place on 19th and 20th September, and from now till then a very comprehensive training programme has been laid out so that we uphold the reputation of the Army. The shooting team will consist of two officers, seven NCOs and 15 young soldiers (that is with less than three years' service). In addition four reserves, a non-firing team party and a back-up staff of eight complete the contingent. The team captain will be **Major Geoff Exell** and the team adjutant **Major George Cowsill.**

High standards

The standard of shooting is very high indeed and in fact in the nine years since the first competition was held the UK has won it only once — that was in 1971 when the Queen's Own Highlanders represented the UK and when **Captain John Read** of our Corps fired the pistol as a member of that team.

50 per cent young soldiers

The fact that over 50 per cent of the team consists of young soldiers causes problems with every UK unit which enters. We as a Corps are in a better position than the Infantry since we have a larger number of young soldiers to pick from provided they can be made available to the Regiment. Training for Nishan is of a very high order so the benefits to the Corps as a whole will be appreciated when it is realised that from an initial training squad of 100 we will finally whittle that down to the party of 37 which goes to Turkey. Those who do not make the final team will be permitted to fire for their respective units in the Corps and ARA skill at arms meeting (as will those who are selected for the team) and there is no doubt that the experience they gain will be of great value to all aspects of shooting in their parent units when they rejoin them.

The good wishes of all 'Wire' readers will go to 30 Regiment in the challenging assignment that has come their way. — Editor.

World's Bob Sleigh Championships

Congratulations to **Lieutenant Duncan Jones** of the Corps, who has been selected to represent the Army in the above championships at Lake Placid, New York.

HNC Successes

We offer our congratulations to the following Foremen of Signals who succeeded in obtaining Higher National Certificates in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the end of their course at the School of Signals.

Sergeant K. V. Austin, 8 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant J. S. Cook,** Military Advisory Team Gulf; **Sergeant R. Horner,** 7 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant M. J. Killick,** 227 Signal Squadron; **Sergeant P. C. Smurthwaite,** Army Apprentices College; **Sergeant T. J. Spence,** 14 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant L. Tanner** 7 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant H. G. Taylor,** 21 Signal Regiment.

Rugby

Signalman Harry Elkan of 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment has been selected for the England Under 23 Rugby Squad.

Thank You!

Our thanks go to the following who have recently increased their bulk orders for THE WIRE:

262 Signal Squadron; 233 Signal Squadron; WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals; Signals Wing, Royal Military Acadamy; CSO's Branch, HQ BAOR; 10 Signal Regiment; 21 Signal Regiment and 244 Signal Squadron.

Your support is appreciated.

244 Sig Sqn Fund Raising Effort

The O.C. holds a cheque for nearly £140 raised by the M.A.O.T. officers and soldiers

Two hours before dawn on Monday, 18th December, all nine officers, the RSM, two warrant officers, the four staff sergeants and 70 other members of the Squadron accompanied by the RAF officers of the MAOTs and an officer and four members of the WRAF paraded in a cold hangar. An hour later they were ejected from nice warm buses, 25 miles from Benson as the plough goes, with a brief route card and emergency instructions including the burial service.

They had in front of them a wearying 25-mile cross-country course punctuated by check points, the final one being the bar at the 'Room at the Top.' They also had the consolation of knowing that they were sponsored to the tune of £1,000, which would, when added to £720 already raised by the Squadron, purchase a Mini bus for the handicapped children at the National Children's Home, Chipping Norton.

The walkers were not found wanting. All but three out of the 80 starters finished the tough course. For some it had been dark for two hours when they finally arrived. It was a magnificent display of guts and determination especially by those at the back who trailed through the mud for more than eight hours.

So with thanks to the generosity of the sponsors mainly members of Royal Air Force, from Benson, Odiham and HQ 38 Group and well supported by CSO's Branch and the Corps units of 3rd Division, we have achieved the aim of raising the last £1,000. To these very generous people we express our heartfelt thanks; they all knew they were going to lose their money.

Royal Signals dominate Army Cross Country Finals

At Pirbright on the 24th February an enthusiastic gathering of Corps supporters were delighted to see the Corps pull off a double by winning both the major and minor units championships as well as winning the senior and junior individual events — probably a unique achievement. Out of a total of 11 finalists in the major units 21st Signal Regiment stormed home very decisive winners with a total of 143 points against their nearest rivals — 2nd Royal Irish Rangers — total 331. 8th Signal Regiment "running like a team together (as said by a certain spectator) but too near the end" came in a gallant 10th against superior opposition.

In the minor units out of nine teams competing 216 Para Brigade Signal Squadron came in very popular winners with 277 points with the Army Apprentices College (cadre) not far behind in 4th place. Alas, 11th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, 4th Guards Brigade Signal Squadron and 22 Signal Squadron brought up the rear in 7th, 8th and 9th positions respectively. However, give them their due in that they had to fight their way through the preliminary command and B.A.O.R. rounds to achieve the distinction of the Army Finals. In the individual senior event **Sergeant Venus** (21st Signal Regiment) came in first followed by **Sergeant Brazil** of the School of Signals, while in the juniors **Signalman Martin** (216 Para Brigade Signal Squadron) was a convincing winner. Altogether quite a day with six Corps teams competing out of a total of 20 units altogether. Special credit to 233 Squadron who, despite their preoccupations in Northern Ireland, managed to field a team. Of interest was the presence of no less than four past and one present C.O. of the 21st Regiment (**Colonels Neilson, Butler** and **Phippard,** and **Lieutenant-Colonels Horner** and **de Bretton-Gordon**). No doubt that well known distance runner, **Colonel Dennis Haslehust,** would have been present, too, were he not so far away in Rio de Janeiro.

From our "In" Tray

Jean Evelyn Hayes

Sir,

On behalf of Roslyn, Vanessa, Alister, Rebecca and myself, may I sincerely thank all concerned for their kind thoughts, letters, flowers and guidance during our sad bereavement. Jean had many many friends in the Corps. She had a smile for everyone.

Yours faithfully,
George Hayes, Captain.

2 Whitefields Gate,
Richmond, Yorkshire.

'Full Circle'

Sir,

With reference to the article on page 490 (December/January WIRE), surely 'full circle' will be completed when Mons Barracks are returned to Royal Signals.

As one who served in the Aldershot Command in the early '20s when we were 'no one's children,' I appreciated the opening of Mons Barracks. I joined 1st Divisional Signals in June 1922, a very small unit at that time which was rapidly expanding. By the end of 1923 No 1 Company were in McGregor Barracks, RAMC at the top of Gun Hill, 2 Company the same, 8 Company in Gibraltar Barracks with the Royal Engineers, stables, workshops, etc, were in the RASC barracks. 2 Divisional Signals at that time were in Lille Barracks (North camp), 'guests' of the Royal Artillery.

A Corps Signals had returned from Constantinople were split with No 1 and 2 Companies at Ewshott with the Pack Battery of the RA, 3 Company at Crookham with the RAMC Depot. (I was posted to them in 1925, the worst food I ever had in 31 years of Army life). When Signal Hill was bulldozed away and Mons Barracks built it was the first time that Signals in Aldershot Command were together. It was 1936 before I was posted back to 1 Division and after my previous experience of Aldershot Command it was grand.

I have often wondered what use an OCTU unit made of 'Stores Alley' with its dozens of section stores, the three MOB stores, etc. No, I think 'full circle' will be when the Signals units are back in their rightful home.

Continued success to THE WIRE.

Yours sincerely,
Harold S. Nokes (ex-Captain), TMO.

40 Lime Kiln Road,
Tiverton, EX 16 4HQ.

Denbury Cross-Ten Tors

Major I. Graham, HQ South West District, Taunton writes:

I write as an officer who served for some time on the staff of the Junior Leaders at Denbury Camp and was involved in the running of Ten Tors.

The Ten Tors expedition, which is now organised from this headquarters, is as thriving a concern as ever. I thought the attached might be of interest to the many who went through Denbury.

The Denbury Cross, which used to be situated at the entrance to Denbury Camp is now resited at Okehampton

Camp, close to the finish of the Ten Tors expedition. When I saw the cross I noticed the original plaque was missing. I have confirmed the text of the original inscription and this has been incorporated on a new plaque which explains the history of the cross. Below is a copy of the text on the new plaque.

Ten Tors Cross

This cross was moved here in 1971 from the original Ten Tors venue at Denbury Camp near Newton Abbot. It was presented in July, 1960, to the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, by the people of Bovey Tracey to commemorate the assistance given to the Regiment at their 700th Charter Anniversary celebration as the Regiment had played a leading part in organising the original and successive expeditions. When they left Denbury, they also left the Cross and bequeathed it to the Ten Tors Expedition.

The story of Catterick Camp

A History and Guide to the Catterick Area and the story of Catterick Camp from 1915 until today.

By Lieutenant-Colonel Howard N. Cole, O.B.E., T.D., F.R.Hist.S.

This book reviews the story of Catterick Camp from its beginning in 1915 through two world wars, to 1972 and includes, in its first chapter, a history of the neighbourhood from Roman times until plans were laid for a Garrison in the North of England in 1908.

For the student of military history or the reader in search of factual detail this publication provides a prolific source of information which the author has plainly taken much pains to obtain and collate. For the more casual reader there is also a good deal of interest to be found in browsing through its pages. Many memories will be evoked of days gone by and that special love-hate relationship which binds so many members of the Corps to Catterick Camp—or Catterick Garrison as it is now called. Those who have not been there recently will read with interest of new barracks and modern residential estates—a far cry from the closely bunked small brick huts which were for many their first introduction to soldiering. Altogether a book well worth having for those who look back on Catterick days with a certain nostalgia.

The Story of Catterick Camp has been privately published by Headquarters Catterick Garrison and is not on general sale. The book size 8¼in. x 5¼in. (trimmed size) comprises 105 pages and includes 31 half-tone illustrations and a map of the camp. Bound in art board cover. Price (including postage/packing/handling costs) £1.15. Obtainable from: The Garrison Administrative Commandant, Headquarters, Catterick Garrison, Piave Lines, Catterick Garrison, Yorkshire DL9 3JR.

Women's Royal Army Corps Association

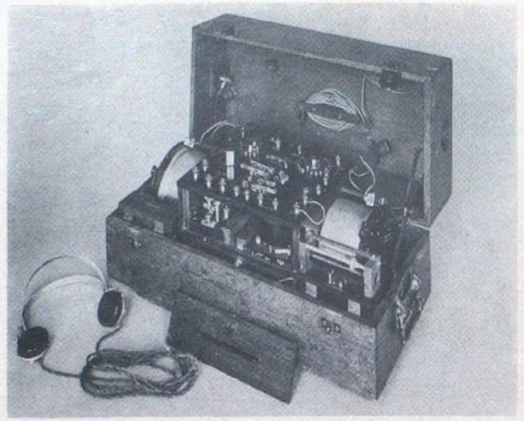
If your wife served in the ATS, or the WRAC, she may like to have news of her ex-service friends, attend a re-union or hear what is happening in the Corps today. She can do all this by becoming a member of her Association.

She should write for full particulars to: General Secretary, WRAC Association, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey.

ATTENTION YEOMEN OF SIGNALS

A vacancy will occur on the instructional staff of Telegraphist Wing of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, in November this year. The Wing trains apprentices to be Radio, Data or Special Telegraphists, and the post to be offered is ideally suited to an ex-Yeoman of Signals.

If this interests you, watch the national Press in mid-summer for the official advertisement of this post.



ANYONE RECOGNIZE THIS SET?

The set illustrated has been given to the Science Museum. Neither they nor the previous owner can identify it. Can you help? The set was made by Robert W. Paul. It carries the WD broad arrow, and is described on the panel as "Short Wave Set No. 107, 1915". Beneath the top panel are two-slide-out modules, each bearing a "turret" of alternative crystal detectors. Any information to the Editor, please

Ex-S.Q.M.S. A. Robinson

S.Q.M.S. A. Robinson enlisted in 1927 and served to the end of 1952; he was formerly Chief Clerk War Office Signal Squadron. He is now seriously ill in Douglas Lindsay Ward, Beckenham General Cottage Hospital, Beckenham, Kent. He would like, if possible, for any of his old comrades to visit him.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in January	57
Number of clothing parcels sent	69
Amount spent	£1,445.95

One of the Month's Cases

STAFF Sergeant, 17 years' service. He and his wife are now old age pensioners. After many years in furnished accommodation, they have now been re-housed in a Council flat and are faced with the necessity of furnishing this. The Association made a grant of £75 to set them up in their new home.

One of the Month's Letters

THE parcel arrived intact, the only thing is that I do not know how to express my gratitude. The suit might have been made to measure, it is lovely and warm. Having an appointment at the hospital the day it arrived, I put the suit on and felt like a new man. The doctor remarked how well I looked. It is an honour and a privilege to be able to write to you. All that I can say is "thank you."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

The Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home

This first-class holiday home is open from April to September and provides very good facilities for old soldiers. Ex-servicemen must be reasonably fit and able to fend for themselves. The home is for men only and no wives or relatives can be accepted. The address of the home is 10 Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, Suffolk, and applicants should be sponsored by their Regimental Associations. Terms available on application.

Clothing

Since the beginning of the year, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Stevens, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Major P. R. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stockdale, Major and Mrs. D. Lycett-Gregson, Colonel and Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. Davies, Mr. C. Fry, Major F. W. A. Oakes, Mrs. E. J. Powell, Major F. E. Greaves, WRAC, Mrs. V. M. Vulliamy, Major C. M. Sinclair, Mr. W. E. Osborne, Mrs. D. Stubberfield, Colonel H. C. R. Hose, Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. S. Gray, Captain M. P. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Murray, Major-General C. E. Page, Mr. A. W. Smith, Major G. J. Malcolm, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Major-General M. D. Price.

For your Diary

Army Rugby Cup Final — Aldershot (7th Signal Regiment playing)	27th March
Association Branch Reps Meeting ...	28th April
Indian Signals Dinner	28th April
Association Central Committee	9th May
Corps Dinner (Officers)	9th May
Catterick Reunion (Applications close 1st June)	23rd/24th June
Blandford Reunion	5th August
Officers Reunion	30th November

Introducing the Blue Helmets

by Captain M. L. Forge, Royal Signals

The scene

THE ever-increasing amount of sport parachuting talent within Royal Signals induced the formation of a Corps freefall display team in 1972, which has recently been named The Blue Helmets. It is now opportune to increase the publicity given to the venture, in the light of noteworthy support received from the Corps sports committee.

Currently, the concept embraces a low-profile, long-term gathering of parachutists which would maintain our new-found association with an increasingly popular sport, also earning us useful publicity and converts. It would be both unwise and unrealistic to aim for the professional intensity of some of the better-known teams, and so we are striving to increase our numbers rather than concentrate on grooming the experts. The team base is the Army Apprentices' College at Harrogate, simply because two members work there, but in due course a rather more suitable spot, such as Bulford or Blandford, is likely to be required.

RHINE ARMY PARACHUTE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BAD LIPPSPRINGE SEPTEMBER 1972

The Corps team emplane for an accuracy descent from 1000 metres. *Left to right:* Captain Mike Forge, Corporal George Shone, Yeoman George Devine, Sergeant Bill Ritchie. The team average on this descent was 3·5 metres, and the aircraft in use was a UH-1D of the U.S. Army

Last year the team completed three displays, and represented the Corps in Army and Rhine Army championships. Activities planned for 1973 include two displays, attendance at the Army and the national competitions, together with at least one overseas visit. Bids for further displays are welcome.

However, our aim this year is to spread wide the net, and to document all those who are likely to become potential team members, whether immediately or in the dimmer future. The remaining paragraphs are designed to this end.

Individual requirements

A display parachutist must have made at least 100 free-fall descents, must have access to high performance equipment, and must be in current practice. He should also be accessible, available and patient. An ability to imbibe rude quantities of beer is an advantage. If your score exceeds one, then read on.

The contacts

Members of Royal Signals currently versed in the situation include:

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate (Harrogate 3024, extension 281). **Captain Mike Forge** and **Sergeant Bill Ritchie.**

Joint Services Parachute Centre, Netheravon (Netheravon 201). **Sergeant Bill Elliott.**

216 Parachute Signal Squadron, Aldershot (Aldershot 24431, extension 2344). **Corporal Peter Whitehead** and **Signalman Grant Humble.**

225 Signal Squadron (R), BFPO 33. **Staff Sergeant Alan Newman** (but currently overseas on an exchange tour).

244 Signal Squadron (Air Support), RAF Benson (Wallingford 2292, extension 427). **Corporal George Shone.**

1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, BFPO 32. **Lance-Corporal Wayne Ardern.**

28 Signal Regiment, BFPO 35. **Staff Sergeant George Devine.**

In conclusion

Remember that the concept demands not only a display team, but also a pool of like-minded souls with varying degrees of proficiency throughout the Corps. So if you have something to offer us, make contact, and help us to nurture another aspect of life in Royal Signals. Please write us informal letters, avoiding the excessive use of joined-up writing. Safe jumping and 73s in '73.

THE ALL-BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION – AUTUMN 1972

By Major K. B. S. Kent, F.R.G.S., Royal Signals

"The real measure is the success or failure of the climber to triumph, not over a lifeless mountain, but over himself."—*Lord John Hunt*

THE SOUTH WEST FACE OF EVEREST

". . . up and up it rose, first a steep snow slope, then a steeper slope over snow and rock slabs, then a rightward high angle traverse and finally a vertical cliff face of rock extending into the clouds . . ."

Why Everest?

NOT everybody is attracted to the mountains, but few could deny that the mere mention of Everest carries with it a certain magic. For some of us that magic is a powerful force. It certainly was for me; way back in 1964 I trekked up to the Everest Base Camp on the Nepalese/Tibetan border. It was cold, unfriendly, awe-inspiring and beckoning. In my then shattered condition I could scarcely comprehend that at 18,000 feet I was only standing at the foot of the highest mountain on earth. Ironically enough, the top of this giant facade is masked from view by its Western Ridge on the one side and by Nuptse on the other. It seemed remote, inaccessible and beyond the reach of man. The Nepalese still fear it. To them it is 'Sagarmatha.' But to the Tibetans and Sherpas it is 'Chomolungma'—Mother Goddess of the snows. To those of us who got to see it, it became the 'Ultimate Objective.'

The impossible?

Chris Bonington's All British Expedition late last year set out to achieve three firsts:

To get the first Britain to the top of Everest.

To make the first ascent of the unclimbed and most difficult route—the South West face.

To make the first ascent of Everest in the post monsoon (winter) season.

Much has already been written about this expedition. Most of it true. We had an excellent team which included **Hamish McInnes, Dougal Haston, Doug Scott, Mick Burke, Nick Estcourt, Dave Bathgate, Graham Tiso,** and the veteran Himalayan expert **Colonel Jimmy Roberts,** and **Dr. Barney Rosedale.** The nucleus of the team and the methods of operation, planning and logistics were based on the successful formulas employed in the Annapurna climb two years earlier.

Many valuable lessons had been learnt and all of these were used to advantage this time.

Not all 'G Ops'

It was (at last) realised that on any major expedition such as this, more weight and emphasis must be put on administration and logistics. We therefore had, under **Chris Bonington,** a sensible breakdown of responsibilities divided into four main categories:

—Overall executive and administrative control, flow charts for supplies and oxygen—**Chris Bonington.**

—All mountain equipment—**Graham Tiso.**

—All medical equipment and policy—**Dr. Rosedale.**

—Food, communications, pay, Nepalese/Sherpa liaison, and logistics—**Kelvin Kent.**

On the food side my idea was to produce a balanced diet of three different types of ration: one for the approach march, one for base and advance base, and one for all camps above camp two. Each type of ration had four different menus and various fresh and local supplements. In all, the food packs alone weighed about five tons excluding all the local purchase items such as potatoes, rice, dal, flour, maize, corn, etc., for the Sherpas.

Comms vital

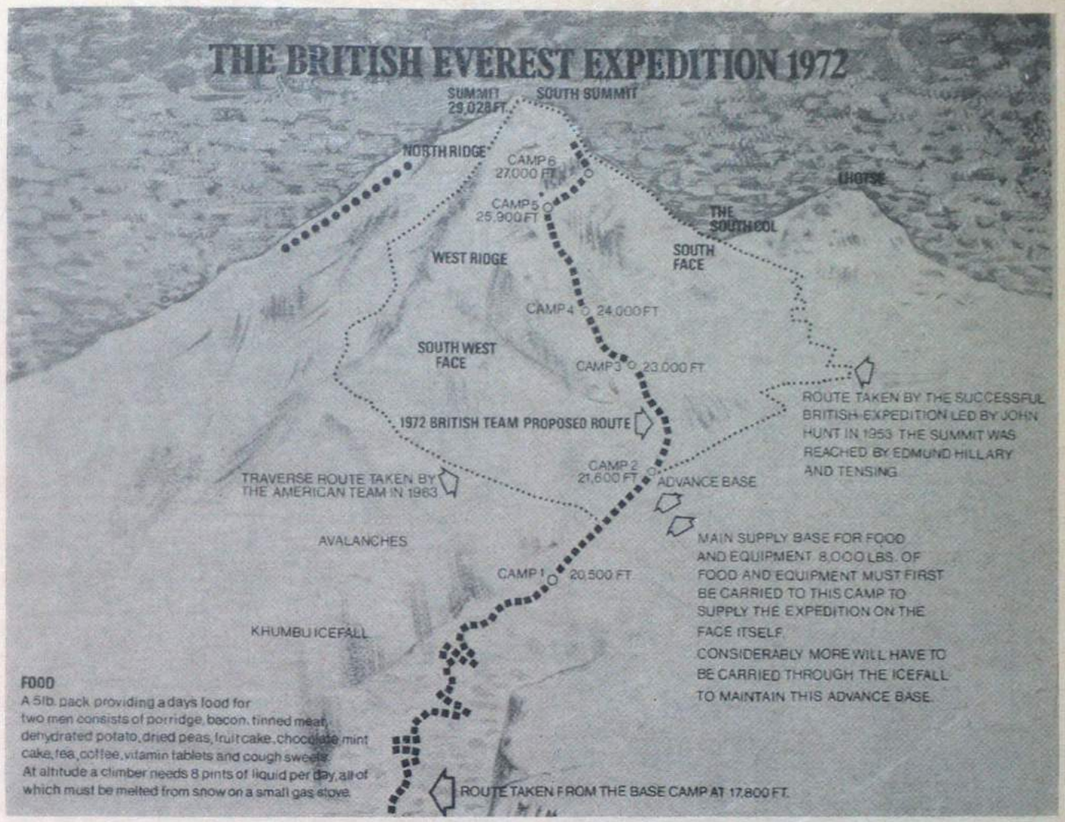
The communications side was fairly complicated. We needed to have a rear link (HF) plus a solid icefall net from base through to advance base and a separate lightweight set net for the face camps.

After much research and telephoning round the industry I decided on three types of equipment from Racal and Philips (The Defence Systems Division of MEL). These were:

Rear Link. Racal Squadcal using skywave.

Icefall Net. Racal Telecal 1 watt output Walkie Talkie.

Face Net. Philips Handy Talkie ¼ watt output.



Incredible cold

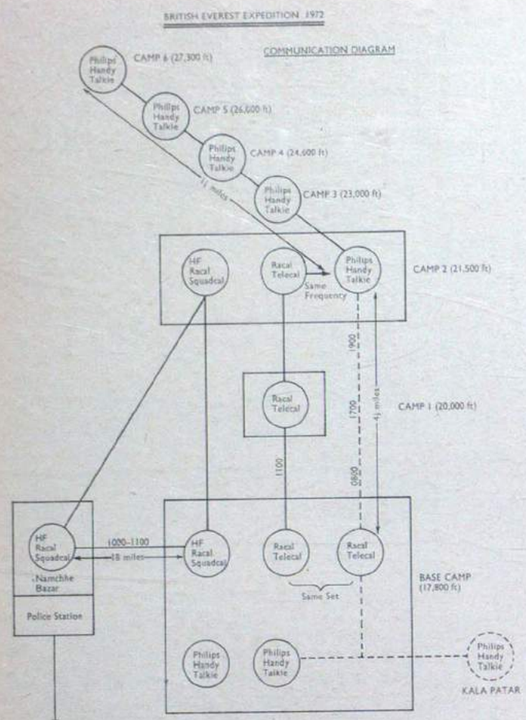
So often one can criticise current in-use equipment but we came away with the highest regard for these sets. They worked in conditions which are almost indescribable. On the approach march the temperature was up to 90° in monsoon conditions. Often it rained incessantly. Later at base camp the sun was so hot that it could warp the plastic casings of some of the radios. Further up the mountain, as the weather got colder and colder throughout October and November, the temperature went down to an estimated −50° C. Often a biting gale force wind blew at the same time, and sets were frequently covered in drifting snow. This in itself would equate to a sea level temperature of something like −100° F with the chill factor thrown in, but with the added factor of 25,000 feet altitudes, the effect was even greater.

Fives all the way

Only one set out of 14 broke down in eight weeks, and this was a relatively minor ATU fault. Good communications were obtained throughout and the radios used extensively as a vital link in the functions of command, planning, logistics, administration and weather reporting. The rear link was invaluable for government progress reports, local purchase ordering and quick passage of information to Kathmandu.

Naturally I could not assume all of my other responsibilities without help on the signalling side and was therefore pleased to get the assistance of **Staff Sergeant Bartaman Limbu** from Gurkha Signals who tested the equipment on the way out and established communications at base camp. He also trained the local police station operator at Namche Bazar to work the Squadcal and acted as a storeman whilst at base camp. We certainly needed him.

Kelvin Kent with a Racal Telecal. "As good as A41 but easier to operate and much lighter"



Philips Handy Talkie, "Good comms over 7 miles"

No charging

Another point about the equipments we used was their power supply. Every set could work on ordinary 1½ volt batteries. The Handy Talkies used penlight size, the Squadcals used the U2 size, and the Telecals used the in-between size. Mallory Batteries Ltd kindly supplied all the batteries, and these worked very well although for the higher camps we had to take the batteries out and 'fry' them over a stove before operating.

More than just our packs

Over 13 tons of equipment and food were assembled at Kathmandu prior to the main party's arrival, and the team left on the 20-day approach march on 25th August. I had been in Kathmandu for 10 days before this, helping with customs clearances, permits, local supplies, recruitment of porters and so on. Our party was a big one. We had about 530 porter loads in addition to the 40 Sherpas who were to work with us on the icefall and further up. On top of this there was a mail-running chain of four men who ran continuously between base camp and the Lukla airstrip which was some 25 miles down the track at 9,000 feet. Here we employed a man who acted as our agent for incoming and outgoing mail to Kathmandu. With all these people our payroll was about 60, and the porterage pay total alone amounted to £5,200.

Counting the cost

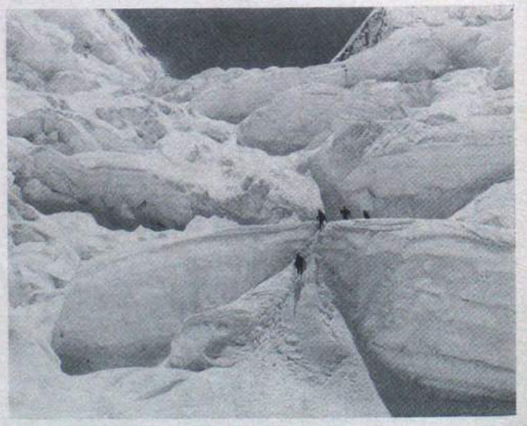
Another large expenditure was local food and firewood. We were using primus gas for all camps above camp two, kerosene for camp two and camp one, and firewood for base. Naturally large quantities of wood were required but at nearly a pound a load it proved expensive. By the end we had spent another £2,300 on firewood and local foods.

Other expenses in Nepal were equally higher than forecast. For instance the Sherpa pay was over £5,000 and Customs duty was nearly £2,500. Transport, accommodation, local purchases, royalty, stationery and mail expenses amounted to another £2,400. So it is not hard to see that an expedition to the Himalayas needs a tremendous financial budget. Ours cost in the region of £65,000 which we ourselves had to raise. The total airfreight alone was £20,000 and oxygen was £3,000 with another £3,700 for UK food. Even insurance was nearly £4,000. Sorry to labour the point but perhaps it can be seen how lucky we are in the Army when we go on 'free' adventure training expeditions!

Russian Roulette

Having got to the mountain, the first task after acclimatisation was to get a route through the treacherous icefall to 20,000 feet. Undoubtedly this area was always potentially the most dangerous. The crevasses, seracs and ice cliffs were constantly opening up, moving and toppling. It was like 'Russian roulette' going through it but there was no alternative. The logistic pyramid's base was below the icefall. We had to move nearly six tons of equipment and food above it. Sooner or later it was on the cards that someone would cop it. Later they did.

Above the icefall on an island of snow between two huge crevasses we established camp one. Now it was the four-mile slog up the western cwm (pronounced coom) to our advance base at camp two (21,500 feet).



5 tons of stores had to go through the dangerous Icefall

(Continued on page 105)

(Continued from page 104)

Base Camp at the foot of the Icefall, 18,000 ft

8000 feet of endurance

At the top of the cwm it was like a giant amphitheatre. Ahead was the huge wall of Lhotse, to the right towered Nuptse, and to the left dwarfing everything in sight was what we had come to climb—the South West Face of Everest. Up and up it rose, first a steep snow slope, then a steeper slope over snow and rock slabs, then a rightward high angle traverse, and finally a vertical cliff face of rock extending into the clouds.

From the middle of September when base was established to early October things went very well. We had camp sites at one, two, three and four and had started to push the route out to five at 26,000 feet. The weather had been relatively fine and the views magnificent. The Sherpas were doing great stuff, and all the climbers were in good heart. Base was well stocked, and the supply lines were working to plan. We had had some snow but nothing to seriously worry about. Then, as if designed to stop us, what we feared most struck with unrelenting force —the wind.

Survival and frostbite

At first we held on, but it got worse, and tents became badly damaged. Camps three and four had to be abandoned and were virtually wrecked. Then conditions improved a little, and we went back up. I was carrying from camp two to camp three at this time, and **Chris Bonington** was at four. We had to make up for lost time, and therefore we increased the tempo of the supply programme. My Sherpas were finding it difficult on the long run to camp four and twice didn't make it. Next day I decided to go with them. It was 16th October, a day I will never forget. We started out early and the wind was howling. For some reason **Chris** was not on the early radio call that morning, and there was no sun. I suppose the temperature was about −30° C when we struggled to get on our clothes and cook a breakfast of muesli and coffee. The corned beef was too hard to cut with a knife and everything else was frozen solid.

Coming round the corner from the shelter of the rock overhang I had my first taste of Everest wind. The spindrift was being hurled into my face like someone throwing ice-cold sand. I couldn't hear a thing. Even though I was well wrapped up, it was unbelievably cold and unfriendly. We staggered on using our jumars on the 70° fixed ropes. About two hours later my hands and feet started to go numb. Visibility now was only a few yards, and it was impossible to look upwards into the driving wind. Just standing there was like being in the middle of an asteroid belt being bombarded with stone and pieces of ice and frozen snow.

Suddenly I looked down and noticed that two of the four Sherpas had turned back. The other two were just behind me. Perhaps we too should have turned back, but we didn't; we pushed on. There was somehow, surpassing the feeling of bitter cold and fatigue, a warm feeling of achievement and personal satisfaction in getting one's load to its destination. Mine was sugar and the revolutionary new chemical light tubes. To me both were important: sugar for energy and chemical light because candles would not stay alight in the wind. I also wanted to know what, if anything, was wrong with **Chris's** radio. So on we went. Higher, colder and windier. This was 24,600 feet, and we were not on oxygen. Quite an experience!

Bitter blow

Eventually we reached camp four which consisted of three Whillans Boxes built straight out from the mountain side on metal tubular platforms. By this time I was ready to flake out. The two Sherpas weren't much better, but they deposited their loads and headed back downwards. None of us could speak.

Chris came out of the tent in answer to my cry and very quickly diagnosed frostbite in eight fingers. We didn't know about the feet. This was a blow, and he had to detail one of his Sherpas to escort me back down to camp two nearly 5,000 feet below. How I made it I shall never know, but luckily for me the doctor knew what he was doing. He had me on oxygen straight away and used the standard (rather painful!) hot water treatment. As a result five fingers were saved completely and three left in various states of deep penetration frostbite. Two of these are now virtually OK.

Kelvin Kent descends from 24,600 feet with frostbite

For the next four days hurricane force winds continued at all camps. To keep tents from being ripped to pieces, men had to hold the frames out through the night. Frequent digging out was necessary, and many stores were blown away or lost. No movement was possible.

Eventually I was winched/escorted down the icefall to base. Above, the climb continued, but I was not to leave base again. In all it had been 2½ weeks for me carrying above base camp.

A desperate existence

For ten days camps were rebuilt, tents repaired, stores re-allocated and climbers and Sherpas re-grouped. We now needed every hour we could get, but the days were getting shorter and the temperatures colder. Then another slice of bad luck occurred. It snowed heavily for 2½ days. At camp one this snow drifted to ten feet. The rescue parties found three tents buried so deep that the top of the poles were four feet under the snow. At camp two several tents were damaged. At camp four vital stores were buried and never located again. Down at base 36 inches of snow cut off our main supply link rearwards. There was no mail, no fresh food or supplies and no firewood. The situation could not have been worse. On top of this the attrition phase was making itself felt. Illness, fatigue and altitude effects were noticeable. Morale was low even though everyone kept a cheerful face.

The last push

In early November the skies cleared, and the leader put forward a plan for a flat-out final push. The Sherpa bonuses were doubled, and all the climbers reacted superbly in support. The race was on.

By 8th November camp five was established at 26,000 feet, and a couple of days later **Estcourt** and **Bathgate** were pushing the route out to our top camp at 27,300 feet. They could only stay for this work for two days and then came down with superficial frostbite in the feet. **Nick Estcourt** said on the radio from camp five: "**Chris,** you've no idea how cold it is up here. No one can live in these conditions and come down alive."

Now the plan was to push **Hamish McInnes** and **Dougal Haston** through to camp six in order to make the summit bid. In direct support were **Burke** and **Scott.** By 13th November all were in position, but the cold was now so intense that even at base, nearly 10,000 feet lower, the thermometer was showing −23° C. From the top of Everest the standing wave wind plume was bigger than ever, and the All India Radio weather forecast for the expedition was predicting winds of 200 kph for 29,000 feet.

The truth dawns

Haston, McInnes, Burke and **Scott** all struggled up to camp six on 14th November. It was a cold, windy day, and **McInnes's** oxygen system froze up. **Burke** stayed on to film whilst **Scott** and **Haston** moved to a position from where they could see the cliff ahead. Their view surprised them. Where there had been a snow gulley in earlier photographs and recces from last year, there was just a vertical empty chimney. The rock cliff might go, thought **Dougal,** but it would take at least four or five days. This, in the circumstances, was out of the question. The maximum survival period at camp six was probably two days and even that depended on logistic resupport from below. It had taken seven tons of equipment to reach the advance base for 150 pounds of stores to reach the camp six site.

Very reluctantly they all descended. It was just not on. **Dougal Haston** is as hard as they come, but even to him it was suicide to carry on. As it was, living above camp four had become a survival exercise. No man could get away with it for long, and **Chris Bonington** wisely decided to abandon the attempt that night.

Dougal Haston — hard as they come—made the decision to turn back in the face of 100 m.p.h. ice blasts

Buried under 5000 tons

Unfortunately our disappointment didn't end there. A young Australian friend of **Dougal Haston** was working with me at base. He had been denied permission by the Nepalese to go up the mountain, but on 16th November in answer to a request by him, he was allowed to go up the icefall to meet the climbers and Sherpas coming down. He never reached the top of the icefall. Half way up a huge serac collapsed covering half-an-acre with 300 feet of snow and ice boulders. **Tony Tighe** was caught under it, and his body was never found. A tragic end for a nice guy. But 20 minutes earlier or later it could have been 12 Sherpas and three climbers—it's the luck of the draw.

Why mountaineers climb

So . . . this expedition to Everest failed. Or did it? I know for my part I enjoyed it, and of one thing I am sure, this team was not split through dissention, and every man on it has come away with a greater respect for each other and himself than before. Above all there is a special respect for this fantastic mountain.

Perhaps the question of success or failure is better answered by comparing the expedition to a plucky boxer who just didn't win. Or perhaps it can be explained by **Lord John Hunt's** introduction to the book 'The Last Blue Mountain,' describing the tragic Expedition on Haramosh:

"We are living in an age which, more than ever, judges an enterprise by the tangible result. That those who reach their goal and return safely have, in an immediate and obvious sense, succeeded is not disputed; but what of others who make the journey without, in the analogy of Cervantes, reaching the Inn? What of the Polar party in 1912, and of Mallory and Irvine on Everest in 1924? Did these men, and many others, necessarily fail?

"The true result of endeavour, whether on a mountain or in any other context, may be found rather in its lasting effects than in the few moments during which a summit is trampled by mountain boots. The real measure is the success or failure of the climber to triumph, not over a lifeless mountain but over himself; the true value of the enterprise lies in the example to others of human motive and human conduct."

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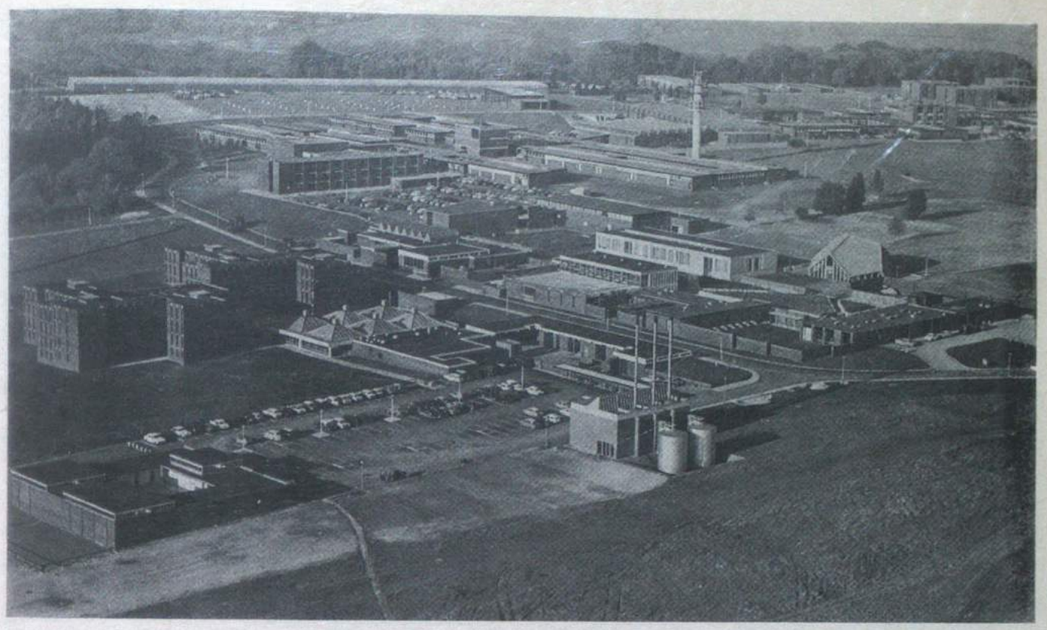

AN AERIAL VIEW OF PART OF BLANDFORD STATION

Left foreground is the Band Block, with Barrack Blocks behind. The Church and Amenity Centre occupy the centre of the photograph, behind which can be seen the UHF tower and the main School complex. Behind and to the right of the UHF tower are 30 Signal Regiment Officers and Headquarters Mess. The very long building in the background is garage accommodation in the MT Lines

Blandford Station grows apace

THIS has nothing to do with British Rail, which sad to say, severed all connection with Blandford Forum about five years ago, but refers to the military camp on the high ground north east of the town and about two miles distant. The history of the camp has been touched on in previous editions of THE WIRE, and there have also been articles on the rebuilding. This acount is to bring readers up to date with the latest developments and plans for the future.

30 Regiment's new home

Stage two of the rebuild ended in September, 1971, and subsequently 30 Signal Regiment moved into new accommodation opposite the HQ Mess. Since then the old hutted accommodation in Drake and Evans Lines has been demolished and all the useful timber and fittings carted away by contractors. Quite a lot of the valueless timber helped to brighten the skies around Blandford on 5th November, 1971. The Officers' Mess and Quarters of 30 Signal Regiment were spared and after refurbishing were occupied by Officers of the Defence Automatic Data Processing Training Centre, a joint service organisation which developed from the ADPS Group of the School of Signals and became independent in 1971. Previous occupants of this part of the camp would find it hard to recognise now that the rehabilitators and landscapers have been to work on the area.

Soldiers' barracks

Completion of phase two also brought into use the new barrack accommodation for the single soldiers. These are two four storied blocks, with grim, slit windowed, forbidding looking exteriors. Newly joined soldiers on first sight of their new home must fear the worst. However, the interior contains all the comforts and conveniences of modern living and is a far cry from the popular conception, and the older generation's experiences of 'barracks.'

Adjoining is the modern equivalent of the 'cookhouse' and 'Mess Rooms.' These are light, bright and fitted with all the latest mechanical aids for food preparation and cooking. The end product, I understand, fully justifies the provision of the palatial premises. Certainly the soldiers one sees around the place look very well fed.

Centralised amenities

The amenities centre has previously been mentioned in THE WIRE in connection with the opening of All Saints Church, which forms part of it. The other 'amenities' are a gymnasium, cinema, NAAFI shop and canteen, civilian canteen, medical and dental centres, library, exchange shops, banking facilities, education centre, post office, barber, etc. To have all these facilities in one area with paved surroundings and a central garden, is an indication of the careful and sensible planning that went into the rebuilding of the station. Soldiers and their families coming from less favoured places must really appreciate such convenience.

The lull in building activities since the completion of phase two has now ended, work having started in December, 1972, on a further 110 married soldiers quarters. In addition, married quarters for officers, including a residence for the Commandant and six type three quarters for Lieutenant-Colonels, are expected to be started shortly.

Road making

Although there has been a lull in building there is, at the moment, quite a commotion from road making equipment. The camp roads are being re-graded, to make them more easily negotiable by the heavy military and civilian traffic. Nowadays when practically every soldier and civilian employee owns a car, it is essential for traffic to move smoothly especially at the beginning and ending of each working day. To this end the older camp roads are to be re-surfaced, two roads serving

the married soldiers' quarters are to be widened, and parking space provided in the soldiers married quarters for a further 97 cars.

Water supply

With the rapid expansion of the station, there has been quite a strain on the water supply. All the water has to be pumped up to a huge storage tank which stands at the highest point in the camp on a concrete tower. Frequently water has been taken from the tank at a faster rate than it could be pumped up, reminding one of that arithmetic problem from schooldays, and the inevitable answer. Soon we hope to have two new water tanks, which will effectively double the amount of water available, so that we shall be able to wash, shave, scrub, cook and perhaps even drink it, without any anxiety.

Now a small town

Blandford station residents now equal in size the population of a large village, or maybe a small town, and as such need a place for community activities, such as scouts, guides, wives' clubs, etc. The provision of a community centre, comprising a large hall, with several smaller 'activity' rooms, kitchen facilities and the usual offices, has, as they say, been accepted in principle. A plan is being prepared but this, of course, will have to go through a multitude of processes before receiving final approval and the provision of the money for its construction. We hope that this will not take too long.

With the provision of a community centre, Blandford station will be pretty well self contained, but looking ahead one can visualise many other things which are desirable, such as a petrol station, a swimming pool, and perhaps even a place for the Blandford station planning staff!

Sea-going Telegraphists

A report from 20 Maritime Regiment RCT on one of the Corps' lesser-known activities by Corporal Alan Scott and Lance-Corporal Bob Chesterman.

IT is some time since any notes from this outpost appeared in THE WIRE but quite a lot has happened to us since then and we hope we may be able to redress the situation with this contribution, written this month by two able 'volunteers' **Corporal Allan Scott** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Chesterman.**

Résumé of our activities

During the past year we have managed, with our customary combination of expertise and good luck, to keep the vessels of 20 Maritime on the air from various unusual positions around the British Isles and Europe. For those of you who may have forgotten our existence, it may be of some help to give a quick résumé of the type of work we undertake.

The Regiment, in addition to numerous small craft of the RCT fleet, operates five LCTs and these are the primary concern of the Royal Signals complement. The LCTs, though old, being mainly built and commissioned for service in the last war, are still capable of quite lengthy sea voyages. For example, in September of last year HMAV Andalsnes, crewed by **Corporal Mick Rea** and **Lance-Corporal 'Spud' Murphy,** sailed to Norway and spent the month there as mother craft to four SRN 6 hovercraft of 200 Hovercraft Trials Squadron RCT. The transportation job completed there was little else for the LCT to do and this fortunately allowed the crew to make several interesting sorties ashore. A beautiful and impressive country but the exorbitant price of the beer (£1 a pint) somewhat restricted the crew's indulgence in their traditional shore activity. To fill the vacuum thus created some PT was organised under the leadership of a seemingly superhuman Norwegian PTI who, completely unperturbed by the gasps, groans and muttered curses of the crew, proceeded to run them over mountains and along fjords, affecting to be quite amazed that such activity did not come quite naturally to them. Not surprisingly, the crew were far from impressed with this departure from their more usual pastimes and the price of many pints was soon unearthed from secret caches all over the ship, the men dispersing to expensive but 'safe' ale houses.

FLAG SIGNALS

Lance-Corporal 'Spud' Murphy hoists a ship's call sign—all in the day's work

Hebrides visits much enjoyed

One of our regular and most enjoyable duties is the Hebrides maintenance detail in which all of the ships usually take a hand during the course of a year. Normally, two ships at a time are based on the Clyde for this job and from there they resupply the RA ranges on Benbecula and the early warning station on the remote isle of St. Kilda. The scenery in the Hebrides is quite magnificent and the treacherous weather (if it is on the side of the crew) sometimes makes an extended stay in harbour inevitable, during which the crew usually manages to enjoy an equally magnificent run ashore.

A wide range of duties

Not all the time, however, is spent in sampling the local brews. At sea the two Royal Signals operators aboard each vessel are kept very busy and the running of the ship's radio room is a very serious and businesslike undertaking. As in all seagoing vessels, whether civil or military, the operator is responsible for keeping watch on the international distress frequency and must be fully conversant with the civil procedures associated with this system. This, and the occasional need to work to a civilian shore station such as Niton and North Foreland, provides Army operators with invaluable experience in civil maritime radio procedures. Working schedules are cleared through Royal Naval CCN stations and we have found the Navy to be extremely co-operative and tolerant in this respect.

Quite apart from the radio work the Royal Signals element of the crew is also responsible for the running of the ship's office and various other aspects of communications such as making any necessary 'pipes' with a bosun's whistle and signalling with flag and flashing light.

An occasional slip-up

Care must be exercised when making flag signals or one might experience the same embarrassment as one of our operators who recently hoisted the ship's callsign upside-down and was immediately greeted with a derisive blast from the hooter of every Royal Naval vessel in the vicinity. The Navy do tend to keep a brotherly eye on us. Our photograph shows **Lance-Corporal 'Spud' Murphy** hoisting the callsign aboard HMAV Andalsnes somewhere in the North Sea (in this case, correctly).

Much voyaging

Tasking for the vessels is well under way for this year and already we have made several trips up to Scotland and across to Zeebrugge in Belgium. One of the forthcoming trips is to Tromso in Norway to collect a crashed RAF Hercules. This detail was originally assigned to HMAV Abbeville, crewed by **Corporal Dave Brooker** and **Lance-Corporal Mick Willimott,** last November but on her way to fulfil the task she ran into a force nine gale and with extensive damage to her bow she was forced to abandon the voyage, returning to Portsmouth to undergo a refit.

Personality parade

Finally, a brief rundown on the comings and goings in the unit since we were last in print. We say goodbye to **Corporals Basil Le Breton, Eddy Neary, Bob Hope** and **'Yorky' Beharrel,** to whom we offer our best wishes for the future, and also **Corporal (now Sergeant) Pat Gething.** Congratulations on your promotion, **Pat.**

And we welcome to our midst **Corporal Alan Scott** and **Lance-Corporals John Lamb, Brian Greenwood, Alan Bodimeads, John Fitzsimmons** and **Bob Chesterman.** Barring seasickness, we hope that their stay with the Regiment will be pleasant and rewarding.

In the very near future we say farewell to **Corporal Mick Rea, Corporal Phill Weightman** and **Corporal Dave Brooker** (on promotion). May we wish you all and your families the very best of luck in your new posts.

There are still vacancies for 'good' tradesmen and opportunities for promotion, so why not think on it?

(Thank you Corporal Alan Scott and Lance-Corporal Bob Cheeseman for such an interesting write-up.—Editor).

A day in the life of an Orienteering Officer

by Major Elizabeth Ross, WRAC

MOST Regiments have a young, fit subaltern as orienteering officer, but 8 Signal Regiment's one is a female field officer, rather unfit and ancient, which came about because last year when I volunteered for the job, in a moment of foolhardiness.

A bleak start

So here I am, on a bleak Sunday, getting up before dawn, in the intense cold of the Catterick summer. Elsewhere in the Mess, my friends sleep on. I envy them.

I carry great burdens of track suits, packed lunches, map-cases, compasses, clean socks, maps, control cards, whistles and thermos-flasks to our rendezvous by the Guardroom. The place is deserted, only the guard watching me pityingly through the barred windows. I lean against the wind-swept rainlashed wall.

But far across the parade ground a track-suited figure is trotting purposefully towards me followed by another and another. Here is **Lance-Corporal Lee,** our gold medallist, the brains behind our organisation. Now **Signalman Green** our rising young star, and **Signalman Mulholland,** just as young but not so rising—he specialises in falling over cliffs. Now **Corporal Swinfield** from 3 Squadron, **Signalman Coll, Signalman Jordan, Signalman Barrett,** more of the brains of our set-up. Next **Corporal Musaliya,** who did his first orienteering in the Nigerian jungle. Finally, some WRAC, to add light relief. Creaking and grinding, our old coach struggles towards us, and we set off, heading for the motorway and the far hills.

Things begin to look better

I sit in the front, reading the map, watched anxiously by many of the party in whose opinion women map readers are as useless as women drivers. But others are chatting up the WRAC, who sit on the back seat, as far as possible from their OC. The coach rattles steadily on. Now we leave the motorway and are on winding country roads. Back in the Mess, my friends must be up by now, eating leisurely breakfasts and enjoying Sunday newspapers. How I envy them.

In front and behind we see other cars, with orienteering types inside, and beside the road little red and white signs reassure my anxious observers. The rain has stopped and the sun has risen, clearing the mist, and suddenly stretching along the hillside, immense and glorious, we see the forest. The coach bumps down the rough track, and the girls squeak and the men laugh at them. There are cars, coaches, trucks and orienteering people everywhere. We have arrived.

ORIENTEERS CONFER

Left to right: Signalmen Jordan, Barrett and Smith, Lance-Corporal Lee, Major Ross, Signalman Green

Hustle and bustle

Now all is hustle and bustle. The girls are supposed to shut their eyes while the men change into our light-weight track-suits, in Signals blue, with our club's initials 8SROC in gold on the jacket. We rush about, registering and collecting our maps. The girls hold their compasses upside down and their maps back to front and ask me what they are supposed to do.

The coach gradually empties as our starting times come around. Here is my own moment of truth, and reluctantly I report to the pre-start. Now I have marked the controls on my map, and trot cautiously away, matching the map to the ground, feeling my way into the forest. With a leap of the heart, I see the first control, glowing white and scarlet in the dark fir trees, and clutch the needle punch with trembling fingers.

The depression

On now to the next, feeling suddenly very happy, smelling the pine-needles and heather, listening to the little birds and the tinkling streams. Run along the path, splosh through the stream, toil up the hill, struggle through the bracken, slide down the muddy bank, squelch through the marsh, another control, and then another. The forest unfolds and reveals its secrets, matching its beauty to the printed symbols of the specialised map, the very heart and skill of orienteering.

Somewhere in this bushy wood is 'the depression.' Many people are looking for it. The only depression we find is the one settling on our spirits. We may not speak, but we are all thinking the same, four letter words, I fear. Trudging back to the attack point to recheck my bearing, I suddenly fall into the depression, a small pit resembling a tiger trap, with the control at the bottom. Meanly I creep away, taking care not to reveal it (nothing big-hearted about this sport).

Alone in a jungle

Now to find the bend in the stream. Here is a ride going in the right direction. Too far along to turn back, I realise my error of judgement. Heather up to my waist, gorse to my shoulders, bracken meeting overhead, brambles clinging round my ankles. The forest is no better, filled with impenetrable brushwood. A little roedeer, startled, springs neatly and silently away, in contrast to my crashing, bashing progress. I feel desperate. Just as I decide I shall die alone in this dense jungle. I break out into the open, and rejoice to see other humans, jolly family parties going past, cheerful veterans, our own orienteers, hot and happy looking, **Lance-Corporal Lee** on the horizon, loping along like a Siberian wolf.

Now there is good running on bouncy pine-needles, and more controls and my card is punched all over with little holes like a blind man's braille book. Over a stone wall, which disintegrates as I climb it, a most painful process. I find the last

control, and the tapes to the finish, and the clock with its sweeping second hand, and best of all the table with glasses of heavenly orange squash.

Triumphs and Disasters

Now we are all collecting in our coach, eating our packed lunches, comparing our triumphs and disasters, working out our times. **Lance-Corporal Lee** has another gold, maybe **Trooper Abrons** (transferred to Royal Signals from the QDG) has one too, **Signalman Coll** might have his third silver to complete his award, so well deserved, our new runners have done well on the wayfinder course. Someone has torn his track-suit pants, someone has lost his whistle. But this is not all that is missing —the back seat is silent and deserted—where are the girls? **Lance-Corporal Lee** says he told them to come in if they were lost, but maybe they are so lost they do not know where 'in' is. I have enough trouble explaining the WRAC marriage wastage rate, how shall I explain this? The driver says the coach has a flat tyre, but we should get home all right if we can leave soon. The atmosphere is full of unspoken criticism. Shamefaced, I approach the Fell Rescue Team. As none of the civilians has got lost, they have had a boring day, so the Army is now extremely popular. Loading up their Rover with ropes, stretchers and tracker dogs, they roar cheerfully off into the forest. No sooner have they gone than the WRAC appear from the opposite direction. Their purple tongues show they have been eating blackberries. They have found two controls on other people's courses, none of their own, and enjoyed themselves immensely.

A feeling of achievement

Leaving messages for the rescue team, we set off for home. Now I can look at the country, wonderful hills and fields and woods in the evening light, all day I have been too busy to observe it. There are questions from the coach: "Where are we going next week, Ma'am?" "Will we enter a team for the Northern Championship?" "Can we go to the Midland event?" "Can we stop at a cafe?" "Will the PRI make me pay for that whistle?"

The blood is drying on my bramble scratches, and the mud on the seat of my pants. The pine needles are working steadily through my vest into by skin. But I am filled with a sensation of great achievement.

Back in the Mess my friends are drowsing deep in armchairs, surrounded by tattered Sunday newspapers. This time I do not envy them at all.

Aldershot Branch—Annual Dinner

The Aldershot branch of the Association is holding its annual dinner on 12th May, 1973, at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants. Assembly 7.30 for dinner at 8.00 p.m. All applications for seats to Mr. A. V. Ient, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants, or telephone Aldershot 23658 please.

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VOLVO

Standing, left to right: W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Wood, Captain P. J. K. Dickinson, Lance-Corporal Jeffery, Lance-Corporal Siddle, Corporal Patterson, Corporal Hudson, Signalman Davies, Lance-Corporal Williams, Lance-Corporal Milne, Corporal Hindle, Lance-Corporal Barrington, Sergeant Geddes, Lance-Corporal Ireland, Signalman Rumford, Signalman Ormond, Lance-Corporal Parry, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bland
Kneeling, left to right: Signalman Gilyeat, Lance-Corporal Briers, Signalman McIlvenny, Signalman Cook, Signalman Tomlinson, Corporal Wilkinson, Signalman Astle, Signalman Barron, Signalman Leggett

30th Regiment's "ACE" Mobile Force Signallers

Tough, mentally alert, they will provide vital communications in a demanding Arctic environment

ONCE again 3 Squadron of 30 Signal Regiment is deploying to far-off places. The ACE Mobile Force is due to undergo six weeks of Winter Warfare Training.

Faraway places

Annually our Force Radio Troop which is a NATO funded force are exercised on the flanks of Western Europe. This includes Turkey, Greece, Italy, Denmark, Zealand and Norway. It is in Norway that the most severe winter conditions are met and for which careful training and planning must be done.

Fitness essential

The first requirement for all these men is physical fitness. This involves rigorous marches in full kit, gymnasium training and langlauf ski training. The ski training gives many the impression that the troop is to indulge in a winter holiday but rest assured this is not so. The conditions in Northern Norway or even in the south of the country high in the hills, are not conduscive to many holiday thoughts to the man who is living in a tent and has to carry enormous amounts of personal kit.

Well equipped

The excellent winter equipment provided for AMF(L) includes equipment not seen elsewhere in the British Army. The Volvo BV 202 is one of the oversnow vehicles used. The vehicle despite its appearance is neither articulated nor track driven. Any driver with a normal licence is able to drive it. The drive is from a central knuckle and steering is effected from the trailer! Although the steering allows for easier reversing the affect in forward is quite different from a standard vehicle. The great advantage of the vehicle is its oversnow capability with minimum pressure per square inch on the surface. It makes a very useful rebroadcast station with a remarkable cross-country performance.

Personal equipment includes extreme cold underwear, contact gloves, Bergen rucksacks, snow shoes—a mass of first class equipment valued at nearly £200 per man. All that he needs in fact for survival in the Arctic during winter conditions.

Tough going

The majority of Norway is mountainous and heavily wooded with lakes and fjords. The roads are generally narrow and poor. Access to the good communications sites is very difficult. This all leads to the second requirement for the men of Force Radio Troop. Their communications must be 100 per cent. Rebroadcast stations must be resupplied under all Arctic conditions. Helicopters, volvos or Land Rovers may become inadequate and men of the troop my have to manpack the resupplies to the rebroadcast stations. It means that because of the conditions encountered in the Arctic, survival is dependent on communications and the exercise has a real element which cannot be denied.

This sense of realism is a real challenge to the men of the Troop. There is an inherent danger in the nature of the country itself. The Arctic is a mean and desolate environment which shows little mercy. It is this very environment which demands of the men complete mental awareness. Their training must include lectures, films and practice in all survival techniques and the men must fully appreciate these dangers.

Trained to a peak of fitness

This then is the background to the feverish activity as Exercise 'Hardfall' looms closer. It is not a standard exercise at all. It is the period in which these AMF soldiers are finally brought to a peak of fitness and preparedness in their role to defend the flanks of NATO. Under real conditions they are finally taught their special tactics, so different from anything they have so far encountered. Blandford has seen this activity now for nearly two months and in February the troop embark for Norway. The experiences are so different and the conditions so strange the Troop will report on them in the next issue of THE WIRE.

You may rest assured this is no ordinary exercise report but an interesting account of arduous real training under strange conditions which compel all involved to give of their best.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

Looking back — an eventful year

IN the last edition of THE WIRE we promised our readers a bumper review of 1972. Not that we wished to bore the remainder of the Corps with tales of past glories but because we really believe 1972 was a moderately interesting year! However, by the time these notes are read we will be at least two months into 1973 and even the traditional reflection upon the previous 12 months will be slightly outdated, if not obsolete. Nevertheless, in deference to our archivist, who has worked extremely hard to produce some fascinating facts, we will include a potted statistical history of 1972.

During 1972 the third generation of signallers were posted into the Squadron and before the year was out we had somehow become responsible for the administration (in some form or other) of 307 all ranks. At the last count the QM had seven different cap badges (soldiers) in his store. Not bad for a HQ and Signal Squadron that began life less than five years ago with three staff officers and two clerks! Also in that time we have been re-established five times.

During the past year we have had dozens of highlights, most of which have been faithfully recorded in the pages of THE WIRE. In particular, Operation 'Motorman,' our re-occupation and subsequent retirement from Slieve Gallion, the opening of the Squadron Club, an impressive FFR under somewhat unique conditions, and airborne television trials. Behind these peaks of endeavour (sorry — a pompous phrase) there has been the day-to-day life of the Squadron which rarely gains a mention on paper. For instance, during 1972, our drivers used 42,953 gallons of petrol whilst covering 414,204 miles. In this time they were involved in only 24 accidents, none serious, and this gives them the second best driving record in the Province.

At the same time our linemen, joining the Squadron in May/June, dealt with over 600 requisitions/faults and became responsible, together with the Post Office, for over 500 lines, 100 Post Office extensions, and 195 military extensions. The Comcen dealt with 41,790 single messages involving over 200,000 addresses and of this enormous number 2,809 were immediate or higher precedence. The Squadron Ops room telephone has rung on more than 40,000 occasions, Rover Group have deployed over 700 times and we have lost count of the number of unit changeovers in the Brigade.

Enough, however, of these bald and bold facts. Let us finish on a high (!) note — the average bar takings in the Squadron Club have been £480 per week. (We are not sure what this last statistic proves).

Before we leave 1972 we would gratefully thank 3 Division, 14, and 30 Signal Regiments, who have somehow managed to provide our reinforcement manpower and 233 Signal Squadron who man our rear links in Lisburn. Without their help Netley hospital would have been full of ex-members of 8 Brigade.

1973 off to a good start

The new year has begun well. Our hockey team have reached the final of the minor units' championship. **Staff Sergeant Dean,** our MT Staff Sergeant, was awarded his LS and GC medal by the GOC, **General Sir Harry Tuzo,** on the 23rd January, and by way of celebration intends to marry during the first week of February.

Our new, city, radio system progresses from strength to strength and we have just installed a mighty 200 feet mast in the Creggan. Photographs in the next issue — we hope.

PROUD MOMENT
Staff-Sergeant Dean receives his L.S. & G.C. Medal from the G.O.C.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

Squadron Headquarters—a successful Bierfest

AT long last we have said farewell to our Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant 'Slim' Cheetham.** He was a popular 'figure' and he will be missed being seen around. In his place we welcome **Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones,** congratulate him on his promotion and hope he will have an enjoyable tour.

Our OC, **Major J. D. Bromley,** has had yet another stay in Musgrave Park. He had a minor operation, the details of which are classified. We hope he will soon be his usual self again.

We have had yet another successful Bierfest and our thanks are due to the band of the 16/5 Lancers, and also to **R.S.M. Connell** and his band of merry men for organising the function.

Comcen—more reinforcements from 28 Regiment

We spoke too soon in our last WIRE notes of a decrease in our work load. Since our last jottings appeared we have yet another string to our bow. The establishment of our own 'Softly Softly' Task Force and its associated communications has stretched us yet a little further. All work and no play etc — so we challenged HQ NI Comcen to a football match. Suffice to say that with a 7-all draw it was honours even, but good fun as well.

Our belated Christmas party was a great success, and was well attended by many outsiders who enjoyed a night of relaxation in this troubled isle. We said farewell to **Corporal 'Chiefy' Wrapson** who left us for Cyprus and welcome **Corporal Alan Skells** from 7 Armoured Brigade, also three others from our own Depot Regiment, 28 Signal Regiment; these were **Signal-**

men Spittle, Shackleton and Jordan. We estimate that over 50 per cent of our operators have come from 28 Signal Regiment in the last 12 months.

Tech Workshops—the month of the car

If January is to be called anything here in the Tech Workshops, it is likely to be the month of the car. It all started when **Sergeant Jerry Cooper** had the morale deflating experience of being shot at whilst motoring near the city centre. (Although the shot was so low we never found the bullet hole). Then there was the saga of **Sergeant Andy Russell's** 'Sport wagon'; being a technician of course, **Andy** has suspicious bits of wire hanging all over his motor. When he ran out of petrol outside the local RSSD and decided to leave it where it stood, it wasn't really so surprising that when the local constabulary came across it during the hours of darkness they were suspicious, so suspicious in fact they called out the ATO and blew it up! There is yet another tale to tell, about how the F of S and **Sergeant Rick Thomas** out in civvies in the heart of Andersonstown, broke down in the middle of a crowd of school children, who, in response to a fake Irish accent from **Rick Thomas,** stopped throwing stones at the uniformed soldiers to give them a push to a safer part of the estate!

MT Troop—things quieten down

After the Christmas festivities, January has seen troop life gradually return to normal. The Troop welcomes **Signalman Annandale** and **Smethurst** who arrived rather apprehensively to begin a two-year tour with the Squadron. However, they have now become acclimatised to the Ulster way of life.

An unscheduled call was made recently by the SDS run when they rushed a civilian fire casualty to the Musgrave hospital. **Signalman O'Connor** is commended for taking swift action on receiving this request for help.

The Rover group is soon to lose **Sergeant Few** who has just acquired a posting to sunny Hong Kong. We feel sure that he will find life in the new territories rather more relaxing than Belfast.

QM Department — new vistas

Old Thiepval Barracks inmates, or should be say inhabitants, will be interested to read that the move of offices and stores forecast for 1970, 1971 and 1972 was completed by 1st January, thus releasing some barrack rooms. **Captain (Q.M.) G. S. MacDonald** who inherited a large chunk of the old Education Block is said to have told an enquiring brother officer, "I agree with this refreshing new concept of putting soldiers into barrack rooms when they can't be fitted into mills, schools, old warships, disused cinemas, sangars or portakabins. My own premises are a big step forward—all of my staff now have bags of room in which to curse. As for the supply of goodies such as masking tape, fablon, U2 batteries, tyre repair kits and CV4070s, our previous successful policy remains unchanged—"you ain't damn well getting any."

A recent admission to this harassed but never (quite) despairing department is **Lance-Corporal A. T. Bullock,** late of 227 Signal Squadron who is just beginning to get over the punchy 'new to Ulster' look. He relieves **Signalman Mark Ashberry** who leaves us after two busy and useful years in the unit (yes, two years—contrary to rumours; there is no time off for good behaviour).

MRS. RUBY CUTLER

Many in the Corps, particularly those who served in 7 Signal Regiment in recent years, will be shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Ruby Cutler, wife of Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Cutler of this unit here in Lisburn on 17th January.

This popular and pleasant lady was known and held in affectionate respect by a wide circle of friends both in the Corps and in her home in Fintona, Co Tyrone, where she was laid to rest. A small representative party of Officers, senior NCOs and wives, which would have been larger but for the ever-present security aspect, was able to join Wally at the funeral. Our deepest sympathy goes to both S.Q.M.S. Cutler and daughter Gail.

233 Sig Sqn, Lisburn

Chain of command

Officer Commanding ...	**Major Brian Blackwell**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain Bob Peake, B.E.M.**
TOT	**Major Roger Taylor**
CDSO	**Captain Dennis Bees**
OC Comms Troop	**Lieutenant Tony Pennington**
OC WRAC Troop	**Second-Lieutenant Terri Howie,** WRAC
SSM	**W.O.2 Derek Leggott**
Y of S	**W.O.1 Bob French, M.B.E.**
F of S	**W.O.2 Colin Smith, B.E.M.**

Commended by GOC

We are delighted that **Sergeant Brian Young** and **Corporal Peter Walker** have both been awarded the GOC's commendations for their work whilst with the Squadron. **Sergeant Young** was an emergency reinforcement from 16 Signal Regiment and helped deal with custodian duties on the build up to Operation 'Motorman.' **Corporal Walker** (now sergeant with 223 Signal Squadron) was our clerk tech and did much sterling work in the stores especially caring for the UDR's 11 battalions of Pye equipment.

Visits and general

We have received several visitors in the past few weeks. The departing GOC, **Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Tuzo, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.** paid a quick farewell visit and the new GOC, **Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King, K.C.B., M.B.E.** has made a courtesy call.

Our WRAC girls were also visited twice by **Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney, M.B.E.,** TD, Hon ADC, Director WRAC and **Colonel E. J. Nolan,** Director (designate).

Despite the pressures of work and trying restrictions to personnel during off-duty house our visitors found everyone cheerful and satisfied. In fact all our emergency reinforcements from the static reserve units in England have asked to extend their four months tours! Indeed those who suffer most discomforts are probably the families but none have asked, as yet, to return prematurely to England.

Sport — an outstanding record

The Squadron squash team consisting of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Colin Smith, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Derek Leggott** and **Sergeant Pete Beavan** already garrison champions have just won the Northern Ireland Army minor units championships. **W.O.2 Smith** also succeeded in winning the soldiers individual championship, having his hardest match in the semi-finals when he beat **W.O.2 Leggott.**

Our reserves **Major Brian Blackwell, Corporal Alan Grohs** and **Signalman Steve Morton** all pushing hard for a first team place did well in the individual competitions, **Corporal Grohs** coming to grief in the quarter finals of the open when he met an 'Army' player. **Signalman Morton** also played well to reach the semi-finals of the soldiers cup.

We record with pride that in every sports competition we have entered for in the last ten months we have reached the Northern Ireland final, save for soccer. This includes cricket, rugby, squash and basketball. The soccer team made up for their final defeat by winning the Northern Ireland autumn league. Indeed as this is being written our cross-country team consisting of **W.O.2 Derek Leggott, Corporals Brian Robinson** and **Bill Laing, Signalmen 'Sparky' Sparkes, Martin Ryan, Steve Morton, Eddie Millar** and **'Taff' Chandler** are away running in the Command championship.

Stop press

We are happy to report that the Squadron cross-country team won the Northern Ireland minor units championship and that **Signalman Martin Ryan** was the individual winner in the minor units event. They will now go forward to the Army finals at Pirbright in February.

Departures

Second-Lieutenant Pope, Corporals Evans and **Olney, Lance-Corporals Arthur** and **Strange, Signalmen Baines, Connett, Gough** and **Quick.** Our thanks for all your good work and best wishes to you and your families.

Arrivals

Lieutenant Pennington, Corporals Brians and **Hunter, Lance-Corporals Lane** and **McCarthy, Signalman Cowell, Knight, MacSween, Ryan, Stork** and **Wenban.**

News from Regiments

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

The new College RSM

WE welcomed to the College at the beginning of this term our new Regimental Sergeant Major, **R.S.M. Leslie Meade,** Scots Guards.

Born in Liverpool in 1933, **R.S.M. Meade** joined the Scots Guards in 1951. Most of his service has been with the First Battalion, with whom he has served in Egypt, Germany, Malaya, Borneo, Jamaica and Sharjah. Between overseas tours he has, like most Guardsmen, had several spells of Public Duties — he is proud of having been CSM of the Royal Guard during the Royal Family's stay at Balmoral in 1968. He has also had a three-year tour recruiting for his Regiment in his home area.

Photo: Capt. C. B. Storey, BSc, RAEC

R.S.M. L. Meade, Scots Guards

In 1971 he was posted as an Instructor to Mons Officer Cadet School, and assisted in the move last August of the OCS to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, whence he came to the College.

"I am very much looking forward to my tour in Harrogate," says **R.S.M. Meade.** "I think the College will present a very similar challenge to that at Officer Cadet School; one's job, basically, is to turn boys into men."

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

Squash

THIS month saw the squash team triumph in the divisional final beating 1 Division Regiment RCT 5-0. This was a great win, rightfully putting the team back on top after last holding the cup in 1971.

It was a triumphant swan-song for the C of E Chaplain, **Rev. Robin Roe.** Apart from playing for the Regimental squash team he was closely concerned with the unit rugby, being an ex-Irish rugby international player. Verden Garrison wishes **Reverend Roe** and his charming wife **Vera** every happiness at Bielefeld.

1 SQUADRON

Having fairly successfully disposed of its subalterns for the most of the month, the Squadron made heroic preparations for the FFR Inspection. The inside of the Squadron block was made to gleam and the month's surprise was the magical appearance of a painted shield proclaiming 'The Blue Bear Bar' as the new name for the establishment previously known as 1 Squadron Bar. The Regimental Quarter Guard, composed entirely of 1 Squadron was, of course, immaculate and with the block inspection and vehicle line up, we feel extremely proud of our performance in the FFR. A good start to the year by the Regiment's backbone, even if we do say it ourselves.

1st DIVISION SQUASH CHAMPIONS

Left to right: Captains Denham, Wooley, Simpson, Conroy, Rev. Roe, Corporal Fallon

2 SQUADRON

The new year, a new challenge. Eleven months to the next festive season—so let's get on with it. The challenge was prompt. PRE inspections of vehicles and radios began on 2nd January progressing to the ultimate — our FFR, on 30th January. Although train timings were studied, just in case, everyone still seemed to be around on the morning of the 31st.

The cleverer among us did manage to 'get away' for some of the month. 'Snow Queen' was a popular move and a percentage of the Squadron disappeared south looking for snow. **Signalmen Steve Scarll** and **Ron Gristock** eventually reappeared from a month's attachment with Italian Alpine Troops at the ski resort of Bousone and **Lieutenant David Elson** loped off to join yet another ski-ing course in Norway.

The sporting life continues. Your scribe for this month, **Staff Sergeant Robin Stanley-Jones,** also arriving back from a much-needed and well-earned rest(!) found gross ineptitude afoot. Some of the more misguided Corporals (**'Taff' Gunter** and **'Smudge' Smith**) had not only challenged the Regimental Football Team, played them and lost by 8-1, but had not even consulted yours truly or picked him for the Squadron team! Our congratulations, however, go to **Lance-Corporal Bruce Mansley** who came seventh in the Divisional Cross-country Championships held in Verden on 31st January.

The laugh of the month was provided by **Second-Lieutenant John Fletcher.** Being a kind-hearted soul he 'adopted' a stray cat found wandering in the Mess. He called it 'a sweet little thing' until the morning the gallant officer appeared on parade wearing—a beret. The only comment that could be extracted from him was "the d—— thing was not house-trained!"

Arrivals to the Squadron during the month included **Signalmen 'Geordie' Thompson, Barry Tiller, Paul Smith** and **Lance-Corporal Phil Thornton,** and also **Signalmen Phil Jarvis** and **George Paterson,** who travelled all the way from 3 Squadron! Farewell and the best of luck to **Staff Sergeant 'Taff' Owen** and **Lance-Corporals Bill Williams** and **Mick Pound.**

Finally, congratulations to **Signalman 'Big Jim' Beddows** who did get married and commiserations to **Signalman Denis Mannion** who did not.

3 SQUADRON

Old OC

The new year brought with it a sad occasion in the departure of our OC **Major Peter Brown.** It is difficult to say whether 3 Squadron was a product of **Major Brown** or whether **Major Brown** was a product of 3 Squadron. He started off his career as OC 'B' Troop, then to Second-in-Command Squadron then to OC. Needless to say his knowledge saw us through many a tight situation, not forgetting his theory of the 'Magic Hand.' In his four years with 3 Squadron, **Major Brown** has seen three COs, three RSMs and three SSMs, not a bad record! It is also interesting to note that his first Sergeant of 'B' Troop is now SSM 3 Squadron. Well, he leaves the Squadron with fond memories and an excellent mountaineering store for pastures new in 'Penny' Squadron, Harrogate. We wish him well, also his wife **Josephine,** who will be remembered by the wives for her kindness to all.

New OC

In the same breath we welcome **Major J. McD. Edgar** to the Squadron, last seen leading us through the never ending preparations for FFR with the rose red complexion gained from an excellent Burns night.

General

We are at the moment madly preparing for a new exercise season and digging out camouflage nets that disappeared from sight in October 1972. Account holders are preparing and auditors are starting to chew pencils, "Oh what a lovely war."

Sport

We are proud to announce that **Corporal 'Paddy' Fallon** was the soldiers' representative in the Regimental squash team that won the Divisional competition. Well done and we wish him well in the BAOR competition.

Ski-ing

Captain Howard Culley has set up the Regimental 'Snow Queen' hut in Bavaria. Courses are departing for Bavaria at regular intervals and the bones are sent back about a fortnight later. Lack of snow has been a problem and has forced the exercise further afield. We are told that snow has finally arrived relieving the problem and providing excellent facilities.

"BRUIN" TECHNICALITIES EXPLAINED (iii)

"TROMBONE" TEST

Drawn by 2nd Lieutenant Shednan

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

2 Division Ski Championships 1973—good results

THE Regiment displayed itself most creditably in the 1973 Divisional Ski meeting, coming first in the Patrol Race, and second in the 4 x 10 km and 15 km; the final position was overall second.

The team for the above races was: **Second-Lieutenant Tom Richardson, Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Lance-Corporal Peter Elliott, Lance-Corporal Bernard Madsen. Colonel Alan Yeoman** was the winner of the veteran individual race in the Open Slalom, and **Signalman Gordon Townsley** of the Novice Prize, and the following teams were fourth in the first placing for their respective races:

Giant Slalom: **Lieutenant 'Paddy' Hughes, Lance-Corporal John Simpson, Signalman Gordon Townsley, Lance-Corporal Norman Doveton.**

Open Downhill: **Lieutenant 'Paddy' Hughes, Lance-Corporal Norman Doveton, Lance-Corporal John Simpson, Signalman Gordon Townsley.**

Open Slalom: **Lieutenant 'Paddy' Hughes, Corporal Noel Harris, Lance-Corporal Norman Doveton, Lance-Corporal John Simpson.**

Squash

On 23rd January the Regiment had a close fight in the second round of the Inter-Unit Squash match against 50 Missile Regiment before winning 3-2.

The players were: **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yeoman, Major John Heyes, Captain Roger Morgan, Captain Gus Vigurs** and **Sergeant Michael Fogg.**

WRAC arrive

The members of the Regiment were blessed in the New Year with the unique distinction of being the first Divisional Unit to employ WRAC. There are 16 altogether including one Officer, and they are housed and employed with Headquarters Squadron in Lubbecke. The innovation seems to have created surprisingly little upheaval, although WRAC Admin **Sergeant Irene Hall's** forceful yet feminine presence in the Sergeants' Mess is certainly making its impact, and by a strange coincidence, the number of applications for cross-postings to Headquarters Squadron has suddenly increased—like the social life there.

The servicewomen are employed in a variety of trades—cooks, drivers, CCOs, clerks, storewomen—and always alongside male counterparts, who seem quite happy with the change!

Lieutenant Claire Montanaro, OC WRAC, is the one member of the detachment who has the privilege of spending some of her time at the Regimental Headquarters in Bunde, working (literally) alongside **Captain Roger Morgan** as his Assistant Adjutant.

Comstar Award

The Regiment was delighted to hear that the study Communication Centre gained the Bronze Comstar award—despite obstacles thrown up by the Divisional Headquarters from time to time! Many congratulations to all concerned.

ONE SQUADRON REPORT

Exercise 'Winter Folly I'

Between 9th and 12th January members of the Squadron took part in an initiative exercise. The aim was to reach Copenhagen, Zandvoort, Waterloo and Dachau in the time allocated. The winning pair was **Corporal Tim Howley** and **Corporal 'Mitch' Mitchell** who managed to get to all the places except Waterloo and it is rumoured they now have controlling shares in the Deutches Bundesbahn. The runners-up were **Corporal 'Wilkie' Wilkinson** and **Lance-Corporal 'Robo' Robinson** who are still complaining of blisters. Prizes for the winners and runners-up were presented by **Mrs. Burke** at a Squadron ladies' night.

'Echo' Troop

Bundes answer to Bobby Fisher has appeared in the form of **Signalman Les Tatar** who recently was placed second in the BAOR Open Chess Championships. Perhaps chess will now oust 'Scrabble' to become 'Echo' Troop's exercise game.

We welcome **Lance-Corporal Jackson, Signalman Webb, Signalman Rawlings, Signalman Flanagan, Signalman HcCue** and **Signalman McGregor** to the Troop and say farewell (at last) to **Corporal and Mrs. Air** and wish them all the best in their new posting.

'Foxtrot' Troop

'Foxtrot' Troop cannot boast of the great chess and Scrabble 'thinkers' that 'Echo' Troop have. Our sporting champion is **Lance-Corporal Dougie Elliot** who is a member of the British Biathlon team. When last heard of (thinks BFBS) he was somewhere unpronouncable in Southern Germany, trying to keep up the high reputation that he built for himself in last year's Olympics. Our musical champion, folk singer **Signalman Bob Collard,** who is reputed to be the best amateur guitarist in Germany, continues to be very busy with concerts. However, the price of fame means his relegation to the showers of practice periods.

We would like to welcome **Staff Sergeant Northcott, Corporal Dave Courtenay, Lance-Corporal 'Jack' Frost** and **Signalman 'Ricky' Richards** and to say farewell and best wishes to **Corporal and Mrs. Drury** and **Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Clarke.**

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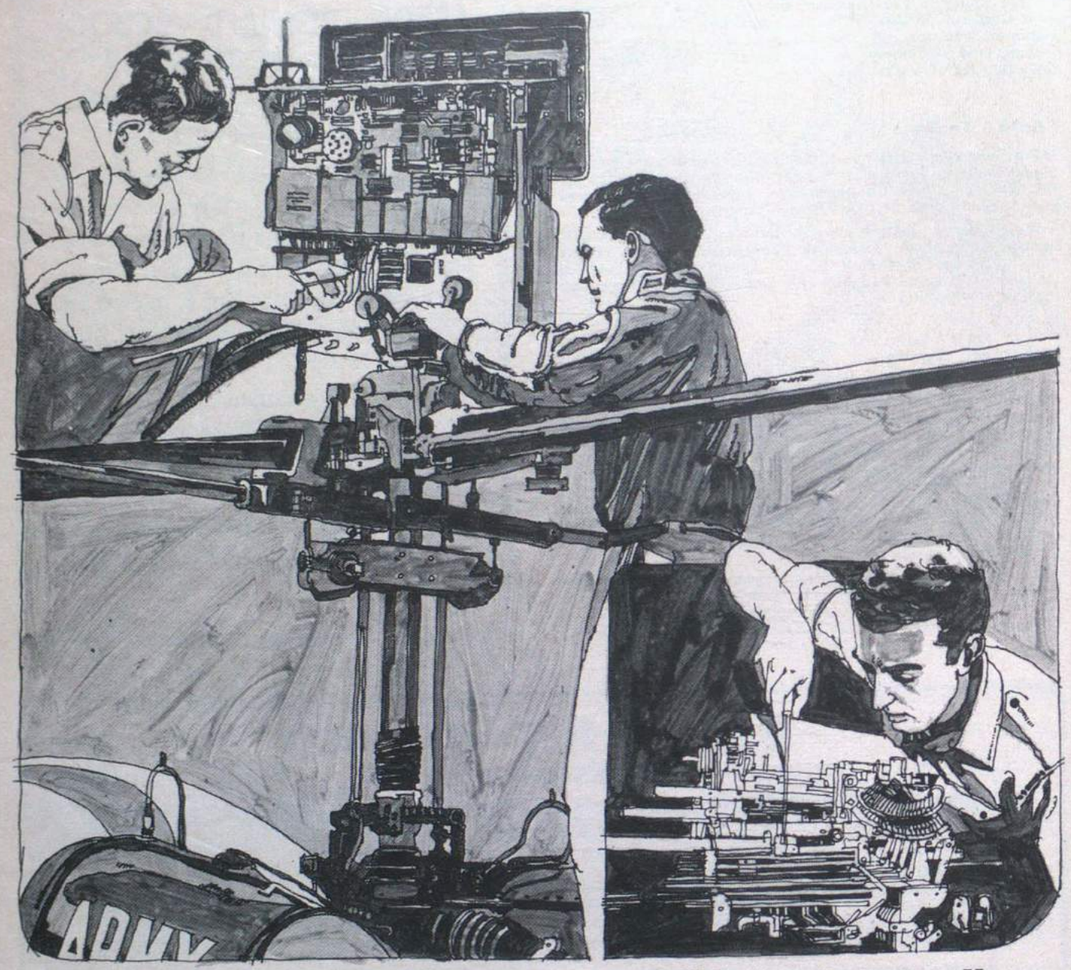

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3 Div HQ and Sig Regt Bulford

Birth of the MLH

THE Beacon Officers' Mess has closed down for a year while the buildings are being modernised. In the meantime a temporary Divisional Mess has been set up in the former Mess Annex in Carter Barracks with Regimental Officers housed in the Corporals' bunks. During a recent Mess meeting in the old Beacon Mess, an eminent officer of the Division compared the splendour of Beacon Mess with its temporary stand-in, "the miserable little hut!" It looks like sticking, of course, and our temporary Officers' Mess is now being called the MLH. In fact due to great efforts on the part of the Second-in-Command of the Regiment, **Major John Brian,** the Mess Manager, **Commander Alan Franklin,** the Mess Steward, **Mr. Ron Dew,** and the rest of the Mess staff, the new Mess has turned out to be far better than expected. There is a very warm and friendly atmosphere throughout the main building, and the bar resembles the small cocktail lounge which used to be very popular some years ago. One problem did occur due to a small error in the positioning of the beer taps. The flap which used to close the bar off at night would only open six inches and we all expected to have our drinks passed through the gap, so eliminating the need for the barmen to do more than press the cuffs of their shirts. Then when the flap was opened fully it could not be closed and we were expecting the bar to stay open 24 hours a day. They have now unforunately solved the problem and normal drinking time continues.

PRE

Everyone has been very busy this month preparing for the PRE which starts early in February. In the careful cleaning of the vehicles **Sergeant Tim Ameghino** of Alpha 2 Troop found a threepenny piece which must be worth all of two pence. The vehicles are looking so clean it seems a pity to have to take them out on exercise in those typically muddy locations in which we seem to put ourselves. **Signalman 'Ginge' Jenkins** had done a very good job on his vehicle and had it ready well before time.

There was not even a splash of mud on the underseal and the paintwork was perfect. However he had forgotten that he was one of the crews doing the communications for the South West District and 3rd Division cross-country. The mud around the course was over a foot deep in places and he came back rather disheartened although the result cheered him up.

Officers' Training Day/Sergeant Majors' Day

On 25th January the Regiment had an Officers' Training Day under the supervision of our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Briggs.** A lecture on the new accounting system was given by the QM (Tech) **Major Terry Canham** who succeeded in the words of the Colonel "in giving a lively and interesting lecture on a difficult subject." The lecture cleared up all the misconceptions about the system and served as a basic lesson for some of the younger officers.

This was followed by a talk by **Major John Brian** on the procurement executive which he has recently left, and our Padre, **S.C.F. Ken Williams, R.A., Ch.D.,** gave an interesting talk about Christian aspects of man management.

Meanwhile the RSM, **W.O.1 Reg Judge,** was getting stuck into the task of running the Regiment during 'Sergeant Majors' Day.' This proved an ideal time to do range classification, weapon handling and NBC training.

HQ Squadron's Sergeant Major, **W.O.2 Danny Burke,** Queens, ran the SLR classification on the ranges, while 2 Squadron's Sergeant Major, **W.O.2 Jim McElvogue,** handled the SMG classification and basic weapon training. NBC tests and instruction were carried out by a choking **W.O.2 Brian Hill,** who is 1 Squadron's Sergeant Major.

Overall, a large amount of useful instruction was carried out and the day was a great success.

Sergeants' Mess

The year began with a New Year's Eve dance in the Sergeants' Mess, which had been extremely well organised by **W.O.2 Alan Aitkin.** Everyone had a good time including **W.O.2 Jim McElvogue** who had brought his father along to the Mess. **Mr. McElvogue** senior is an ex-RSM in the East Yorks Regiment and he found Mess life here well up to the standard he had been used to in his day.

The darts team have had their ups and downs this month. The team is run by **Sergeant Pete Cain** of 'Alpha' Troop who has been keeping the team well on form in all their matches. They are fighting for top placing in the Three Chevrons League, which is made up of all the 3rd Division Sergeants' Messes. Also they are in the final of the Three Chevrons Cup which will be played on 28th February against 27 Regiment RCT who are current league leaders.

A new football team has been formed and they have played two games this month, winning one and losing the second. They beat 65 Squadron RCT 3-1 thanks to tremendous skill shown by **Staff Sergeant 'Taff' Buxton** who headed in a magnificent goal. The team then lost 3-2 to 26 Field Squadron RCT despite good goals by **Sergeant Pete Cain** and **Sergeant Dave Gladwin,** RE.

If anyone visiting the Regiment has thought our RSM **W.O.1 Reg Judge** was looking rather fiercer than normal or his eyes were somewhat grey, the reason has been his New Year's resolution to give up smoking. He has been doing very well so far, despite Sergeant Majors' Day, and we wish him the best of luck.

Sport — cross-country

For the last four weeks the cross-country team has been training very hard, under the direction of **Lieutenant Mike Podmore.** In fact the training was so hard that **Corporal Brian Warren and Signalman Dudley Horler,** two of our best runners, sustained injuries and were unable to take part in the Divisional Championships. The old faithfuls of the team, **Sergeant Brian Boucher, Lance-Corporal Terry Lofthouse** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Wandless,** provided the experience, whilst some new team members, **Corporal 'Paddy' Doyle** and **Private Michael Livingstone** of the D & E Platoon and **Lance-Corporal Paul Winter** of the QM's department, gave us the hope of a good team result.

On the day of the championships, a really fine run by **Signalman Phil Harland** of 'Alpha' Troop who came in 14th out of a field of 200 and **Signalman Patrick Daly** of 'Echo' Troop, started us off well and our team were all in before the 70s appeared. Our results in each group, Divisional, District,

THE REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Back: Lance-Corporal Lofthouse, Private Livingstone R.P.C., Signalman Munroe, Signalman Horler, Corporal Doyle

Middle: Sergeant Boucher, Captain A. L. Steane, Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs, Lieutenant M. Podmore, Signalman Harland

Front: Signalman Wandless, Fusilier Harlow

and Group IV, in each of which we came second, earned us the right to go forward to the Army Championships.

As usual, 'Alpha' Troop provided the communications and **Captain Leslie Steane** as officer i/c cross-country and officer i/c communications gradually became more apprehensive, as the start time grew nearer. This apprehension grew more intense when a Scammell drove through the PA cables connecting **Corporal Chas Mitchell's** vehicle to the gymnasium. However, everything was repaired in time and a really good commentary by **Captain Keith Rowbory,** Royal Signals, **Lieutenant Martin Stone,** Royal Signals, and **Second-Lieutenant Peter Parfitt,** Royal Signals, who were stationed at various points around the course, kept the many spectators and officials entertainingly informed as to the progress of the race.

Badminton

Two members of the Regiment took part in the Corps Badminton Championship held at Blandford between 23rd and 27th January. **Corporal Ivor Williams** and **Signalman 'Brummy' Kiefert** both from 1 Squadron played in the singles and teamed up in the doubles matches. Although they were knocked out early on, they both enjoyed themselves. **Corporal Williams** lost to the eventual champion and **Signalman Kiefert** was beaten by the winner of the Plate Competition. Better luck next time lads.

Rugby

The Regimental team being run by **Captain Ray Etheridge** is still doing well this season, holding tight to its place in the South West District Cup. Due to absences, several players found themselves in completely different positions from normal and the first few minutes of the game against the Support Weapons Wing of the School of Infantry looked rather funny. The team quickly pulled itself together and went on to win 15-6. An amusing try was scored by **Lance-Corporal Steve Bailes** who had his shorts completely ripped off whilst racing through the Support Weapons Wing's defence. As there were no spare shorts available on the pitch, it took ten minutes before **Steve's** face could return to its normal colour.

Signalman Harry Elkan in his army rugby colours

Signalman Harry Elkan, the best hooker the team has had for several years, is regrettably being posted out of the Regiment soon. He has been a very reliable and useful member of the team and will be greatly missed.

Many congratulations to him on being selected for an England Under-23 trial at the end of January.

Hockey

Our hockey team has also had a good run of success over the last month, getting into the 3rd round of the Army Cup.

In the game against 22 Regiment Royal Engineers two extremely good goals were scored by **Sergeant Keith Purkiss** and **Sergeant Tony Tai** and the team went on to win 5-0.

The School of Signals are to be played in February in the next round of the South West District Cup.

The late Mrs. Jean Hayes

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jean, wife of Captain George Hayes. Jean died on 9th January unexpectedly after a short illness while travelling between Tidworth and Millbank Hospitals. She had been a tremendous strength in the Regiment, contributed widely to many aspects of Garrison life and was a main pillar of our community. She will be sorely missed by her young family. The condolences of the Regiment and of the many members of the Corps who knew him well are expressed to Captain George Hayes and his family.

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4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

Introduction

THIS month we bring you a special feature on 1 (Comcen) Squadron. We thought of making a 'Super Cheap Offer' as well, in the best glossy-magazine manner; but we've decided to keep that Combat Signalman after all, as we are a bit short of them just now.

Spotlight on 1 Squadron — personalities

OC	**Major J. L. Golding**
Squadron HQ	**Lieutenant E. H. Sambell** **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) T. Stogdale**
C1 Troop	**Captain P. J. Bonser** **Lieutenant P. Williams**
C2 Troop	**Captain J. C. B. Simpson** **Lieutenant M. S. Reid**

Squadron motto: 'Where have all the young men gone?'

Since the last contribution to the WIRE the Squadron has undergone a big turnover with many new faces arrived, and old ones departed. We have said farewell to **W.O.1 (Foreman) Keith Johnson** who moves across to the corridors of power in RHQ; **Staff Se geant (Foreman) Bill McNally** to 3 Squadron and **Captain John Messer-Bennetts** to Buckingham Palace and the delights of London town (but we hope to see him again one day!). New faces to the Squadron include **Staff Sergeant (Foreman) Brian Livesey, B.E.M.,** and **Captain Peter Bonser.**

Lieutenant Peter Williams decided that it was all just too much, took to his skis and headed for Winterberg where the Training Major confidently expects it to snow pretty soon; **Sergeant-Major Tom Stogdale** has decided to get his teeth into a Church House course at Wuppertal and rumour has it that 'Songs of Praise' is to be included on all vehicle loading lists in the future.

Those of the Squadron remaining have been spending their time getting ready for the coming exercise season and in preparing for the Bruin convention held by the Squadron at the end of the month. Representatives of the Brigade Signal Squadrons were invited along to a 'get together.' The day, organised by **Lieutenant Eric Sambell,** consisted of presentations by members of the Regiment and 7 Signal Regiment on aspects of Bruin communications in the morning, and in the afternoon a layout of equipment and an 'open forum.' The latter proved to be an extremely lively and constructive debate and provided the Brigades with an opportunity to get their own back at the chaps on the other end. It was a great success and we are grateful to 20 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron for providing some of their equipment and to all who came along and took part.

There were a few promotions during the last month or so, and congratulations go to **Corporal Fred Dey,** and to **Lance-Corporals Paul Rayson, John Lewis** and **'Big' John Ward.**

Ski-ing—but where was the snow?

For the period 14th - 20th January 15 members of the Squadron went to the Regimental ski hut near Winterberg for Exercise 'Snow Queen.' The absence of snow nearly had the week voted the non-event of the year, but an alternative programme, of hillwalking (led by **Corporal Colin Ramsay** and **Lance-Corporal Arthur Hedgley**) and dry ski-slope ski-ing, was quickly arranged. Two days of ski-ing on real snow were managed and **Corporal Tony Craddock** found that ski-ing on wet snow had more problems than ski-ing on a dry slope. We were all a little annoyed to learn that at the end of the week there was snow back in Herford!

Signalman Alan Maxwell was surprised to learn that ski-ing is easier when the curved end of the skis point downhill and **Lance-Corporal John Lewis** decided that it was more relaxed when his eyes were kept firmly closed.

Star of the course was undoubtedly **Corporal 'Binhead' Coltman.**

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

Prelude to writing 'Wire' notes

MONDAY morning began quietly. Then, having been in the office for four blissful minutes, the telephone rang.

'Wire Notes,' the man said in a flat voice, calculated to steam-roller any attempt at evasion, 'must be ready by Friday.'

A cigarette was lit and the office diary consulted. Four days containing a requirement for preparation for Exercise 'Winter Sales', preparation for a visit by the Chief of Staff 1 (BR) Corps; three basketball matches to be arranged and played; 12 small-bore match cards to be fired; trials report to be written; etc. And now THE WIRE notes. And hence the appearance of that syndrome, well-known to all those whose duty it is to shepherd these gems to Cheltenham Terrace — blind panic.

Cigarette stubbed out and another one lit while the month's events run, like a Mack Sennet movie, across the mind. Exercise 'Fransystem,' Exercise 'Crows Nest,' Staff Signals Study Day and already the ideas were forming. But facts were needed—the real 'nitty-gritty.' And so, a pilgrimage to that 'Fount of all knowledge,' the Adjutant. The Adjutant was located behind a barrier of 'In' trays filled four feet high — it's rumoured that he is excused circuit training because he has to jump over them so many times a day. The Adjutant smiled, wanly, and claimed that he was not really the 'Fount of all knowledge.' I should see the Second-in-Command. The Second-in-Command was in the air-hall (gymnasium?) doing his circuit training. Between jump-heave-splits he assured me that, even if he was the 'Fount of all knowledge,' the Operations Officer was so much better at telling things than he was. The Operations Officer appeared bemused. Dressed a track-suit, he was busily trying to find the winder on a wrist-compass while snarling, "If Zulu time was good enough at Rorke's Drift, why isn't it for 'Winter Sales'!" If you have ever heard an Operations Officer snarl whilst winding a wrist-compass, then you will relise that there was no help to be found there. In desperation, I seized the Technical Adjutant by his skipping rope and threatened to scuff his new white gym shoes if he did not supply me with the material I required. Two large tears rolled slowly down his face as he promised to give me something by 2300 hours on Thursday night.

So, grasping reality firmly by the hand, I stepped back through the looking-glass. With a sigh, I entered 'Write WIRE notes' in my diary, against 2305 hours on Thursday's page, and airily skipped my way over to the air-hall for circuit training.

Staff/Signals Study Day

On 25th January, as part of a Staff/Signals Study Day, the Regiment gave a presentation to 58 staff officers of 1 (BR) Corps including the CRAC, **Brigadier M. H. Sinnatt,** the CCRA **Brigadier J. S. Badley,** the CCR Signals, **Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane,** the DDEME, **Brigadier J. R. Probert,** and the DDOS, **Brigadier J. C. Moore, M.B.E.** Simultaneously we were holding a regimental exercise, 'Crows Nest,' just to keep our eye in for 'Winter Sales.'

As with most presentations, the preparation seemed more dramatic than the live performance. The all-Germany search for a second rear-projection screen was finally ended by our Adjutant, **Captain John Munnery,** after several hours fast driving. However, the key phrase that 'cracked' the problem was that of **Major Neil Walter,** our Operations Officer, who asked for "Ein grosse spielfilmingermitlichtvonderruchwartssoallesistolar?"

Comcen Alpha deployed to a local hilltop where the visitors were taken to be shown all facets of the Comcen: RR, Auto and Manual Exchanges, telegraphy equipment and the redesigned Technical Control and Comcen Command vehicles. These electronic wonders, based on the DOAE concept, were planned in the Regiment and built at DOAE by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Noden** with some assistance from DOAE and an equipping team.

Comhead Papa was released from rugby training by their Squadron OC (and Regimental Rugby Officer) **Major John Billingham.** Thus they were able to show the new staff the headquarters vehicles that they will work in the facilities provided. Never has so much interior shine been concealed by so much exterior camouflage!

Captain George Mileham, M.B.E., and his trusty 'S' Mess staff put the visitors in the best of moods for these afternoon visits with a hot punch and an equally hot non-NATO standard curry.

Before they left us the visitors were kind enough to say how much they had enjoyed themselves and, particularly, how impressed they had been by the morning's presentation.

Hockey — 4th Division League

After a run of 16 matches, all of which we won, with a total of 73 goals for and 11 against, the Regimental hockey team suffered its first setback on Wednesday, 31st January, when it lost to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards by two goals to one in an away match.

This game was one of six we have to play in the Northern Section of the 4th Division League. The top two teams of this section qualify for the semi-finals of the Division Cup, so we must now win our final match to be sure of a place!

Ably managed by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Loveday,** our goalkeeper, and captained by **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Hurn,** the team has one player, **Lance-Corporal 'Tilly' Tillman,** who has been selected for this season's BAOR Army Hockey side. Also our leading goal scorer, **Signalman 'Woody' Woodall,** with 58 to his credit so far, seems to be aiming for treble figures this season.

After all our home matches our opponents were entertained in the hockey club room, where an after-match pint is served by **Sergeant Charlie Wickham,** who is otherwise to be seen in a bright coloured cap, moustache bristling, 'sweeping up' in defence.

Due to the limited size of the league, we keep our hand in by playing friendly matches that keep the team in trim and, despite our setback, have great hope for both the Division and BAOR Cup Competitions!

Visit of the Chief of Staff 1 (BR) Corps

On Thursday, 1st February, the Regiment was visited by **Brigadier W. D. Mangham,** the Chief of Staff 1 (BR) Corps. During this visit he was given an insight into many facets of the Regiment's work and visited the electronic workshops, LAD and Corps Lighting Troop. Also, he took great interest in the VHF rebroadcast complex and C50 and C70 detachments that were presented for his inspection.

VISIT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF 1 (BR) CORPS TO 7th SIGNAL REGIMENT—1 FEBRUARY 1973

Left to right: Captain I. McL. Chapman, R.E.—O.C. Corps Lighting Troop; Major J. G. Billingham, R. Signals—O.C. 5. Squadron; Brigadier W. D. Mangham; the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King

Concluding his visit with drinks in the Sergeants' Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess, he was able to meet and talk in barracks to the many people in the Regiment with whom he will be working in the field. **Brigadier Mangham** showed a keen appreciation of all factors affecting the Regiment's role. He also saw the colour film of the presentation of the Freedom of Herford to the Regiment—one of the first outside of our 'family' to do so.

We hope that he enjoyed his visit as much as we enjoyed hosting him.

Stop press

By beating 49 Field Regiment, RA, by 20 points to 3, we are now BAOR rugby champions. Full report next issue.

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Camp

Rugby 1972/73

THE Regiment fields two XVs each week, opponents being both Service and civilian clubs and colleges. To date (31st January) results are:

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA
1st ...	19	15	—	4	459	257
2nd ...	19	15	1	3	445	183

The 2nd XV lost their first two matches and, apart from losing(?) to the 1st XV in the Christmas match, now reign supreme. (The skipper, **Staff Sergeant 'Woody' Woodhouse,** still maintains that the 1st won with a blatantly off-side and a blind ref!).

Four of the 1st XV have played for the Corps this season, **Lieutenant Ian Wilson, Sergeant 'Trev' Johnson, Corporal Jim Slade** and, the find of the season, **Signalman Tommy Aitken. Signalman Dave Tennick** was a trialist and **Sergeant Ray Marshall** (recently arrived from Hong Kong) is to attend the next trial. The 1st XV skipper, **Captain Chris Melhuish,** has been out of both Corps and Regimental teams for some ten weeks; he decided to lead with his chin and came off second best. Still, it was a great tackle **Chris;** pity the whistle had already gone! Fortunately he is back in form and the team playing much better for it. **W.O.2 Bob Charles** continues to astound the youngsters by turning out at prop each week, mostly in the 1st XV! **Aitken's** 'terrible twin' **Signalman Jonah Jones** continues to shine at wing forward.

We departed the Army Cup in the 3rd round being overwhelmed by the current champions of 1 DWR. We play the semi-final of the NE District (formerly Northern Command) Cup versus 2 RRF in early February. Last season AAC Harrogate prevented our further progress in both competitions; this season we returned the compliment — thanks for two well contested games Harrogate.

The clubhouse and after-match hospitality is the envy of our visiting sides, thanks to the hard work of **Sergeant Tom Noonan,** our genial host. A special thanks also to a hockey player **(W.O.2 (Y. of S.) O'Mahoney)** and the members of Schemes Troop who clear away the havoc each week. We hope to enlist the aid of our QM (Gen) **(Major Stan Pavey)** and his DOE contacts during the close season to overhaul the club and install showers.

As well as two XVs the Regiment often provide players for visiting teams arriving short and several players guest for 11 Signal Regiment for their Saturday fixtures. Such is the interest and support for the game in the Regiment it is intended to field a third XV starting in February.

If you are coming to the Regiment, either Cadre or on courses, there is plenty of opportunity for you to play rugby. All you have to do is ask!

Hoods in the woods

The West End of Catterick resounded yet again with ohs and ahs, boos and bahs and peels of laughter as BFS Productions put on their Christmas pantomime 'Hoods in the Wood.'

With only five of last year's team left **Major Bernard Strange, Captains Gordon Davies** and **John Bingham, Sergeants Pete Franks** and **Jim Lennon** and a much more ambitious show

Scene from "Hoods in the Woods"

to produce the task was pretty daunting. But as usual the cast and back stage team came through. It was the best yet. **Captain Frank Smith** teamed up with **Sergeant Jim Lennon** as the bad robbers were hilarious. **Lieutenant Maggie Gibb** and **Mrs. Lilly Burgess** were the cute babes. **Captain Gordon Davies** and **Lieutenant Wendy Hall** played Robin and Marion. **Captain 'Stripper' Tony Hutt** the dame. **Lieutenant John Thewlis** the bad sheriff and **Signalman H. Morris** the squire were a polished pair. **Mrs. Sandra Haywood** added the professional touch as Molly, **Signalman Fleming** was a great big twit. **Staff Sergeant Lumley** was an almost human dog, **Pippa Mole** a pretty fairy. Will Scarlet was **W.O.2 Green,** Friar Tuck, **Sergeant Holmes,** the town criers **Signalmen James** and **Burgess.** The chorus was a mixture of hairies from 2 Squadron and gorgeous comcen ops from CC Op 17 of 5 Squadron. Last but not least the back stage organisation essentially from 2 Squadron admirably led by **Lieutenant Peter Durrant, Staff Sergeant Carr** and **Sergeant Rogers.**

(Scribes note. There is no truth in the rumour that as a result of this production the following are having their PV status reviewed, **Captain Frank Smith, Captain Tony Hutt,** handbags and all . . .).

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

Farewell to Terry Moynan

ON Friday, 26th January, **Major Terry Moynan** finally 'stood down' after 29 years' service with Royal Signals. He has been with the Regiment for just over a year as the OC 3 Squadron, Aldershot. We understand that he is now enjoying a long and well-earned rest, before tasting 'real' work in civilian life. We all wish him and his family the very best of luck in the future, and say "Thank you OC 3 (retd) for all your hard work, both with us and the Corps."

Change of command

The 18th January saw two Squadrons with a change of command. **Major Greg Grist** moved from OC 4 Squadron, Wilton, to OC 3 Squadron, Aldershot. Although only OC 4 Squadron for a matter of months, he made his presence felt with both the Squadron and the staff and will be sadly missed. In his place **Major Dick Carroll** moved from HQ 1 Signal Group across the road in Old Sarum, to command 4 Squadron, Wilton. We wish them both every success in their new appointments.

Deputy C-in-C visits

Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Taylor, K.C.B., M.C., Deputy C-in-C UKLF, visited 4 Squadron on Friday, 26th January, as part of his introductory 'Walk around HQ UKLF.' Having been briefed by the OC on the role of the Squadron, the General spent some considerable time talking to every member of the administrative staff and the MT section. The final stop was at the Comcen, where he was given a comprehensive rundown on its 'Inner Secrets' by the superintending Yeoman of Signals **W.O.2 John Morrison,** with Yeoman of Signals **Staff Sergeant David Pentland** nodding intelligently at the appropriate moments.

It was clear throughout the visit that he appreciated fully the work done by the Squadron. He was particularly pleased to meet members of the WRAC, no doubt influenced by his previous dealings with 3 Squadron from his last appointment as GOC South East District.

11 Sig Regt Catterick Camp

Soccer

THE Regimental team is enjoying a very successful season, being unbeaten in the league, and reaching the Northern Area Minor Units cup final. The final was played against the Kings Division Depot, at Harrogate, and a very fast and exciting game ended with the Regiment going down four goals to two.

We are unfortunate in losing **Corporal Jimmy Jardine** to civilian life, as he has been a tower of strength in the defence. Team spirit, however, is very high and the team are playing some very attractive football. Notable victories have been over 38 Regiment, RE (twice), and a 5-1 win over 1st Battalion Duke of Wellingtons. Both of these sides are major units, and as 11 Signal Regiment are restricted to using only Cadre we are classed as a minor unit.

It would be unfair to name personalities, but we must be unusual in the amount of senior ranks who play. **Captain Mike Galloway,** our Adjutant is the right back, **Sergeant Major 'Mac' McKenzie** is having one final season, **Sergeants John Bonnett, John Moore, Steve Pedley** and **Gordon Harper** all turn out regularly. **Sergeant John Moore's** claim to fame is that he can remember when they used tapes instead of crossbars.

I think it is fair to say that this is the most successful football team 1 1Signal Regiment has ever had, so if you fancy a posting to the home of the Royal Signals, and are a soccer player of some class, we will be pleased to see you.

REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON

1 Squadron enjoyed a relatively quiet January, due mainly to the effects of Christmas on recruiting. Despite this, however, two more troops of recruits completed basic training and have been launched into Royal Signals careers.

Best recruit for 4 Troop was **Signalman Stanley.** The pass-off parade was inspected by **Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,** who commands 11 Signal Group (V). The Troop was commanded by **Lieutenant W. E. Brewin.**

Also off and away was 6 Troop commanded by **Lieutenant R. J. Lloyd-Jones.** The parade was taken by **Major-General C. W. B. Purdon, C.B.E., M.C.,** the General Officer commanding North West District. The best recruit was **Signalman Groves.**

MAJOR-GENERAL PURDON INSPECTS

Left to right: Signalmen Cooper, Middleton, Plotkin, and Chambers. Troop Officer, Lieutenant Lloyd-Jones

January ended an era which will strike a chord in the memories of several thousand ex-recruits! **W.O.2 C. G. Harding,** the Squadron Sergeant Major has moved to new hunting grounds namely the ACIO at Omagh, Northern Ireland as a recruiter. After a long and successful tour he departed still smiling with no apparant ulcer. If nothing else, this also proves his success. Possession of the pace stick now passes to **W.O.2 P. L. Gray, B.E.M.,** who shows all the signs of keeping up the good work.

What else? — Catterick actually isn't cold yet! That is news.

Ten men have gone south to take part in 'public duties.' All were recent recruits. When they emerge from the 'deep end' of a concentrated drill course and the following duties they should be ten good potential NCOs for some lucky unit — after trade training, of course.

JUNIOR SIGNALMAN SQUADRON ON THE AIR

With only four weeks of the spring term gone, the author finds himself somewhat at a loss for good stories and news.

We would like to welcome the new junior term and hope that during the coming year they give us plenty to write about.

Cave rescue

3 Troop, whilst out pot holing, became involved in a rescue at the nearby Alum Pot where an exhausted man was trapped. They provided communications and hot tea for the cave rescue organisation and had the satisfaction of seeing the victim brought to the surface unharmed.

DURING THE RESCUE AT ALUM POT
Left to right: Junior Signalman Mervyn Hing, 'Noddy' Norris and Mike Elliot

Hockey

The team have started this term well with two good wins over Preston and one narrow defeat by Strensall. **Lance-Corporal Jim Butt,** the captain, and goalkeeper, has had an Army under-23 trial and we hope will one day be a main stay of the Corps team.

Hobbies

A usually reliable source informs us that the first train may run in the model railway club before we move to Harrogate in September.

Welcome to

Lieutenant Graham Elliott, from 1 Gloucesters; **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle,** from 4 RTR; **Sergeant Tom Sharp,** from HQ 7 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron.

13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

RATHER a late greeting, but these are our January WIRE notes: **"A very happy, successful and prosperous New Year" to all our readers.**

We had hoped for a calm period after the Christmas rush, but this was not to be. January is the final 'month of preparation' for our FFR in February. All in all a rather daunting period when trying to think of ways and means of improving on a very good report last year.

PRE-FFR

Our barracks looks super, set as it is in the rolling German agricultural countryside. The barren patches have been seeded or otherwise suitably camouflaged and our conservancy staff has hunted down the last errant leaf from the autumn cascade. The only desolate-looking area is the swimming pool. So far, all efforts at camouflage have produced — yes — a swimming pool.

Many of the staff and specialist inspections are already completed and our general form looks good.

The woods have been combed thoroughly and to date have offered up only a selection of fallen trees.

Our quarter guard look more like pouter pigeons as each day passes. Movement around the barracks is brisk because to linger is sure to bring forth an invitation to join the general camp improvement team.

One big problem has been the disposal of a large quantity of Fullers earth, the aftermath of a very comprehensive period of NBC training during the month.

Sports round-up

The hockey team is still doing extremely well. Only one game lost so far this season. Unfortunately it was the most important one to win—the semi-final of the Rhine Area stage of the Army Cup. Unexpectedly we were defeated by two goals to one by RAOC Wulfen. We now console ourselves with the thought that if these upsets occur in the FA Cup, what right have we to object? We are still top of the league and can now concentrate on winning that.

Our football team is showing a very much improved form of late. New arrivals have put heart into the rest. There is a new spirit and will to win which will surprise many of our better-known opponents when we next meet.

Basketball is coming on well. We were delighted to beat our old rivals—16th Regiment at Krefeld. Big **Lieutenant Noble** seems to have brought the basket down to the right level at last.

Our first Mirror Dinghy kit is really taking shape. The pieces are rapidly disappearing as is the floor space in the carpenter's shop. The hull is shaped and the decking seems to fit the hull form without too much drastic hammering and wedging. In early March the remaining three kits will arrive and the carpenter will no doubt have to be sent on leave for a while.

Exercise 'Snow Slide,' our ski-ing courses at Bayrischzell, are fully booked from January through March. For the past three years we have booked a friendly farmhouse way down south in Bavaria. Members of the Regiment are now treated as 'Winter family'—all six courses of ten per course. The ski slopes vary from very gentle beginners to frighteningly advanced enders. Although we have not produced a langlauf champion yet, we have produced quite a few basic soldiers skiers. Basic implying that they can achieve a normal three-point landing.

Welcome

A hearty welcome to **Mr. Bill Welsh** on joining our civilian cadre. He will be in NBC ensemble in no time at all. It is welcome as well to **Sergeant Cliff** and **Elizabeth Chapman** and family. We hope your stay in Birgelen will be a happy one.

Sergeants' Mess

The Sergeants' Mess started 1973 with hangovers after a riotous New Year's Eve dance; unfortunately our piper had a puncture on his way to the Mess and we are still not sure if it was tyre or bagpipes. Our music was provided by the Duggie Boxall Disco, who was a roaring success. The dance was well attended and everyone had a good time. Mess members were gradually returning to normal after the Christmas and New Year festivities when they were once more blasted out of their lethargy with a final fling dance to celebrate the outgoing entertainments committee tour of duty. Dancing this time was to 'The West Side Six' who were in top form as usual. Once more thick heads were in evidence the following morning but it was well worth it. **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) 'Geordie' Watson** takes over the duties of PEC from **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Norman Mortimer** and the outgoing committee wish him and his committee the best of luck.

Sport

Five members of the Mess regularly turn out to represent the Regiment in the Rhine Area Cross-country League. They are **W.O.2 John Goodall, B.E.M.,** Intelligence Corps, **Sergeant Jim Fowler, Sergeant Ray Austin,** A.C.C., **Sergeant John Wallace** and the old man of the team, **W.O.2 (Supvr. R.) Tom Neal.** The SNCOs of the team are eagerly awaiting **Tom Neal's** posting, then they can all hang up their running shoes and retire gracefully from the cross-country scene. There is no truth in the fact that four members had 6in. nails in their post boxes!

The Mess football team goes from strength to strength and the number of goals against gets less every time the team turns out; in fact the Mess team played a superb game against HQ Rhine Area whom they beat four goals to two and were narrowly beaten by Rheindahlen Garrison the previous week. The team are through to the semi-final of the Kensitas Cup when they will again meet Rheindahlen Garrison.

Our caterer, **Sergeant 'Mac' Cole,** Royal Anglian, is at present handing over his duties to **Staff Sergeant Cliff Chapman.** RPC, and when completed will depart to UKSU AFCENT.

We welcome **Sergeant Paul Friend** into the Mess on promotion.

14 Sig Regt Worcester

Off again to far away places

NO sooner were the Christmas festivities over than the Regiment was off once more to the far corner of the earth. As ever our exercises carry on regardless, but in addition we have the two home commitments of public duties in London and the Regimental recruiting and information team. The detachment on public duties have been sent off to Chelsea Barracks to be looked after for the time by **Major H. M. Bonnaker,** the Captain of the Guard. The other team is, however, still in the vicinity although we see little of them as they are tasked by **Major P. D. Parker,** Royal Signals, who is the SO2 at West Midland District. From my correspondents I have received two articles, one from the Regimental recruiting and information team and the other from **Staff Sergeant J. H. Goodman.**

Report from Regimental recruiting and information team by Staff Sergeant M. Jennings

The team was formed in September, 1972, to cover the whole of Wales and West Midland District. It finally became operational on 31st January, 1973, with its first visit to a Birmingham school; from then on, according to the programme, there are eight days in every week!

So as not to bore the reader I will not mention our trials and tribulations in the preparation phase, however, let it suffice to say that the missing months are the subject of a new black comedy being made by Hammer Films.

This first report will have to be short and sweet, however, future reports will contain a 'good food and entertainment guide' to Wales and the West Midlands. Don't miss it with our experts acting on the Corps behalf. We promise it will be interesting.

A final note before we set off into the horizon to thank those who have helped to make the team possible, and inform those who don't know, that the members are: **Staff Sergeant M. Jennings, Corporal B. J. Watson, Lance-Corporal J. McMillan** and **Signalman Mackay.**

Exercise 'Iambus' (Gibraltar)
Staff Sergeant J. H. Goodman reports:

'Come on Staff,' said **Major Simmons, B.E.M.,** OC 1 Squadron, just as I returned from leave, 'we are off to Gibraltar for an exercise recce.'

With the recce duly completed and problems of finding real estate large enough to accommodate a D13 station to erect two twin Vees with legs of approximately 600 feet having been worked out, OC 1 and Staff returned to Norton Barracks.

13th November, saw Det 2 of Alpha Troop busy preparing for the off, having put away best boots and suits from the previous days Remembrance Service at Worcester Cathedral, **Sergeants Finn** and **Diamond** beavered away ensuring all was ready for the Hercules flight out to commence Exercise 'Iambus' as it became named.

Commanded by **Lieutenant Thomas** we departed from RAF Lyneham on a cold bleak dawn to set foot in Gib some four hours later in warm sunshine. We were met by **Staff Sergeant Golding,** Royal Signals, attached to 1 RRF, our host unit for the four week stay. What a host unit they were, nothing was too much trouble and stories of the hospitality shown the seniors in Lathbury Barracks Sergeants' Mess will be told for many years to come!

Phase one of the exercise was to work into UK DCN and after initial frequency troubles we quickly settled down to produce lots of green on the comstate achieving a best day of 98 per cent. Then disaster. Mother nature stepped in with storm force winds and rain which caused much damage to our canvas and eventually broke both our 80 feet antenna masts. Flailing torn canvas picked up our remote lines and power cables and wove them into the largest knot imaginable!

By the time we were able to put the pieces together again, phase one was due to finish. So after suitable signals had been sent we turned the antennae round to face Cyprus, moved the cabins and prepared for phase two to RAF Cyprus and thought 'good-oh!' Not so. In came a signal, 're-activate phase one to UK.' So like all good communicators we grinned, said nought and moved everything back as it was orginally and communicated! To sum up, phase one was successful, phase two to Cyprus not so good. We won't bore you with reasons why, will QRM on 14 freqs do?

The Fortress Signal Officer, **Major D. J. D. McKail,** Royal Signals visited us and must have been impressed as not long afterwards the Deputy Fortress Commander, **Brigadier Thursby-Pelham** toured the site. He was very impressed with **Signalman Plews'** demonstration of a Kango hammer drilling into the Gib rock, so much so, he asked for a 'cabbie.'

Sergeant Russell kept his Comcen working hard, ably directing his operators **Corporal Kennan, Signalman Nightingale** and **Signalman Burns** all of 30 Signal Regiment. (Thanks lads). Busy as we were, we all found time to explore the Rock and one party were conducted into the bowels of the earth on a potholing job guided by a local sapper from the Fortess Squadron RE.

Corporal Phillips was photographed abseiling, all of us walked (clawed) our way up the infamous mediterranean steps and likened it to annual BE tests. Yet our Fusilier friends trotted the steps virtually every day! Great lads them Geordies. One joke told by their own RSM, during the day of the great gale: "Excuse me, sir, there's no one in Pioneer Platoon offices." "No lad," replied the RSM, "they're all doon the guardroom getting their hats nailed on!"

Much more could be written, of planes, Corporals' escapades, apes having a go at **Staff Goodman** and the trials of obtaining duty-free goods in Gibraltar. Would you believe cigarettes can only be bought duty free in minimum quantities of 1,000! Finally we arrived back at Norton just in time to commence Christmas festivities. What timing!

Regimental Sergeant Major departs

Final news is that **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. K. Roberts** is leaving the Regiment and the Army. We should like to wish him and his wife every success as civilians and welcome his successor **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. H. Wise.**

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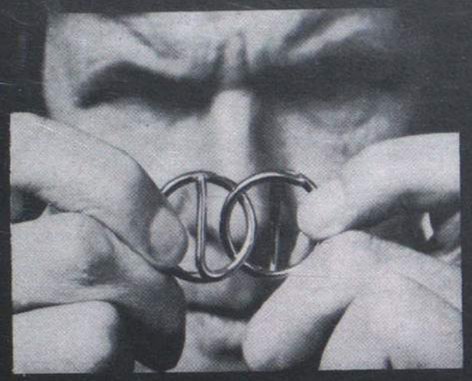

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16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

Exercise 'Cold Walk'

THE introduction of SO-in-C's policy directives has enabled military training within the Corps to be more 'deliberately planned and finely executed' — says our Training Warrant Officer **Yeoman Dave Wootten,** who throughout the past year, despite the numerous communication exercises and constant demands on Squadron manpower, has regularly taken his pound of flesh in the name of military training. Exercise 'Cold Walk' was no exception, apart from the fact that in addition to the normal pound of flesh, the Yeoman extracted a pint of blood also, as the whole Squadron underwent winter survival and initiative training by troops in the Eifel during the first three weeks of January.

The aim of the exercise was simply to give practical experience in the problems of survival in wooded, undulating, arduous terrain and at the same time assess individual leadership qualities, not easily assessed under normal barrack or communication exercise conditions.

Although Krefeld and its surrounding area is not an ideal place for adventure or initiative training, it is within easy reach of the weather-beaten pine-clad hillsides of the Eifel. Together with its picturesque appearance, the Eifel is a maze of natural hazards, therefore making it an ideal place for many adventurous activities, which were to be combined for all to take part in during our stay in the exercise area.

Centred on a small base camp administered by **S.Q.M.S. Jim Hehir,** a radius of some 20 kms had been cleared for our use, and was to include some of the most arduous wooded terrain imaginable. As all metallic roads were placed out of bounds by the exercise planning staff, routes for the most part were directly across country making the going very hard indeed for the four-man patrols as they made their way between the check points through a mixture of snow, sleet and freezing fog.

The exercise itself consisted of five stages, each providing a good test of individual stamina and leadership qualities. Phase one included the journey from Bradbury Barracks to the exercise area.

The two-hour journey in the warmth of transport to the de-busing point did well to lull one into a false sense of security, and as the remaining hours of daylight slipped away, night navigation across open countryside could not have been further from one's mind.

All was comparatively quiet as each group formed up ready to start their 5 kms. trek to base camp. One could not help laughing at a certain officer (who shall remain a nameless Second-Lieutenant of 3 Squadron) who peered up disapprovingly at the large weathered hill standing out in the twilight a mile ahead, earnestly making his last desperate attempt to convince the DS of his absolute indispensability back at the base camp.

Erecting the two-man bivouacs in complete darkness proved a most interesting lesson in tolerance and after a self-extended 5 kms march, most worked on the principle that provided you found the opening, once you were inside, the weight of two bodies would prevent it from blowing away in the night. Only the professional campers realised that pegging out the tent enables the water to run off and not seep through where the canvas touches your body.

Phase two started the following morning with PT at first light, specifically designed to work off the stiffness of a night in a two-man bivouac, followed by a hearty breakfast cooked by the catering staff of the base camp, namely **Corporal Dave (Blizzard) Snowdin, Signalman Tony (I can't-light-a-hydroburner) Murphy.** supervised by **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Jim (mine's-a-corn) Hehir.**

Stepping off in an un-uniformed manner groups soon began on their 15 kms cross-country march to the next high location.

Throughout the day each group settled down to its own pace. each forming the general pattern of the athletic type, striding on ahead setting the pace for the more energetical types, each of whom were of course trying hard to live up to his own individual barrack room boast of a record-breaking achievement on a hiking holiday across England during the summer leave.

The first day of any such exercise always seems the hardest and this was by no means an exception. For many of the Squadron this was their first-ever experience in real cross-country walking, carrying a 40lb pack, food and tentage, and few had wished it to be their last. The comparatively flat countryside that surrounded our camp was of no match for this area with its gradients of 1 in 7 or less.

Observing the groups as they approached a check point was very amusing; one could see the appointed map reader juggle around his map and listen to the inevitable battle of 'flannel' as each hid away his true feeling of tiredness beneath a hard-mustered smile, in the pretence of his eagerness to go on, at the same time resisting the temptation to lie down on the snow-covered pine logs. Each member of the group sincerely thinking he had outsmarted the others into thinking he was far the fitter, then speaking with such confidence that portrayed no indication of the enlisted help of the rest of his group, the map-reader assured one and all that, according to his calculations, the position was correct and that a few kms further on we should reach the objective, providing we remained on the intended course.

Phase two ended without producing any greater problem than that of one DS Sergeant running out of road with his Land Rover, two section leaders who subscribe to the theory that West is East of North, one who no longer believes that rivers flow up hills and last but by no means least, one very fine English gentleman who has seen the sun set in the East on numerous occasions. Nevertheless, all groups eventually made the night location where once again they erected their bivouacs in the warmth of a pine forest.

Phase three started early on day three. Following a good breakfast cooked by the groups themselves the night camp was abandoned for the next gruelling phase. By now most had found their second wind and the going did appear a lot easier than at first. In most groups the walking pace automatically quickened, being forced to a near run, as a few 'dark horses' pushed past the leaders into the middle of a hill. The objective for day three was to establish another night base camp some 20 kms away across much harder terrain than previously encountered, which after many moans and groans all succeeded in finally reaching.

Sergeants' Mess notes

The Mess football team continue to pursue the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess league title, having won every league game they have played, with the exception of one, and a photograph of our regular players is shown.

The Mess darts team are doing well in the top half of the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess league and should finish the season in a good position.

Mess improvements continue and the bar is taking on a distinctly nautical look; the Mess members who have helped with the improvements are too numerous to mention; however, our thanks go to them for giving up their spare time.

Finally, there is no strength in the rumour going around the Regiments in Rhine Area that **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Cliff Webb** has disguised himself prior to taking part in an exercise known as Spot the Foreman.

Back Row (left to right): Sergeant Mick Kent, Sergeant John Harper, Sergeant Pat Gallagher, Sergeant Nick Knight (Captain), Sergeant Nick Nixon, Sergeant Maurice Nelson, R.S.M. C. Meredith
Front Row (left to right): Sergeant Lee Le Carpentier, W.O.1 Jim Phillips, Sergeant Rick Gordon, Staff-Sergeant Harry McClure (A.P.T.C.), Staff-Sergeant Duncan Palmer (R.A.P.C.), Manager (not on photo Sergeant Eddie Newman (R.E.), Sergeant Mick Huggins)

Mess life continues to be lively even though Christmas is over, though members continue to talk about our excellent Christmas draw.

We recently had the Lord Mayor of Leicester visit the Mess on a social evening and both he and the Lady Mayoress of Leicester and the party of official guests who accompanied them, thoroughly enjoyed their stay with us.

Socially we are having a very busy time with one form of entertainment or another taking place most nights, what with Burns night complete with haggis and piper, carnival night, Valentine's dance, Regimental dinner night in our own Mess and a Regimental dinner night in the Officers' Mess, to which all the Warrant Officers were invited.

The Regimental dinner night in the Officers' Mess was an excellent affair, as was the fun that followed, and many yarns were told—some almost unbelievable!

The Regimental dinner night in our own Mess also afforded the Mess the opportunity to say 'Farewell' in a way to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) John Birkwood** on his commissioning.

A splendid dinner was enjoyed by all, followed by a lively games evening; however, at 23.45 hours, **Yeoman Birkwood** suddenly found himself imprisoned and tied onto a suitable 'throne' and 'court martialled' after which he was carried off to the 'other' Mess and deposited on the steps there.

Apparently at about 00.10 hours his pleas for help were heard by the officers who welcomed him into their Mess for a short while; however, he appeared later at the door of the Sergeants' Mess asking if he could sign the Visitors' Book, and after a short debate with some of the Senior Warrant Officers it was agreed that he would be our guest for the remainder of the 'evening.' We wish **Lieutenant J. W. Birkwood** every success in his new posting.

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

The Regiment's rugger enthusiasts pose before a trial match

THE principle event during the period covered by these notes has been the change of commanding officers, which is described in a separate paragraph (below).

However, Regimental work and sport have not slackened during the handover. The officers and warrant officers have been receiving some much needed education in a series of study days, covering such subjects as unit mobilisation, the political scene in Germany, the development of the EEC, the new physical fitness assessment test, man-management problems and a host of other subjects. The more junior ranks have been working!

Regimental sport is flourishing outside our acknowledged 'category one' sports of athletics, cross-country and orienteering. The squash team has only lost one match this season, the football team have reached the Rhine area final, the hockey team have won their first round Army Cup match and are undefeated since early November, whilst the rugger and basketball teams are winning as many matches as they lose. Full use is already being made of the talents of our new CO at squash and hockey — after all he did ask, "how can I get some exercise?"

Readers may be a little surprised to learn that athletics training is now in full swing. Every potential member of this year's team began his training for the big summer competitions in November — hard graft on weights under the eagle eye of **C.S.M.I. Woods** in the gymnasium! Each member is following a strict individual training programme which is aimed to produce maximum fitness on the day the Regiment defends its Army title at Aldershot. There are many new faces in the team this year for almost exactly half of the 1972 team have left on routine postings. This rebuilding programme is an enormous task, but we know from past experience that many of the newcomers will be producing performances in the spring which they had never dreamed of before they came to the Regiment.

Finally, the Army cross-country champions have made a sound start in the defence of their title. Individual placings of first, second, third fifth, seventh, eight, ninth and eleventh in the Rhine area championships ensured first place for the team and qualification for the BAOR championships on 13th February.

(Continued on page 129)

(Continued from page 128)

UNIQUE COLLECTION?

When will these trophies next be seen together? 21st Signal Regiment is determined to fight hard to retain them in 1973!

Army Athletics Team Championships Shield
BAOR Athletics Team Championship Cup
Army Cross Country Championship Cup*
BAOR Cross Country Championship Cup*
BAOR Orienteering Championship Cup

*Both retained—*Editor*

Departure of Colonel Phippard

"15 officers and 260 soldiers on parade, sir."

"Thank you RSM. It is now H-4. Carry on please."

"Sir."

A still, wintery afternoon at RAF Wildenrath was quickly jolted by the roar of motor cycle and APC engines and the barking of orders. The final phase of 21 Signal Regiment's plans for saying farewell to its commanding officer, **Colonel R. G. Phippard** was about to be effected.

With headlamps blazing, and in perfect formation, the escort and APC halted in front of RHQ — Lance guards came to attention, all roads were closed and final synchronisation was made with the Army Air Corps fly past aircraft.

"Time you left, sir."

A surprised **Colonel Phippard** was ushered into the APC, the procession swung into the main road and the Colonel saluted his Regiment for the last time as he was driven along a one kilometre street lined route. The aircraft above, at 80 knots and 'chimney pot' height dipped wings in salute, and enjoyed themselves so much that they turned and repeated the performance, to the delight of the families and other spectators.

So ended a spectacular tour in spectacular style. A tour which began shortly after the move from RAF Laarbruch, which saw the Regiment's responsibilities expand to the support of the Harrier Force and tropospheric scatter and which secured unique successes for the Regiment in the field of sport.

Earlier in the afternoon the Royal Air Force had extended a rare invitation to the Colonel — a harrier flight, in one of the few dual seater aircraft. The Colonel paled a little as **Wing Commander Philip Champniss,** commanding No. 20 Squadron, RAF, ran through the pre-flight emergency action briefing:

"In emergency I will call 'eject, eject, eject.' On the third 'eject' you are to lift the lever. Oh, and if I forget and you see me shoot out, don't hang around."

But all apprehension had gone when after a steep climb to 10,000 feet the Colonel took the controls and flew the aircraft round Venlo and Dusseldorf.

The Regiment wishes **Colonel Roy** and **Mrs. Gillian Phippard** an equally successful and happy tour at Blandford, and extends a warm welcome to **Lieutenant-Colonel Alastair** and **Mrs. Jill de Bretton-Gordon.**

Colonel Phippard is chaired out of the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess

FINAL DEPARTURE

The beginning of the 1 kilometre route

London Branch—Royal Signals Association

The chairman and members of the London branch will be pleased to see at their monthly meeting on 27th April any Association members who may be in London for the Branch Representatives meeting and for the Indian Signals annual dinner. The London branch meets at the Bruno Club of 10th Signal Regiment, Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow. The nearest underground station is Hounslow West, Piccadilly line. Beavers Lane camp is approximately ten minutes walk from Hounslow West station.

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Winter sports — and some good results

1973 started with a bang—or more aptly, with a whizz, with much of the Regiment s strength deployed on various ski slopes. The langlauf team after their gruelling training in Norway under **Captain Roland Ebdon** put up an excellent performance in the 4 Division Championship at Ischgl in Austria where they came 3rd in the Military Combination. **Lance-Corporal Bob Dudley** won the novice prize finishing his 10 km race on one ski, but carrying the other! They went on to perform very creditably in the BAOR meeting finishing 14th overall. Not bad for complete novices. **Signalman Gordon Simpson** was the 3rd fastest novice in the 15 km race and was awarded a pair of skis and bindings. It is reported that when the team reported back to the Regiment the local barbers were snowed(!) under. We hope to keep this team together and improve for next year. Well done. The first 'Snow Queen' party went off with **Lieutenant Andrew Gale** and **Sergeants Mumford** and **Whenman** at their head. Tremendous stories of parallel ski-ing in four days and financially broke in two nights have been flooding back to us.

Corps Commander's informal visit

Those who weren't able to escape to the snow joined forces in a genteel Regimental exercise followed by a quick visit from the Corps Commander, **General Sir Roland Gibb, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. (Gen.)**, who rather put the cat among the pigeons in his own HQ by asking for minimum formality and no escorting brass. We were able to reassure all concerned that everyone had a most enjoyable day. The Commander spent much time deep in conversation with the intrepid linemen of 1 Squadron.

'F' Troop on ice

'F' Troop put on an impromptu panto 'Foxtrot on Ice' (see photos) when the nearby Margaretensee froze over. The ice was not quite solid in places and the hilarity was dampened by the ensuing Winter Water Ballet!

Demonstrations and some shooting for good measure

The annual crusade to demonstrate our 'electronic miracles' (CO's phrase!) to the staff of HQ 1st British Corps resulted in the usual crop of inane questions: "Does it all go by landlines!" and "Can you get BBC 2 in colour?", etc., etc. All went well, however, and we can't wait for 'Winter Sales.' January finished as it started—with a bang when the crack shots of the Officers' Mess led by **Captain Doug Braid** (our tame REME Officer) and **Lieutenant Keith Dewis** had a resounding win on the 30-yard range against our old friends 7 Fernmeldebattalion and our new friends the Lippstadt police. It is rumoured that there are still a few policemen in the Mess attic enjoying the party which brought the day and the month to a close.

CHEERFUL INTRODUCTION
The C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel Iain Spear introduces his Adjutant, Captain Peter Dick, to the Corps Commander. W.O.I (R.S.M.) McGilivray looks on

HOLD IT!
Members of 'F' Troop performing on the ice.
Left to right: Signalman Gwynn, Corporal Armstrong, Lance-Corporal Daubney, Sergeant Garland, Lance-Corporal Aldous, Lance-Corporal Bennett, Signalman Wilson, Signalman Williams

. . . . and then it's boomps for Sergeant Garland (Troop Sergeant)

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2 SQUADRON ORIENTEERING TEAM — THEY BROUGHT THE CUP BACK
Left to right: Lance-Corporal Vince, Signalman Dodds, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Wilkinson, Captain Whitehead, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Longdon and Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Spearpoint

2 Squadron club

IN November, Garrison Junior Ranks club was closed down so that the second phase of the rebuild of Osborn Barracks could commence. This meant that the junior ranks and their families had nowhere to meet. The Squadron Commander, **Major Norman Muir,** made an instant decision; the Squadron would have its own Squadron club. Two rooms were acquired from within the Squadron ('J' Troop stores and a classroom). In four weeks the club became operative, mainly due to the efforts of **Sergeant Ron Crabtree,** who was director of operations, **W.O.2 Andy Souter,** without whose expertise we could never have even started, and his two B4 carpenters **Lance-Corporal Steve Coley** and **Lance-Corporal Hugh Brogan.** We were fortunate in having an A1 interior decorator in **Signalman 'Geordie' Allen** who made a first class job of the décor. The techs, **Sergeant Drew Robertson, Sergeants Ken Foskett** and **Corporal John sizeland** produced the lighting and discotheque. There were many more helpers of course and even more advisers — too many to mention! For those of you who wonder how we managed to finance the operation, the answer is that our wealthy friends across the water, 1 Squadron, kindly gave as a loan to get the project off the ground.

The Jay EN Kay Club (after 'J,' 'N,' 'K' Troop) was open for Christmas and has already started to justify its existence.

2 Squadron regain 51 Brigade orienteering trophy

One of the colony competitions which has always been keenly contested is the 51 Brigade orienteering trophy. The Squadron won the trophy in 1969 and 1970. This year the Squadron entered two teams in the main competition and one veterans team, **Captain Peter Metcalfe** trained all three teams by sending them up Lion Rock, on to Amah Rock and back. Readers who know Lion rock will understand that there are gentler ways of recovering from Christmas. 19th January was D day and the first team consisting of **Captain Peter Whitehead, Staff Sergeants Brian Longdon, Tom Wilkinson, Gavin Spearpoint, Lance-Corporal David Vince** and **Signalman Bob Dodds,** felt confident but knew the competition would be very keen. Fortunately, everything went well, luck was on our side and after an agonising period waiting for results it transpired that the Squadron had regained the trophy.

New Zealand

Four members of the Squadron left Hong Kong on 24th January, to spend six weeks in New Zealand with 'A' Company, The Black Watch. **Corporal Steve McAlpine, Corporal Alan Woodford, Corporal Al Finlayson** and **Signalman Dave Hancock** will no doubt have many stories to relate on their return. (The agreement was — you can go to New Zealand if you write an article for THE WIRE).

Presentation LS & GC

On Wednesday 10th January, commander 51 Infantry Brigade, **Brigadier P. F. A. Sibbald, O.B.E.,** visited the Squadron to present the long service and good conduct medal to **Sergeant Ken Foskett.** The officers and senior NCOs then adjourned to the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, **Sergeant Ken Foskett** doing the honours as is right and proper!

RQMS, past, present and future

On 6th January, **W.O.1 Ted Morrell,** an ex-Squadron RQMS dropped in to 2 Squadron whilst on leave from Kuala Lumpur to see the present RQMS, **W.O.2 Stan Neill** (who is leaving us shortly to emigrate to Australia), and the future RQMS, **W.O.2 Harry Ruff.** A photograph was taken with the two permanent residents of the RQMS stores **Mr. Tse Yuen** (11 years with Squadron) and **Mr. Au Ah Ming** (20 years with the Squadron).

GATHERING OF OLD FRIENDS
Left to right: W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Neill, Mr. Tse Yuen, W.O.1 Morrell, Mr. Au Ah Ming, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Ruff

Chinese new year

The Regimental Chinese new year party was held at the Good Dates restaurant in Kowloon, on 26th January. Over 160 British and Hong Kong soldiers attended a memorable party. (Can everybody remember!).

We will finish these notes by wishing everybody a very happy lunar new year. Kung Hei Fat Choy — as in the photo above.

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28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

THE seasonal festivities are now (thankfully!) well behind us. The rounds of Christmas and New Year parties (not to mention all those weddings) may perhaps have taken their toll in a few sore heads and tightened waist-bands, but on the whole the Regiment appears to have taken it all quite comfortably in its stride with little, if any, slackening of pace. So, with spirits fortified (so to speak) and minds refreshed, here we are stepping out confidently and in keen anticipation of 'things to come' in 1973.

Immediately ahead of us we face a busy spring exercise season and we all have plenty to do in preparation for it. Of all those whose minds and hands are so assiduously at work, a special mention is deserved by that 'behind the scenes' group of technicians in 'M' Troop, once again commanded by that intrepid TOT, **Captain Reg Davies.** (It should be explained that **Captain Davies** has been away from his beloved 'M' Troop for the last year doing a grand job as technical adjutant) — we wish him all the best on his return, but can't imagine what he's going to do with all that spare time! Incidentally, during his absence, 'M' Troop was very ably looked after by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Ernie Nugent** (of static water tank fame — WIRE notes, January). **Foreman Nugent** has just left us for civvy street and we wish him good fortune too.

Long-awaited TARE

Among the exciting prospects of 1973 is of course, our much talked about and long-awaited TARE. This device is going to replace our faithful old manual tape relay centre in the field and there is much to do in anticipation of its arrival. It was scheduled to be handed over to us at the end of January and we had prepared a comprehensive acceptance field trial for it. However, we were all disappointed to learn that we're now going to have to wait a little longer.

It seems that the manufacturers, Bendix, of USA, are unable to meet the original delivery schedule and we shall not receive it until April. Despite this setback, a group of Foremen, Technicians and Yeomen (segregated, of course) visited the manufacturer in Heidelberg for their first glimpse of the beast and to get the hang of all the OK phrases and computer jargon. The experience provoked a wide variety of responses from our erstwhile students ranging from bewildered silence to feverishly submitted applications for advanced ADP training courses.

A versified report of the course is omitted owing to pressure on space. — Editor.

The sporting life

It is, at the time of writing these notes, that part of the year when one's thoughts turn dreamily to the snow-laden slopes of the south. The crisp and invigorating mountain air, the smell of pines, the wind in one's face, the genial atmosphere of 'pres ski' parties and all that jazz. Normally at about this time the Regiment holds its regular winter adventure training exercise (Franski) and everybody is given the opportunity to strap on a pair of skis and taste the excitment of this exhiliarating sport.

This year, however, due to our many operational commitments, we have had to give it a miss. Nevertheless, some of our members have been able to take up the kind offers from 2 Division Signal Regiment and 21 Signal Regiment to join them on their 'Snow Queen' exercises. Here is **Sergeant Vic Towler's** short account of his enjoyable fortnight with 2 Division Signal Regiment.

Exercise 'Snow Queen'—a visit to the 2 Division Signal Regiment Ski Hut

Deep in darkest Bavaria you will find the hamlet of Haag situated mid-way between Pfronten and Kempton. It is here (as we learned to our cost), that the heavy falls of snow occur only in either November or February and it was early January that **Major Robin Ingram** and I arrived to sample the painful pleasures of the ski slopes.

Thanks to **Major Ingram's** excellent map reading we succeeded in finding the ski hut where we were warmly welcomed by **Second-Lieutenant Hugh Hancock** and **Sergeant 'Stew' Grieg** and were shown around our comfortable and well-appointed living accommodation. **Major Ingram** instantly felt at home as he was again among old acquaintances from 2 Division.

Ski-ing started at a fairly civilised hour the next morning under the expert direction of **Mr. David Alexander** (an ex-serving member of 2 Division who is now resident in Kempton). **Major Ingram,** the more experienced skier of us, very gallantly put up with and fortunately survived the efforts of the complete novice (that's me!). The ski slopes had a scant covering of icy snow which permitted successful ski-ing but did nothing to cushion the numerous falls of your truly and which accounts for the bruised flesh which can only be seen by those with whom I am intimately acquainted! Guess what happens to ones partner on a T-bar ski-lift when a novice suddenly parts company with the T-bar? (Honestly, these skis have a mind of their own!).

However, two weeks later, deeply bronzed (or was it bruised?) and completely bitten by the ski bug, the 'duffer' had to be literally dragged off the ski slopes to return home.

Besides ski-ing of course, there are many places of interest to visit in the area. Schloss Neuschwanstein for instance (the fairy tale castle where 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was filmed), the Zugspitze, travelling by cable car to the dizzy height of 3,000 metres where a breath-taking panorama of Austria and Bavaria awaits one.

We had a great time and through the Columns of 'The Wire' we would like to say thank you to 2 Division Signal Regiment for taking us into your midst and giving us such a memorable and exhilarating fortnight of low cost ski-ing.

Some people have all the luck!

Soccer

Having recently beaten 21 Signal Regiment in the Rhine Area cup final, we are now concentrating on the BAOR section of the Army cup in which we meet 25 Regiment, RE, in the semi-final. This promises to be a hard game for everybody except of course, our steadfast soccer officer **Captain Brian Green** who plans them all calmly one at a time.

PS — In case you missed the score of the Rhine Area cup final it was 11 goals to two.

Stop press

The Regiment beat 25 Engineer Regiment in the semi-final by 2-0.

Hockey

Although without perhaps, the same reputation of prowess as their soccer-playing colleagues, we must mention our courageous hockey team. Having been well and truly knocked out of the Rhine Area cup early in the season, we continue to doggedly battle on from our position at the bottom of the table in the area league competition. With each game the score against us diminishes so we must be getting better, mustn't we?

Final jottings

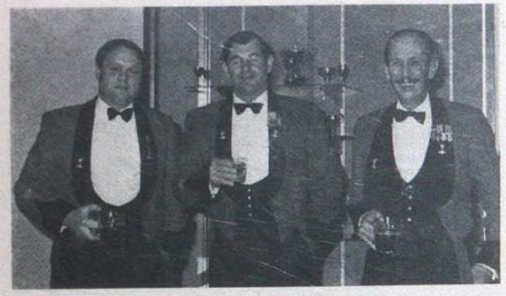
Many of our readers will no doubt remember **Captain Alan Pearce** who left us late last year for civilian life and has now settled down in Coventry. He has just finished his re-settlement managerial course at Catterick and we learn that he has been offered a post at the Firestone Tyre and Rubber Company in his own home town. We wish him the best of good fortune in his new job, which, as the Colonel was heard to remark, appears to be . . . 'a good re-tyring job.'

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

Farewell R.S.M. Henry Jennings — come in Lieutenant Henry Jennings

CHRISTMAS and the festive season are now well and truly past and with the start of the year we introduce a new Regimental Sergeant Major into the Regiment—**R.S.M. Mike McMahon.** We wish him and his family welcome to Blandford Camp and we hope that his tour of duty will be a happy one with the Regiment.

On 5th January the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess said farewell to **R.S.M. Henry Jennings** as he attended his last function prior to becoming **Lieutenant Henry Jennings** on Monday, 8th January. Our photograph shows the three Warrant Officers 1 of the Regiment (page 134).



FAREWELL FUNCTION

Left to right: W.O.I (Y. of S.) Ted Rawlins, R.S.M. Henry Jennings, W.O.I. (F. of S.) Dave Lanyon

Ski training

It's the cold time of the year again and once more the potential skiers of the Regiment, other than from AMF(L), have begun limbering up for our Regimental annual ski exercise in Scotland. This is the fourth time that we have carried out this winter training and appropriately the exercise is nicknamed 'Snowball IV." Once again we are using the White Lady Ski Slopes in the Cairngorms with the ski-ing personnel based at the Craig Lynne Hotel. The exercise will take place in three phases during the period 10th February to 14th April and during that time approximately 100 from the Regiment will have received ski training. The only problem encountered on this year's 'Snowball' ski-ing has been the positive dearth of available manpower due to the many commitments that the Regiment has on at the moment. Squadron Commanders have been known to lock their doors at the approach of our Regimental Ski-ing Officer, **Second-Lieutenant Leslie Poole,** when he is on the lookout for volunteers. However, the groups have all been arranged, and we are all now praying for the one ingredient that can make or break the exercise—snow!

An advance administrative party will be travelling up to Scotland on 9th February under the watchful eyes of **Staff Sergeant Terry Beare,** and the path of the main party should have been nicely smoothed out with the help of **Corporal Dave McMerlin** (ACC) who will be the resident chef, and **Signalmen 'Patches' Anderson** and **'Mac' McCarthy** the parties' chauffeurs. **Lance-Corporal Joe Whyley** (REME) will also be one of the permanent party to ensure that all our vehicles keep running.

Nobody was at all surprised that a veteran of 'Snowball III,' namely **Staff Sergeant Ken Griffiths,** declared himself not only available but looking forward to renewing his acquaintance with the ski slopes, the Hotel Manager, **Ronnie McNaughton,** and his barman **Alan.**

SQUADRON NOTES

This month we have notes from two of our Squadrons and these are below.

2 Squadron

"I want some WIRE notes from you," he said.

"When by?" I said.

"Yesterday as usual, keep 'em short and lay of Christmas activities, as that has been flogged to death elsewhere in our contribution," he said.

So here goes.

The Training Centre is enjoying a brief rest on its laurels, after the helter skelter of conversion, military continuation, upgrading refresher and NBC courses. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Ken Palmer** has seized the opportunity of getting in his resettlement course in London. The OC is toying with the thought that perhaps this should count towards his leave entitlement. Our intrepid Regimental photographer **Signalman Fred Light,** who also doubles as Squadron clerk, is taking a well-earned rest after his marathon efforts photographing the, not to be mentioned, Christmas activities, which meant of course that he had to attend all the parties.

Our SQMS, **Staff Sergeant Colin Nurse,** has once again volunteered for public duties, but this time he is actually performing. He no doubt welcomes the opportunity of taking out of cold storage his highly glossed boots and lightly oiled pace stick and handing over his store to **Sergeant Peter Stuart.** The latter is caretaking for a short while before he himself departs for his pilot training having recently passed his initial tests. We wish him well.

We shortly say farewell to **Sergeant John Fitzpatrick** who is soon to take up a recruiting post in Bristol. He has served us well in the Training Centre as a military instructor and he will be missed by the CCFs of a number of schools in the south of England and the Channel Islands where he has enlightened many a schoolboy cadet into the intricacies of 19, 53 and 62 sets.

The Line Troop under the new management of **Second-Lieutenant Jill Mackay** seems to be starting its own recruiting drive. 'Get them young' seems to be the cry as we pass our congratulations on to **Mrs. Joy Doak** who recently presented husband **Signalman 'Ginger' Doak** with a brand new recruit. At time of writing we wait expectantly for **Mrs. Keohane's** and **Mrs. Barlow's** contributions.

We regret to announce the departure of **Lieutenant Rosemary Wheelock** to her new posting in Northern Ireland. Her sparkling personality will be missed in Blandford but no doubt much appreciated where she is going. She takes with her our best wishes in her new job.

News from Squadrons

CCV

5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

Back in the pages of 'The Wire'

AFTER a long absence the Saxon Horse Squadron is happy to inform avid readers of its continued existence. As an excuse we can only plead mild shock at not having been 'stood up' for Ireland for 11 months. Old friends of the Squadron will agree that this is a shock indeed! We have of course been busy creating our own brand of turbulence: Of the 118 men who returned from Ireland 26th February last year, only 58 are still with us. (Writers of new trade structures please note!).

Among the recent departures was **Lieutenant Jim Evans** whom Alpha Troop were sorry to see go. However, they were happy to get **Second-Lieutenant Harry Ross** in exchange. The Troop were also pleased to get **Sergeant 'Marsh' Davey** back again on promotion. Just in passing **Sergeant Davey** became a proud father on Christmas Eve, which was rather more a shock than a Christmas present.

There have been too many old friends departing to name them all, but we wish them well and welcome their replacements.

A multiplicity of cap badges (Photo opposite page)

The Brigade Commander has now departed and to mark his passing we held a parade. **Brigadier O. G. Pratt** commanded the Brigade (and hence us) during both our tours in Northern Ireland. The parade also included two 'ceremonies of stature' (as the Squadron saying goes) — the presentation of the LS and GC medal to **Sergeant Langfield** and the handover of the pacestick from **R.S.M. Brian Cook,** posted to 34 Signal Regiment (V), to **R.S.M. Norman Ladds** whom we welcome from 260 Signal Squadron. Our picture is chosen to show off one of our many sources of pride in the Squadron: The large number of cap badges. In fact less than half of the Squadron are Royal Signals. The unit did very well on parade despite rain and wind, and the Brigadier gets full marks for left handed microphone fielding. We welcome **Brigadier R. B. Trant** and wish him a happy tour with us.

Getting about

Our other excuse is the exercises! Last June we managed to form a brigade for once and some 3,000 of us took part in the 'Sky Warrior' airmobility trials which lasted six weeks with over 50 support helicopters. Alfa troop got some of their underslung trailers up to 120 knots in what became a daily race between fog and low cloud and many city dwellers are now fully aware of the life of border sheep. There is somewhere up there a charming GPO man who puts civil telephones in the middle of marquees on moors and says (when you say the marquee and troops have just changed their minds and gone to Ireland) — "If you do not need it, cut the wire, hand the phone into the post office and say the service is discontinued!"

September saw us in Denmark when several members of the Squadron entered into the Common Market spirit a little early by producing their own European uniforms from 'exchanged' equipment. Our 'Carnaby award' must go to **Signalman David Dalton,** who appeared to have something from every nation on the exercise. The time in Northern Europe was not exactly strenuous, but a good time was had by everyone.

Social snippet

Socially, the Saxon Club has now opened in camp and some good functions have been held there. The success of the club has been mainly due to the efforts of **Corporal 'Ricky' Richardson** who has managed to serve almost as much beer as he has consumed, a great achievement.

Unsung hero

The only reason you have the notes even now is that the Second-in-Command (anonymous as ever) has been left behind while the Squadron is in Cyprus. He will be writing more no doubt when they get back. He hopes there are some good photographs.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT IN A BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Brigadier O. G. Pratt, on his farewell parade, talks to Corporal Kearns, RAOC Escorting him is Captain N. A. Adams, Q.L.R. "Jimmies", the only ones in the picture, are those of Major M. R. Topple, O.C., and R.S.M. B. Cook

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6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 106

IT would seem that an indecent interval elapsed since our last contribution to THE WIRE. The Second-in-Command was given the task of rectifying this matter and it was around this time that yours truly walked in like a lamb to the slaughter.

Said he, 'have you ever thought of being a journalist?'

Said I, 'sorry, can't stop — lots of things to do, know what I mean . . . sir?'

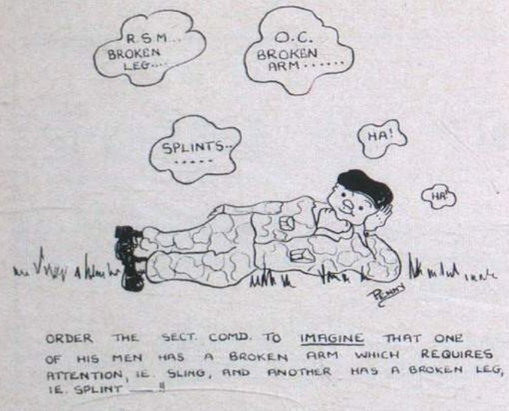
To cut a long story short — here are THE WIRE notes.

We will start in September when the leaves were turning brown, the birds were migrating and the personnel of 6 Armoured Brigade HQ were introduced to Exercise 'Long Hobble.'

Exercise 'Long Hobble'

This exercise consisted of a pleasant 50 kilometer ramble through some of Germany's most beautiful woodlands — or to put it another way — a dirty great slog on blistered feet past numerous horrors upon which we will not ennumerate. Suffice to say, these horrors were called check points, at each of which, certain tasks had to be performed. The ambiguity of the wording for some of these tasks inspired **Penny Dutton**, our WRVS lady, to produce a series of drawings of what might have happened if the orders had been carried out to the letter — needless to say this bore very little resemblance to what was supposed to happen.

The exercise certainly made a change from our normal routine although for a couple of days the squadron personnel adopted a peculiar stoop and walked by gingerly transferring their weight from one foot to the other whilst leaning forward to gain momentum. The best and most heart-rending limp must have been the one acquired by **Corporal Bob Lockwood** of 'Alpha' Troop, just after they had 'treated' his blisters.



SO-in-C's visit

Having returned from 'Forefront' the winter activities commenced. These kicked off with a basic signalling skills course and a session of infantry training. The SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers**, visited us while these activities were going on and met many of the Squadron personnel during the course of his very brief visit.

PRE and FFR

On 4th to 8th December we had our PRE which was followed on the 14th by the annual FFR inspection. This took the form of a parade commanded by the OC Squadron **Major Goldney.** The inspecting officer was the Brigade Commander **Brigadier Alexander-Sinclair.** After the parade the inspecting officer visited classrooms where squadron personnel were being given

ANNUAL F.F.R. INSPECTION
"What! only one medal . . .?"
Brigadier Alexander-Sinclair, Captain Grenville-Jones, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Cushen, Sergeant Nevill

lectures on various subjects by officers and SNCOs of the squadron. All told the inspection went off very well and everyone seemed pleased with the results.

After this the Christmas festivities began and followed their usual course with the usual requisite number of hangovers and performances, without which it just would not seem like Christmas. Now everyone is back at work preparing for the coming exercise season—or so they say.

Sport

In December we were treated to a surprise—our cross-country team under **Lieutenant Amberton** and captained by **Sergeant Pete Barlow** went quietly off to the 4 Division Championships and much to everyone's surprise, including themselves, they walked off with the minor units trophy, beating in the process several of the major units—a very fine performance.

Our football team, although playing very well to get as far as the quarter-finals of the BAOR minor units cup were finally beaten by three goals to two in extra time by 40 Support Regiment RE in a very close and exciting game.

Visit of Corps Band

On 13th September the Corps Band paid us a visit, giving two concerts in nearby Soest. Apart from the pleasure they gave us, they managed to create a great impression on the local populance with their highly polished performances.

Exercise 'Forefront'

October saw our annual autumn exercise (the big one). The communications on this ran smoothly for most of the time and apparently a lot less damage was caused this year. I shudder to think what they must have done last year.

During part of the exercise we were supported by the 1st Battalion Danish Life Guards. **Staff Sergeant Creedy** and **Signalman Allen** were attached to them and found various differences in their ways, not least amongst those being their eating and drinking habits. Attached to us from 24 Msl Regiment Signal Troop were **Signalman Watkins** and **Signalman Wilson.**

We managed to fit in weekend visits to baths, showers and the inevitable pubs, the latter causing **R.S.M. Cushen** considerable misgivings.

(*Continued on page 137*)

(*Continued from page 136*)

Of course every exercise has its unusual features. **Lieutenant Alan Jones** does not really know how Brigade step-up came to be in front of the leading combat team, for instance, although he was asked to explain. Nor, apparently, does **Lance-Corporal Mick Ryder** know why he went for a drink and ended up in the drink. (Somebody moved the path, perhaps?).

Arrivals and departures

We have said our farewells to **Captain Neil Horler** our Second-in-Command and his wife **Gill** on their posting to the School of Signals. **Lieutenant Alan Jones,** Second-in-Command 'A' Troop, has also departed to the tropical climates of Catterick.

We have welcomed **Captain Alan Browne** from 11 Signal Regiment, who is to be our new Second-in-Command, **Second-Lieutenant Richard Hoole** from his Q course, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gil Keaton** from Kenya and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Derek Allen** who has followed our ORSQMS, **Staff Sergeant John Roberts** from 1 Artillery Brigade.

12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 36

Exercise 'Snowqueen' and 'Keyslope'

AS last year, this season the Squadron combined with 12 OFP to run a Snowqueen Hut at Wertach, in Bavaria, on the Austrian border. On each course of a fortnight, the Squadron was represented by six soldiers, many of whom had never skied before; of those who had, it was almost invariably on 'Snowqueen' last year.

Courses were divided to give everyone the opportunity to do one week of langlaufing and one week of down hill. Those who wished to concentrate on only one type were able to do so. **Signalmen Bob Callaghan** and **Dave Cullingworth** of Alfa and Bravo Troops respectively, were two who seemed to prefer langlauf, and even in the absence of an instructor, the latter who had never skied before pressed on unabashed.

Signalman Jim Bennett had a go at both types, and in the space of just one week became a quite competent downhill skier, as did **Signalman Ken Robinson.** Of course, there where many others, and the fact that their names are not mentioned in this short report does not reflect on their new found ski-ing ability. It is to all their credit that they were prepared to volunteer for something unkown and having done so, thoroughly enjoyed themselves on and off the slopes.

Nor were there only Royal Signals soldiers represented. On one course, as if to emphasise the integrated nature of the Squadron, were, amongst others, **Signalman Danny Hennon, Driver Barry Stephenson** and **Craftsman Chris Edmondson.** All had been on 'Snowqueen' before, and as a result of two weeks intensive piste-bashing, were entered as the unit team in the 2 Division championships. The fourth member, and team captain, was **Second-Lieutenant Craig McColville,** who though an experienced skier, had only newly arrived in Osnabruck a week before the meeting started, and therefore had to lead the team at very short notice, not having skied at all this season.

It should be explained that a two week 'Snowqueen' course is not considered the 'norm' for training for a meeting of this nature. Many of our fellow competitors had been on snow since well before Christmas. It was therefore hardly surprising that we were not in amongst the winners, though had there been a minor units trophy we would certainly have been at least runners-up; there were only two minor units entered!

The Alpine competition consisted of three events, giant slalom, downhill and slalom, in that order. **Hennon** turned in a very good time for the first and ensured that we did not collect the wooden spoon in the giant slalom.**McColville** and **Edmondson** also completed the course, but **Stephenson** unfortunately had a bad fall in which both skis came off and he slithered past several gates. However, he made up for it in his second run in the downhill event a couple of days later, returning a time not many seconds slower than the eventual winners.

The final event in the Alpine combination was the slalom. By this stage our very inexperienced team were getting the hang of competition downhill ski-ing, and this was our best event. **Second-Lieutenant McColville** individually finished in the top half of the field, thus helping the team into sixth place.

The overall winners of the championship were 39 Medium Regiment, RA.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 41

HAVING completed the PRE and FFR satisfactorily the Squadron turned its efforts to the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Christmas draws

The pace was set by the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess draw on the 17th December. Contrary to rumour this turned out to be the actual draw and not just another rehearsal. After several minor panics all was made ready under the 'eagle eye' supervision of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John McNaughton.** Special mention must go to C of H ('Corporal of Horse' for the uninitiated) **Barry Dean,** LG, for his efforts in the ladies powder room, hair lacquer, pins, powder and other unmentionables appeared, and no doubt he will be elected as NCO IC powder room on future occasions! With the music of the six piece Light Infantry Band and our usual excellent buffet provided by **Sergeant Trev Parkinson,** ACC, and his merry men, the evening was a great success. The draw prizes arranged by **W.O.2 John Sevier,** Int. Corps, were many and varied and, for a change, evenly distributed amongst those attending; this included the local orphanage who were presented with a go-kart from the Mess and also a dolls pram from **Sergeant Dave Baker,** RAPC, with the excuse that he couldn't get into it anyway! The draw was thoroughly enjoyed by all and our thanks go to the organisers.

The junior ranks' Blue Lagoon Club draw was the next event in a well filled calendar. Again this was a well organised function, mainly due to **Corporal Jim Kerr** (the PMC) and his very able committee headed by **Corporal Alan Culton.** Notable prizes of the evening were a shopping trolley won by **Signalman 'Geordie' Dobson** (he has now sold his car) and a carpet sweeper won by **Signalman Billy Henderson.** The hair rollers won by the PMC have been evenly distributed amongst the Squadron technicians. Highlight of the evening was the 'hokey pokey' (clean version). All in all a successful function; we all look forward to next year!

Needless to say the period between Christmas and New Year was fairly quiet to allow hangovers to disappear in preparation for the next round of festivities. With the one hour time difference between UK and Germany we found distinct advantage as we could have two New Years and we can rest assured that both were celebrated with the same amount of enthusiasm!

Soccer v 'A' Squadron 4 RTR (Berlin)

The festivities over, our RSM, **W.O.1 Colin Markie** (having refused an offer from Manchester United) decided that our Squadron football team were due for a run out. Why 'A' Squadron, 4 RTR, in Berlin, were chosen as the opposing team is still a matter for hot discussion, especially amongst the wives of those that went. The team led by **Corporal Mick Morgan** (captain/coach) travelled to Berlin by train. Arriving very tired at 20.00 hours they decided upon the best training programme and so left en masse for the city's night spots. We are told that this excursion had nothing to do with the final result of the match. Watched by **Staff Sergeant Ron Percy,** 3 RTR (guide and masseur), **Sergeant Sid Bishop,** RAOC (chief supporter) the team played a valiant game on a pitch covered with snow. The final result of 11-2 may seem rather one sided, but in fact midfield play was quite even and there were several goalmouth scrambles. However, the better team won and we congratulate the opposing team on their sportsmanship and hospitality. Having recovered **Signalman Billy Henderson** from where he was sleeping on the railway station the team returned to Detmold. We look forward now to a return match and although the night life in Detmold will not allow us to undermine the visiting sides footballing superiority, we shall enjoy returning the hospitality.

244 Sig Sqn. R.A.F. Benson

OC	Major P. A. Spooner
2 i/c	Captain G. C. Saunders
Administrative Officer ...	Captain A. G. Harfield, B.E.M.
RSM	W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. S. Bresloff
RQMS ...	W.O.2 J. M. P. Whalley
Yeoman ...	W.O.2 A. C. T. Tasker
Yeoman ...	W.O.2 F. C. McLoughlin
ORSQMS ...	Staff Sergeant S. J. Long
'A' Troop ...	Captain M. A. Rice Staff Sergeant C. W. Lockwood
'B' Troop ...	Lieutenant W. P. Crowley Sergeant B. Young
'C' Troop ...	Second-Lieutenant A. H. G. Elford Sergeant P. Laing
'D' Troop ...	Captain P. J. J. Kington Staff Sergeant T. W. MacDonald
'E' Troop ...	Captain D. G. Halliburton Staff Sergeant A. R. Philemon
'M' Troop ...	Captain (TOT) T.McK. Stoddart, M.B.E. Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. Keohane

Visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief

On Monday, 11th December, we had the pleasure of a visit from **Major-General M. J. Sawers, M.B.E.** The General was welcomed by a Guard of Honour under the command of 'Palace Veteran' **Staff Sergeant Wally Lockwood.** This was followed by a 'review' of the whole Squadron tactically deployed on the airfield.

Staff Sergeant John Philemon hid his '42 years' as he doubled at the head of his parachutists from an assault Puma helicopter to de-rig a para-dropped BSO FFR. This they did in record time.

The General was welcomed to Main Division and Step-up Division by **Captain Mike Rice** and **Staff Lockwood.** Ten yards further on he was met by **Second-Lieutenant 'Paddy' Crowley** and **Sergeant Brian Young** at 'Rear Division.' **Captain Pat Kington** and **Staff Sergeant Tam MacDonald** then briefed him on the Air Support Comcen. Next he saw **Second-Lieutenant Tony Elford, Corporal (now Sergeant) John Baker** and elements of 'C' Troop. After leaving the 'Hairies' and another 15 yards further on the General was in a brigade area with **Captain Graeme Halliburton's** 'sharp enders.' He was shown two kinds of BASOCs by **Sergeants Bennie Gilhooly** and **Dave Whiteley** and given a comprehensive brief on the activities of a MAOT by **Flight-Lieutenant Andy Spanner,** RAF.

The General then called upon the AOC 38 Group, before proceeding to the 'Room at the Top' for drinks with the RSM, WOs and Senior NCOs. They were joined by the CSO 3 Division who was heard to mutter, "I'm only here for the beer" (it is Double Diamond), the Station Commander, **Group Captain D. J. Payling,** and OC 38 Group Tactical Communications Wing (TCW), **Wing Commander W. F. Mullen.**

After lunch with the AOC and the Officers, the SO-in-C then saw **Sergeant John Williamson** demonstrate how 'A' Troop got around their inability to shoot straight by the use of the bayonet. Next he saw **'Unter-bahnsturmfuhrer' Crowley** viciously lead 'B' Troop into the gas chamber (at this point the General had to be restrained from donning a gas mask and joining them). This was followed by his seeing **Second-Lieutenant Elford** leading 'C' Troop out for a seven-mile road run and **Captain Halliburton** giving 'E' Troop a PT session. He then visited 'M' Troop's empire and met all 12 Senior NCO technicians.

After meeting the hard-working operations and administrative teams led by **Captain Graham Saunders** and **Captain Alan Harfield** the General left for London. We were delighted that he was able to spend the whole day with us. He had met and talked to almost every member of the 244th.

B TROOP VISITED
Left to right: Corporal Hutchinson, Second Lieutenant Crowley, S.O.-in-C., Sergeant Young

Staff-sergeant Philemon, Corporals Clarke and Campbell outline to General Sawers their plan to win the Parachute Brigade rigging competition—which they did

Marriages

We congratulate **Corporal John Parker** and **Miss Janice Isard** and **Lance-Corporal Les Parker** and **S.A.C.W. Janet Davies** on their recent marriages. The WRAF continue to take a large toll of Squadron personnel (senior service satisfy).

Departures

We say goodbye, good luck and thank you for all you have done for the Red Hand Gang to **Staff Sergeant Stacey, Sergeant Kenny Gent, Sergeants Bernie Neillings, Denis Hemmingway, Jim Jack** and **John McLaughlin.**

Congratulations to:

Sergeant Brian Young and **Signalman Billy Malone** on being selected for Army soccer trials (**Malone** represented the Army several times last season).

Sergeant Young (Corps skipper), **Signalman Malone, Sergeant Ken Gent, Corporal Billy Behan, Lance-Corporals Pete Alves** and **Tony Chew** on being selected for the Corps Soccer XI, five of them in one match. **Sergeant Young** also skippers 38 Group RAF XI and **Sergeant Gent** and **Signalman Malone** are team members.

Staff Sergeant John Lawrence on playing for the Corps at basketball (he also plays Corps cricket).

Sergeant Ben Gilhooly and **Corporal Bill Hutton** on representing the Corps at squash.

Lieutenant W. P. (Paddy) Crowley on representing the Combined Services (under 22s) XI at hockey and for his numerous Corps performances.

Corporal John Parker on representing the Army in small bore and on winning the RAPC Corporals' match at the Corps Central Shoot.

16 Parachute Brigade Rigging Competition

The Squadron parachute rigging team composed of **Corporal Ron Campbell** (RAF), **Corporal Len Clarke, Signalman Billy Malone** and **S.A.C. Dick Kilpatrick** (RAF) have brought off the seemingly impossible by winning the 16 Parachute Brigade Rigging Competition Trophy (jointly with HQ Company 16 Brigade).

The competition staged annually is keenly fought out by all units of the Parachute Brigade.

The winner is the team who couple efficiency with speed in loading a Land Rover and trailer onto a medium stressed platform ready for parachuting.

We may not possess quantity but in quality we're . . . !

Stop press

The soccer team has done it again. We are in the South East District minor units cup final and also at the District final stage of the UK Minor Units Cup (two separate competitions).

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

VISIT OF SOUTHEND CIVIC DIGNITARIES
The deputy Mayor, Alderman Hector Hill, in company with the Squadron O.C., Major W. G. Cunningham chats to Corporal J. W. Taylor (*right*) and Corporal A. Lord (*centre*)

IT is not easy to retain one's identity in a Regiment like 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery. As well as being the largest single regiment in the British Army, it also boasts nine different cap badges. One of them, predictably enough, is 'Jimmy,' belonging in this case to 260 Signal Squadron (surface-to-air-missile). The Squadron, commanded by **Major W. G. Cunningham,** is an integral part of the Regiment, providing the radio relay, radio repair and rear link facilities for the Thunderbird 2 system. Thunderbird, for the uninitiated, provides medium level air defence cover for the 1 (BR) Corps area.

The Regiment is going to Belfast in March, and has been busy converting to an infantry role. It was during the pre-Operation 'Banner' training that we were visited by the Mayor of Southend on Sea, **Alderman E. Pollitt.** All subunits have strong links with the Essex area, because it not only provides our recruiting pool, but also many of the wives, not least for the lads of the Squadron. The Mayor saw men of the Squadron being shown the mysteries of sangar construction, and later visited those attached to the RSO's HQ Signal Troop.

661 Sig Tp
H.M.S. Intrepid
B.F.P.O. Ships

SOME noteworthy events have taken place since our last WIRE notes were sent off. In fact, the latter part of the Dartmouth training ship's autumn cruise was fairly action packed.

661 Signal Troop will abandon ship!

Since World War II, the Royal Navy has not lost a single ship at sea. While this record is commendable, it does mean that the techniques and equipment involved in abandoning ship have not been put to the test for over 25 years. A restricted trial was carried out in a leander class frigate last year. But it was decided to conduct a full trial on a capital ship, and HMS *Int. epid* was chosen.

On the morning of 31st October, the ship put out from Dhekelia in Cyprus, and stopped about seven miles off shore. Before the trial started, the ship ballasted down to the deep condition, and a five degree list to port was put on. Soon the flight deck was crowded with the 300 volunteers who were to go over the side, fully dressed and wearing life jackets. At this state 20 odd liferafts on the port side were jettisoned and began inflating to full size (each holds 20 men). The would be survivors then lined the port rail ready to go over. Jumping was controlled to avoid accidents by a number of 'dispatchers.' The first few were hestant, but after that there was a stream of bodies whistling into the water. It was quite simple — in the words of the RM Sergeant-Major — "just step off and go straight down!" Down 35 feet in fact, before hitting the water, and a few feet under as well. A few ungainly belly flops could be seen, but most made a clean entry. Once in the water it was a race to the nearest liferaft to breach the survival packs and share out the cigarettes and sweets! After just under an hour adrift, the rafts were rescued by the LCMs and brought back to the ship, where the bestraggled survivors were served with hot coffee, and nominal rolls were checked. Those Troop members who took part now have another hoary old sea tale to tell, even if they didn't get the four days survivors' leave which the Navy normally grants.

Wire-less

Also while at Cyprus, the much neglected C41/R222 stations on the flag deck were put to good use. With the help of 'E' Troop, 259 Signal Squadron, commanded by **Captain Robin Farey,** four telephone circuits were established into Dhekelia exchange. As a result, we were able to pipe 'shore telephone lines are now connected' when the ship was still miles from land. All this rather mystified the Navy, and more than one matelot was seen to be looking over the side for the wires. When the Yagi arrays were seen on the bridge wings, we were even accused of pandering to the officers by providing TV in the wardroom! However, the Navy were impressed by the continuous service provided until the ship sailed for Malta, four days later.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

Malta AMP

On our return to Malta, the ship went alongside for a two week maintainance period and to prepare for the admin inspection. During this time, quite a few sporting and social fixtures were arranged with 234 Signal Squadron (Malta) at Mtarfa. It was found you could fit a football team into two vehicles especially if one is the OC's hire car! The programme was a success, and we hope to repeat it on future visits.

Two weeks of preparation and cleaning up culminated in the admin inspection by the staff of Flag Officer Carriers and Amphibious Ships. The ship went to divisions and was inspected by FOCAS, **Rear Admiral Lygo.**

Exercise 'Corsica'

The Dartmouth term having finished, the ship went on to exercise in its amphibious role. 41 Commando Group were embarked, and we sailed for Corsica with our sister ship HMS *Fearless*, in company with HMS *Ark Royal*, *Bulwark* and *Arethusa*. At this point the weather broke, and Exercise 'Corsica' is a hazy recollection of green faces under green berets, huge 'goffers' breaking over the focsle, and a chronic lack of sleep. The exercise over, a visit was paid to Toulon, before sailing back via Gib to Christmas leave in Devonport.

621 Signal Troop — farewell

We were sad to see the departure of our sister troop from HMS *Fearless*, to disband at Blandford. We are now the only Corps troops afloat, but we hope we will continue to keep our end up amongst these 84,000 sailors.

The Flag Officer Carriers and Amphibious Ships, Rear Admiral R. D. Lygo, inspects the Ship Signal Troop at Divisions during the Admin Inspection in Malta

BRUNEI SIGNAL TROOP—BRONZE COMSTAR AWARD *(See opposite page)*

Back Row (left to right): Corporals A. Croft, Tilbikram Rai, Signalman Kumbahadur Ghale, Lance-Corporals Jhyambahadur Thapa, Tokbahadur Thapa, Signalman Mekman Gurung, Corporal Rilbahadur Sarki, Signalman Umeshchandra Limbu

Middle Row (left to right): Corporal Rudranarayan Gurung, Signalman Gauriman Limbu, Lance-Corporals Jumbahadur Gurung, Purnabahadur Thapa, Signalmen Rambahadur Gurung, Rupbahadur Gurung, Chapbahadur Chhetri, Teckbahadur Gurung, Corporal Bankaji Gurung

Front Row (left to right): Sergeants Ginbahadur Thapa, Balu Pun, Captain (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur Gurung, Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott, M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Kelly, M.C., Sergeants Dhalbahadur Rana, A. Gorham

Brunei Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 605

Comstar Award presented to Brunei Signal Troop

THE Sultanate of Brunei is a small tropical country of 2,000 square miles on the western coast of Borneo. It is a country covered mainly by primary jungle. Inland there are rugged hills rising to 3,000 feet, while the coastal plain is flat and swampy.

The country is ruled by the Sultan through councils, however, it is a British protected state, and the UK is responsible for external affairs and external defence. To carry out this commitment there is a resident Gurkha Battalion.

Brunei Signal Troop of Gurkha Signals, mans the Brunei Comcen which is the only external link for the Gurkha Battalion. It is a D13 link direct to Hong Kong. The Troop is commanded by **Captain (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur Gurung,** who has under him 12 Gurkhas and two British NCOs — **Sergeant Alf Gorham** (data telegraphist) and **Corporal Dick Jewitt** (terminal equipments).

Recently the Troop was very proud to be awarded the bronze Comstar Award. It is very heartening for a troop which is just a small dot on the DCN to have been heard of by HQ DCN, let alone be given an award.

The award was presented in December, 1972, by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott,** MC, during his visit to this Garrison.

The Volunteers

39 Sig Regt (V) London

OUR military and social calendars have continued to bulge since we last appeared in print, and it is a question now of being fit 'to survive the course.'

Our FFR inspection took place over a number of dates lasting almost a month. Apparently it was most successful and the Inspecting Officer **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** appeared to survive the course which included two consecutive nights in an 'Inter City' sleeper. The only incident during the whole tour was when the Adjutant, **Captain Sue Healy,** was despatched to the United Service and Royal Aero Club to escort the Inspecting Officer to the Regiment and was told by the doorman there "'ere, 'op it, no ladies allowed in 'ere."

Those who follow the fortunes of the Regiment may well ask, "What is she doing there?", when only last month we said "Hello" to the new PSO **Captain Ruth Pearse.** Well, **Ruth** took one look at us and decided that the best thing to do was to get married. She has served with the Corps for five years. Good luck **Ruth.**

The WOs' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw was a huge success with over 200 members and guests enjoying not only the draw but the dance that followed until the 'wee small hours,' although nobody is quite sure when it finished. However, the most interesting highlight of the last month was the Regiment playing host to 40 local children at a belated Christmas party. A film show, games, talent competition and feast kept the children (many of whom had never been to a party before) content for four hours, and many of the Regimental committee exhausted for the next four days!

The outstations have also been involved in numerous activities besides training. No 3 Squadron at Tunbridge Wells have found time to entertain children from local orphanages besides running thriving volleyball and basketball teams and holding second place in the TAVR Small Bore Shooting League. No 5 Squadron at Banbury have held a successful Christmas dinner to welcome the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White,** whilst in windswept Dundee No 2 Squadron have interrupted their weekend exercise on 21st January to hold a Squadron dance, most members having recovered from Hogmanay by then.

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) HARRINGTON
34 years with the T.A. and T.A.V.R. and still going strong!

We would like to include a new feature 'Personality Parade,' and this month spotlights **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Cyril Harrigan. Cyril** has been an active TA member exclusively since 1938, and is possibly the longest serving member of the TAVR in the country. He is a building site manager when not in uniform and President of the London Association of Construction Site Managers. He has been married for 25 years. Once he gets to know the ropes he should be assured of a long career in the TAVR!

Association News

CINQUE PORTS (Medway) BRANCH

A recently formed new Branch of the Association meets at the TAVR Centre, Watling Street, Gillingham, and any ex-member of the Corps (or WRAC attached) will get a warm and friendly welcome. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. If you wish to enter into a friendly and helpful atmosphere and renew old acquaintanceships you should contact:

Chairman: **Mr. P. Blackburn,** 'Pegnan,' Spekes Road, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent. Tel. Medway 34514.

Secretary: **Mr. W. A. Nicholls,** 21 Aylesford Crescent, Gillingham, Kent.

Treasurer: **Mr. R. Franklin (Ron),** 120 Farringdon Avenue, Bromley, Kent.

Sport

Annual UK Dinghy Regatta

This year's Royal Signals (U.K.) Dinghy Regatta will be held at Whale Island, Portsmouth on Tuesday, 15th May.

Details have already been sent to units and to known individual dinghy enthusiasts in the U.K. but any who have not received a notice and who are interested should contact **Major C. E. R. Story,** Defence ADP Training Centre, Blandford Camp; telephone Blandford Mill (Blandford 2581) ext. 331.

Closing date for entry is 18th April, 1973.

Corps Hockey

Corps 1; R.M.C.S. 2, played 31st January

A hard match in which the Corps defence played well whilst the forwards were ineffective in front of goal. From the territorial advantage enjoyed and the pressure applied the Corps should have won comfortably.

Corps 5; 90 (Signals) Group R.A.F. 1, played 1st February

A slightly stengthened Corps side played well throughout and were 3-1 up at half-time. Again the defence played well through periods of pressure whilst the forwards made use of the wings for the fast breaks. With the forwards looking for goals, the Corps were generally too strong for 90 Group.

Corps 4; RCT 1, played 7th February

Perhaps because of late changes to the team, the Corps were hard pressed for the first 10 minutes. Thereafter the team settled down and by virtue of hard work and persistence were leading 3-0 by half-time. The effort continued throughout the second half and RCT were never allowed to recover.

CORPS CANOEISTS ENJOY EXCELLENT 1972 SEASON

Left to right, Rear: Major Sumner, Brigadier Bate, Lieutenant Drake. *Front:* Lance-Corporal Story, Lance-Corporal Pawlow, Corporal Bull, Lance-Corporal Moran, Sergeant Fielding, Sergeant Clark, (Lance-Corporal Wink absent)

The Corps Team and supporting staff pictured with the individual and team trophies won during another highly successful season. The team trophies include the Army Sprint Cup, the Army Long Distance Cup, the Inter Services Sprint Cup, the Inter Services Long Distance Cup, and the Inter Services Championship Cup. Other trophies include many individual cups won at National and International level.

Lance-Corporals Pawlow and Wink were in the Olympic Training Squad right up to the final selection, but were not included in the team

Badminton—We are the Champions!

On Saturday, 20th January, the Royal Corps of Signals became the Champions of the Army Badminton League for the current season.

The league consists of four weekend fixtures against all the other corps in the competition and this year seven teams have fought out the championship. There are seven other teams in the second division of the championship but both the Royal Signals teams are in the first division. The teams in the first division of this competition therefore are:

Royal Engineers I, Royal Engineers II, Royal Signals I, Royal Signals II, Royal Army Medical and Dental Corps (combined), Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers I.

The league matches began on Saturday, 14th October, 1972, when our fixtures were against our own second team and the REME I. Our first team was:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Oehlers, Corporal R. Ellis, Major R. S. Clayton, Sergeant B. Mundy, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Talbot, Captain E. Holland.

And our second team: **Major R. S. Rowland, W.O.1 G. James, Corporal T. Patterson, Corporal J. Goodall, Captain T. Heasman, Corporal C. Harvey.**

This was a hard fixture at Bordon and in fact resulted in the only defeat of the first team. The result was:

REME I 5, Royal Signals I 4.
REME I 7, Royal Signals II 2.
Royal Signals I 8, Royal Signals II 1.

The second match was on 4th November, 1972, and was a home match against the combined RAMC/RADC team. This was to be our strongest challenge and the first team was changed by the inclusion of **Sergeant R. Clark** to replace **Sergeant B. Mundy.** With one game to play the score was four each and until the last shot the game could well have swung either way. The final result was:

Royal Signals I 5, RAMC/RADC 4.

Meanwhile our second team was at Chatham playing the Engineers' first team and the RCT. The results were as follows:

Royal Signals II 8, RCT I 1.
Royal Signals II 2, RE I 7.

The third match was on 9th December, 1972, and for the first team was an away match at Aldershot against the RCT and the RE II. The first team followed the second's success and brought off two 9-0 wins giving them a very good average for games won and lost. Meanwhile the second team had taken three games off the combined RAMC/RADC which was a very creditable performance. The fourth and final match was at Blandford for both teams each to play the respective RE teams.

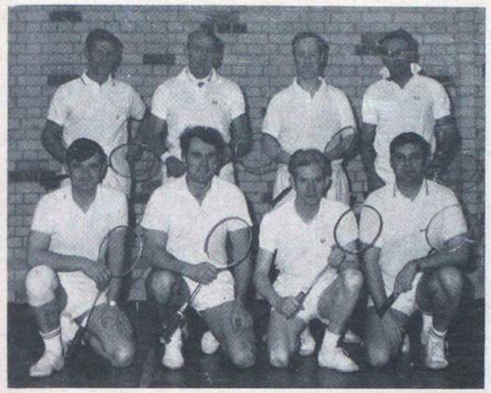
The teams in the first division had fought so that three teams had been defeated only once, the RAMC/RADC, the RE I and the Royal Signals I. So the result of this final RE I versus Royal Signals I would give the final result of the league. The winners would have the better games results than the RAMC/RADC and would win the league. The team for this final fixture was, as for the second and third fixtures:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Oehlers, Corporal R. Ellis, Major R. S. Clayton, Sergeant R. Clark, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Talbot, Captain E. Holland.

The first two games went to the Sappers, the next two to the Signals. Games five and six to the Sappers, seven and eight to the Signals. The whole league balanced on the final game of the final match. The experience of the Signals team and the fitness told and the result was:

Royal Signals 5, RE 4.

Thus the Royal Signals became the Army Champions. The second team managed a 9-0 victory over the RE II team thereby ensuring their place in the first division again next season.



THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS (FIRST TEAM)

Back Row (left to right): Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Talbot, Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Moores, Major R. S. Clayton, Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers

Front Row (left to right): Corporal R. Ellis, Sergeant R. Clark, Captain E. Holland, Sergeant B. Mundy

Obituary

Major (QM) R. J. Hoar

Bob Hoar was born on 28th February, 1911, and died after a long illness on 9th January. He enlisted in the Corps in 1930 reaching the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 before being commissioned in 1943.

Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., who knew him well, writes:

"I first knew Bob Hoar when I was commanding the Boys' Company in Catterick from 1937 until the outbreak of war. He was then my 'Corporal Drill and PT' and very good he was too. A tonic for us all. Then in 1941/42 when I was commanding 9th Armoured Divisional Signals, he appeared again, much to my satisfaction, as SSM. Again I had a reliable and well-trusted friend. Then, again, in the years 1948/50 he came to me at Blacon where I commanded Western Command Signal Regiment as a Captain, having just returned from duty in the Sudan. He was mentioned in despatches in 1945. Finally, between 1950 and 1953 he became 'Major QM' in 62 HQ L of C Signal Regiment in Chester which I was then commanding. His qualities to me were an unswerving loyalty, alertness and great efficiency.

My wife and I got to know his wife Eve, his son Michael and his daughter Nicola (she is our god-daughter) and we looked after Michael while the rest of the family were in Hong Kong. He is now a bearded professor of art. It was only recently that I got a cheerful letter from Bob who was living in Westerham, where he had retired, to tell me of his severe asthma attacks in hospital and that he hoped soon to convalesce and please would I ask the Signal Association to call, which I did. To my great regret, as I was on my way to Madrid, I was unable to visit him before I heard the tragic news of his death. I attended the funeral at Westerham, also attended by the British Legion, and the cremation at Crawley. The services were taken by Canon Chapman, an ex-Army Padre, who spoke of poor Bob's frustration and pain from the asthma. The services were beautifully conducted. So, in sorrow, I said goodbye to a trusted friend and loyal member of the Corps.

R.S.M. G. Fee, M.M.

A number of older readers will be saddened to hear of the recent death of ex-R.S.M. G. Fee — affectionately known to many as 'Puncher.' His service included postings to Maresfield, Bulford and India. He was a well-known despatch rider instructor and helped train the first motor cycle display team. He was a keen sportsman and boxed for the Corps. Some will remember his performance against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth where he put up a great show to win the flyweight contest.

'Puncher' was a real character with a strong personality and possessed a wonderful sense of humour. All who had any dealings with him soon recognised that here was a person of rare attributes combining the best qualities of the pre-war regular soldier. He will be much missed by those who knew him.

Our deep sympathy goes to his wife and family.

Captain S. Marshall

Major J. Birchall, president of the Manchester Branch of the Association, writes:

It is with sincere regret that I have to report the death of Captain S. Marshall on 23rd January. He was a member of the Manchester Branch and from 1942 to 1946 he served in the Corps. Later he became associated with the Cadet services and obtained a commission. He was a man with a genuine understanding of the problems of others and was ever ready to give his help and advice. He will be missed by a wide circle of his friends. We have expressed the deepest sympathy to his widow and family. Mrs. Marshall's address is: 18 Ruskin Avenue, Denton, Manchester.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Horniman

William Dartnell Horniman died on the 25th January, 1973. He was commissioned into the Royal Signals from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in 1924. He went out to Baghdad in 1928 and then on to India where he served with Corps and District Signals until 1933. For the early part of the war he served in the UK with 11 Armoured Divisional Signals and commanded 3 Operator Training Battalion and II Corps Signals. In 1944 he went out to Palestine and later served in Egypt, commanding L of C and HQ Signal Regiments. He returned to the UK in 1948 where he raised 1 AA Group Signal Regiment. His last appointment before retirement in 1952 was with the Inspectorate of Army Equipment in BAOR. Bill or 'Horni' was probably best known for his versatility in outside interests and pursuits. Whilst in Karachi he joined the Karachi Flying Club and qualified as a pilot. He was a life member of the Radio Society of Great Britain with his personal call sign of G2WH, and also of the local branch of the Radio Amateurs Invalid and Broadcast Club. He was a keen freemason and joined the lodge of his old school, Repton. Whilst in Palestine he frequently attended meetings of the Jerusalem lodge in Solomon's quarries beneath the Old City. He also added astronomy to his list of interests.

In his later life he suffered from the after-effects of a fever contracted in India and slowly became almost crippled with arthritis, but he gamely refused to allow his disabilities to prevent his living a very full life.

After retirement he was employed as an RO at the SEE, Arborfield, where his office was a marvellous collection of gadgets designed to combine a maximum of efficiency with a minimum of effort. He took over signals training in the Wokingham branch of the Civil Defence Corps until it was disbanded.

He was a skilled radio operator and mechanic and despite his handicap he undertook the repair of radio sets for the blind as well as their 'talking books.'

Bill was a modest and unassuming man, though he had strong opinions and could be direct and blunt in argument. He was full of kindness and of anxiety to be of use to his fellows, nothing was too much trouble for him if it meant helping people in need. Throughout his final illness he had his transceiver at his bedside and talked daily with his fellow 'hams.'

His death is a sad loss to the Corps and his many friends and we extend our sincere sympathy to Joan and their son and daughter.

His funeral, on the 1st February, was attended by a number of his contemporaries, amongst whom were Brigadiers Burridge, Kennett, McCormack and Colonel Boileau. Lieuteant-Colonel K. G. White, Royal Signals, represented the Corps.

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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).

April-May 1973

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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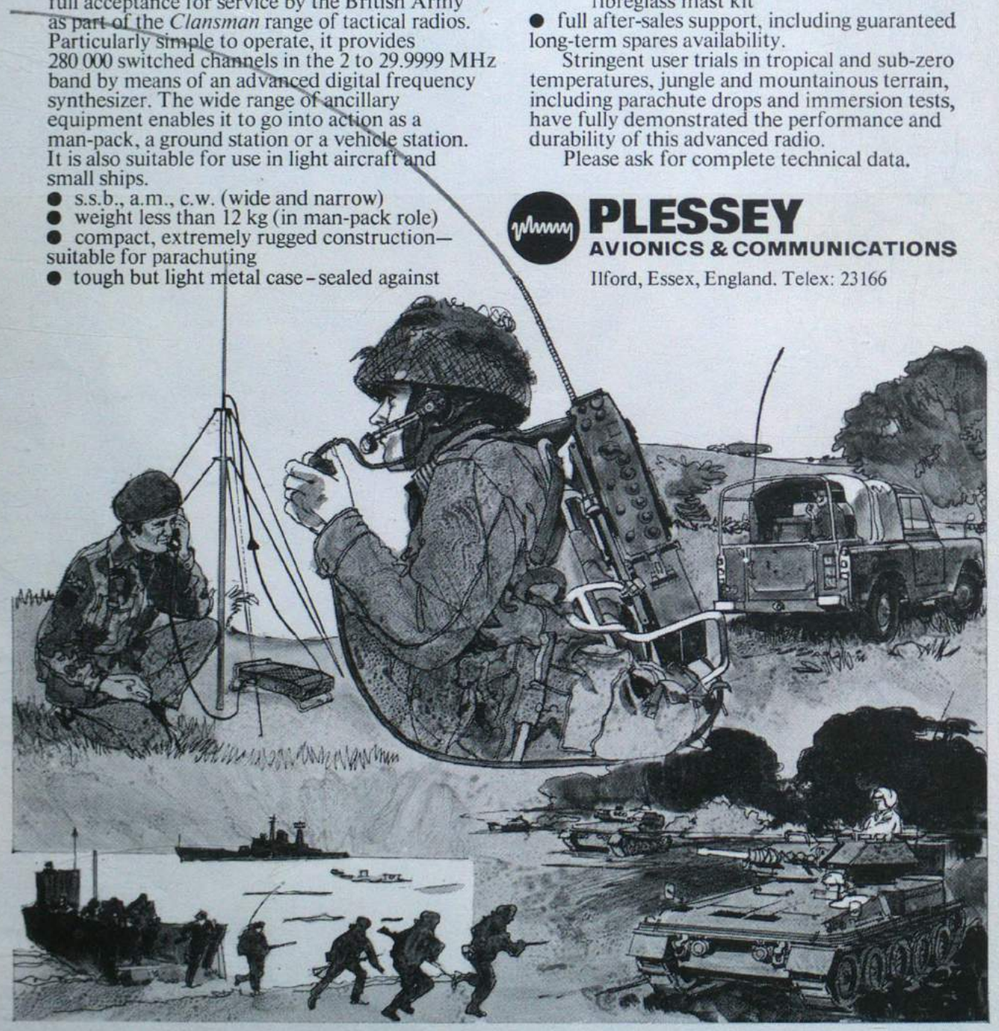

THE WIRE

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.

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APRIL/MAY • 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

21 Regiment's cross-country team — Army Champions 1973

Back row: Corporal Terry Robinson, Corporal Charlie Dowie, Corporal Alan Egan, Signalman Phil Madden.

Centre: Sergeant George Holden, Sergeant John Turvey, C.S.M.I. Stan Woods, Corporal Harry Pegg, Sergeant Bill Venus.

Front: Corporal Fred Roissetter, Sergeant Peter MacMillan, Lieutenant Les Smith, Rex, Lieutenant Richard Farrimond, Sergeant Ray Storer, Corporal Graham Campbell.

We are happy to feature on our front cover this month 21st Signal Regiment's cross country team who recently won the Army Championship in convincing style.

21st Regiment has had a series of notable athletic and cross country successes in recent years having won the Army Team Athletics three times and the Army Cross-Country twice in the last three years—to say nothing of being runners-up on several occasions. When a series of successes such as these are achieved by one unit there are generally a few who start muttering darkly, "Packing!" No doubt some useful individuals have found their way to the 21st Regiment because they wanted to be posted there and because, all things being equal, Manning and Records do not go out of their way to post individuals where they don't want to go. In any case results such as those attained by the 21st Regiment do not just happen because a number of promising athletes have been gathered together for a few weeks' training prior to entering the first round of an Army championship. They are only achieved as the result of carefully planned and sustained training over many months designed to bring individuals to their peak of fitness at the right time and most important of all to develop a team spirit so that each member will give of his utmost for the sake of the team. This is just what 21st Regiment have done (see article on page 149). Let it be remembered that during their long run of successes they have, in many cases, found and developed talent within the unit from individuals unaware of their own potential. A last point, that is often forgotten, is that being just one Regiment in a large Corps they are unable to retain individuals for their full active life as sportsmen but must willy-nilly post them out from time to time so that their teams are in a state of flux while other units benefit.

All credit, therefore, to the 21st Regiment for what they have achieved through enthusiasm and hard work—and indeed to all those other Regiments and Squadrons who have, by similar methods, been gaining distinction for the Corps in a wide field of sport. We might perhaps mention the 7th Regiment, who are shortly to play in the final of the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup, and the 30th Regiment who have been chosen to represent the British Army in the international C.E.N.T.O. shooting competition—"Nishan"—in Turkey later this year, as well as our Corps canoeists who have made a great name for themselves right up to international levels.

News has also just come in of 28th Regiment's progress to the final of the Army Association Football Cup.

Special Mention

The Corps wins the Sword of Honour at Sandhurst

The Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Acadamy, Sandhurst, when officer cadets are commissioned into their various Corps and Regiments, was taken on the 9th March, by **General Sir Michael Carver, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** Chief of the General Staff.

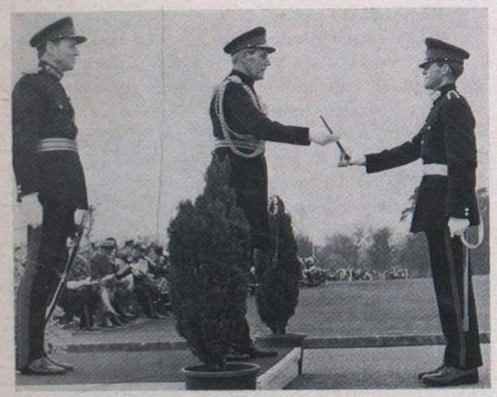
It was a unique occasion on two counts. Firstly, because of the changeover of the system of training officers at Sandhurst, there were three intakes being commissioned simultaneously — two 'old style' Sandhurst intakes and the first of the new Standard Military Course intakes. This meant that over 400 British officer cadets and about 50 overseas officer cadets were being commissioned.

The second unique feature about the parade, and from the Corps' point of view the more important one, was that the Sword of Honour, presented to the Officer Cadet considered by the Commandant to be the best of his intake, was awarded to **Senior Under Officer J. W. Cornforth,** of the Standard Military Course. **S.U.O. Cornforth** has been commissioned into Royal Signals, and this is the first time that the Sword of Honour has been awarded to an Officer Cadet being commissioned into the Corps from the R.M.A. Sandhurst.

Before entering Sandhurst last September, **Second Lieutenant Cornforth** was a W.O.2 in the Corps, having enlisted in 1960, and will be known to many readers. Before coming to Sandhurst he served as an instructor at the Outward Bound School at Towyn. He has been granted a Special Regular Commission.

The parade was attended by **Second Lieutenant Cornforth's** wife and family, including his mother who had flown from Nigeria, and also the Signal Officer in Chief, **Major General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Sawers.**

Second Lieutenant Cornforth was recently awarded his Army Colours for Canoeing. He is remaining at the RMAS until 10th August, 1973, to complete a Regular Careers Course before being posted to regimental duty.



[Photo: Courtesy Marshalls, Camberley

A RARE DISTINCTION

Senior Under Officer J. W. Cornforth being presented with the Sword of Honour by the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Carver G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., at the Sovereign's Parade, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on the 9th March 1973. On the left, the Commandant R.M.A.S., Major General J. W. Harman, O.B.E., M.C. The parade was attended by the Signal Officer in Chief

Selected for B.A.O.R. XI

Four players of 28 Signal Regiment football team have gained further honours by being selected to represent the British Army of the Rhine: **Sergeant Harvey, Lance-Corporal Hope, Lance-Corporal Reilly** and **Corporal Snaith** who captains the side.

Junior Hockey Success

The Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, won the Army Junior Hockey Championship by beating the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices by 10-0.

Stop Press

7th Regiment go down to Welsh Guards in Army Rugby Cup Final

After an absence of some years it was good to see the Corps Colours back at the Aldershot Stadium for the final of the Army Rugby Cup. Equally pleasing was the very solid element of Corps' support in the stands—many having come considerable distances to be present. 7th Regiment, who had scored no less than 272 points in the five matches which brought them the BAOR championship, found themselves confronting the formidable 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards who have won the trophy three times in the last four seasons.

For the first 20 minutes or so Signals, playing an energetic spoiling game, had the edge and an early penalty goal kicked by **Abbott** raised hopes. However, the Welshmen soon responded with a penalty goal of their own, but the Corps came back with a second penalty to take the lead again. It was just before half-time that some indication of the Welsh Guards' ability began to show when their right-wing crashed through for a try near the corner flag.

In the second half the Welshmen began to look much more dangerous with their three-quarter line starting to move with conventional but swift and accurate passing. **Jones,** the Welsh full-back, with two more penalty kicks, put the Welshmen ahead but **Abbott** responded with another for Signals and the game was still capable of being won by the Corps. However, a gift drop goal came the way of the Welsh stand-off and things were taking an ominous turn. The final blow came when the Welsh right-winger streaming along the touchline evaded three rather half-hearted tackles and ran in comfortably to ground the ball between the posts putting the Welsh Guards in the commanding position of 22 points to nine which was the final score.

Alas, the 7th Regiment three-quarter line never really looked dangerous, passes being taken at slow speed and often given awkwardly. Their forwards, however, made a good showing with some spirited rushes and useful spoiling tactics as well as effective line-out work. The halves worked industriously but, with no snap in the three-quarter line, were unable to put the 7th Regiment into a scoring posture.

A disappointing day for the 7th Regiment but all will congratulate them for getting as far as they did—and, of course, there is next year!

Their team was as follows: **Lance-Corporal C. Abbott, Corporal K. Gilder, Sergeant S. Degei, Corporal J. Cagilaba, Signalman I. Cooper, Lance-Corporal A. James** (captain), **Rev. A. J. Heggerty, Signalman V. Fallon, Signalman W. McConnell, Lieutenant R. A. Wannell, Lieutenant M. A. Riley, Signalman P. W. E. Lee, Corporal M. Wilson, Corporal A. Ewing, Lance-Corporal D. Higgins.**

Future Senior Appointments

Colonel A. C. Birtwistle, to be CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps, late 1973; **Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane,** to be DPR (Brigadier), late 1973; **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl,** to be Commander, 3 Signal Group (Colonel), early 1974; **Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Baker,** to be CSO 3 Division (Colonel), autumn 1973; **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans,** to be Colonel Sigs 36, autumn 1973.

From our "In" Tray

Good old days

Sir,

I was enjoying my pre-bedtime snooze — after watching the Frazier - Foreman fight — when I was pleasantly awakened by the strains of 'Begone Dull Care' coming from the TV set. Opening my eyes I saw our band in that very fine uniform — which it was rumoured that the then Captain Ralph Rayner had invented specially for his wedding to Miss Betty Courtauld — followed by some of the lads enjoying the freedom, they apparently have, to march through the streets of Richmond with bayonets fixed. Bayonets! In the Signals? We should have nowhere to hang them in my time. However, I am glad to see them, for being practised with the bayonet in the 8th Middlesex, TA, previous to joining the Signals, I remember that this was the first thing I liberated from a dead infantryman somewhere outside Brussels when serving with the 1st Corps Signals in 1940.

Actually, although I have diverged somewhat, I am writing this letter to thank those responsible for granting their kind permission for the band and troops to appear in this programme. I dare bet that they did not march from Catterick to Richmond as we did on my first ever leave at Easter in 1926; and with newly issued boots on. Some of the shots on this programme reminded me of some very happy days, almost 50 years ago, when my pal — last known to me as Lieutenant Quartermaster Tom Williamson — and I, used to walk into Richmond on a Sunday, with spurs jingling away merrily, because the rowels had been replaced with threepenny bits with triangular holes pierced in them. I am not sure whether this was vanity or pride, but in those days I could visualise a man weeping because he had not a third shoulder to sling a lanyard on.

I remember, when I saw the announcer standing by the church, that the old YMCA canteen was on his left and it was there that we used to gorge ourselves on buttered buns and eccles cakes and large mugs of tea — making the best of the ten shillings a week which we received. It was only when I went up to 'F' Company (Major Cobb) that I started spending that ten shillings on riotous living; into Darlington on a Saturday afternoon, John Smith's Tadcaster Ale at fourpence a pint in The Hole in the Wall, then doing the Charleston in the evening at Feetham's dance hall, at which we were requested to remove our spurs and not fight with the Cameronians. It was due to one of the ladies attending this dance hall that Major Cobb lost three batmen on the trot and subsequently posted a notice on the mess-room door that disciplinary action would be taken against any one having further relations with her, verbal or otherwise.

I was awake almost all night after seeing that programme, remembering faces and places from so long ago. When I was eventually posted to 'A' Corps Signals at Crookham, near Aldershot, all the lads in my barrackroom went down on their knees and prayed for me. For 'A' Corps, commanded by Colonel Walsh, was one of the most dreaded postings. However, I learned to soldier there and found this to be a much more comfortable state of affairs than being in an 'easy' unit with the constant fear of some troubleshooter arriving to liven things up. After all, when you have a spare kit in a suitcase ready to lay down at a moments notice, who's afraid of a kit inspection? And when we moved into Mons Barracks together with 1st and 2nd Division, we were proud to be wearing the red ochre grips and puttee tapes of 'A' Corps.

In 3 Company, 'A' Corps, we were fully mechanised, even in those days, and as a driver IC I was frequently loaned to one of the divisions for manoeuvres, and it was at Newick Park in about 1928 I had the honour to drive what was probably the first mechanical cable layer. The MCL as we know it had not then been devised, so we stuck a drum-barrow into the back of my very ancient 30 cwt Albion (carbide headlamps and oil side lamps, but after all, the CO's transport was a model T Ford) and I drove as close to the hedges as possible while the linemen paid out the Don 8. I can't remember what the man with the crookstick did — ran I suppose!

Another first, a little later, was when they took the 'C' set off the bench at the back of the lorry and Ordnance fitted me up with what they called a 'teleprinter,' which to me was just a typewriter with rolls of paper tape at each end. Another lorry was similarly fitted up and we were connected, presumably to pass messages from one to the other, but nothing happened and it occurred to me, as an ignorant young driver IC who had just qualified as an electrician fitter, that they might just as well be using the old punch board which I remembered from my visits to Eddy Company at Catterick. Eventually, the Supplementary Reserve (Post Office) Signals arrived for their annual camp at Thursley and they soon had the teleprinters at work. I have often wondered if these were really the first used by Signals.

The last 'first' that I can remember happened many years later when I was serving with 14th Army Signals. 4 Corps were making what we hoped would be a security move and we continued to send dummy W/T traffic to their old location. We had, I believe, formerly a teleprinter link with them as well. Of course this was now out of the question, so everything we now had for 4 Corps (I think they were named 'Skipper' for this operation) had to go by wireless in cypher and our cypher section was becoming overloaded. My Company Commander took me along to the war room — which looked to me like a bamboo skyscraper — so high had the wall to be to accommodate the maps — and a spot to which I had to get stores was pointed out to me to which stores had to be conveyed. This seemed to be a pretty tough job as the highest point in the area had been chosen and in the immediate vicinity of the selected spot the contour lines looked like hatchings. Perhaps I should mention that by this time I had also qualified as a lineman and an operator wireless and line, and so was virtually a jack of all trades and master of none. However, I believe that I had some sort of reputation for getting things done.

I decided that we could use 30 cwt trucks for some of the way, transfer to jeeps, and after that, manhandle, mainly by securing the loads to long bamboos and lugging them up what was almost a mountain side. The equipment concerned had come from the Americans and was for sending teleprinter transmissions by land line and thereafter over the air to a similar arrangement on other side. Quite common place nowadays I believe, but I was given to understand that this was the first time it had been used in Burma. We had been given a deadline for opening up and this meant that we worked for about 36 hours non-stop. A Lieutenant Mingay was in charge of the operation — he was the 'gen' man on the equipment — and I, as a sergeant had about a dozen British and two dozen Indian soldiers and by the time we finished they were spread all over the trail, fast asleep. I'm happy to say that our lads lasted longest, but at the finish Mingay and I were fixing things up in a complete daze, and as he was far more essential to the operation than I was, I can well remember slapping him to keep him awake. Eventually we were through on teleprinter and speech channels about ten minutes after the deadline.

Well, sir, if you have read thus far I congratulate you as you must be bored stiff. But since seeing that programme I have lain awake all night thinking of the many things that have happened since I joined the Corps at the age of 16 — nobody bothered too much about age in those days, if a man was willing to serve king and country for two bob a day.

I am now 63, retired prematurely due to ill-health, but feel that I have lived a full life, with many interesting memories to look back upon and have had the privilege of meeting and knowing many fine men. I'm bound to say now that the finest of them all was not in Signals, but started his career as a private in the Warwicks and reached his zenith as Governor General of Australia*, probably the last one to be remembered in the future.

I do apologise for this long screed, but it was sparked off by the memories evoked by the sight and sound of the band. It would have been nice to have heard them playing 'Wings,' the tune to which I marched solo around the depot square in the old passing out procedure, having probably started off — as we so often did — with the left foot and left arm forward!

I wish the Corps prosperity and success in all its future operations.

Yours respectfully,

S. V. Stanton

'Plant'n Pightle,'
Shouldham, King's Lynn,
Norfolk.
24th January, 1973.

* Field Marshal Sir William Slim

More of interest in Unit Notes

Sir,

Your editorial in the February - March WIRE, draws attention to 'subject matter' and 'presentation' of articles for our Corps magazine.

May I suggest that your 'modest guidance' was a little too restrained and that like you, we are all easily bored by reading too many stereotype 'notes' on sport, visits, inspections, parties and, to use that well known military euphemism for holidays at public expense — 'adventure training.' I placed these titles of most WIRE notes in that particular order advisedly, since a short study of the last WIRE issue shows that these subjects were given coverage in approximate ratio of: 13 : 8 : 6 : 3 : 1 (where one represents the comparative ratio of cover afforded to our 'work').

The 'Satisfied Soldier' is a product of good management and satisfying employment. It may therefore be of interest to readers of THE WIRE if you were to devote more space to our profession. We are fortunate that the many varied types of tasks carried out by Royal Signals soldiers are, with few exceptions, both interesting and very often operational.

As a step in this direction may I ask that you publish the article from 'E' Troop, Northern Ireland in the hope that it proves of interest to your readers.

Yours sincerely

I. D. Reading, Captain, R. Signals,

E' Troop,
233 Signal Squadron,
B.F.P.O. 801.

(Thank you for your helpful suggestions which we are sure will be of interest to our various unit scribes. Please see page 157 for 'E' Troop's article.—Editor).

Service Friendships count most

Sir,

It may be of interest to the many friends and colleagues of my Service days, which ended almost a year ago, that they will always be most welcome at this address, or perhaps they would like to write to me here. I would be most grateful if you would publish something to this effect.

You will probably realise that, while civilian life if full of little advantages, I am prompted to search out the many good friends I made because there was a certain element of honesty —frankness, rather than a seeking after business opportunity —in our relationships, which I regret I can rarely apply to current acquaintanceships. Sometimes, but rarely, and I miss it.

Please do not infer that I am sore about having left the Army and am now an embittered civilian, lusting after a return to service life. Life has been extremely good to me and, by applying the lessons I learned with the Corps (sometimes in the most unusual circumstances) along with a tough education since, the future is assuredly bright and promises excitement and success. But Shakespeare had it that 'the friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them to they soul with hooks of steel.'

And he was right.

Yours faithfully,

R. C. West,

Managing Director, Talisman of St. Albans, Ltd.

53 Alexandra Road,
St. Albans, Herts.

Blue Book 1973 Edition

A reserve stock of these is available for those who have failed to order copies through normal unit channels. This stock is held by the Royal Signals Association, RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH from whom copies can be obtained at 15p each plus 5p postage.

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Briggs—An Appreciation

Sir,

I have just been informed by my last Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. B. Crawford, E.R.D., of the tragic and untimely death of Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. W. Briggs.

I served as RSM in 31 (GL) Signal Regiment (V) for just over two years while Bob Briggs was the Regular Foreman of Signals. I had the greatest amount of respect for him professionally, as a soldier and a Foreman and as a friend in the Sergeants' Mess and in that select group known in Volunteer Units as 'The Permanent Staff.'

During the period I knew him Bob ran a good, efficient workshop and supervised an excellent group of technicians, civil and military—Regular and Volunteer. He attended college in London each week throughout my tour there improving his technical knowledge and actively encouraged his technicians to make full use of this facility while they had the chance.

He was always ready to co-operate with and help out the other areas of the Regiment's permanent staff with labour for administrative tasks as well as the technical work he was geared for. I know Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) A. N. Duell, his T.O.T., thought highly of Bob because Colonel Duell told me so on many occasions—he also told me how much he trusted Bob's judgement on the technical side of life.

Bob took his full part in all aspects of our life in 31st. When we did PE tests I could be certain that he and all his technicians would be there for all the tests as the PSIs, the Chief Clerk and I would, and never did I hear from Bob of the 'indispensable technician.' When the permanent staff held a social evening Bob would stand all evening at his 'home-built' disco and provide music so that the rest of us could enjoy ourselves.

I had almost daily contact with Bob Briggs either by telephone or in person and without any doubt at all he was one of the nicest people I met in nearly 26 years of service. During the last week of my appointment I visited him in Millbank Hospital. At that time most of his ward-mates were casualties from Northern Ireland. He spoke mostly about them but nevertheless what little he did say about his own condition left no doubt in my mind that he knew he was a lot more sick than anybody had then told him. I believe he had already faced up to the probable outcome.

My deepest sympathy, and that of my wife also, goes out to Mavis, his wife, and children.

Yours faithfully,

B. Fisher

(Formerly RSM 31st Signal Regiment (V)).

281 Wright Road,
Valley View,
South Australia 5093.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during January, 1973:

	£ p
Treasurer, 42 Signal Regiment Officers' Club	5.00
Officer Commanding, 11th Signal Regiment	7.50
Officer Commanding, 233 Signal Squadron (Radio)	2.00
Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2.00
Treasurer, St. Barbara's Church, Portsmouth Bks, BFPO 17 ...	6.12
G. W. Cook, Esq.	2.11
Captain P. M. Weber, USAR Signal Corps	2.01
Commander J. C. Mansell, R.N.	2.00
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. N. Solly	2.00
Captain H. S. Watt	1.80
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Mr. and Mrs. Woodman	1.00
Captain I. C. Double, Royal Signals	.75
Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E.	60
Major R. C. Roberts	55
Anonymous	1.00
Various small donations	1.50
	£44.29

21st Signal Regiment retain Army and BAOR cross country titles

Carefully planned and sustained training is key to success

ON 13th February at Deilinghofen and 23rd February at Pirbright, 21 Signal Regiment retained their BAOR and Army cross country titles against some formidable opposition. This was the fourth consecutive year in which the Regiment have been BAOR champions and the second consecutive year as Army champions. The individual champion in both events was **Sergeant Bill Venus,** who has now been Army champion on four separate occasions. (Those who have followed his fortunes will be pleased to learn that he has just been promoted to Sergeant but that in fact he ran as a Corporal in these events.) This is a tremendous individual achievement as **Sergeant Venus** is now 33 years of age, and theoretically well past his peak. One wonders what he might have achieved in national competition had he received the 21 Signal Regiment standard of coaching and encouragement in his younger days.

The BAOR Championship

This race was run with little fear of failing to qualify for the Army Championship, but with a real danger of being pushed into second place by a good 1 Royal Irish team, who had been tipped as favourites on the BFBS sports programme. The event was exceptionally well organised by 1 Royal Irish on their own course, but the weather and conditions underfoot were deplorable—a bitterly cold gale force wind and sleet showers of such magnitude that eardrums hurt like toothache, whilst sections of the course were a quagmire of mud.

The pace set by the Regiment's leading runners was such that within two miles all serious opposition had been shattered and the Regiment's running colours of tangerine and scarlet could be distinctly seen at the head of the field. This early authority was not to be relaxed for the remaining five miles of this gruelling course, and Royal Signals supporters who had braved the elements, including CSO BAOR and Command 4 Signal Group, were rewarded by seeing eight 21 Signal Regiment runners finish in the first ten!

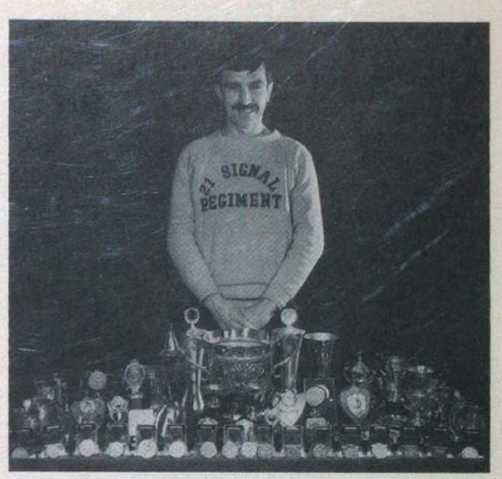
The Army Championship

As in previous years the team assembled in Winchester a week prior to the race, at Bushfield Camp, the home of 223 Signal Squadron. Here the team was able to train in peace and isolation. (We are indebted to all ranks of 223 Signal Squadron for hosting us and going out of their way to see that we were made comfortable). It is a vital part of an athlete's build up for an event that he should be able to relax and concentrate solely on the task ahead — Bushfield Camp is ideal for this purpose.

The day of the race dawned sunny and cold, the ground was dry and mainly firm, ideal for long striding runners.

Nine of our team were away very fast and all to be found in the first 35, with **Sergeants Venus, MacMillan** and **Turvey** and **Corporal Campbell** well to the fore. The tenth, who shall be nameless, but who finished in the top 20 runners, was still taking his tracksuit off and facing the wrong way at the start, though through no fault of his own. The race was over a three-lap course with one very steep, sandy hill which was difficult enough to walk let alone run up! By the end of the first lap the team had settled down, barring accidents the result was already obvious with seven runners in the first twenty. A worry to **Sergeant Bill Venus** at this stage was the very fine running of **Sergeant Brazil** from the School of Signals, who had raced into a lead of some 40-50 yards and did not look like being caught. Over the next two laps **Sergeant MacMillan** slipped back but **Turvey** and **Campbell** continued to make ground. On the hill for the third time, **Sergeant Brazil** was forced to walk and this encouraged **Sergeant Venus** to raise his tempo and finally overtake, so that he finished a good 40 yards clear as the individual winner.

This year's race was a good example of fine team running, one or two front runners and good packing by the remainder of the team. The final positions were as follows: 1st **Sergeant Bill Venus,** 14th **Sergeant John Turvey,** 17th **Corporal Graham Campbell,** 18th **Sergeant Roy Storer,** 19th **Sergeant George Holden,** 20th **Corporal Fred Roissetter,** 21st **Sergeant Pete MacMillan,** 33rd **Signalman Phil Madden;** 34th **Lieutenant Les Smith** (non scoring), 91st **Corporal Harry Pegg** (non scoring).



CHAMPION OF THEM ALL

Sergeant Bill Venus, the Army Cross Country champion, with a selection of personal trophies and medals he has won

This gave the Regiment a total of 143 points and a clear margin over 2nd Royal Irish who totalled 331 points. All our runners were home before any other team had three runners in. Mention must be made of one or two individuals: **Corporal Graham Campbell** who produced his best run of the season and **Signalman Phil Madden** who at the age of 18 years did very well indeed to finish 33rd. Two of our 'old boys' (now in other units) also deserve congratulations — **Sergeants Mick Gue** and **Pete Dring** who both qualified for selection, together with **Sergeant Venus,** for the Army team.

The margin of victory was such that there was some speculation as to how 21st Signal Regiment managed to achieve this standard. The more outspoken were heard to mutter that it was about time others were given a chance and that such overwhelming victory could only be due to 'packing.' THE WIRE provides a good and sufficiently well-read media to answer these comments.

How it is achieved

The potential 21st Signal Regiment cross-country runner starts his training for the championship races of February in the preceding late September. Every runner has an individual training schedule which begins with muscle development training in the gymnasium under the eagle eye of one of the best and most knowledgeable instructors in the APTC — **W.O.2 (C.S.M.I.) Woods. Mrs. Margaret Woods** maintains the records and statistics. The potential runner will be expected to train hard every day from early October, including weekends and holidays, except when this is quite impractical, for instance because of exercises. This training is completed almost entirely in the potential runner's own time, though he is permitted to report for work an hour late following an early morning run. Excusals are normally granted on Christmas Day and the day following the BAOR Championship race. By December, the potential runner will be taking part in a competitive race every week, and in January will be running hard over almost 100 miles of training or competitive course each week. He will have been inoculated against the flu and his progress will be timed precisely for peak performance in mid-February.

Major races are always preceded by careful administrative planning, a walk over the course and discussion on team tactics. On occasions, the strength of an unknown team is assessed by discreet observation of an event in which they are participating, or even by running an individual in the event. The final key to success is team spirit. This develops naturally amongst a well led group who are subjected to such punishing, but voluntary training. In practice it means that every member

of the team is prepared to bear considerable pain to gain an extra few places for the benefit of the team, or to help a team member who is experiencing an "off-day." It is team spirit which prompts four or five reserves to train as intently as the other members of the team whilst appreciating that they are unlikely to gain a competitive team place.

This is how the Army and BAOR Championships are won. This is the system which turns useful runners into the best in the Army. If the eight 21 Signal Regiment runners who finished in the first ten at Deilinghofen on 13th February had been members of other units they would not have achieved those individual positions! For example, the team captain (**Lieutenant Les Smith**) arrived in the Regiment in June, with virtually no knowledge or experience of the sport. He set a splendid example of dedicated training to his team and achieved 10th place in the BAOR and 34th place in the Army Championship.

When we are beaten, as inevitably we must one day, the congratulations to the winning team from 21 Signal Regiment will be warm and sincere. We will understand the effort that has achieved such success. That team, whoever they may be, will be worthy champions, for 21 Signal Regiment have no intention of handing over the cup 'on a plate.'

Present day Catterick in retrospect

by an anonymous contributor from M Troop, 8 Signal Regiment

QUITE recently I, who shall remain anonymous, was duly summond to the F of S office and by mutual agreement I volunteered to write notes for THE WIRE. My immediate reaction was 'hell' what now? Produce the usual format? Names? Inspection data! Details of the vast number of visits by high ranking dignitaries from various nations and services, which by their regularity have become so common place, such that they must surely be rejected out of hand as a non-starter, or should I attempt something quite different, perhaps even ingenious and produce a short article on Catterick Garrison. The latter idea had a more positive appeal and consequently I give you —

'Catterick Garrison—a new slant'

Not the Bahamas — Catterick was the posting

In mid-1970, three quarters of the way through a TI upgrading course, completely dejected and utterly fed up with the regular morning parades inevitably followed by the monotonous classroom drudgery I had fanciful dreams of a posting to such idyllic faraway places as Hong Kong, Singapore, Cyprus or even the Bahamas and dreading the remote possibility of my remaining for a full tour in this dark, dismal, foggy hole. Alas, my dreams of exotic posting to foreign parts was very rudely interrupted, when a news flash in the form of a ROPO, pronounced my sentence, a three year stretch, to be served in Her Majesty's Prison called Catterick. Now almost three years later, I feel it is time to appeal to the governor, and at the same time paint a new and more realistic picture of the Catterick scene with knowledge gained as a long serving member of the Cadre.

Strangely enough — most enjoyable

Looking back over my tour I was amazed to discover that it had been most enjoyable, my sanity was confirmed, when, on questioning a large cross section of my contempories I find that they also accept the sentence joyously, and are enthusiastic and dedicated to the tasks involved in trade training, resulting in individual job satisfaction being extremely high. This serene atmosphere becomes slightly tarnished on occasions when the cadre find it is beyond their ability to understand the devious and subtle methods concocted in the production of the fictitious duty forecasts covering a certain month each year.

A wide variety of facilities

My own reasons for enjoying this tour are very easy to understand; I have found both the time and the facilities available, in and out of work hours to persue the hobbies and pleasures I enjoy. Catterick Garrison is absolutely packed with facilities, to cater for almost all tastes, and these are readily available irrespective of rank and position. For the energetic outdoor types there is a vast arena of sports fields including the main central ground and the athletic stadium, all of which are invariably in use for the normal regimental sporting activities and are also readily available for organised sport at any level. In addition to these there is the saddle club, ski club — with an indoor ski slope, the canoe club and of course the Catterick Garrison golf club, with a rugged and arduous course capable of testing the skill and temperament of the most ardent and fanatical golfer.

Educational opportunities

For those who may well wish to pursue a less active pastime there is the plenteous educational recreation covering a variety of subjects at all levels. For example 3 AEC cater for various City and Guilds courses, the local Richmond County Council runs numerous GCE courses such at maths, English, typing, etc., and for the egg-head Catterick has its own open university centre located in Hipswell Village; if, however, the foregoing fails to meet your specific requirement there is always the local technical colleges of Darlington, Middlesborough and Leeds to quote but a few. Personnel less scholastically minded, may have much to gain by a visit to the resettlement centre which offers various DIY type courses such as bricklaying and plastering, household maintenance, welding, car maintenance, etc., all extremely useful as an aid to improving ones home environment. Finally for those yet to be satisfied I can only suggest joining kanine club, archery club or as a last resort the amateur dramatic society.

The social side

As of yet I have made no mention of the social life, which I must admit does not appear to be swinging nevertheless the various Sergeants' Messes and Corporals' Clubs in the Garrison do provide regular entertainment of a high standard, Saturday night, however, is in general practically lifeless and there is little scope without motoring to a nearby city. Local shopping facilities are limited and I am sure most wives are inclined to become very bored and disenchanted with home life in Catterick unless they have the ability and motivation to get out of the Garrison confines fairly regularly. A motorised family can find good shopping amenities and places of interest to visit in the surrounding towns of Leeds, Harrogate, Middlesborough and York to name but a few, all less than one hours drive.

Summer brings a variety of places for family visits. The national park is less than five miles away and has several natural sights of interest such as Aysgarth falls near Leyburn or Hardrow falls near Hawes.

The lake district is within easy reach and provides some of the best panoramic views and numerous quiet family entertainment. Families wishing to spend a day at the sea will find within easy reach such places as Redcar, Scarborough and Whitby.

My conclusions are very simple, for those posted to Catterick, there are a few disadvantages — fell cats and the like — but these are easily outweighed by its merits, and last but not least the job satisfaction is high.

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Ski patrol being towed by Volvo

End of a day out in the snow and it's home sweet home—a tent

You will remember in the last issue of THE WIRE we described the training undergone by members of the Force Radio Troop of 30 Signal Regiment. This Troop have now moved to Norway and are continuing the winter training that their employment, with the ACE Mobile Force, demands of them.

They are now living near to the Arctic Circle in temperature which can be as low as 40°C below freezing. This leaves no room for mistakes, no one can take any chances. Clothing must be perfect and the correct type of clothes must be used at all times. There can be no exemptions from the basic rules of survival for under these conditions it really is survival.

Perhaps it is this aspect of life in the Arctic that appeals

to the soldier. Skill and training must be used to their limits. Every man must play his part in the tent group, looking after each other at all times.

This sort of challenge issued by nature to anyone who wishes to take up the gauntlet is a wonderful aim for today's professional signaller.

Details of the Troop's activities will be published next month but here are some pre-release photographs of the Troop in Norway.

"Give me a tall ship"

by Lance-Corporal M. D. Newell, of 8 Signal Regiment

Bound for Amsterdam

EARLY morning on Monday, 12th February, the sail training schooner *Sir Winston Churchill* cast off from West India Dock, London, and headed down the Thames towards the open sea.

Meanwhile, in the depths of the galley, I was engaged in my new role as chef's assistant, keeping the 34 trainees and ten instructors well fed and watered.

Storms raging round the coast forced us to seek the shelter of the Medway on the Monday night, but they abated enough for a quick dash across the North Sea to Amsterdam, a run that took about 30 hours.

The job was challenging

At this stage, life in the galley became adventurous. Three hot meals a day had to be produced for the hungrey crew come rain or shine. This operation becomes a little difficult when the deck is tilting over at what appears to be a permanent 45 degree angle, and huge pots take it upon themselves to move of their own accord.

It is the proud claims of the *Churchill's* chef that he was never failed to produce a hot meal for the crew, although on the first couple of days of most cruises, the demand falls off when the ship meets the open sea.

This trip out was no exception. With my staff of three, drawn from the trainees, we worked a 14 hour day, tackling a whole range of jobs from potato peeling to officer's steward. As soon as one meal was cleared away, it was time to be ready for the next.

A good time had by all

Wednesday morning found us mooring in Amsterdam. The most important factor of this landfall was that we could now open our bonded store without fear of legal complications. With gin at 50p and whisky at 60p a bottle, a good time was had by all. A small party of the crew was seen to vanish into a Chinese restaurant, led by the chef, whilst the rest of the trainees scattered to the four winds to sample the delights of the city.

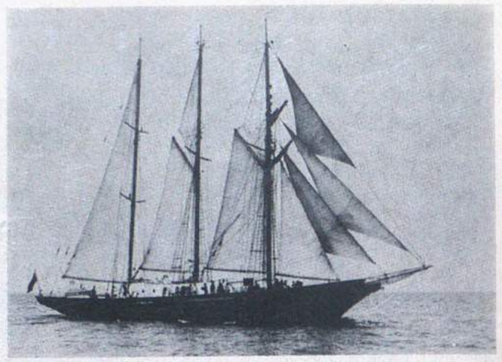
The price of the night on the town was paid the following morning as we were kicked off our bunks and set to work, ready to put to sea again.

Luckily, the wind had changed and was almost blowing us back to the Thames. In fact, conditions were so calm that there was some doubt as to whether we would make it back to the West India Dock in time for the weekend, but at least we were spared the thankless task of beating to windward.

Thursday gave us a wonderful night run. The night was clear and sea conditions comfortable. When the galley closed down for the night, I spent a couple of hours at the back of the bridge observing as the duty watch tackled the various navigational problems presented by a crowded North Sea.

Back to the Thames

Friday morning found us once more in the Thames, and life became very busy. Those not on watch were set to work holystoning the deck in an effort to smarten the vessel up before docking. In the chartroom, final documentation was completed for the customs and the first of our many visitors, the pilot, arrived in a port authority launch. We docked just



Sail training schooner—Sir Winston Churchill

at lunch time, an operation which threw all the meal times out as the whole crew was involved.

However, the job was not yet done. All afternoon, the trainees were kept busy cleaning the ship, whilst the galley provided a constant flow of coffee for visiting customs men and other officials.

Grand finale

The grand finale to the trip was the party at the Rose and Crown on the Friday night. Everyone entered into the spirit of the thing and traditional sea shanties were heard echoing round the bleak dockland until the early hours of the morning.

Saturday was looked upon with rather a glazed eye! The trainees went back to their counting houses and ploughs with the exception of myself and a couple of others who stayed behind for another week to help with final tasks of the winter refit. But that is another story altogether.

For your Diary

Association Central Committee	**9th May**
Corps Dinner (Officers)	**9th May**
Catterick Reunion (Applications close 1st June)	**23rd/24th June**
Blandford Reunion	**5th August**
Officers Reunion	**30th November**

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM—NORTHERN IRELAND MINOR UNIT CHAMPIONS

Left to right, back row: Corporal Harrison, Staff-Sergeant Ainslie, Sergeant Byrne, Sergeant Downie, Corporal Callaghan, RSM Thornton (Trainer)
Front row: Corporal Dale, Signalman Crick, Signalman Egan, Lance-Corporal Rutledge, Lance-Corporal McColl, Signalman Daly

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

THE Squadron has now had a year of service in Ulster and this would seem an appropriate time to review the life and activities of the inhabitants of Kitchen Hill factory. As our last notes were more about the Christmas season we thought we'd concentrate in this edition on the everyday operational events which make up life in the Squadron.

Protective duties

Apart from the normal Signals activities there are a few others which the Squadron gets involved in. Every night we supply two men for local protection, on foot patrols with the resident rifle company around the Lurgan area. We also supply an eight-man armed guard on the married quarters; for who's protection we are not quite sure! To ensure that the inhabitants of the luxurious accommodation of Kitchen Hill Knicker factory don't forget what Northern Ireland is all about we run a system of attachments to roulement Battalions. **Signalman Sage,** our orderly room clerk and general man about town, has recently had a 48-hour attachment with 1 Royal Hampshires, so we asked him to give us a written report on the attachment. Here it is:

48 hours on the border — by Signalman Sage

It was 07.30 hours 26th February that I left Lurgan by SDS on detachment to 1 Royal Hampshires at Newry. I arrived at about 10.00 hours and was introduced to the section Commander and Section with whom I would be spending my 48 hours. Within 10 minutes we were out on a mobile patrol through the streets of Newry. The patrol consisting of two open Land Rovers and five soldiers in each. It didn't give you a lot of confidence to start with, going round the streets of Newry and getting dirty looks and V signs from the local inhabitants. We then received a message over the radio of a bomb in the Ulster bus depot and on arrival there we found a large crowd had gathered just outside the depot, we had to move them back as apparently the bomb was due to go off in 30 minutes. It was an hour later that the bomb went off, completely destroying the Bus Depot main building. A quarter of an hour later we were again on the road to continue our patrol, setting up VCP's at different road junctions for periods of 10-15 minutes and then moving on. The Land Rover moved at varying speeds to avoid any gunman getting a fix on us with a rifle or rocket launcher. The patrol lasted about four hours. By this time

Signalman Sage ready for action.

my eyes began to get tired from constantly looking out for gunmen who might appear at any moment from behind a door, tree, rooftop, etc. These type of patrols went on throughout the day and night with very little time off, and I can tell you by then I was beginning to feel very exhausted.

It was later on that night that I was introduced to the famous Derrybeg Estate. I have never seen so many bottles and bricks flying around. It's times like this that you feel you would like to be back at Brigade H.Q. with a pen in your hands. But the Gods were with us and we got out alright with just a few scratches and bruises and my heart beating a little faster than usual!

The second day started at 06.00 hours with a 2-hour patrol through Newry and then back to camp to load up the 'pig' with VCP equipment, and then off to the border on the Dublin road for the first of two 6-hour duties, checking vehicles. It was during this first stag that the BBC visited us at our location just outside the Customs post. Having stripped their cars down and frisked them thoroughly they started to film us checking cars, and passengers. This was shown on the National 9 o'clock news that evening.

The second stage of six hours started at 23.59 till 06.00 and was more eventful with one arrest under the special powers act and some aggro when two men at first refused to be searched. After being 'kindly' spoken to they eventually condescended to be searched.

These past 48 hours had left me with a great deal of respect for 1 Royal Hampshires with whom I had spent my time, and also a lot wiser to the situation in Ulster, and the rough time these lads get down near the border.

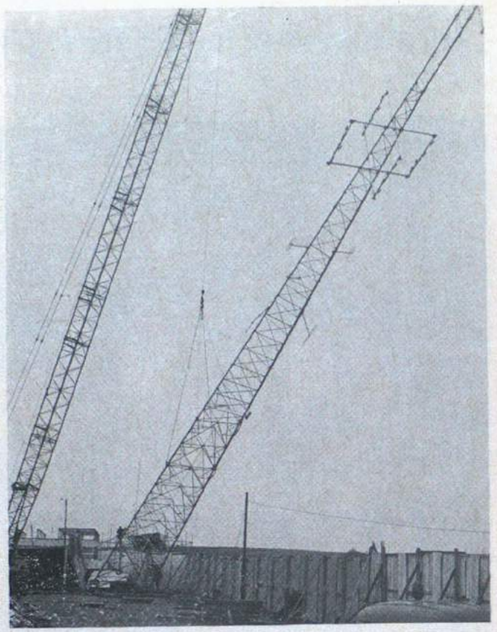
Limelight on 'Bravo' Troop

On the Signals side as Alpha Troop had a big splash in THE WIRE not so long ago, we'll concentrate on Bravo Troop led by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Pegleg' Dunbar.** The Lurgan comcen, a tributary station, has a main link to H.Q. Northern Ireland and nine simplex pony circuits forwards to Brigade units. All these circuits are manned by a three-man shift and life can get fairly hectic. One of the problems of working to roulement units is that the procedure and sometimes the typing is not all that accurate, so virtually every message has to be repunched before onward transmission. (Nimble fingered Data Telegraphists only need apply for a job here.) For the statisticly minded we show the analysis of traffic for the last year:

In Messages	**68,463**
Out Messages	**69,412**
SDS	**85,688**
Total	**223,563**

As you can see the SDS performs a vital function within the Brigade communications set-up. Without the efficient service provided by **Corporal Hobday** and his four merry men over the Brigade area (approximately 120 by 50 miles), there is no doubt that at peak times the comcen would be overloaded, to the detriment of the service we provide.

(Notes continued on page 158)



Coveted by every meccano addict in the Brigade—the 200 foot radio mast is lifted into position in Creggan Camp

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

THE turn of the year has seen much coming and going in the Squadron. Farewell and best wishes have been said to **Staff Sergeant Joe McGonagle, Sergeant 'Geordie' Chisholm, Sergeant Dave McGimpsey** and **Sergeant Len Freeman, RPC.** All have left us for the sunnier climes of England and have allowed us the pleasure of welcoming **Staff Sergeant 'Dutch' Holland, Sergeant Campbell Armstrong, Sergeant Bernie Phillips** and **Sergeant 'Paddy' Brown, RPC,** to Northern Ireland, Londonderry in particular.

High lift

Previous mention has been made of a new radio system, known as SPIRAL, being installed here, and the 1st February saw the last and largest of the antenna masts erected at Creggan Camp. The mast, 204 feet high, was lifted into position by a crane, and the riggers claim that it is the highest lift of this type of mast they have ever done by this method. The event was a supporting attraction to **Mr. Frankie Howerd,** who was entertaining the trops that same afternoon.

A little local aggro

Two days previously, Londonderry was graced with the presence of **Miss Vanessa Redgrave** and some several thousand others. Estimates vary from eight to fifteen thousand! On the whole, the event, the first anniversary of the so-called 'Bloody Sunday,' passed quietly, but as usual the DYH (Derry young hooligans) caused some aggro. They set fire to a house and two cars, which belonged to the other participants, at the time listening to **Miss Redgrave.** This was done just outside the old city walls, and the modern version of a 'sally forth with pike and sword' was carried out, this time with rubber bullets, to allow the fire brigade to deal with the fire.

Hockey

The Squadron hockey team have found time in the last three months to play some matches, but unfortunately the season has now ended with the defeat in the final of the Northern Ireland section of the Minor Units Cup. Our old adversaries, the Depot of the Royal Irish Rangers, reversed last year's result by winning a hard, fast game by 3 goals to nil. We wish them all the best in the next round, and will no doubt meet again next season.

In an attempt to beat the restrictions on sport and other activities we have organised a modern day decathlon sports competition consisting of ten (obviously) sports. The competition is to run between February and September and the small-bore shooting and hockey competitions have recently begun.

Thanks to 262 Squadron

Our last notes mentioned Exercise 'Hot Sand' in Cyprus, and we wish to correct the omission of 262 Signal Squadron in Dhekelia in our vote of thanks. Our sincere apologies, and thank you all once again.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

THE final episode in the saga of the move of SHQ is now complete. Our new accommodation has been redecorated — in forty shades of green naturally — and the inconvenience of moving offices twice daily to allow free access to the painters is but a distant memory. The highlight of this operation was the stationery store where the steel racking collapsed on the clerical staff with monotonous regularity. All survived, however, and O.I.C. Manning and Records can relax — we shan't be indenting for 'three clerks to replace original, mutilated.'

We welcome **Lance-Corporal Barry Marsh** back from the rigours of his Detachment Commander's Course in Catterick to comparative calm of Northern Ireland. He tells us he obtained a 'B' grading. Dare we believe him?

Finally we bid farewell to **Signalman Mick 'Supersig' Gillan** who leaves us shortly for 30th Signal Regiment and the beauty and serenity (for how long?) of Dorset. We wish him a happy tour in Blandford and excuse him the duties of WIRE correspondent for the remainder of his tour with us.

COMMS TROOP

Cross-country to the fore

The troop were pleased to provide seven of the nine members of the Squadron cross-country team which recently took part in the Northern Ireland Cross-Country championships.

The course was a demanding one and required maximum effort from all competitors. We surprised ourselves by being placed fifth. **Signalman Payne,** who finished sixth overall deserves special praise and we congratulate our neighbours, 233 Signal Squadron, who won the minor units team race.

Our mobile detachments or 'Dep Z,' as they are known, still enjoy the various sites of the Province. **Sergeant Davison** and his assistants are our antennae specialists and we also have rebro experts in the form of **Lance-Corporal 'Stew' Stewart** and **Signalmen Hughes** and **Smart.**

We welcome **Corporal Barlow** from 20th Armoured Brigade and **Lance-Corporal Pearce** from 21st Signal Regiment, who have joined us on a six month emergency tour. We hope they enjoy their stay and that they find it all worthwhile.

Our congratulations are due to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Holley** on the birth of **Cindy** and also to **Lance-Corporal Grant** who recently married **Miss Jacqueline Hutchings.** We hope to see both Grants at future troop functions.

COMCENTRE

Decrease in workload

During February we had two important visits. **Lieutenant General Sir Harry Tuzo, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., M.A.** came to bid us a personal farewell on the 3rd and five days later, his successor, **Lieutenant General Sir Frank King, K.C.B., M.B.E.,** visited us on his initial familiarisation trip.

No new arrivals to welcome, but we have bid farewell to **Corporal Keith Turner-Howe** on his way to our own 'depot,' 28th Signal Regiment, and **Signalman Jim Wright** to 27th Signalment Regiment, via Catterick. (He couldn't go to 28th Signals — he came from there!!). At the same time we would like to congratulate **Lance-Corporal 'Taffy' Powell** on his promotion.

Our work load has been drastically cut by the simple method of 'calculation.' It would appear that our circuits to many sub-units do not qualify for inclusion in our totals, (not part of DCN). Yet the SDS that goes to the same locations qualifies! Even under the new system our total is still over 10,000, not bad for a Brigade!

We would like to say to all our ex-39ers that by the time these notes are printed your tankards should be in your bar or club and duly tested.

Our Yeoman (**W.O.2 Phil Daniel**) has been digging into all the ashtrays for dead matches. He claims his son is building a suspension bridge. We are all collecting and would be grateful for any donations. We promise to mention the unit or department that sends the most matches by the 1st July.

Squadron swimming gala (Comms Troop's version)

The first Saturday in February found the troop swimmers flexing their trunk elastics in anticipation of being once again the greatest. **Sergeant Geoff Nelson,** chief whip and team captain found he had no nails left due to the fact that the troop had no time for training so he had to take as gospel such utterances as: "Spitz copied by style"; "I'm the best breast stroker in Northern Ireland"; "I was a traffic warden in Venice."

Nevertheless various bodies were banded together to form the Comms. Troop team. Qualifications for entry being, if the old man of the troop — **Staff Sergeant (never lost a race) Bob Swaine** — can enter so can you.

Two dark horses emerged in the team; **Lieutenant Bob Freeman** (who didn't make the boast "I'm the best breast stroker in Northern Ireland," but we reckon he certainly is), and **Signalman Steven (Dambuster) Smart,** who instead of turning for his second length carried straight on—this time the wall held. Result — one split head, but in true comms. fashion, he finished the race before retiring slightly bloody to the Medical Centre.

Because of jealousy and sharp malpractices, when the last event — Medlay Relay — arrived, we were very surprised to find that we were only one point in front of MT Troop. However, just to show we were above that sort of thing we finished the race with half a length to spare. One of the judges disqualified us for being too fast on the change overs. Who was the judge? Why the MTO of course! So the result of the gala was a draw between Comms. Troop and MT Troop. SHQ came a very game third. Any team that can only supply two men for a four-man relay and still come up smiling, if slightly out of breath, deserves and gets our admiration, well done SHQ.

Rover Groups

FAREWELL TO SERGEANT FEW

As senior N.C.O. I/C the Brigade Rover Group this photograph was taken of those he worked with including the Brigade Commander and the new Deputy Commander

February has been a relatively uneventful month. The SDS came under attack again whilst in Belfast. Fortunately, this time, they were only attacked with bricks and bottles. **Private Moult,** RPC (one of the escorts) sustained concussion and spent the next two days in hospital. We are happy to report that he is now fit and well and back with us.

Colonel J. C. A. Swynnerton, O.B.E., our deputy Commander, gave a small drinks party for his Rover crews just prior to his departure and the crews took the opportunity to wish him well in his new venture.

The Brigade Commander and the new Deputy Commander kindly agreed to join the Rover Group for **Sergeant Few's** farewell photograph, **Sergeant Few** has for most of his Northern Ireland tour been S.N.C.O. I.C. the Rover Group.

TECH WORKSHOPS

The easy life

Tales of the versatility of Royal Signals technicians are many, but we wonder if we in Ulster don't have the monopoly. Immediately to mind comes the incident when **Corporal Mike Bennett** went on foot patrol with an infantry section to satisfy himself about their communications. Then, there is **Sergeant Hughie Strang** who has shinned up many 120 foot towers with an aircraft warning lamp grasped between his teeth. At least one member of the Workshop will remember when **Corporal Phil Davies** set up his own road block using the workshops rover on the occasion of a bomb scare. Most of us have our 'midnight mountainteering certificate' either for scaling Divis Peak in the dark or putting up roof aerials in Indian territory after all the Indians had gone to bed. To all this excitement we welcome **Corporal Malcolm Barlow** on loan from 20th Armoured Brigade and **Signalman Colin Hewitt-Ward** on loan from 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

Sergeant Brian Davies is seen here with Commander Land Forces Major General R. C. Ford, C.B.E. Sergeant Davies has been the C.L.F.'s radio op for the past 15 months.

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

Farewell to two stalwarts

WE dedicate this month's notes to two stalwarts of the Squadron, **Sergeants Brian Davies** and **John McCrindle.** Both have just left after three gruelling years in Northern Ireland. They were, in fact, the last of the three-year tour soldiers.

Brian Davies joined us as a Corporal in April 1970 and was employed initially in Communications Troop. In December 1971 he was promoted and took over duties as driver/operator to the Commander Land Forces—**Major-General R. C. Ford, O.B.E.** During this appointment **Sergeant Davies** has had a 'front line' view of most of the major incidents and confrontations in the province and was the first member of the Royal Signals into the 'no go' areas of Londonderry during 'Operation Motorman.' We wish him and his family a happy tour with 11 Signal Regiment and welcome his relief, **Sergeant Raymond Whall.**

John McCrindle joined 39 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron as their radio relay Sergeant in 1970. When the Northern Ireland radio relay commitment was transferred to us in 1971, he and his troop came too. In **Sergeant McCrindle** we obtained not only a first class tradesman, but a fair and firm disciplinarian, liked and respected by both superiors and subordinates. His handling of the unit's RR tasks has been first class and his knowledge of radio relay communications in Northern Ireland was second to none. Our best wishes are extended to him and his family in their new station at 4 Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment and we welcome his relief, **Sergeant Peter Franks.**

Because of their vital appointments both Sergeants Davies and McCrindle have reflected great credit on the Corps. However we must not forget all the other fine soldiers in the unit. Each one, in his own way, has contributed fully to the exacting demands of service in Ulster.

To **Corporal Jeff Tracey** and family and to **Signalman Watson** we also say thank you and good luck.

Welcome, too, to **Signalmen Aitken, Greenaway** and **McKelvie.**

Sergeant John McCrindle sets up yet another station

If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!

ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK — ULSTER STYLE

submitted by 'E' Troop, 233 Signal Squadron

The challenge

ARE you a soldier? Would you volunteer to go on foot patrol in Belfast after twelve hours on shift, knowing that when you return from patrol (if you return from patrol) you may have to stand guard in a sanger which looks into the Ardoyne? Could you help four men build a sandbag sanger in an afternoon knowing that this particular task is the easiest job you will have done in four months? Do you thrive on work? Could you work at your trade for fourteen hours each day, ride 'shot-gun' as vehicle escort without pausing to change roles, and then go to sleep knowing only, that since you are 'on call' you are going to be called out after only two or three hours sleep to go mobile or on foot in Belfast at night? Do you want the privilege of being allowed to wear the beret and cap badge of any infantry battalion in Northern Ireland in order to do your job.

If you have answered 'yes' to each question you may have qualified for posting to 'E' Troop, 233 Signal Squadron.

A unique troop

'E' Troop is currently the only entirely 'emergency duty' Royal Signals unit. It was created as a direct result of the Ulster crisis. It is manned by soldiers on emergency tours from units throughout the Corps and soldiers currently serving with 'E' Troop are from, 9, 13, 16, 21, 22 and 30 Signal Regiments, all the Divisional Signal Regiments, 223, 225 Squadrons, 602 Troop and several other Corps units.

The photographs speak for themselves. This is soldering at its most exacting. It demands the highest standards of professionalism and skill. Short of bomb disposal there are few tasks in Northern Ireland which 'E' Troop soldiers have not been asked to undertake.

A house search may reveal illicit radios or it may produce the sudden blast from a booby trap.

Humour an essential

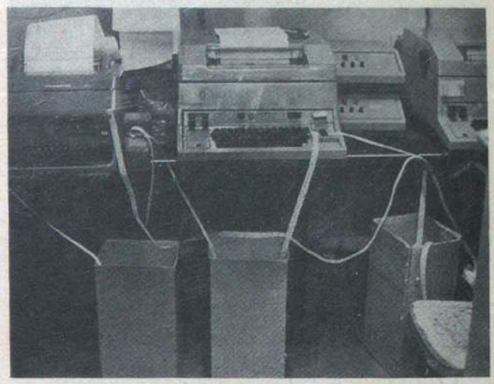
A sense of humour is, not surprisingly, an essential requirement especially when being harrassed by women IRA sympathisers or being stoned and bottled by youths hellbent on 'fun.' Occasionaly, however, humour creates itself as shown by this brief real life incident:

Telecon — Captain 'Parabolic' and Second-in-Command 'E' Troop, Saturday 170272 (The Fusilier theory of direction finding)

Captain: I have a theory Sergeant-Major on DF ing this thing you know.
Sergeant-Major: But sir things . . . (stops)
Captain: Just let me say this, "If I obtain a whip aerial and place a dustbin lid. . . .
Sergeant-Major: A what sir?
Captain: A dustbin lid and cut a vee in it, place and screen the dustbin lid around the whip antenna, when this becomes active and I turn the dustbin lid, will maximum radiation penetrate, pass through the vee and therefore give us the direction of radiation?
Sergeant-Major: (Thinks—whatever next!).
Captain: The only thing that worries me is the radiation factor.
Sergeant-Major: The only thing that worries me sir is . . . (stops)
Captain: Wait, I will make two of these and place them at strategic locations. How does that sound?
Sergeant-Major: Sir, with respect to your invention we are handling this another way.
Captain: Oh!
Sergeant-Major: (Thinks—I don't try and tell you how to clean your bloody GPMG. I suggest that you take your dustbin lid and. . . .).

Conclusion

On visiting 3 RRF three hours later, the QM of 3 RRF was seen bollicking **Captain Parabolic** because all the dustbin lids in HQ 3 Brigade were vanishing into the ops room of 3 RRF.



WHERE HAVE ALL THE SOLDIERS GONE?—FAR, FAR, PATROLLING

"Who needs Tarrif?" E Troop's automatic COMCEN looks after itself

WATCH IT! TROUBLE AT A V.C.P.

"Where did that come from?" Signalman Rylance is alert to the danger and is ready to deal with it

No time

We regret that we cannot give you news of sporting successes, FFR or UEI inspections or photographs of a quarter guard because we really do not have the time.

The issue of matchsticks to new arrivals for the propping of eyelids is no longer the amusing gesture it may appear. One ex-'E' Troop NCO has only just repaired his marriage having been nearly divorced. On his return from Northern Ireland he went straight to bed (not surprising) complete with 'boots-on' and actually slept for two days. He then took the doors off his car (easier to return fire and to vacate the vehicle on ambush) and is known to sleep with his SLR under the bed.

You too could be so lucky. We are!

'SANGER' AT GIRDWOOD PARK, BELFAST
Lance-Corporal Rackham spots suspicious movement and takes aim. Another lesson is learnt when shortly after taking this photograph two near misses ensured that Lance-Corporal Rackham will never again stand guard without his 'tin-lid'

'E' TROOP H.Q.—MIDNIGHT
But midnight brings no relief as W.O.2 Haslam and Sergeant Kaye plan the next day's operation, "Wot, not the Ardoyne again, Sir?"

More from 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn

Social

On the social side the highlight was probably the CSE show at the beginning of February with **Frankie Howerd,** the D and E platoon RPC having worked wonders changing our gymnasium into a passable theatre. Though everyone enjoyed **Frankie's** wisecracks, perhaps one or two eyes in the audience were more on the curvaceous supporting cast. One blond bombshell whilst reclining on the O.C.'s knees asked if he knew he had 'sexy eyes.' His reply was in the affirmative. Why else would she be sitting on his knees!

Football

The Squadron football team had a resounding success in the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cup, despite the lack of playing fields to practise on here. In the final the Squadron beat the Depot King's Division (Royal Irish) 2-1. The scorer of both our goals was **Signalman Egan.** The photograph shows the team relaxing after the match with their well earned mugs of beer. In the quarter-finals of the Army Cup, despite having a morale boosting win of 8—2 in a friendly previously against 233 Signal Squadron, we lost to the Depot Kings Division (from Yorkshire this time) 6—0. The game was marred for us at the beginning when **Signalman Egan,** our leading goalscorer, came off with a broken jaw and had to be casevac'd to England.

Volleyball

Volleyball has rapidly become the 'in' sport in the Squadron with many people attending the lunchtime training sessions. The Squadron team narrowly lost 3—2 in a return match to the Northern Ireland national side, despite the fast serves of newcomer **Signalman (Call me Sam) Sambrooke,** the skilful laying up of **Sergeant Downie** and spiking of **Lance-Corporal Jarwood.** Congratulations should be extended to **Lance-Corporal Jarwood** in being invited to play for the Northern Ireland team in representatives matches in England and Scotland.

Comings and goings

Sadly we have to say goodbye to our Administrative Officer, **Major H. Bellis, M.B.E.,** Kings, and Communications Officer, **Lieutenant S. D. Galpin,** both founder members of the Squadron. We welcome in their place **Captain D. Cameron,** Scots Guards, and **Lieutenant P. Richards.** We welcome also **Sergeant Woodruffe** and **Signalman Sambrooke** to the knicker factory and congratulate **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Dunbar, Corporal Harrison** and **Lance-Corporal Howells** on their respective promotions.

3 Sig Group, B.F.P.O. 53

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visits Royal Signals Units in Cyprus at Akrotiri

AFTER a few days' holiday in Kyrenia, **Major-General and Mrs. J. M. Sawers** spent from 4th to 11th February on a visit to units of 3 Signal Group. After visiting Headquarters 3 Signal Group and being briefed by the Commander, **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** the SO-in-C visited Akrotiri Airfield Signal Troop of 261 Signal Squadron. At Akrotiri **Captain Brian Turner,** the towering OC Troop, showed the General around projects on the Royal Air Force's largest operational station. **Staff Sergeant Geoff Walker** introduced his replacement **Staff Sergeant Ray Stokes** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mick Scott** showed his pet installations and even included **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Don Freestone** and his exchange installation team from the School of Signals on his tour of the sights. The General met most members of the Troop in the celebrated Troop pop show 'The Hairies' Rest' whilst **Mrs. Sawers** was enjoying coffee in Limassol with the ladies of 259 Signal Squadron, meeting members of their intrepid netball team, the 'Mercury Misfits.'

With 259 and 261

The next day **General Sawers** visited 259 Signal Squadron and toured the Episkopi terminal with **Major Peter Valder** and the chief system engineer, **Captain Peter Pritchard,** who had actually taken off his skis for the occasion. He then visited 261 Signal Squadron and was shown the new fault control run by **Staff Sergeant Dave Jolly** and a typical cable pit; this pit is officially designated Pit 2/2 but **Sergeant Reg Dixon** and his men have spent so much time inside it, painting and tying in cables, that it is now known as 'Dixon's Dream Hole.' Episkopi Station Troop, commanded by **Second-Lieutenant Bob Dibley,** presented a cable jointing demonstration by **Signalman 'Paddy' Campbell** and **Signalman Jim Jenkins.** The QM department's effort for the day (or the year?) was to line up **R.Q.M.S. Nic Scott, Staff Sergeant Bob Woods, Lance-Corporal Jeremy Ross** and **Lance-Corporal Fred Mandley** for a photograph. Copies of this photograph may be obtained by their fans from the RQ for an exhorbitant sum, or free from any police station.

Mountain men

Leaving **Mrs. Sawers** taking coffee with the ladies of 261 Signal Squadron, the General then flew up to RAF Troodos by helicopter with the Commander; here **Second-Lieutenant Iain Brown** threw off his guise as ADC and donned his OC Mountain Troop leer to introduce his 'Mountain Men' to the SO-in-C. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Jim Fison** showed the General how the 'top people' live and moved at such a speed that he has since been elected 259's lightning conductor. Leaving the mountain, the General visited 5 Airportable Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron who were staying in Cyprus giving their world-famous imitation of soldiers and went to stay with **Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E.,** who as Commander Dhekelia Area is Cyprus's eastern potentate.

Area efficiency award

On 7th February **General Sawers** visited the forward scatter station Cape Greco, being met by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Trevor Kay** and seeing **Sergeant Don Shrives, Sergeant Jim Carnegie, Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller** and **Lance-Corporal 'Sandy' Clark,** of 262 Signal Squadron, and **Sergeant John Simms** of 259 Signal Squadron, all hard at work. The good news was that the Station had been told that morning they had won their area's efficiency award for 1972 and the bad news was that overnight 21 police stations in Cyprus had been attacked by guerillas (a guerilla being a gorilla who can spell) and the SO-in-C was able on leaving Cape Greco to fly over one of the bombed police stations to see the damage.

9th Regiment

The General then visited 9 Signal Regiment and inspected the Regimental Quarter Guard. During his tour of the Regiment **Val Hussein, M.B.E.,** a long serving member of the Regiment, was introduced to him and **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.,** showed the SO-in-C some of the Regiment's many activities; the dog section bared their teeth and an SNCOs' course on firing practice bared their toothless gums.

General Sawers presented LS and GC medals to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. A. McGregor** of the Royal Signals, **W.O.1 R. Goldsmith** of the Intelligence Corps and **Sergeant D. C. Robertson,** R.A.F., and afterwards he joined the WOs and SNCOs in their Mess for drinks. During the morning **Mrs. Sawers** was the guest of the ladies of the Regiment at a coffee morning in the Elephant and Castle.

A convivial evening

In the afternoon the SO-in-C saw the Royal Signals yacht 'Brigand of Changi' for his first time and was shown the preparations in hand for the coming season. Next the General was taken to visit the Turkish old city of Famagusta and in the evening he and **Mrs. Sawers** were the guests of the Regiment at a ladies' guest night; a very convivial evening was enjoyed to music provided by the band of the 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

262 taken in

The next day the SO-in-C visited 262 Signal Squadron where **Major Laurie Woods** acts as the Island Pye-man. **Captain Jenny Baker** missed the visit by spraining both ankles in hockey but the General was able to see the SSM designate, **W.O.2 Frank Ward,** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Rod Mathieson** who departs in April to the appointment of RSM at 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Mike Walker** showed the General his mobile workshop and **Staff Sergeant Joe Chambers** took him around his gleaming stores. **Captain (Tfc. Offr.) Noel Clark** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Pete Sharpe** presented the Dhekelia Comcen to the SO-in-C, and **Mr. Yiannoukos,** the CYTA Liaison Officer, showed him the telephone exchange. **Mrs. Sawers** took her fourth consecutive coffee morning with the ladies of the Squadron and then lunched with the officers and their wives.

After visiting East Troop of 259 Signal Squadron, the SO-in-C flew to Nicosia to see the detachments of 259 and 261 Signal Squadrons and then with the FSO HQ UNFICYP, **Major John Cathcart,** he visited HQ UNFICYP and 644 Signal Troop and lunched with UNFICYP officers.

EPISKOPI STATION TROOP, 261 SQUADRON
At 261 Signal Squadron, Signalman D. Jenkins, Signalman D. Campbell, Major B. C. Hodgson, Colonel C. O. Bound, 2nd Lieutenant R. G. Dibley (hidden), the S.O.-in-C. and Corporal G. Thorburn discuss technicailties

AT 262 SQUADRON
Major L. A. Woods, O.C. 262 Signal Squadron, introduces Corporal R. V. Sansom to the S.O.-in-C. Colonel Bound, Staff-Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) J. G. Chambers and Mr. George Shiakos look on

INFORMAL MOMENT
Joanne Reid, with her father Sergeant Reid, tells General Sawers about life in Cyprus

Last night — kebabs and kokinelli

On the last night of their visit to Cyprus, **Major-General and Mrs. J. M. Sawers** were entertained at a kebab supper in a restaurant in the Turkish area of Limassol by the Royal Signals officers and their wives from the Western Sovereign Base Area. A considerable quantity of kokinelli washed down the multitude of courses and the rotation of the gentlemen around the table between each course ensured that the ladies heard new stories and enabled the gentlemen to enjoy an abundance of charming company.

On 9th February **General Sawers** flew to Masirah to visit 603 Signal Troop and during the journey his ADC **Second-Lieutenant Iain Brown** was taken ill, being subsequently medevacced to Cyprus. The next day the SO-in-C was taken on by the OC 603 Signal Troop, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Brian Meachin** to RAF Salalah to visit the Troop detachment there. On Sunday, 11th February, the General took off to visit units in the Gulf, being seen off at the end of a hectic but enjoyable tour by the Commander and **Major Bernard Hodgson.**

News from Regiments

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

THIS month we bid a fond farewell to our Q.M. (Admin.), **Major Frank Flood, M.B.E.,** Staffords, and to Alpha Commander, **Captain Leslie Steane.** Both were lunched out in the MLH (that's our temporary Officers' Mess) and presented with Regimental Shields by the Commanding Officer. The O.C. L.A.D., **Captain Vic Hendrick,** R.E.M.E., has also left us after a couple of years good work on behalf of the Regiment. We welcome **Major Don Stow, M.B.E.,** Green Howards, who is our new Q.M. (Admin.), **Captain Ted James,** R.E.M.E., as O.C. L.A.D., and **Captain Keith Turner,** the new O.C. Alpha Troop, who has just come down from Stanmore.

Exercise 'Swan Lake'

The weather on Stanford Training Area was rather mild for our five days' exercise, except for the last night which brought snow and strong winds. **Sergeant Keith McGurk,** who has just joined us from Harrogate, proved himself to be very valuable working in Radcon with **Sergeant Tim Ameghino,** from whom he is taking over shortly.

There were a number of Junior Signalmen from Harrogate helping us out on this exercise because of other commitments involving men from the regiment. Although they were a bit overawed by it all they proved to be of great value and we hope the experience they have gained helps their training.

Sergeants' Mess

With all the darts team away except for himself, **Staff Srgeant 'Paddy' O'Riordan** decided to play against the Royal Hussars with a few non-team members who were remaining in the Mess. We lost that game 9—2. However, the final of the 3 Chevrons Cup comes up soon against 27 Regiment RCT.

A disco runs every Saturday in the Mess. The equipment bought out of Mess funds is proving to be a great success, according to our R.S.M., **W.O.1 Reg Judge.**

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Brian Foulger has been trying his hand as a disc pockey. He has a long trail to ride.

Hockey

The hockey team is still doing very well despite the high standard of performance by opposing teams.

The games this month started with an easy victory against 22 Regiment Royal Engineers, whom we beat 5—0. The following week the long awaited game against the School of Signals for position in the South West District Cup was played, but after extra time we were locked in a 3—3 draw.

Before the replay we beat 27 Maritime Regiment RCT 5—2, which gave the team ideal practice before meeting the School again. The replay was a harder game than the final score of 4—1 indicates. In the first half we gained a 2—0 lead, thanks to goals by **Sergeant Keith Purkiss** and **Captain Chris Wollaston.** After half-time the School fought back fiercely, gaining 23 short corners out of which only one goal came, thanks to **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Brian Foulger** whose long legs carried him to the attacking forwards before they could strike the ball. After a very hectic 20 minutes we renewed the offensive and were awarded a long corner, which was ably converted by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bob Massey.**

The final goal, putting the game firmly in our hands, was scored by **Corporal Dave Hunt.**

We next play the School of Infantry in the semi-final of the South West District Cup.

Captain Wollaston and **W.O.1 Henry Higgins** have been selected for a tour of Guernsey with the South West District team.

Finally, in an incredibly close game against the Royal Hussars in the 4th round of the Army Cup, we squeezed through on penalty flicks after a goal score of 2—2.

Rugby

This season has been by far the most successful for several years due to the unfailing support of all the lads and the enthusiastic efforts of **Captain Ray Etheridge.** So much interest has been shown that we could field two regimental teams. Our forwards have been ably led by **Staff Sergeant Taff Buxton** and their performance in field rucking techniques must owe a lot to the example given by the All Blacks as seen on BBC television.

Three much improved forwards have been selected for the Corps Spring tour squad and to represent the Division in the annual game against 38 Group R.A.F. They are **Staff Sergeant Taff Buxton, Corporal Andy Hickling** and **Lance-Corporal Steve Bailes.**

Captain Etheridge leaves this month, taking his rugby expertise to 16 Signal Regiment, lucky people. We would all like to thank **Ray** for all his hard work and wish him and his wife **Lesley** the best of luck.

Enjoy your holiday?

This seems to be the standard greeting to the members of the ski team when they returned to Bulford, who represented the Regiment in the Divisional Championships held in concert with the 2nd Division meeting at Oberjoch in January. Form your own opinions from the photograph of a hard-working **Lance-Corporal 'Nicholas' Stevenson, Second-Lieutenant John Macfarlane, Lance-Corporal 'Terence' Cartner** and **Corporal 'The Skull' Crone** during the 4 x 10 km Langlauf race. This was our fourth day on skis and we were quite proud of our prowess up to that time **Corporals Crone** and **Cartner** had finished their leg and **John Macfarlane** was waiting for the other member of the team **Signalman 'Smily Death' Watts** to come in to hand over to him. We came nineteenth out of twenty-five teams in this race, which was not at all a bad effort for raw novices.

The sun stayed with us and we had a most enjoyable month's stay in Oberjoch, apart from **'Smily Deaths'** first three days when we thought he was going to break all our skis. In the event he only managed six before he learnt to ski round huts, look for crossings over ditches and not to crash his ski points in every dip in the ground.

Lance-Corporal Terence Cartner kept everybody in stitches by trying to ski as he walked, splay footed! **Lieutenant Mike Anderson** and **Corporal 'Ginge' Cox** participated gallantly in the downhill races, but due to lack of opportunity to train did only mediocre runs.

This was followed up in mid-February by a second party of twenty going to the Rothiemurchus Hut in Scotland to carry

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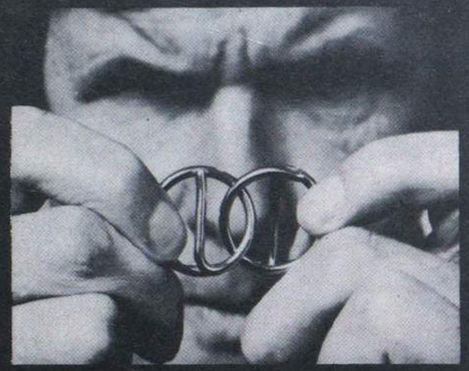

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plan to protect your future

Second-Lieutenant John Macfarlane and Signalman 'point me in the right direction' Watts watched by Lieutenant Mike Anderson

out ski-ing and training in severe weather in the Cairngorms. Although the snow did not stay for the whole of the two-week course, **Lieutenant Anderson** and **Corporal Cox,** the two instructors, managed to turn out a number of very fair skiers.

Quote of the month

This comes from a question paper on NBC training which was sat recently by most of the Regiment. When asked, "What is the drill for decontamination before eating?" **Signalman 'Geordy' Wandless** wrote, "Remove gas masks, eyes, nose and face." Life's tricky in today's Army.

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 15

Introduction

THIS month it's the turn of 2 (Radio) Squadron to write about themselves. At the moment they are doing many of the Regiment's guards and administrative chores while the BRUIN boys and linemen provide communications for a mammoth control HQ in the gymnasium. The moment that is finished, it's heigh-ho for the open road and four weeks of almost continuous exercises.

It snowed yesterday; it's raining today — so the exercise season is obviously with us again.

2 Squadron, or 'Rent-a-radio-det'

Since we last appeared in THE WIRE a lot of changes have occurred in the Squadron. Many of the old guard of 1971/72 have been posted and a few newcomers have been posted in. Amongst those posted out were **Major Terry Eamey** (DOE at the School of Signals beware; as nothing left unattended is safe) and **Lieutenant Allan Griffiths.**

New faces keep appearing daily but nothing yet has matched the look on the face of our new Squadron Commander, **Major John Hincks,** when told by **Major Eamey,** on day one, that he was due out on a Squadron exercise on day two! As the Squadron had already left camp on day one the marks of wearing a bowler hat at MOD had nearly healed up by the time he got out, but the brief-case remained.

However, he quickly settled down to roughing it and proceeded to turn what was planned as a steady easy-going Squadron warm-up exercise upside-down and outside-in, and then throw it all up in the air to see how it would come down to earth again. He did this by speeding up the pace of the exercise and stretching the communications over some high features and into bad VHF locations. This made the SSM, **W.O.2 John Driver,** work overtime as recce officer and **Lieutenant Nigel Hope,** the rebro officer, scratch his head and get out his prayer mat. We think **Major Hincks** was impressed with his new Squadron even though he will not admit it!

While the majority of the Squadron were being put through their paces, 'D' Troop were doing the real thing by providing communications for an AQ staff exercise.

Back in barracks the new Squadron Commander continued to make us realise we were under new management by introducing extra PT periods, morse training and a lot of 'two day wonders' as the troops call their troop exercises. These are to teach the many new arrivals since the last exercise season the 'Four Div Folklore,' ready for when we go out with the headquarters staff later in the year.

With this and his 'Rent-a-radio-det' service (speciality HF) he has kept us all busy and the garages empty as our services have been loaned to the brigades, the infantry and for a ski course rear link.

A few of the Squadron were able to learn to ski on Exercise 'Snow Queen.' Some managed to improve their skills on real snow but others had to make do with SEWS (ski-ing exercises without snow) and plod around Winterberg on foot. We never did understand how **Lance-Corporal Ken Robson** managed to break his leg.

Sergeant Brian Green with his 'Anvil' pop group continues to be as popular as ever and were persuaded to play on for an extra two hours at the Regimental Wives' Club St. Valentine's dance.

On the sporting side the Squadron is well represented in the Regimental football, rugby and basketball teams. In inter-Squadron/Troop competitions the Squadron football team has a good record under the guidance of **Sergeant Ron Upton** and in the comparatively new sport to the Regiment of ten pin bowling we feel we have a very strong team in SHQ Troop, captained by **Sergeant Mick Harrison.**

The motor rally season has just started again in BAOR and a fair number of the Squadron are interested in the sport. We cannot understand whether the interest is because the garrison club room is located in the Squadron accommodation or because the SSM is the doyen of the club! Quite a number were competing in the first event of the season in which the SSM was first overall, with **Staff Sergeant Dave Wells, RA,** from the headquarters as his navigator. The first novice award also went to the Squadron with a win for **Corporal Tony Mullin** and **Lieutenant Howard Van Praag.**

Families' Office and the Wives' Club

We don't often acknowledge in these pages the presence of our wives and families, and perhaps it's time we said a bit about them. With over 500 families of our own HQ and Regiment, not to mention 120 others of minor units and civilians attached, we keep a Regimental Families' Office busy all day, and the Wives' Club is a thriving concern.

The Families Officer and PRI is **Lieutenant Ron Meyer** ably assisted by **Sergeant John Scott, Mrs. Kent** (wife of our traffic officer) and **Frau Köhler. Sergeant Scott** took over recently from **Staff Sergeant Pat Farrell** who left on retirement after 22 years of fine service, which included a LS and GC.

The Wives' Club, presided over by **Mrs. O'Connor,** the Second-in-Command's wife, is run by a very active committee with representatives from all Squadrons. The treasurer is the RSM's wife, **Mrs. Hall.**

Apart from the usual evening functions which are held about once a month, the club held a most successful dance on St. Valentine's night, in the Corporals' Mess. We gyrated to the music of **Sergeant Brian Green** and The Anvils, with such enthusiasm that the allotted time was extended after midnight. We apologise to those barrack-room bachelors who couldn't get to sleep for the noise.

Mrs. Hall and other enthusiasts have also embarked on a new and very worthwhile venture known as 'The Pop-In' — a rest-room for harrassed wives who need a rest, a cup of tea or coffffee and some shelter while waiting for the bus home after being to the medical centre or suchlike. Apart from refreshments and a room to sit and chat, there are books and magazines. It's proving an instant success — and all by voluntary effort.

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.

WINNERS B.A.O.R. SECTION OF THE ARMY RUGBY UNION COMPETITION 1972–73

Standing: Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott, Signalman Pat Lee, Lieutenant Bob Wannell, Lance-Corporal Mike Johnson, Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins, Corporal Al Ewin, Corporal Mel Wilson, Lieutenant Mark Riley, Signalman Taff Williams, Sergeant Jim-Tunney

Seated: Signalman Vince Fallon, Signalman Ian "Bumpy" Cooper, Lance-Corporal Allan James, Major John Billingham, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King, Signalman Bill McConnell, Sergeant Sam Degei, Reverend Alistair Heggerty, Lance-Corporal 'Q' Gilder

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

FEBRUARY, though only the second month of the year, must already be considered a landmark of 1973 for 7th Signal Regiment. While work continued apace, with the Regiment participating in four exercises and receiving a visit from Staff College students and D.S., we have managed to win one Divisional and two BAOR Championships. A full and successful month, stemming from much hard work throughout the Regiment.

Rugby football — BAOR champions!

Major John Billingham writes:

On Wednesday, 14th February, 1973, the Regimental Rugby XV met 49th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in the final of the BAOR section of the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup Competition.

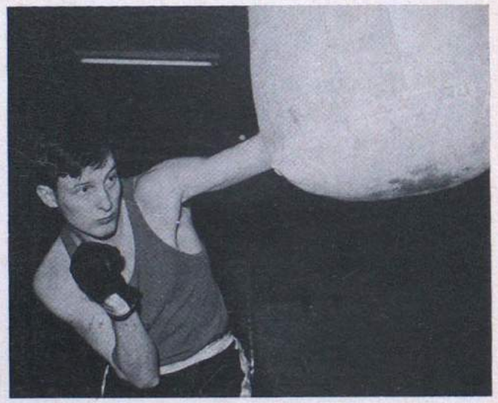
Lance-Corporal Allan Jones lost the toss and kicked off into a strong wind, to start what was to prove to be 80 minutes of dogged cup rugby football.

After 12 minutes, following the best move of the match, **Signalman Ian Cooper** opened the scoring for '7' with a try in the left-hand corner. **Lance-Corporal 'Charlie' Abbott** failed to convert. Just before half-time **Major Salisbury** converted a penalty for 49 Field to make the half-time score 4—3.

49 Field were reduced to fourteen men by an injury to **Sergeant Wiltshire** halfway through the first half. This unbalanced their pack but by hard tackling they never allowed '7' to settle down to play the standard of rugby of which they are capable.

In the second half tries scored by **Sergeant Sam Degei, Lance-Corporal Mick Johnson** and **Signalman Ian Cooper,** with two conversions from **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott,** gave 7th Signal Regiment the BAOR Cup by twenty points to three! The cup and medals were presented by **General Sir Peter Hunt, G.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,** ADC (Gen) C-in-C BAOR.

Our team now meet the Welsh Guards on the 27th March, 1973, at Aldershot for the Army final. Our best wishes—not to mention hopes!—go with them. (See stop press page 146).



B.A.O.R. CHAMPION

Signalman 'Taff' Rice working up for his championship B.A.O.R. bout—which he won

Boxing — BAOR Featherweight Champion!

Signalman 'Taff' Rice of 5 Squadron became the featherweight individual champion of BAOR on the 8th February at the finals competition in Berlin. He defeated **Gunner Walker** of 5 Heavy Regiment, R.A., with a convincing points win, though the match was strongly contested to the last. The skill and sportsmanship demonstrated by both contestants showed the high standard of this competition and reflected credit on them both.

We hope that **Signalman 'Taff' Rice** will go from strength to strength. Although he has little experience of Army boxing, having only joined the Regiment straight from training only 14 months ago, he is no newcomer to the sport. Before he

(Continued on page 165)

(Continued from page 164)

joined the Army he boxed for Swansea Youth Club and was the Welsh Flyweight Junior Champion. The RAOC developed **Privates Henry Cooper** and **Joe Erskine.** Who knows? Perhaps Royal Signals has a potential British Featherweight Champion!

Cookery — 4 Division Senior Champion!

If any National Serviceman could have seen the food prepared by ACC cooks in H.Q. 4 Divisional kitchens, on the 28th February, not only would his eyes have popped but he would have refused to believe it.

On this day 7 Signal Regiment's **Sergeant 'Geordie' Kidger,** ACC, won the 4th Division Senior Individual Advanced Cookery Competition. His winning menu was:

Fillet of Plaice Bercy
Chicken Montpensier
Vanilla Soufflé

Cordon Bleu cookery maybe, but also straight out of the ACC manual! The rules of the competition stipulate that Army recipes and methods must be strictly adhered to. In fact **Sergeant Kidger** had his most promising entry in last year's competition disqualified for an infringement of these rules. He had decorated his lemon wedges with a little caviar, this being termed 'over-garnishing.' Such is life. However, this year he made no mistake and won the competition by a handsome margin.

We offer him our heartiest congratulations. As all ranks know, his considerable skill is not reserved for exhibition pieces, but is reflected in the continually improving and imaginative food prepared in '7s' kitchens.

4th DIVISION SENIOR CHAMPION

Sergeant 'Geordie' Kidger with two of his prize-winning dishes

Regimental ski-ing 1972/73

This year the Regiment sent Alpine and Langlauf teams to enter the Divisional, BAOR and Army Championships.

In early September fourteen soldiers started serious practice on the very useful 4th Division dry slope.

On 8th December two turquoise blue Land Rovers crossed the border into Austria and made for Bicklbach where both teams trained for five weeks. **Lieutenant Tony Pennington** took care of the Langlauf team on their training jaunts whilst **Captain John Daglish** started to turn four virtual novices into downhill skiers.

Bicklbach is in a flat valley bottom which provided a good training ground for the Langlaufers, **Captain Tony Singleton, Corporal 'Sidders' Sidwell, Signalman 'Wee Jock' Paterson** and the only novice, **Signalman 'Yeti' Davies.** Circuits were made and at 09.00 and 14.00 every day the team regularly disappeared over the horizon, legs and arms pumping up and down.

Meanwhile the downhillers, **Corporal 'Mack' Mackenzie, Signalman 'Oddball' Brady, Signalman 'Brum' Smallman** and **Signalman 'Mick' Welch** took the Land Rover up to Berwang, put their skis over their shoulder, and started walking up and ski-ing down mountains. After three hours of this, lunch—a bowl of soup and a glass of beer—was a welcome break. Then back for another three hours of hard ski-ing. Physical fitness for both teams was important. However, by the time they left Bicklbach they had improved tremendously, langlaufers were extremely fit and the downhillers were able to tackle anything except a vertical cliff. What both teams were still lacking was racing technique and experience, those mystical qualities which only time and racing can give.

During the Divisional Championships our training efforts paid off and our teams came a combined fourth overall in the Division, with **Captain John Daglish** and **Signalman 'Oddball' Brady** coming 9th and 10th in the Best All-Rounder Competition. The Langlaufers did especially well to come 6th.

Moving up into the BAOR and Army realms, competition was very stiff and the results, as expected, consequently poorer, but both teams produced their best.

It was a taxing two months, but all ten members took it in their stride and fought hard from first to last. Invaluable experience was gained which should produce good results in one or two years time. Besides, it really was very good fun.

9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 53

'PRINCE AND THE PEA'

GOC day minus one

09.30B — Operations Room, Supreme Headquarters, 9 Signal Regiment—somewhere in the Middle East. Three visit-scarred veterans are pouring anxiously over a blank timetable.

"Perhaps we could show him the peacocks in the TOT's compound?" offered the Second-in-Command, who had just added the final flourish to a doodle that would have kept Freud happy for years.

"Can't do that, one's got croup and the other's gone broody," said the Adjutant, "anyway, you're just trying to steer him clear of the Saddle Club."

At the dreaded cry of 'Saddle Club,' the Second-in-Command turned purple, broke into fluent Gurkhali and ordered the entire Training Centre Staff on a forced march. **Major F. C. Lettin** had recently volunteered to run the club. This rash decision was the result of a misguided love for horses, engendered by a trip in his infancy to Horse Guards Parade.

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone,** eyed his staff with soldierly affection. It was rumoured that he had once successfully withstood a General's inspection without PR cover.

"I think," he paused, shook hands with a visiting Brigadier, and continued, "I think the GOC would like to see some soldiers."

"Soldiers!" gasped the Adjutant, "Soldiers! What about the Officers' Mess goose, what about the PRI cat, what about . . . ?" No—soldiers it had to be.

The Adjutant, **Captain W. V. Legge,** handed the office biro to his assistant, **Lieutenant Jan Hole,** and in the hope of inspiration stumped off to dress the ranks of visiting helicopters on the square.

Inspiration arrived on a zephyr carrying the blood-curdling howls of distant guard dogs.

The Unit's guard dogs make Cape lions look like suitable subjects for lids of biscuit tins! The Alsatians are housed in mesh cages and are tended by highly trained handlers. Chief Handler, **Corporal Boddington,** ex-circus hand, with a complexion like fresh Kennomeat, would lay on a muzzled attack for the GOC.

GOC day

The day dawned bright and clear. The GOC, **Major-General H. D. G. Butler,** protected by a 10-foot link fence, watched as the bait, **Private West,** waddled Samurai fashion into the killing area. With one bound Prince, the Alsatian, was at his side. **West,** whose first name must be **Daniel,** ran trailing an arm that any self-respecting dog should not be able to resist for more than two seconds. Prince came out of his trance and slowly the beautiful canine dream gave way to reality. It was a visit. No chance of anything but a dusty mouthful of kapok, no chance of the Dickin medal. Prince ambled off to sniff a few flowers and inspect a lamp-post.

"I think," said the Colonel, "we will go and have a look at the range."

Anyone know a quick cure for croup?

[*Photo: W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. R. Uttridge*

Private West, the bait, and Prince, the star of the G.O.C.'s visit

[*Photo: W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. R. Uttridge*

The Commanding Officer, presents the 'Steve and Brenda' trophy to Corporal Kirk

[*Photo: W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. R. Uttridge*

The G.O.C., Major General H. D. G. Butler talking to Mr. Valettin Husseyin, B.E.M. the Regiment's longest serving member. Looking on is the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E., Royal Signals and W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. Bramhall

Volleyball

Readers of THE WIRE will remember that **Mrs. Brenda Pilkington** presented a volleyball trophy to the Regiment in memory of her husband, **Lance-Corporal Steve Pilkington,** who died in a traffic accident.

In the first competition, 14 teams took part in elimination games. The two teams in the final were 'B' Troop (2 Squadron) and Communications Troop (1 Squadron). The photograph shows **Corporal Kirk** of 'B' Troop receiving the handsome trophy from the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.**

Land of Pope and Orr-y

Captain F. Orr and **W.O.2 Pope,** assisted by a small team of instructors from all Signals units on the island, recently ran a series of military continuation training courses for Sergeants. They were of eight days' duration, with 16 to 20 working hours each day! One of the courses, on completion of the training, presented their instructors with the following ditty:

Land of Pope and Orr-y
Hated by folk like we
How shall we recover,
We who're trained by thee.

Tired still and tireder
Do our poor legs get,
Running o'er the wadi
While the sun doth set.

Land of Pope and Orr-y
To Troulli in the night;
Lucas sweetly sleeping,
What a touching sight.

Hair cut short and shorter
Muscles strained and torn,
Shaving in cold water,
WHY WERE THESE TWO BORN?

Kind old Pope Orr-y
We hold them most dear,
When the course is over
They make us buy them beer!

THIS WIRE IS TOO LARGE!

Despite considerable pruning we have had to go to press with 52 pages — 12 more than we would like from an economical point of view. Unit correspondents are urged to try and keep their notes a little shorter and more to the point particularly in respect of the more routine day to day occurrences which are common to most units and not very newsworthy.

The WIRE—

Without it—

You're not With it!

A Cheerful Lot

Junior Signalmen on a map reading exercise at Catterick look as if they enjoy life

11 Sig Regt Catterick Camp

FAREWELL CEREMONIES ON DEPARTURE OF BRIGADIER P. A. M. TIGHE

Dined-out

WE had all hoped that we would be back in the Messines Mess before we said goodbye to our commander. However, this was not to be and on Wednesday, 21st February, **Brigadier Tighe** was formally dined-out in the Gaza Mess by a representative gathering of officers from the Brigade. The occasion proved to be quite a memorable one for all concerned.

The Royal Signals Band contributed greatly to the success of the evening by providing their usual excellent music throughout dinner and a very amusing selection of 'funnies' after dinner. The presence of the band at this function was particularly appreciated in view of their involvement in public duties. Many people did not realise that the Band had come up from Hounslow purely for this function and were returning to London the next day in order to be ready to play at Guard Mounting on Friday, 23rd February.

The evening obviously triggered off many happy and nostalgic memories for the Commander and this was very evident in his after-dinner speech. As a farewell gesture the Commander presented to the Mess two beautiful cut-glass decanters which will grace the table on future guest nights.

The next event of the evening resulted in quite a surprise. **Major Keith Boulding,** who was with us for the night, whilst conducting the band during the 'funnies' invited the Commander to take a turn at conducting. The Commander having taken up the baton with complete aplomb proceeded to carry out his task with the ease of a Colin Davis.

After dinner the programme was very 'fluid' and the Commander was seen participating in games of both physical skill and of chance. When the time came for the Commander to leave there was a sudden exodus of officers from the Mess and by the time he got to the front door he found that waiting for him was a governess cart with the PMC, **Major Cedric Mercer,** steering proceedings from the end of the shaft with a team of officers from 8 Signal Regiment, led by their Commanding Officer, **Colonel J. P. Hart,** from the offside drag-rope and a team of officers from 11 Signal Regiment, headed by their Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt,** on the nearside drag-rope. The whole scene was lit by poled lanterns held on high by a dozen or so officers. Luckily the journey from the Mess to the Guardroom, although noisy, was achieved without any untoward event. The Commander was carefully decanted at the Guardroom and drove off to Druggon House to rousing cheers from the assembled company.

Farewell parade

On Friday, 23rd February the Commander was due to be the inspecting officer for the pass-off parade of No 8 Troop. The Regiment, however, felt the Brigadier's last official visit to the Regiment should be made into an event of some note. When the Brigadier arrived at the Barracks he found that a Quarter Guard had been mounted by the Junior Signalman Squadron. He inspected the Guard and then drove onto the parade to find that instead of just a recruit troop there was a representative Regimental parade. The parade was commanded by the Second-in-Command, **Major Cedric Mercer,** and consisted of the pass-off troop, No. 8 Troop, commanded by **W.O.1 George Penman,** a troop formed of Junior Signalmen commanded by **Lieutenant Graham Elliot** and a troop formed by the Regimental Cadre commanded by **Lieutenant Robin Hill.**

As can be imagined, some people had spent unaccustomed periods on the drill square to prepare themselves for this event but the effort had been worthwhile for after the inspection, the parade marched past in line and then advanced in review order and gave a general salute all as though they were accustomed to doing this sort of thing every day. Because of their involvement in public duties the Corps Band was unfortunately not available to play for this parade, however, the

Rhine Band of the RTR made their first appearance with us since their arrival in Catterick and played us some very stirring music. The strains of 'Old Lang Syne' which regularly brings to a close each pass-off parade, that day, had additional significance.

After the parade was over the Comander walked down to the south end of the square where, to commemorate his departure, he planted a 'Cedros Atlantica Glanca,' a cedar which when full grown will be the focal point of the new landscape project which is under way and will transform what is almost the only uncultivated area within the barracks. Having completed his arduous task the Commander was obviously in need of refreshment and retired to the Regimental boardroom to partake of the sherry and Madeira cake with the officers and warrant officers who had been on parade together with other officers of the Regiment and their wives.

Regimental luncheon

On a pass-off day the normal procedure for the inspecting officer is to say a few words to the pass-off troop and their parents and friends and then go to the Mess and have lunch with a few of the officers of the Regiment. The Regimental officers had, however, decided that they all wanted to say goodbye to the Commander and **Mrs. Tighe** and so when the Commander and his wife arrived at the Mess they found that instead of a small gathering there were awaiting them all the officers of the Regiment together with their wives. The meal was very much a relaxed family occasion to enable us all to say farewell to the Commander and **Mrs. Tight.** As **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** said in his few words at the end of lunch, "we shall miss them both very much and regret that we have known **Mrs. Tighe** such a short time."

When he had arrived at the Mess the Commander had been surprised to find the Rhine Band, RTR, playing music throughout the meal, but this was not their final performance for the day. When the Commander came to leave the Mess he found the Rhine Band formed up outside in front of a large 'carnival type float.' Since the Commander has been in Catterick, he has become a very enthusiastic golfer and this was the theme used for the float. A green complete with bordering bunker had been built on a trailer and a huge club was firmly fixed onto the green. Having reached the green the Commander firmly grasped a club, for support and prepared for his journey. In the event, however, he had no need to worry for the teams of officers hauling on ropes managed to pull the float at a very steady pace all the way to the Guardroom. The Commander left the barracks to the strains of 'Old Lang Syne' played by the Rhine Band and to three rousing cheers from all the officers of the Regiment.

Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course, No. 72

We arrived at Helles Barracks to begin our course on 8th January, and were, to say the least apprehensive. We were very soon put at our ease by certain very strange people who informed us 'you will enjoy this course.' This information eased our minds considerably.

We worked extremely hard over the following two weeks after having been told to 'switch on' and 'switch off' at regular intervals. Sights that several members of the course were beginning to crack up became evident when, one day on the square **Sergeant Dave Scott,** was heard to shout "immediately on receiving the word of command, Squad Three, I immediately drove my right knee into the ground to assume the position attention."

Sergeant Dave Willis had an awkward experience in that after making a call from the telephone box at Loos Lines, wrote to his wife asking her to phone the same box the following Sunday. However, on returnig to the lines on Saturday found that the Post Office had mysteriously removed the box.

On the Monday of the fourth week we embussed for our weeks battle camp at Warcop and began the interesting (and physically beneficial) part of the course under **Captain Hackett,** Worcesters and Foresters, the Infantry adviser who seemed intent in letting us know 'the Royal Signals have a problem.'

The section attacks will never be forgotten. We were chased across the moors by some of the strange people previously mentioned who all the time were telling us of worse things to come (impossible).

One evening whilst in command of an ambush patrol one enterprising student who shall remain nameless lay in hiding firmly convinced that he was surrounded by hostile natives. They turned out to be after an uncomfortable vigile lasting three quarters of an hour, several bushes and one sheep who did not respond when eventually challenged.

The week at Warcop was a great success nevertheless.

The last week of the course came around and final exams began in earnest. **Sergeant John Sells** was heard to remark "I wonder if I'll enjoy the next course as much as this one."

Our thanks go to **Major Templeman-Evans,** Royal Signals, and his staff of excellent instructors who were a great inspiration to us on a hard but worthwhile course.

To conclude our congratulations go to **Staff Sergeant Jim Shearer** of 216 Para-Signals on achieving top student closely followed by **Sergeant Brian Peel** who was just pipped at the post.

Farewells

This month we say farewell to two old soldiers. First to **Captain Joe Walsh,** Royal Signals, after 35 years. He enlisted in the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in July, 1937, serving in the 8th Army where he was captured and escaped and in 1944, was commissioned into the Lancashire Fusiliers. He joined Royal Signals in 1968, and for the past two years has been the Depot Squadron admin and welfare officer. His great wealth of experience, kindness and understanding has greatly benefited all soldiers passing through the Depot, especially those with welfare and compassionate problems.

At coffee breaks we will miss his great stories, his political arguments and his vast sense of humour. In token of the Squadron's appreciation he was presented with a large and useful looking instructional manual on household maintenance and as a prize from the SNCOs for his political discussion a current hit record — 'Part Of The Union.' Secondly to **Corporal Frank Williams** who leaves after 22 years service as a cable jointer and latterly, whilst at the Depot, he has been Depot Sergeants' Mess caterer; always quick to draw a pint for a thirty SNCO in transit.

Best wishes and a happy retirement to you both. We look forward to seeing you again at Old Comrades Weekend.

Visit of Major-General Thomas M. Rienzi, US Army

General Rienzi—U.S. Signal Corps, plants a tree at 11th Signal Regiment with Lieutenant Colonel D. G. Pratt and Mr. King—head gardener

General Rienzi, shortly to retire from the US Army, took in a visit to 11 Signal Regiment as part of his 'retirement trip.'

He was greeted on arrival by a Quarter Guard which he inspected with great speed and informality and was then entertained to sherry and Madeira cake in the boardroom whilst he watched a presentation on the role of the Regiment.

Afterwards he performed what has almost become a tradition in the Regiment, the tree planting ceremony, under the direction of **Mr. King** the Regimental gardener. The General then went, accompanied by **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** and others, on a tour of the barracks, to inspect training in progress. During the course of his tour of inspection two free fall parachutists dropped out of the sky, **Captain M. N. Forge** and **Sergeant W. Ritchie** from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. They were bearing greetings to the General from their Commandant, **Colonel N. A. Butler.** This piece of histrionics delighted the General, who gave every sign throughout his visit of enjoying himself hugely.

The rest of his day was taken up with lunch in the Officers' Mess and a visit to 8 Signal Regiment. However, just before his departure from Darlington Station, he was presented with an album of photographs, a memento of his visit to us. The photographs had been developed and printed during the afternoon and rushed to the station by the CO's driver **Corporal Hall** and **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones** who arrived just in time.

Junior term

The new junior term are now fully committed to their training programme under the parental guidance of **Sergeants Eric Birchall** and **Steve Pedley.** Proudly wearing their newly earned cap badges the juniors completed a weeks winter camp at Dulnain Bridge new Aviemore, Scotland. The aim of the camp, to teach 21 boys and one officer to ski was frustrated by the lack of snow. Despite the failure of nature to comply with part one orders the camp was a great success with everyone enjoying the many facilities available at Aviemore. The ups and downs of ice skating were only equalled for amusement by the sterling performances on the go-cart track. Other activities included swimming in the modern indoor swimming pool, a visit to Inverness museum and distillery, and two days skiing on nursery slopes.

Creditable performances

The morale of the cross-country team was strengthened by their victory on 18th January, over the Junior Leaders Regiment, Preston, they travelled to Aldershot on the 25th for the first of the Army Youth Championships. Unfortunately a creditable third position was not sufficient to qualify them for the final. **Junior Lance-Corporal Dave Littlewood** did, however, qualify as an individual finishing in seventh position, but was unable to compete in the final due to a leg injury.

Junior Signalman Noel De Bruce fought his way through three well contested bouts only to be beaten in the final of the North East Boxing Championships. He is obviously a boxer to be watched in the future.

First taste

Life in the Junior Signalman Squadron has not been all sport. From 19th-24th February, **Sergeant Tom Sharp** took 14 boys and eight members of CT Troop, 1 Squadron, on a Third Division communication exercise. This was a new and worthwhile experience for the boys giving them their first taste of communications in the field. They were employed in all the various detachments within Comcen Whisky and acted as full crew members.

Coming and going

Newly arrived **Lieutenants Graham Elliot** and **Dick Hoyle** have taken up their posts as OC 2 and 1 Troops respectively and **Y. of S. Ron Butcher** has a new helper in the form of **Lance-Corporal Dave Prinn. Corporal John Oakley** is quickly learning the mysteries of the Squadron office before **Corporal Brian Cartwright** leaves at the end of the month to fulfill the part of Orderly Room Sergeant in RHQ.

Stop Press

11 Signal Regiment won the Major Units NE District Football Cup on 11 April beating King's Division Depot by 2-1 in the final.

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VOLVO

13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

WITH the Christmas festive season a memory and the somewhat hectic period of preparation for the Fitness For Role inspection over, the Regiment waited in quiet confident anticipation for the big day 8th February. With the arrival of the inspecting officer, **Brigadier G. E. Bavin,** Commander Rhine Area, all the carefully prepared presentations and speeches were put to the final test.

Arrival

At 10.00 hours the inspecting officer arrived at the guard room to inspect the quarter guard commanded by **Sergeant Neville Cox.** It was good. The high standard attained was the result of considerable individual effort by the members and (to use an in phrase) the motivation and elan engendered by **W.O.2 Sam Law.**

Military training

On to military training where **Lieutenant Phil Noble** — the wee fellow — urged groups of soldiers, dressed in full NBC ensemble, over a comprehensive assault course, and then controlled — if that is the word — their SMG practice on the 30-yard range. A detailed tour of the QM department, workshops, Junior Ranks' Mess and various inner sanctums of Regimental life was followed by further regimental training in which the toxic and nuclear recce teams showed their paces. This phase was likened to a grand litter sweep of the regimental area with the toxic recce and their testing sticks and the nuclear recce with their meters. Then up to the Training Wing, MT and medical centre. Finally, to complete a very busy morning schedule the Brigadier was entertained to drinks by the Sergeants' Mess and then to lunch by the officers of the Regiment.

UNDER A VIGILANT EYE
The Paymaster, Captain Bob Taylor R.A.P.C. and Pay Sergeant, Sergeant Bernie O'Connor R.A.P.C. explains the functions of the new Pay and Records Office

Local defence

The afternoon activities took the form of what many units call a 'crash out' but we in XIII call a 'crash in.' On this occasion the barracks was subjected to a spirited attack by a vehicle and airbone enemy. Helicopters of 669 Squadron, AAC, initially assaulted the perimeter with bangs and smoke and landed an element of the deadly foe whilst a larger element of the enemy entered through a breached perimeter wire. Thereafter an element of mayhem ruled until the last enemy soldier was captured — 26 minutes later. We are greatly indebted, for such a spirited and elusive enemy, to 16 Signal Regiment and the REME MPC course running there at the time. A most realistic performance particularly as the enemy was dressed in a most distinctive uniform. Needless to say, the 'phantom scooter rider' was absent this year.

One chemical attack reported in a closed area of the Regiment proved to be nothing more than a strong smell of combat suits and moth balls. A final statement to the day of 'phew!' 'Glad I shall not be here for the next one' will not be tied to the speaker by name.

Detachment Commanders Course (BAOR)

The first two courses of 1973 have been completed under new management and the JNCOs returned to their units full of knowledge, enthusiasm and breathing fire and brimstone. After completing the five day field exercise at Grobbendonck they all now realise just what can be achieved during the hours of darkness.

The 'funny' of the course came from a section commander who ordered 'enemy quarter left rapid fire' thus engaging the mast head lights of barges moving up and down the Albert Canal. Fortunately live ammo had not been issued.

Ski-ing

Where can would-be skiers spend a week living in an authentic Bavarian Bayern (farmhouse), have all the necessary equipment supplied at no cost, eat and drink to their hearts content and learn the rudiments of ski-ing, all for DM 100? Come to 13th Signal Regiment and we can tell you.

Once again the Regiment is running week long courses for novices at Bayrischzell in the Bavarian Alps. The courses, six in number with seven to eight people on each, starting in early January and finishing at the end of February, are ably run, once again, by **W.O.2 Andy Roberts,** Int Corps, and are designed to enable complete fools like the writer to hurl themselves down ice covered slopes trying to balance on two lengths of wood.

So far this year, the weather has been kind and plenty of snow has been available; this has enabled about 40 members of the Regiment including wives to learn (the hard way) the joys of ski-ing.

It is hoped, if the rumour that **W.O.2 Roberts** has gone native is unfounded, to bring you more gripping details of these courses in a latter addition of THE WIRE.

3 SQUADRON

General

The Squadron, despite the lack of manpower and rumours to the contrary, still continues to function. We have said goodbye to **Staff Sergeant Thorpe** whose presence, after six years, will be sorely missed, **Sergeant Taylor** who has departed to attend his F of S course and our clerk, **Corporal O'Neill,** who has departed to leave the service. We wish them all the best for the future. We welcome the arrival of **Sergeant Harding** and **Signalman Hutcheson.**

Sport

On the sporting side the Squadron badminton team has beaten all comers bar two, 'Gatow Ladies' and the Brigade HQ; the reason for the second defeat becomes more obvious when it is known that the Brigade HQ team also has ladies playing for it! The basketball team did very well to finish fourth in the league and the squash and football teams are still struggling on. Rumour has it that now **W.O.2 Goonan** is back, the Squadron are going to play RAF Gatow; the best team in Berlin.

3 Squadron visits Hohne

Having an Artillery officer with the Squadron really paid off last week when a trip was arranged (via the 'old boy' net) for a group to observe firing and to see how the 'smoke pole boys' operate.

After the short journey from Berlin, we arrived in good spirits at the massive Hohne Garrison. Whichever way one looked there were blocks, training grounds, messes, wagons, field pieces and parade squares enough to start an RSM pawing the ground in excitement.

We joined the FOOs' (Forward Observation Officers) Course the next morning and spent an interesting day theorising on the tactics of the next days shoot.

Alas the weather was not friendly, visibility was so low that **Staff Sergeant Thorpe** poured himself a brandy instead of whisky from the 'refreshments box' which was brought out to us at lunch time. Although no firing was possible we did get the opportunity to inspect an Abbott (the RA's SP gun) at close quarters, which was very interesting.

After a nourishing 'gunner stew,' the visibility having improved slightly, we set out for the smaller practice range. Here everything was scaled down to one tenth of the size of the big range and with the 14.5 training guns, simulation exercises could be mounted.

We saw the complete processing of information from the FOO to the CP to a computer and finally to the guns, bearing and elevations. We had the opportunity to load adjust and fire the weapons and **Corporal 'Guns' Elliott** soon had this down to a fine art.

Back at the camp 'IS' training was in progress for one regiment, which was due to go to Northern Ireland. The sight of riot shields and Saracens soon had **Staff Sergeant Thorpe** relating his recent adventures in that unhappy land.

All good things must come to an end and the next day we headed back to the 'sharp end' and the following morning we were casually tossing phrases such as 'elevating gun angles,' mils and 'muzzle velocities' at bewildered signalmen and feeling quite superior when an abbreviation had to be explained.

We learned later that two Honest John missiles were due to be fired the day we left, naturally we were disappointed at having missed this but feel that there is something to look forward to next time. Our thanks to **Major Blandy,** RA, and RAGTE for arranging a very enjoyable and informative three days.

SERGEANTS' MESS

February has been a very hectic month with the new committees taking over their duties and getting right into stride with a St. Valentine's dance. Our new PEC, **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) George Watson** ably assisted by **Sergeant (MC) Denis McGonigle** kept everyone on their toes physically and really got things moving, but rumours have it that the balloon blowing contest was too much after the jive competition. Further on in the month we had a Continental dinner night which was a great success; the only murmurs being 'I wanted asparagus tips not peas.'

February was FFR month, our inspection being carried out by **Brigadier G. E. Bavin,** Commander Rhine Area. The inspecting officer completed his tour of the barracks at the Sergeants' Mess where he presented the LS and GC medal to **W/Staff Sergeant Nessie Dick.**

Visitors to the Mess were **W.O.1 Pete Merritt,** Int Corps, **Staff Sergeants Dick Good** and **Roger Courtney,** R. Signals, from our out stations and **W.O.1 Ken Sloane** from MOD who had his ear bent many times here by members of the Mess without any success.

Our farewells go to **Sergeant John Garbutt** and **Ann, Sergeant Mac Cole** and **Daphne, Sergeant Mick Collins** and **Mandy,** all on posting; we welcome **Sergeant Steve Stephenson, Sergeant Pat Harding, Sergeant Roger Manser, Sergeant Clive Dawkin, Sergeant Dick Holman** and congratulate **Staff Sergeant Graham Chard,** Int Corps, on his promotion to Staff Sergeant.

16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

Carnival in Krefeld

THE climax of Carnival time in Krefeld came on Monday, 5th March, with the Rosenmontag parade through the streets of the town. On this day the regiment was given the honour of leading the parade with a tableau depicting Henry VIII and his six wives in the setting of the Tower of London. This place of honour was particularly appreciated by the regiment having received the Freedom of the City only six months previously. It was now participating in the city's 600th year celebrations of which this parade formed part.

The idea of a tableau was first put forward at the Wives' Club by **Mrs. Suzanne Smith** only two weeks before the event. It met generally with strong approval, although there were those who said "It could not be done." **Mrs. Anne Chadwick** suggested the theme, and volunteered to be one of the wives. **Mrs. Rita Wright, Margaret Arnold, Diane Hague** and **Miss Wendy Aitken** promptly joined in to make up the six. As the regiment was involved in 'Wintex' male volunteers were much harder to find. At the mere mention of building a float finding them became even harder, and but for the outstanding efforts of **Corporal Peter Jones, Staff Sergeant Brian Connor** and **Corporal Gordon Chadwick** the whole project would have been abandoned. Not only did these three convert a 20-ton low loader into a highly respectable float in five days, but they also doubled to fill the male parts in the act. **Major Frank Smith** was chief co-ordinator and served to keep the supply of cash flowing from the PRI.

The noise of hammering did not escape the ears of all those who melted away at the thought of work, and slowly interest grew as work developed and all sorts of odd building materials appeared in the form of anonymous donations. At one stage it was rumoured that **Major Frank Smith** was building a mobile TRC to take 1 Squadron on exercise!

The heralds were provided by **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Arnold's** two daughters **Teresa** and **Lisa,** with **Andrew Smith** as a page. The children were **Clare Gibson, Cathy Connor, Susan Chadwick, Paula Arnold** and **Deborah Hague** and their important task was to throw a hundredweight of sweets to the thousands who turned out to cheer the procession on its four-mile circuit of the town.

Mention must be made here of **Craftsman Ian Rabbetts** who had the difficult and nerve-racking job of towing 'the thing' around Krefeld, a task which he performed without a hitch in spite of pressing crowds and children diving for sweets.

The whole project was a success and met with warm approval of the town. 16 Signal Regiment was already making its mark in the 600th year of the City.

Scotsmen abound

There's a fair chance of finding a Scotsman in most British Army units—but this Regiment seems to have more than its share. But even more unusual, considering the Regiment makes no attempt to recruit from any one particular area, is the fact that most of the Scots in the unit seem to come from Dundee. No fewer than nine Dundonians are serving with this Regiment. Four of these are married to Dundee girls.

Good relations have been built up with the local authorities, so it isn't surprising that the men and women from Dundee are happy in their new surroundings.

"We were very pleased when we heard we were coming back to Krefeld," said **Mrs. Christine Naismith.** "Until recently, we were stationed further north, in Sennelager, but we lived in Krefeld from 1961 until 1963.

A MOMENT FOR DECISION

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Willy and Mrs. Christine Naismith

Another Dundee couple with the Regiment are **Derek and Kathleen McMillin.** "We're enjoying it here very much," said **Kathleen.** "We arrived six months ago, and it's our first posting abroad."

"WHIT NAE HAGGIS"

Lance-Corporal Derek and Mrs. Kathleen McMillin

One of the youngest Warrant Officers in the Regiment is **W.O.2 Lesley Haworth** of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Formerly **Miss Lesley Watson** of Dundee, she is the daughter of **Sergeant Ella Watson,** who has been the Recruiting Sergeant in Dundee for the past 20 years. **Lesley,** who became a Warrant Officer at the age of 24, was married in December to **Sergeant Andrew Haworth,** whom she met in Krefeld. "In my spare time I do a lot of marching," said **Lesley.** "Last year I took a team to the Nijmegen Marches in Holland."

Corporal James Duffus works in the Regimental Pay Office. He joined the Army as a National Serviceman in 1954, when he was with the Corps. "I left in 1962 and joined the RAF. Eight years later I transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps, and was immediately sent to Germany on a three-year tour of duty." His next posting will be with the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, at Windsor.

Staff Sergeant Jim Phinn will be leaving the Army in September after a career which he began as a Gordon Highlander in February, 1949. **Micky** has served in Korea, Cyprus during the EOKA Emergency, and in Germany for three years during the sixties.

Staff-Sergeant "Micky" Phin and Signalman "Jock" Hannah

Sergeant and Mrs. Charles Napier and family at home

Sergeant Charles Napier and his wife **Helen** live in a three-bedroomed flat in a small group of married quarters next to the barracks. "I thought things in Germany were expensive until I went home to Scotland," said **Helen.** "Clothes are still cheaper at home, but food and most other things are roughly the same as in Germany. I love Germany, though I am looking forward to the next two years in Krefeld."

Mrs. Mary Crawford, the wife of **W.O.2 Frank Crawford,** says the problem of rising prices is partially solved by shopping around—in three countries.

Germany's Common Market neighbours Holland and Belgium are within easy reach of Krefeld, and it is nothing for wives to nip over the border into one or the other to pick up the morning's groceries. "We shop around in all three countries—as at home, you have to know where to shop to pick up the bargains," says **Mary.** "Germany can be quite expensive, but there is a far better choice of goods than at home, and also you can go into one huge shop and get everything you want."

Ten-pin bowling

The 6th Army Tenpin Bowling Championships were held in Tolworth, Surrey, on 4th March, and the Regiment entered a team for the first time. The five-man team was drawn from the Regimental Bowling League which has been in existence for six months. Despite their lack of bowling experience the team, consisting of **W.O.1 Chris Speight, Sergeant Joe Gibson, Corporal Andy Younger, Corporal Jim Adams** and **Signalman Al Evans** came a very creditable fifth out of 26 entries. In the individual events **Corporal Jim Adams** was placed 9th in the singles, **Sergeant Joe Gibson** and **Corporal Andy Younger** 10th in the doubles and **Signalman Al Evans** missed the opportunity of representing the Army at the Inter-Services Tournament by only 12 points. Overall a very satisfying first attempt. The journey from Krefeld to England was made in the PRI mini bus to which the team send their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

At an indoor meeting at the Air Base of 33 Fighter Bomber Squadron of the German Air Force, **Corporal Percy Hosannah** came overall 2nd in 3 by 25 metre runs. There were 60 competitors amongst whom were well-known German sprinters doing their National Service. A good effort. **Lance-Corporal Mick Lytollis** came 8th.

The new Telemark canoe club

A revival of interest in canoeing within the Regiment has prompted the more hardy paddlers to band together and form the 'New Telemark Club.' The Club is based in Bradbury Barracks and is run on the lines of the original Telemark Club of 8 Signal Regiment, to provide weekend canoeing activities

for all members of the Regiment. Thus on the last day of February, when all sensible sportsmen should have been out ski-ing, three members of the club put the boats on the water for the first 'Club Meet.' This was held on the River Erft, near Neuss, where a broken weir provided the supreme for hours of aquatic antics. The meter high standing waves, however, took their toll, sending **Sergeant Lemmy Lomax** and **Corporal Alex Brandie** for 'big swims.' The expedition was led by **Lieutenant Mike Schofield,** RPC. The club is also planning a long-distance inland cruise in Holland, for April, to pick our crews for the BAOR race.

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Ski-ing

DURING the past two months the Regiment has been taking part in Exercise 'Snowqueen' and despatching a coach load of novices to Oberstdorf in Allgau fortnightly. The courses are supervised by **Lieutenant Andrew Gale** who has been successful in turning novices into reasonable skiers within 10 days, a feat that is in itself remarkable as most civilians would take possibly two seasons to reach this standard.

One achievement of note is that **Lance-Corporal Barry Weaver** took part in the British National and Army Nordic ski championship at Oberjoch and finished mid-field which is a good effort considering that some of the competitors had taken part in the winter Olympics at Sappora in Japan.

BEGINNERS

Signalman Haughton, under the watchful eye of instructor Sergeant Terry Mumford (*right*) practices a turn

Looking on (*left to right*): Signalman Owen, Lance-Corporal Tarrant, Driver Murray

Football and festival

The Sergeants' Mess were challenged by SV Victoria Lippstadt to the return leg of the now well established twice yearly football match. These football matches have been running now for some two years and are as fiercely contested as any world cup match. A cup has been presented by the Sergeants' Mess to be held by the winner for a period of six months. Both teams take turn to act as host and friends, off the field if not on, have been long and lasting.

This match was played through a roaring blizzard and knee deep in mud with temperatures of at least 50 C (well it felt that cold). The team was lead by **Tony Pfeiffer** and went into an early lead, even though the field was reminiscent of Mons or Pachendale, the goal scorer **Staff Sergeant Graham Griffiths** or was it **Sergeant Brian Tranter** or could it have been **Sergeant Pat Garrigan.** Really it could have been anyone because the team by this time were covered with mud and one could not distinguish any member of the team. The only two we can be certain of were **Terry Mumford** and **Bob Vale**

DETERMINATION

Lance-Corporal Barry Weaver of 22nd Signal Regiment taking part in the British National and Army Nordic Ski Championship

who were the substitutes laughing up their track suit sleeves and drinking hot tea in the dressing room.

It is sad to relate that the Sergeants' Mess were deemed the losers at 4-2, but we think **John Brunt,** the goalkeeper had been bribed, he was the only member of our team with clean knees.

The evening entertainment (what the whole thing is about really) was of the usual high standard and a good time was had by all, well at least by those that can remember.

Fencing

Our Regimental fencing team are training for the 4th Division fencing championships to take place on 20th-23rd March. The team consisting of **Staff Sergeant Maxie Springer, Sergeant Mick Ambler, Signalman Danny Pampel, Signalman Keith Pywell** and **Signalman (Jim the Dent) Perry** take part in the first competition versus 27 Medium Regiment, RA, 39 Medium Regiment, RA, at Sennelager all arms training centre, on 1st March!

Stop press

Information has just been received that **Staff Sergeant Max Springer** has been selected to represent a combined BAOR/RAF (G) epee team in Luxembourg on 30th/31st March.

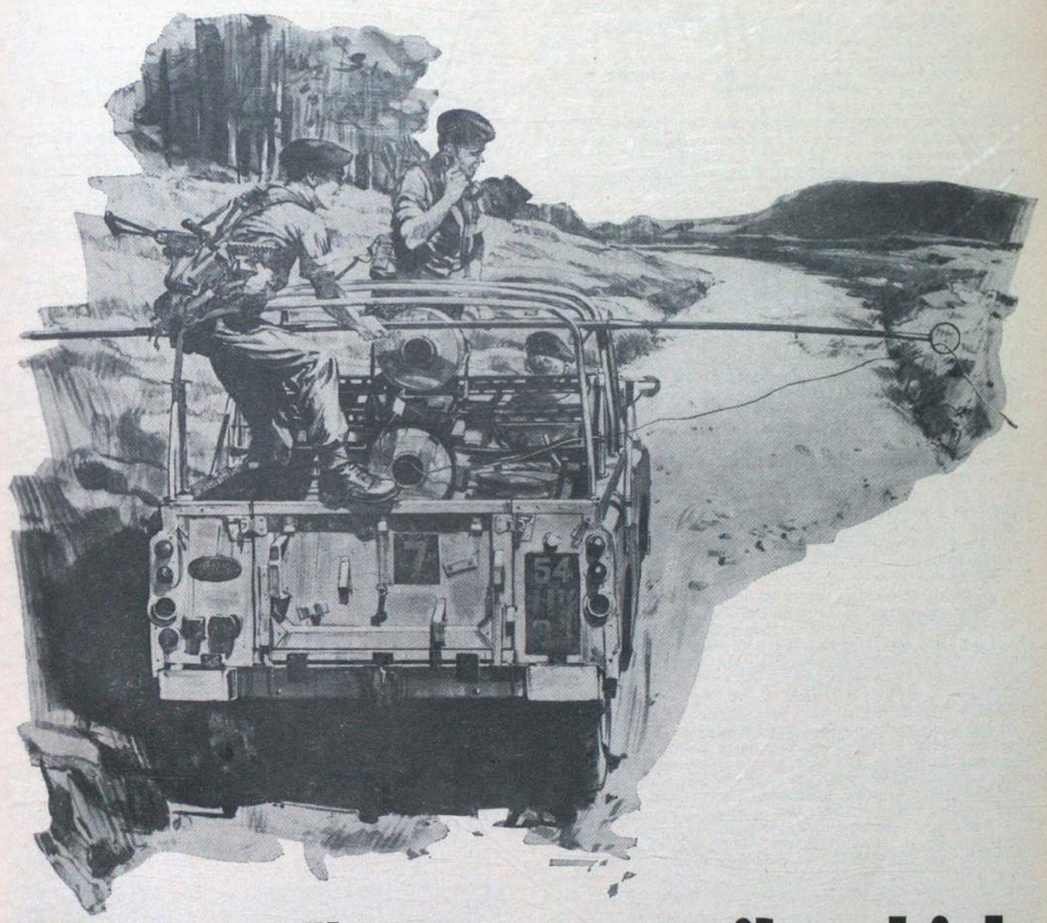
Farewells

We sadly say goodbye to our Second-in-Command **Major Keith Olds,** who goes onto bigger if not better things and the QM admin **Captain Willy Watson** who is going to get his knees brown again.

Welcome

At the same time we would like to welcome to the Regiment their replacements **Major David Lycet-Gregson** (Second-in-Command) and **Captain Ken Hatfield.**

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION



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27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

JUNK BAY COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT

by W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. Langford, Project Officer

THE Haven of Hope Sanatorium, Junk Bay, is a tuberculosis hospital run by an Interdenominational Christian organisation known as Junk Bay Medical Relief Council. Although the hospital is open to all regardless of class, colour or creed, they try to tend to the souls as well as the bodies of the inmates, and convert them all to Christianity. To this end a service of hymns and prayers is held every morning from 8 to 9 in the hospital chapel, and this is relayed by loudspeakers in the wards for the benefit of those patients who are bedridden.

The hospital, like the rest of Hong Kong, has grown steadily throughout the years. As wards were added, so further speakers were tagged on to the system with the result that what began as a perfectly adequate sound distribution system became so overloaded and mismatched that 'Psalms and hymns' were distorted into 'wails and howls.'

At this stage the hospital committee decided that the system required renewal. Since it is a charity organisation, a financial saving was sought by requesting the military authorities to provide the labour for the project as a community relations project.

The project was accepted by HQ 51 Brigade and handed over to the Regiment to carry out a feasibility study and advise the hospital on a contractor from whom the materials and equipment could be purchased.

In October, 1972, the project was given the green light. Purchase of the stores and equipment were no problem at all, but the manpower was still difficult due to outstanding line projects within the Colony.

A planning committee consisting of the Adjutant, **Captain C. J. Walters,** Second-in-Command of 2 Squadron, **Captain P. J. Whitehead,** OC 'S' Troop, **Captain J. E. Grigsby** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Mike Langford** met, and agreement was reached that the best four linemen on the BIII HKOR Linemen course which had just assembled should carry out the project as a 'continuation training,' **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Langford** being appointed Project Officer.

At last the great day dawned and **Signalman Hui Shu Lun, Signalman Poon Kwok Wing, Signalman Leung Yiu Chi** and **Signalman Lee Chun Yiu** were transported to Junk Bay along with an assortment of tools, ladders, loudspeakers, cables, cleats, nails and other assorted hardware. The hospital provided a small building with four beds just outside the main perimeter. This was thought diplomatic, as the hospital itself is 'teetotal' and it was thought that, should the soldiers fall for the temptation of the occasional bottle of beer they would be less likely to be seen by the patients. Furthermore, since smoking aggravates all lung complaints, no smoking was allowed within the grounds.

The actual work involved the running of some 800 yards of wiring in covered walkways, leading spurs into 18 wards, five short overhead suspensions, and the mounting of 18 small speakers in the wards and two column speakers in the chapel. The siting of the amplifier had to be on a temporary table in the chapel, since the tower selected as its location on the first 'recce' was unfortunately gutted by a fire the day after the visit!

Throughout the project, 'on site' instruction, assistance and supervision was provided by **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Trenchard** who twice daily braved the perils of the Shaukiwan-Rennies Mill ferry (15 pairs of oars provided in case of engine failure) to travel between Victoria Barracks and the project. The hospital authorities suspected he and **Sergeant 'Paddy' Kelly** of being mild cases of dipsomania. Not liking Chinese food, but wishing ever to be tactful and diplomatic, they declined all offers of meals at the hospital on the grounds that they were unable to digest their food without a bottle of beer!

Whilst **Sergeant 'Paddy' Kelly** was technical supervisor, being on site for about 80 per cent of the project he did have the benefit of the experience and skill of **Sergeant Brian Robbie,** 27 Signal Regiment ace lineman, on all line problems (such as, how does one secure a bracket for an overhead run into a wall which is virtually mud and wattle) as they arose.

The time estimated for the project was 14 working days, and the project was actually finished in 10, and although the labour used was direct from the BIII course, the standard of workmanship drew very favourable comment from all present at the opening ceremony. This reflects very favourably, not only on the project supervisors, but also on the staff of Training Wing OC **Captain (Tfc.) P. F. Metcalfe, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Longden, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Tom Wilkinson** and all their instructional staff.

Some small snags did occur. **Signalman Lee Chun Yiu** fell off a ladder during the second week. What better place to fall than in a hospital. He was promptly examined by the Medical Superintendent **Dr. P. K. Jenkins** (himself wartime Medical Officer of the Cheshire Regiment) and bedded down for the afternoon. Next day he was back at work none the worse for his fall, except for a mild altophobia (for those who don't understand, a fear of heights).

Another small setback on the next to last day was the discovery of a fault on the new TOA amplifier. However, this was fully guaranteed, and a phone call to the suppliers produced an immediate response in the form of the Sales Engineer, **Mr. Lee Wing Chiu,** who was waiting at the shop at 8.30 next morning with a temporary replacement (still the middle of the night for Hong Kong shopkeepers who normally work from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.).

Despite these and many other minor snags and difficulties, the project was completed on Friday, 2nd March, except for minor touches such as the refitting of the amplifier and volume controls for the chapel which were not available till the following Friday. Also, since this was the only day that the Public Relations staff were available, we had to save a few small joints for the photographer.

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow,** was unable to attend on the last day but he was represented by the Second-in-Command **Major P. F. Larrington** accompanied by the Adjutant **Captain C. J. Walters.** After a short guided tour of the project led by the medical supervisor **Dr. P. K. Jenkins, Miss Kung** the hospital administrator, and the matron, **M s. Mary Wong Fung,** a short ceremony was held at which the hospital presented the Regiment with a banner and the Regiment presented the hospital with a plaque. All then adjourned to the common room for coffee, curry puffs, sausage rolls, home-made cakes and buns, before making their several ways by helicopter, limousine, Land Rover or ferry to their respective base locations.

A worthwhile project, well carried out, had been brought to a conclusion, summed up in the wording of the banner: 'For the good of the people,' flanked on the right side by '27 Signal Regiment Royal Signals' and on the left by 'Haven of Good Hope Hospital, March 1973.'

PRESENTATIONS

A banner from the hospital—a Corps plaque from 27th Signal Regiment. *Left to right:* Dr. P. K. Jenkins, Mrs. Mary Wong Fung, W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. Langford

28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

Carnival '73

IT is well known that certain areas of Germany go mad during 'Rosen Montag' week, and that the spirit of Fasching (Carnival) dances through the land! It is perhaps not so well known that a little of the Carnival Magic (madness?) or to quote **Lance-Corporal Phil Starling**—'Fasching-bashing,' rubs off on the Regiment. It has become Regimental custom to enter a decorated float as part of the St. Tonis Carnival procession, which took place this year on Sunday, 4th March.

Each year the Carnival has a different theme, this year's being 'St. Tonis and its Jesters.' This particular theme was chosen because legend has it that present-day 'Fasching' was founded by a court jester a couple or so centuries ago.

The recipe of the task is fairly simple, to wit:

Take one junior officer **(Second-Lieutenant Phil Sharman),** baste on both sides with a well seasoned Yeoman **(W.O.1 (Y. of S.) 'Topper' Brown),** then shake the R.M.T.O. well, until a 4-ton vehicle drops out.

Take the brains (?) of Alpha Troop **(Corporal Bob Grant, Lance-Corporal Pete Anderson, Signalmen Eric Simms, Graham Cross, Jim McGoldrick, Ted Pugh, Stevie Cameron, 'Tich' Snell)** and simmer gently until a mock-up of Tower Bridge, and Big Ben appears on the vehicle. Garnish with flags and bunting, with a centrepiece of King Richard's throne. Squeeze **Signalman Eric Simms** well, until he fits into a suit of armour, and place him on the throne. Dress the others in jester costume, and present for public consumption, ignoring such uncouth remarks as "Jesters? Have you tried the Sergeants' Mess—it's full of 'em!"

Judging by the reaction of the crowds that lined the route the result was a success. We were most fortunate also in having the services of the Band of the 3rd Royal Anglians as part of our contribution to the festivities. The applause that greeted their impeccable turnout, marching and music, spoke volumes!

Last, but not least, the Regimental 'Noddy Train' (a cunningly disguised L.A.D. Land Rover and trailer), moved in the procession practically hidden by hordes of costumed German children—and to contribute to an afternoon's enjoyment by children anywhere is surely 'what it's all about.'

The Jesters had A Ball! ! ! and have volunteered for next year.

Soccer

DISTINCTION FOR CORPS FOOTBALLER

Corporal Snaith (extreme right) captain of the B.A.O.R. soccer team lines up with the officials and his opposite number, the captain of Essen (a Bundesleague team)

The regimental football team continues to win laurels of glory. We have now won the Rhine Area Trophy again this year by beating 21st Signal Regiment eleven goals to one, and are currently top of the Interservices Rhine Area League.

We are now concentrating on the BAOR final, when we meet 1st Royal Tank Regiment at Sennelager on the 10th March, 1973. 'Wish us luck.'

Four of our players have gained further honours by being selected to represent the British Army of the Rhine: **Sergeant Harvey, Lance-Corporal Hope, Lance-Corporal Reilly** and **Corporal Smith** who captains the side. "Best of luck lads on the forthcoming tour," keep the Corps colours flying.

The Sergeants' Mess have also covered themselves with glory by getting through to the final of the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess Cup. They have gone into very strict training. What! No beer?

Stop Press: The Regiment won the BAOR final by two goals to one.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

RHQ — alias Swan Tours Ltd.

EVER since I arrived here I have been very suspicious that our Operations Room is really a good cover for a scheme to train budding travel agents. I visit the Operations Room regularly two, three, maybe four times a day. Whenever I go in, **Sandra Jenkins,** the clerical assistant, always appears to be busy with this or that form and she never has less than 20 passports in her 'In' tray. A typical conversation in the Operations Room goes something like this:

Me: Morning, Sandra. What are you doing today?

Sandra: Well, sir, we have just got this quick trip to organise to the Falkland Islands and I'm making sure that young **Signalman McGurk's** passport is up to date and that he doesn't need a new TAB, anti-tetanus, dental inspection, PULHEEMS, cholera jab, yellow fever jab or any other sort of jab before he goes.

Me: Yes, I can understand that, but what about the other 20 passports sitting there in your 'In' tray?

Sandra: Ah, yes, those . . . As you know, we're sending six men to Australia, three men to Hong Kong, two men to Kenya, we've got four going to Cyprus next week, and the rest of the passports are just new arrivals that I am checking to ensure that they are up to date and that there are no errors on them.

Me: Don't you ever wish that you were going on one of these trips yourself?

Sandra: Ha! It's funny you should say that because I've just been to Gibraltar and I must say that I reckon that our Operations Room could run the *** Travel Agents a lot better than they run it themselves.

Me: How do your mean?

Sandra: Well, when we got to the travel agency to pay for our tickets we found that there was a surcharge because of VAT, or was it SET? or was it the floating pound? or was it just the travel agent wanted to float? Now here when we send somebody off to one of those exotic places not only do they travel free and in comfort but they get paid a lot more as well.

1,500 travel every year

This little imaginary conversation merely illustrates the care which has to be taken in a regiment such as this when one is moving 1,500 men a year. In fact there are some men—we call them the happy wanderers—who have volunteered for four or five detachments from the Regiment during their time here. They are in the main single men who have the wanderlust and they certainly get opportunties for it. **One Technician, who shall be nameless, has been to Hong Kong, Australia, Malaysia, Gan Island, Masira, Malta, Nassau and inevitably Northern Irleand during his time with us.**

From what we have said so far the reader could be excused if he felt that our Operations Room was just a Movements Office, but it isn't. The staff of **Captain Frank Cooper, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Ted Rawlins, Lance-Corporal John Corbett** and **Sandra Jenkins,** our clerical assistant, are a dedicated team on which the efficiency and well-being of the Regiment depends to a very large extent. They are the team who manage to knit together the thousand and one commitments that the Regiment is tasked with every year, and by a little juggling here and a little bit of compromise there they enable the Regiment to meet the vast majority of those commitments. We are

busy but we like it, because no matter how small it may seem at the time we can all see that the contribution that we are making is a real one and that the men we are sending around the world are doing a worthwhile job.

1 Squadron — members all round the world

As always, at this time of year, the National Press is full of adverts for holidays in exotic places. If you are one of those who find the thought of sun, sand and sea irresistible you should join 1 Squadron. We can almost guarantee a tour abroad, all expenses paid and a suntan to show off at the end of it. Is it a coincidence that the Regimental emblem is a swan?

At the moment we have **Corporal Smith, Signalman Herrmann** and **Signalman Shaw** in Kenya supplying communications for the R.E. road building party, and **Corporal McKeown** and **Lance-Corporal Trolley** in Malaysia (soaking up the sun at the same time!). **Corporal King, Lance-Corporal Reynolds, Signalmen Hall, Hawkins, Handcock** and **Sturmey** are in the Southern Gulf area providing communications for local Forces and also engaging in a fair bit of sun-bathing. Thirty-seven of the Squadron stalwarts are at present in Cyprus and they too are browning nicely, thank you.

Enjoying the tropical delights of the West Indies are **Corporal Holverson** and **Signalman MacDonald** and in the sunshine and snows of Norway we have **Corporal McEvoy. Signalmen Best** and **McCaffe:ty.** We look forward to seeing them back in Blandford among the pale faces in March. Talking of pale faces, the O.C., **Major Chris Glydon,** O.C. H.F. Troop, **Lieutenant Howard Ham, Staff Griffiths** and 18 others have decided it's time they had a tan too so they are off to the tropics for three weeks at the end of March. It should be hot enough there to melt their chocolate Easter eggs! (Those included in Exercise 'Shot Two'—and who in U.K. isn't?—needn't worry about losing ground while in the Bulford Gym for two days because as soon as that is over we are off to Alderney for two weeks' Regimental Camp—that's what the R.S.M. thinks it is anyway!)

For those not lucky enough to get a trip overseas we can offer courses in Catterick, ski-ing in Scotland and 'the usual' in Ulster. Take your pick!

In spite of the fact that the men are away so much, we have already welcomed three babies this year—all in one week, too! Congratulations to **Lieutenant and Mrs. Fairley, Sergeant and Mrs. Skinner** and **Corporal and Mrs. Rodigan.** At least two more are expected soon, so watch this space!

We shall be saying goodbye to **Sergeant Ernie Delamare, Sergeant Les Jackson** and **Sergeant Derek Loach** who are all leaving the Army after over 22 years' service each. We wish them a happy retirement, and thank them for their loyal support.

Signalman Power of 'Skywave' fame has left the Army to crew on an ocean-going yacht. His talents were spotted by the owner who then persuaded him to join the jet-set in the Mediterranean.

Another well-known Corps sailor, **Corporal Marshall,** is training for the Round the World Race in 'British Steel.' We wish him lots of luck!

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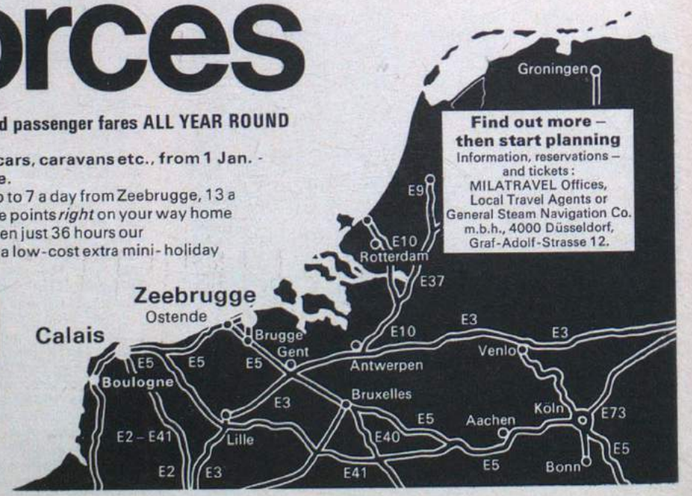


BAOR MINOR UNITS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

Standing: Signalman Derek Lamb, Private "Cliff" Golding (R.A.O.C.), Trooper Harry Fowle (2 R.T.R.), Lance-Corporal "Paddy" Verdon, Lance-Corporal Mick Toole, Signalman Brian Haggarty

Seated: Lance-Corporal Colin Campbell, 2nd Lieutenant Mike Fisher, Major Noel Moss, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) John Dyke (Gren. Gds.—Team Trainer and Coach), Lance-Corporal "Gerry" Heggarty

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

THE last two months for us have seen the start of a new exercise season and a great deal of sport. In fact it has been quite difficult to fit all the exercises in, what with all the football, cross-country and hockey training and matches! However, the effort has proved most worthwhile as can be seen below:

Soccer — our finest hour

Our esteemed Editor having made a plea for brevity in the February/March edition, we feel that a lengthy report on our football successes might be better in the next issue. We still have some games to play and hope to have more great news later, so we must content readers with the news that on 3rd March, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron XI beat 54 Squadron, RCT, XI by four goals to one after extra time in the BAOR minor units FA cup final. Watch this space for a full report!

Cross-country — a sort of convoy on foot

The commentator at Delinghofen for the BAOR cross-country championships had been very badly informed. In his lead-up to the race he just managed to mention that we were competing, but assured us that the minor units trophy would go to 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. Had he done his homework, he would have known better!

It all started quite simply; a transparent dream of eternal optimism, when **Second-Lieutenant Mike Fisher** had a phone call telling him that he was cross-country officer, and that the Brigade meeting was only a day away.

It is at heartening times like this that you know who your friends are! A quick appreciation, decision, and orders group was held, and 24 hours later eight men emerged victorious from the Brigade meeting. **Lance-Corporal Colin Campbell, Lance-Corporal Mick Toole, Lance-Corporal Gerry Heggarty, Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Verdon, Lance-Corporal Derek Lamb, Signalman Brian Haggarty, Private (RAOC) Golding** and **Trooper (2 RTR) Fowle** were the eight people in question; in their embryo stage as a team. Thereafter, they trained and ran daily, in their own time initially, and every day looked more and more impressive.

The Divisional meeting was held a little later over hilly Osnabruck, and once again this 'ghost team' of whom no one had ever heard emerged the undisputed victor. **Lance-**

Corporal Colin Campbell excelled himself in this meeting, not being content with winning the Brigade he was only narrowly beaten in the Division.

With a mere two cups in the cupboard, everyone around was congratulating, but with the pessimistic comment 'we don't expect great things of you in BAOR.' They spoke too soon!

'The day' of the BAOR championships turned out to be blustery and cold, with snow showers every now and then. However, this did not stop our 'magnificent eight' from running a tremendous team race to become BAOR minor units champions by a margin of over 100 points.

Very soon after the BAOR championships came the Army cup meeting at Aldershot. A few more days training and the team were in the minibus and on their way. Unfortunately an injury and a severe bout of cramp during the race prevented another success, but WIRE readers will, I am sure appreciate a very fine team effort in getting so far. (Yes indeed Editor).

Hockey — a game with funny curved bats

We should have known before **Major Noel Moss** arrived last year that hockey would become more prominent in the unit after his arrival! This is just the situation now, as we await the 2 Division final to be played shortly, between ourselves and 12 Mechanised Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. We hope to include a stop press result in this edition, but if we lose (Allah forbid) we may just keep quiet!

5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

THIS year began on a high note with new arrivals thinking they had joined an Infantry Unit and not a Signal Squadron. This confusion was caused by Exercise 'Hack,' a four week infantry training exercise held in Cyprus.

Exercise 'Hack' — 'Bleeps, Creeps, Monkies and Chunkies'

One-hundred-and-forty-nine all ranks of the Squadron took part in the exercise. We re-formed into three platoons of size that would make real infantry jealous (37-40!) and three training teams. These latter were a combination of staff officers and senior NCOs, whose varied instructional skills were a must for training of this type. Two of the platoons were based on Alfa and Bravo Troops and the Comms. Officer, **Captain Brendon Hughes,** had the honour to command the rest, the 'Bleeps, Creeps, Monkies and Chunkies,' being Signals (named after the noise some of them make), REME, who creep under vehicles, and, of course, RMP and RPC. They turned out to be a winning combination.

The programme was fairly simple but packed a lot into one month although complaints of being overworked were 'not understood.' The first three weeks were spent on 14 days' infantry training in the Dhekelia area with each platoon taking turns at one weeks ski-ing on Troodos. The Squadron went native and stopped work at 13.30 for the day, leaving the afternoon for organised sports which ranged from the highly organised round and pointed ball to horseriding under champion jockey **F. of S. 'Larry' Crowe,** and the occasional round of golf.

This training culminated in platoon live firing exercises on Goshi Ranges which became more enjoyable as people became fitter. There was the odd moment when 30 degrees separation was verticle rather than horizontal as people burrowed for cover and it was not for nothing that as the last platoon marched off intact the live firing training team under **Major Harold Halcrow** (normally Staff Captain A) were seen to break out the local brew in some quantity. (Is this how Exercise 'Hack' became known as 'Have a Cup of Keo?').

The ski-ing on Troodos was not so successful. This was blamed on **Padre Holman** who had been placed in charge of snow a good month before. The news "It snowed last night and melted this morning" became too familiar, but 2 Platoon under **Second Lieutenant Robin Cuthbert** and **Sergeant Dave Lister** got a good weeks ski-ing in at the end. The rest saw the scenery.

The final test was provided by Exercise 'Prime Target,' where the three platoons, by now a company under **Captain Hughes,** set off to destroy a select band of guerillas under the notorious **'Spider Webb'** (O.C. of a well known Intelligence Section). After a amphibious landing from RPLs the company and its supporting dogs advanced and, despite the vigilance of the D.A.A. and Q.M.G., who had been specially flown from England for the occasion as a D.S., quite a few were on hand for the final company attack the following dawn.

The finale of our sojourn in Cyprus was the Skill at Arms competition, for which we had a beautiful sunny day — not the best thing for shooting. 3 Platoon won, perhaps because of the wide range of talent. The Brigade Commander led the staff to victory in the falling plate and so a good time was had by alll!

What no Famagusta?

Editing the notes in the safety of Tidworth, the Second-in-Command (him again!) is surprised that the only recreational and cultural visit mentioned is one to Salamis. However, the Squadron will be there again in June and perhaps the truth will out.

Departures

Despite our policy of only exporting the best, we are sorry to record the departure of **Major Mickey Topple** for Washington D.C. (Sorry? We are even jealous!!). We trust that he and **Chris** will be very happy there. He is relieved by **Major Peter Jones,** to whom we extend a 5 Brigade welcome. We also bid farewell to **F. of S. Crowe** and welcome his relief, **F. of S. Barry Jepson.**

Personalia

Rather than a straightforward list, we offer you the names of our Squadron personalities and their favourite cries, and leave you to make your own guess as to their age, etc., and as to the future of officer training.

Departing O.C.: "What's a 'Q' course?"
Arriving O.C.: "I was on the first fast TE Course."
Second-in-Command: "I did the last real comms. course" (**Captain 'Andy' Martin**).
Comms. Officer: "I did the first new Shrivenham Course."
O.C. 'A' Troop (**Second Lieutenant 'Harry' Ross**): "They don't do morse on 'Q' courses now."
O.C. 'B' Troop (**Second Lieutenant 'Robin' Cuthbert**): "They do now."
Q.M. (**Captain 'Geoff' Granger**): "I was a tech. when the Second-in-Command was born."
M.T.O. (**Captain (Q.M.) J. D. Webber,** RCT): "When I was R.S.M. at the depot . . . ."
Administration Officer (**Captain (Q.M.) N. A. Adams,** QLR): "When I was R.S.M. . . . ."
R.S.M. W.O.1 N. E. Ladds: "This is the second funny Squadron I have had."
R.Q.M.S. W.O.2 J. Kelly: "My next is a funny Regiment."
Y. of S. Q.M.S. J. B. Graham: "My last was a funny Regiment, but it did not have a football team."

6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 106

Exercise 'Knockout'

THE OC, **Major P. Goldney,** tasked the training cell with the job of producing an exercise to 'promote the competitive spirit between the troops.'

Volunteer

Our ever-eager (MBE hunter) **Yeoman of Signals Derek Allen** rose to the bait, as always, and produced to the unsuspecting troops a pre-exercise instruction. The troops were informed that the exercise was to be an afternoon of competitive fun and games after the fashion of the 'It's a Knockout' television series. As it turned out, fun and games there were in plenty, and the inter-troop rivalry at times reached cut-throat proportions. The events, of course, were modified to a more 'army' setting.

Outside Broadcast Unit

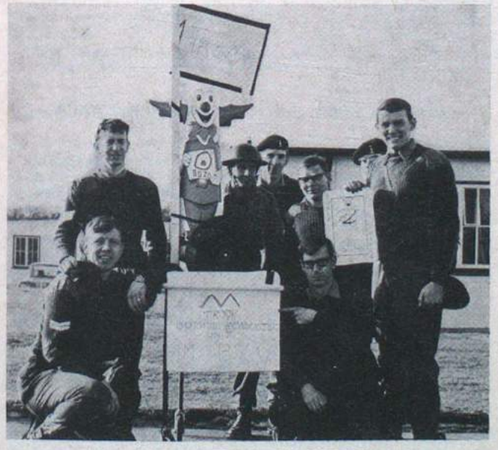
And so to the event itself on Wednesday, 24th January. The setting — St. Sebastian Barracks, the weather — chilly, but not for long! 'M' Troop, it was felt, started with an unfair, psychological advantage when they marched on to the strains of martial music supplied by the 'M' Troop outside broadcast unit. This unit in effect consisted of a purloined trolley on which were mounted a public address system, a tape recorder, a microphone and . . . **Sergeant Mick Nevill.** In all fairness to **Sergeant Nevill,** it must be stated that his non-stop (well almost) commentary of the afternoon's events was completely and utterly biased and tended to upset the other teams. It is questionable, however, as to how much success was achieved by these dubious tactics.

The afternoon's events began with a race to collect and connect batteries, followed by a race to erect a line pole crossing, using field cables. From the start it was obvious that Bravo Troop's team had been practising and they soon swept into a comfortable lead winning the first three events, however, things soon began to even out. It was interesting to note that the second fastest man to tune in a C 42 radio set was our man from the stores, **Corporal Hyland** of SHQ/Q Troop, who had been shown how to do it for the first time that morning!

It has been rumoured that M Troop are to be billed for the repairs to a vehicle on which they attempted to change the wheel. There was also some disbelief about the fact that, on the 'I Spy' phase, where teams had to spot as many A jobs on a vehicle as they could in three minutes, MT team found them all, plus two more, in 35 seconds — more dubious tactics, perhaps! Alpha Troop, favourites for the fastest time in the race to erect a penthouse got it half-way up and discovered that it was the wrong way round. Eventually they finished well down in this event.

As we came up to the final event, the chariot race, things were pretty much neck-and-neck. Bravo Troop, Mike Troop and MT Troop were level on 42 points with Alpha and SHQ/Q Troops trailing slightly. All, therefore, rested on this event which consisted of a race around the camp and around the parade square, pulling (or pushing) a half-ton trailer.

At the off, Mike Troop took a slight lead which they quickly lost to MT Troop. As the teams pulled out of sight, the spectators moved up to the square to await the final stages. First in sight were MT Troop with Mike Troop and Bravo Troop hot on their trails. But they were obviously feeling the strain and Mike Troop overtook them (some unkind people even say — ran them off the road) just before reaching the square. Mike Troop also looked exhausted as they struggled round the square (come to think of it, who didn't?) but managed to hold on to win from Bravo Troop who had pulled into second place.



WINNING TEAM—T.M. TROOP
Standing: Sergeant Barlow, Sergeant Nevill, Corporal Kernohan, Corporal Mullen, Lance-Corporal Dichter, Sergeant Waugh.
Kneeling: Corporal Hewitt, Lance-Corporal Turner

Thus the final placings to count towards champion Troop were:

1st, M Troop; 2nd Bravo Troop; 3rd MT Troop; 4th equal Alpha and SHQ/Q Troops.

Our congratulations to the winning team captained by **Sergeant Dennis Waugh,** with **Sergeant Pete Barlow, Corporal Bev Hewitt** and **Lance-Corporal Rex Turner,** on winning a very closely fought contest.

Five men went to ski

We did not train in Norway, we did not train in Bavaria, we went to compete in the 4th Division ski meeting in Austria.

Of the five men, one last wore skis six years ago, others two years ago and one never before. The team consisted of:

Captain Hugh Grenville-Jones; Sergeant Pete Barlow; Lance-Corporal Graham Twisse; Lance-Corporal Frank Callaghan; Signalman Martin Skimmin.

It was not long before we learnt how hard the ground was, how wax which helped you to climb uphill sometimes required you to walk down the hills as well! Perhaps we did something wrong!

Straight from Christmas and the New Years' festivities we thought that we might manage the 45 Km of the langlauf races but we did think that having to walk the course before each race was rubbing it in just a bit.

So, how did this amateur team get on? There is a certain satisfaction in knowing that you can only improve; and we did. In the final race, the patrol, we just failed to beat our only minor unit rival by 49 seconds!

To other small units who do not have the resources of manpower or equipment to train extensively we would say, "it's hard work being amateurs, its exhausting, but it's fun."

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 37

Officer Commanding	...	**Major J. O. C. Alexander**
Second-in-Command	...	**Captain T. T. Hallchurch, M.B.E.**
OC 'A' Troop	... ...	**Captain W. I. Buxton**
2IC 'A' Troop	... ...	**Second-Lieutenant P. L. McDouall**
OC 'B' Troop	... ...	**Lieutenant R. J. Gittings**

Squadron exercises — sorting out the cobwebs

THE Squadron is now in full swing with exercise season and is just recovering from 'Peg Legs' and 'Square Leg.'

Exercise 'Peg Leg,' the troop exercises, commanded by **Captain Bill Buxton** and **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** sorted out the cobwebs, or, as they were more recently described, the birdsnests of inter-vehicle wiring and general exercise.

However, Exercise 'Squar Leg,' commanded by **Major John Alexander,** proved that an exercise is everything but 'routine.' **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** proved that a 22-ton vehicle could cross a three ton bridge, a skilful art which should not be practised too often, and is not to be recommended.

Several attacks were made on different groups. When G1 Packet was attacked Comms control and the G penthouse were smothered with blue smoke. **Yeoman Pete Sharp's** experience got the better of **Signalman 'Fergy' Ferguson** who was not quick enough in grabbing the one available gas mask immediately at hand and was left gasping for air leaving through the commander's cupola. **Corporal 'Paddy' Hearns** appeared from the penthouse with his grey hair tinted a kinky shade of blue.

Echelon, situated for the first time in a wood, instead of a village, was attacked by **Sergeant Dave Gwinnell** in two assaults and left them in a complete daze, particularly worrying about thunderflashes exploding all round their petrol bowser.

Recce saw its fair share of the action when **Signalman 'Maggot' Worsell,** on asking the way to Step-Up received a reply of four thunderflashes, one of which landed on his

HOMEWORK

Corporal Jock Mair prepares a 432 for the coming exercise season

Land Rover canopy. Believing that the sound of the burning fuse was that of a gas attack he dived for his gas mask only to be met by a blinding flash and a gaping hole in his canopy.

Rapid resupply for a C50 mast was obtained when a Sioux from 657 Squadron, AAC, airlifted the defective mast back to Division and brought out a replacement. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time and gained valuable experience from both exercises.

Coming and going

On 9th March, we said a sad farewell to our chief clerk, **Staff Sergeant Pat Cole** who has done sterling work over the last three years. We wish him the best of luck at the blunt end with 7 Signal Regiment. We welcome our new Y of S, **Vaughan Rayner** from 7 Signal Regiment and **Staff Sergeant Barry Belton** who has just arrived from 227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) to take over as the new chief clerk.

12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 36

NOW we are into March and with it comes the first of our Brigade CPXs. Exercise 'Dutch Carp,' 6th to 8th March.

The plan was to move into Holland so we could all see the bulb fields or the 'high lights' of Amsterdam plus exercise the Brigade, but unfortunately, we are to remain on the German side of the border. It has been said that nobody would pay the frontier guards enough to open the barriers for us. Anyway we are all keyed up and ready to go.

This will be the first exercise for many of our staff and operators.

We have a new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier W. R. Taylor,** and Brigade Major, **Major James Percival** whom we hope will be entirely satisfied with our efforts particularly in the coffee making field.

We also wish to welcome our new DAAQMG **Major Ian Jack,** hoping he has an enjoyable few seasons with us.

On the sports front the Squadron has managed to get through to the Divisional final in the minor units hockey. In this we meet those gallant sportsmen from Munster, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron. It promises to be a good game — a short report will be included in the next issue of WIRE.

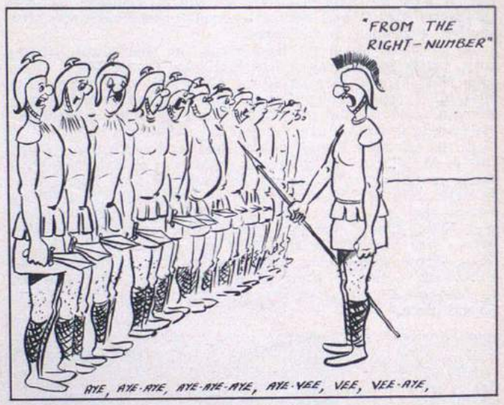
Arrivals and departures

We would like to welcome to the Squadron all new arrivals and bid a fond farewell to those of our departing friends.

Arrivals: **Lance-Corporal Sturrock,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Signalman Gower,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Signalman Yale,** 30 Signal Regiment; **Corporal Roper,** 5 Brigade Signal Squadron **Signalman Varley,** 2 Squadron, 11 Signal Regiment; **Signalman Nicholls,** 2 Squadron, 11 Signal Regiment; **Signalman Mason,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Signalman Lowder,** 3 Division, Signal Regiment; **Sergeant Bond,** RAPC, CPO BAOR; **Sergeant Brown,** QOHLDRS, 1 Queen's Own Highlanders; **Private Drooney,** ACC, Depot ACC; **Sergeant Scattergood,** Acc, 101 PRO COY; **Private Vaughan,** Acc, Depot ACC; **Corporal Ward,** RAOC, ORD SVCS.

Departures: **Signalman Forder,** 2 Squadron, 11 Signal Regiment; **Signalman Lockhart,** Y3 List; **Staff Sergeant Sleeman.** Wessex Depot; **Corporal Maggs,** RAOC, RAOC Depot; **Sergeant McAlinden,** ACC, 1 DWR, BFPO 801.

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

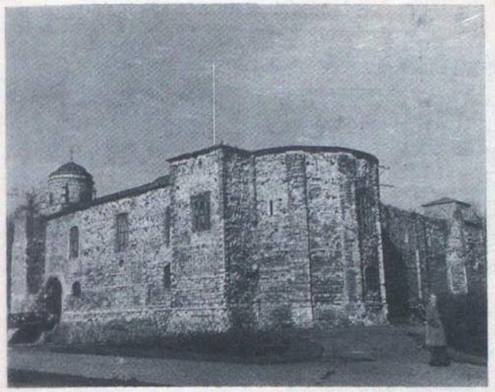


COLCHESTER AS A GARRISON TOWN

Looking back

MANY things have changed since the order of dress shown above has been seen in Colchester. However, one thing remains, it is still a garrison town; in fact, the oldest garrison town in Great Britain, with a history reaching back some two thousand years.

Colchester stands at the head of the estuary of the River Colne, on a ridge of gravel. It has been both a port and a market town throughout its history. Traces of a settlement in the area have been found dating from the Bronze Age about 1800 B.C. The Trinovantes, an Iron Age people, settled here in the first century B.C. and named the place Camulodunum, meaning fortress of the War God. It is the first town in Great Britain to be mentioned in written sources and was the capital immediately before and after the Roman Conquest. After the Norman Conquest the castle, which still stands today, was started in 1080. The town is particularly rich in old buildings and is still surrounded by its Roman walls. The Garrison as we know it today grew up in the 19th Century, the first barracks being built in 1803 and an infantry camp being established on the outskirts of the town in 1855. The 1914-18 war saw Colchester develop into an important military centre, a situation which remained throughout the 2nd World War and to the present day.



The Castle—Colchester

Present-day attractions

A rich historical background indeed, but what does Colchester offer the modern military resident? Today the town can boast a comprehensive range of facilities to suit all tastes. The shopping centre, ever expanding, can safely be guaranteed to satisfy anyone. For those who wish to look and not buy there are museums, art galleries, cinemas and a new Repertory Theatre. This theatre, we think appropriately, is called the 'Mercury' and has a large bronze 'Jimmy' over the entrance. Signallers in this unit are now quite accustomed to rebuffing remarks about play acting, especially since regular visits are made to see the wide and varied range of productions staged by the local repertory company.

For the gourmet Colchester ranges from Greek through Italian to a variety of Chinese cuisine. Apart from these restaurants there are a number of interesting pubs and hostelries all inviting one to partake of their speciality. Colchester oysters have been notable since Roman times and are still highly esteemed. The borough holds special rights over the fishery, and the best oysters come from Pyfleet channel in the estuary.

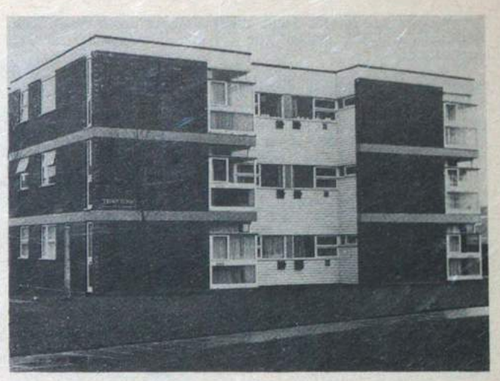
Later in the evening one can pay a visit to a number of discotheques, one of which is run by the Garrison. The 'Affair' Night Club is also worth a look at in spite of the fact that it has the suspect position of being located next door to the family planning clinic.

Sports facilities

All the usual sports facilities can be found not only in the Garrison but also within the town. Everybody is catered for from riding to swimming. For the spectator, Colchester United Football Club in Division 4 of the Football League provides some entertainment. For the zealous participant there are hockey, rugby, cricket and tennis clubs in the town all of which have a fair share of service membership. Golfers are invited to join Frinton Golf Club some 20 minutes out of barracks at a very reasonable subscription.

Getting out and about

For those that prefer to get away from it all there are numerous places to go and regular and efficient means of travel. The bright lights of London are only 50 minutes on an electric train. Constable country with such beauty spots as Flatford Mill and the village of Dedham is only a few miles to the north. You can be in Clacton's Clash and Clatter complete with its Butlins Holiday Camp in half an hour. For the quieter seaside resorts there are Frinton, Mersea or Brightlingsea all close to hand and providing beaches, sailing, water ski-ing, fishing and sub aqua activities. For the children there is always the Zoo situated on the outskirts of town, not however, despite popular opinion, in Cherry Tree Camp.



Modern army married quarters

Up-to-date Garrison

Returning to the Garrison, this has very recently largely been rebuilt. The majority of the barracks, housing nearly all the units of 19 Airportable Brigade, provide modern accommodation and facilities. The married quarters likewise are mostly of the latest design and at present there appears to be no shortage 19 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signals Squadron are due to move into Goojerat barracks, currently under construction, some time next year.

Although a Garrison town, Colchester retains its historical and picturesque situation at the same time providing all the modern facilities for a full life. If you have got to serve in England, why not with 19 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron?

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 41

The exercise season

A VISITOR to Hobart Barracks would see, on casting a casual glance towards the Squadron lines, apparently empty buildings and little or no activity!

Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth as this period of the year is being spent in preparation for the forthcoming exercise season. Courses in a variety of subjects are currently taking place AFVs are charging up and down the countryside with instructors **Corporal Terry Beckett** and **Lance-Corporal Ron Brooks** praying that they do not have a 'Mrs. Webb' in their midst. Mumbles of 'I am a tradesman not a soldier' are lost in a crack of rifle shots, each mumbler trying his hardest to become a marksman! Midnight oil is being burnt to ensure a good pass in all the Upgrading courses going on. All in all a good deal of work is being done by all ranks of the Squadron to ensure that we are thoroughly 'FFR' throughout the year.

Ski-ing in Bavaria — Exercise 'Snowqueen'

Like most units in Germany we have had the opportunity of enjoying some time in Bavaria on Exercise 'Snowqueen.' Three parties, each of twelve men, have taken part and, from the way they speak on their return, those of us who didn't participate are more than a little envious. We had hoped that **Sergeant Tony Rains** would give a more detailed report to include in these notes. However, for some unaccountable reason, he does not wish to commit his exploits to paper!

The journey from Bavaria proved to be a challenge for both **R.Q.M.S. Bob Wade** and **Staff Sergeant Tom Jenkinson,** RCT (our **Playtime Minor**). It appears that the handbrake on the Squadron mini-bus just happened to come away in Tom's hand, followed shortly by the accelerator linkage which fell off on the Autobahn! The result was that **Bob Wade** had to

operate the accelerator from the passenger seat whilst **Tom Jenkinson** did the rest of the driving. That's what we call integration!

Sports and fitness training

Fitness is one of the 'In' words for 1973. Regular sights to be seen are men in all sorts of sports gear — from hockey to darts! All sports are being played with a view to see which of the Troops is the best 'all-rounder.' The Squadron Commander, **Major David Whitehead,** in maintaining the pioneering spirit and traditions of 'Shiny Twenty,' has promised a case of champagne (not the usual crate of beer!) to the winning Troop. **Lieutenant David Beare** is already teaching his 'Bruins' exactly how to stick out their little fingers!

It is, of course, pure coincidence that visits to other Units by the Comms. Office personnel, in the form of **Captain Chris Dakin, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bill Donnelly** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John McNaughton,** happen to take place when PT is in progress! But, not to worry, no doubt they will be footsore, weary and sorry when summer camp and the BE tests are upon us!

Farewell to Brigadier Hellier, O.B.E.

A very pleasant occasion occurred on Wednesday, 21st February. **Brigadier E. J. Hellier, O.B.E.,** was 'lunched out' of the Officers' Mess of Headquarters 20th Armoured Brigade in the presence of the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier R. G. Lawson, D.S.O., O.B.E.,** the Brigade Staff and senior members of the Signal Squadron.

The Brigade Commander expressed the sincere thanks of the Brigade Headquarters for the co-operation and understanding shown to the Headquarters and Brigade Units during **Brigadier Hellier's** tenure of office as Colonel AQ, Headquarters 4th Division. **Brigadier Hellier** was presented with a picture depicting the 'Forward Looking and Dynamic Mailed Fist Brigade Staff'!

It was particularly pleasing that two officers were present who had served under **Brigadier Hellier** when he commanded 24th Signal Regiment. These were **Captain Mike Taylor,** our Second-in-Command, and the Communications Captain, **Chris Dakin.**

227 Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 18

Anglo-German social event

AFTER protracted negotiations and heated wrangled, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Brian Cumming** of 227 Signal Squadron and **Kompaniefeldwebel Von Kidrowski of** 2 Fernmelderkompanie agreed on a date for the bi-annual soccer match and social function between the senior NCOs of the two units. This was scheduled for the afternoon of Friday the 9th February, to be followed in the evening by a formal dinner with the senior NCOs of 227 Signal Squadron acting as hosts.

Once the date was agreed a frantic exchange of letters ensued between **Von Kidrowski** and **Herr Schon,** whist **Brian** contacted **Sir Alf Ramsay** in an effort to ensure a repeat of England's 1966 success.

On studying the blue prints and having devised a plan of campaign both managers instituted spartan training programmes for their gladiators. The usual serene calm of Tapijn Kazerne echoed to a cacaphony of grunts and groans as out of condition senior NCOs strove manfully to get back into shape; in some cases to no avail.

Alas!, twas all in vain, came the day and the match had to be postponed due to inclement weather and heavy precipitation (American rain). The arena was a veritable quagmire, obviously totally unfit for the display of talent and the feast of football finesse anticipated by all. With deep reluctance the respective managers agreed to postpone the conflict and concentrate on the convivial activities.

In spite of the weather the dinner proved a hugh success, **S.S.M. Brian Cumming** in conjunction with **Staff Sergeant Jim Redgrave** and his committee had succeeded in obtaining a very impressive display of table silver. A table arrangement which would have done credit to any Mess was ideally set in the recently redecorated Mess Hall. This display, coupled with the brilliant scarlet mess jackets of the British senior NCOs intermingled with the grey of their German counterparts, provided a very impressive spectacle.

The meal, prepared by **Staff Sergeant Charlie Cross,** ACC, and the international mess hall staff, proved to be a veritable culinary masterpiece. There were dishes calculated to tickle the taste buds of the most discerning gourmet, and copious quantities guaranteed to satisfy the most demanding gourmand. Both nationalities did full justice to the sumptuous repast and everyone finished up replete. All barriers quickly crumpled under the combined effect of good food and wine, and a very convivial evening was enjoyed by all.

During the dinner, entertainment was provided by a piper, **Corporal McCathie** of 16 Signal Regiment, in full highland regalia. His rendition of traditional Sottish airs was appreciated by all. With regal grace of a true Scot he disposed of a quaich proffered by **W.O.2 Brian Cumming.** Mess members were surprised to learn after this display that **Corporal McCathie** is actually a native of the Channel Isles.

Lieutenant 'Paddy' Henry borrowed the pipes after dinner and demonstrated his virtuosity by entertaining the company with traditional airs, Rebel Irish songs and 'Begone Dull Care.' Sectarian strife almost developed when he played 'The Sash,' fortunately **Signalman 'Paddy' Flanagan,** who was on duty as a waiter, had left his shillelagh in the billet.

The party afterwards repaired to the senior NCOs' club for a rather prolonged post-prandial drink. This period allowed **Hauptfeldwebels Klaus Neck** and **Hans Reimann** to come into their own, for the remainder of the evening they mystified everyone with dexterous sleight of hand and elaborate card tricks.

In every respect the evening proved to be a huge success and served to increase the strong bond of mutual respect and spirit of co-operation already existing between the two nationalities. Everyone is now looking forward eagerly to the delayed soccer match and further social functions of this nature.

Culinary whizz kid

The Squadron has now managed to produce an answer to TV's galloping gourmet, in the shape of **W.O.1 'Taff' Gundersen.** Recently **'Taff'** decided to take over the senior NCOs' club kitchen, concoct a gastronomic delight which would titillate the jaded palates of AFCENTER's, and introduce them to that traditional Welsh dish, 'Yorkshire pudding' (geography was never **'Taff's'** forte).

The club was bursting at the seams on the Sunday chosen for the cuisiner's debute. **'Taff'** excelled himself to produce puddings as light as thistledown which would have delighted the heart of Mrs. Beaton. Such universal acclaim was produced by this singular success that the club manager is now contemplating a massive advertising campaign promoting his new cordon bleu chef, **'Taff the Batter Gundersen.'**

Inspired by this unique success, **'Taff'** invested in a very sophisticated electric grill which would enable him to conduct further epicurean experiments in his flat. **'Taff,'** being an ex-technician, omitted to read the instructions before carrying out a full power trial. After plugging in the equipment and giving it sufficient time to heat, he noticed that the element was black. On bending to examine it, he placed his hand on the top of the grill, then, in the best tradition of Archimedes, yelled 'eureka' or words to that effect. An ambrosial odour of well-cooked meat convinced him that he had made a momentous discovery, the grill is fitted with a thermostatic regulator.

'Taff' regrets that his recipe for grilled fingers is only suitable for gourmets, the supply precludes satisfaction for even the most modest gourmand.

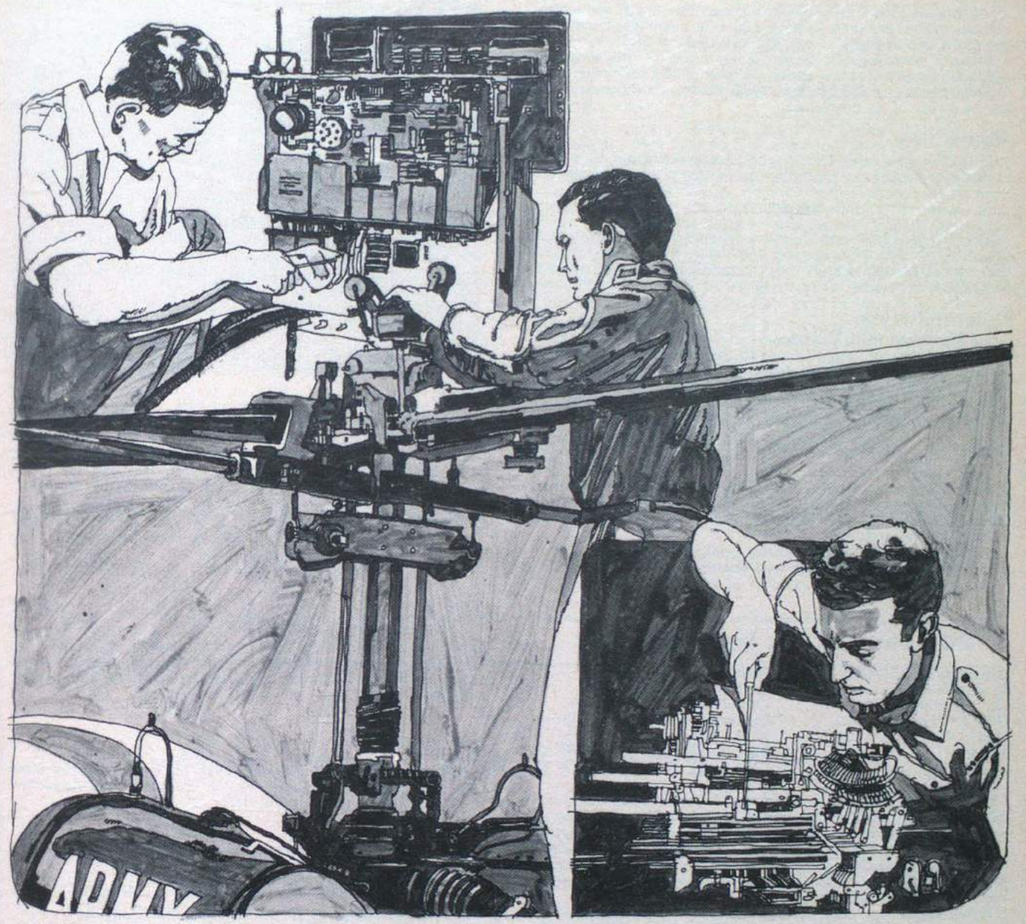
The Squadron feel sure that, should he persevere with his experiments, our MTO will soon be quite armless.

Reverse and multiply

Following on his experience with Belgian PTT, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Watts** has now made contact with Dutch PTT. Recently whilst working on a circuit, **Brian** was advised by the PTT technician at the distant end that he was sending excessive current to line. On inquiring what current they were receiving he was informed 30 ma.

Brian measured his output, then called PTT and pointed out that his equipment was only capable of producing a maximum

(Continued on page 186)



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Address .....

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(Continued from page 184)

of 20 ma, but was only giving 10 ma. The PTT technician replied, "The answer is very simple sir, you have obviously got the A and B legs on your pair reversed."

Brian is now experimenting in an effort to discover the optimum number of reversals possible. He feels that the Central Electricity Generating Board could use this theory to resolve many of its problems.

Motive less

It is felt that the following notice taken from a recent bulletin may assist any chief clerk faced with a similar problem:

MISSING!

Someone has inadvertently taken four wheels off a Renault 8 car, AFC 80332, belonging to **Signalman McCulloch.** Would the person/persons kindly return the wheels to **Signalman McCulloch** as without them he is unable to dispose of the car.

Congratulations

To **Signalman Mick Rennison** on his marriage to **Miss Agnes Geraldine Piters** of Maastricht. Also **Signalman Jim McCulloch** on his marriage to **Miss Margaret Styles** of Birmingham.

The Squadron takes great pleasure in welcoming these two charming and pretty ladies; we trust their stay with the Squadron will prove to be a very happy one.

Arrivals and departures

The Squadron welcomes:

Staff Sergeants Kendal and **Killick, Sergeant Falconer, Corporals Branson, Mackie, Blake, Murray, Vine, Charteries, Christie, Lance-Corporal Effard, Signalmen Kerr** and **Secker.**

And says farewell to:

W.O.2 McHugh, Staff Sergeant Appleton, Sergeants Belton and **Butler, Corporals Adams** and **Cameron.**

We wish them all every success in their new postings.

248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 1

Squadron Commander ...	**Major F. R. Fletcher**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain J. H. Fisher**
OC Training Troop ...	**Captain R. A. L. Anderson**
OC 'B' Troop	**Second-Lieutenant D. J. Wills**
Y of S	**W.O.2 Yates**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant G. A. Foggo**
Edn Officer	**Captain D. Howie,** RAEC

THE above list of British personnel does not include those who left during the month of February having served with Gurkha Signals for varying periods ranging from **Captain 'Nobby' Clark,** RAEC, five years, **Lieutenant Pat Maloney,** two years, **Captain Max Young,** two years, to **Second-Lieutenant Kim Parsons,** six months. We wish them all the very best in their new appointments.

Exhortations in the January/February WIRE came from Headquarters Gurkha Signals for Squadrons to fill in details of their exploits and from the Editor to keep it short. As no notes from 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron have appeared in THE WIRE since the Squadron was reformed in April, 1971, this article will try to give a general introduction to readers.

Formation

Major Tony Cuerden formed the Squadron in Singapore from the remains of 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment and moved it to Hong Kong where they were placed into the melting pot to form the 248 Gurkha Signals Hot Pot.

Recipe

Take two Royal Signals Squadrons (252 and 253). Remove their comcens and lines and add their field and commercial radios to 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron.

Separate the newly formed Gurkha Signal Squadron into its constituent parts and spread thinly between Hong Kong Island, Kowloon City, New Territories and Brunei. Add a dozen British officers and other ranks to taste.

Think of a signals task suitable for the Squadron, double it and rewrite the establishment recipe without changing the vehicle, equipment or manpower ingredients. Leave to simmer gently for a few years.

Real estate

SHQ and two field radio troops share an ex-POW camp with six other units in Shamshuipo; a desirable hutted encampment in close proximity to the municipal abbatoir and directly beneath the flight path of the Hong Kong international airport.

Our country seat, located at Sek Kong in the New Territories, close to the Red China border, is occupied by the Training Troop.

Twelve hundred miles away our tropical paradise troop sweats it out in Brunei.

Work

Since our formation the usual round of major exercises joint amphibious, helicopter and mule-borne have taken place. A FFR inspection; and annual camp have come, gone, and are in the offing again. Our VIP visitors have included the SO-in-C, who boosted morale considerably with his presence.

Regular trips to remote areas and outlying islands, providing communication for 'showing the flag' patrols, help to give the occupants of the Shamshuipo complex a change of scene. A change of role is provided during the typhoon season when they operate a network of commercial radios throughout the colony.

Training troop has the equivalent task of Training Brigade and the Signals Wing School of Infantry, rolled into one and is responsible to the Brigade of Gurkhas. Unfortunately, it does not have the sophisticated accommodation and equipment of its UK counterparts. However, similar standards are maintained by regular Class I upgrading of instructors in UK.

Brunei Signal Troop provided an HF teleprinter link to Hong Kong and comcen facilities for the Brunei Garrison. Their skill as communicatiors was recently rewarded by the award of the DCN Bronze Star.

And play

Although sporting activities are severely limited by the non-availability of green fields in the concrete jungle of Shamshuipo, the trophy cupboard includes pots for winning the minor unit soccer league, six-a-side hockey, and Royal Signals rifle meeting and tug-of-war.

Conclusion

It is hoped that this gallop through has given readers' some idea of the location and tasks of 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron. More detailed news in the future.

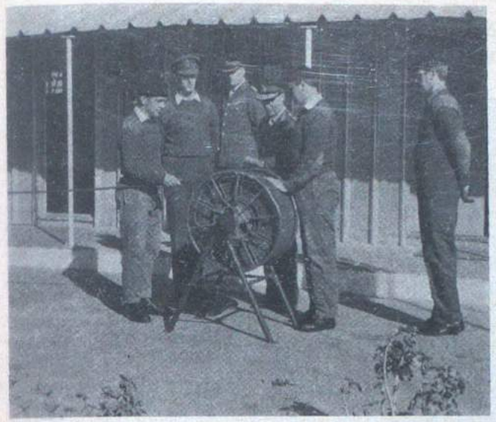
261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

Scribe: Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Goldsworthy

Officer Commanding	**Major B. C. Hodgson**
Second-in-Command	**Captain P. F. Meaning**
TOT	**Major A. D. Martin**
OC Airfield Troop	**Captain B. Turner**
OC Project Troop	**Captain (TOT) A. H. Spurgin**
OC Station Troop	**Second-Lieutenant R. G. Dibley**
SSM	**W.O.2 R. J. Haskell, B.E.M.**
RQMS	**W.O.2 A. Scott**

Get cracking

I WAS sitting at my desk having a nice cup of coffee when the O.C., **Major B. C. Hodgson,** burst into my office and said: "You are in charge of writing THE WIRE notes. Get cracking." Too easy, I thought. Go along to our Chief Clerk, **Sergeant Bill Flint,** read up the file on WIRE notes, copy something along the same lines and that's it. The Orderly Room staff, **Corporal Bob Waller** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Cuckow,** assisted by **Ali** and our long haired civvy, **Alun,** searched through the files. Having dusted THE WIRE notes file we found that it had been quite a long time since we made a contribution in THE WIRE. Some readers may be glad to hear we are still around.



S.O.in-C's VISIT. A CABLE PROBLEM?

Left to right: Signalman "Paddy" Rainnie, 2nd Lieutenant Bob Dibley, Commander 3rd Signal Group (Colonel Bound), S.O.-in-C., Signalman "Paddy" Bodel, Corporal George Thorburn

Coming and going

This month we said farewell to **Captain T.O.T. John Milton** and his wife **Brenda** and wish them all the best for the future. His car is safely locked up in the cable compound so we hope his feet will not be too sore before it arrives back in the U.K. Taking over as O.C. Project Troop we welcome **Captain T.O.T. Alan Spurgin** and his wife **Shelagh** and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

Also leaving are **Sergeant and Mrs. Danny Flanagan** and **Sergeant and Mrs. Charlie Manning.** An enjoyable evening was held in Limassol for them. O.C. Airfield Troop, **Captain Brian Turner,** remarked that he had been saying goodbye to them for over a fortnight. We also say farewells to **Corporals Corser, Muir, Whitworth, Bazeley, Lance-Corporals Hewson** and **Myers, Signalmen Pinnington, Stowers** and **Hayles** and welcomes to **Staff Sergeant Stokes** and **Sergeant Butler, Lance-Corporals Riddlesden, Rookes, Rudd and Wills, Signalmen Kelley, Thorneycroft, Maskell** and **Lippett.** Additions to the Squadron calling for our congratulations go to **Mrs. Haskell,** a girl, **Mrs. Mulvana,** a boy, and **Mrs. Dovenor,** also a boy.

Our sporting activities will be reported in our next set of WIRE notes when it is hoped that our football team will have notched up its second win of the season.

P.S. An application for a three-month extension of tour in 603 Signal Troop (Masirah) was submitted by **Signalman Arthur Williams.** The Second-in-Command said, "He must be ?????? mad." Records were approached and gave the following reply —Quote—extension agreed subject to medical approval—Unquote.

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603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah
B.F.P.O. 65

Standing (from left to right): Corporal Davies, Signalmen Fane de Salis, Fenton, Corporal Purdey, Signalman (now Lance-Corporal) Williams, Signalman Greatbatch, Corporal Cooper, Signalman Reid, Lance-Corporal Harris, Signalman Paine, Lance-Corporal Holder
Seated (from left to right): Major Hodgson, Sergeant Holmes, S.O. in C., W.O.2 (F. of S.), Meachin, Colonel Bound, Sergeant Goatley, Lance-Corporal Doyle-Davidson

Troop Commander ...	...	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. A. Meachin**
Troop/Line Sergeant	...	**Sergeant T. Holmes**
Tech Sergeant ...	...	**Sergeant M. S. Goatley**
Chief Clerk ...	...	**Corporal A. J. Cooper**
Troop Tech Storeman	...	**Corporal R. Davies**

The surroundings somehow never seem to differ!

BROKEN only by the howling of lonely dogs — lonely because there aren't any trees on the island, just prickly bush! This idyllic island with its wealth of beautiful sandy beaches, good fishing, lovely weather, would be a much more sought after place if it had the well known X factor — in this case sex! Yes, 'there is nothing like a dame' (apologies to Rogers and Hammerstein, should they have acquired a copy of this edition of THE WIRE), here in our hidaway island in this coral surrounded creation! Mind you, some of the camels are looking prettier each month.

February — Masirah VIP visitors' season?

February saw the troop entertain three VIP visitors within the space of three short weeks. The first of the three being the initial visit by the new station commander, **Group Captain L. C. Swalwell,** RAF, who left us for the opposite end of the airfield protectively clasping the first of the troop's recent issue of the station telephone directory — our troop clerk, **Corporal Alan Cooper,** still claims the keys of his typewriter are burning as an aftermath!

The second of the visits took place a matter of days after the CO had left our presence, when the GOC NEARELF, **Major-General H. D. G. Butler** came to scrutinise our empire, which again passed without fault.

The third and most important of the visits, as a grand finale to the troop's hard work and preparation came in mid-February when the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** donned his OG's, and came to cultivate his sun-tan. The SO-in-C was escorted on his visit by **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** Commander 3 Signal Group, and **Major B. C. Hodgson,** OC 261 Signal Squadron (our administrative Squadron in Cyprus). It was rumoured that the ADC to the SO-in-C, **Second-Lieutenant I. C. Brown,** had had a somewhat ill effected journey from Cyprus the previous day, however, this

THE LONG, THE SHORT AND THE TALL!
From left to right: F.O.S. (hidden), S.O. in C., "A/Lance-Corporal" Ali (longest serving troop member—note complexion), Lance-Corporal Harris, Corporal Cooper (talking to S.O. in C.), Signalman Greatbatch (the tallest lineman in captivity!?)

(Continued on page 189)

(Continued from page 188)

did not seem to deter our visiting dignitaries from throughly enjoying themselves during their all too short spell of being our highly respected guests.

The SO-in-C's presence and interest in the troop activities (as we hope readers will notice from the humour on some of the photographs) both at work and play, paid tribute to the ever ascending morale of the troop — surely a good enough reason for all you prospective volunteers to join our happy band?

'Pongo-power' — Watch out! 603 for more sporting honours!

Pongo-power! The troop war cry can be heard for miles around when 603 don their sports kit! The 'blue-jobs'—whom we allow to oppose us on the sports field as well as understudy our work commitments are extremely wary of the battle chant.

With only 18 men to draw from, it's hard to field teams on occasions, but we manage to play football, cricket, volleyball hockey, basketball and darts — in fact, just about all the RAF wish to challenge us at! We have yet to win a cricket match incidentally, yet our KD clad counterparts somehow refuse to play 'death ball!'

Foreman Brian Meachin ably demonstrated 'pongo-power' when during a recent soccer fixture, he took a splendid nose dive on Masirah's rock hard sand equivalent to Wembley, and ploughed three yards of the touchline with his nose — not pretty, not ugly — just pretty ugly!

Two troop members, **Foreman Meachin** and **Sergeant Mike Goatley,** upheld the good sporting tradition of the troop, when they recently were team associates in winning the station seven-a-side hockey knockout tournament.

Outdoor activities continue to be all action

Fishing continues to be an ever popular sport amongst our troop contingent — and we manage to keep our troop 'odd job man,' **Ali,** in a steady daily supply of local off-shore produce. We must not go on without recording the old sooth-say of 'beginners luck' — **Signalman 'Virginia' Paine,** having caught a precious 25lb Queen fish. The landing of this beauty having involved the help of sturdy muscled **Corporal 'Dick' Davies,** and **Signalmen 'FDS' Fane De Salis,** and **'Lofty' Greatbatch** — with 'duty lobster' **Signalman Dave Fenton,** looking on.

We are proud of the fact that we can boast of having three troop members in the station mountain and desert rescue team. **Sergeant 'Gozomee King' Tony Holmes, Lance-Corporals Pete Holder** and **'DD' Doyle-Davidson** (haven't we seen that phrase somewhere before?) continue their sterling work rescuing deserts at weekends and during their other free moments.

Lance-Corporal Holder was recently selected for the joint services expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya (watch this space for further details in a subsequent issue of THE WIRE). At the time of writing we hope he will have reached the summit—at least his postcard remarked he was going to mount something!

Masirah's own pirate radio station

The troop has four members on the staff of Masirah's own pirate radio station — 'Radio 65.' The Foreman, **Corporal Chris Purdey, Lance-Corporal Holder** and **Signalman Dave Reid** — the latter three having recently inaugurated their own show — 'pongo-power.'

Stop press

Since our last report, we have said a lot of sad 'ma salaams' and beaming hellos to members old and new. We hope those departed for greener pastures will continue to uphold the good name of 603, and that those new to us will enjoy their stay — after all, nine months isn't all that long!

Congratulations to recently promoted **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Williams,** on a double measure — as he has applied for a three month extension — subject to medical approval. Also to recently arrived, **Corporals Geoff Waters,** and **Mick Read, Lance-Corporal 'Top gun' Colin Harris** and **Signalman Dave Ryan** on presentation of their 'moonie-medal.'

We now look forward to our next new arrivals who will have the distinction of being termed '74 models.'

The 'sharp enders' of Salalah

We could not close this transcript without giving a mention to our four man detachment at the sharp end of RAF Salalah — commanded by **Corporal Steve Bevis,** and generally looked after by **Signalmen Lou Clark, Dave Curran** and **Roy Young** — keep up the good work lad's we do think about you — honest!

639 Sig Troop B.F.P.O. 23

Report from Corporal Howard Pratt

YES, we really do exist. And as this is probably the first article the troop has ever sent in I think a few lines about ourselves would be in order.

We are an independent troop attached to 94 Locating Regiment R.A., stationed in Celle. 94 has three Locating Batteries, each with a Sound Ranging, a Drone, a Met and a Survey Support Troop, and the batteries each support one of the three Divisions of 1st British Corps. We provide communications from each Sound Ranging and Drone Troop to the Artillery Intelligence Officer of the Divisional H.Q.s they support.

At full strength we total 28, mainly RTG's. That's enough about the troop, now to the personnel.

Marriages

We would like it to be known that **Signalmen Bill Bisson, Fitz Fitzgerald** and **Colin Savage** all got married over the last 12 months, but not to each other, and we hope they will still be happily married when we next write an article.

Births

We have had no births lately, not since the Regiment got HP C13's in fact, but **Mrs. Ann Hackett** is due a child very shortly.

Wheels

The troop, O.C., **Captain Tim McCoy,** is changing his name to '3 wheels' after the Rover he was travelling in decided to reject one of is wheels. **Signalman Mick Kershaw,** the driver at the time, still can't explain how it happened. Still, no harm was done.

The two terrors

Signalmen Tim 'Trousers' Bloor and **'Jonah' Jones** have done it again.

In January last year **'Jonah'** was driving the SDS vehicle with 'Trousers' as escort when suddenly the vehicle decided to jump onto its roof. It is now paid for. This January, also on SDS from SOLTAU, 'Trousers' was driving with 'Jonah' as escort when a German staff car decided to run into them. Talk about coincidence. The Bundeswehr are being billed this time.

New arrivals

Our latest two, in the shapes of **Signalmen Mark Harbour** and **Pete Hanson** ('Pinky' and 'Perky') both direct from trade training, got on the good side of **Sergeant Mick Leitch** by making him a cup of coffee. The only trouble was they made themselves one then sat down in the Troop office with THE WIRE. When **Staff Sergeant Howard Parkes** arrived to take them on O.C.'s interview he told them in no uncertain terms what he thought of them (they hadn't paid for it). Our garages are really clean now!

Congratulations

To **Sergeant Mick Leitch** on gaining a place in the BAOR Corps hockey team in goal. First game to be played in March.

Other pastimes

In his spare time **Captain Tim McCoy** is making a name for himself as a rugby player-coach and rowing coach-stroke. As Rugby Officer of 94 Locating Regiment, his team has only lost four games out of 20 played, with 394 points for and 135 against. While his two rowing crews are doing quite well on the River Aller with one of the local clubs. Twickenham or Henley next stop.

Fishing

Corporal Sandy 'Indian Giver' Sanderson, our Clerk Technician, is trying to teach the rest of the troop how to catch fish. He is not being very successful, as the record for this year in the troop is two perch, which he didn't catch.

Farewells

We have just said goodbye to **Corporal 'Slim' Worthington,** who, after an extended leave, should be in shamrock-land with the newly formed NITAT. Our next sightseers in that direction are **Signalmen Duncan Ware** and **Ian Stewart,** who are reinforcing 49 Field Regiment R.A. Closely following them will be **Lance-Corporal Clive Copestake**, to 233 Signal Squadron. The departures continue, with **Signalmen Mick Webster** to 11 Signal Regiment and **Geoff Bedford** to 200 Hovercraft Squadron RCT and **John 'Geordie' McMahon** and **Gary Vining** outside to civvy life. The best of luck to them in the future. Finally, in April/May the OC is changing with **Captain C. D. Melhuish** from 8 Signal Regiment.

How hairy can you get?

To finish off with I thought you might like to know how to lay a D10 line R.A. style. First, plot a route on an out of date map. Secondly, find a autobahn in the way. Thirdly, pick out the tar in the expansion gap between the concrete sections of roadway, and lay the D10 in that neatly, replacing the tar after use. After doing that pray there is no break in the line. This happened one day on the Hanover-Bremen autobahn. The line detachment was seen by Commander 1 Arty Brigade—so **Captain Tim McCoy** tells us.

The Volunteers

34 Sig Regt (V) Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

Inspection

THIS year our annual FFR Inspection was carried out at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, instead of at our drill halls and the inspecting officer was **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.,** our Group Commander.

Brigadier Peck and his S.O.2, **Major Mark Barker,** arrived at Scarborough on Saturday, 10th February, and that day was devoted to visiting and talking to all volunteers undergoing trade and military training. On Sunday the Regiment formed up on parade under the command of the Second-in-Command, **Major Ron Fawcett, T.D.,** and **Brigadier Peck** presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to **Staff Sergeant Gray** of 49 Squadron, **Staff Sergeant Holmes** of 49 Squadron, **Sergeant Naylor** of 49 Squadron, **Sergeant Sturgeon** of 50 Squadron and **Corporal Carter** of H.Q. Squadron.

After the parade **Brigadier Peck** and **Major Barker** visited detachments on the regimental exercise, 'Trial I,' which were deployed around the Scarborough area. For this exercise we deployed two communications cenres, four logistic message centres and the interconnecting radio relay detachments in the field. The exercise proved the first opportunity this season to put into practice what we have been doing in the classroom for the past four monhs, and was enjoyed by our tradesmen and women.

Recruiting steps up

The TAVR recruiting campaign is now well on the way. The regiment is nearly 100 per cent recruited but we are always on the look-out for keen young men and women; this year we aim to recruit 75. On the first two days of the campaign we had 16 potential recruits in Darlington which is traditionally a poor recruiting area. **Major Colin Beadle** says he has a secret formula to bring recruits into 50 Squadron! Whilst **Major Jim Malcolm,** of 59 Squadron in Leeds, whose Squadron in 116 per cent recruited, says that to join his Squadron you have to go on to the waiting list, and be selected.

PRESENTATION

Brigadier O. J. Peck presents the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Staff-Sergeant Holmes of 49th Signal Squadron (V). Looking on: the Adjutant, Captain R. Jones and Volunteer Chief Clerk Staff-Sergeant N. Salter M.B.E.

There is no shortage of romance in the regiment. In March 1972 **Mr. A. Langstaff** and **Miss M. Meaburn** joined the regiment, they were interviewed and attested by the then Adjutant, **Captain John Byrne.** On 16th December, 1972, they were married at Eston and the bride was given away by no other than **Captain (Retired) John Byrne.** We would like to wish them both a long and happy married life and long may they serve the Regiment.

Our regimental skiers have so far had two visits to the dry ski-slope at Catterick and two to the 'real stauff' on the Pennines above Middleton-in-Teesdale. **Lieutenant Richard Chevis** assures me that all injuries so far have been superficial. They are now busy planning their visit to Aviemore at Easter.

39 Sig Regt (V) London

SINCE the Regimental Headquarters is situated on the boundries of the City of London, this Regiment is often visited by many officials and dignitaries. This month has been no exception.

Visit by the Lord Mayor of London

On Friday, 9th February, we were honoured to play host to the Lord Mayor of London, **The Right Honourable Lord Mais, O.B.E., E.R.D., T.D., D.L.,** and the Sheriffs, when they made their annual visit to the Regiment. They were greeted by the Regimental Quarter Guard comprising both Royal Signal and WRAC members of the Regiment under the command of **Lieutenant John Burgess,** and the Corps trumpeters who played a special fanfare based on the theme 'Hurrah for the CRE.' **The Lord Mais** congratulated the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith White** on the turn out of the Guard and stated that it would have done credit to the best of Regular Regiments. The Lord Mayor was then escorted around the Regiment, meeting all the other ranks in the Lynx Club and the warrant officers and sergeants in their own Mess before dining with officers with music provided by the Corps Band. Prominent guests at the dinner included

The Lord Mayor of London, The Right Honourable The Lord Mais, inspects the Regimental Quarter Guard

Their Worships the Mayors of Hackney and Banbury, The Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, **Mr. H. O. M. Knox, O.B.E.,** the Representative Colonel-Commandant, **Major-General M. S. Hancock, C.B., M.B.E.,** the chairman of the South East TAVR Association, **Colonel Sir William J. M. de W. Mullens, D.S.O., T.D., D.L.,** and the director of the WRAC, **Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney, M.B.E., T.D.**

The Lord Mayor, on departing, stated 'what impressed me more than anything was the tremendous spirit so obviously existing in the unit. You could feel this in the other ranks' club and in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess as well as in the Officers' Mess. But I have always believed that one can get the feel of a Regiment more quickly in the other ranks' club than anywhere else. Not only was I impressed with the spirit but also with the general standard of those who are serving."

Visit by The Right Honourable Sir Alec Douglas-Home, KT, MP

Our close ties with the Skinners Company were again renewed when on Tuesday, 20th February, **The Right Honourable Sir Alec Douglas-Home,** KT, MP, accompanied by the GOC of London District, **Major-General J. Bowes-Lyon, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** visited the Regiment as an Honorary Freeman of the Company. **Sir Alec** met members of the Regiment whilst carrying out their training and then joined the officers for supper in the Mess. Unfortunately he had to leave earlier than anticipated owing to Government business at 22.00 hours.

The Corps Band

On 1st March, we were treated to an evening of light music when the Corps Band gave a concert in the Drill Hall. The audience was most appreciative of the high performance of the band and we are indebted to **Major Keith Boulding,** the director of music, for affording us the privilege of a visit whilst on duty in London with the Royal Guard.

Officers training weekend

In spite of all the entertaining, the Regiment does undertake a little training now and again. A successful officers' study weekend was held in Majorca when 25 officers and their wives went there for a weekend. Our readers may feel it difficult to classify this trip as training, but a few of the younger officers learned the lessons of fitness (not going to bed for four days) and fieldcraft on the beach at five in the morning (what did the Honorary Colonel trip over!).

Permanent staff

The last remaining PSI bachelor, **Y. of S. Maurice Campbell** finally threw in his lot on 17th February, and married an ex-member of the Regiment, and a gathering of 120 witnesses sat down to a wedding breakfast and disco in the evening. Congratulations **Maurice** and **Marion**—where did you disappear to that evening? From our Squadron in Dundee we hear that **Lieutenant Eric Kinnear** and his wife **Sheila** have been delving in the unknown and the outcome is a son **Christopher** — many congratulations; and **W.O.2 Ian Wilson** has joined the Regiment to finish his last six months service — quite an eventful month.

Personality of the month — Private Margaret Edwards

Private Margaret Edwards

One could hardly envisage the transformation of **'Maggie' Edwards** from her roll as one of the City's dolly birds, where she works as a secretary to the **Private Edwards** we see in boots and gaiters at the weekend, but in either field, her charm and personality are overwhelming.

In her TA guise, she is a storewoman who can honestly say during driving training 'I drove my instructor up the wall'—hence her employment in the stores. She has been with the unit now for 18 months and her effervescent, fun loving nature, makes her truly 'a personality of the Regiment.'

First Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course, for T & AVR

THE Staff Sergeants courses run by 11 Signal Regiment are by now well known among regular units, but this year for the first time a course was held for their T & AVR counterparts. From 24th February to 4th March, 19 civilians, their occupations ranging from train driver to lawyer and their ages from 28 to a sprightly 52, had a taste of life with the professionals in Catterick. A crash course which compressed most of the subjects of the usual five week course into just eight days and sent the T & AVR sergeants back to their units with a fresh outlook and determination to improve the basic standards of skills in drill, weapon training and battle drills.

Five days of drill (under the beady eye of **Staff Sergeant Ray Briant),** weapon training (from **Staff Sergeant Leslie** and **Sergeant Barry Minter** when not on extra duties), lectures and films, followed by three days' battle camp in the Warcop training area which included section attacks, defence of a comcen, night recces and close quarter combat under the tender guidance of the Infantry adviser (**Captain Hackett** of the Worcester and Foresters Regiment). The course fire support and personal weapons including mortars, rocket launchers, pistol, LMG and grenades. All this came to a climax with a battle camp dinner, in combat kit and candlelight, honoured by the presence of **Lieutenant-Colonel Wainwright** of CVHQ.

Despite the skill, enthusiasm (and tolerance) of the staff instructors, it was very soon apparent that a reasonable standard of fitness would increase the benefits to be gained from the course. Nevertheless on emerging from the mud, 'blood and bullets' our feelings of considerable achievement were increased when the instructors admitted that their fears had not been realised and they had enjoyed the experiment as much as ourselves. Future Regular students must look to their laurels!

Our personal satisfaction led to the feeling that in future attendance on similar courses should be a compulsory qualification for promotion, so that there will be a hard core of regular-trained SNCOs in each unit thereby improving the standard of the Corps (V) as a whole.

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Sport

Corps Cricket—Officers' XI

Players are required for the annual Corp's Officers' XI versus Welbeck College match to be played at Welbeck on 13th June, 1973. The Corps secretary has some difficulty in fielding a truly representative team for officer matches and would appreciate some communication from any officer who would like to play in this game.

Contact: **Captain J. Radford,** School of Signals, Blandford. Tel.: Blandford 2581, ext. 283.

Royal Signals Golf Meeting

Woking Golf Club, 13th March, 1973

Three competitions, all 36-hole medal, were run simultaneously. Twenty-eight players took part. **Of note were the scores of Major Dick Carroll (71 and 72 gross over 36 holes) and Lieutenant George Heaney (71 gross on the second 18 holes).**

The winners were:

Open Championship Trophy
Major R. B. Carroll (handicap 1), 71+72=143.

Championship Challenge Cup for Regular Officers
Major R. B. Carroll (handicap 1), 71+72=143.

Handicap Challenge Cup
Lieutenant R. G. Heaney (handicap 5), net scores 73+66=139.

The standard scratch score for this course is 70.

Badminton

The Grand Finale

As you will have read in last month's issue of THE WIRE the Corps are this year the Champions of the Army Badminton League. As stated in that issue one final match has to be played to complete the season's badminton — Royal Signals versus the Army Badminton League.

This match was played at Blandford in the Upper School on Saturday, 24th February. The teams were as follows:

Army Badminton League: W.O.2 Pollard, Sergeant Herbert, REME; **Cater, Robinson,** REME; **Chapman,** RADC; and **Hills,** RE.

The Corps were represented by the team which had been together all season. **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers** and **Corporal D. Ellis, Major R. S. Clayton** and **Sergeant R. Clark, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Talbot** and **Captain E. Holland.**

The match began at 11.30 and continued until 15.00. Although the League had three Army players and best representatives from individual Corps the teamwork and understanding of the Signals were major factors.

The result was: Army Badminton League 3, Royal Signals 6.

This was followed by a presentation of the Army Badminton League Challenge Shield to the Royal Signals. **Major B. H. Wilson** presented apologies from **Major-General J. Gould,** the Paymaster-in-Chief, and presented the shield to **Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre,** President of Royal Signals Badminton. **Lieutenant-Colonel MacIntyre** then presented the shield to **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers** and individual shields to all the players who had represented the first team.

CORPS TOURNAMENT

From all the enquiries it is clear that the results of the Second Corps Badminton Tournament are of interest throughout the Corps.

The tournament was held in Blandford from 22nd to 27th January. The results are summarised as follows:

Men's singles: Sergeant R. Clark beat **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers.**

Inter Unit: Sergeant R. Clark and **Sergeant B. Mundy** (School of Signals) beat **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers** and **Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Moores** (School of Signals).

Open doubles: Sergeant R. Clark and **Corporal R. Ellis** beat **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers** and **Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Moores.**

Mixed doubles: Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Oehlers beat **Corporal Goodall** and **Mrs. Hatchard.**

Ladies' singles: Mrs. Oehlers beat **Mrs. Ellis.**

Ladies' doubles: Mrs. Oehlers and **Mrs. Smith** beat **Mrs. Ellcox** and **Mrs. Rowland.**

Veterans' doubles: Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Talbot and **Captain E. Holland** beat **Captain E. Heasman** and **Staff Sergeant Hall.**

Singles plate: Corporal Chhetri beat **Signalman McNaughton.**

Doubles plate: Staff Sergeant McLaughlin and **Corporal Hysiak** beat **Staff Sergeant Hall** and **Corporal Chhetri.**

Mixed plate: Captain and Mrs. E. Holland beat **Corporal and Mrs. R. Ellis.**

Once again this year there were over 100 entries for this competition.

Mrs. MacIntyre, wife of the new President of Corps Badminton, and **Mrs. Moores,** wife of the retiring President, shared the prizegiving at the tournament. An arduous task for which we would all like to thank them.

If anyone considers he is up to Corps standard badminton would he please contact the Secretary, **Major R. S. Clayton,** OC 3 Squadron, 30 Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

We are starting now putting together the 1973-74 team squad!

Obituary

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Briggs

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob Briggs died in Queen Alexandra's Hospital, Millbank, on Saturday, 3rd March. He had been in hospital for seven weeks prior to his death and had also been there for a similar period for an operation a few months earlier.

A funeral service was held on Friday, 9th March, at St. Paul's Church, Hammersmith, conducted by the Padre of 31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers). The service was followed by cremation with full military honours at the West London Crematorium. A very large number of all ranks of the Volunteers of 31 Signal Regiment took the afternoon off from their civilian employment to join the family, relatives and friends at the service. The bearer party was almost entirely composed of Volunteer senior NCOs and warrant officers.

Foreman Briggs joined the Army at 23, an older age than most and was trained as a radio tech (Lt). During service in BAOR, Cyprus and UK he clearly showed his many fine qualities and was selected for foreman of signals training. He attended No. 24 Foreman of Signals Course and was posted afterwards to 30 Signal Regiment.

At the time of his death he was serving with 31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V). He had been in this Regiment for almost three years and was held in the highest regard and respect by all who had any connection with him. Many of his equals and contempories hold positions and qualifications of some consequence in their civilian lives and they appreciated his high professional ability. His standing as a man and senior NCO were apparent to all.

He leaves behind Mavis, his wife, and their three children, Sharon, Danny and Mandy. Mavis faced the difficult last days of Bob's illness and his death with great fortitude. The Regiment and all the Briggs' friends extend their sympathy and we all know that she will face the future with equal strength and courage.

Major W. A. Ayres, M.B.E.

Many retired members of the Corps will be saddened to hear of the death, at the age of 71, of Major W. A. Ayres. At Maresfield in the early 1920s he gained a first-class reputation as an athlete and cross-country runner. In 1923 he won

the Sussex junior cross-country championship, but his peak year, was probably the following year, when he was second in the Army individual three mile championship and gained 11th place in the Southern Counties championship against the best athletes of the day. He was awarded Army colours for athletics and cross-country running.

His career in the Corps was wide and successful. He served in Egypt from 1928 to 1932, and went to India from Bulford in 1935, serving until 1941; he was commissioned in 1940. He again served in Egypt after the war, retiring in 1950. He was a man with many staunch assets to his character; a very likeable man and a very genuine friend. His kindly sense of humour was proverbial and many who will remember him will feel a sense of personal loss.

Colonel G. H. Plummer, O.B.E., M.C.

With the sad news of the death of Colonel G. H. Plummer the Corps loses one of its earliest members who transferred to Royal Signals. His time with the Corps was spent partly in India and partly in the United Kingdom. In India he served with 2 Divisional Signals in Quetta and latterly at the Signal Training Centre, Jabalpur, during the difficult period of Partition.

'Jock' as he was affectionately known to all those who served with him was one who always had the best interests of the Corps close to his heart. By nature a good disciplinarian with a strong sense of purpose, modest with a quiet personality, possessing a dry sense of humour and much charm which always won him the respect and esteem of his many friends.

His main interest was in the hunting field and he continued in this sport until his health and anno domini took charge. The last years of his life were spent in a nursing home in London suffering from arthritis which unfortunately gave him considerable pain. He, however, remained cheerful to the end. We all greatly regret his passing.

Brigadier G. C. Wickens, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

It is with regret that we report the death of George Cradock Wickins in his 89th year on 4th February. Brigadier Wickins joined the RE Territorial Force in 1914 and was commissioned in 1915. He served throughout the First World War until 1919 with Army Signal Service Units and transferred to the Royal Signals TA 3 (London) Corps Signals in 1921. He was promoted Brevet Major in 1928 and Brevet Colonel in 1937. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was called up for service with AA Command becoming CSO AA Command in 1940. He held this important appointment until his retirement in 1945, and was responsible for planning and implementing all the communications for the AA defence of the UK throughout the war, for which he was appointed CBE in 1939 and CB in 1945.

After retirement he returned to the Post Office where he held the appointment of Public Relations Officer until 1946. He still maintained close links with the Army, being Chairman of the County of London Cadet Committee from 1945-1949 and served on the Corps Committee as TA representative from 1944-1949. In 1965 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County of London and in 1971 received the Royal British Legion's National Certificate of Appreciation, the highest honour which the Legion can bestow on one of its members.

He also rendered loyal service to the Royal Signals Association serving on the Central Committee from 1932 until he retired from the Committee in 1949 as a Vice-chairman — a remarkable record.

George Wickins was a man who gave dedicated service to the Army; he had a great capacity for sustained effort. His enthusiasm was contagious and he was never deterred by obstacles. We offer our sincere sympathy to his widow.

Sergeant D. J. McKelvie

It is with great regret that we publish the news of the death of Sergeant David John McKelvie of 233 Signal Squadron (NI). He died suddenly on 14th March at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, from natural causes. He was buried at his home in Scotland. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the next of kin, his father, Mr. W. McKelvie, 7, Kerr Street, Barrhead, Renfrewshire.

Ex-Sergeant W. R. Crosse

It is with regret that we record the death of Sergeant W. R. Crosse who served in the Corps from 1947 to 1958. Among the units Sergeant Crosse served were 4th Training Regiment, Catterick, AF Signal Squadron, Habbaniyah, and 19 Army Group Signal Regiment in BAOR. Previously he served with the RA for ten years.

His widow, Mrs. Joan Crosse, to whom great sympathy is expressed, was an Auxiliary Nurse at Catterick from 1947 to 1953.

Movements

Officers

Captain G. A. Allen	... ...	To MOD (ASD2)
Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E.		,, RAC Centre
Major D. F. B. Anthonisz	... ...	,, HQ 12 Signal Group (V)
Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Armstrong		,, HQ Training Brigade
Lieutenant-Colonel G. N. Bell	...	,, MOD (FE) LPT 15
Captain R. A. J. Bingley	... ...	,, AYSC (South)
Captain S. A. Coltman	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain (TOT) J. Cooper	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. Davis, M.B.E.		,, 2 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain R. Dransfield	... ...	,, AAC Harrogate
Major T. R. Eamey	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant A. J. Griffiths	... ...	,, 14 Signal Regiment
Captain K. Hadfield	... ...	,, 22 Signal Regiment
Major A. M. Henson	... ...	,, MOD Signals 36a as Lt.-Col.
Lieutenant A. J. Hutt (545)	... ...	,, 5 RIDG
Major M. L. W. Jennings	... ...	,, 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Major T. C. Livingstone	... ...	,, AWS Group — then School of Signals
Colonel J. C. Lucas	... ...	,, MOD Signals 35
Captain N. A. Mackereth	... ...	,, 2 Div HQ & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maclean	...	,, HQ NAV South
Major J. D. Morris	... ...	,, 3 Div HQ & Signal Squadron
Major L. J. Pertwee	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) J. St. P. Pilkington	...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Major B. B. Postlethwaite	... ...	,, Project Wavell
Major M. J. Ridlington	... ...	,, 19 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant R. F. Rutherford	... ...	,, AAC Harrogate
Captain A. L. W. G. Steane	... ...	,, 12 Mechanical Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant R. L. Stewart	...	,, RPO Taunton
A/Captain D. Strudley	... ...	,, AAC Harrogate
Major R. K. Ward	... ...	,, RMAS
Lieutenant A. G. Whiddet	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Major E. G. Williams	... ...	,, MOD Signals 36b
Captain M. O. Wilson	... ...	,, Project Wavell
Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc) S. J. Wyatt		,, MOD Signals 4
Captain M. J. Young	... ...	,, Depot and Training Battalion AAC
Lieutenant J. W. Birkwood	...	...To 227 Signal Squadron
Major H. M. A. Bonaker	... ...	,, School of Signals
Major D. A. Brockhurst	... ...	,, 28 Signal Regiment
Captain P. J. Brunton	... ...	,, School of Signals (Cadre)
Lieutenant C. J. Burton	... ...	,, 1 Royal Irish
Captain W. I. Buxton	... ...	,, 21 Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) P. F. Byers	... ...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
Major R. A. Cemm	... ...	,, MOD (PE) CGWL)
Lieutenant C. P. Conlon	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant J. R. B. Cook	... ...	,, The Royal Hussars (PWO)
Captain C. B. Cruickshank	... ...	,, 4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Major J. Daw	... ...	,, School of Signals
Major J. R. Dawson	... ...	,, 55 Signal Squadron (V)
Captain (TOT) J. C. Day	... ...	,, 227 Signal Squadron
Major B. A. R. Driskell	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Captain R. A. Ellis	... ...	,, 14 Signal Regiment
Captain R. C. Etheridge	... ...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
Captain G. O. Fulton	... ...	,, 9 Signal Regiment
Captain S. C. L. Gadd	... ...	,, 11 Sig Regt (HS) attd Sch of Sig
Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. C. Gladwyn, M.B.E.		,, 11 Sig Regt (HS) to retire
Captain J. Graham	... ...	,, MOD (PE) EQD
Captain (TOT) W. F. Graham, M.B.E.		,, 242 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant D. K. Hadden	... ...	,, HQ 39 Infantry Brigade
Captain G. Hayes	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Major J. A. Hood	... ...	,, HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Lieutenant-Colonel (TOT) E. J. Larner		,, UK Sup Unit SHAPE
Major D. P. J. Lavender	... ...	,, MOD (PE) SRDE
Major D. Lycett-Gregson	... ...	,, 22 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant P. L. Maloney	... ...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant T. M. Martin	... ...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Colonel R. S. D. Maunsell	... ...	,, NATO IMS
Captain C. D. Melhuish	... ...	,, 639 Signal Troop
Major D. S. Mullineaux	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Captain P. J. Myatt	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Major C. R. M. Noonan	... ...	,, HQ BAOR
Major R. Pickard	... ...	,, HQ 1 Signal Group
Major W. D. A. Poole	... ...	,, 36th (E) Sig Regt (V) as Lt.-Col.
Captain (Tfc) D. F. Reed	... ...	,, 227 Signal Squadron
Major R. Sampson	... ...	,, HQ Northern Ireland
Captain J. R. Selby	... ...	,, MOD (PE) QAD(W)

Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Sherrard-Smith		,, 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Lieutenant M. K. Stretch	... ...	,, QRIH
Captain J. M. Sweetman	... ...	,, 7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lieutenant G. T. Thomas	... ...	,, Army Aviation Centre
Captain Q. Vigurs	... ...	,, 244 Signal Squadron
Captain (QM) W. Watson	... ...	,, 630 Aviation Squadron
Lieutenant R. F. Whitehead	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Major M. J. Wilton-Steer	... ...	,, HQ Radio Group

W.Os and Sergeants

W.O.1 (F. of S.) E. E. Nugent	...	To 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. A. Callow	...	,, 28 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 I. Wells	... ...	,, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 J. P. O. Winning	... ...	,, 31 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 J. H. Wise	... ...	,, 14 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 T. Balch	... ...	,, 12 Mechanical Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 D. N. Wheeler	... ...	,, 71 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (Supvr R) T. B. Neal	...	,, 223 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. Rollings	... ...	,, 44 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. M. Ross		,, 602 Signal Troop
A/Staff Sergeant B. J. Peters	...	,, PEPS
Staff Sergeant P. D. Cole	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. J. Locker, B.E.M.		,, 9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. F. Dyer		,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) F. Gadman		,, SHAPE HQ Command and Sp (BE)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) L. R. Crowe		,, 608 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. H. D. Ward		,, 234 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. S. Alyson		,, 229 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. W. W. Milne		,, 1 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. Sugden		,, 16 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. Jepson		,, 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. R. Appleton		,, JATE
Sergeant R. A. Pearce	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Sutcliffe	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant V. B. Selby	... ...	,, 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. J. Hill	... ...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. K. Harris	... ...	,, CV HQ & Training Wing
Sergeant W. R. Stone	... ...	,, 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Folkes	... ...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. H. Diamond	... ...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Gray	... ...	,, 605 Signal Troop
Sergeant D. A. W. Bowden	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. C. Charlesworth	... ...	,, 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. J. Belton	... ...	,, 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. T. Dearman	... ...	,, SHAPE BAE
Sergeant G. L. Fuller	... ...	,, 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant H. MacGregor	... ...	,, HQ 1 (BR) Corps
A/Sergeant K. Eves	... ...	,, 262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant K. Johnson	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. C. Dulling	... ...	,, 16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. J. R. Amey	... ...	,, 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. E. Crossland	... ...	,, 226 Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant T. Welsh	... ...	,, 13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Friend	... ...	,, SHAPE HQ Command and Sp
Sergeant G. Brogan	... ...	,, 35 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. D. Corbett	... ...	,, 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant S. L. Hackett	... ...	,, 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. R. Nicol	... ...	,, 244 Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant W. J. O'Rourke	...	,, 2 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. A. Thackwell	... ...	,, 244 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. F. Darlington	... ...	,, 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. P. Stephenson	... ...	,, 13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. C. Rigby	... ...	,, 22 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. K. Mumford	... ...	,, 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant S. R. Soqo	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. A. Bott	... ...	,, 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Franks	... ...	,, 233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. A. Essig	... ...	,, 605 Signal Troop
A/Sergeant D. Flanagan	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. L. McIlree	... ...	
Sergeant G. F. Chaloner	... ...	
Sergeant S. D. Farrow	... ...	
Sergeant T. I. Lloyd	... ...	
Sergeant M. G. Collins	... ...	
Sergeant J. G. Taylor	... ...	School of Signals
Sergeant D. R. Stokes	... ...	(35 F. of S. Course)
Sergeant M. Banks	... ...	
Sergeant M. Johnson	... ...	
Sergeant J. J. Gerrard	... ...	
Sergeant M. S. Still	... ...	
Sergeant R. W. Boyd	... ...	
Sergeant R. P. Portlock	... ...	
W.O.1 T. J. Cushen	... ...	...To 40 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (Supvr (R)) D. E. Cheyne	...	,, 13 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 M. Morphey	... ...	,, 37 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. Holder	... ...	,, 602 Signal Troop
W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. D. Watton	...	,, School of Signals
W.O.2 J. G. Mays	... ...	,, HQ 1 (BR) Corps
W.O.2 F. R. Lee	... ...	,, HQ UKLF
Staff Sergeant P. T. McGann	...	,, HQ 12 Signal Group
Staff Sergeant F. of S.) A. Keohane		,, 259 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. Downton		,, 259 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. A. P. Chambers		,, 244 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) K. Halliwell		,, 262 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Supvr (R)) J. E. Bandey		,, 223 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. E. Holder	... ...	,, 22 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. R. Redgrave	... ...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant H. Johnson	... ...	,, 10 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. Bayne	... ...	,, 40 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant G. A. Foggo	... ...	,, 48 Gurkha Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. C. Tait	... ...	,, Recruit Selection Centre, Sutton Coldfield
Sergeant D. M. Coles	... ...	,, 262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Pearson	... ...	,, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sergeant R. J. R. McArthur	... ...	,, 1 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. M. Dawkin	... ...	,, 13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. L. Tedstone	... ...	,, 13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Waring	... ...	,, 608Signal Troop
Sergeant D. J. Antcliff	... ...	,, 4 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Gore	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment 2 Sqn
Sergeant B. J. Latham	... ...	,, 28 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. F. Quinlan	... ...	,, 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. E. R. Foskett	... ...	,, 1 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. Henderson	... ...	,, SHAPE (BAE)
Sergeant R. L. Evers	... ...	,, SHAPE (BAE)
Sergeant B. Selkirk	... ...	,, RMA Sandhurst
Sergeant A. E. Preston	... ...	,, 229 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Chapman	... ...	,, 244 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Farndon	... ...	,, 9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Greatbanks	... ...	,, 28 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. P. Lomax	... ...	,, 4 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. E. Richardson	... ...	,, 1 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. Smith	... ...	,, 2 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. G. Stubbing	... ...	,, 20 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. V. Oxford	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. H. Reynolds	... ...	,, 7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. E. Faragher	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant G. Hardaker	... ...	,, Army Apprentices Coll, Harrogate
Sergeant H. Worthington	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. G. McCrindle	... ...	,, 4 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. G. House	... ...	,, 39 Inf Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. J. Kynaston	... ...	,, Army Air Corps School
Sergeant M. D. Lees	... ...	,, 3 Cadet Training Team
A/Sergeant J. Sharpe	... ...	,, 632 Signal Troop
A/Sergeant R. Hall	... ...	,, Army Apprentices Coll, Harrogate
Sergeant R. W. Rice	... ...	,, 3 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Hudson	... ...	,, 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. Kemp	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. Helme	... ...	,, Army Apprentices Coll, Harrogate
Sergeant D. French	... ...	,, 223 Signal Squadron
Sergeant N. T. Macdonald	... ...	,, 39 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant G. C. Watkins	... ...	,, 525 Rear Link Det.
Sergeant M. D. Davison	... ...	,, 6 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. A. Davies	... ...	,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. F. Sanford	... ...	,, 2 Div Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. K. Rodger	... ...	,, 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. G. Bird	... ...	,, 40 Signal Regiment(V)
Sergeant R. Townsend	... ...	,, HQ UKLF
Sergeant B. T. Dearman	... ...	,, SHAPE (BAE)

Postscript

HIGH TECHNICAL ATTAINMENT — 8th REGT.
Lieutenant General Sir William Jackson K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command presenting Sergeant Bradley with the Royal Signals Institute Prize. Sergeant Bradley received this prize for attainment in trade training, his achievement being to gain an 'A' pass on his recent T1 course. He attributes a large amount of his success to the background knowledge gained whilst attending National Certificate courses at Darlington Technical College

RELAXING WITH 603 TROOP
The S.O.-in-C. chats informally to Corporal Davies and Lance-Corporal Holder. Note Troop Badge!

3 TROOP PASS-OFF

By Signalman H. E. Byers of 11th Regiment

It was late in the night before Pass-Off
and Three Troop were all fast asleep
When, into the barracks, with wand at the trail
A good fairy Corporal did creep.

He toured round the room of the soldiers
All sleeping the sleep of the dead
And a smile crossed the face of that kind NCO
As he paused at the foot of each bed.

"There must be some way I can help them
A way to ensure their success
To make their parade a really good show
Instead of a bloody great mess!"

The answer occurred in a moment,
His duty he never did shirk
with a wave of his wand—FLASH! he was gone
And Three Troop had turned to CLOCKWORK!

Next day, they arose at six-thirty
And marched off to breakfast "En-Masse"
Arms swinging in time—Three Ranks all in line
Which didn't half muck-up the grass.

On time, they marched onto the drill square
Each put on a *perfect* display
Until, came the order to: "March Past in Line!"
When fate stuck her foot in the way.

One faltered, another, then chaos
They staggered, and fell to the ground
In front of the General—Parents and all
The clockwork recruits had run down!

Of that sad disaster, words fail me
What happened you'll just have to guess
But, the Corporal, demoted, was sentenced to "Life"
Which it took, just to clean up the mess.

Take note of that fateful example
Relax, as you march on the Square
Ignore what may happen around you
and act as if nothing is there.

You're men—not machines—don't forget it
Just listen for orders, be sure you're switched on,
And mistakes they are easily made
And you'll give 'em a first-class Parade.

War time incident (2)

The first Doodle Bug on England

Mr. E. W. Pack, of 61 Sanspareil Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, Sheerness, Kent. ME12 3LE writes:

During the night 12th/13th June, 1944, I left the woods at Shorne, Kent, en-route to T2 Transit Camp, Wanstead Flats, prepartory for embarkation to Normandy at Royal Docks, London. My job was to take the MT of 36 RHU over and await their arrival (of main body). I was later delayed at sea and my unit arrived days before I did.

The first half for my convoy of vehicles was short of Cross-roads, Black Prince Hotel in the vicinity of S. Darenth — Swanscombe which is now a flyover (A 2). Whilst we were halted, what many of us took to be a hostile aircraft passed overhead fairly low. My driver thought it was a bomber with its bomb-doors open! As there had been no air-raid alert I suggested it was a British plane coming home in difficulties. There was some illumination due to exhaust gas we all thought. Shortly afterwards there was a loud explosion which made me imagine the alleged aircraft had crashed and exploded.

I thought no more of this (as my main concern was to get on to T2) until two or three days later when in the docks and the big VI attack started. Eventually a Home Guard officer explained to me what these objects were. Needless to say we were all extremely relieved when our ship sailed out of London! Many VIs fell all around us — one very near in the next dock. The troops before they were told thought our ack-ack gunners were doing a good job in bringing down so many enemy bombers! It was somewhat noisey that night and we were trying to sleep in a dockside leavehouse. I don't believe I saw many men lying down or resting that night.

I heard subsequently T2 Camp had one VI fall on it and many men being killed. I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this. The VIs were coming over our convoy from England all the way over and not one of them dropped on us.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in February	23
Number of clothing parcels sent	62
Amount spent	£649.96

One of the Month's Cases

WIDOW of a Signalman who served 1939 to 1944 and died in 1967. She is now aged 67 and in poor health, and her children are all living away and have lost touch with her. The local Signals Unit gave her a television set, and a grant of £20 has been made from Association funds to pay the cost of her licence and to help her with other needs. Clothing parcels have also been sent, and her letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

I AM writing these few lines thanking you all for your parcel and kindness which I have received from you all. Everything in the parcel was really made to measure, just my fit. When I got them, I put the warm dress and cardigan on right away, as it was very cold, and they just came at the right time, and bless you all for the booties as they were nice and warm going out to the shops in the snow. I will never forget you all for your kindness to me. I was going to write to you before this, but the Signals came with the TV and they put it up for me. I was that overjoyed, the tears came to my eyes, because, when they had finished it, the house did not feel dead any more. I looked at the two plays, and I was made up. The gentlemen were very nice and homely, and it just semed as if my husband was here again. I am thanking you all again from the bottom of my heart for all you have done. I am overjoyed and will close now.

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"Three Tees made me feel at ease right from the start. They gave me free tuition and a lot of help with commercial aspects of the trade. After arranging several interviews for me (all of them good positions) I have now started a new career in Telex, with an American Bank (good salary, interesting work, security and easy hours). So for anybody leaving the forces with experience in Teleprinters or Telex my advice to them is why not give Three Tees a try too?"

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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).

May-June 1973

wire

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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. 4RH. 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly **£1.20;** *monthly* **10p.**
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

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MAY/JUNE • 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We feature **Corporal Sean Dillon-White,** of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, one of the Corps' outstanding ski sportsmen, in action during a patrol race (see aricle on page 201).

It is good to read in this article that the Regiment is taking ski-racing really seriously and has big plans for next season.

We wish them the best of luck.

A correspondent recently discussing WIRE notes as submitted by units pointed out — as we have from time to time — that stereotyped factual accounts of commonplace unit happenings such as inspections, visits, guards of honour, Christmas festivities, exercises, annual camps and such-like can make pretty dull reading unless the writer has an exceptional flair for plucking something of real interest — quite often of a humerous nature — from these mundane goings on (we know of one Squadron scribe who excels at this).

Our correspondent goes on to say that there is much in our daily routine of communicating and carrying out other military duties that can make more absorbing reading. We are now a highly professional Corps of regulars and it is of real interest to know what the other fellow's problems are and how he is tackling them. From the Editorial point of view we have, for instance, found it quite fascinating to read details of how comcens are manned and of message traffic handled and circuits provided by some of our units in Northern Ireland. There are, of course, several inhibiting factors in developing this type of contribution to THE WIRE. The dictates of security must be carefully observed and care must be taken to avoid straying into specialised technical themes of interest to only a limited number of readers. However, we believe that there may be some scope for the occasional 'broadbrush' write-up on the day's work from a user point of view. What are the problems on a rebro site in Cyprus? What are our linemen competing with in Gan Island. What is the daily routine of those odd detachments in places such as Nassau? These are the sort of subjects that might be of more interest — and value — to all of us rather than to read that some senior inspecting officer was entertained to a glass of beer in the Sergeants' Mess — they all are!

Special Mention

For a generous and compassionate gesture made by members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of 16 Signal Regiment in contributing a sum in the order of a £100 to purchase a Chairmobile for the use of some deserving ex-member of the Corps.

The welfare staff of the association were tasked with the fairly difficult job of making the selection and by a process of elimination were able to suggest the Chairmobile should be presented to Corporal W. K. Edmonds of Penlan, Swansea, who would be able to use the gift to its fullest potential. The chair which is battery driven, was designed by Lord Snowdon. It is very light and it has an office type seat which is detachable.

Unbeknown to the Regiment and the welfare staff, Corporal Edmonds was actually serving with 16 Regiment when he was invalided out.

Sergeant Cole of the Regiment made the presentation to Corporal Edmunds in person and the gift created a good deal of local interest. The local newspaper published a photo and a prominent two-column write-up.

Corporal Edmunds told the interviewer: "Since I was discharged the Army have really looked after me, and I just cannot praise the work done by the Corps and the association and in particular my old Regiment — 16 Signal Regiment.

For Services in N. Ireland

The following have been mentioned in Despatches for service in Northern Ireland:

Captain P. R. Brewis,
Major I. O. J. Sprackling.

Late news

Golf—New BAOR Golf Champion

W.O.2 Reg Simpson of 16 Signal Regiment, has won the BAOR golf championship. In a close final he beat Captain Richard Drake the current Army champion.

From our "In" Tray

Corps Publicity—Texaco Sales Promotion

Sir,

Texaco are shortly to launch a sales campaign which involves giving away replicas of certain army cap badges on the purchase of a prescribed quantity of petrol. The badges can then be stuck in a booklet printed for the sales campaign.

The Royal Signals badge is not included. Whilst it is perhaps unfortunate that a Corps which is such a high proportion of the Army and the TAVR should have been omitted — particularly when all other arms are included — the facts are fairly straight forward. The Corps was not consulted prior to production of the badges and booklets. Although the Texaco publicity agents wanted to include the Corps badge, it simply was not commercially possible to reproduce the badge in a one piece plastic pressing suitable for sticking in a book.

There is little else to add. We have not been ignored and while we regret the loss of publicity, we have no way of redressing the situation. Those who feel strongly over the matter might consider buying their petrol elsewhere — or even writing to the Managing Director. But please do not write to this directorate.

Yours
H. A. J. Sturge (Brig),
for Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army)

Defence Signal Staff,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall.

Footnote: We are indebted to **Captain E. C. Barker,** Royal Signals (V) of 37 Signal Regiment (V), for the following thoughts on the subject.

"Tumblers, tights and glasses wine,
Free gifts are very much the line
Whenever juice goes in the tank,
But, personally, I would not thank
The firm that seeks to give away
A plastic 'Jimmy' — (oh, lackaday)
Though the connotation might well be
Between 'Certo Cito' and mpg!
But shades of the past and valiant days
Remembered in plastic give aways?
'Jimmy' enshrined in plastic muck?
The only comment I have is — Yuk!"

Presentations to US Army Museum and Major-General Thomas M. Rienzi, US Army

During the recent visit of **Major-General Thomas M. Rienzi,** Assistant Chief of Staff for Communications-Electronics, United States Army, the opportunity was taken to make two presentations, when he was in the Ministry of Defence on 21st February.

General Rienzi was first asked to accept, on behalf of the US Army Stratcom Museum at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, a series of gifts from the Royal Signals Museum. This included a Telephone D Mk V (c 1915), a Heliograph Mark V, and 16 mounted photographs covering the period from 1879 to the end of World War II, depicting visual signalling, line construction, wireless (radio) signalling, and message carrying. The heliograph is of particular interest to Fort Huachuca because of the extensive use made of the heliograph in the 1880s by Fort Huachuca troops in pursuit of the Indian leader Geronimo.

The second presentation was a personal gift from the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), **Major-General J. M. Sawers,** of a framed copy of the well-known water-colour painting of a cable wagon team by **A. E. Haswell-Miller M.C., R.S.W.**

Major-General J. M. Sawyers, M.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), and Major-General Thomas M. Rienzi scanning the Telephone D Mk V and the Heliograph

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.

Royal Signals Manning and Records

We recently said farewell to **Colonel John Masser,** Officer i/c Manning since June 1969, after one of the longest periods spent in office by any Officer i/c. His tour has been marked by a tremendous leap forward in all aspects of soldier career management and much of this progress can be attributed to his enthusiasm and unflagging energy. We wish him every success in his new appointment at the Ministry of Defence.

Almost his final act before leaving was to present a well-earned Comstar Gold Award to our Communication Centre Staff for 100 per cent accuracy in message handling over a period of four months. In addition to the Gold, the staff are the proud possessors of a Bronze and we hear that a Silver Award is on the way. Our small Communications Centre is becoming quite a picture gallery.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome aboard **Colonel Freddie Ramsbottom** as the new Officer i/c Manning and hope he will enjoy what must be one of the most challenging but stimulating posts in the Corps.

THE COMSTAR GOLD
Mrs. Jenny Skinner receives the Comstar Gold from Officer I.C. Manning, Colonel C. B. Masser

79th Armd Div Sig Regt Officers' Reunion

Following upon the first reunion held in March 1972, a second was held on Friday and Saturday, 23rd/24th March. Last year the maximum attending at any one time in the week-end was six, but this year the Secretary managed to gather up nine for the whole weekend, including the first Commanding Officer, **Brigadier D. St.J. Hoysted, C.B.E.** The others were the Secretary, **Chris Denard** (then Captain Adjutant), **Jimmy Humble** (then Captain OC 'C' Troop), **Robin Jennings** (then Lieutenant Second-in-Command 'A' Troop), **Dennis Strange** (then Major OC 2 Squadron), **Jack Street** (then Lieutenant Signalmaster), **Les Wardell** (then Captain Security Officer), **Peter Woodhead** (then Captain Second-in-Command 1 Squadron) and **John Badcock** (then Captain OC Tac HQ Signals).

Through the kindness and organisation of **Dr. Jack Street,** now a Don, we were able to live in his College, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Indeed we dined on both nights in great luxury in the Senior Common Room. The reunion included a visit to Ely Cathedral on its 1,300th anniversary but the attempt to divide the party into three punts on the Cam in the afternoon was thwarted—some might add by divine providence—by the weather. As a guest on the second night, the Master of Fitzwilliam College, **Dr. E. Miller,** who had been a Major in 155 RAC (15 DLI) one of the CDL Regiments in the Division, dined with us.

Should anyone connected with the Regiment read these notes, the Secretary would be very interested to hear from them at: **C. Denard,** 22 Mountway, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 1EP.

Captain Jack Bartlett, MBE

W.O.2 J. McGonagle, 4 Communications Unit, Cheltenham, Glos., writes:

Whilst serving in Northern Ireland, with the 8 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, I had the pleasure to meet an old member of the Corps who expressed a wish to try and locate some of his former comrades, whom he served with between 1925-1945. I would also like to inform his old comrades as to how he had progressed through the years; I am referring to **Captain (ret.) Jack Bartlett, M.B.E.,** Royal Signals.

Jack enlisted as an apprentice Royal Signals at Maresfield in January 1925, and after that he saw service in Londonderry, Rawalpindi and Baluchistan, returning to the UK in 1936 with the rank of Lance/Sergeant. In 1938 he was posted to Palestine Command Signals. At the outbreak of war he was promoted to SSM and later was commissioned and saw service in the Western Desert, Greece, Persia and Bengal. He was promoted Adjutant, Eastern Command Signals. He retired in 1946 and worked his way to his present position as head of the Social Security Branch in Londonderry. For his work and devotion to duty in this field he was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours list.

If any of his old pals are fortunate enough to get a copy of THE WIRE, **Jack** would love to hear from them at 50 Woodburn Park in Londonderry.

Despatch Riders Motorcycle Display Team Annual Reunion

Major the Hon. R. E. Denison-Pender, T.D., writes.

Original members who attended this year's Reunion at Eastbourne on 24th March included **Messrs Tyler, Bell, Leslie Overton, Kennard, Knight, Robin Thyer, Bennett, Miller, Dexter, Arthur Overton, Taylor, Crewdson, Dennis, Wood,** while other members of the Unit who gave support to the team included **Messrs Child, Maughan, Leech, Sharman, Davies, Robson, West, Evans, Bedson** and **'Dusty' Rhodes** with his son-in-law **Staff Sergeant Wrate** (the only person present still serving in the Corps), together with many wives. Grace was said by **Duggie Strike,** the secretary of the Regimental O.C.A., and the Chairman referred to the 'Three Graces'—**Duggie, Mrs. Overton** and **Mrs. Law.** The Loyal Toast was followed by that of 'The Corps' accompanied by canned 'Begone Dull Care.' On display, as had been at the Royal Tournament last year, were the reproduction of the 1937 500cc Rudge made by **Jimmy Law** and the bronze statue of 'Jimmy' which used to stand on the balcony of Signal House.

Apologies for absence were received from team members **Duggie Hollister, Barry, Morley, Griffin** and from other old comrades **Bob (Boy) Barrett, Muir, Clarke, Forbes, Eccleston, Spurrier** and **Colonel Guy Welsford.** Letters were read from **Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, Brigadier Henry Firth, Brigadier Pat Hobson,** Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, and **Major Dick Trelawney** who, at the Ministry of Defence, had given great help to the 1972 reunion.

The reunion was voted an unparalleled success and much credit is due to **Arthur Overton** and to the untiring efforts and enthusiasm of **Jimmy Law.**

Clothing

Since the beginning of February, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Major F. R. Pedley, Mr. W. E. Osborne, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Mrs. A. Pagan, Mrs. D. Young, Mrs. A. P. Baker, Major (TOT) C. J. Bayfield, Mrs. D. H. Collins, Major J. F. Bedford, W.O.1 A. Meekings, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Tent, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Tent, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. MacCulloch, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Stevens, Captain A. G. Harfield, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Scott, Major G. Schofield, Garrison Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. P. Andrews, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Byrom, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Murray, Major-General C. E. Page, Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Palmer and Mr. and Mrs. F. Morrison.

HAPPY WORKING COMBINATION
244 Squadron's M.A.O.T. soldiers with their R.A.F. Officers. A Puma and Wessex drawn up in the background

An RAF officer looks at the Corps

H.Q. 38 Group Mobile Air Operations Teams (M.A.O.T.)

WE are indebted to Flight-Lieutenant Bill Pegg, RAF, for the interesting account that follows of one of the Corps' most unusual jobs, known to very few of our readers. The soldiers engaged on these duties are detached from 244 Signal Squadron, RAF Benson. The write-up was included as part of their notes but on reading it was quite clear that this must form an article in its own right. It is of interest to note that the theme of this article ties in so well with certain suggestions made in our Editorial column this month.

Assignment

One of the tasks of 244 Squadron is to provide a permanent detachment of a sergeant, a technician and 12 radio telegraphists to man HQ 38 Group, RAF Mobile Air Operations Teams (MAOTS). What does this mean to the 244th and what are the MAOTS?

The standards required are high and it is a reflection on 244 Squadron's reputation for physical and mental alertness that it is a rare occasion when someone asks to be or is returned to 244. After selection the future MAOT soldier is detached to RAF Odiham. His new Detachment Commander is a parachuting pilot, **Squadron Leader Ian Morgan.** His Troop or Flight Commander is **Flight Lieutenant Bill Pegg** and as a MAOT team member he and one other (NCO or signalman) work with an RAF aircrew officer as team leader.

Training

Initial briefing at RAF Odiham is followed by job training. The main requirement for the team NCO is to be capable of continuing the operations of the MAOT in the absence or incapacity of the team officer, thus being conversant with all aspects of helicopter operations in the field. In this role he will support infantry, SAS, artillery, commando and naval units of UK or NATO forces and must be capable of flexibility in thought and action and mentally adjusted to living and working with small groups for long periods.

Role

No, the RAF are not looking for astronauts, just good fit reliable communicators. In their role as HQ 38 Group field agents, with their RAF officers, 244's men provide the forward link between Army and the RAF.

Each team has its own FFR Land Rover and trailer equipped for HF and UHF communications. There is equipment for assisting helicopters in landing at night, visual air traffic aids (aldis lamp, flares), crash kit and domestic kit. The team can, however, operate in the dismounted role.

The team is capable of operating independently for a minimum of 48 hours, invariably they may arrive at their destination by parachute, helicopter or assault craft in addition to their Land Rover role. In the latter they are capable of operating for extended periods.

Northern Ireland

The first 'routine' duty is a regular detachment to Northern Ireland, this averages out to six detachments a year. Preparation includes anti-ambush training, normally a noisy affair conducted by the 'paras.' Duties in Northern Ireland are naturally varied but recces of helicopter landing sites and night casualty evacuation keep the team, who are on a permanent 15-minute standby, fairly busy.

A wide variety of tasks

Other overseas trips average out to two a year but the nature of the task can vary from the nearest thing to a ski-ing holiday (Exercise 'Hardfall') to spiriting through the Black Forest with SAS units. The MAOT soldier will normally find himself operating as an element of the AMF(L) on NATO's flanks although Bermuda and Hong Kong have recently appeared on the list of tasks.

The less glamorous but still interesting work is carried out in the training areas in the UK. Support for the School of Infantry one week in counter insurgency exercises can be compared with tasking helicopters to uplift paras from a Drop Zone as the next task. Several tasks under the heading of 'aid to the civil power' have recently added interest (and TV coverage) to the MAOT role. One task carried out in Wales required a conveyor belt to be built to carry away a rubbish tip that threatened to collapse on five schools. This was a potential Aberfan-type disaster. **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Fenwick, Signalmen Merv Horsfall** and **Dave Widdall** assisted in controlling helicopters in delivering hods of cement up the one-in-two slope. Their achievement in carrying out the task was noted in both Press and television.

A further task in which **Sergeant Mick Watson** and **Signalman Chris Burgess** are rapidly becoming expert is the positioning of dyalysis units (kidney machines) for the local health authorities. Where a machine cannot be installed in a patient's home a special unit in a Portakabin is positioned in the patient's garden. This is normally done by crane but on at least two occasions a helicopter has been the only means of lifting the unit into position. Using an R/T link direct with the helicopter and sheer muscle power MAOTs have assisted in positioning the kidney units within inches of its final spot.

(See more photos on page 229)

The reward

The vital part played by 244 Sqadron personnel in manning the MAOTs is reflected by the many congratulatory letters received from units both service and civilian, with which they have worked. The unique opportunity to work closely with aircrew officers and personnel from other services both UK and foreign is one that is allowed to very few. 244 have taken full advantage of this opportunity and are to be congratulated on their achievements with MAOTs.

2 DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT PATROL TEAM—WINNERS AT THEIR DIVISIONAL MEETING
Left to right: Lieutenant T. E. M. Richardson, Corporal S. Dillon-White, Lance-Corporal D. Elliott, Lance-Corporal B. Madsen

The Business of Ski Racing

A discussion by 2 Div Signal Regiment

Increased popularity of ski-ing in the Army

NOW that the Army ski championships are over and the ski-ing season is drawing to a close the bureaucrats will gather together again to review the pros and cons of this glamorous tough highly expensive sport. Throughout the world winter sports have developed as a multi-million pound business, with perhaps Alpine ski-ing being the most publicised sport of all. In the Army too ski-ing has increased tremendously over the last few years, and a sport dominated Army wise by gunner and cavalry officers is something of the past.

The opening up of Scotland as a winter sports area and the organisation there of races by the Army ski association, has taught and encouraged junior soldiers in the art of ski-ing. The interest having been fostered in their Army training, some of those young men will subsequently find themselves posted to Rhine Army and may end up racing for Army or national teams.

Ski-ing is now regarded as a form of adventurous training. However, some of the uninitiated still find it difficult to class Alpine ski-ing with other types of adventure training. The training involved to get a soldier to race confidently on a 75 miles per hour downhill stretch or to take a 70 gate open giant slalom course at full tilt over bumps appears to be disregarded. A ski racer must train hard and employ many of the basic principles he has learnt in his training, to achieve success. Above all he needs fitness, confidence, agility and a good measure of guts.

Some static Signal Regiments have realised that one effective way of 'winning spurs' during the long periods when not engaged on active operations, is by excelling in sport. Notable examples are 21 Signal Regiment with their prowess in athletics and cross-country and 7 Signal Regiment with rugby. Many

POTENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE
Signalman Gordon Townsley, receiving the Novice Individual Giant Open Slalom prize at the 2nd Division Ski Meeting at Oberjoch, Bavaria. He also won every B.A.O.R. Alpine Novice Prize

young men do have short-term glamourised views of Army life and they are attracted by the colourful sporting reputation which certain units achieve.

Time and expense are invariably the problems one meets in pursuing any sport thoroughly. It is interesting to look at a unit like 2 Division Signal Regiment and see what they achieved last season virtually from scratch.

Building up a unit team

During the final days of OCT a party of 13 fit, would-be ski racers set off for the Alps. Apart from a 'Snow Queen' course only three had any experience on snow. But the Regiment was prepared to sponsor this fit, enthusiastic team.

Over £600 was granted, of which £400 was used to purchase equipment. **Each team member contributed over £100.**

Few areas in Europe are suitable for ski-ing in early November. One has to go on to the glaciers to guarantee snow. Plateau Rosa in Italy provided an ideal training area for 2 Division's Alpine team. The langlauf team found the altitude demanding but never-the-less beneficial. Sufficient new snow fell in mid-November to enable the laufers to come down into the valleys to train.

By following a rigorously self-enforced programme the team standard rose from beginner to racing-beginner in one month. The langlaufers could ski 20km nonstop with a reasonable 'diagonal gait' and a few brief falls on the steeper downhill sections of the course. The Alpine team could cope with a 60-gate slalom with speed and a certain amount of control. They did not have the advice of a trainer but did have a fine example in the French and Italian national teams ski-ing on the same mountain. Early in December the team moved to Livigno. There they came to the notice of the Army's ski-ing expert racer and trainer **Captain Zack Freeth.** He kindly trained the team for two weeks, teaching them the basic principles of ski racing.

Training alongside 35 Engineer Regiment, 2 Division RCT, the RMA Sandhurst squad and 2 Field Regiment RA helped to foster that competitive spirit essential for a true sportsman. A few races early in January, including the Army Alpine team trials, put the squad in the right frame of mind for the ensuing Army championships.

At the Divisional meeting 2 Division Signal Regiment were joined from Norway by their two experts who had been training with the British squad. The table below indicates how the team fared in the Division.

Hard work paid off

The team did surprisingly well for their first year as a combined team. They came 5th out of some 20 teams in the much sought after Princess Marina Cup, which is awarded to the winning team in the combined langlauf and downhill events in the Army. The langlauf team did even better coming 2nd in the overall langlauf result.

Full results are listed below for BAOR and Army Championships:

Alpine: Div Giant Slalom 3rd, Div Slalom 4th, Div Downhill 5th, Stanis Memorial 4th, BAOR Giant Slalom 5th, BAOR Slalom 5th, BAOR Downhill 5th, Army Giant Slalom 8th, Army Slalom 5th, Army Downhill 5th, Langlauf Div Patrol 1st, Langlauf Div (15 km) 2nd, Langlauf Div (4 x 10 km) 2nd, Army/BAOR Patrol 2nd, Army/BAOR (4 x 10 km) 4th, Army/BAOR (15 km) 4th, Army Biathlon Relay 2nd, Army Langlauf 2nd, Agra Cup winners.

Combined: Mil Combination Div 2nd, Mil Combination BAOR 5th, Mil Combination Army (Princess Marina Cup) 5th.

Preparations for next year

Boosted by their initial success in ski-ing 2 Division Signal Regiment have already planned a training programme for next year. This includes weekend training at Winterberg until the current season ends, and a strenuous dry training programme for fitness, agility, balance and other qualities necessary to make a good ski racer.

Racing training on one of the glaciers with a professional coach is envisaged for later on in the year. It is interesting to note that sponsorship by a ski manufacturer has been offered to the team, if they improve their performance next year.

Schemes like 'Snow Queen' can be given enormous boost by the expertise and enthusiasm gained from competition.

The future Armywise

In Britain ski-ing is a popular and expanding sport. It is dominated almost entirely in langlauf ski-ing by the Army. What other sport can boast of this? Now that Alpine ski-ing techniques appear to have 'plateau'd,' the sport is no longer dominated by the youth who can learn and use the latest techniques. The age of the champion racer will tend to go up. There is no reason why young soldiers will be unable to progress with their Alpine ski-ing to international standard. In the 1970 British Championships at Davos the Army team were all placed between 9th and 20th. The 1976 Olympic Winter Games at Innsbruck will contain a strong Army contingent in the British squad. At least two Royal Signals soldiers are training for these games. Possibly a few more could win their international colours if they were given the chance.

Exercise 'Cold Comfort'—Norway 1973

by Second-Lieutenant Mary Pote, WRAC

A problem at the start

WHEN **Second-Lieutenant Sarah Jones** and I arrived in Blandford on 27th February, 1973, in preparation for Exercise 'Cold Comfort,' it was to find **Captain Dick Smith** and **Yeoman Andy Harkins** chewing nervously at the end of obviously well-chewed pencils. Somewhat disconcerted to find the arrival of the only two female members of the party had this effect on other members, we contemplated retreat, but were hastily asured we were only part of the problem (charming!). The real one was that owing to the RAF changing our flight destination from Oslo to Bergen, we were now faced with hiring a coach to Rjukan at an extortionate price (approximately £145), hitch-hiking (with six boxes of compo, 12 pairs of downhill skis, boots, rucksacks and NAAFI rations) or calling the whole thing off. A vote was taken, a unanimous decision reached, and so it was that on 1st March, we landed in Norway without the faintest notion of how we were to get any further.

We were fortunate indeed to find at Bergen a highly efficient and sympathetic AMF movement control officer, **Captain Ron Cockings**, RCT, who appreciated our predicament and in no time at all had fixed us overnight accommodation and transport to Rjukan for the following day.

We left early the next morning and spent the whole day on the move — crossing the Hardinges Fjord by ferry (there was slight panic at this point in case it was carrying 'heavy water,' but eventually all members of the party were persuaded to embark) and then on, up and across the mountains of Southern Norway.

Pleasant arrival

We arrived at our destination in the early evening and were warmly welcomed by **Rod Tuck,** ex-Major RM, who owned the Ski Lodge. Our qualms about the 'field conditions' evaporated as we found comfortable bunk beds, sauna baths, showers and marvellous food awaiting us. Suddenly 16 days seemed no time at all. We settled in quickly and were fitted out with cross-country skis, and the following day the ski-ing started in earnest with an introductory six kilometre run around the lake below the lodge. Our instructors ignored the comments which flew from time to time as a controlled snow plough became a headlong, full-tilt, uncontrolled attack on some unsuspecting snowdrift/tree/rock/ski instructor, and by the end of the morning we all felt reasonably competent — if a trifle bruised into the bargain.

At the top of S. Norway's highest mountain

Our star skiers soon became apparent and led by **Lance-Corporal 'Smoothie' Sudron** they used to belt off each morning to do our morning's run in half the time the rest of us took. The length of these progressed from 6-22 kilometres over the period, and some even completed the 26 kilometres. Perhaps our most strenuous exercise, however, was the conquest of Gausta, Southern Norway's highest mountain. Although the summit was only eight kilometres from the lodge itself it was also several thousand feet up, and we arrived at the top cold and tired having abandoned our skis halfway up. To our delight right at the summit was a small cafe, run by a wizened old Norwegian (rumours that there was a dual carriageway all the way up the back of the mountain were hastily discounted) and there we sat down to more than welcome hot chocolate. It was at this point that **Second-Lieutenant Sarah Jones,** unable to sit still any longer, expressed a need to commune with nature. There was an uncomprehending silence for a moment then the cafe owner's face lit up, and she was pushed in the direction of the entrance, followed by a howl of laughter from the assembled company as a shovel was handed to her with a wink and a nod.

Several other people wished they had partaken of this strange ritual afterwards when we discovered the quickest way down the mountain was to sit down and toboggan!

A party

During our first week at the lodge it came to light that **Captain Dick Smith** was to have a birthday that week and an instant party was arranged at which we presented the tip of the first of our many broken skis, suitably inscribed. The lodge chef, gunner, did us proud and the 'small' birthday cake requested turned out as a three feet by three feet gateau cake which easily satisfied the 30 or so people present (leaving enough for tea the following day). Washed down with punch it was delicious and we were forced to dance well into the early hours to work off the extra weight gained.

. . . and a casualty

We spent one afternoon ski-ing around the lake practising towing a stretcher on skis and having discovered what fun it was to be 'patient' **Signalman Iain Smith** managed to wrench his knee badly the following day whilst a good seven kilometres away from the lodge. As he was unable to walk a rescue team consisting of **Captain Dick Smith, Corporal Ray Hill, Lance-Corporal Stan Sudron** and **Signalman Dave Nurse** left the lodge at a great rate of knots with the stretcher in tow, and the patient was safely back within two hours.

It was decided there and then that it was such hard work that the next person to injure themselves could crawl back unaided apart from an escort and feeding at irregular intervals, and after that accidents became notably less frequent and serious. . . .

Goodbye

We left Norway on 16th March, fit, sun-tanned and looking forward only to August when we plan to return for the first of many visits. And we only left one thing behind — a 12 feet high snowman for them to remember us by. . . .

Nominal Roll—Exercise 'Cold Comfort'

Captain Dick Smith; W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Andy Harkins; Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Jim Rogers; Corporal Max Agrippa; Corporal Ray Hill; Corporal Dick Leadbeater; Corporal Barry 'Paddy' McAlpine; Lance-Corporal Stan Sudron; Signalman Dave Nurse; Signalman Iain Smith; and **Second-Lieutenant Sarah Jones** and **Second-Lieutenant Mary Pote,** on loan from 10 Signal Regiment.

"Prepared for the worst"

by Musician P. Weaving

THE Corps Band was recently given a Kneller Hall inspection — a rare but very thorough operation. All will be delighted to hear that the Band received a grading of 'outstanding.' The occasion was not without its humour as Musician Weaver makes clear.

The preparations for the Kneller Hall Inspection of the Corps Band started months before the big day—31st January. We heard about it from the Director of Music, **Major Keith Boulding,** way back in 1971 before we left Catterick and it has been on and off since then so many times we were beginning to think we'd get away with it. The organising of the library was the biggest job. Under the eagle eye of **Staff Sergeant Stobbs** we had to build up a foolproof reference catalogue—a job that was finally left to the specialists, and the rest of us were put on the job of sticking and binding thousands of sheets of music.

The time soon came round for us to be introduced to the complicated Marching Display which was going to impress the 'King of Military Music.' He is **Lieutenant-Colonel Rodney Bashford, M.B.E.,** Grenadier Guards, and his name brought more fear into our lives than a multitude of Generals could ever do. Those of us who had never met him, pictured him as a seven-foot monster.

During the few months leading up to the ordeal, we practised our gyrations on the square until they were near perfect. The movements were so designed to save the best bits for the end, I suppose in the hope that **Colonel Rodney Bashford** would be jumping up and down with excitement.

As the big day drew near, **Lieutenant-Colonel David Barker,** our Band President, joined in the fun. He put on a brave face and stood in front of us, playing the part of the Director of Music Kneller Hall and asking basic questions on music from a book written by our Director of Music.

As usual nothing worked out as planned. The marching display was cut short by the inspecting officers. They had seen enough after half the programme! The planned concert was also cut short, and the only one to be given the full treatment was **Band Sergeant Major Ralph Donnell,** who was asked to take us through some very sticky passages. Our beautiful male voice choir was given the chop and the Light Orchestra lasted only for about two minutes. In fact the only combinations to be given a full hearing were our raving, screaming Beat Groups, under the direction of **W.O.2 Jimmy Greer.**

A funny thing happened during the Dance Band session. The practice room was decked out to look like a night club, and a waiter from the Officers' Mess was laid on to serve champagne to the Commandant, Royal Military School of Music, the Band President and both Directors of Music, who sat about looking as if they were waiting for a strip show to start. Unfortunately the waiter broke the cork in the champagne bottle and no-one had a corkscrew with them. (Unusual for us!). A screwdriver was produced by **Corporal Bertie Speed** and the day was saved—but not before **Colonel Jefferson** had had to endure two of our hot numbers instead of the scheduled one.

It was all over. All that was left was to loosen our belts, light up a fag, open our own bubbly, hope for the best and fear the worst.

Thank goodness — we were graded 'Outstanding.'

The Kohima War Memorial—Now Restored

Veterans of the Burma Campaign and relatives of those who died in it will be pleased to hear that the 2nd Division's famous war memorial at Kohima which had fallen into disrepair in recent years, has just been fully restored.

The large granite memorial dragged for miles over mountain tracks by 200 Naga hillmen who refused all reward for their work, stands before the District Commissioner's tennis court which proved the turning point of Japanese attempted invasion of India. It bears the words so frequently used now at Remembrance Day Services:

When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.

The restoration which included rebuilding the walls carrying the Roll of Honour, has been carried out by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

It has been financed by units at present serving in the Division and the 2nd Division (1939-45) Dinner Club, until recently chaired by **Major-General John Grover** who commanded the Division at the time of the battle in 1944.

(Courtesy Daily Telegraph)

Hitting the Ice at 90 m.p.h.!

by Lieutenant Duncan Jones

(I) Build up

PLACE: St. Moritz bob track in Switzerland.
SITUATION: Leading in the 1973 British Bobsleigh Championships with the last of the four runs to go.
ATMOSPHERE: Spectators milling around the track. Competitors building up their concentration and waiting eagerly for other times. Bobsleighs being given last-minute adjustments. Those about to start standing tensed but quietly in the start gate.

* * *

The bobsleigh is carefully manoeuvred into the start gate, its runner guards removed and put to one side, our shoes are cleaned of snow, crash helmets given one last final check, goggles down and the final concentration before the barrier goes up. For the sixth, seventh, maybe eighth time we go down the track again in our minds. Each bend, bump, dent, anything that could give, or take away, speed are mentally checked. **Patrick Evelyn,** the driver, walks slowly away from the bob to avoid the small talk going on nearby. I slide the bob to and fro to avoid ice settling on the metal runners and think of that first 50 yards where one has to push with everything available to give the sled its initial momentum.

The track is clear, the barrier goes up, **Patrick** grasps his push handle and we swing the bobsleigh into its natural rhythm to and fro; then I begin the count — one - two - three - and . . . we throw everything and begin sprinting, pushing this dead weight of iron. First **Patrick** gets in, lets the start handle spring back into the cowling and I keep running until finally I am at my maximum speed. Gently I step into the bob and hold myself perfectly still as we go round the first left-hand kink, then slowly ease myself down into the seat and round the next left-hand kink. The bob picks up speed slowly on the initial first straight, the most crucial on the course, as any sliding or touching the side here means seconds off as opposed to tenths of seconds further down the track. With relief the bob gently goes over at an angle as we take 'wall,' a long left-hander followed by 'snake'—a left then a right. The first goes well keeping nice and low in the second and I get bounced out of my seat. The speed is picking up noticeably, into 'Sunny,' the first big corner. Up the bob goes onto this sheer ice wall and the 'g' hits you with a bang, off the corner into 'Nash,' a left-hander, down into 'Dixon,' a right and onto the 40 yards straight before 'Horseshoe,' a 180 degree bend with a '4g' force in the middle and stands 30ft high in more or less concave shape. We are going quickly into 'Horseshoe' but not too well, we bang before 'Telephone,' a right-hander, and are a little late going in, high in the corner, off it and into 'Shamrock,' a right which feels better then we touch again and very late into 'Dyke' we go high again but gently the bob finds its level. We are now travelling at a little over 60 mph suspended on the side of the long left-hander, then quickly we are off it into 'Little Dyke' trying to make up our lost time. It feels right—then the unnamed right-hander.

The vibrations are making it difficult to focus on the track and all one sees of the spectators is a mass of colour, then we're straight and good into 'Tree,' out well on the long exit to this corner into 'Bridge' and the long straight towards the finish appears. The bob touches the wall then it's off the ground over 'Leap'; we are now somewhere in the 80 mph bracket and gaining speed. The final left-hander 'Portargo' looms up and we are in it and out of it—on with the brakes and bang, crash, and we leave the ground again on the uphill rise of the finish, round the small left-hand kink and we finally come to rest.

It's a poor time but nevertheless we finish 2nd and receive a place to go forward to the World Championships in America.

Ourselves in the finish during the 1973 World Championships at Lake Placid

(II) Finale—America

The two weeks' intensive training on the St. Moritz track had been worth it—the lifting of 250 kilos of Italian-made bobsleigh, the careful adjustment of weights, the polishing of runners, repairing the damage of the 'hairy' runs, the anxiety beforehand and above all the finance involved.

After having left England three weeks earlier in a Land Rover towing the bobsleigh behind us I made my way back, as did the other competitors, to various parts of Europe, this time merely on route to America. **Patrick,** a farmer from Surrey, stayed on in Switzerland to fly out later and meet us at Lake Placid where the races were to be held, whilst the five Army competitors, who had been selected, flew out from RAF Lynham. Having had luggage returned from Gibraltar, avoided landing at Montreal because of bad weather conditions, and driven up from Washington, we moved into Lake Placid ready for two weeks' fascinating bobbing.

The Americans in true fashion had built the fastest bob run in the world which we all took in the spirit it was given and bruised, cut and jarred our through the practice and the races.

The two-man practice began on 5th February. **Patrick** and I, and **Mark Agar** with **David Broomfield** in the other two-man bob, found our way down the track which has one spectacular piece to say the least. The 13th and 14th corner of 90 degrees left followed immediately by a 90 degree right, taken in the two-man bob at about 85 mph, and in the four-man bob at 92 to 93 mph, succeeds in giving the riders the ability to test their reactions and how much ones shoulder can scrape an ice wall before it needs padding. The two other members of the team not competing at the time were **Corporal Bill Sweet,** QDG, and **HRH Prince Michael of Kent,** the former being Britain's top brakeman for the past three years and the latter a notable driver who was to steer the four-man down on the next week. So fortunately it wasn't a great surprise to me when I was forced to stand on the sideline with **Prince Michael** whilst **Bill Sweet** joined **Patrick.** The only excitement I managed to get after my two days' initial practice was on the fourth day when **Prince Michael** sensibly decided it would be a wise thing to take a two-man down before he attempted with a four-man. So we went and reached the midway part of the course, going well, then on the entrance to a 140 degree bend we touched, went up the wall, down it to its belly in the centre then immediately straight up again, hitting a wooden lip, which stops the bobsleigh from flying out of the track into woods, pushing us in the direction we wanted but with only two of the four runners on the ice. With a little banging we were upright and on our way to the bottom where there was little else we could do but laugh.

Lieutenant Duncan Jones—writer of the article

The two-man races were finished by 11th February and four-man practice began with **Prince Michael** driving, **David Broomfield, Bill Sweet** and I keeping him company. Practice went well, though there was a familiar smell of burning anoraks after 'zig zag,' but we stayed upright throughout the week and the races commenced on Saturday, 17th February. Our times were not as good as we expected and we finished on Sundays 18th, 16th out of 20 starters, which left room for some cynical remarks by American TV.

The 1973 bobsleigh season was over and the experience gained can never be replaced. Let us hope that the coming seasons be more successful on the international circuit.

To tell those of you that are interested in this sport what exactly it is like is not easy but I hope that by the account of my season you will be a little wiser.

(III) Summary

There are three ice sports of this type, bobsleighing, luge and cresta, the latter of which only takes place in St. Moritz with no international events and is run as a club. There is no similarity between the cresta and the bobsleigh; the latter, needless to say, demands the most in all aspects.

In Britain at the moment there are something in the region of 50 active bobsleighers but due to the expense of the sport it is quickly becoming predominantly Service orientated. This year the Army have completely made their mark as for the first year since the early 60s the RAF had no representation in the British bobsleigh team in which the Army had five out of a team of six. Also the Army won the inter-Services event again.

The future of Army bobbing relies on new people taking to it, and having done so continuing at it. Any readers who are interested should contact me but bear in mind it is a very expensive sport which requires a combination of both athletic ability and temperament. It is a great sport though and must be one of the most rewarding both in enjoyment and excitement.

Results British Championships

1. **Mark Agar/David Broomfield,** Army.
2. **Patrick Evelyn/Duncan Jones,** Civilian/Army.
3. **Jackie Price/Dennis Lloyd,** Army.
4. **Prince Michael/Bill Sweet,** Army.
5. **John Blockey/Simon Wright,** RAF.
6. **Tony Nash/Bill Foxton,** Civilian/Army.
7. **Tim Wynne/Eric Grounds,** Army.
8. **Chris Baldwin/John Scott,** Civilians.
9. **Mo Hammond/Mike Cunningham,** RAF.
10. **John Caulcutt/Richard Minchin,** Civilians.

British Team

Patrick Evelyn, farmer from Surrey; **Duncan Jones,** Lieutenant Royal Signals; **Hon. Mark Agar,** Lieutenant Blues and Royals; **David Broomfield,** Staff Sergeant 15/19 Hussars attached RAC Para Squadron; **H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent,** Captain Royal Hussars; **Bill Sweet, Corporal** Queen's Dragoon Guards.

Unbeknown to me at the time of writing, my bobsleighing for the season was not finished, hence this postscript.

On 16th March **Mark Agar** and I crossed on the midnight boat from Dover bound for Koningsee in south Germany, primarily to teach a number of soldiers from BAOR the art of bobsleighing and secondly to give me the chance of driving in preparation for next season. Needless to say I was very pleased to hear that two Royal Signals soldiers were willing to have a go, **Staff Sergeant Thurley** and **Signalman Dixon,** both from 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. The week was a great success and a similar one is to be held in November for more novices.

It is my intention now having driven and got the use of a bobsleigh for next season, to interest somebody from the Corps to act as my brakeman. So those of you seriously contemplating the sport, do get in touch with me and there might be a chance of you attending the course in November.

(Lieutenant Duncan Jones can be contacted at 45 Army Youth Team, 110 East Street, Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6LH. Tel.: Southend 66992).

Signals Branch, HQ B.A.O.R., B.F.P.O. 40

IT normally takes an event of considerable importance to get this Branch into THE WIRE. No such event has occurred recently, though we in BAOR, generally, are looking forward to some important functions later in the year.

The Morrison Cup meeting, being organised by 7 Signal Regiment this year at Herford on 6th and 7th June, promises to be a very special occasion. It is hoped that **Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.,** will be able to attend and thus personally present the trophy he donated way back in 1951, and a new trophy for the Minor Units competition which he has kindly presented to the Corps in Germany. **Mrs. Morrison** will be accompanying him and will no doubt both be very interested in the changes made since their last visit to BAOR. We are also looking forward to a visit from the new Officer i/c Manning and Records, **Colonel F. Ramsbottom,** in June/July. He is always a welcome visitor, having something of interest to divulge to all ranks. Moving further into the year, October sees a third BAOR Signal Regiment receive the Freedom of its City. This time the honour has fallen to 22 Signal Regiment at Lippstadt. The Corps Band will be in attendance at the Freedom Ceremony (and afterwards, no doubt!) and will also tour other Corps units before moving onto Berlin for the biannual Military Tattoo. Congratulations are due to our Director of Music, **Major K. Boulding,** who has been appointed Director of Music for the Tattoo. To round off this preview of important events, we are also expecting the SO-in-C to tour BAOR in November.

All these functions involve the staff and clerks of the Branch in some way, but none more so than the CSO BAOR Study Period on 28th and 29th November—the paperwork for this has already began to fly!

The Branch is bracing itself for some changes later in the year. Longest serving member of the Branch SO2 Tels, **Major G. Barnett,** leaves us for 8 Signal Regiment in May and the GSO1 **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl** is already looking forward to February 1974 and sunny Cyprus where he will assume command of 3 Signal Group. It won't be quite so warm in Hammersmith—even in August for our Chief Clerk **Staff Sergeant Ian Ryder**—though we don't know how hot the 'hot seat' in a TAVR Regiment really is! Another due for a move in August is **Lance-Corporal Pam McCreedy,** WRAC, who, after **Major Barnett's** departure, takes on the title of longest serving military member of the Branch. Also on the move is **Sergeant G. (Pidge) Bullen** who leaves us in June and the Service in September after 22 years. We wish him and his wife **Jean** all the very best in civilian life and thank them for their support for the Branch.

The Branch is too small to have much influence in the sporting world, though **Corporal Ian Murray** represents the Garrison at soccer when he's on form. Our smallbore team continues to flourish, finishing fifth in the league table and reaching the last eight of the knockout competition. We therefore lost the shield won last year as knockout champions but still featured in the honours as **Major (Tfc) W. C. Lombard** won first prize in the individual competition with an average of 96.4 from 13 matches.

In matters military, SO3 Tels and OC Fast **Captain H. J. P. Exon** is studying hard for the staff promotion examination this year. **Lance-Corporal Frank Murphy** is at this moment tackling the Detachment Commanders' Course at 13 Signal Regiment and **Sergeant Gerry Moloney** is brushing up on all relevant subjects before attending the Staff Sergeants' and Chief Clerks' course commencing in April.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS

IN all THE WIRE notes submitted by the Squadron during the past year, one area has been sadly neglected — the Brigade Headquarters, so perhaps these few paragraphs will help redress the balance.

Many thousands of words have been written and spoken about the situation over here but little is said of those in the background.

17 Major Units and 7 Minor Units under Command

The Brigade is big, the biggest in the Army varying in strength according to the current IS situation. Our maximum strength was reached last year during the successful Operation 'Motorman' when we had 17 major units and seven minor units under command. During the last 12 months our strength has never fallen below twelve major units and four minor units — so we are a busy headquarters.

The heavy flow of information demands a large communications system terminating at Brigade Headquarters in a sophisticated and well designed ops room. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of an Army work study team who produced console designs and an ops room layout that has proved highly successful. Security limitations preclude us from describing in detail the equipment involved but suffice to say that never before has a brigade had so many means by which command may be exercised as the 39th!

At times of high activity the console is manned by some eight officers coping with the dissemination of orders, receipt of incoming incident reports and information.

Corps well in evidence

There is an extra Corps flavour in the ops room with the BM, **Major Ian Shapter,** and a short tour watchkeeper **Captain Richard Smith** both Royal Signals. Incidentally we have six watchkeepers who usually complete a very arduous six months tour manning, in shifts, the communications and maintaining the logs (we know them as 'mushrooms' because we feed them and keep them in the dark).

With the assistance of a large scale street map of Belfast, an up to date minute by minute situation is always clearly defined visually. It is a fascinating place to be located, during these troubled times. Incidents occur, situations develop, suddenly the unexpected, action is implemented — it's all part of command.

Workers behind the scenes

Let us not forget the workers behind the ops room. **W.O.1 Auton,** RAOC, with his clerks working at high pressure in preparing formal op orders (33 have been issued during the last twelve months the largest containing 94 pages). All the Intelligence Section collating the mass of intelligence and applying it to the many individuals caught up in security incidents. Finally the Comcen headed by **Y. of S. Phil Daniel** and **Sergeants John Hamer** and **Jeff Nelson.** The flow of traffic is prodigious for a brigade comcen. Here in signal form stories unfold, some of them tragic, some of them (all too few) comic.

Here it is then 39 Infantry Brigade Headquarters. Not just another brigade headquarters but one of three deeply involved in trying to restore peace to this troubled province.

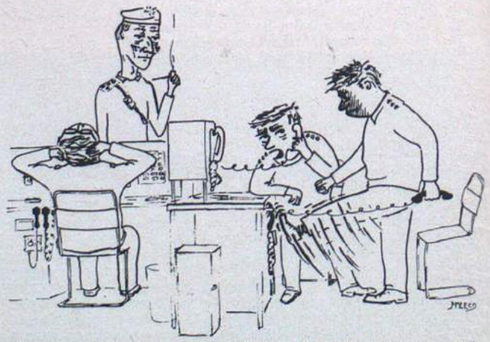
Statistics tell the story

Finally some interesting statistics which may give some idea of the scale of activities within the Brigade area.
During the last 12 *months.*

Number of weapons found, 927; number of rounds found, 127,543; weight of explosives found, 16,358lb.; number of explosions, 360; number of messages handled, 250,300 (maximum 26,600 per month).

The following regular army units have been under command: LG; 3 RHA; 7 RHA; 4 Field Regiment, RA; 19 Field Regiment, RA; 36 Heavy AD Regiment, RA; 49 Field Regiment, RA; 23 Engineer Regiment; 35 Engineer Regiment; 2 Grenadier Guards; 2 Coldstream Guards; 1 WG; 1 RS; 1 Queen's; 1 King's Own Borderers; 2 RRF; 1 King's; 2 R. Anglian; 3 R. Anglian; 1 LI; 2 LI; 3 LI; 1 PWO (18 month tour); 1 Green Howards; 1 Cheshire; 1 RRW; 1 KOSB; 1 Glosters; 1 QLR; 1 Gordons; 1 A and SH; 1 Para (two year tour); 2 Para; 3 Para; 1 RGJ; 3 RGJ; 40 Commando, RM; 42 Commando, RM; 45 Commando, RM; 'A' Squadron, RH; 'A' Squadron 14/20 H; 'C' Squadron 14/20 H; Para Squadron, RAC; 'A' Squadron, RHG/D; 'Z' Company, Para Log Regiment; 'A' Company, 1 DWR.

NERVE CENTRE
The Brigade Ops Room—during a rare lull in activity!



LIGHT REPAIRS

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

Signals with 3 R.T.R. in Northern Ireland

THE ability of Royal Signals to adapt themselves to any situation has once again been shown, this time by the three Corps soldiers who joined 3 Royal Tank Regiment for their four month tour in Northern Ireland. It must be a unique experience to be trained for an infantry task by a 'Tankie.'

The three, **Signalmen Tom Hawkwood, Austin Latham** and **Cliff Rose** left the quiet life in 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and reported to Lumsden Barracks, Fallingbostel. 3 RTR had just reorganised for its Northern Ireland tour and the new arrivals joined Signal Troop, a troop of 18 all ranks who would be responsible for the RHQ communications.

For a while it was rather like Catterick all over again as the joys of drill, PT, weapon training, map reading, first-aid and all the basic skills of soldiering were rediscovered. Sennelager training centre, known normally only for its parachuting club, became a new stamping ground during an exercise which built up to the Brigade Commander's test exercise in Minden just before Christmas. There had been very little time to practise communicating skills so although they were experts in patrolling, searching and setting up vehicle check points the Royal Signals soldiers still had a lot of hard work ahead of them after the five days leave that the Regiment took before flying to Northern Ireland on 10th January.

ABOUT TO GO ON PERIMETER PATROL, SLIEVE CROOB
Left to right: Signalman Tom Hawkwood, Trooper Peter MacFadyn and Signalman Cliff Rose

Their main task was to man the teleprinter link out of Long Kesh, which serves not only the Guard Regiment but also the four other units that share the area of the old airfield. Only one of the three, **Signalman Hawkwood,** was a telegraph operator by trade but he proved to be a good instructor and was able to bring his two colleagues, a radio operator and a combat powerman, who both had undergone a short training course in Germany, up to a high standard of proficiency and reliability in a very short time. In this task he was aided by **Signalman Jimmy McGowan** from 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, who remained in Northern Ireland for three weeks after serving for four months with 1 RHA. His extension could have something to do with the fact that he is returning to Lisburn in May to be married.

The Signal Troop not only runs the comcen in Long Kesh, but mans the Regimental rebro on Slieve Croob, a bare and barren hill which, in good weather overlooks most of the Regimental area and rewards with a superb view of the mountains of Mourne sweeping down to the sea. One week in four spent up the hill provides a very welcome break from the shift routine of six hours on and 12 hours off, which constitutes the daily life at Long Kesh. Ireland does have its compensations though, one of which is the 'disco,' the meeting place for many a blossoming if short-lived romance.

The Corps detachment now has less than a month to complete of their tour and then its back to Germany, a few weeks leave, and then to work, with memories on both sides of a pleasant and useful period of RTR/Royal Signals co-operation.

For your Diary

Catterick Reunion (Applications close 1st June)	**23rd/24th June**
Blandford Reunion	**5th August**
Officers Reunion	**30th November**

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The WIRE
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1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

Verden communications subject to television programme enquiry

NO, its not like we all thought. We were asked by North West Television to show how we at Verden communicated orally, not with our all singing and dancing radios.

Apparently, the German TV producer was doing a series of documentaries showing how ideas and instructions could be passed, hence the reason 3 Squadron was tasked to show the giving of orders and the carrying out of same.

W.O.2 S.S.M. Colin French held his morning muster parade and called his Troop sergeants together. He then gave out his tasks for the day and then the SNCOs were seen to give their orders to their troops. The soldiers were then filmed carrying out their particular tasks i.e. daily vehicle checks, radio relay tests and so on.

With the television crew arrived a man carrying a large folded board who, when the film director decided, opened same and voila . . . a portable sun was there to brighten the scene and make our suave SNCOs and soldiers appear their best in indifferent light. We have obtained the part number of the sun's portable 6ft. v 3 ft. and ORD are doing their best to produce one in time for Exercise 'Hurst Park.'

"RIGHT—THIS IS WHAT I WANT DONE"
Left to Right: Staff-Sergeant Robin Stanley-Jones, Sergeant Bob Townsend, Sergeant Ray Norris, W.O.2 S.S.M. Colin French plus man I/C portable sun and television crew

1 SQUADRON

With the sad departure of **Signalman Stevie "The Fang' Ryall,** it has at last become possible for the exercise season to get into full swing. The dust and debris of crumpled Bruin wagons has settled, only to be replaced by screams of anguish on Exercise 'Morning Glory' as NBC suits, 10 KVA generators and pistols disappeared into the quagmire.

Perhaps one of the more interesting developments this month has been the issue of the new combat caps and, believe it or not, half-a-dozen pairs of black nylon stockings, the latter are for use on the detachments during antennae camouflage trials. The SQMS has asked that it be placed on record that he is not receiving hormone treatment nor branching out into lingerie.

2 SQUADRON

The month started out with the Squadron in the middle of Exercise 'Morning Glory.' The Colonel GS decided to give the HF nets a good bashing and we found the 'steam radio kings' back in their element with the old cries, "he must be sending with his left foot." Anyhow, it really brought home the new trade structure with the radio telegraphists using their di dah dits for real.

Exercise 'Flying Falcon' brought new challenges, especially the weather . . . one of the rebros spent a night holding onto their masts, bivi, camouflage and kit and still maintained good comms throughout. Needless to say many of the new camouflage caps went AWOL in the morning and many of the local youths were found to be sporting a new type of headgear and thanking the north wind.

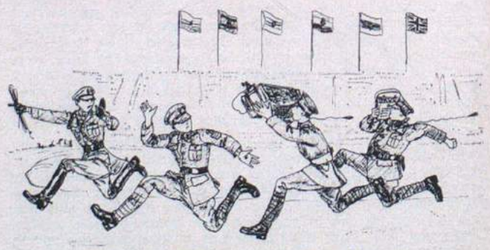
3 SQUADRON

The past month has been a busy one for the Regiment as we swung into the exercise season with a vengeance. Exercise 'Spring Sample,' a Regimental exercise, lasted from 26th February to 1st March; a pause for breath and into the higher formation exercise from 6th to 10th March, and then without even a pause, into Exercise 'Morning Glory' until 20th March. Everyone returned to camp with a chance to wash out their smalls and brief hallo to wives, girl-friends, etc., before Exercise 'Flying Falcon' started on 29th March.

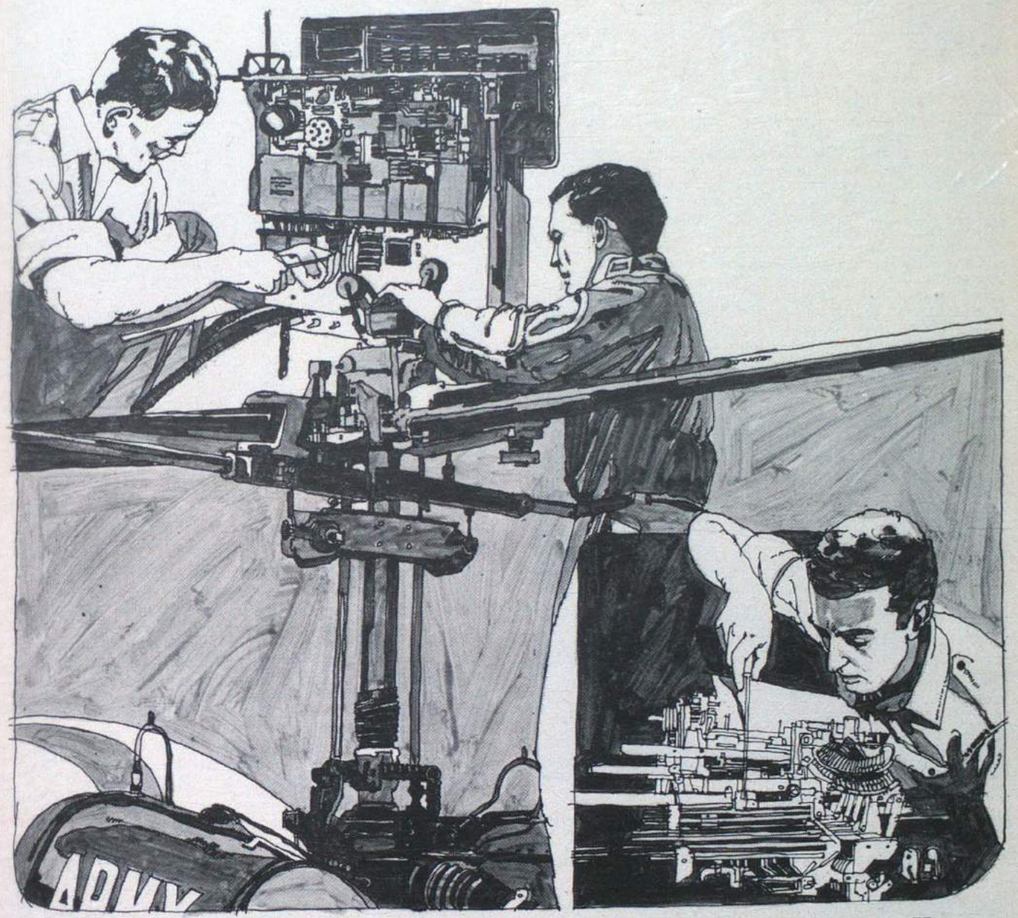
As usual the exercises were enlivened by the odd amusing incident. At Oscar, **Y. of S. Terry Peters** was making his usual nightly obeisance to the MCVF when he knocked himself out. When found he was vociferously cursing our new 'hats ridiculous' (caps combat), which don't allow you to see anything more than two feet above the ground.

Captain Peter Thompson at 'Papa' was enlightened during the last two exercises. First of all RE det from Nienburg arrived with a 15 KVA generator, but no starting handle for it. As an encore, the det decided to change generator with the spare at Echelon. It duly arrived, the staff were informed that power would be off for two minutes and they switched off the old generator. It was then they discovered that they had no means of moving the new one into position and the old one stubbornly refused to re-start. The two minutes stretched to 45 before normal service was resumed.

Oscar also had their power problems. **Captain Howard Culley,** the Comd, decide to celebrate his birthday by arranging for Sig Ops power socket to be pulled off the box body whilst moving other vehicles into position. This was just before the CO's conference. Luckily **F. of S. Chris Meredith** burrowed in his box of tricks and produced a spare. **Corporal** 'Raven on the Wing, bringer of bad tidings' **Toas,** our tame combat powerman did an excellent job to fix the new one, five minutes before the conference was due to start.



BRUIN TECHNICALITIES EXPLAINED (iv)
RADIO RELAY DETACHMENT
Drawn by 2nd Lieutenant Sheenan



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2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

Farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yeoman

THE Regiment has seen a hectic few weeks recently, and many changes. One of the main events must have been the departure of the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yeoman,** in an alcoholic round of farewell parties. The rot began, perhaps, with his dining-out in the Officers' Mess, where he was last seen being towed away on skis attached to roller-skates by a Ferret driven (rather unsteadily) by Adjutant, **Captain Roger Morgan,** with **Sergeant-Major Jimmy Letham** making his contribution to the proceedings by letting off thunderflashes alongside the route to the manner born. The revelries ended with a farewell in the Sergeants' Mess, where he was observed to disappear in a horizontal position through a conveniently open window assisted by, among others, **R.S.M. Reg Norris, Sergeant Peter Radley,** and **Sergeant Ewen Douglas** before being removed to the Guardroom by the Officers, and the members of the Sergeants' Mess, in an 'unusually' decorated cart.

FAREWELL PARTY
Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yeoman attending the party given by the W.R.A.C. detachment
Left to right: Private Janet Boulding, Lieutenant Claire Montanaro, Lieutenant-Colonel Yeoman

The Colonel will be missed very much by the members of this Regiment, but we extend a warm welcome to his successor **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis,** and hope that his tour with us will be happy for him.

We have said goodbye, too, to **Major Ronnie Sampson, Captain Peter Chaddock, Captain Gus Vigurs, Captain John Richards,** but welcome **Major David Miller, Captain Derek McLean, Captain Neil MacKereth** and **Second-Lieutenant Peter Costello,** to Bunde.

Awards

We were delighted by three recent items of news, and celebrated them all appropriately. **Major David Jolly,** OC 2 Squadron, gained a Mention in Despatches for his service in Northern Ireland, and **Sergeant Evans** (now departed to 242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh) was awarded the BEM in the last Honours List. **Lance-Corporal Holmes** won the Junior Individual Cookery Competition for 2 Division and is shortly to compete in the BAOR Cookery Finals as a result. Many congratulations to them all.

Lance-Corporal Danny Holmes receives the Junior Individual prize in the 2nd Division Cookery competition from the G.O.C.'s wife, Mrs. Archer

Sport

We are pleased to report that in the BAOR Boxing Championships, **Captain 'Wes' Thomas** was runner-up.

The Birdwood Barracks golf course was used for the first time this year in March. Despite pouring rain and soggy conditions, the 12 competitors manfully played on and the winners were: (net) **Major John Heyes,** (gross) **Y. of S. Ernie Storie.**

The small-bore inter-troop shooting competition was won by the Pay Office. Notable among the team were: **W.O.2 Bob Wright, Corporal Eddie Fullthorpe, Corporal Bob Brooks, Sergeant Peter Round.**

The LAD were close runners-up, good competition being provided by **Staff Sergeant Tony Griffiths, Corporal Derek Frith, Corporal Steve Chapman** and **Charlie Pearce.**

Wedding Bells

Tunis Barracks, Lubbecke, was electrified for 24 hours by the wedding of Headquarters Squadron's **SSM Dan Corkery.** The ceremony itself was performed, by way of a change, by **Major Dick Smart,** the DAAG from the Divisional Headquarters Staff, in Squadron Office itself.

The couple were then escorted to the Sergeants' Mess in a hand-drawn 'meals on wheels' cart which had been vividly adorned by **Private Linda Evans,** WRAC Technical Storewoman. The wedding reception lasted from lunchtime until virtually breakfast time and despite the frailty that a great many guests were obviously suffering the next day, it was generally agreed that it had been an occasion to remember for a very long time.

If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

THE month of March passed us by with such speed that even 1st April failed to cause much of a stir in this far-flung corner of Wiltshire. **R.S.M. Reg Judge** spent a week in Catterick on the RSMs' convention, and the Commanding Officer visited the Regiment's Exercise 'Hagen' in Cyprus, leaving the remnants of the Regiment in the capable hands of our Second-in-Command, **Major John Brian.**

Sporting activities

Those of us that were left behind kept the flag flying, and we gave a good account of ourselves on the sports fields of South West District. **Captain Chris Wollaston** and his hockey team put up a good fight in both the semi-final of the South West District Cup and also in the fifth round of the Army Cup (UK) Hockey Championship. In the first match, against the School of Infantry at Warminster, after a seemingly endless and hard-fought game we lost in the second series of penalty flicks. In the Army Cup game, the RAPC Centre at Worthy Down proved that they were our betters on the hockey field, and pass on to the next round in our place. Our rugby team beat 10 Ordnance Support Battalion, RAOC, in the semi-final of the South West District Cup here at Bulford, and go forward into the final versus 2 Royal Irish later on this month.

Public duties

Sergeant Al Bryant led a very successful band of men up to Chelsea Barracks and back again and spent three weeks as part of the Royal Signals Public Duties contingent, guarding Buckingham Palace and one or two lesser buildings of note. We are getting so good at marching up and down that our Quarter Guard must now rank as one of the smartest in the Corps.

Reunions and farewells

Captain Ray Etheridge left us this month for 16 Signal Regiment, and we wish him 'bon chance.' He commanded 2 Squadron for some time (that is when no-one else was trying to do it for him) and we shall miss him. His wife **Leslie** gave birth to a bouncing baby girl just before his departure so he can buy his round of drinks in Krefeld.

Major John Daw returned to the School of Signals after his stay with us, which was short but not uneventful. He used three-and-a-half miles of film photographing the Regiment at work, and did not do a Duty Field Officer once during his stay. We welcome **Major David Morris** to the fold, as we do **Second-Lieutenant Ian Fraser.** May their tours with us be happy and busy.

3 Divisional Signals reunion

On Saturday, 7th April, the 22nd Annual Reunion Dinner of the 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club took place in the Victory Ex-Services' Club, Marble Arch. The CO, Second-in-Command and Adjutant attended to represent the Regiment. Amongst the many old friends gathered there were **Major-General M. D. Price, O.B.E.,** who has recently been elected President of the Club, and **Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E.** It was a successful evening, and one officer of the Regiment who attended the dinner was entertained by an old comrade who left the Corps in 1943. Not so exceptional you might say, except that the said officer wasn't even born until 1944. Perhaps March didn't pass so quickly after all.

Exercise 'Hagen'

On 10th March, 110 Officers and men flew from RAF Brize Norton, under the command of **Major Bernard Strange,** to spend three weeks training in Cyprus. The exercise had three aims which were to improve basic military skills, to practise infantry tactics and to conduct adventurous training in near ideal surroundings. Rifle classification, NBC tests, BE tests, grenade firing and plenty of sport was the order of the week, culminating in an inter-platoon shooting and sporting competition. Elements of 244 Signal Squadron who were with us won both these competitions, but **Lieutenant Martin Stone** led his team to victory in the falling plate competition. Having worked

ALERT AND READY
Signalman Duke Sivewright not only climbs mountains but cuts a fine figure as an infantryman too

hard, everyone played hard, and many interesting evenings were had exploring the delights of Famagusta. **Signalmen Tony Hall, Dick Blundell** and **Rifleman John Stead** discovered by chance a stick of gelignite on a short fuse behind a shutter of a shop window. They managed to cover 20 yards in record time before the ensuing explosion, and were able to give a lot of help to the local authorities in the subsequent investigations.

The Officers, meanwhile, were tucking into a 15-course mezze in a nearby restaurant. **Second-Lieutenant Peter Parfit** (Mr. Vice) collected the bill at the bottom of which were the figures 4.372. "Cheap" he thought and paid it with a £5 note asking for the change. Slightly merry, he was confused with the local currency and received back five 1000 mil notes. Into his pocket they went and he beckoned one and all to leave. Three slightly angry Cypriots followed them, and it was discovered that Mr. Vice had attempted to pay the date! The real bill was £17. A genuine mistake?

The second phase was in the desolate Akhaman training area. Night compass marches, night patrols, escape and evasion, ambush drills, road blocks, cordon and searches, section live firing, section, platoon and company tactics and boat drills all were practised. Some said the only thing that wasn't practised

SMILE BOYS, SMILE!
Lance-Corporal Mike Winchester, Second Lieutenant Peter Parfit, Sergeant Peter Cain relax with their team before setting out on ambush drills training

was sleeping! This phase was not without humour and the sight of **Major Bernard Strange** in his pyjamas at 2 a.m. trying to hold down an airborne shelter in a 60-knot wind was something that will be remembered for a long time to come. Despite rough water preventing the seaborne assault, the final company exercise was a huge success where everything that had been practised was built into a final full day exercise. Three platoon commanders acted as company commanders for this phase and the other two provided the enemy. Temporary **Major 'Paddy' Crowley** survived an ambush less than five minutes after he took over the company. Temporary **Major Martin Stone** by a twist of fate and clever tactics over-ran a too widely dispersed platoon in defence with only half his company committed. Temporary **Major Mike Podmore** had his work cut out clearing a village of the dreaded Pedro Bianco's and Pedro Vice's guerillas but with the help of a sniffer dog and the enemy's devil's leap tactics he was successful. Adventure training was the aim of the last phase and consisted of horse riding, gliding, free-fall parachuting, sailing (both dinghy and off-shore), sub-aqua and canoeing. All were successful. **Signalman Jeff Hattersly** fell in love with the horse that ate all his cardigan buttons. **Staff Sergeant Cole,** one of our tame aviators, together with **Lieutenants Martin Stone** and **Mike Miller,** took many through their paces in the gliders. **Major John Barrett** took on five separate crews with 'Brigand of Changi.' **S.S.M. Colin Johnson** and his helions put three Rosan dinghies to continuous work. **Staff Sergeant Wright** got in three dives with the sub-aqua enthusiasts and **Q.S.M.I. Tony O'Neill** had no fatalities in the canoeing.

The Commanding Officer who joined us for this phase had to work hard trying to teach **Major Bernard Strange** some rudiments of dinghy sailing, but when offered a glider ride (he thought by himself) he nearly declined. However, an accomplished pilot saved the day, and flew the glider for him.

The exercise was a huge success mainly because of the careful initial planning by **Major Gordon Mills** and the continuous hard work of the advance party **Captain Darrel Ingle, S.S.M. Jim McElvogue, R.Q.M.S. Terry Hardy,** our MTO **Corporal John Wilkes** and our paymaster **Corporal Alan Chanter.** The willing help from many departments in Cyprus and the overall enthusiasm of everyone on the exercise, made it an enjoyable and memorable stay on the island.

Cyprus walkabout competition

Lieutenant Mike Podmore and **Signalmen 'Duke' Sivewright** and **John Cunningham** stayed behind in Cyprus after the main body had returned to Bulford and started training hard for the Cyprus Walkabout Competition—a race to the top of Troodos and back again, 30 miles up and 30 miles down. Their efforts paid off and they put up a very creditable performance. They completed the course in a total time of 17 hours 12 minutes, and finished in 12th place out of 75. Not only that, but they beat all the other Royal Signals teams entered for the event. Certa Cito indeed!

'The Sheepbridge'

As a closing note, and by courtesy of the Editor of the Regimental Magazine 'The Sheepbridge,' we publish the following letter which was sent to OC Headquarter Squadron **Major Norman Chesher,** by one of his flock. We feel the letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sir,

During the last exercise I unfortunately put my legs through the arms of my NBC smock. This was because the gas attack took place in the dark. The Squadron Sergeant Major tried to help me, in trying the smock was ripped. Afterwards I had to use the trousers as a smock. Which distorted the shape as I had to cut a hole for my head. Another soldier, I think he was from 1 Squadron, cut up the torn smock to use as an NBC headpiece as he had left his in Tidworth. He said he won't give it back for me to stitch it back on the smock. Also I wish to complain about the Cook Corporal at our location who borrowed my NBC gloves to use in the kitchen. Three of the fingers had been burnt off one glove and the other glove has jam in the fingers. The SQMS says these items are 'starred' so I will have to pay for replacements. Can I claim for these items on the claim for leave travel form which I regularly submit to the Squadron Office for my travel between Bulford and John O'Groats.

I am Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. Ohm.

Beyond dull care indeed!

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 15

THIS month we feature 3 Squadron, and each Troop will be given an opportunity to make its contribution, starting with Squadron HQ.

SHQ

OC	**Major C. A. Brown**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain E. Hampson**
Traffic Officer	**Captain P. B. R. Kent**
Yeomen	**W.O.2 R. D. Price**
	Staff Sergeant D. G. Weston
SSM	**W.O.2 K. C. Stewart**
SQMS (Tech)	**Staff Sergeant F. C. Brudenall**
SQMS (Gen)	**Staff Sergeant R. G. Taylor**
MT Sergeant	**Sergeant W. Abel,** RCT

New faces have appeared in the Squadron office, notably **Sergeant Charlie Harvey** who combines his clerical functions with those of a first class ASA coach. We have a new Clerk, **Corporal Fred Parry,** who really did not settle in his chair before he was outside scrimming his vehicle in preparation for an exercise. As an ex-operator there was no need to look quite so disbelieving.

By the time these notes are read our Squadron Commander, **Major Colin Brown,** will be married, and be on his honeymoon. He has sold his MG sports car as well!

BRAVO TROOP
Signalman Stuart McCall services his "gene"

BRAVO Troop

OC	**Lieutenant F. S. Mackenzie**
F. of S.	**Staff Sergeant K. McNally**
Troop Staff Sergeant ...	**Staff Sergeant C. S. Gledhill**

A number of men have had leave and some of the more fortunate went to Winterberg to the Regiment's ski hut. Their arrival was heralded by a fall of snow which enabled them to get straight out on the slopes. There were no broken legs, although **Corporal Mick Crawley** managed to break an ankle when leaving a pub! The cries of disbelief still reverberate in the Squadron's corridors.

The star skiers were **Corporal Keith Sainty** and **Corporal Robba Robinson** both of whom are keen on modern ballet!

Line Troop

OC	**Lieutenant C. J. Durham**
Troop Sergeant	**Sergeant J. Ackers**

Old members of the Troop will doubtless recall that we were located in all four corners of Hammersmith Barracks. We were very happy to be told that a central location had been found for us. It was too good to be true; the new location is the old stables, and you know who will renovate them. All necessary work has been done and our new Line Troop Office/Store must be second to none.

We have had some casualties recently. **Signalman Steve Chopping** has broken a leg twice, **Signalman Al Sutton** is still nursing a damaged arm and **Signalman 'Jock' MacMillan** has a bad knee. **Sergeant John Ackers** even had a spell in hospital —after a five-a-side soccer match in the gymnasium.

Line Troop organised a vehicle navigational exercise for the Squadron. The exercise went very well but we were unable to organise Line Troop as winners. **Corporals 'Smudge' Smith** and **Tony Bowman** were 3rd and 4th respectively.

We welcome **Corporal 'Albert' Finney** back from his Tele Mechs course on which he earned a 'B' grading—he leaves us soon for 10 Signal Regiment and a involuntary course on civil airliner spotting.

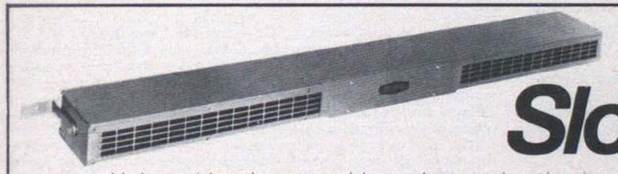
Staff Troop

OC	**Lieutenant W. J. Hough**
Troop Sergeant	**Sergeant P. Dalton**

Staff Troop is the Troop with many cap badges and can turn its hand to anything, usually with success. Line Troop may have organised a navigational exercise but Staff Troop in the person of **Lance-Bombardier 'Geordie' Milne** won it with zero penalty points. Some of our professional RCT drivers got a 'little bogged down' in the rally!

More and more PT seems to be the rage and if it's not PT its scrimming. Camouflage is similar to ladies' fashions, the ideas are ever changing!

LINE TROOP
Lance-Corporal Mick Dunn and Signalman Mick Kerry preparing an auto 40 prior to an exercise



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B.A.O.R. HOCKEY FINAL—7th SIGNAL REGIMENT TEAM

Back Row, (Left to Right:) Staff Sergeant John Hurn, Signalman 'Woody' Woodall, WO2 John Loveday, Sergeant Jack Cooper, Lance Corporal "Bonzo" Marchant, Sergeant Charlie Wickham.

Front Row, (Left to Right:) Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty, Lance Corporal Bob Waller, Corporal 'Ginge' Hayward, Lance Corporal Tich 'Tillman', Craftsman Eddie Duncan.

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

MARCH is supposed to 'come in like a lion and go out like a lamb.' However, with it starting with Exercise 'Wintex,' moving on through the Army Rugby Cup Final, the BAOR Hockey Cup Final and coming to a close with Exercise 'Flying Falcon,' we feel justified in claiming that it has roared all the way through.

BAOR hockey final

At this stage of the winter season, the Regiment has had an excellent run of success culminating in the BAOR final on 28th March at Bielefeld.

After a hard fought match, we ran out losers to a good goal scored by 42 Heavy Regiment RA from a free hit near the 'D.' Though we could not match the wins of 1965 and 1966 of the cup, we are proud to add 7 Signal Regiment to the runners-up shield.

On our way to the BAOR final we had three hard games in four days!

16th March v 3 Royal Anglians at Paderborn 1-0, penalty goal by **Signalman 'Woodie' Woodall.**

17th March v 1 Royal Irish Rangers at Iserlohn 2-1, both goals scored by **'Woodie' Woodall.**

19th March v 1 RRW at Hameln 1-0, goal scored by **Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty.**

The whole team has played so well, ably supported by its reserves, that all deserve a mention. Here they are:

Staff Sergeant Harry Hemstock (captain), Sergeant Jack Cooper, Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty, Sergeant Charlie Wickham, Corporal 'Ginge' Hayward, Corporal Bob Waller, Corporal 'Tich' Long, Lance-Corporal 'Bonzo' Marchant, Lance-Corporal 'Tilly' Tillman, Signalman 'Woodie' Woodall and **Craftsman Eddie Duncan.**

The hockey story is not yet over. We are now aiming to add the 4 Division Six-a-side Cup to the 4 Division Hockey Cup residing in our trophy display. Our tails are up, so watch this space!

Officers' Mess cheese and wine party

On 21st March the Officers of the Regiment entertained guests from Herford Stadt, Herford Garrison and HQ 1 (BR) Corps to a cheese and wine party in the Mess. The guests, including **Major-General A. H. Farrar-Hockley, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C., Brigadier E. A. Burgess, O.B.E.,** and **Oberburgermeister Dr. Kurt Schober, M.d.B.,** were offered a delectable selection of the produce of England, France, Italy and Germany. Then, suitably primed with food and drink the German guests were able to see the colour film, made last September, of the presentation of the Freedom of Herford to 7 Signal Regiment. In the event, this proved a most popular attraction and was viewed by almost all those present—the limiting factor being the space available in the room in which it was screened. We'll know better next time!

Exercise 'Flying Falcon'—Stop Press

The Regiment has just completed Exercise 'Flying Falcon,' the annual CCR Signals exercise. Running from 29th March to 6th April this was certainly one of the more interesting exercises of the year. This year the interest was sharpened by weather conditions that will enable those who experienced them to use them as a reference standard of climatic mayhem, as well as a useful fund of bar stories. Such as the night Comcen Bravo rang RAF Gutersloh for a Met report for their area and altitude (1,000ft) and received a forecast of snow and wind gusting to 90 knots together with an incredulous refusal to accept that "Anyone would be daft enough to go camping in such weather!"

The doughty Comcen Bravo (is best) managed to achieve a number of all-time firsts. Seventeen simultaneous radio paths, sited in a village and broadcasting on BFBS from a field location. All right! All right! We can hear the choruses of "It's been done before!" but how about all at the same time?

During the exercise Comhead Oscar and Comcen Alpha were visited by the SO-in-C, **Major-General Max Sawers, M.B.E.,** and **Professor Sir Hermann Bondi,** the Chief Scientific Adviser to MOD, together with **Dr. L. Kiely** of MOD (PE). Alpha were able to entertain them whilst surrounded by a sea of mud that well demonstrated some of the practical difficulties to be encountered in field communications.

All in all, it proved a hectic and testing exercise that was enjoyed by all (at least, in retrospect!).

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 40wpm, and having a good knowledge of current communication procedures.

Basic starting pay, at age 25 or over, will be £26·57 pw rising to £31·48 pw inclusive of London Weighting. Successful candidates will currently be required to work shifts and overtime which on average, attracts a further £5·00. There are opportunities of promotion to almost £1923 pa basic pay.

If you would like further details, and are of British Nationality telephone 01-242 0222 ext. 563 or write to: SPM3h (PE), Ministry of Defence, Room 620, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

RHQ, Hounslow.

The Bruno Club

OUR Regimental Club, Bruno, so named in honour of our unique Regimental mascot (I must write some WIRE notes on that some time), has been very active of late and shows no sign of abatement. By any standards our Club is an excellent one; as a Regimental Club it is superb. A description of the facilities we can offer will convince you of the truth of what I say and probably result in a flood of applications to join shiny 10.

It is a large building, able to accommodate about 250 people, equipped with two bars, a TV room (colour of course), snooker and table tennis tables, a large stage and our own disco unit piped to all rooms. Of course the building does not make the club; the people in it and the activities do that.

We have a PMC and a very active and interested committee and they provide for the soldiers of the Regiment a Disco night once a week, a social every few weeks with a live group and trips to the theatre every four or five weeks with door-to-door service and a supper afterwards. The local branch of the Royal Signals Association is entertained to a games evening once a month.

In addition to normal activities we are next month entertaining the Warrant Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment to a challenge games evening. Although both sides at the moment consider the boat race at least a foregone conclusion, it must be admitted that the Seniors have already this year beaten the Officers. The RSM opines that this was just a 'dry' run. We shall see.

In April we had a Regimental wedding. **Signalman 'Lofty' Dalton** married his superior officer, **Lance-Corporal Jo Middlemiss,** and the reception? Why, of course, in the Bruno Club. Yes, it's all happening here at Hounslow. I nearly forgot to mention the safe and skilled driving competition we had on a Saturday morning in April, under the guidance of **Sergeant Tony Cross,** our MT Sergeant. The prizegiving and post mortems were, of course, held in the Bruno Club.

I could go on but in view of the editorial in the February-March issue of THE WIRE (a big W or a small one?) I had better check through this. How do you spell—presentashun—and it didn't actually say don't write at length on the Bruno Club — did it?

Heathrow visit

Since we daily suffer the noise of aircraft going over at the rate of one every two minutes at an altitude of about 400 feet we decided to arrange a visit to Heathrow Airport and find out what it was all about.

We were joined by a contingent of 3 Squadron for this trip which turned out to be a really good afternoon.

We saw all the things which make the airport tick, such as the control tower with its vast array of radar equipment and radio communications gear, varying between long distance communications to 'talk down' radar. We learnt that the two main runways are 12,000 and 12,800 yards long respectively, and that soon Heathrow will be able to handle 25 Jumbo Jets at any one time. All this and a good cup of coffee sent us happily on our way and it was not until we got back to Hounslow that we realised what even more Jumbos at 400 feet would do to our nerves!

A visit to Buckingham Palace

On 7th March a stalwart body of the London Branch of the Royal Signals Association under the auspices of the conducting officer, **Captain Fred Hardy,** and the Branch Secretary, **Major (ret.) 'Mac' McQuade,** met at Wellington Barracks prior to being escorted to the forecourt of the palace to watch the Queen's Guard Mounting by Royal Signals.

The consensus of opinion from the party was that the guard reflected great credit upon the Corps and one ex-RSM (**Bill 'Tiger' Hart**) was heard to remark that "these young men are certainly a great credit to the Corps." Coming from this gentleman—praise indeed!

After the parade the party retired to the nearest hostelry to drink the health of all those concerned with the ceremony.

Members of the London Branch of the Royal Signals Association outside Buckingham Palace after their visit to the Queen's Guard Mounting by the Royal Corps of Signals. *Left to right:* Mr. Dougie Fraser, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mrs. Elsie Smith, Major (Ret'd) J. F. McQuade, Mr. Ernest Vigers, Major (QM) (Ret'd) Alf Penfold, Mr. Bill Hart

2 SQUADRON, HOUNSLOW

Comstar award

Mrs. Netta Lait, one of 2 Squadron civilian operators, deserves a mention in these notes not only because of her award of a Gold Comstar, which was presented by **Major-General M. E. Ticknell, M.B.E., M.C.,** but because she has devoted a great deal of her own time and a vast amount of effort in training some of the RE staff at Mill Hill to become proficient teleprinter operators. It is such acts as this which kill the myth that the Army could survive without the civilians.

3 SQUADRON, ALDERSHOT

Glamour job

You would think that if a young and glamorous WRAC Second-Lieutenant had just returned from a ski-ing trip in Norway and had only a few bruises to show for it—we won't mention broken skis—she would consider that was enough excitement for one year.

We heard that this was not so in the case of **Second-Lieutenant Sarah Jones** of 3 Squadron, so we sent our reporter to Aldershot to find out about it. He asked just one question: "Miss Jones, what happened when you returned from Norway?" She smiled graciously, drew a deep breath and said:

"On returning to Aldershot I was faced with the prospect of my first parachute descent, helped by the Red Devils. I left the office on Thursday to actually carry out this incredible feat (to my way of thinking anyway).

Equipped with boots and helmet, I drove down to Queen's Parade playing fields at approximately 8 mph frantically praying that the car would break down. It didn't so I sauntered onto the field with what was supposed to look like a nonchalant attitude. First came the procedure of being fitted with a jump suit and a parachute. Having acquired these I was all set to go and just about to board the plane when I discovered I was on the next lift. As I had difficulty standing up (I like to think it was the weight of the parachute) I was deposited on the ground with a packet of cigarettes and some reassuring member of the team who, after hundreds of jumps, obviously only had vague recollections of what his first jump was like.

Eventually my time came, I climbed into the plane with five members of the team, found myself balanced precariously against the open door and watched with a sinking feeling as the earth disappeared beneath us. At 2,500ft., having had my hand reassuringly patted, I sat on the edge and fell out—literally! I floated gently down to earth and I think that it was one of the best sensations that I have ever experienced."

Inter-service women's hockey

This year's inter-service women's hockey tournament was played on Wednesday, 7th March, the Army v. the RAF; Thursday, 8th March, the RAF v. the Navy, and on Friday, 9th March, the Army v. the Navy.

3 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment was represented by **Lance-Corporal Andy Westmore,** who played in both Army games at right-wing. **Lance-Corporal Westmore** has been with the unit nine months and comes from Cowes, Isle of Wight.

The first game of the tournament was a cracker with the Army winning by 1-0. The goal did not come until very late in the second half, but without doubt the Army were better than the RAF. **Andy Westmore** had a good game with lots of fine stick work and fast runs down the wing. The Navy won 1-0 against the RAF on the Thursday, so the last game between the Army and the Navy became a decider.

What a game it was! It was not played at such a fast speed as the other games but stick work and team play were vastly improved. **Andy Westmore** again had a good game but towards the end she was slowing down. The tournament ended all square between the Army and the Navy. The defences in the Navy and Army game kept their goals intact, and had the upper hand. Well done **Lance-Corporal Andy Westmore** who was awarded her Army colours in Hockey after the tournament ended.

STERLING SERVICE RECOGNIZED

Brigadier J. C. Clinch presenting the Imperial Service Medal to Mr. Bill Blackman

4 SQUADRON, WILTON

Medal award at Bulford

Mr. Bill Blackman, aged 60, was presented with the Imperial Service Medal by **Brigadier J. C. Clinch,** Commander 2 Signal Group, on Wednesday, 14th March, at Bulford. **Bill** is a Maintenance Electrician (Telephones) with the Signals Work Service Troop at Bulford, and has served with the Corps since 1937, apart from a short break during the war when he saw service with the RAOC and REME. He played a prominent part in the installation of telephone facilities in the Tidworth East Area before the GPO took over in 1966. **Bill** and his wife live in Netheravon.

Visit to Salisbury Post Office exchange

On Thursday, 8th March, **Lance-Corporal Ann Gallagher, Private Chris Walker** and **Private Eunice Elstob,** with **Second-Lieutenant Marilyn White** in tow, visited Salisbury GPO Telephone Exchange—just to see how the other half work.

Quite a revelation it was too, as they have a 44 position switchboard, making our nine position one look microscopic. Their workload is quite high, as many of the small country exchanges in Wiltshire are not yet on STD.

We were given a very interesting tour—the technicalities of which were explained to **Second-Lieutenant White** on the way back! **Private Walker** was dazzled by the light streaming through the windows, and we left, wishing our exchange was more like that.

ROYAL SIGNALS DEMONSTRATION TEAM AND CORPS MOBILE DISPLAY TEAM 'QUICKSILVER,' HOUNSLOW

In the winter many animals hibernate and such things as circuses go into a state of animated suspension to refurbish and work out new acts for the next season. 'Quicksilver,' also, returns to Royal Signals Demonstration Team like a young pigeon returning to its loft for the comfort and warmth of the loving family.

So it was in late September that 'Quicksilver' returned to the nest—albeit that the nest had been dislodged from Blandford and set down rather unceremoniously in a collection of buildings known as Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow.

Just after Christmas — which no one remembers much about—it was off to schools tours and young officer recruiting tours. These took small groups to the four corners of the UK including Scotland, where once again a certain boarding house in Aberdeen displayed a banner saying 'Welcome Home Quicksilver.'

After Scotland, planning for the summer started in earnest. Information of where and when arrived from all over. Then one day, great news, a letter from MOD proclaimed a new tent for 'Quicksilver.' Amidst much cheering and drawing of new designs, the old parasol tent was cast into the corner of a building reserved for all persons and things which are out of favour. Then came the hardest part of all, decision. What type of tent? What size? What shape? What colour? Who to get it from? All easily solved. It was decided, 'Sir' **Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Inglis** having broadcast in French for the BBC about pigeons in the last war—would go to France and get a round, oblong, square, blue and white, green and white, striped, large, small, tent, or maybe two. The next day it was decided he would not go to France after all. After much rushing around and planning, a door was heard to creak as it opened, and 'The Parasol' was restored to favour.

And so 'Quicksilver' gets ready for the road after a few changes in personnel. **'Am' Corporal Bishop** is now playing with helicopters at Middle Wallop. **'Adolf the Painter' Lance-Corporal Campbell** has just got married. **'Dicky' F. of S. Dyer** can't take it any more and has gone to the 'Happy Place,' known as School of Signals. **'New F. of S.' Campbell** is only just starting to show signs of insanity. We have two new Corporal Technicians, **'Paddy' McAllister** and **Roger Parker.** We held a really great RRIT Convention in February which all the girls and boys of the RRIT groups enjoyed, and learnt a lot from each other (matters military). Possibly the happiest and most significant thing to occur was **Sergeant Joe Fisher** being awarded the BEM for his long and devoted years as the Royal Signals carpenter.

What a quiet winter we have had!

Major General J. W. Strawson, O.B.E., presenting the B.E.M. to Sergeant J. W. Fisher

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Camp

1 SQUADRON

MARCH was an uneventful month for this Squadron except for the two pass-off parades. On 9th March, No 3 Troop was inspected by **Major-General Strawson, O.B.E.,** Chief of Staff HQ LFUK, and on 23rd March, No 7 Troop was inspected by our new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier E. J. Hellier, O.B.E.** This was an opportunity for an official welcome to the Regiment and was followed by a Regimental luncheon in the Officers' Mess. All the Regimental officers and their wives attended. It was a very pleasant occasion enhanced by music from the Royal Signals Corps Band.

Brigadier and **Mrs. Hellier** gave every sign of being delighted with their 'welcome to the Regiment' present — a zoo of toy animals which was presented by **Colonel D. G. Pratt,** the Commanding Officer, who had heard the Brigadier mutter that the grounds of his new residence, Scotton Hall, where big enough to open as a safari park.

AFTER 35 YEARS' SERVICE
Captain Joe Walsh celebrates at his farewell party

2 SQUADRON

This month we say farewell to two old soldiers. First to **Captain Joe Walsh,** Royal Signals, after 35 years. He enlisted in the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in July, 1937, serving in the 8th Army where he was captured and escaped and in 1944 was commissioned into the Lancashire Fusiliers. He joined Royal Signals in 1968, and for the past two years has been 2 Squadron admin and welfare officer. His great wealth of experience, kindness and understanding has greatly benefited all soldiers passing through 2 Squadron, especially those with welfare and compassionate problems. At coffee breaks we will miss his great stories, his political arguments and his vast sense of humour. In token of the Squadron's appreciation he was presented with a large and useful looking instructional manual on household maintenance and as a prize from the SNCOs for his political discussion a current hit record — 'Part Of The Union.' Secondly to **Corporal Frank Williams** who leaves after 22 years' service as a cable jointer and latterly, whilst in 2 Squadron, he has been the Sergeants' Mess caterer —always quick to draw a pint for a thirsty SNCO in transit.

Best wishes and a happy retirement to you both. We look forward to seeing you again at old comrades' weekends.

PASS OFF PARADE—23 MARCH
Brigadier Hellier takes his first pass off parade—No 7 Troop being inspected

Police dog trials

"These police dog handlers eat a lot, drink a lot and their dogs bite! So beware!" Thus spoke the OC Depot Squadron at the conclusion of his briefing of the Squadron NCOs. "It's all true" said **Sergeant Alan Wilcox,** an ex-policeman himself and a veteran of police dog trials. The new NCOs of the Squadron were not prepared to believe it all. However, by 11th March, RAC direction signs were posted around the garrison. Home Office radio men fixed antenna and radios, the kitchen staff had laid in food and the Sergeants' Mess annex drink.

At 11 a.m. the police and their dogs had all arrived, the Chief Constable gave his opening address and the trials began. They consisted of obedience and criminal tests in the garrison stadium, searching a really thick wood for a safe and a criminal, finding small objects scattered over the moors and tracking

POLICE DOG TRIALS
The question is, "Will he bite?"
Left to right: Major Pat Thomas, P.C. Womack, Police dog Alva, W.O.1 Geordie Sanderson (looking askance)

criminals across sheep covered training areas. This seemed to generate vast appetites and the catering adviser, **Lieutenant P. Jones,** ACC, and his staff were hard pressed to keep up with them. **Corporal Dave Austin** had to be reinforced behind the bar to cope with serving drinks in the mess and **W.O.1 'Geordie' Sanderson,** the SSM, was amazed.

Evening entertainments were laid on which included a games night at the Sergeants' Mess at Helles, followed the next night by an outstanding evening out at the British Legion Club at Northallerton. The local force acted as hosts and the best and bawdiest of North Country club entertainment mixed with vast quantities of beer ensured an evening to remember. The ride back in a police car driven by a sober traffic police sergeant driving instructor at 100 mph was memorable although through hazy eyes.

Next day the Squadron Cadre were looking definitely jaded, the police as fit as ever and well able to cope with more. The final presentation dinner when the prizes were awarded was held in the Helles Sergeants' Mess. The Brigade Commander and three Chief Constables were amongst the guests and after a very good dinner a 'drink' was held.

At last, at the end of the week when it was all over and they had all departed, the Squadron Cadre realised the policemen do have large appetites and are extremely thirsty. Their dogs fortunately never bit any of us but demonstrated quite well.

3 SQUADRON (JUNIOR SIGNALMEN)

1 Troop

Once again end of term is with us and the parade ground echoes the pizzicato cries of drill sergeants preparing the troop for the fond gaze of proud parents. A parade which we hope will bear no similarity to the part they played in Exercise 'Fianna Failed,' but more of that later.

2 and 3 Troop

Whilst 3 Troop (the bunny club) disappeared once again down a pothole, their fellow intermediate troop took to the air. We must offer our thanks to **Major Law,** OC 15 Flight AAC, for giving up a Saturday afternoon and taking groups of five at a time for a quick tour of the Topcliffe area by Beaver. Also our appreciation to **Q.M.S.I. Thatcher** and his training staff of 38 Engineer Regiment for giving up their free time to teach the troop booby-trapping. (The author does have his reservations about this form of training for the troop — and indeed for some members of the cadre).

Spring camp — Aviemore

One might imagine from the injury reports returned that the ski-ing conditions were excellent. Alas not! There was none and it must be with a little embarrassment that **Junior Signalman David Carpenter** tells people that his leg was broken when he was run over by a go-kart, and if you think that's funny, **Junior Signalman Steve Sykes** was run over by an ice-skater. You try writing that injury report.

Exercise 'Fianna Failed'

This very realistic exercise written by **Lieutenant Graham Elliot** and based on an internal security situation proved very popular with 1 Troop who played the terrorist mob. Less popular perhaps with the unknowing members of 1 Squadron who spilled their beer in the rush to get to the NAAFI door when a large gentleman announced there was a bomb in the building. Blue flashing lights and wailing sirens heralded the arrival of **W.O.1 Brockett** of the RAOC Ordnance Disposal who took it into the car park and blew it up. Inside? — polysterene! For a brief moment we had father and son on the same exercise as the conductor is the father of **Junior Signalman Peter Brockett,** one of the terrorists.

Farewell

Once again to **Captain (retd) Eric Munnerley** who having left the Army whilst with us has now left us and gone to teach at a borstal. If you can think of a comment not already made we will be surprised.

MAKING HIS MARK
Junior Signalman "Micromesh" Hogg fills in after planting a tree in '73 at Richmond

Plant a tree in '73 . . .

So 3 Troop did exactly that. The Richmond Borough Surveyor gave them the trees and told them where they could put them, so with help from the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor Mrs. Catherine Carr** and children from Richmond Comprehensive School, holes were dug and a new row of trees went up at Cross Lanes.

HQ SQUADRON

The men in white

The old Duff Sergeant's lament: "The day they made me wear check trousers, was the day I stopped playing cricket." **Captain Brian David,** ACC, left us for London District on the 16th March, we wish him and **Sarah** every good fortune and may we never see **Brian** as a sandwich man for Moss Bros.

Lieutenant Peter Jones, ACC, is our new specialist messing officer, his fish and chips have been favourably received by our Friday catholic. **Peter** is from Chalk and Cheese via Aldershot, nevertheless, we hope that he and **Susan** have a pleasant tour with us.

We welcome back **Private Charlie Dennison** from Northern Ireland, he is now at Garelochhead cooking for the adventurous training detachment. **Private Bob Churcher** is now in Northern Ireland and we were happy to see him back for his son's fifth birthday, and hope he'll soon be home for good.

Staff Sergeant Ted Holman, Sergeant Joe Robinson and **Private Kevin Mitchell** each did well in the preliminary round of the North East District cookery competition, **Ted** was second in the 'two decorated gateaux in one hour,' **Joe** was second in the individual senior and **Kevin** runner-up in the individual junior. They all go forward to the finals.

Corporal Ian Marchant represents the Regiment at full bore shooting, **Private Brian Buckley** is a regular member of the Regimental 1st XV of rugger and **Peter Jones** is a Regimental first team man at rugger and hockey.

On the whole our men in white do us extremely well, this is reflected in the good morale of our recruits. The only complaint is from the swill man.

Soccer

The Regimental soccer team is continuing to enjoy the sweet taste of success and in fact play in the final of the North East District football cup competition on Wednesday, 11th April. To reach the final is no mean achievement when it is remembered that we are only allowed to play members of the cadre and so are classed as a minor unit for sport. The North East District cup is open to all units whether major or minor.

The average age of the team is over 30 and quite a few of them played in the days when knee length shorts were in fashion.

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

WRAC report

THE WRAC of 16 Signal Regiment have had quite a successful winter season on the sports field. The climax of the 1972 season was a charity rugby match against the Regimental first XV, which naturally produced a win for the WRAC by 42 points to 12 points. (Any resemblance between what was played and rugby in this match was purely coincidental!). The successes included three tries by **Private Whelan,** two tries and two conversions by **Captain Johncey,** four pairs of men's shorts, two black eyes and numerous bruises, but luckily no broken bones for the WRAC. The Regimental team managed to score two tries (very lucky!), and **Private Marriott** and **Captain Johncey** found themselves in the unfortunate position of being tied to the opposing goal posts! The money gratefully received from the match was divided between the WRAC and the Royal Signals Benevolent Funds.

The 1973 season started with the Inter-Unit Netball at Rheindahlen, at the end of January. Although the team relinquished their hold on the Inter-Unit BAOR Trophy and the Army Netball Trophy, they must be commended on coming runners-up to 29 Company WRAC.

The netball was followed by the Inter-Unit Table Tennis Championship also at Rheindahlen, which took place in February. The great 'find' of this tournament was **Private Lillford** from NORTHAG Signal Troop who enabled the team to claim the runners-up medals yet again, in a closely fought competition with 68 Squadron RCT, 16 Signal Regiment just losing the battle by one point. **Private Lillford** was selected to return to UK for the Inter-Services Table Tennis.

Keeping up the routine, in March, the Regiment were represented in the seven-a-side Inter-Unit Hockey, again held at Rheindahlen. Although the 11-a-side team showed little success in the league, the seven-a-side team proved more successful coming equal second with 1 BR Corps WRAC, with 68 Squadron RCT winning the competition. From this tournament **Private Skyrme, Private Marriott, Private Dickman** and **Captain Johncey** were selected for the Inter-Service team to play the WRAF, although **Captain Johncey** was unable to play owing to injury. **Private Skyrme** made a notable impression in the Inter-Service match, which the WRAC won by 2 goals to 1, and all three players must be commended on their fine efforts.

We now look forward to the summer season and hope to break our run of second place positions, and particularly hope to retain the Inter-Unit Athletics.

Exercise 'Alpine Breeze'

A small detachment consisting of **Captain Clive Collier, Sergeant Eddie (Supertech) Harper, Sergeant 'Lemmie' Lomas, Corporal Gary Mason, Corporal Terry Gould** and **Corporal Mick (Super Spanner) Badwi,** REME, were detailed as Exercise 'Alpine Breeze.' This involved moving a detachment from Krefeld to Oberjoch to provide a printer circuit that would cover the visit of the CGS to the Army Cross-Country Ski Championship at Oberjoch.

What with little traffic, five feet of snow, cheap ski equipment hire and the trip being well sponsored, a good time was had by all. The local beer was palatable and the girls in Oberjoch left little to be desired and had several members of the detachment groping around in the dark.

We were indebted to the American Forces at Heidelberg for accommodating us overnight on the outward and return journeys. We are also grateful to CSO BAOR for enabling us to spend a pleasant period in Oberjoch paid for by the 'firm' whilst gaining valuable experience in operating a small detachment in unfamiliar surroundings.

Sergeants' Mess

A games evening held on Friday, 23rd March, against the Officers resulted in a hotly disputed draw even after the 'boat race.' It is considered that the Sergeants' Mess set a precedent by drinking pints of milk instead of the time honoured beer. (It could have something to do with our drinking and driving lectures we are constantly suffering). The CO suggested the milk would put a lining on the stomach to assist further drinking but the RSM, **Colin Meredith,** respectfully suggested that the one pint of milk with five pints of the best already down there would not help the stomach very much. However, to keep the peace, the 'milk-run' was re-run with pints of the best. It should be stated that some faces were decidedly discoloured afterwards.

SERGEANTS' MESS v OFFICERS' MESS GAMES NIGHT
Boat Race, "In milk would you believe?"

C.-in-C. NORTHERN IRELAND'S COMMENDATION PRESENTED
Left to right: Sergeant Brian Young, Lieutenant Colonel J. R. Gibson, Colonel J. L. Akass (Commander 4 Signal Group)

There is no truth in the rumour that **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) John Burgess** has been reported to the RSPCA for cruelty to moths.

Constant trouble is encountered in the Mess; now we have two **Sergeants Harper (John** and **Eddie),** known in the Mess Underworld as the 'terrible twins.' As both contribute to the Mess entertainments with their fun and games we look upon them as something extra special.

The Mess purchased a Chairmobile for a deserving ex-member of the Corps which has been presented by **Sergeant 'Taff' Cole,** on behalf of the Mess, at the recipient's home. We feel sure that the 'chair' will be useful and we are very proud that we have helped someone, even if only in a small way.

Our Mess photographer, **Staff Sergeant Brian Connor,** is now getting into focus and in the near future we should be able to provide some photographs with our column.

New arrivals in March were: **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Wally Sugden, Sergeant Phil Vince, Sergeant Brian Butterworth, Sergeant 'Paddy' Kehoe, Staff Sergeant 'Geordie' Gainford, Sergeant John Dulling,** and we wish them and their families a very happy stay with the Regiment.

4 Squadron

4 Squadron introduces Squadron personalities:

Lance-Corporal Cathy Tully has been with 4 Squadron, 16 Signal Regiment, for two-and-a-half years. She lives in Coventry with her sister **Mrs. Rose Kelly** at 19 Wroxall Drive, Willenhall.

Cathy is a lively member of the Squadron and has taken part in the Army Orienteering Championships twice. She is a keen skier and has been on a basic ski course. **Cathy** is keen on athletics and bravely takes part in route marches.

Sadly we shall be saying goodbye to **Cathy** as she is leaving the Army after three years service to get married to **Corporal Ken Bishop** who is in the RMP. We wish her the best of luck.

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

A new sport for the Regiment—and another championship

SERGEANT **Pete Scriven, Corporal Roger Kiddle** and **Private John Le Lievre,** ACC, listened with awe to the stories of championship achievements in cross-country, athletics and orienteering, and mused over the chances of securing additional fame for the Regiment in their sport—table tennis. They quietly set off for Krefeld one Saturday morning in late March, and returned a few hours later as Rhine Area Champions! The following Saturday morning they went to Rheindahlen and returned as BAOR Champions! The margin of victory was quite astonishing—both finals were won 5-0, without dropping a single game. Unfortunately there is no Army final for this sport. To round off a most successful day, **Private John Le Lievre,** ACC, won the BAOR individual championship. As someone remarked afterwards, "If 21 Signal Regiment and Royal Signals continue with championship wins at this rate they'll get a mention in the Guinness Book of Records." **Private Le Lievre** and **Corporal Roger Kiddle** were subsequently chosen to represent BAOR against RAF (G).

From table tennis to lawn tennis

Lance-Corporal Geoff Ruffer had the rare distinction in February of playing against Russian and Czechoslovakian tennis stars **Matreveli** and **Kodes** in the Sportshalle in Cologne. These ace professional players were competing in the first round of a World Tennis tournament which also included **Arthur Ashe** and **Ken Rosewall. Lance-Corporal Ruffer,** who has twice been the Army under 21 tennis champion, described the match as a great experience. The result of course was a foregone conclusion—had it been otherwise we suspect that the CO would have had an application for discharge by purchase on his desk the following morning.

B.A.O.R. TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONS
Private John Le Lievre, Sergeant Pete Scriven and Corporal Roger Kiddle with newly won trophy

MOVING IN HIGH CIRCLES
Lance-Corporal Geoffrey Ruffer discussing the finer points of tennis with Russian ace Alexander Metreveli (*centre*)

1 Squadron entertain local orphans

During the Christmas season, 1 Squadron raised DM1.000 for a local orphanage (the **Kinderdorf St Josef** at **Dalheim**), which was presented by **Annette,** wife of **Lieutenant Richard Farrimond,** at the end of January. The Squadron then decided to hold a party for the orphans. This was run by 'C' Troop, and **Sergeant David Hambidge** in particular, in late March. The orphans first played games under the supervision of **Mrs. Ingola Hambidge** and **Anna Marie,** wife of **Sergeant Alan Blagg.** Then the 25 children tucked into a huge tea of jellies, rolls, sandwiches, cakes, etc., etc.! To help the indigestion, an hour of cartoon films were shown by **Corporal Ian Hobbs.** Each child was given a bag of sweets on leaving. It was a most enjoyable afternoon for both organisers and children.

ENJOYABLE PARTY
The orphans of the Kinderdorf St. Josef pose for a photo after an excellent party arranged by 'C' Troop. Sergeant David Hambidge on right

Versatile technician

Lance-Corporal Nick Gedge, a RR Technician in 'M' Troop, has undertaken some unusual maintenance and repair tasks in his time, but the repair of Army railway communications is the most unusual of all. He was called to assist the 79th Railway Squadron RCT in the repair of their 40-year-old model railway in their Training Wing. This layout is worth several thousand pounds. **Lance-Corporal Gedge** has methodically worked through the entire electrical circuitry of the track, plus locomotives and signalling equipment. In return the Regiment now has two large items of rolling stock to convert into PRI shop/canteen! You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours!

VIP treatment for Loughborough Grammar School Cadets

As we write these notes a party of cadets from Loughborough Grammar School CCF are visiting the Regiment for 10 days. They are from the Army Signals Section and have a programme which must be the envy of every schoolboy. Visits include a 200-mile flight by a pair of Beaver aircraft to see 2 Squadron and the Harrier Force operating in the field, the more interesting departments of RAF Wildenrath (air traffic control, simulator, engineering wing and the Bloodhound missiles), 79 Railway Squadron (including engine driving), and social visits to Monschau and the Dutch National War Museum at Overloon. The military training side includes instruction and the live firing of all unit weapons, whilst the evening programme includes a mystery trip, basketball, bowling, disco dance and a science fiction film. If the size of the Loughborough Grammar School Signals Section doesn't double after all that we'll eat our public relations file.

27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

by Corporal Peter Woodford

TRICKY

A tricky fault captures the attention of Corporal Woodford in his endeavours to restore a teleprinter to operating condition

Left to right: Corporal Finlayson, Staff-Sergeant Sel Ryder (F.O.S. I Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron), Corporal Woodford and W.O.2 Ernie Adams (Communications Warrant Officer I Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron—Boy Entrant Royal Signals)

IN January six members of the Regiment were fortunate enough to go to New Zealand with 'A' Company 1st Battalion The Black Watch and spend two months working with 1 Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron.

The National Service Scheme in New Zealand had just been abandoned. This meant that the Signal Squadron was two-thirds below strength and yet still having to provide the normal communications. Hence, we were fully employed.

The main exercise, Exercise 'Themistocles,' was from 5th-25th February. It was the annual infantry exercise and took place on the Northern Island. **Corporal 'Jock' McAlpine** worked on the line detachments and helped to lay 80-odd miles of line in the BMA.

PRESENTATION

Major M. J. Fenton presents a R.N.Z. Signals Corps Plaque to members of 27 Signal Regiment who were attached to 1 Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron for the duration of Exercise Themistocles the First Infantry Brigade Group annual exercise 5–25 February

Left to right: Signalman Hancock, Signalman Hull, Corporal Woodford, Corporal Finlayson, Corporal McAlpine, Major M. J. Fenton (OC). Lieutenant Colonel Redda (Director Royal New Zealand Signals), Captain J. O'Brien (2/I.C., 1 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron), W.O.2 Grant D.W. (S.S.M.—ex Royal Signals)

Corporals Alan Finlayson and **Peter Woodford** of 'N' Troop were fully employed in the technical workshop in the field carrying out routine maintenance on radio relay equipment. They encountered numerous problems working on equipment sometimes familiar and some not so familiar.

Signalmen Tony Hull and **Dave Hancock** were both employed as DRs throughout the exercise and had to overcome the problem of working in a strange area.

Finally **Lance-Corporal Tom Turnbull** somehow ended up as Second-in-Command of a section in the Black Watch. Whether he volunteered or was volunteered by somebody for the job we are not sure. However, he certainly enjoyed himself.

At the end of the exercise we moved to South Island to Burnham Camp where we stayed for the remaining period. The hospitality and friendship extended to us throughout our stay made a tremendous impression on us all. Through the medium of THE WIRE we wish to say thank you for making our trip a truly memorable one.

Highlights of the month

The FFR was carried out on 8th March by CBF, **Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Ward, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,** and it suffices to say that all went well.

The sporting results have been most gratifying. The athletics team were second in the Brigade athletics meeting; this qualified us for the Land Forces Championships which we went on to win.

The squash and hockey teams finished second and third respectively in their leagues and the soccer team came midway. All that remains is the end of season parties. Our sub-aqua swimmers should soon be back from Gan and we are hoping for some stories of big catches.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

Stop Press

I AM being pressurised from all sides in the Regiment to write up their activities especially those parts of the Regiment which employ civilian staff, because our Clerical Assistant, **Sandra Jenkins**, who was mentioned in our last WIRE notes, has been translated into a temporary Clerical Officer, and she and everybody else swear that it is because she got such a good public relations write-up.

Nishan Troop

The Nishan Troop has been training hard throughout March and at the time of writing has 10 senior shots and 48 young soldiers on its shooting strength. The programme has consisted of alternate weeks on the SLR and GPMG during which we have received expert coaching from **Q.M.S.I. Dunbavin,** SASC, and **Q.M.S.I. Cuthbertson,** SASC, both of whom were involved in the training of the successful Queen's Own Highlanders Nishan team in 1971. **W.O.2 Holborn,** Para, who trained the 3 Para GPMG team has also helped in producing (almost from nothing) several GPMG pairs with very respectable scores.

It is early days yet but already many young soldiers have revealed shooting talents that augur well for Turkey in September. Notable among these are **Signalman Don (Butch) Wallbridge** (223 Signal Squadron), **Signalman Dave Collins** (10 Signal Regiment) and **Signalman Kieron (Paddy) O'Brien** (5 Brigade Signal Squadron, all of whom have achieved consistently good results with the SLR. The top GPMG shots include **Lance-Corporal Nick Cole** and **Signalman Terry (Taff) Locke** (both from 653 Signal Troop) and **Signalman Steve Pollard** (602 Signal Troop). These latter deserve a special mention because few shots in the Corps have ever previously handled let alone fired a GPMG. **Signalman Mike (Steve) McQueen** has proved a rare shot indeed because he features in the 'top 3' places for both SLR and GPMG—a remarkable achievement in his first year of shooting.

Although the names of these seven young soldiers have been singled out for particular mention in this edition, several others have made considerable progress week-by-week and will surely be pushing for honours in the competitions to come. We hope to report their progress in due course.

Interim report — Exercise 'Snowball IV'

After a wearying two-day journey our skiers arrived at the Craig Lynne Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey. Our initial gasps of admiration at the obviously luxurious accommodation in the hotel were quickly stifled when, after having seen around this palace, we were shown to our home for the next few weeks—a disused badminton hall. After settling ourselves in and being isued with ski-ing kit we were then introduced to the hotel's main attraction—the bar.

During the next two weeks good progress was made by all under the expert guidance of **Peter Wheeler,** our civilian ski instructor. **Lance-Corporal 'Ise' Linton** was our first casualty with a torn ligament which although curtailing his ski-ing did not impair his enjoyment of the hotel's amenities. We are happy to report that he has now fully recovered. He was quickly followed by another minor accident which occurred when **Signalman Shearsby** attempted to ski over a rock. He was made aware that this isn't such a good idea when his ski snapped in half and a piece got stuck in his leg! During one of the non-ski-ing days a visit was arranged to the nearby 'Glen fiddich' distillery which was enjoyed by all, especially when the free glasses of whisky were handed round. A visit to the ice rink at Aviemore was also arranged where **Second-Lieutenant Leslie Poole,** ex-ice-hockey player, introduced the rest of us to the mysteries of remaining upright on skates.

The end of the first two weeks saw an almost complete changeover of personnel when the first party returned to Blandford and were replaced by party No. 2, who arrived during the semi-blizzard we had all been praying for. This party produced perhaps the most amusing, if not the best, skier of all in **F. of S. 'Rastus' Collins** (a guest participant from 8 Signal Regiment) who seemed to have the knack of making the simplest movements end in spectacular disaster and who was eventually to discover the pain of frozen whiskers! A visit to the local ice rink was again organised and provided a great many amusing sights, none more so than **Signalmen 'Paddy' McAllister** and **Willie Hutchinson** (both of whom had the greatest difficulty even standing still on the ice rink) taking part in a game of tag on ice.

Fred 'nice one Cyril' Coppington kept us all laughing throughout the two weeks with his many anecdotes, and on the day we all went go-karting proved that as a driver he really IS a comedian. 'Snow' Troop send its regards to him in N. Ireland where he is at present on detachment. Midway through the exercise the CO of 30 Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan MacIntyre,** took the opportunity of visiting his native land and joined us for a day on the slopes.

All good things, as the saying goes, must come to an end and the end of the second party's ski-ing came round all too quickly. It was with great regret that we said goodbye to Scotland and returned to Blandford. However, there is still one more party to go which departs for Scotland on 1st April. Get next month's copy of THE WIRE and read on . . .

2 Squadron

The Line Troop has now been reinforced by some 500 per cent. There are now six of us Tele Mechs altogether. The Operations Room keep us reasonably busy with all too frequent trips to 1 Signal Group for intercom installation.

Exercise 'Wintex' has been our largest project so far this year. This involved **Corporal Charlie Peach** and **Lance-Corporal John Keohane** who were selected to go to Brussels to work for the Allied Long Lines Agency (ALLA). We were given plenty of time to acquaint ourselves with the ALLA methods of working. After endless briefings and open forums we did the job we had come to do. We would like to thank **W.O.1 Copeland** for looking after us so well, and a special word of thanks to **Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell** for keeping us suitably entertained during our three-week stay. His humorous comments were a continuing source of amusement.

Our other troop members have also been kept fully employed. **Signalman Neil McNair** is making a favourable impression as Annie Oakley with the Nishan team and **Signalman Clive Johnson** is trying out his talents on SWS Troop of the School of Signals. **Lance-Corporal Eric Coleman** has taken over from yours truly in the difficult art of instructing schoolboys in the intricacies of line laying. His journeys have taken him to Plymouth. Guernsey, Wellington and other far-flung outposts of the CCF. We expect a full report from him in time for the next issue.

The 'Hairies' are still moaning about laying 12 miles of cable during Exercise 'Swan Lake' for radio remotes. They are suggesting that all radio detachments carry two miles of D10 and get on with laying their remotes themselves. We tell them it is good training.

Congratulations to **S.S.M. Tom Hassett** and the Regimental Recruiting Team for doing an excellent job on their recent visit to Jersey. He is smiling now after handing over to **S.S.M. Winton** and looks forward to a month in Italy on Exercise 'Monte Bianco.' We also congratulate **Signalman Terry McNamara** and wife **Eunice** on the birth of their son in the last week of March. Trust **Terry** to beat the taxman!

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Sultan's Armed Forces
Sig Regt, Muscat

SULTANATE OF OMAN.
P.O. BOX 602

A new Regiment is formed

ON 1st January, the SAF Signal Squadron became a Regiment. The Regiment is at present commanded by **Major A. W. de V. Hunt**, Royal Signals. In the Dhofar area of operations there is a Brigade Signals Squadron which provides communications for Headquarters Dhofar Brigade and the Tac Headquarters of the Sultan's Airforce. This is commanded by **Major T. G. B. Fish**, Royal Signals.

In the north we have a Signal Squadron which provides communications for Headquarters Northern Oman, the Navy and the Airforce. This Signal Squadron also incorporates the Signals Training School which trains all signallers for the Force. At present the Training School has approximately 200 students on courses. The HQ Northern Oman Signal Squadron is commanded by **Captain Colin Wilson,** ex-Royal Signals. At the moment we have one Royal Signals radio technician, **Sergeant Bob Bowman** and one radio telegraphist, **Staff Sergeant Dave Freeman.**

Life in the Regiment

We lead an interesting life in the Signal Regiment as the following instances show:

Night operations

22.00 hours. — **Major 'Tez' Fish** is in a 'boom,' a vessel with some similarity to a junk, which has been tasked with preventing enemy movement along a beach. It is laying off approximately 200 yards from the shore.

22.05 hours. — The Captain of the boom says "I think we will put up a flare so that we can have a 'shoof' (look) at the 'adu' (enemy)."

22.07 hours. — The flare goes up, travels about 50 feet and hangs over the vessel illuminating it, but nothing else, perfectly!

22.07/001 hours. — Immediate heavy machine gun fire from shore, sounds of splintering and nasty little splashes in sea. **Major Fish** lies flat, very flat, on the deck and mutters unkind things about Navel Officers parentage.

'Through' — or at least some one is!

The Dhofar Brigade area of operations is approximately 600 miles from our training school in the north. The following exasperated signal was received from HQ Dhofar Brigade Signal Squadron.

'F/F Pronto. Eye have strength 5 voice comms with your trg school. Pse stop blotting out my ops net.'

Sergeant Bob Bowman's relief

January, 1973. — **Major Hunt** sees **Sergeant Bob Bowman** and says "I have just heard who your relief is going to be. Here is his address, you might as well drop him a line."

February, 1973. — We receive a signal from Royal Signals records stating that this particular application for secondment has been withdrawn. There is dark speculation about contents of **Sergeant Bob Bowman's** letter. 'Honest sir, I didn't say anything!'

March, 1973. — Alhamdu Lillaa (Praise be to Allah) we receive another nomination from Royal Signals records. **Major Hunt** again sees **Sergeant Bob Bowman,** 'don't write, for God's sake don't write, I think I had better do it." He goes off still muttering followed by 'Honest sir, I didn't say anything!'

Footnote: And that **Sergeant J. R. Hodge** is the reason why we hope to see you in June.

HQ Dhofar Brigade Signal Squadron office

Life in HQ Dhofar Brigade Signal Squadron which is always on active service tends to become slightly intense. **Major 'Tez' Fish** the Squadron Commander had intimated that he was about to go up north to visit the Regimental Headquarters for a couple of days recuperation. He is talking to **Staff Sergeant Dave Freeman** in the Squadron office:

Major Fish. — "We will have to give Jebel Regiment another frequency on their ops net and have you got those signallers to them yet and what about their telephones and will it all get on that Skyvan!"

Staff Sergeant Freeman .— "Yes sir, right away sir, you are going up north tomorrow aren't you sir."

Major Fish. — "And have you seen cable and wireless about those junctions, and what are airworks doing about that link and has the Brigade Commander's intercom been fixed."

Staff Sergeant Freeman. — "Yes sir, all under control sir, you are definitely going up north tomorrow, aren't you sir."

Footnote: The hint was taken and **Major Fish** went north.

Visits

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman and Commander in Chief, has recently visited the Jebel locations. Our photograph shows **Signalman Khasaif Saif** of the Muscat Regiment being presented to him. (Unfortunately the photograph was torn in transit).

We were very pleased to receive a visit from the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** He has probably seldom seen so many members of the Royal Corps disguised in so many different types of uniform.

Come and join us

We still have the following vacancies in the Sultan's Armed Forces Signal Regiment for Royal Signals seconded personnel.

— Foreman of Signals (any rank but the vacancy is for a WO1).

— Sergeant radio technician (we would be prepared to accept a full Corporal in the vacancy).

If you are interested, please ask your unit orderly room for a secondment form.

TECHNICIANS

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The WIRE—

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4 GDS BDE SIG SQN — B.A.O.R. MINOR UNITS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS—THEY HAD A GREAT SPIRIT

Back row: Sergeant Jim Gilbody, Lance-Corporal Billy Adam, Corporal Jock Clark, Corporal Alan Watson, Lance-Corporal Blue Baker, Signalman Blind Pew Pearson, Signalman John Lynn

Front row: Sergeant Tom Taylor, Lance-Corporal Billy Booth, Corporal Boss Durow, 2/Lieutenant Mike Fisher, Lance-Corporal Loogie Lawrence, Corporal Sam Bondin, Corporal John Smith

News from Squadrons

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

THIS month our WIRE notes must be devoted to football and the following write-up is a tribute to the achievements of a very fine team.

'Dear Matt'

Once upon a time there was a Signal Squadron found in the depths of Munster, with a number of keen young men who liked to kick a round ball around after working hours. They had never really excelled themselves in the sport, but every single member had the potential to go far on the football field . . . and we did!

At the very start of the season **Second-Lieutenant Mike Fisher** was asked to take on the challenging position of Officer i/c football. Swiftly promoting himself to the giddy heights of team manager, and with the invaluable help of the team trainer **Sergeant Jim Gilbody,** RAOC, he soon had a dedicated pool of 18 players, all fighting for a position in the next game. Under the captaincy of **Corporal 'Boss' Durow,** REME, the Squadron team became feared amongst fellow teams in the league. At the close of March, the Squadron held the proud record of winning the Garrison league outright with a total of 22 out of 24 possible points. But we talk too much of our performance throughout the season, not to mention that we are champions of the BAOR FA Minor Units Cup (having beaten 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron by 4 goals to 1 in the third round, we might add!) and we are now about to become Divisional champions by travelling to Berlin this very weekend to play 'A' Squadron 4 RTR; let us highlight some of the young men that have made this remarkable season possible. As the manager I know of no greater tribute I could give to such a dedicated and talented young body of men Thanks to:

Lance-Corporal Billy Adam, such potential in a Scotsman, one of the mainstays of the team and voted 'man of the match' against 54 Squadron RCT when we beat them 4-1 in the BAOR final, and has now been picked to play in the BAOR team, as should **Lance-Corporal 'Looigie' Lawrence,** a truly professional little player, whose very mention of his name instills fear into the opposition back line. **Lance-Corporal Billy Booth** surely has set a record in scoring three hat-tricks in the quarter, semi and final matches of the BAOR Cup respectively.

Having thrown over a Corps rugby trial in favour of the more refined version of the game, **Corporal 'Jock' Clark** has proved himself an impenetrable wall to all opposition, a truly classic player to watch, and plays alongside his captain, playfully named 'The Tank,' **Corporal Durow,** REME. **'Boss'** has been a shining example to all his team, and the glory that has come their way must reflect on the exemplary leadership and clean play he has shown throughout the season.

There are so many other excellent players in the side, **Corporal Sam Bondin, Sergeant Tom Taylor, Corporal 'Flying Pig' Smith, Signalman John Lynn** and **'Blind Pew' Pearson,** and the centre-forward **Corporal Alan Watson,** REME, there just isn't time to write about all their talents; just take another glance at the team photograph above and see what team spirit really means, and what it can achieve. Surely this is the essence of success?

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20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 41

IN common with many other units in BAOR we have now started the exercise season in earnest. At the moment the author is sat in a very damp and dripping wood working a microphone with one hand and a telephone with the other and writing these notes during the occasional gap in activity! Perhaps the most noteworthy event so far this year is that one Yeoman of Signals (who shall be nameless) tried to work a rebroadcast station, with both sets on the same frequency!

Exercise 'Snowqueen'

Lieutenant David Beare writes from Bavaria

I write this hurriedly before starting to organise the last morning's hangover of our two week ski-ing exercise here in Bavaria. I thought that this short article may be useful, in trying to encourage other members of the Corps to have a go at the exciting and exhilarating sport of ski-ing.

On the first morning, rather 'taking the bull by the horns,' we set off on a two kilometre trek and, as for most of us this was the first time on skis, we came back feeling rather pleased with ourselves. We know now that there is truth in the old adage — pride comes before a fall!

During the two week period all of us have had tumbles and painful moments but, once mastered, the sun, snow, scenery and the rush of wind past ones ears is a thrilling experience. Full marks must go to **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Thomas** who proved that it is possible to ski in a Land Rover much to the astonishment of **Lieutenant 'Yogi' Beare,** who fell out! Unfortunately **Signalman 'Bugs' Mason** also had a lot of difficulty with his turns but developed a beautiful line in sit down stops! Towards the end we had developed a lot of confidence and, in fact, **Lance-Corporal Tony Stapleton** thought that he could get through a solid queue of people at full speed! Luckily no one was hurt and he only broke a ski!

When the sun rises again tomorrow we must turn our backs on these mountains and return to Detmold, happy, tanned and broke! However, all of us agree that we will be back next year.

Hockey

The minor units Army hockey cup competition for 1973 was organised on a divisional league basis. We won the fourth division league quite convincingly but unfortunately we were pitted against another Royal Signals team, 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, in the BAOR semi-finals.

The match was played on a damp dismal day at Bielefeld and opened with some fine end to end play. 11 Brigade gradually gained the upper hand, with some excellent sprints by their left wing and achieved a convincing victory of four goals to nil. This was despite some heroic goalkeeping by **Corporal 'Ginge' Gregory.** Undoubtedly they were the better team on the day and we wish them every success in the final.

20 Brigade's team consisted of **Corporal 'Ginge' Gregory; Captain 'Old Man' Lloyd,** LI; **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Alan Smith,** REME; **Sergeant Bob Shearsmith,** RMP; **Corporal 'Bluey' Floyd, Major 'Oh! my arthritis' Whitehead; Lance-Corporal 'Brummy' Rhodes; Corporal Tom Chhetri; Staff Sergeant 'Nobby' Clark; Sergeant Mal Forster** and **Lieutenant 'Any courses available' Smedley.**

Cross Country

The Brigade cross-country meeting was held on 9th March, and not only did the Squadron enter a strong team but we also provided a continuous commentary from strategic points around the course. 1 LI, who won the major units competition were rather perturbed to hear one of their best runners described as having 'no style, no style at all!' Our team were narrowly beaten into second place in the minor units competition which was a good effort by all concerned.

Squadron Events

Congratulations go to **Staff Sergeant Tom Jenkinson, Signalman Ken Durkin** and **Signalman 'Scouse' Baxendale** for the recent additions to their families. Also to **Signalman Allan Bincliffe** on his marriage to **Janice Cook.** Welcome to **Major P. R. Davies,** Royal Signals, our new BM (ex-OC 1 Artillery Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron), **Lance-Corporal Chris Evis, Lance-Corporal John Peacock** and **Cfn. Jim Chapman,** REME, and **Driver Steve Blake,** RCT. We hope you enjoy your stay in Detmold. Farewell to **Sergeant Pat Waring** to 608 Signal Troop, **Sergeant John Dulling** to 16 Signal Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Pete Martin** to 11 Signal Regiment and in particular to **Corpo al Mick Dymock, Signalman 'Jock' Henderson** and **Signalman Brian Simmonds** all of whom have now left the Corps.

223 Sig Sqn (Radio) Winchester

'Bush-Down'

THE winter has come and gone since we last appeared in these notes, and a spring sun gilds the daffodils in Bushfield Camp and Flowerdown (or 'Bush-down,' as these two centres of Squadron life are now collectively referred to by the unit). Bushfield Camp has survived its 35th winter since it was built as a 'temporary' militia camp in 1938, high on a Hampshire down over-looking the Itchen Valley, about one mile south of Winchester. Re-furbished periodically throughout the years (and considerably tidied-up as a result of a major demolition programme last year), it continues to soldier-on as the administrative base for the 130-odd members of this busy independent Squadron. In winter, it tends to be a 'bit parky' — but in spring and summer, most will agree that there is no fairer camp in England.

Christmas Past

Not that we have had much time this winter to stand around feeling parky! In addition to our normal work, the Squadron has provided a heavy 'stint' for duties in the Emerald Isle, and has also contributed to both the Corps public duties contingents in London. Sandwiched in between, we have somehow contrived to enjoy a very full sporting programme and an equally full social calendar — particularly over the Christmas period, which started on 1st December with a very successful all ranks' dance, and steadily increased in tempo until the Squadron Christmas dinner on 21st December, a truly memorable feast prepared by **Sergeant Harry Senior** and his long-suffering band of cooks. After that, we felt we needed a holiday; and most of us (except a rear-guard of shift-workers who kept up the 'we never close' tradition), actually managed to get one!

Soccer

Under the enthusiastic management of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Pat Mahoney,** the Squadron soccer stars captained by **Sergeant Billy Button** started from small beginnings and worked their way up into a formidable team by the end of the season. In the Army minor units competition (York and Lancaster Cup), they defeated 2 Para and 1 Sapper unit on their way to the semi-finals with 216 Para Signal Squadron at Aldershot on 17th January. 216 were the much-fancied favourites for the cup (and indeed later went on to win it), but they received a nasty jolt when they were held to a one-goal draw after extra time, in a cliff-hanging match. Unfortunately, we didn't quite make it in the replay three weeks later, and 216 ran out worthy winners by two goals to nil.

The team also played in the Winchester and District Sunday League, first division, throughout the season, and finished about half-way down the table. **Lieutenant Nicholas Franks; Sergeants Billy Button, Pat Baldwin** and **Rick Irvine;** and **Corporals Ian McSherry** and **Pete 'Jairzino' Campbell** were among our prominent stars, whilst **Pete Campbell** played regularly for the Corps. In all, the team played 26 matches during the season and finished up a vastly improved side.

(*Continued on page* 228)

SEMI-FINALISTS, ARMY MINOR UNIT FOOTBALL COMPETITION. 223 SIGNAL SQUADRON'S END-OF-SEASON TEAM

Standing (left to right): W.O.2 (Y. of S.) E. P. Mahoney (Manager), Signalman A. J. Horan, Corporal G Anderson, Sergeant A H Button, Sergeant A P Spence, Lance-Corporal G. J. Doig, Sergeant P. H. Stevens

Kneeling (left to right): Corporal C. Carnell, Lance-Corporal S. J. Parrish, Lance-Corporal R. L. Bolt, Corporal J. B. McSherry, Signalman J Sharkey, Private A. M. Halliday-Hamer

Hockey—'Maskery's Marauders'

Not to be outdone, the Squadron hockey team also enjoyed a good season, with their fair share of successes. Captained by **Corporal Dave Maskery** and stoutly supported by such veterans as the OC, **Major John Ingledow; W.O.1 (Sup. R.) Jim Banks; Sergeants Billy Button, Pat Baldwin** and **Chris Robinson**; and **Corporals Gerry Bardoe** and **Sid Goddard,** they also reached the semi-final of the Army minor units competition and were unlucky to go down by the odd goal to HQ 5 Air Portable Brigade. In addition to a varied list of friendly matches played throughout the winter, the team finished the season on a high note by entering the District six-a-side competition and coming second in their league.

Master-Minds of 'Bush-Down'

On a more intellectual plane, a Squadron general knowledge quiz was held each Tuesday evening in the Andromeda Club during February and March. Run by **W.O.2 David Thorp** and **Staff Sergeant Billy Kelly** on a knock-out basis, it attracted an entry of 12 teams from the Squadron and proved a highly successful entertainment. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were early casaulties and the trophy was eventually won by Support Group 'B' team (**Corporals 'Nobby' Clark, 'Taff' Buckley** and **Angus Whitton**) who vanquished the Wives' Club 'A' team in a close final. The standard was high, and **Corporal Clark** surely deserves to qualify as 'Master-mind of Bush-down'!

Other Goings-on . . .

Captain John Finch and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jim Sinnett** have formed a thriving Squadron badminton club and every Thursday evening (and most other times), the gym resounds to the thud of shuttle-cocks. The game is now all the rage and there are many keen enthusiasts, who in turn have enlisted the support of a number of outside (outsize?) ladies! The club is embarked on a list of Winchester League fixtures and in its first season looks like finishing about half-way up the league.

Our sharp-shooters, too, have been keeping their eye in throughout the winter in readiness for the summer competitions. **Captain Geoffrey Hudson** and his dedicated 'dead-eyes' have been out in all weathers, and have also started a .22 club on Tuesday evenings with friendly matches against local teams, **Sergeant 'Chas' Hall** and **Corporal Gerry Bardoe** being among the leading scorers.

Those intrepid bird-men of 26 AYTP have introduced yet another sport to the Squadron's lists — Parascending! It looks a highly risky business, and involves being towed up to dizzy heights on a parachute behind a Land Rover, but we are assured that it isn't. **Lieutenant Michael Cross** and **Sergeant Harry Carpenter** are devotees of the sport; although both appear to be more-or-less in working order after numerous 'flights,' most of us still have our doubts. . . .

Visit by the SO-in-C

On 20th February, we were honoured by a visit from the SO-in-C, **Major-General M. J. Sawers, M.B.E.,** who spent a whole day with the Squadron. After visiting Flowerdown, he inspected the quarter guard at the entrance to Bushfield Camp and later presented a commendation by the GOC-in-C, Northern Ireland, to **Sergeant Peter Walker,** and LS and GC medals to **Sergeants Terry McGrath** and **Leslie Sharp.** Conveniently, a visit to the Sergeants' Mess followed immediately on the presentations, and we would like to record here our congratulations to all three sergeants. It was a happy visit, and we were particularly pleased that the SO-in-C was able to spend so much time with us, looking at every aspect of the Squadron's life and work.

And Lastly . . .

Lack of space prohibits individual mention of the many arrivals and departures which have occurred during the last three months, and we hope that we will be forgiven for not embarking on an exhaustive list. However, they are all recorded in that unique publication, the 'Bushdown Speculator.' Under the pungent editor-ship of **Sergeant Derek Scott,** the 19th monthly edition of the 'Speculator' has just rolled off the Press. It is read — avidly — as far afield as Belfast and the MOD, and **Sergeant Scott** deserves a word of thanks for sustaining morale in his own highly-individualistic style. So for those of you who would really like to know what goes on, just apply to the Training Wing for a few back-copies of the 'Speculator' — and be prepared to sign for them, and return them by registered post!

244 Sig Sqn. R.A.F. Benson

All in the day's work

IN the 244th we use the term 'mundain' loosely, because what may appear to be exciting in some of the more static units, is certainly not in this Squadron. Not a week goes by without some elements of the Squadron deploying on numerous exercises, both in the UK and overseas. These lucky elements of the Squadron virtually see the world whilst one small 'bunch' never see more glorious sights than a busy RAF station in action. The orderly room staff are certainly in this category and the Squadron Commander decreed that by way of a change their antics should go down in print. So here goes.

The orderly room and 'Sid'

The orderly room (commonly known as 'Malfunction junction') which was situated in an old 'hut' type building, originally built to house the Royal Flying Corps, has now moved to a luxurious modern building which was in its heyday the air movements building of RAF Benson. Many past visitors to the Squadron who remember our old accommodation will, we are sure, exclaim 'about time too!' In our new accommodation the space available is fantastic and it has been rumoured that a walk to the chief clerk's desk excuses you the Squadron Commander's weekly road run.

The personalities of the orderly room, including our admin officer, are as follows:

Captain Alan Harfield who wears more hats than any other officer in the Corps, comprising of admin officer, QM, paymaster, PRI MTO, unit records officer, USO and probably a few more which nobody knows about, is an avid military historian, specialising in India and the Far East, he can settle any argument on points of military history and gives invaluable advice on old military staff duties — he still uses the 1855 equivalent of the Joint Services Staff Publication.

Staff Sergeant Stan Long is the ORSQMS, he is a fairly new arrival in the Squadron and has not quite been brain washed on blue job working and it has been heard that he spends 10 minutes each morning reciting his litany "I am in the Army, I am not in the RAF."

The post of documentation and any-other-job-the-ORSQMS-can-lumber-him-with clerk, is at present filled by **Corporal 'Scouse' McKittrick** (what is his first name). The only intelligent thing anyone has been able to get out of him for the last month has been 25th April, 1973, which turns out to be his LTA for posting to Cyprus. **Corporal Mick Price** who has only just arrived is his replacement, he knew **Staff Long** when his Fiat was a moped!

The P20 and any-other-job-the-OC-can-lumber-him-with clerk is **Lance-Corporal Dave Barlow.** His wife once thought he was home for the night at 20.00 hours.

The orderly room staff is finally complete with **Signalman Chris Brown** who does every other job he can't get out of by playing squash, tennis, football and tiddly winks of which he is a competent player in all but the last.

'Sid' is a complicated piece of machinery called **Signalman John Harlow,** how he became known as 'Sid' is a mystery to all new arrivals in the unit and those who know are under oath not to reveal it at all. **'Sid's'** empire is the 'harrier room' from where he hears all, sees all and gets to know all (he forecast correctly the date of the AOC's inspection before the AOC knew). His value to SHQ is unaccountable as no one seems to know exactly how much he does in one day and the fact that the place always seems to fall to pieces when he is away.

The sporting scene — football

On the 14th February, the Squadron played 216 Para Signal Squadron in the final of the York and Lancashire Cup SE District stage.

216 showed on the day they were a far superior side and won the match 4-1. We wish 216 the best of luck in the ensuing rounds.

On the 17th April, the Squadron plays in yet another final this being the SE District minor units final against 1 Para Logistic. We are hoping for a better result, and maybe the trophy at our second attempt.

Arrivals and departures

This month we say goodbye, good luck in your new postings and thank you for all you have done for the Squadron to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Taff' Keohane, Sergeant Mick Banks, Corporal Phil Phillippi, Corporal Archie Gemmell** and **Signalman Derek Peach.**

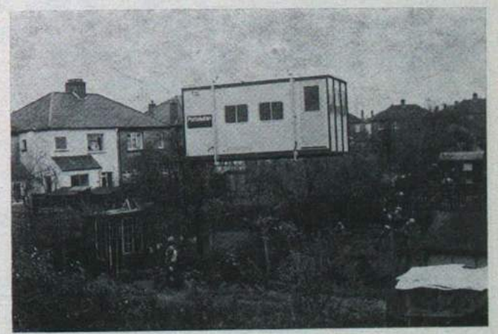
We say welcome to the following and we hope your tour with us will be a happy one, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Sleightholm, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Chambers, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Chapman, Sergeants Nicol** and **Sinon, Corporals Price, Hewitt** and **Drummond, Craftsman Hobson, Signalmen Hopper, Evans, Didcott** and **Beattie.**

Mobile Air Operations Team in action

(See page 200)

DIRECTING

Lance-Corporal Jock Fenwick seen here directing operations on the Welsh conveyor belt lift



LOWER AWAY

Sergeant Mick Watson and his team supervising the positioning of a portable kidney machine into a patient's garden

261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

SINCE our last jottings in THE WIRE our Squadron football team has managed to achieve a second win of the season. However, it must be said that the opposing team only fielded eight players during the first half of the match.

Sportlights

The team, managed by **Staff Sergeant Bob Woods,** has the same problems as Manchested United inasmuch as we have a number of good players but do not get the results. Amongst them are **Corporal Don Marr, Signalman Dave Stower** and **Signalman John Bathe. Signalman Kev Kimber** has also captained the Army Cyprus team.

In the world of boxing **Signalman Bill Pirie** was selected to represent the Combined Services Cyprus boxing team against a RAF UK selected team at Nicosia. Our reporter, **Corporal Bill Powis,** from Airfield Troop Nicosia, says that **Signalman Pirie,** although he sustained a bloody nose, won his lightweight bout convincingly and was presented with a handsome Pewter trophy.

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Keith Zoing and **Signalman Bill Snell** managed to skive off with Army Cyprus rugby team on a tour of Israel. **Sergeant Carl Butter,** a recent arrival, was included in the squad for a match against the RAF.

The Squadron was also represented in the Army Cyprus hockey team this time by **Sergeant Eddie Mulvana** and **Signalman Pete Fuller.** They had a ten-day tour of Singapore playing four games and taking in the sights of the East. **Sergeant Mulvana** was heard to remark that it was great to play on green grass again!

The Squadron rally team has been gaining a few successes in recent months and now boasts a total of 21 trophies. **Sergeant Mick Hartland** is in great demand by civilian entries as he has become one of the island's top navigators.

A share of glory . . .

The Second-in-Command, **Captain Pim Meaning** (driver) and **Second-Lieutenant Bob Dibley** (navigator) had their share of the glory by winning the Land Rover class of the 1972 Rothmans Cyprus Safari Rally. This was a notable achievement on their first time out as they were placed 13th overall, competing against Lancia, BMW and Lords and the like.

Corporal Alan Watts, REME, is waiting anxiously for his share of the glory but after preparing all the vehicles, it's funny how it is always his Land Rover that breaks down.

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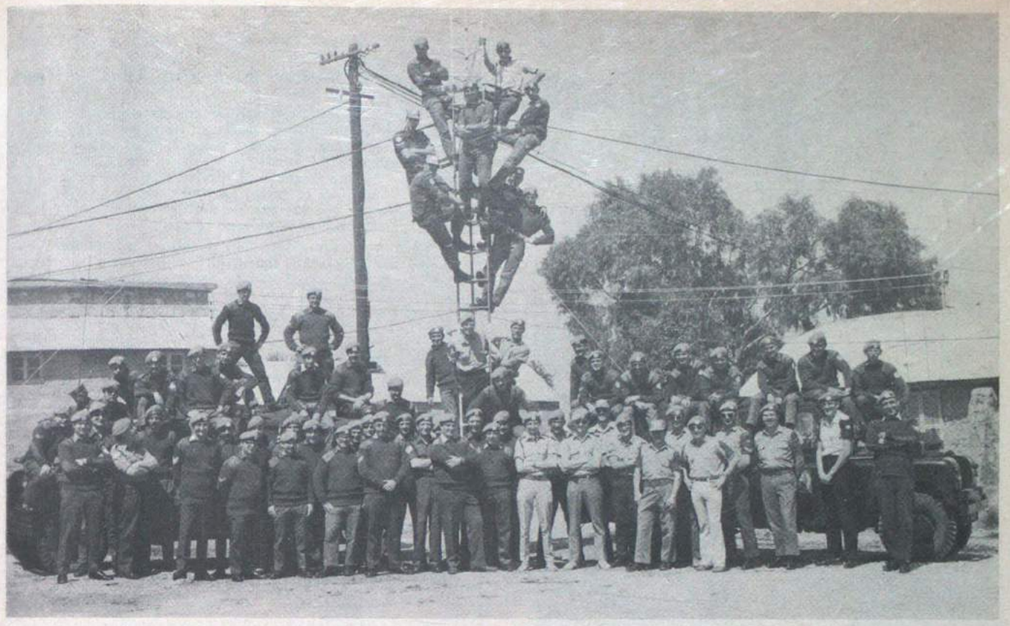

ON PARADE
The greater majority of the Troop on parade. Who says we don't all dress alike!

644 Signal Troop H.Q.
UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 567

Personalities

Force Signal Officer ...	**Major J. D. Cathcart,** Royal Signals
OC 644 Signal Troop ...	**Captain R. G. Stokes,** Royal Signals
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain M. Embury,** R.C. Signals
Radio Officer	**Lieutenant N. C. Fairley,** Royal Signals
F. of S.	**W.O.2 M. Pittock**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 W. Cheesman**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant C. Nurse**

First a note of congratulation to **F. of S. Mike Pittock** on his recent promotion and a farewell to **Staff Sergeant Ron Watson** who successfully handed over the duties of SQMS to **Staff Sergeant Collin Nurse.** We haven't seen the last of **Staff Sergeant Watson,** however, as his new posting is to 9 Signal Regiment, just down the road, as WO2—congratulations.

Rundown

It was thought that this month's contribution would mainly take the form of a rundown of the role of 644 in UNFICYP—I'll try not to make it too long winded.

This is a very unique Troop in that it consists of both British and Canadian Signals, both of whom work basically to the same format, so teething problems for new boys are virtually eliminated. Our Canadians are employed on radio and line work; more about that later.

We have three primary tasks in UNFICYP. Firstly, the operation and manning of the Headquarters Comcen. This has an outlet to the DCN through Episkopi and an outlet to the various contingent home heaquarters and UN headquarters through UN Radio, a civilianised outfit which, we find, for a change, very easy to work with. Secondly, Radio Section is responsible for the manning of the Headquarters Comcen radio-room, the Danish and Swedish contingent rear links and the Troodos Rebro/Relay station, with Canadian personnel predominating in these tasks. The Section is also responsible for deploying a mobile rebro and a mobile HQ in a tactical

DANGER—MEN AT WORK!
The Line section (*left to right*): Sergeant 'Bill' Thorne, Lance-Corporal 'Dick' Grant, Signalman 'Mavis' Harris, Signalman 'Joe' Barallon. On the pole Corporal 'Ray' Bouffard (*left*) and Corporal 'Vic' Powell

HANG ON UP THERE!
A head for heights? Members of the Radio section dismantling one of the JONTZ masts. On the mast Signalman 'MO' Armitage (*left*) and Sergeant 'Rick' Arscott. On the ground Corporal (broken arm) Geoff Lindsay and Signalman 'Tafi' Thomas

role. Last but by no means least, they are responsible for the construction and maintenance of all the Jontz masts used by the UN in Cyprus. At the moment there are 20 of these masts varying in height between 40 - 120 feet. The Troop's third task is line and a very close liaison between our Signals Staff Officer, **Captain Karl Stainer** (Austria) and the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority is jealously guarded, as they are responsible for the maintenance of all the private wires and STD lines between the various contingents. Our own line section is responsible for internal lines—of which there are a vast multitude, and it says a lot for their hard work when I say the line complaints are minimal. Looking at the fault report sheet in the mornings, the most recurring entries seem to be 'no fault found' and 'handset incorrectly replaced' and other digital problems.

Sport

The UNFICYP inter-contingent badminton championships were held on 23rd February at 9 Signal Regiment and the HQ and camp team of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Cheesman, Staff Sergeant Mason** (REME), **Sergeant Wallace** (REME), **Corporal Scammel** (RCT) and **Corporal Taylor** (644) wound up champions. The quote of the tournament came from the Yeoman while **Ma'or-General D. Prem Chand** (Force Commander) was making the presentation, "This is the only time I've won a medal by LOSING all my matches."

The Headquarters Sergeants' Mess football team got through to the final of the 'European Cup, Mercury Trophy' for British Sergeants' Messes in Cyprus, unfortunately getting beaten 9-0 by Dhekelia Garrison Mess in the end. The Royal Corps were well represented in this by having five players in the team—**W.O.2 Cheesman, W.O.2 Pittock, Staff Sergeant Watson, Sergeant Northey** and **Sergeant Bailey** (our tame helicopter pilot).

The Troop has just successfully completed an Inter-Unit Pentathlon + 1 competition, gaining first place in the volleyball, hockey, basketball and quiz sections, third in the driving tests and sixth in the football for a total of 70 points out of a possible 84. As the Yeoman organised the competition, the murmurs of 'fix' can be heard far and wide. A total of eight teams took part in the competition and for one month at least, everyone got involved in some kind of sport.

Finally, a word about our Troop dinners. All Officers and SNCOs of the Troop are 'dined out' at the end of their tour. I felt a special mention should be made of the last one when **Sergeants Geoff Northey** and **Ted Bird** were dined out. After the dinner, the OC made his usual speech of farewell and then, in reply, was presented with a beautifully prepared booklet entit'ed '30 Of The Better Excuses For Latecomers'; these had been carefully noted over the months and now the OC just has to ring up and say "Number 23"—saves a lot of time.

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H.Q. 11 Sig Gp (V), Liverpool

These photographs were taken at 11th Signal Group's study period and dinner on 24/25 February. The occasion was used to say farewell to the outgoing Deputy Commander, Colonel W. N. Lang, E.R.D., A.D.C. Amongst the distinguished guests at the Dinner was the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Robert Meadows. Above, a cross section of those attending the study period. Front row (*left to right*): S.O. in C., Brigadier Jackson, Major-General Buntrock ACOS CANDE SHAPE), Lieutenant Colonel Crawford (31st Signal Regiment), Lieutenant Colonel Knight (CANDE Division SHAPE), Lieutenant Colonel Booth (33rd Signal Regiment)

(*Right*)—a cheerful party at the dinner. Major Edward Emmett (*centre*), Adjutant of the host Regiment enjoying the fruits of his labours

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

'Wintex '73'

WHAT may sound to some like the dream of a lifetime came true for a lone Royal Signals technician when he and 23 young ladies spent a fortnight together on the Continent. It happened as he accompanied **Second Lieutenant Pat Ludiman,** 19 data telegraphists and three cooks (all from the WRAC) when they left Birmingham on the 4th March for 13 days to help out on exercise 'Wintex '73.'

Those 13 days proved to be both hectic and filled with hard work. The girls all worked shifts under the command of 28th Signal Regiment, with traffic flowing thick and fast in conditions which cannot always be readily simulated by a TAVR unit in the U.K. Four of the telegraphists went to Rheindahlen to the Northern Army Group peace-time location to help 'man' the communications centre there. The remainder were split into two groups, one to work at Switch A and the other to work at HQ Northern Army Group Mobile. The cooks did splendid work throughout, providing cups of tea as required and making some superb apple sponges. Altogether wonderful experience for everyone.

During the second week our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby,** paid a visit to Germany and his arrival did much to bring back smiles to weary faces and to give that little uplift to help contend with the last few days. The smiles returned with a vengeance on the way back to St. Tonis at the end of the exercise and the most was made of **Corporal Linda Allen's** birthday as an extra reason for the party held in the Corporals' Mess on the evening of the 16th March.

Thanks must go to 28th Signal Regiment for their help and organisation which was first class and a prime factor in what, for us, was a very successful Wintex. Our thanks also go to 16th Signal Regiment for kindly providing accommodation in their barracks both before and after the exercise.

At the end of it all the journey back to Birmingham was quick and uneventful and it was so nice to be met by a reception committee at Stoney Lane (RHQ) and then to go home to a hot bath and SLEEP.

WINTEX 73 (1)

Private Christine Pitt (*left*) and Private Lynne Brain make friends with a member of the German Military Police whom they met during the exercise

WINTEX, 73 (2)

Relaxing while off shift near Osnabruck—*from left:* Sergeant Christine Allen, Corporal Sheila Edwards, Lance-Corporal Diane Cox, Private Jean Fulton, Private Yvonne Waterworth, and Second Lieutenant Pat Ludiman

Back to the grind — Exercise 'March Hare Two'

For us Summer Camp 1972 was more of an Autumn Camp and a result of this was that the Christmas festivities and the winter set in almost before we had wiped the dust of Germany off our boots. In fact it was late March before the first full scale exercise since Camp came around to offer us the chance to shake out the rust and get our communications machine going again.

Certainly many of the rules had been forgotten, many of the faces were new and looked confused and several of the old and bold were more then willing to conduct their annual experiments in audacity. **Staff Sergeant Donald Thomas,** from Hereford, set the pace for the latter by hiding 95 Squadron's Y Troop HQ nicely, but somewhat remotely, in a bit of countryside that he could call his very own in a brave attempt at UDI. He was eventually found by following a mystery telephone cable and was dragged, complaining to the end, back into the fold. Yeomanry habits, it appears, die hard.

April Fool's Day started very early with an 06.30 stand-to which was eventually accepted as being more than a grotesque joke and weary figures struggled to the camp perimeter ready to defend to the last; which seemed to many to be very close. **Major Derek Eve,** the Regiment's messing officer, added to the confusion by posting a large notice proclaiming 'Swill Only' outside the Cookhouse. Opinions as to its real meaning varied from its being the menu through to being an attempt to get on the right side of the Trade Descriptions Act.

Later in the day some 200 motor cycles arrived to take part in a trial in the same old quarry which housed the Regiment's switching centre and associated temporary 'buildings.' It emerged that the ground had been double booked and as neither side would give way the trial went on with more hazards than usual as such danger spots as Cookhouse Corner and Bogside Bend were added to the course.

It should be recorded that most of the communications eventually happened, including good HF radio links to Germany by courtesy of 'B' Troop and 16 Signal Regiment, and that we now look forward with a new confidence to the 1973 season.

There's life in the old mess yet

Life in the Sergeants' Mess recently has been busy. On 4th March a coach trip from Birmingham to Coventry was organised to see 'Alladin' at the Coventry Theatre which starred Mike and Bernie Winters. The outing was arranged by **Sergeant Bill Holmes.** On the way home it was discovered that **Sergeant Niall Murphy** happened to have his harmonica with him and the kids offered a small fee for him to play. Luckily the parents got wind of it in time and offered a larger fee not to play so all ended well.

During the past few weeks the Mess has been completely transformed with the erection of a new bar, new wallpaper and a new stereo unit complete with new records as the old 78s wouldn't fit on the new unit. An imitation brick fireplace on small wheels now forms a centrepiece with divides the Mess in two and can be moved to suit the occasion.

The new decor was christened with a Pyjama Party which for some reason (perhaps shyness) was not as well supported as expected. The hit, or should it be miss, of a very enjoyable night was **Sergeant Roger Jennings** of the LAD who turned up in a long dressing gown, ammo boots, a frilly nighty with matching accessories and a long blond wig. During the party the lights were suitably dimmed and the R.S.M. made the mistake of offering the 'young lady' home. When the lights were put on both parties were very disappointed.

On the 24th March, the Mess held its Annual Ball at the TAC in Golden Hillock Road, Birmingham. About 200 people attended including our Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier The Rev. C. Nettleship,** our C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby,** and Second-in-Command, **Major Keith Harmon,** and their wives. An excellent running buffet was provided and the WRAC did a good job as waitresses throughout the evening.

Open day at 89 Squadron

The doors of the Rugby TAC were recently thrown wide to the public as 89 (Warwickshire) Signal Squadron held an Open Day which was very well supported and attracted a large number of visitors. More than usual interest was shown by some knowledgeable young men from the local Air Training Corps and the Army Cadet Force whilst a group of amateur radio enthusiasts thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to talk medium radio with 'B' Troop operators and to examine their D11 sets. Other delights included Hot Dogs a la ACC prepared by **Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller** and Co. and a weapon training demonstration by **Corporal Campbell** and **Signalman Cross** given between attempts to fight off light fingered cadets. **Corporal Phillips** took sadistic delight in dressing unsuspecting guests in NBC suits, respirators and steel helmets and then inviting them to double around the TAC in what was effectively a portable turkish bath.

A Mr. Andrew Fairfoot (age five) wrote, in thanks as follows:

> Dear Mr. Army Manager,
> I came to see your display last Sunday it was great, please can I be yore mascot, I have got a battle dress and stripes, and medals out of the Bubbly Gum machine.
> Lots of luve,
> Andrew.
> P.S. I can do rifle drill and march, too.

Needless to say that 89 Squadron are keeping a close eye on young Andrew with 1986 recruiting figures in mind.

Wladislaw Nowak (ex Lance-Corporal Polish Army) being presented with a Silver Tankard by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel K. Kirkby

The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel K. G. White presenting the Honorary Colonel, Colonel T. B. Langton, M.C., with a silver statuette in appreciation of his service as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. On retirement he was made Honorary Corporal of the Regiment

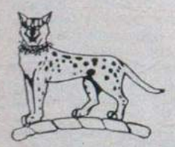
Old soldiers never die

Wednesday, 28th March was the 65th birthday of **Mr. Wladislaw (Walter to his friends) Nowak** who is soon to retire and so to sever his full-time connection with the British Army which began when he joined the Free Polish Army in 1941. He served with the Polish Corps in many countries, was decorated for gallantry at Monte Casino and then, sadly, lost his leg in a minefield at Bologna. After three years in hospital he was demobilised and went to work for CEPO at Long Marston, where he stayed for almost 20 years. His last two years have been spent at RHQ, 35th (South Midlands) Signal Regiment (Volunteers).

He never married because he was always too busy. He does, however, have a brother in Canada and plans to visit him now that he has the time. The permanent military and civilian staff presented him with a silver tankard at a lunch party on his birthday in thanks for all that he had done and in the hope that using it would remind him of happy times with the Regiment and the British Army.

Congratulations

W.O.2 Harry Sankey, of 58 (Staffordshire) Signal Squadron, was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours List. He modestly claims that he doesn't know why he should have been chosen but even ignoring his long and eventful career as a Regular with the Royal Signals, including a long time as a key figure in the Motor Cycle Demonstration team, the effort, enthusiasm and capability which he has put into the Regiment since his arrival alone justifies his decoration and we offer our sincere congratulations on it.



39 Sig Regt (V) London

Appreciation — Colonel T. B. Langton, MC, MA

COLONEL **Thomas Langton** retired on 31st March as the Honorary Colonel of 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers). He was dined out by the Officers of the Regiment in the Officers' Mess, Worship Street. It was a family occasion in that not only the Officers' wives were present, but also close Corps and TAVR friends of **Colonel Tom** — the Master of Signals **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, Major-General and Mrs. J. M. Sawers, Brigadier and Mrs. D. E. Warren** and **Brigadier and Mrs. H. E. C. Weldon.**

The Officers presented him with a solid silver statuette of Mercury whilst in return he made a large monetary donation to the Mess.

Colonel Tom was educated at Radley and Jesus College, Cambridge. Whilst at University he rowed against Oxford in 1937 and 1938; the latter year he was President of the CUBC. In 1939 he was called to the Bar (Middle Temple), but a legal career was quickly thwarted for at the outbreak of the war he joined the Royal Navy as an Ordinary Seaman. In 1940 he received a commission in the Irish Guards and subsequently transferred to the Commandos, later serving with the Special Air Service. During that time he was awarded the Military Cross and was mentioned in despatches.

After the war he became Chairman of Leslie Langton and Son Ltd., Underwriting Agents, Master of the Skinners' Company in 1964/65 and finally in January of this year Deputy Chairman of Lloyds.

The Regiment has been associated with the Skinners' Company since 1954 and has always chosen the Honorary Colonel from one of the Past Masters. It was therefore very appropriate for **Colonel Tom** to be appointed Honorary Colonel of the Regiment in 1966. His wealth of experience has been a great help to Commanding Officers, especially during the period immediately after the re-organisation of 65th (City of London) Signal Regiment TA and 92nd Signal Regiment AER in 1967. He has shown great interest in people, in men and girls of the Regiment which now includes Squadrons in Dundee, Tunbridge Wells, Banbury and Worship Street. In recognition of his service, the Regiment has appointed him as Honorary Corporal following the best traditions of the French Army now that the country is in the EEC.

The Regiment extend their best wishes to **Colonel Tom** and **Mrs. Langton** and hope that they will visit the Regiment from time to time.

Senior NCOs

At a Senior NCOs' training weekend we were proud to dine out the RSM who has now learned to talk proper and has been posted as **Lieutenant Terry Martin** to 259 Signal Squadron in Cyprus. The highlight of the evening was a presentation to **Lieutenant Martin** of 'This Is Your Life' by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John (or should it be Eamon?) Hill.** Many of **Terry's** acquaintances during his 22 years of service were traced, including **Major Ron Etherington, W.O.1 Steve Bressloff, ex-W.O.1 Frank Simpson, ex-W.O.2 Eddie Maskell** and **ex-Staff Sergeant Bob Burnett,** the latter three being well and truly civilianised now.

The dining-out night also gave us the opportunity to dine out the Honorary Colonel, **Colonel T. B. Langton, M.C.,** who has served the Regiment for seven years, and to dine into the Mess for the first time the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White.** In appreciation of his devotion to the Regiment, **Colonel Langton** was presented with a magnificent silver rosebowl by the Mess members, and in return, he himself presented both the Lynx Club and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess with six beautiful tankards.

We welcomed to the Regiment this month a new RSM— **W.O.1 Jack Howker,** and wish him and his family a happy tour with the Regiment.

Squadrons' activities

2 Squadron (Dundee) gave a resounding farewell to their PSI **Staff Sergeant Wally Marsden** (en route to Germany) and welcomed the new boy **Sergeant Neil McDonald,** while at Banbury (5 Squadron) a most successful discotheque was held and between 250 and 300 members and guests danced and dined the night away. Over £60 was raised towards Squadron funds.

Exercising

We now look forward to a most successful spring exercise (Fulminate) where the Regiment will be communicating back to UK from Gibraltar, Cyprus and BAOR. These exercises prove to be most valuable to TAVR personnel giving them a brief glimpse of life with a Regular Unit. Indeed we are indebted to these Units throughout Europe who act as our hosts and render any assistance and advice when necessary.

RECRUITING DRIVE

39th Signal Regiment's (V) recruiting stand certainly caught the eye of passers-by in the heart of the City of London

Recruiting

Once again the Regiment has been a hive of activity, and March can be described as coming in like a lamb and going out like a lion, culminating in the first ever solo flight of the Regimental Recruiting Stand hovering three feet above the forecourt of Brittanic House in the City of London, before crashing in gale force winds into the nearby fountain. However, resolute efforts by the Permanent Staff managed to salvage from the debris of equipment and matchwood enough material to produce a four-ton mounted equipment stand in an all-out drive to draw more recruits into the Regiment.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

AN officers' cocktail party took place on Friday, 26th January. Despite the prevailing security situation it was an outstanding success. Among the civil dignatories were the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Belfast, **Alderman** and **Mrs. Christie,** and the acting regional director of the BBC. The military guests present included **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.,** our Group Commander, **Brigadier H. E. M. L. Garratt,** Chief of Staff HQ Northern Ireland and **Colonel E. D. R. Shearer, O.B.E., TD, DL,** the chairman of the T & AVR Association for Northern Ireland.

Recruiting

Recruiting in the Regiment continues to be very successful. This resulted in the passing-out of our latest recruit squad. A very high standard of training had been set and this was reflected by the hard work done by our training wing. The result was a very smart recruit squad who are now undergoing trade training.

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Rogers** presented shields to the best soldier recruit, **Signalman Robert Davidson,** and to the best WRAC recruit, **Private Heather Butler** respectively.

Our quarterly RISPOINT draw for the soldier who managed to obtain the most recruits for the Regiment was held on Sunday, 1st April. The winner was **Corporal Nat Campbell,** who won a bottle of whisky for recruiting three recruits during the period. Many of the Regiment are now receiving attractive gifts for their recruiting efforts.

Shooting — Annual range course

The annual range course was fired at Ballykinlar on Saturday/Sunday 24/25th March. Due to circumstances beyond our control no accommodation was available, which meant that a two hour journey was required each day.

The attendance of over 250 personnel each day tells its own story in the magnificent support given to the venture by the Regiment.

With an allocation of one range only, over 220 fired the course, and taking into consideration that the T & AVR have very limited opportunities to fire on the range during the year, the following results were obtained:

SLR Marksmen 58
SMG Marksmen 72

The McCann trophy, presented by the Honorary Colonel, **Colonel J. McCann, TD,** awarded to the Squadron with the highest percentage of marksmen and first class shots (SLR) held on strength, was won for the second year in succession by 85 (Ulster) Squadron. Headquarters Squadron were the winners of the Regimental SMG cup which is awarded to the Squadron with the highest percentage of SMG marksmen held on strength.

New arrivals

We welcome our new MT NCO from Hong Kong, **Staff Sergeant John Bayne;** our new PSI for Ballymoney, **Sergeant Phil Atherton,** from 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron; **Sergeant Dave Bayley,** our new combat powerman from 7 Signal Regiment.

Departures

We say farewell to **Staff Sergeant John Johnson,** our MT NCO, who has in the past five years tested hundreds of potential drivers and heavy goods vehicle drivers. Good wishes **John** and **Winifred** and good luck to you as SSM HQ Squadron 10 Signal Regiment. **Sergeant Dave McClenaghan,** our PSI from the wilds of Ballymoney, who is putting down his fishing rod to go to 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, best wishes to you **Dave** and **Helen.**

Sport

Lance-Corporal Joe Seeley is congratulated for his performance in the Northern Ireland TAVR cross-country championships, in which he came in fifth. This gained him a place in the UK TAVR championships, in which he came in fifth again. He then went on to Aldershot to represent the TAVR against the Regular Army. Unfortunately, due to illness he had to drop out during the race. He tells us that he went out next morning on a training run, and beat the man who won the race! Doubtless he was armed with a shillelagh!

Annual Reserve Army ball

The annual Reserve Army ball was held on Friday, 6th April, at the Lancaster Hotel, London. A strong Regimental delegation was despatched and from the red-eyed expressions on their faces a good time was had by all. However, more of this in the next issue.

12 Signal Group study period

Our group study was held on Saturday, 7th April, at the Imperial College, London. Our Regimental participants enjoyed the study and experiences were exchanged by all participants.

Exercises

Both of our Sabre Squadrons have been exercising both here in Ulster and on the mainland during the past two months. An account of 66 (City of Belfast) Signal Squadron recent exercise has been rendered by **Captain Bill Nesbitt**, Second-in-Command of the Squadron:

Exercise 'Trial Shot'

This exercise was held in preparation for Exercise 'Shot Two.' The Squadron had the task of providing radio relay links between Scotland and Headquarters Northern Ireland, using C41s.

The Squadron moved to Scotland in two parties, the vehicle party going by the Stranraer ferry at 13.00 hours and the main body following them four hours later by train and coach. Both parties stayed overnight in the TAVR drill hall in Stranraer. The following morning we left at 07.30 hours and moved to our operating locations at Cairn Pat, Beneraird and Troon, all in Scotland. (First prize goes to those who can find Cairn Pat and Beneraird on the map before THE WIRE is published!). The other terminal was at Portaferry in Northern Ireland. Two weeks previously 74 (Antrim Artillery) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) had assisted the Regiment by building a road which had been washed away at the Beneraird site. They had done an excellent job, but unfortunately as soon as our vehicles had cleared the rebuilt section they bogged down in the soft roadway beyond, and not for several hours were these vehicles recovered. It was obvious that we would not be able to get to the top of Beneraird to set up our relays. **Captain Harry Squance**, OC Comcen 'N' Troop, therefore decided to try out his relay from where he was some 200 feet down from the hill top. The siting of the antennas was done in cloud, and when erected, the Yagi antenna could not be seen from the ground.

At Troon, however, conditions were considerably better, as **Lieutenant (Traffic) Eddie Canale** had managed to get the use of a house for our headquarters.

Due to getting bogged down at Beneraird and not being able to leave the road, we lost approximately eight hours as we had to put three co-avial leads to each antenna and it was a two hour run each way to obtain these leads. However, good communications were finally established and, lo and behold, hard copy flew between Scotland and Northern Ireland.

On our return to Northern Ireland, the main party flew-back on Monday morning from Glasgow Airport to Belfast, the vehicle party returning by the Ardrossan ferry a lot later on board MV Lion from Ardrossan.

The Squadron's thanks go to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Dundonald Camp, Troon, whose hospitality was more than first class, and to 74 (Antrim Artillery) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) for their excellent bit of road — oh that the remainder had been as good!

Faraway Places!

Unusual Jobs!

Let us have that story NOW!

Sport

Corps Hockey Season 1972-73

With only the Festival fixtures at Bournemouth still to play it is perhaps an appropriate time to report on the 1972-73 season. The results of Festival matches tend to depend on factors not entirely connected with hockey and are therefore best left to a separate report.

The first weekend of the Corps season was taken up by trials, a coaching session and two matches. Unfortunately Thistles HC were unable to fulfill their annual tour and Corps fixture but this afforded an opportunity for a Corps 'A' side to turn out aginst the Harrogate boys. This extra trial brought to light some worthwhile talent destined for the Corps in the next year or two.

Although the first match against Norton HC was lost 1-0, the same side was selected for the Army Hockey Weekend. From the matches there, **Corporal Peter Havlin, Lieutenant Willie Brewin, Captain Steve Carr-Smith** and **Major Jim McLuckie** were selected to play in the final Army trial. **Peter Havlin** and **Jim McLuckie** later went on to Combined Services Trials.

As the season got under way, more established players became available and some team changes were made. Nevertheless no fewer than nine new players qualified for Corps colours and seven others played for the Corps for the first time. The total number of players who represented the Corps this season is 36—about the same as in previous years. A complete list of players is shown below.

Results throughout the season have been varied with eight matches won, eight lost and 2 drawn. Three matches — versus Thistles, RAMC and Durham University — were cancelled by our opponents. The season's results are shown below in detail.

As might be expected, results depended on the strength of the team fielded. There is no doubt that a full Corps side is as strong as any other Corps in the Army although this may not be reflected by this season's results. The matches versus the Royal Marines (won 6-3) and 90 Signal Group RAF (won 5-1) bear this out. The Corps fielded a strong side for each of these matches and on the hard pitch at Blandford were far too good for our opponents. In this respect it may be said that we have played consistently well on shale whilst struggling somewhat on our opponents' grass pitches. The doubt is whether we should play more matches on shale or switch our home matches to a grass pitch? This question may be more easily answered when the new grass pitch at Blandford is up to Corps match standard.

One further improvement was in our goal-scoring ability. Although we conceded 40 goals we also scored 38 and this is our highest total for a number of years. The goals have been fairly evenly spread throughout the team but our leading scorers were **Lieutenants Brian Chubb** (8) and **Willie Brewin** (7). These two play centre-forward or centre-half and a coin is normally needed to decide who plays where for each game!

Major Jim McLuckie has had an extremely good season. He is a determined captain on the field and a most diligent secretary off it; he has been selected regularly for the Army and Combined Services and has played consistently well throughout the season. **Lieutenant Bill Brewin** was twice selected to represent the Army and **Second-Lieutenant 'Paddy' Crowley** has been a regular member of the Army Under-22 team.

In summary, the season may be described as average. Many young players gained valuable experience at Corps level and it is hoped that this benefit will be felt next year.

List of players 1972/73

Major J. F. Higton, Major L. J. Pertwee, Major S. G. McK. Gordon, Major J. G. McK. McLuckie, Captain P. Pearson, Captain P. J. K. Dickinson, Captain S. R. Carr-Smith, Captain A. H. Boyle, Captain R. Barry, Lieutenant W. B. Brewin, Lieutenant J. R. B. Cook, Lieutenant B. Chubb, Lieutenant W. P. Crowley, Lieutenant M. J. Crane, Lieutenant A. J. Hutt, Lieutenant J. Kay, W.O.1 M. D. McMahon, Y. of S. Cook, W.O.2 O. Mahoney, Sergeant J. Wood, Sergeant M. D. Weaver, Sergeant M. Collins, Sergeant R. M. Gallagher, Sergeant T. A. Hyde, Sergeant R. H. Couch, Sergeant L. Rowland-Jones, Corporal J. M. Carter, Corporal H. S. Kernohan, Corporal P. Havlin, Corporal R. G. Hunter, Corporal J. Reeves, Corporal Moran, Corporal Hunt, Lance-Corporal J. Kelway, Signalman C. R. Wooff, Signalman K. S. Bowe.

Welbeck match only: Lieutenant-Colonel K. Kirby, Major M. A. T. Hartnett, Lieutenant A. Clark, Lieutenant R. J. R. West.

Results 1972-73

Versus Norton, lost 0-1; RAPC, won 1-0; Infantry, lost 0-4; Dorset, lost 1-4; RAOC, lost 3-4; REME, won 4-3; RE, lost 0-4; RA, drew 2-2; RMAS, won 2-0; RM, won 6-3; RAC, drew 2-2; RMCS, lost 1-2; 90 Group RAF, won 5-1; RCT, won 4-1; Staff College, lost 2-3; HAC, won 3-0; Welbeck (Officers), won 2-1; Newcastle University, lost 0-5.

Report of Corps Rugby Tour — March 1973

The problems of a rugby team secretary are seldom easily solved and a typical example of such problems occurred on the March tour, when but a week before the March trials of 25 players invited to attend, 11 only were found to be available. Co-incidental with the March tour was the arrival in UK of the 7 Signal Regiment team, on a pre-Army Cup Final training tour. Despite their own difficulties with injuries they proved their worth in a very useful trial game on 3rd March and in providing players in the tour games.

The first two games produced wins for the Corps. Against 90 (Signals) Group we managed but one try, but throughout there was a confidence which was never shaken. In the RMA game we scored four tries and our own line remained intact, although RMA notched 12 points from kicks. The last game we were very anxious to win as RCT had defeated us the previous season. It wasn't to be despite having a good part of the play.

90 Signal Group RAF

In a game played at Henlow, Royal Signals opened their spring tour with a narrow win over 90 (Signal) Group RAF. The RAF kicked off in light rain and followed up strongly, and held the Corps in their 25 area for the first minutes. No panic developed and gradually play moved up field and in turn Royal Signals began to harry the opposition. They were dominant in the tight but found that in the rucks they had worthy opponents, while line outs were about even. Royal Signals made a number of thrusts which might have brought a score but it was not until a few minutes from half-time that Ray Marshall burst away for a 30-yard dash to the RAF line and handed the ball to Sam Degei to score near the posts. The conversion failed.

RAF opened the second half with great dash and were very unlucky in not getting a try when their international wing streaked for the corner. Charlie Abbott managed to force him to put a foot in touch. From then it became a ding-dong affair with probably Royal Signals just having the edge during this period. Mel Wilson almost got another try, being held a foot away from the line.

It was a good clean and even game played in not very good conditions and enjoyed by players and spectators.

RMAS

Playing in excellent conditions Signals struck hard in the first minute, winning two rucks and a quick passing movement found Charlie Abbott in the line to cross in the corner. RMA then settled but none of their ploys found gaps and it was only after 25 minutes of probing that they were rewarded with a successful penalty. Almost immediately Signals replied with a try which was grounded by Ian Cooper. Full-back Charlie Abbott converted. Back came RMA with a drop goal, and as if stung to reply the Corps swept down field and from a strong burst by Sam Degei, stand-off Peter Stuart made the touch down, which produced a 14 points to six lead at half-time.

The second half swung back and fore and RMA added penalties in the 20th and 13th minutes and might very easily have gone ahead with an easy penalty which was missed five minutes from time. The game ended with intense Signals pressure and Bill McConnel made it safe by blocking a kick, a quick pick up and a 20-yard scamper to the line.

RCT

Last season RCT fielded a very big pack and we lost by four points. On 9th March, because of injuries to Sergeant Ian Cairns and Signalman Pat Lee we took the field with a much lighter pack and this again was our undoing. The game was played in good conditions and having weathered an early assault our backs showed some good running but first blood came to RCT when after 25 minutes their stand-off was allowed to dodge his way over in a corner. A few minutes later Charlie Abbott scored a penalty, but before the interval RCT increased their lead to 7 points to 3 with a penalty.

The second half saw the Corps being outrucked by the heavier pack and hesitancy in defence let in two tries and although Abbott scored two good penalties with a few minutes to go the RCT lead had stretched to 18 points to our nine. It was then that Bill McConnell snapped up a try which Charlie Abbott converted. The RCT were well satisfied with a three-point win, when they might so easily have lost.

Royal Signals Regatta and Triangular Match, Sea View

This year's Royal Signals Unit and Individual Regatta will be held at the Sea View Yacht Club, Isle of Wight, on 19th and 20th June.

A notice has been sent out to all UK units and formations, in addition to individual members who are known to be interested. Anyone who has not received a notice and wishes to participate should contact the Racing Secretary (**Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. N. Lyons**), School of Signals, Blandford (ext 243). Closing date for entry is 31st May.

The Triangular Match against the RA and RE Yacht Clubs will be held on 21st and 22nd June. Team selection will be made during the Royal Signals Regatta.

CORPS HOCKEY STARS OF THE FUTURE?
The Army Apprentices' College Harrogate, winners of this year's Army Junior Hockey Competition
Back row: A/Ts Andrew McKinley, Tony Reynolds, Lance-Corporal Graham Robertson, Kevin Hepple, Gerry Delaney
Front row: A/Ts Dave Fry, Tony Brine, Corporal Stephen Farrar, Alan Reece (Capt.), George Wilson, Vic Cornell, Nick Gaunt

Apprentices' College win Army Junior Hockey Cup

At last, this turned out to be 'our year' and our name is safely inscribed on the Army Junior Hockey Cup. In the final, played at Aldershot on Wednesday, 21st March, we beat the RAOC by an incredible 10 goals to nil—no, that wasn't a misprint in the *Daily Telegraph*.

In the first round we were drawn against the Junior Leaders' Regiment RA, the holders, who had beaten us 3-2 in the previous year's final. A 'damned close-run thing' it was too, but we scrambled home by four penalty strokes to three after a 2-2 draw. Many thought that this would be our hardest game, and so it proved. In the second round JTR Troon withdrew, leaving us to meet Arborfield in the semi-final—and to beat them more comfortably than a 2-0 score suggests.

The Cup was presented by **Colonel Dennis Eagan,** a former Great Britain Olympics player, now Chairman of the Army Hockey Association, who described the final as "a jolly good game of hockey." And that, for all the score, was what it was. Full credit to RAOC, who never gave up trying to do what they could; the trouble is that, on the day, it simply wasn't enough. They were outshone in every aspect of the game; on our form that day, there isn't a junior side in the Army who could have coped with us.

RAOC hopes, one felt, were ended as early as the eighth minute, when **A/T Tony Reynolds** cut in from the left wing, collected a pass laid to the exact blade of grass by **A/T Gerry Delaney** (a last-minute substitute for **A/T Dave Fry,** who had broken his thumb the previous day), changed feet on the edge of the circle and fired in a shot that the goalkeeper could only have heard. After that goals came, of all kinds, from all angles, from all five forwards, and at half-time we led 6-0.

There followed, after the interval, some rather scrappy play when our team, perhaps understandably, lost its edge, but **A/T Alan Reece,** the captain, rallied his side to notch up another four goals. The final tally was: **A/T Tony Reynolds,** 4; **A/T Alan Reece,** 3; **A/T Corporal Stephen Farrar,** 1; **A/T Kevin Hepple,** 1; **A/T Gerry Delaney,** 1.

The defence did its job with unruffled efficiency: **A/T George Wilson** had only two shots to save, and made them look easy; **A/T Lance-Corporal Graham Robertson** at centre-half was for many the man of the match, with excellent positional play, deft tackling and astute distribution of the ball; wing-halves were **A/Ts Andrew McKinley** and **Tony Brine;** full-backs, **A/Ts Vic Cornell** and **Nick Gaunt.**

But when all is said and done, the Cup Final was but the climax of a highly succesful season in which, for the first time, we regularly fielded two elevens. Results are:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals for	Goals ag'st
Team A	29	20	7	2	112	54
Team B	14	9	4	1	42	25

We also won the Welbeck College Six-a-Side Tournament, beating Welbeck in the final 3-1.

Representative honours, too, have come in plenty, not least the fact that we have produced no less than one-quarter of the Army Under-22 squad, formed this season. **A/Ts Alan Reece, Tom Delaney** and **Tony Reynolds** are to be congratulated on being awarded their Army Under-22 Colours. Individual successes are:

A/T Alan Reece (inside-left) — Army Under-22 (all eight matches), Yorkshire Central District (adults), Yorkshire North District Schools.

A/T Tom Delaney (right-half) — Army Under-22 (all eight matches), Yorkshire Central District (adults), Yorkshire North District Schools.

A/T Tony Reynolds (left-wing) — Army Under-22 (five matches), Yorkshire North District Schools.

A/T Tony Quinn (goalkeeper) — Army Under-22 (v RAF), Yorkshire Schools (County Colours), Yorkshire North District Schools.

A/T George Wilson (goalkeeper) — Army Under-22 (one match—aged 15!), Yorkshire Schools (under 16).

A/T Corporal Stephen Farrar (centre-forward) — travelling reserve Army Under-22 (six matches).

There is plenty of promise, too, among our younger players; in addition to **Wilson, A/Ts Gerry Delaney, Lance-Corporal Joe Stroud** and the **Bain** twins, **George** and **Andrew,** have all had trials for Yorkshire Schools Under-16.

So, all in all, it has been a super season, and great credit is due to **Major Don Turner,** Officer i/c A/T Hockey; **R.Q.M.S. Joe O'Brien,** chief coach, and **Sergeants Rex Couch** and **Barry Brown,** assistant coaches.

Nor must we forget our 'eminence grise,' **Major Bob Edwards,** whose influence and enthusiasm College hockey owes so much. We were delighted that his recovery from severe illness allowed him to see the College do this season what his splendid team of two years ago so narrowly failed to achieve.

Now there would be a match!

Movements

Officers

Major M. M. Barker	... ...	To British Contingent UNFICYP
Major G. Barnett	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Major M. C. Barrett	... ...	„ 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron
Captain R. W. Barry	... ...	„ 239 Signal Squadron
Major J. G. Billingham	... ...	„ HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Lieutenant A. J. Clark	... ...	„ 2 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain K. G. Danby	... ...	„ School of Signals
Lieutenant S. D. Galpin	... ...	„ School of Signals
Captain D. G. W. Gardiner	... ...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant J. N. Howie	... ...	„ School of Signals
Brigadier T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.		„ HQ SHAPE
Captain T. C. McCoy	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Captain D. S. McLuckie	... ...	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. J. Massey, M.B.E.		„ MOD DSS (Central)
Captain R. J. L. Middleton	... ...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Captain P. A. Neale	... ...	„ HQ BAOR Computer Centre
Major W. C. Nicoll	... ...	„ 13 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant C. V. Nind	... ...	„ 3 RTR
Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Olds	... ...	„ 34 Signal Regiment (V)
Major E. W. Penny	... ...	„ School of Signals
Major T. F. Ross	... ...	„ 33 Signal Regiment (V)
Major P. J. Rowland	... ...	„ 261 Signal Squadron
Captain G. C. Saunders	... ...	„ 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Sherrard-Smith		„ 11 Sig Regiment (HS)
Lieutenant-Colonel I. E. Simpson	... ...	„ 11 Sig Regiment (HS)
Lieutenant I. M. G. Strong	... ...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Captain C. R. Urquhart	... ...	„ School of Signals
Major J. H. S. Weston	... ...	„ MOD (PE) EQD
Captain P. J. Whitehead	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Captain M. C. Wilkinson	... ...	„ 244 Signal Squadron

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

W.O.1 R. M. Sanderson	... ...	To 11 Signal Regtiment, 2 Squadron
W.O.1 D. Walker	... ...	„ HQ London District
W.O.2 A. R. Heath	... ...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 A. E. Cooley	... ...	„ 24 Airptbl Bde Signal Squadron
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. M. Ferguson	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. A. Dodman	...	„ 227 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 F. G. Froggatt	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 A. J. T. Burt	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 T. T. G. Mullord	... ...	„ 19 Airptbl Bde Signal Squadron
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. Simpson	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. L. Jackson	...	„ 11 Signal Regiment, 2 Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. P. S. McInally		„ 11 Signal Regiment, 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. H. Foster	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment, 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant M. Jennings	... ...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Watson	... ...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. S. Reid	... ...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. H. Golding	... ...	„ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. A. Hughes	...	„ Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant W. Marsden	... ...	„ 2 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Devey	... ...	„ 11 Signal Regiment, 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. D. Harris		„ 641 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. W. Abrahams		„ HQ AFSOUTH
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. J. Porritt		„ 4 Communications Unit
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. R. McRae		„ CV HQ & Training Wing
Staff Sergeant D. R. Heyes	... ...	„ 24 Airptbl Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. McGimpsey	... ...	„ 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. Walsh	... ...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. R. Wareing	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. D. Morrissey	... ...	„ 234 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Sargent	... ...	„ 259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. H. Van-Ross	... ...	„ 259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. S. Dew	... ...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Peplow	... ...	„ 19 Airptbl Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant W. Higman	... ...	„ 32 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant N. Fenwick	... ...	„ MAT Gulf
Sergeant J .E. Bradford	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Sells	... ...	„ 4 Signal Group
Sergeant V. Towler	... ...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Menzies	... ...	„ 6 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. D. Whall	... ...	„ 580 RL DET
A/Sergeant J. Dunn	... ...	„ Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl
A/Sergeant R. D. P. Griffiths	...	„ 7 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. D. Little	... ...	„ MVEE
Sergeant A. E. Vaughan	... ...	„ 2 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Sedgbeer	... ...	„ 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. H. Norrie	... ...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. G. Metcalfe	... ...	„ 229 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. Patterson	... ...	„ 233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Whittingham	... ...	„ 10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Firth	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Walley	... ...	„ 8 Inf Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. N. Jenner	... ...	„ School of Signals
Sergeant D. J. McClenaghan	...	„ 7 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant P. F. Taylor	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. J. Beadle	... ...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. Llewellyn	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. H. Berger	... ...	„ 2 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. Johnson	... ...	„ 12 Mech Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant L. A. Peake	... ...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Wright	... ...	„ 8 Signal Regiment

Promotions

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
		REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL		
To W.O.1				
Prees,	J.V.	A/W.O.1	12 Jun. 72	7 Oct. 69
Aldous,	R.W.	A/W.O.1	5 Sep. 72	30 Jul. 69
Meredith,	C.	A/W.O.1	6 Sep. 72	29 Apr. 70
Walton,	A.S.	A/W.O.1	18 Sep. 72	19 May 70
Binks,	C.	A/W.O.1	4 Oct. 72	16 Oct. 69
Hammill,	T.D.	A/W.O.1	10 Oct. 72	1 Jan. 62
Bishop,	R.C.	A/W.O.1	14 Oct. 72	28 Aug. 70
Markie,	C.	A/W.O.1	22 Oct. 72	9 Sep. 70
Vasper,	R.	A/W.O.1	7 Nov. 72	7 Jan. 70
To W.O.2		*Trade*		
Williams,	A.	A/W.O.2 Cbt Rmn	1 Nov. 72	3 Mar. 69
Wormall,	K.E.	A/W.O.2 Cbt Sig	2 Nov. 72	5 Mar. 69
Scott,	A.	A/W.O.2 R Tg	3 Nov. 72	8 Feb. 70
Atkin,	R.J.	S/Sgt. Cbt Sig	4 Nov. 72	15 Oct. 70
Cumming,	B.A.	A/W.O.2 Cbt Sig	5 Nov. 72	10 Feb. 70
Vale,	R.G.	A/W.O.2 Cbt Rmn	3 Dec. 72	13 Feb. 70
		STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL		
Hay,	C.	Sgt. Cbt Sig	10 Feb. 70	1 Jan. 61
Coupe,	L.	Sgt. Data Tg	1 Oct. 72	29 Mar. 69
Jones,	R.C.	Sgt. Cbt Lmn	2 Oct. 72	30 Nov. 61
Chambers,	J.G.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Pmn	3 Oct. 72	1 Apr. 70
Harrison,	C.M.	A/S-Sgt. Clk Tech	4 Oct. 72	24 Sep. 68
Steele,	B.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Lmn	5 Oct. 72	4 Mar. 69
Kennard,	G.S.	Sgt. R Tg	6 Oct. 72	20 May 66
Hedges,	L.H.	Sgt. Data Tg	7 Oct. 72	10 Mar. 69
Stokes,	R.J.C.	Sgt. Tele Mech	8 Oct. 72	17 Nov. 70
Redgrave,	J.R.	Sgt. Cbt Lmn	8 Oct. 72	30 Apr. 66
Escott,	W.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Rmn	9 Oct. 72	27 Feb. 64
Reid,	A.S.	Sgt. Cbt Rmn	10 Oct. 72	24 Nov. 64
Woods,	R.J.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Lmn	11 Oct. 72	27 Jun. 65
Cutler,	B.W.	Sgt. Cbt Pmn	12 Oct. 72	21 Aug. 62
Roberts,	R.T.	Sgt. Cbt Pmn	13 Oct. 72	27 Feb. 68
Culverhouse,	S.G.	Sgt. Clk Tech	14 Oct. 72	1 Jan. 70
Phillipson,	J.	Sgt. Clk Tech	15 Oct. 72	28 Dec. 66
Markwell,	G.S.L.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Rmn	1 Nov. 72	21 Jan. 65
Harrison,	J.L.	A/S.Sgt. Cbt Rmn	3 Nov. 72	18 Dec. 67
Young,	J.T.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Lmn	4 Nov. 72	22 May 68
Lori,	P.G.	Sgt. Cbt Rmn	6 Nov. 72	8 Mar. 69
Brown,	L.A.	Sgt. Cbt Rmn	7 Nov. 72	24 Nov. 64
Leslie,	W.H.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Sig	8 Nov. 72	20 Aug. 63
Harrison,	B.	Sgt. R Tg	9 Nov. 72	14 Apr. 67
Williams,	W.G.G.	A/S-Sgt. Data Tg	10 Nov. 72	20 Apr. 65
While,	R.	A/S-Sgt. Cbt Rmn	11 Nov. 72	2 Feb. 66
Waters,	A.R.	Sgt. Cbt Lmn	12 Nov. 72	24 Oct. 63
Blake,	J.G.	Sgt. Cbt Pmn	13 Nov. 72	31 Jan. 66
Needham,	P.F.	A/S-Sgt. Clk Tech	15 Nov. 72	1 Jul. 59
		FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL		
To W.O.1				
Truran,	M.A.	W.O.2	1 Sep. 72	17 Jul. 71
Everett,	T.J.	W.O.2	1 Oct. 72	16 Jan. 71
Rowland,	M.E.	W.O.2	24 Jan. 73	18 Apr. 70
To W.O.2				
Downie,	G.A.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan[67
Pearson,	J.S.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Groom,	M.J.D.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Dyer,	A.F.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Porritt,	A.J.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Alyson,	J.S.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Braniff,	W.J.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Mortenson,	R.P.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Ward,	G.H.D.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Gould,	A.B.	S-Sgt.	26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
		YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL		
To W.O.1				
Martin,	T.	A/W.O.1	5 Sep. 72	17 Apr. 69
To W.O.2				
McHugh,	H.A.	S-Sgt.	1 Nov. 72	30 Nov. 68
Wraith,	J.A.	A/W.O.2	1 Jan. 73	2 Apr. 70
		CHIEF CLERK ROLL		
To W.O.1				
Izzo,	J.H.	A/W.O.1	18 Oct. 72	31 Mar. 69
Williams,	B.K.	A/W.O.1	11 Dec. 72	14 Aug. 69
To W.O.2				
McCluskey,	D.L.	A/W.O.2	17 Oct. 72	13 Jun. 69
Frost,	J.W.I.	A/W.O.2	11 Dec. 72	27 Feb. 70
Burgess,	R.A.	A/W.O.2	12 Dec. 72	1 Jul. 69
To S-Sgt.				
Richardson,	J.M.W.	A/S-Sgt.	26 Oct. 72	24 Sep. 68
Wilkinson,	L.	A/S-Sgt.	27 Oct. 72	19 Nov. 69
Roberts,	J.	A/S-Sgt.	5 Dec. 72	5 Aug. 70
		TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL		
To S-Sgt.				
Greatorex,	B.	Sgt.	12 Sep. 72	24 Jul. 63
To Sgt.				
Bradford,	R.B.	Cpl.	13 Jan. 72	13 Jan. 68
Beall,	R.A.	Cpl.	28 Jun. 72	14 Dec. 67
Brabbins,	P.	Cpl.	28 Jun. 72	4 Dec. 68
Archer,	R.T.	Cpl.	28 Jun. 72	14 Apr. 67
Barron,	A.	Cpl.	27 Jul. 72	11 Aug. 66

Howard,	K.D.	Cpl.	5 Oct. 72	3 Feb. 68
Alibocus,	E.D.	Cpl.	5 Oct. 72	3 Apr. 68
Bradley,	K.J.	Cpl.	5 Oct. 72	5 Feb. 70
Cashen,	A.F.	Cpl.	5 Oct. 72	13 Dec. 68
Davies,	B.	Cpl.	5 Oct. 72	30 Jul. 70
Thomas,	E.J.	Cpl.	13 Oct. 72	17 Dec. 66
Lawrence,	P.A.	Cpl.	7 Nov. 72	7 Nov. 68
Bowers,	D.C.	Cpl.	24 Nov. 72	24 Nov. 68
Harper,	E.A.	Cpl.	24 Nov. 72	24 Nov. 68
Reid-Robertson,	J.J.	Cpl.	29 Dec. 72	4 Jan. 67

Radio Tecnhicians Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Symonds,	M.J.	Sgt.	8 Oct. 72	10 Nov. 67
Jasiok,	J.R.	Sgt.	10 Oct. 72	11 Jun. 70
To Sgt.				
Fielding,	C.J.	Cpl.	13 Apr. 72	10 Jun. 69
Fisher,	D.	Cpl.	17 May 72	11 Aug. 67
Boast,	G.M.	Cpl.	15 Jun. 72	25 Sep. 69
Ellison,	R.J.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	4 Mar. 66
Logie-Campbell	A.J.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	27 Aug. 66
Fraser,	D.D.C.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	22 Jun. 67
French,	R.C.A.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	30 May 68
Henderson,	D.R.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	10 Aug. 68
Berwick,	R.A.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	15 Mar. 69
Barnett,	M.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	13 Dec. 69
Lilley,	G.E.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	25 Jun. 70
Marshall,	T.J.	Cpl.	22 Aug. 72	27 Nov. 70
Matthews,	K.	Cpl.	31 Oct. 72	5 Jun. 68
Holt,	B.F.	Cpl.	16 Nov. 72	12 Dec. 69

Radio Relay Technicians Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Rothwell,	I.C.	Sgt.	27 Sep. 72	30 Jul. 64
Bruce,	P.	Sgt.	30 Sep. 72	28 Jul. 65
To Sgt.				
Morgan,	R.W.	Cpl.	12 Jul. 72	12 Aug. 66
Powell,	E.	Cpl.	28 Jun. 72	9 Aug. 68
Carnegie,	J.G.	Cpl.	28 Jun. 72	20 Nov. 69
Hooker,	P.D.	Cpl.	10 Aug. 72	16 Oct. 69
Bishop,	J.F.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	19 Feb. 67
Broadley,	T.J.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	11 Aug. 67
Guerin,	L.E.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	11 Aug. 67
Curry,	D.F.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	14 Oct. 67
O'Hagan,	K.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	18 Nov. 67
Brown,	G.J.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	22 Dec. 67
Cooper,	D.L.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	12 Aug. 69
Warren,	J.P.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	16 Oct. 69
McMahon,	J.C.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	3 Jul. 68
Sadd,	T.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	8 Oct. 70
Garden,	P. J.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	7 Jan. 71
Mower,	B.E.	Cpl.	19 Sep. 72	10 Aug. 68
Collins,	M.	Cpl.	28 Nov. 72	7 Mar. 70

Telecommunications Mechanic Roll

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
To S-Sgt.				
Stokes,	R.J.C.	Sgt.	8 Oct. 72	17 Nov. 70
To Sgt.				
Milner,	R.	Cpl.	3 Sep. 72	30 Sep. 68
Guyatt,	M.G.	Cpl.	2 Oct. 72	28 Feb. 65
Turner	M.E.	A/Sgt.	6 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 68
Bartrum,	B.L.	Cpl.	10 Oct. 72	31 Jan. 64
Farmer,	G.S.	Cpl.	11 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 65
Stephenson,	D.P.	Cpl.	12 Oct. 72	29 Feb. 68
Essig,	M.A.	Cpl.	13 Oct. 72	30 Sep. 68
Thomas,	B.A.	Cpl.	14 Oct. 72	30 Apr. 70
Sedgbeer,	R.	Cpl.	15 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 70
Stalgis,	F.J.	A/Sgt.	16 Oct. 72	1 Oct. 57
Nulvana,	E.A.	Cpl.	7 Nov. 72	31 Aug. 68
Cowsill,	K.	A/Sgt.	8 Nov. 72	28 Feb. 70
Rodgers,	J.J.	Cpl.	9 Nov. 72	31 May 70

Data Telegraphist Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Coupe,	L.	Sgt.	1 Oct. 72	29 Mar. 69
Hedges,	L.H.	Sgt.	7 Oct. 72	10 Mar. 69
Williams,	W.G.G.	A/S-Sgt.	10 Nov. 72	20 Apr. 65
To Sgt.				
Philbrook,	G.J.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 72	1 May 71
Lister,	D.C.	A/Sgt.	3 Sep. 72	24 Feb. 67
Nelson,	M.W.	Cpl.	4 Sep. 72	10 May 66
Haslegrave,	C.D.	A/Sgt.	5 Sep. 72	15 Jan. 67
Alway,	B.J.	A/Sgt.	6 Sep. 72	1 Jan. 70
Nelson,	T.J.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 72	1 Dec. 66
Anderson,	W.H.	A/Sgt.	2 Oct. 72	30 Sep. 67
Howe,	D.B.	A/Sgt.	6 Oct. 72	1 Dec. 66
Watson,	S.G.	Cpl.	7 Oct. 72	30 Apr. 68
Seales,	A.W.	A/Sgt.	8 Oct. 72	3 Nov. 65
Green,	I.H.T.	Cpl.	11 Nov. 72	3 Sep. 65
McNally,	G.C.	A/Sgt.	12 Nov. 72	16 Dec. 66
Robinson,	W.R.	Cpl.	1 Dec. 72	30 Jun. 68
Butler,	J.G.	Cpl.	11 Dec. 72	1 Sep. 68
Rapley,	G.J.	A/Sgt.	14 Dec. 72	1 Oct. 58
Stanger,	P.	Cpl.	16 Dec. 72	13 Oct. 65

Radio Telegraphist Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Kennard,	G.S.	Sgt.	6 Oct. 72	20 May 66
Harrison,	B.	Sgt.	9 Nov. 72	14 Apr. 67
To Sgt.				
Northgreaves,	R.	A/Sgt.	2 Oct. 72	1 Apr. 65
Hamilton,	R.A.	Cpl.	5 Oct. 72	10 Dec. 66
Campbell,	J.J.M.	Cpl.	2 Dec. 72	30 Jul. 70
Taylor,	T.J.	A/Sgt.	1 Jan. 73	1 Nov. 69

Special Telegraphist Roll

To Sgt.				
Meir,	A.V.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 70
Griffiths,	J.W.	Cpl.	3 Oct. 72	3 Oct. 62
Smith,	R.H.	Cpl.	1 Dec. 72	1 Nov. 69
Thatcher,	C.P.	Cpl.	1 Jan. 73	30 Jul. 70
Hopkins,	D.L.	Cpl.	18 Jan. 73	1 Oct. 68

Clerk Roll

To Sgt.				
Frost,	A.J.	A/Sgt.	26 Oct. 72	4 Nov. 60
Addison,	K.W.	A/Sgt.	27 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 69
Patterson,	K.	A/Sgt.	28 Oct. 72	28 Feb. 67
Claypole,	C.E.	A/Sgt.	18 Dec. 72	31 Dec. 68
MacGregor,	M.	Cpl.	20 Dec. 72	30 Sep. 69
Finlayson,	R.	A/Sgt.	20 Dec. 72	30 Apr. 68

Clerk Technical (R Signals) Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Harrison,	C.M.	A/S-Sgt.	4 Oct. 72	24 Sep. 68
Culverhouse,	S.G.	Sgt.	14 Oct. 72	1 Jan. 70
Phillipson,	J.	Sgt.	15 Oct. 72	28 Dec. 66
Needham,	F.	A/Sgt.	15 Nov. 72	1 Jul. 59
To Sgt.				
Tierney,	J.W.F.	A/Sgt.	4 Oct. 72	31 Mar. 70
Walker,	P.B.	A/Sgt.	14 Oct. 72	31 May 67
Carpenter,	R.W.B.	A/Sgt.	15 Oct. 72	1 Oct. 57
Kuester,	D.L.	Cpl.	15 Nov. 72	28 Feb. 70

Combat Drivers Roll

To Sgt.				
Keane,	J.J.	Cpl.	3 Sep. 72	31 Aug. 63
East,	E.V.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 72	28 Feb. 62
Judd,	I.T.	A/Sgt.	2 Oct. 72	2 Apr. 62
Wilson,	T.W.	Cpl.	1 Nov. 72	31 Dec. 62

Combat Lineman Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Jones,	R.C.	Sgt.	2 Oct. 72	30 Nov. 61
Steele,	B.	A/S-Sgt.	5 Oct. 72	4 Mar. 69
Redgrave,	J.R.	Sgt.	8 Oct. 72	30 Apr. 66
Woods,	R.J.	A/S-Sgt.	11 Oct. 72	27 Jun. 65
Young,	J.T.	A/S-Sgt.	4 Nov. 72	22 May 68
Waters,	A.R.	Sgt.	12 Nov. 72	24 Oct. 63
To Sgt.				
Thorne,	W.H.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 72	6 Mar. 60
Clark,	B.	Cpl.	3 Oct. 72	30 Nov. 65
Luck,	J.	Cpl.	4 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 67
Cox,	C.G.	A/Sgt.	5 Oct. 72	31 Mar. 68
Manning,	C.J.	A/Sgt.	7 Oct. 72	31 May 70
Drew,	R.F.	A/Sgt.	8 Oct. 72	31 Jan. 62
Smith,	B.O.	Cpl.	9 Oct. 72	30 Sep. 63
Kehoe,	J.	Cpl.	1 Nov. 72	1 Jun. 58
Laing,	d.	Cpl.	2 Nov. 72	31 Dec. 62
Ackers,	C.J.	A/Sgt.	3 Nov. 72	30 Apr. 66
Annis,	M.D.	A/Sgt.	6 Nov. 72	31 Jul. 68

Combat Powerman Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Chambers,	J.G.	A/S-Sgt.	3 Oct. 72	1 Apr. 70
Cutler,	B.W.	Sgt.	12 Oct. 72	21 Aug. 62
Roberts,	R.T.	Sgt.	13 Oct. 72	27 Feb. 68
Blake,	J.C.	Sgt.	13 Nov. 72	31 Jan. 66
To Sgt.				
Garrigan,	P.	Cpl.	1 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 70
Holden,	G.H.	A/Sgt.	4 Oct. 72	30 Sep. 64
Harris,	L.	A/Sgt.	13 Oct. 72	31 Jul. 65
Jack,	A.	A/Sgt.	14 Oct. 72	31 Aug. 62
Croft,	A.	Cpl.	1 Nov. 72	30 Sep. 64
Palmer,	A.C.	A/Sgt.	2 Nov. 72	12 Oct. 65

Combat Radioman Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Escott,	W.	A/S-Sgt.	9 Oct. 72	27 Feb. 64
Reid,	A.S.	Sgt.	10 Oct. 72	24 Nov. 64
Markwell,	G.S.R.	A/S-Sgt.	1 Nov. 72	21 Jan. 65
Harrison,	J.L.	A/S-Sgt.	3 Nov. 72	18 Dec. 67
Lori,	P.G.	Sgt.	6 Nov. 72	8 Mar. 69
Brown,	L.A.	Sgt.	7 Nov. 72	24 Nov. 64
While,	R.	A/S-Sgt.	11 Nov. 72	2 Feb. 66
To Sgt.				
Wilson,	W.	A/Sgt.	1 Oct. 72	1 Nov. 69
Campbell,	A.	A/Sgt.	3 Oct. 72	31 Jan. 66
Welch,	J.D.	A/Sgt.	4 Oct. 72	1 Feb. 66
Wickens,	M.J.J.	A/Sgt.	6 Oct. 72	1 Feb. 67
Smith,	B.	Cpl.	7 Oct. 72	22 Jan. 68
Wall,	P.W.J.	Cpl.	8 Oct. 72	29 Feb. 68
Wareing,	T.M.	Cpl.	9 Oct. 72	28 Feb. 69
Carson,	J.M.	Cpl.	10 Oct. 72	1 Nov. 69
Upton,	R.	A/Sgt.	11 Oct. 72	29 Apr. 62
Jolley,	B.	A/Sgt.	12 Oct. 72	31 Oct. 64
Graves,	R.	A/Sgt.	13 Oct. 72	31 Oct. 65
Kearns,	P.	A/Sgt.	14 Oct. 72	20 Jul. 66
Close,	W.D.	A/Sgt.	15 Oct. 72	25 Dec. 66
Sreeves,	E.R.	A/Sgt.	16 Oct. 72	30 Apr. 68
Rose,	E.	A/Sgt.	1 Nov. 72	30 Apr. 68

Remmer,	D.	A/Sgt.	2 Nov. 72	1 Jan. 70
Lawrence,	C.M.	A/Sgt.	3 Nov. 72	15 Feb. 70
Hay,	J.W.	A/Sgt.	4 Nov. 72	31 Mar. 70
Nichol,	G.	A/Sgt.	5 Nov. 72	24 Apr. 62
Ricketts,	L.	Cpl.	6 Nov. 72	22 May 65
Smith,	J.A.	A/Sgt.	7 Nov. 72	3 Aug. 65
Cole,	P.G.	A/Sgt.	8 Nov. 72	2 Nov. 65
King,	J.W.H.	A/Sgt.	9 Nov. 72	1 Jan. 66

Combat Signalman Roll

To S-Sgt.				
Leslie,	W.H.	Sgt.	8 Nov. 72	20 Aug. 63

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roll

Name	*Initials*	*Sen. Date*
W.O.1		
Fisher,	B.	29 Dec. 69
Thomas,	A.J.	2 Jul. 69
Campbell,	J.B.	28 Apr. 70
Jennings,	H.	11 Aug. 70
Postlethwaite,	R.G.	25 Aug. 70
Noble,	P.A.	15 Dec. 70
Gardner,	F.R.	23 Mar. 71
Haydon,	J.M.	24 Apr. 71
W.O.2		
May,	E.J.B.	28 Feb. 62
Stuckley,	S.G.	5. Feb. 63
Hughes,	D.J.M.	1 Aug. 66
Withall,	E.H.T.	17 Dec. 66
Andrews,	L.M.	23 Jun. 67
McCartney,	D.G.	14 Jun. 68
Thompson,	R.T.	16 Jun. 68
White,	J.R.	24 Jan. 69
Meeson,	D.T.	18 Sep. 69
Kingham,	A.E.	1 Aug. 70
Duffy,	O.	14 Dec. 70
Lakey,	J.	1 Jul. 71
Forth,	C.V.	13 Aug. 71
Warren,	R.C.	5 Jun. 72

Staff Sergeants Seniority Roll

		Trade	
Price,	H.	Cbt Sig	31 Jan. 62
Blunt,	P.	Cbt Sig	20 Nov. 62
Keeler,	R.A.	Cbt Sig	1 Mar. 63
Youngjohn	G.H.	Cbt Sig	2 Jul. 64
Walker,	C.	Cbt Sig	22 Jul. 64
Simmonds,	P.F.	Cbt Sig	15 Aug. 64
Gooding,	B.F.	Cbt Sig	13 Aug. 65
Davies,	L.	Cbt Sig	5 Oct. 66
Mabbott,	F.A.	Cbt Sig	28 Sep. 67
Brown,	D.R.	Cbt Sig	19 Jul. 68
Green,	A.T.	Cbt Sig	26 Jun. 70
Caffrey,	B.	Cbt Sig	8 Sep. 70
Robinson,	T.H.	Cbt Sig	14 Nov. 70
Topliss,	G.	Cbt Sig	3 Dec. 70
Owen,	D.H.	Cbt Rmn	2 Dec. 71

Foreman of Signals Roll

W.O.1		
Wood,	R.J.R.	20 May 68
Hutley,	P.G.D.	19 Jun. 68
Berry,	C.A.	2 May 69
Hoe,	R.J.	2 May 69
Graham,	W.F.	19 May 71
W.O.2		
Kitchen,	C.W.	16 Jan. 71
Bayliss,	M.J.	14 Jul. 72
S-Sgt.		
Taylor,	M.A.H.	26 Jan. 67

Supervisor (Radio) Roll

W.O.1		
Searle,	F.P.	1 Feb. 70
W.O.2		
Ross,	R.G.	8 Feb. 68

Yeoman of Signals Roll

W.O.1		
Durrant,	P.	23 Apr. 68
Hayler,	P.D.	31 Mar. 72

Chief Clerk Roll

W.O.1		
James,	G.	31 Mar. 69
Stapleton,	A.G.	21 Sep. 70
Singer,	A.L.	27 Sep. 72
W.O.2		
Stein,	R.H.	1 Oct. 61
Davies,	H.	25 Jan. 65
Abberley,	T.A.	11 May 70
S-Sgt.		
Barlow,	D.R.	1 Apr. 58
Suett,	R.L.	13 Jun. 68
White,	M.A.	13 Jun. 69
Connery,	D.	13 Jun. 69
Roberts,	D.G.	27 Feb. 70
Holland,	D.G.	10 Jun. 70

Terminal Equipment Technician Roll

Sgt.		
Hopwood,	R.K.	1 Dec. 55
Grieve,	W.E.	1 Apr. 56
Bristow,	N.	21 Mar. 69
Pither,	P.D.	14 Apr. 70
Davies,	M.A.	8 May 70
Smith,	D.A.	18 Jun. 70
Edwards,	R.J.	12 Aug. 70
Shaw,	E.	1 Apr. 70

Radio Technician Roll

Sgt.		
Bentley,	M.J.	1 May 55
Corbett,	G.D.	1 Jul. 59
Zorab,	N.C.K.	11 Dec. 68
Wiggins,	G.T.	9 Oct. 69

Radio Relay Technician Roll

Sgt.		
Hayward,	V.R.	13 Aug. 69
Taylor,	L.S.	13 Nov. 69
Cossins,	P.A.	14 Apr. 70
Ware,	N.L.	30 Apr. 70
Kidman,	G.	12 Aug. 70

Clerk Roll

Sgt.		
Hutchman,	E.	19 Dec. 69
Bell,	I.M.	19 Dec. 69

Clerk Technical (R Signals) Roll

Sgt.		
House,	D.W.	1 Feb. 61
Church,	S.R.	19 Feb. 61

Combat Drivers Roll

Sgt.		
Spooner,	G.R.	1 Dec. 56
Shipley,	G.A.	24 Sep. 68
Bowden,	D.A.W.	24 Sep. 68
Garside,	G.A.	1 Aug. 71

Combat Signalman Roll

Maple,	G.C.	23 Mar. 62

ADDITIONS

Combat Signalman Roll

Moore,	J.A.	19 Feb. 61
Keenan,	A.E.	5 Nov. 70

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Postscript . . .

NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR ALVIS
Major General A. G. Lewis, C.B.E.

Major-General A. G. Lewis, C.B.E., has been appointed Managing Director of the Alvis and Self-Changing Gears operations of Rover Triumph. He succeeds **Mr. J. J. Parkes, C.B.E.,** who is to retire shortly.

General Lewis has been concerned with vehicles, and in particular with armoured fighting vehicles, for a major part of his career. His subject at the Royal Military College of Science was Fighting Vehicles, and he became an instructor at the Armour School. He subsequently went to the Staff College and later commanded his Regiment, the 15th/19th Hussars. He was Deputy Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science, and Director-General of Fighting Vehicles and Engineer Equipment, Ministry of Defence. He is aged 52, is married and has four children—the eldest of whom is a Captain in his Regiment. Apart from his work, his main interests are golf, shooting, sailing and gardening.

Association News

London (East) Branch

Hon. Secretary: **H. W. Doze, Esq.,** 84 Clacton Road, Walthamstow, E.17 8AR.

On 17th February we held our annual dinner and dance at the T & AVR Centre of 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V). It was attended by some 90 members and friends. Our Branch chairman, **Major Geoff Dyer,** welcomed all members and guests especially our old chairman, **Major Wilf Hill** and **Mrs. Hill,** who are now residing in Taunton, Devon, and also **Mr. Dave Greenbrook** from Association Headquarters who was not a stranger to many members as the latter part of his career with Royal Signals was spent as a PSI at this TA unit. **Major Hill** responded for the guests and said he was more than pleased to see how the branch had grown since he left it and hoped it would continue with its progress. The evening ended with dancing to the accompaniment of music provided, very successfully, by a disco player.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during February and March, 1973:

	£ p
OC, 11 Signal Regiment for 26 Unit Branch Royal Signals Association	50.00
OC, 22 Signal Regiment	13.37
OC, 3 Squadron, 22 Signal Regiment	1.53
OC, 49 (West Riding) Signal Squadron (V)	1.05
Hon Secretary, Shrewsbury Branch, Royal Signals Association	67.00
Brigadier and Mrs. R. G. Miller, C.B.E. (in memory of the late Mrs. J. Moppett)	3.00
Mrs. R. I. B. Love (in memory of the late Major P. R. G. Krell)	5.00
G. W. Cook, Esq.	2.01
Major The Earl Kitchener, TD	2.00
Captain G. James, Royal Signals	1.30
M. E. Holdsworth, Esq.	1.00
C. K. McLennan, Esq.	1.05
D. H. Smiter, Esq.	50
	£148.81

The following donations were gratefully received during March, 1973:

	£ p
Hon Secretary, East London Branch, Royal Signals Association	5.00
Hon Secretary, Reading Branch, Royal Signals Association	10.00
A. Grant, Esq., M.B.E., M.M., M.S.M.	3.20
E. G. Bird, Esq.	1.00
R. N. Houston, Esq.	1.00
Signalman I. M. Irvin	90
H. S. Ramsey, Esq.	75
J. Cochran, Esq.	53
Major M. Gordon-Wilson	50
H. G. Smyth, Esq.	50
F. Winter, Esq.	53
J. Lothian, Esq.	50
Various small donations	2.65
	£27.06

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in March	43
Number of clothing parcels sent	56
Amount spent	£1,110.43

One of the Month's Cases

EX-SIGNALMAN, six years' Regular service. Married with two small children. Due to very serious illness and a brain operation, he has not worked for a very considerable time. The Association made a grant of £50 to clear rent arrears which had accrued during his illness, and the British Legion also helped. Clothing parcels for the family are also being sent from our store. The man's letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

I WOULD like to say from the bottom of my heart Thank You Very Much for the help you have given us.

For the first time in my life, I am stuck for words, so once again THANK YOU.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Stop Press

223 Signal Squadron have won the south-east district minor units skill-at-arms championship by beating seven other units. They also won the rifle cup presented by the Rifle Brigade for this year.

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"Three Tees made me feel at ease right from the start. They gave me free tuition and a lot of help with commercial aspects of the trade. After arranging several interviews for me (all of them good positions) I have now started a new career in Telex, with an American Bank (good salary, interesting work, security and easy hours). So for anybody leaving the forces with experience in Teleprinters or Telex my advice to them is why not give Three Tees a try too?"

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Full details from:

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Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley Priors Road,
Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.

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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 1973

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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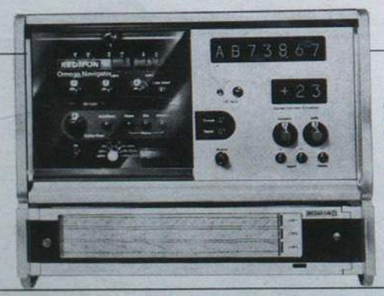

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THE WIRE

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. 4RH. 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.

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☆

JUNE/JULY • 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 6**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

This month's cover picture shows **Corporal Jan Radford** of 259 Signal Squadron with a selection of the 20 cups that he has won whilst go-kart racing at RAF Episkopi. His performance has been remarkable, since he only started the sport 20 months go, on his arrival in Cyprus. He is now the Episkopi team leader and also champion driver. He has the unusual distinction of being a member of the Near East Air Force team and will shortly be driving against RAF, UK, in the RAF championships.

The Regular Forces Employment Association

This Association is officially recognised by the Government and the armed forces as an employment agency for the Services. It works in close co-operation with the Department of Employment.

The Association exists for the express purpose of assisting men and women who have not taken commissioned rank and who leave with good characters, to find suitable employment; that is to say, employment which suits their qualifications and capabilities as well as meeting, as far as possible, their personal needs.

The Association is supported by the benevolent and welfare funds of the three Services and from public funds.

The Association's services are entirely free and no payment is accepted from those who register, or from employers. Furthermore, registration with the Association involves no obligation.

There are, throughout the United Kingdom, 43 Branches of the Association each run by an employment officer whose job it is to advise ex-regulars on resettlement matters and to assist them in finding employment. These employment officers are in close touch with employers to whom they are always ready to recommend suitable applicants. The employment officers are kept fully informed about vacancies notified to the Association and occurring all over the country. They are, therefore, equipped with a great deal of national and local knowledge. They normally attend Resettlement Boards in the UK and are ready to interview and advise men and women at any time during or after their service and to register them during their terminal leave. Moreover, the Association preserves a long-term interest in ex-Regulars and they may use its services as often as they wish.

The Association is a recognised channel of recruitment for certain government appointments, and many other employers, knowing the qualities of men who have been in the Services, keep the Branches informed of vacancies which they would like to fill with ex-regulars. In the majority of cases, the ex-regular will be more satisfactorily placed in employment with the help of the Association than if he seeks employment himself.

In 1972 the RFEA found employment for 366 ex-members of the Corps which, incidentally, is represented on the RFEA management committee by the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.

The head office of RFEA is at 4 Buckingham Palace Mansions, Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0SW. Tel.: 01-730-7257. Branches in other main centres of the U.K. can be found in local telephone directories.

Special Mention

Queen's Birthday Honours List - June 1973

Our readers, we are sure, will wish to join THE WIRE in congratulating the following who were honoured in the Queen's Birthday List:

O.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. H. K. Findlater
M.B.E.
Captain D. T. Burton
Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc) S. J. Wyatt
B.E.M.
Staff Sergeant P. R. Appleton
Staff Sergeant T. G. Fayers
Staff Sergeant B. A. Rice

Stop Press

21st Regiment show their class in BAOR Individual Athletic Championship

21 Signal Regiment had five wins in the BAOR Individual Athletic Championships at Sennelager on 30th May and three runners-up. Winners were **Corporal Dowie** (100 and 200m), **Sergeant Turvey** (400 and 800m), **Sergeant Macmillan** (300m steeplechase. **Corporal Dowie** broke the BAOR record for 100 and 200m and his time of 10.9 seconds for 100m is only one-tenth of a second outside the Army all-time record. **Sergeant Turvey** broke the BAOR 400m record and equalled the BAOR 800m record.

—— The Corps has recently had a remarkable series of successes in a wide range of Army sports. Congratulations to 4 Guards Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron on achieving no less than three BAOR Minor Unit championships as below:
Soccer — BAOR Minor Unit Champions; winners of 2 Division Cup; winners of Munster Garrison League.
Cross-country — BAOR Minor Unit Champions (winning Brigade and Divisional meetings en route).
Hockey — BAOR Minor Unit Champions (winning Divisional Championship en route); winners of Divisional Six-a-side Championship.

—— In spite of the closure of many overseas stations it is remarkable how members of the Corps get about the world in the course of their duties. **Sergeant Keith Gilbert** of 14 Signal Regiment stationed in British Honduras recently made a trip to visit the Mayan ruins in Tikal, Guatemala, while **Sergeant Frank Rodgers, Corporal Tom Sharp** and **Lance-Corporal Owen Evans** of the same unit have been visiting Merrida in the Yucatan district of Mexico. Finally, **Sergeant Earl Ferguson** slipped away to visit his old home in Jamaica (see page 269).

12 Pages Too Much!

If we had published all the contributions received for this 'Wire' it would have totalled 56 pages! This is 12 pages more than we can really afford. With much difficulty and some rather tough justice we have cut back eight pages — this was the limit to which we felt we could go without unduly upsetting contributors. We do apologise but please, please, try and keep unit notes within reasonable bounds—one page should be ample to describe unit events for the previous month.

If you send us a large group photograph, remember it will take up one-third of a page on its own.

From our "In" Tray

Can anyone please help?

Sir,
I am writing to you more in hope than expectation to ask if you could possibly help in any way, through the medium of THE WIRE magazine, in a rather distressing case which has been brought to my notice since my arrival here.

It concerns No. 24055892 Signalman (later Lance-Corporal) C. S. Rodger of 8 Abbey Court, St. Andrews, who was killed on 1st October, 1967, whilst on an exercise with 11 Infantry Brigade (211 Signal Squadron) in Germany.

Signalman Rodger, known to all his pals as 'Stewart,' joined the Corps at Dundee in 1965. He was the Best All Round Recruit and Best Recruit at Physical Training on the Basic Training Course at 11 Signal Regiment from 4th December, 1965, to 28th January, 1966.

Unfortunately his parents were prevented from attending his Passing Off Parade because of 'flu and the only photographs they have of him are the two which I enclose with this letter (one of which is reproduced here. —Ed.). They feel there are probably many more if only they could be traced through some of those who served with him, particularly at Catterick.

Stewart loved the army and the Corps and gave up a promising career in the bank to join.

He was promoted Lance-Corporal (Technician) in 1966 in 8 Signal Regiment before being posted to Germany.

Previous efforts to get some photographic records through 11 Signal Regiment have proved fruitless.

It would give great joy to his parents if something turned up to fill the void and I would be most grateful if anyone has any photographs if they could send them to me.

Yours sincerely,
'Paddy' Kenrick (Captain),
(recently HQ Squadron 8 Signal Regiment).

Secretary's Office,
St. Andrew's Golf Club,
St. Andrew's, Fife, Scotland.

249 Sig Sqn hold Second Successful Reunion

'Tis a far cry from Singapore to Krefeld but you wouldn't have thought so had you been present in Krefeld Barracks on 14th April for the second 249 Signal Squadron reunion. All the personalities were there having travelled from all over BAOR and UK proving once again what a tremendous spirit existed in the Squadron and in what regard the Squadron is still held by those who were members.

Many 'old' friends were reunited, many stories told and experiences re-lived. Personalities are really too numerous to mention but it must be said that **W.O.2 Bert Bowes** was shouted down, again, **Y. of S. Bill Donnelly** couldn't get a word in edgeways and Ceasar agreed with no one.

The bar was run for us by **Sergeant Pat Gallagher,** the blotting paper provided by the cooks of 16 Signal Regiment and accommodation looked after by **Corporal Chris Allen.** We are indebted to all. Sorry there are no pictures but our photographer **Signalman 'Ginger' Griffin** got drunk with the rest of us and lost his camera. Sunday, 15th May, was not a good day —even the sound of Alka Seltzers was deafening to most.

Diary note: Sergeant John Farrell agreed to run the 1974 reunion in Bunde. Over to you John.

216 Parachute Signal Squadron Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Sir,
I would be very grateful if you could include a suitable entry in the correspondence part of the June WIRE to publicise this Squadron's Silver Jubilee celebration evening on Friday, 29th June, 1973.

It will consist of a buffet-dance (cost £2.00) and it is hoped that many ex-members of the Squadron will manage to be present. It has been deliberately placed on the Friday preceding the Airborne Forces Weekend so that persons wishing to come might extend their visit and renew past acquaintanceships within the Brigade. Further details are available from the Adjutant, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2AU.

Yours,
J. R. Roberts, Major, Royal Signals
216 Parachute Signal Squadron,
Arnhem Barracks,
Aldershot, Hants.

Sacks of Potatoes?

Sir,
I would like to thank **Lieutenant Duncan Jones** on his very interesting article in the May issue and congratulate him on his successes.

However, I am sure he must be joking when he writes that the bob "needless to say demands most in all respects" when compared with the Cresta.

I admit that the driver is necessary but after the initial shove the crew could well be substituted by sacks of potatoes.

Yours,
J. Harwood, Major, Royal Signals
SWS Troop (Eastern District),
240 Signal Squadron,
1 Napier Road,
Colchester CO2 7ST.

. . . And an Invitation!

Sir,
I would like to thank you for the opportunity to reply to a 'letter' from **Major John Harwood** (above), the contents of which amazed me.

I have heard similar comments from a few people who have tried nothing more adventurous than the 'waltzer' at the local fair, never from a fellow 'ice sportsman.' Perhaps I should contemplate a career in agriculture.

Good Cresta riders, which I believe **John Harwood** has been, who ride from TOP, have my complete admiration for their skill, of which there is a great deal, and their courage, but the only similarity between the Cresta and the Bob is the ice.

Might I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to **Major Harwood** to simulate a 'sack of potatoes' this coming season.

Yours,
D. B. Jones, Lieutenant, Royal Signals
45 Army Youth Team,
110 East Street,
Prittlewell,
Southend-on-Sea SS2 6LH.

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ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION REUNION— BLANDFORD CAMP, SUNDAY, 5th AUGUST

As previously notified in THE WIRE a one-day reunion for Association Members is being held at the School of Signals, Blandford Camp, by kind permission of the Commandant, on Sunday, 5th August.

This will be a simple and informal gathering in no way trying to emulate the Catterick Reunion.

PROGRAMME:
Arrive: 10.00 onwards.
Church Service: 11.00—11.45.
Refreshments: 12.00 (Junior Ranks' Club and Sergeants' Mess).
Cold Buffet Lunch: 12.30—13.30 (Men's dining hall).
Tour new School building, including Museum, H.Q. Mess: 14.00—15.45 (During this period tea will be available in Junior Ranks' Club).
Retreat Ceremony: 16.00.
Disperse: 17.00.
MEALS—**Free** to Association Members.
On payment to non-members (wives, families).

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF COMING, PLEASE APPLY **NOW** GIVING THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Name of Member .....
Address .....
.....
Any non-members accompanying (wives, families)? .....(Nos.)
Are Church seats required, if so how many? .....
Number requiring lunch? Members..... Non-members.....

Address your application to:—
The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
R.H.Q. Royal Signals,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea. LONDON SW3 4RH.
(Tel.: 01-730 4129)

Applications are required **not later than the 30th June 1973** so take action NOW

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LANDIKOTAL DET. PESHAWAR DIST. SIGNALS
Taken at Landikotal N.W.F. India, 1929/30 approx.

Are you included in this group photo taken more than forty years ago?

If so an old comrade would like you to get in touch with him. He is **Mr. A. Robinson** (third from the left in the second row). Mr. Robinson has been seriously ill and is now recovering and he would welcome hearing from any of his old service friends. His address is 85 Rampton Road, Forest Hill, SE23. Tel. No. 01 699 3971. Mr. Robinson, after a long and varied career in the Corps, retired in 1951 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Signalling for Peace, 1973

The Gambia, West Africa

The theme

'SIGNALLING for Peace' was the theme of a joint force exercise, just completed, in The Gambia during April

A force comprised of detachments from 14 Signal Regiment, 30 Signal Regiment and 38 Group (TCW) RAF Benson, some eight officers and 90 soldiers and airmen, returned to West Africa, the first British troops to do since The Gambia became independent.

By invitation of the Gambian Government, the British Forces were to exercise and evaluate problems of local and rear link communications required in and from a country environmentally similar to The Gambia, during an emergency or national disaster.

The exercise, known as 'Adawn,' was planned during a recce in January in liaison with the Inspector General of Police to The Gambia, **Mr. Harry Lloyd Evans, O.B.E., C.R.B.** The joint force administrated by 14 Signal Regiment, deployed during the last week of March under the command of **Major R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.**

The country

The Gambia is an enclave into Senegal, nearly 300 miles long and 30 miles wide with the river Gambia running down the middle. A British Colony for 400 years, the history and traditions of the British administration are to be found in the Government and all levels of the community. English is the official language although five dialects of tribal languages are spoken, and used throughout the land.

The main exports are fishing products and groundnuts. Those who have served in West Africa may be interested to know that lobsters are still available from the local fishermen at 10p each.

The country is prosperous and is being developed with UN and British aid projects; it still remains unspoiled and very pro British. Most Gambians are farmers or fishermen and although there is some tourism it remains a minor industry.

The exercise

The joint Force Signal Officers were **Major Chris Glydon,** 30 Signal Regiment, and **Squadron Leader Allen Whittaker,** 38 Group (TCW) RAF. Exercise co-ordinator was **Lieutenant-Commander J. Sandison,** RN.

14 Signal Regiment with the E21 station deployed under the command of **Captain Richard Gardner,** his troop provided very good communication between The Gambia and UK, and The Gambia and Cyprus.

30 Signal Regiment detachments, under command of **Lieutenant Howard Ham,** deployed in various roles up country, on the President's yacht and in the capital town area proving and setting up radio networks very successfully.

38 Group (TCW) RAF, under the command of **Flight-Lieutenant Graham Robertson,** RAF, provided communication between the Gambian and the exercise aircraft. Using the RAF 1 kw station communications were established, for limited periods, to Gibraltar, UK and Cyprus.

Local police officers and men, under the command of **Commander John Clews, M.B.E.,** Gambian Police, participated in the detachment and field training and took an active interest in the rear link communications. The invaluable assistance of The Gambian Police helped to make the exercise successful and enjoyable for all concerned.

Visit to the exercise by the President of The Gambia

His Excellency Sir Dawada Kaitaba Jawara honoured the exercise with a visit on 16th April. He visited all detachments and took an active interest in the radio network established by 30 Signal Regiment, and he had a long conversation with his yacht, over the RACAL set, some 100 miles up river. **Lieutenant Ham** breathed a sigh of relief after this unplanned call had been completed!

Reunion for SO-in-C

You may not be aware that in 1940 a young officer of the Corps with a Signals line detachment was amongst the first British troops to arrive in The Gambia to prepare defensive line communications. That officer is now the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** Responsibility for the first airfield lines at Bathurst, for the two lays of seven pair cables still in situ across Ostercreek, and for the armoured six pair submarine cable, still in use, rested with him.

Word quickly went round that he was returning and the JFHQ was inundated with visitors and telephone calls from such departments as Telecommunication, Marine and the River Board, all wanting to know if the General could remember the location or route of the various cables laid during the 1940-1943 period.

General Sawers did remember most of his old routes and the land marks. One of the highlights of his visit was the reunion with the ex-Servicemen who had served during the period 1940-1943 both in The Gambia and Burma with the General. A sentimental and colourful reunion was held in the police barracks, when some 20 ex-Servicemen, who remembered the General, met and relived those early days.

WARTIME COMRADESHIP RENEWED
The S.O.-in-C. at the reunion with his wartime soldiers

Reception at State House

General Sawers was received by the first President to The Republic, **Sir Dawada Kairaba Jawara,** on the morning of 13th April at State House; in attendance was the Secretary General **Mr. Christenson,** Inspector General of Police, **Mr. H. Lloyd Evans, O.B.E., C.R.B.,** and **Major R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.,** Royal Signals. Greetings were exchanged and **General Sawers** presented the President with an inscribed copy of the book 'Through to 1970' and also presented the President with a donation of £50 on behalf of the visiting troops, to go to the local disaster relief fund.

Formal visits to the exercise locations followed and at midday **General Sawers** was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Inspector General of Police, to which government ministers and heads of departments had also been invited.

During a visit to 14 Signal Regiment's equipment **General Sawers** used the LINCOMPLEX facility to make a telephone call to the Ministry of Defence. (The equipment, recently installed, is now one of the facilities available to the staff).

General Sawers' departure, somewhat delayed and unorthodox, was via Nigeria Airways to Freetown which gave a few hours of anxiety to the British High Commissioner **Mr. J. Parker, O.B.E.**

RECEPTION AT STATE HOUSE
Left to right: The President, the Inspector General of Police and the S.O.-in-C.

IT WORKED!
The S.O.-in-C. makes a call to Whitehall via 14th Signal Regiment radio terminal

Peacetime role

Signalling for Peace is not new to the Corps or to 14 Signal Regiment. This type of exercise, however, with the theme of international assistance in time of disaster, is new.

Yet the combat roles of the participant units were exercised in full. Weapons were not carried, but skill at arms was coupled with sport and matches were played against local teams using the host countries facilities. Elements of all detachments spent some time living under arduous conditions, up country on duty or taking part in adventure training.

As a result of the exercise an enormous amount of goodwill was established not only between The Gambian Police and local authorities but also between the joint force units taking part, and we look forward to more exercises of this nature.

SOLDIERING IN A MILLIONAIRE'S PARADISE

We are indebted to Sergeant Dick Hamilton of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron for this most interesting write-up of four weeks spent in Bermuda—an excellent example of our 'Wire' slogan 'Faraway places and unusual jobs.'

It was para-dise!

A LIFE of comparative luxury in a millionaires' paradise was the lot of some 180 men from the 1st Parachute Logistic Regiment from Aldershot. With them were two members of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, **Sergeant 'Dick' Hamilton** and **Signalman 'Nik' Nichols,** and all were taking part in Exercise 'Hackle,' a training and goodwill tour in Bermuda (4th March-4th April).

Bermuda

Mark Twain called it "The biggest small place in the world." Guide books describe it as "Having big and little beaches, pink with coral; wide blue harbours deep enough for the largest ocean liners; gracious old towns and pretty hamlets which dot an area of some 20 square miles, situated 600 miles off the American coast—and only six-and-a-half hours jet flight from London."

This dreamland is, of course, the island of Bermuda, a much welcomed change of exercise setting from Hankley Common DZ, Salisbury Plains or even Cyprus!

The island has a special chemistry of its own, of clear sea, sky, and breathtakingly beautiful views of natural coves and beaches of pink and white sand. There is a wonderful remoteness about being 'away from it all' in the middle of the Atlantic, but unfortunately the extremely high cost of living brings one back down to earth with an almighty thump!

The Parachute Logistic Regiment

Their normal task is to supply, repair and transport the requisites of the Parachute Brigade, and to these ends the Regiment includes men of 63 Parachute Squadron RCT, Parachute Ordnance Squadron RAOC and Parachute Workshops REME. They have their own regimental signallers (from the RCT) but for the purposes of the exercises, 216 were asked to supply two volunteers! These were allocated from a list which almost duplicated the Squadron's nominal roll.

Week 1. We flew out from RAF Brize Norton on 4th March, leaving behind us the nasty English weather, and arrived in Bermuda, where it seemed just like a perfect summer's day, with a bit more sun than normal.

Pink, single-deck 'buses transported us from the US Navy Air Base to Wardwick Camp on the South Shore, which was to be our home for the next feew weeks. We settled in without delay, and found, to our delight, that the finest beaches on the island are also on the South Shore and the sparkling blue Atlantic was a mere 300 yards from the camp gates.

The daily routine got under way, Reveille 06.00 hours, road run and swim 06.30 hours (when the sea, although looking inviting, is remarkably chilly), breakfast, then first parade 07.50 hours. While the Logistic Regiment performed their various functions (MPC cadres, assistance to the local Bermuda Regiment, rehearsals for 1 Parachute Band and Drums), the 216 detachment withdrew, 'tactically,' to find out more about our opposite numbers in the Signals world.

Bermuda Regiment

Now a territorial unit, with strong affiliations to the Royal Anglian Regiment, it is formed as an infantry battalion, with its members serving a compulsory two years' draft, attending a drill night each week, and a two-week camp each summer. There are four British Army regulars serving with the Regiment at present. They are the Adjutant (who is Royal Anglian), the RSM (Light Infantry), and two CSMs (both Infantry). The Regiment's working dress is denison smocks and denims. Their small arms range from the 9mm U21 SMG (Israeli), through the 7.62mm SLR (of Australian make), to 12 gauge Greener shot-guns (for riot-control!). Their transport is a mixture of mini-mokes, Land Rovers and Toyota pick-ups, the Land Rovers having a combined radio, PA system and two-note Police siren as optional extras.

Within the Regiment's Support Company is their Signals Platoon, normally containing 15 all ranks, service for which is by voluntary transfer from a rifle company, or on religious grounds, when a man might be forbidden to bear arms. Thus the Signals Platoon is not armed!

The radio equipment is entirely manufactured by the General Electric Company (a large US consortium) and comprises small, lightweight FM radios, of the walkie-talkie variety. They are powered by torch batteries, and have a limited range, which is increased by the use of a Repeater Station (sort of automatic RRB) at Warwick Camp, enabling communications all over the islands. Although the sets are extremely simple to use, they are certainly not soldier-proof, and when they go U/S they must be taken to the local GE workshops for repair (technicians — please note!).

Week 2. The start of our second week was on a very sombre note, with the deaths of the Governor and his ADC causing a 'State of Emergency' and the call-up of the Bermuda Regiment and Reserve Police. To control and co-ordinate the searches for evidence, and the killers, a Combined Operations Net was set up, with the main stations at Government House, Police Headquarters, Admiralty House and Warwick Camp. The 216 detachment were detached from duty by the Logistic Regiment, and temporarily attached to the Bermuda Regiment, whereupon we organised the Warwick Camp end of the operations net. Voice Procedure on the net was a trifle rusty at first, considering the little amount of practise the regimental signallers do get, but the standard did improve after a few reminders from Warwick Camp and "This is your friendly Pronto . . . !"

We did shift work for the next 10 days, until the crisis ended, soon after the state funeral of the Governor and his ADC. The Logistic Regiment were involved, lining the route for the funeral, and I Parachute Band and Drums augmented the Bemuda Regiment Band.

Week 3. When the operations net ZKJ'd we were quite literally left 'on the beach.' Our services were not required by the Logistic Regiment as their own Signals Cadre had been cancelled, and all we were requested to do was to give a lecture to the Bermuda Regiment Signals Platoon during one of their drill nights.

We prepared carefully for this, mulling over points and views and subjects, whilst prostrating ourselves on Horseshoe Beach (I did say prostrating!), which has its own built-in distractions, somewhat similar to any old Playboy Club Beach in America! However, by gritting our teeth, and reducing the amount of "Cor blimeys!" and "Strapbacks," we managed, at great personal loss, to produce a lecture worthy of note.

To an assembly of some 14 all ranks, I spoke for almost an hour-and-a-half on subjects ranging from 'Signals in the British Army' to 'What happens when ones 'chute doesn't open' (they were most interested in that!). Then **'Nik'** and I gave them a brief resume on our respective careers, and we ended by explaining the intricacies of the A41 and A14.

We started to bow out, to tumultuous applause (from 14 men?), but were stopped by the Assistant Signals Officer, who produced a dustbin, full to the brim with cans of iced beer! Well . . . the road run next morning was not a pleasant one!

Week 4. The gradual run-down of all the courses, social events and camp life, while we prepared our bronzed torsos for the onslaught of April in Aldershot by getting as much of a panic tan as possible.

Social life

With a constant flow of tourists from the US, and the island constantly geared to attend their every whim (for a fee), the resultant cost of socialising is somewhat above the means of the average British soldier. Had it not been for the smooth-running duty free system our stay might have been a trifle dry.

I've listed a few examples of costs—mind your eyebrows!

($2.40 = £1.00)

Pint of Watney's Red Barrel in a pub	...	$1.00 (42p)
Small bottle of Beck's Bier in a club ...	...	$1.25 (52p)
Cover charge for same club (40 Thieves!)	...	$3.50 (£1.47)
Fish and chip supper for three in a cafe	...	$10.00 (£4.20)
Sunday Brunch for three in a restaurant	...	$24.00 (£10.00)

etc., etc., ad nauseam (don't tell Lloyds Bank!).

Sightseeing

If it was there we saw it, almost all of it in one day; mind you the island, as I said, is not very large. Our mode of transport was the 'Moby' of Mobylette power-assisted bicycle, which is by far the most popular. The speed limit is 30 mph (open road) and 15 mph (in towns), so the 'Mobys' held their own with the under-powered cars of the locals.

The views and scenery have to be seen to be believed, and unfortunately all of our camera shots were in colour, which we cannot reproduce here.

Conclusion

We returned to the UK full of warm memories of a splendid tour in an idyllic setting, and with the praises of our hosts ringing in our ears. The Bermuda Gazette said, "The Paras have knitted closely into the island community and have done many things which have earned them friendship and praise. They have been true ambassadors."

Our reply was when 1 Parachute Band and Drums ended their Beating Retreat, on our last night, by playing 'Auld Lang Syne' as they marched off.

The Paras will not be forgotten in Bermuda for a long time.

SUB-AQUA EXPEDITION TO GAN

By W.O.2 (S.S.M.) M. J. Lowe

Members of the Expedition

Captain Arthur McKay, RAPC; **Captain Brian Cleaver,** Royal Signals Public Relations; **W.O.2 Mike Lowe,** Expedition leader; **Corporal 'Tich' Myerscough; Corporal John Taylor.**

Glancing at the 'Divers Diary' in the last edition of 'Superduck' (Hong Kong Joint Services' Sub Aqua Club Newsletter), I see that the Gan Expedition was originally planned for 9th to 19th March. Many dates were discussed before we finally departed on Tuesday, 13th March, notification of the flight being given that morning. After a hair-raising dash from Sek Kong, where I was attending a one-day conference, I quickly confirmed the transport arrangements organised by **Captain Brian Cleaver,** our Second-in-Command, then hurried home to throw a few things into a case in order to meet the deadline hour of 15.45 for reporting to Kai Tak. Alas, then came the news that the box containing our diving equipment was too heavy, so our busy Diving Officer **W.O.1 Len Charlton,** RAOC —bless his cotton socks or wet suit, which ever is more applicable—divided the contents between two smaller boxes during his lunch break.

Take-off time was 17.00 hours. Four hours later we landed in Singapore, where we had to stay for the next two days while we patiently awaited our flight to Gan. Sightseeing was the foremost item on our agenda and the time passed quickly. Unfortunately our comfort came to a grinding halt when we boarded the Hercules aircraft for the six-and-a-quarter-hour flight on the last stage of our journey. Our 'cabin' accommodation was amongst the piles of freight—not to be recommended for a pleasure flight, I may add.

On arrival at one of the most widely acclaimed diving sites in the world, Addu Attol in the Maldive Islands, we consumed a beer or two or . . . and so to bed.

'. . . at this point all seemed to be rosy'

At this point all seemed rosy, but this was to be short-lived. We learnt that our boxes ,containing the aqua-lungs and other essential equipment, had not been re-loaded onto the Hercules at Singapore! Fortunately RAF Gan Sub Aqua Club invited us to use their equipment. I would like to mention here **Flight-Lieutenant Dave Rutherford,** for without his help I am sure that the expedition would not have been the success that it was.

The next nine days passed all too quickly. We dived both mornings and afternoons and even managed one night dive. In all we logged up some 66 individual dives, which interpreted for the non-diving fraternity means a collective time of 4,090 minutes under water.

A huge multi-coloured aquarium was on display

Members of the Gan Club guided us to all the best diving spots in the lagoon, throughout our stay. Here, unlike the waters of Hong Kong with its mere 15-foot visibility, a huge multi-coloured aquarium displayed itself and even at depths of 130ft. no diving suits were required. In these ideal conditions it is easy to understand why so much aquatic life congregates here.

WHO WOULDN'T LIKE A LIFE LIKE THIS?

Captain Brian Cleaver our Coxwain in Charge with Captain Arthur McKay R.A.P.C. and an Australian Diver at Gan Island

However, serene as the fish may look gliding in and out of the corals, they have the stings just as powerful as those of Hong Kong; **Corporal 'Tich' Myerscough** found this out when he attempted to stroke a 'Lion' fish! He is now known as the 'Lion Tamer,' though he believes it may be safer to keep to the mammal type in future!

The sleeping seven foot shark

Worthy of a mention, I think, is the 7ft. sand shark, approximate weight 110-130lb., which was caught as a result of the combined effort of our divers and four Australian divers belonging to an expedition from Singapore. Conventional lines or nets were not good enough for us, we had to catch it 'cowboy' style, by lassoing its tail. In actual fact this was fairly easily implemented as the shark was sleeping under a clump of coral at the time. Anyway it tasted delicious when we ate it at a club barbecue on the following Saturday evening.

Finally, after nine glorious sun-drenched days, it was time to bid a sad farewell to Gan, with all the divers of the expedition having gained a vast amount of experience in deep diving, and who are now fully conversant with the use of the decompression tables. Previous to this expedition I feel that to the less experienced divers of our group, these tables meant little more than another page or theoretical lecture in the 'Diving Manual,' and their use questionable.

THE SEVEN FOOT SHARK
W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Mike Lowe and Lieutenant Terry O'Neil (Australian Army) with captured 7ft Sand Shark

Our homeward trip was much more comfortable, as we flew VC10 for the entire journey and an RAF cooked meal always tastes so much better than haversack rats.

Before closing, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the expedition to thank everyone who helped in the organisation even though they were unable to take an active part.

4 Army Youth Team, Bradford

Not having seen an Army Youth Team mentioned in THE WIRE before (unless we have missed it) we thought it about time that a mention was made.

We are stationed in the 'Sunny' North—Bradford, and over the last few months have been undergoing a complete change of team. We have, and are, in the process of saying goodbye to: **Lieutenant Peter Richards, Sergeant Keith Wells, Corporal Trevor Mortlock, Corporal Peter Tarrant** and **Signalman Trevor Walker,** and we welcome in the new blood, **Lieutenant Clive Moody, Sergeant Arthur Mullaney, Corporal Len Tewkesbury, Corporal Mick Bailes** and **Lance-Corporal Kevin Justice.**

To the uninitiated the type of work we do is to give 'adventurous training assistance' (sounds good anyway) to schools, youth clubs, cadets and any youth organisation. This assistance takes the form of a number of activities and includes such things as canoeing, mountain trekking, basic rock climbing, map reading, orienteering and indoor sports, including .22 shooting in the winter months.

A lot of the work is in the evenings and at weekends — the weekend work being centred mainly in the Lake District, Yorkshire dales, Ilkley Moor and sometimes further afield to Wales or in the South.

We have just completed a week at Butlin's Holiday Camp at Minehead where four youth teams were giving instruction in many varied activities to approximately 2,300 children aged from 10-15; see photograph. Also within the next month we are involved in a 10-day trip with the YMCA Bradford, the Lakes with 54 children, the Catterick Army Display, a week at a camp on the East coast with 50 boys, and then a week in North Wales and after that a rest perhaps? Phew!

Being only a very small unit the majority of our administration is very effectively handled by the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate.

No 4 ARMY YOUTH TEAM POSE WITH SOME YOUNG ADMIRERS
Left to right: Corporal Trevor Mortlock, Corporal Len Tewksbury, Sergeant Arthur Mullaney, Lieutenant Clive Moody

70 Army Youth Team, Maindy Barracks Cardiff

The Corps spreads its influence

IT is always pleasant to know that in these days of contraction in defence spending that the Corps is spreading its influence, and it is even better to be part of it. We members of 70 Army Youth Team claim to be one of the newest Royal Signals units in existence. Here in 'Welshest' Wales at Maindy Barracks in Cardiff we live, administered by the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Wales. A note for readers from 7 Signal Regiment — please don't beat the RRW at rugger again, it makes life hell!

The first person to arrive at 70 AYT was **Sergeant Barry Doughty,** hot foot from the RMA Sandhurst. Then came the OC, **Lieutenant Bob Hussey,** from 7 Signal Regiment closely followed by **Lance-Corporal Dave Sully** from 233 Signal Squadron, **Lance-Corporal Hayden Thomas** from 10 Signal Regiment, and last but not least **Lance-Corporal 'Crosers' Crosby** from 7 Signal Regiment. We would all like to wish ourselves welcome!

Life here has a lot to recommend it

Life on an AYT has a lot to recommend it, but it is not the life for those of us who dislike work we all soon found out. Our diary is now full for every day until the end of September, but though the work is hard, it is enjoyable and we all get a lot of satisfaction from it. A word for those of you at the 'sharp end' in Northern Ireland, you may think that you are having it tough, but until you've taken 80 girl guides on a hill walk or down a pot hole . . . well you haven't lived!

A word of thanks would not be amiss to all those people who have helped the transition of 70 Army Youth Team, particularly Royal Signals Records and Cardiff's own Signal Squadron, 53 (Welsh) Signal Squadron (V).

To the rest of the Corps, if you are ever in Cardiff, do drop in and see us.

Increased Wire Sales

Our thanks to the following who have recently increased bulk orders for THE WIRE — Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Blandford Camp; 10 Signal Regiment; 5 Airportable Brigade Squadron; 244 Squadron.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

Easter 1973 and all that

EASTER and the month of April have passed relatively quietly. The Easter marches were almost a non-event and the aggro no greater than a normal weekend. Unfortunately, we were unable to relax sufficiently to allow a normal holiday although some of the luckier ones managed Sunday morning off.

Earlier in the month, however, we were able, by doubling a number of duties, to allow 10 soldiers to attend a 14-day adventure training camp in Scotland.

Exercise 'Snow Eagle'

The notes on this exercise have been presented to the Squadron scribe in two forms; firstly, non existent, which is either carrying the 'need—to—know' principle a little too far or leads the OC to believe that the circumstances were such as to warrant a detailed investigation. Secondly, in vast volumes which would daunt both the Editor and the printers and leads the exercise organiser (**Lieutenant Mike Walker**) to believe that it was not the same exercise he originally wrote.

However, from a combination of much and nothing, we reproduce some specially selected passages:

"The exercise took place between 14th-30th April (not original, but you have to start somewhere). There was little snow at the beginning and we thought that the OC (**Lieutenant Walker**) was going to send up his own weather balloon. At the end of the journey there, only the two drivers, **Lance-Corporal 'Budg'e' Bailes** and **Signalman Dave Bishop,** were sober enough to unload—the others had turned to a traditional British method of forgetting the troubles of Northern Ireland.

The first night blew a blizzard. **Sergeant Bernie Phillips** was the instructor. **Signalman Fred Hewlett's** ski-ing positions were reminiscent of **Mick MacManus** at his best.

The town of Aviemore is an excellent night spot which completely caters for the entertainment of war-weary British soldiers! Even surrounded by the sporting glories of the site the party inevitably had to visit a local distillery. His Highness the Loch Ness Monster was not disturbed even by the noise generated by **Sergeant Colin Gibbon** and **Corporal Barney Harris.** It was later assumed that he was sunk without trace under a massive load of empty beer cans.

Everyone was heartbroken when the time came to return."

The decathlon sports competition

Our year-long competition continues unabated and three activities have now been completed, with the most interesting results—no favourite has yet won. In the hockey league an aged, if not ancient, team from SHQ/QM/M Troops defeated the youthful members of Alpha. In the badminton competition, the experts were confounded by an inspired display by MT Troop and, in the small bore shoot-off the Comcen Warriors of Bravo Troop beat our front line heroes from the D & E Platoon. The OC and SHQ, our acknowledged squash experts, are now looking to their laurels, in the face of a determined challenge from Alpha Troop, and Brigade HQ and the six-a-side football competition is finely balanced at the half-way stage. At the completion of three sports MT and SHQ/QM/M Troops hold a narrow lead over Bravo and Alpha Troops.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

A Brigade request

THE Deputy Brigade Commander **Colonel J. M. Cubiss, M.C.,** decided that it would be a good idea if the Squadron could carry out searches in the outskirts of Belfast. Volunteers were called for, and experts from the Royal Engineers were asked to brief us. The experts brought with them a specially trained Labrador who with his handler is derisively called over here a 'sniffer team.' Armed with all this we set out to search our first quarry. Nothing whatever came from these careful preparations. The dog had a swim and chased a few rabbits. A shrewd urchin asked if he might borrow **Lieutenant Freeman's** 9mm pistol, but we did not give him the chance to show us who the target was going to be. It appeared that the young man hailed from nearby Andersonstown.

HEY MISTER! LEND US YOUR PISTOL
Lieutenant Freeman aided by Corporal Gregory, Signalman Taylor and 'sniffer' labrador on a search on the outskirts of Belfast plus small boy from Andersonstown

More quarries

The next search which we relate was done on our own. We dismissed the experts or perhaps they dismissed us and we relied on our own experience and native cunning. This operation concerned another quarry—there are hundreds near Belfast and many are now rubbish tips. Each one is a possible illegal training area or illicit arms dump, but this one was another blank. **Signalman Hughes** found a small cave which seemed interesting as it led into the bowels of the earth, but the mystery was solved by **Signalman Lawless** as he found that the shaft merely led to a disused well. However, **Corporal Wilson** found substantial evidence that the quarry had been used as a primitive range, but not in recent times. So ended another search.

Success at last

We changed our area of operations under instructions from Brigade. A RAF Puma helicopter was allocated to us, so the team under **Sergeant House** would now be airborne. **Sergeant**

Nelson was i/c a second team which took to the water. The fact that his party had sore feet at the end of the day was an indication that not all went according to plan. His boat broke down and he walked home along the banks of Lough Neagh! However, **Sergeant House** had no problems with his helicopter. We searched a few areas and accidentally frightened a couple of gentlemen out fishing. In the middle of some routine checks we received a call on the radio: "Assistance required at Fair Hill Grid . . ."

We arrived just in time to assist in the arrest of members of an illegal organisation doing rifle practice with some .303 rifles and shotguns. The men were quickly taken to the local police station in the 'chopper.' The follow-up search confirmed that the area was being used as a training ground and storage depot. It was a just reward for a lot of effort from many members of the Squadron.

Squadron chalks up a success

HQ Northern Ireland produce a news-sheet each week which covers events in the Province. Our efforts had qualified us for a mention in the text at last!

"Another success during the week was the discovery of a number of improvised firing ranges at Fair Hill near Larne . . . In the follow-up operation 39 Brigade Signal Squadron found an indoor range and arrested five men who were nearby. Targets, a rifle, ammunition and bomb-making material were seized."

The operation had gone well, though as has been shown there were a few blanks drawn to start with and no doubt there will be more in the future!

So what?

For many members of the Squadron work necessitates a lot of time spent in radio rooms and comcens scattered over the city. Men were made available for these operations by tightening the duty and shift rosters. It has proved very worthwhile. The Squadron has made a visible contribution to the security forces' effort in Ulster, but there is a further result. We were able to use at first hand the communications that we provide for the Brigade. As was said at the beginning, they work. Reports and orders can be passed quickly and clearly, a fact which is heartening to a Signal Squadron, which often has to rely on feed-back from user units.

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

WE regret not publishing notes last month but 'E' Troop in their notes (April/May edition, page 157) 'swung the lamp' so much that they caused a major blackout in the province. However, following their demand for new style notes, we sent along one of our Combat Linemen for a short course in the Public Relations Press Room. With a little help from the expert, **Mr. Ken Russell,** the following two articles are the end result.

Commendation the hard way

Long-serving soldiers may modestly claim that their award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is a tribute not to their unblemished record during 18 years' army service but to their skill in avoiding detection. But they treasure the award and rightly so because it is not given lightly.

That's how **Captain Dennis Bees** from Glamorgan felt. At 49 with 29 years' service in Royal Signals behind him he was presented at long last with his LS & GC Medal on 7th May at the Army's Northern Ireland Headquarters at Lisburn.

He has earned the award the hard way. A wartime soldier —he was called up in 1944 and carried on serving afterwards— by today's more relaxed off-duty standards he would have qualified for the award 11 years ago. But there was a blot on his escutcheon—not a big one but enough.

In 1948—so the records showed—he'd been late getting back to camp in Austria. It was innocent enough. Left high and dry in Graz after an evening out and unable to speak the lingo he'd been faced with a 15-kilometre walk back. But those two hours were enough, like a game of snakes and ladders, to send him back to the start.

By the time he had qualified afresh he had changed his WO1's rank badges for an officer's pips and officers aren't normally eligible for the award but he put in for it partly out of devilment, he admits, "But the award does mean a lot and I reckoned I'd earned it in 26 years instead of the usual 18."

Born in Ton Pentre in the Rhondda where his mother, **Mrs. Gwenllian Bees** of Victoria Street, a sister and four of his five brothers still live. He now works at the Lisburn Headquarters but gets away whenever he can to Austria, his wife's birthplace, to indulge his passion for ski-ing.

The presentation of the award was made to him by **Major-General Max Sawers, M.B.E.,** during the Signal Officer-in-Chief's latest visit.

'Monie a mickle . . .'

A canny Scot serving in Northern Ireland has chosen to spend his four-month duty tour sitting on top of a mountain.

John Smith, a 21-year-old Corporal who comes from Lanark, volunteered for one of the Army's loneliest posts in Ulster out of braw guid sense because he reckons to save more than half his £43 weekly pay this way.

The post he mans as a radio relay technician is atop Divis Mountain four miles out from Belfast's centre and it's a crucial link in the Army's communications network throughout the Province.

While the crew man their lonely post they have an infantry guard to look after them because, spread before them panoramically and just a short distance away, is one of the major trouble spots in Northern Ireland.

John, whose home is at Riverside Road, Kirkfield Bank, is one of six who man the post and live in a Nissen hut on top of the mountain. The other four are signallers like himself and the fifth is a cook who manages cordon bleu menus from a deep-freeze.

They have a deep-freeze because supplies of food and water come in once a week by helicopter unless the weather closes in. When that happens supply 'sherpas' have to clamber their way up the last boggy, precipitous mountain side from the nearest track humping the essential stores.

Another luxury they have in their eyrie is a public telephone and this takes £7 a week from **John's** pocket—he's got a girl friend, **Jenny,** in Salisbury, Wilts—"And it's worth every penny of it to talk to her," he says.

The post is manned constantly and the tiny Royal Signals crew spend their time watching TV, reading and letter writing when they are not on shift. It is the last place in the world for **John's** favourite pastime of canoeing but he is taking a week's leave just now to take part in the Army Canoeing Championships at Llandyssul in Cardiganshire.

Departures

Sergeant Wilson, Corporals Clough and **Wilmot, Lance-Corporals Fairburn** and **Haldane, Signalmen Ager, Cowell, Knight, McKelvie, MacSween** and **Sharp.** Our thanks to you all for your hard work and our best wishes to you and your families in the future.

Arrivals

Corporals Bright and **Smith, Lance-Corporals Cross** and **Hydes, Signalmen Bibby, Brown, Coyle, Hebditch, John, Krawieckyj, Phoenix, Ryan** and **Wright.**

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.

Talented Stage Production plays to capacity houses at Blandford Camp

For the third successive year, The Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club's Gilbert and Sullivan presentation in the Princess Mary Hall, played to near capacity audiences for six evenings in April. So well established is this event in the Blandford Camp spring calendar that 'full house' notices for the popular Friday and Saturday performances were on display within hours of bookings being opened.

Fine solo performances

This year the club selected 'The Gondoliers' for presentation, an interesting choice calling for more principal singers than in previous productions but one which, undoubtedly, reflects the growing strength of the club. The fine solo performances which we have come to expect from **Ted Poole** (Grand Inquisitor), **Malcolm Reed** (Marco), **Pat Cooper** (The Duchess of Plaza-Toro), **Heather Wright** (Tessa) and **Clive King** (Guiseppe) were equalled by those from newcomers **Alexandra Lees** (Casilda), **Peter Brunton** (Luiz), **Richard Smith** (The Duke of Plasa-Toro) and **Chrys Fielding** (Gianetta); all were supported both by the good singing of those playing the minor roles and a well disciplined and lively chorus.

Well-balanced production

Often in productions of Gilbert and Sullivan (both amateur and professional) the balance between singing, acting and dancing is untrue, so that although individual performances may captivate the audience the overall effect is patchy and disappointing. This production achieved a uniformity of standard which was quite exceptional and for which **Donald Inglis** (doubling for the first time as both Musical and Stage Director) and **Myra Saban** as choreographer deserve the highest praise.

Two piano orchestra more than meets the bill

Once again **Donald Cox** and **Rex Solly** provided the 'orchestra' on two pianos which, in the intimate atmosphere of the Princess Mary Hall, far from being, as some might think, inadequate, provided the perfect accompaniment. To the majority who do not play the piano, the sheer physical endurance of such a feat appeared to be the equivalent to running a three-legged marathon race on six successive evenings—to say nothing of a dress rehearsal the night before!

Behind the scenes

Those of us who merely come to enjoy the show seldom stop to think of the work behind the scenes which a production like 'The Gondoliers' entails. The back-stage task of designing

THE GONDOLIERS

Left to right: Major Ted Poole as The Grand Inquisitor, Mrs. Pat Cooper (wife of Captain Cooper) as the Duchess of Plaza Toro, Captain Dick Smith as The Duke of Plaza Toro, Miss Alex Lees (daughter of Major Lees) as Casilda, Captain Peter Brunton as Luiz

and building the ingenious set was the responsibility of **Ken Goulding; Nora Webb's** tireless efforts to 'dress' the performance paid wonderful dividends for we saw a colourful presentation in which the costumes complemented the performance of the singers; **Pat Whitely,** with her team of ladies who, I understand, employed modern production line techniques in order to make-up the entire cast in less than an hour, to all these and many others who worked behind the scenes to provide such an enjoyable evening and, of course, to the cast who have been hard at rehearsals for many weeks, our grateful thanks are due.

A big thank you

But undoubtedly the determination of one man, whose refusal to take a 'no' from anybody whom he thought could assist, has contributed more than anyone else to a very memorable production; to **Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Inglis** we not only say "Thank you," but add, "What are your plans for next spring?" This production has maintained the high standards we have come to expect from the Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club!

"Of that there is no manner of doubt
No probable, possible shadow of doubt,
No possible doubt whatever!"

News from Regiments

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY — SPRING 1973

WE were very pleased to have with us as Reviewing Officer for last term's graduation **Major-General A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.,** GOC Wales. It was especially appropriate that, as a former Signaller himself. his farewell parade before retiring from the Army, should be held at a Royal Signals establishment.

In spite of the ominous date—Friday, 13th April—all went well. The weather was more than reasonable, and the re-shaped parade—with the Bands marching and counter-marching whilst playing the inspection tunes—proved a great success, giving the large crowd more to look at as well as to listen to. No doubt the musicians, too, welcomed being less static.

Eight hundred apprentices on parade were commanded by **A/T R.S.M. Michael Flaherty,** 18, of Lee Park, Liverpool, whose slender frame contrives to produce a voice of remarkable volume. Still only in his eighth term, **A/T R.S.M. Flaherty** will be only the third apprentice in the history of the College to command two Graduation Parades.

During the Parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Corporal Frederick Crighton, Royal Signals,** whose 18 years' service include ten in the RAF, with whom he served in Cyprus, Aden, Iraq and Kenya. After five years' Army service in BAOR, he has spent the last three as an Instructor at the College.

Prior to the Parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the LS & GC medal to **W.O.2 (S.Q.M.S.) C. E. Self,** RAPC (the College Pay Warrant Officer) in the Commandant's Office. Suffering from a 'slipped disc', **Q Self** was supported in more ways than one by his wife at this private ceremony but was afterwards able to watch the parade as a spectator.

In his opening address at the prizegiving, the Commandant, **Colonel Norman Butler,** extended an especial welcome to **Brigadier Jimmy Hellier,** recently appointed Commander of the Training Brigade; to **Colonel Jack Saunders,** retiring from teaching mathematics and hockey at Welbeck College; and to **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Nat' Gould,** whose long service in and with Royal Signals enables him, as **Colonel Butler** remarked, "To remember **Bob Edwards** as a promising young soldier." Noting some of the term's achievements, **Colonel Butler** congratulated especially the Apprentices' Hockey Club not only on winning the Army Junior Hockey Cup, as recorded in our last issue, but also on having no fewer than four players in the

Major General Woodrow escorted by the Commandant meets the two R.S.M.s—R.S.M. L. Meade, Scots guards and A/T. R.S.M. Michael Flaherty

Army team which won the Inter-Services Under-22 tournament.

Speaking in his turn, **General Woodrow** thought that the hallmark of a successful officer is "always to know something that no one else does." He hastened to add that his private piece of knowledge was not concerned with the activities of the Senior Term the previous evening, but the fact that it was **Colonel Butler's** birthday. One doubts if he has ever had a more stentorian greeting.

In more serious vein **General Woodrow** went on to advise the 'graduates' that "the life of a professional soldier is varied—it always has been; it is challenging—it always has been; it may be different—times do change." He added that their constant aim must be complete reliability.

Main prizewinners were:

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award — "for the best all-round Tradesman" — **A/T Corporal Donald Shave.**

Royal Signals Corps Committee Prizes — "for Apprentices who have made the best use of their opportunities" — Technician, **A/T Ian Stewart;** Telegraphist, **A/T Corporal Donald Shave.**

Borough of Harrogate Prize — "for the best essay on Local Government" — Technician, **A/T Philip Burns;** Telegraphist, **A/T David Exley,** who achieved the almost incredible mark of 100 per cent.

Special mention should be made of **Corporal Donald Shave** who, with College prizes for trade and education, surely created a record by winning four prizes.

In addition, **General Woodrow** made the following presentations:

Special award for services to Army Soccer — Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Peter Smurthwaite.

City and Guilds Silver Medal and £50 — W.O.1 (F. of S.) Gerald Shakeshaft.

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Badge — A/T Keith Taylor.

The Champion Squadron Cup — Phillips Squadron. (**Major R. O. G. Wood,** QRIH, **C.S.M. W. Grimley,** Grenadier Guards, **A/T S.S.M. John Murray**).

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

1 SQUADRON

Exercise 'Grand Duchy'

ECHO Troop decided to take to the hills (or is it the lowlands?) for the Easter holiday period and try their luck and skill in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Setting forward valiantly with suntan lotion hopefully clutched in one hand and chilblain ointment in the other (after all, you never know what's going to happen in Luxembourg), the party left Bunde in fine style, led by that exercise veteran **Captain Dick Thwaites.**

And then it rained. It hailed, too, for a little while, but apart from discarding the suntan lotion, the intrepid travellers continued their quest undaunted, and arrived at Luxembourg towards nightfall. Camping in snow is nothing new to members of a Comcen, and it felt just like old times to be erecting a tent in such conditions; despite such minor difficulties, **Signalman Trevor Smith** ignored the snowflakes drifting down his neck sufficiently well to produce an excellent meal.

A snowfall woke us, but just as the chilblain ointment seemed about to come into its own, the sun broke through, the snow melted and we almost felt that summer had come as we set out on a vehicle recce of the city, taking in the sights. Some of the braver members of the party continued sightseeing on foot while the remainder took to the vehicles to admire the beauty of the surrounding countryside, and even retreated back into Germany to see the ancient and interesting Roman town of Trier.

Back in Luxembourg, a party led by **Driver Terry Beard** made an assault on the studios of Radio Luvembourg—in vain, however, and instant fame through the medium of broadcasting (not, this time, through a Comcen network) had eluded our stout band yet again.

I think, on reflection, that the evenings' activities are best left a blank, and shall only say that reveille was late next morning, and no one can remember whether suntan lotion or chilblain ointment was the order of the day. **Lance-Corporal 'Jacko' Jackson** led half the party round Greueumacher and **Driver George Fleet** examined the wine-growing country of the Moselle before the two parties united to sample the local produce.

Easter Day was spent in Belgium, again mostly sightseeing. The next day the party split again, one to look for the local zoo under the leadership of **Lance-Corporal 'Dusty' Rhodes** and the other to watch the International Speed Trials.

Echo Troop are back in camp now. They don't talk too much of Exercise 'Grand Duchy' except a little of what I have sketched above; the rumour is indeed slowly spreading that, perhaps there is more to tell—or perhaps not to tell? Only the chosen few will ever know.

General

Well, the exercise season is once more with us, bringing the normal number of mishaps and moments to remember. High winds assaulted us on Exercise 'Flying Falcon' (besides the snow), and one of our Radio Relay wagons suddenly was found to be an 'Aunt Sally' for trees pretending to be coconuts. Its occupants, **Corporal Steve MacAllister** and **Signalman 'Scouse' Prestcott** were surprised but unperturbed as they crawled out on their stomachs to begin the repair operations.

Staff Sergeant Ken Thurley and **Signalman 'Al' Dixon** have put fear into the hearts of the Winter Olympic veterans by taking up the art of bob-sleighing at Bergchesgarten. It may, however, require one or two more training sessions before they are ready to bring gold medals back to the Squadron bar after sweeping the board at the next Olympics.

Our golfing Yeoman **Staff Sergeant 'Des' Heyes** has now sadly left us for greater things on his promotion to 24 BDG, and we all wish him and his family the best of luck in his new posting. His relief **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Doug Elcox** has arrived and we hope he finds the nine-hole golf course here to his satisfaction—golf must now be included in the Yeomen's course, we feel.

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

APRIL has seen elements of the Regiment on exercise for most of its 30 days. 1 Squadron went on an exercise to South Wales for a week, 2 Squadron took part in Exercise 'Muted Flute' (a JFHQ exercise), led for the first time by their new OC, **Major David Morris.** Finally, 1 and 3 Squadrons helped the T & AVR on their major exercise, 'Shot Two.' This month's WIRE notes were penned in one of those rare, quiet moments on Comcen Command Duty.

Exercise 'Sorcerers Apprentice'

In the last few days of March, **Lieutenant David Lynam** was seen rushing around camp muttering about wizards and apprenticeships and little notice was taken of him until he finally announced "We're all off on exercise next week." It turned out to be an Internal Security exercise on Castlemartin training area, South Wales, with, of course, the inevitable Bruin system trailing along behind. Everyone was given the opportunity of doing the next higher rank's job and things at first turned out very much as they did for the exercise's namesake. However, people soon got the hang of things until finally **Second-Lieutenant Peter White** exclaimed, "I'm redundant." Everyone enjoyed their change of role and the chance to do some different training which included a very realistic casualty simulation by **Corporal 'Ginge' Cox.** The exercise finished with a cordon and search of a large farmhouse complete with an irate Welsh farmer, magnificently portrayed by **Corporal George Bardsley.** Needless to say the guerilla forces were completely annihilated.

Officers' Mess ladies' night

A ladies' guest night held on 12th April was a great success. The band of The Royal Hussars entertained us during dinner, and afterwards provided dance music to everyone's delight. **Captain Keith Turner** organised a little friendly roulette to round off the evening. A night to remember for a very long time and our thanks must go to all those who helped to make it such a good evening.

We also take this opportunity of welcoming **Second-Lieutenant Ian Fraser** into our ranks and wish him success in his first tour of regimental duty.

Exercise 'King Rat' — Regimental report

Lieutenant Michael Podmore and the members of the Regimental Go-Kart Club took part in Exercise 'King Rat' from Thursday, 19th April, to Tuesday, 24th April.

After lunch on the Thursday **Sergeant Alan Halpenny, Sergeant Keith Cooper, Signalman Richard Arnold, Signalman Frank McCubbin** and **Signalman Ian Johnstone** loaded the four-tonner for the club's first trip to the Lincolnshire Motor Racing Circuit of Cadwell Park. With the go-karts, rations, welding equipment and tools loaded, the team set off for Blyton Airfield.

On the Good Friday, they arrived at the airfield at about 16.00 hours and in no time at all their home for the next three nights was set up. On Saturday morning, **Sergeant Alan Halpenny** fitted a new engine to one of the karts and ran it in ready for racing at Cadwell Park the next day.

The following day they departed for Cadwell Park for the Lines County Championships. On arrival at the circuit, the two karts were passed by the scrutineer as fit to race and within minutes **Sergeant Alan Halpenny** and **Sergeant Peter Ascough** were round the circuit for a practice lap. The heats were over four laps of the one-and-a-half-mile club circuit and they found themselves on the second row of the 'B' final grid, having finished all their heats together. **Sergeant Peter Anscough** had a very good start and **Sergeant Alan Halpenny** was left to fight his way through the pack of 45 karts. After two laps **Sergeant Peter Ascough** was noticed standing at the side of the track with his kart at his feet. A very flat tyre was the cause of his problem. **Sergeant Alan Halpenny** successfully finished a creditable 16th out of the 45 karts.

That night they returned to Blyton Airfield to prepare their karts for the following day. 'That night it snowed, hailed and rained but they all survived their wettest night under canvas. At first it was thought that the rain would result in the meeting being called off but at the drivers' conference **Sergeant Alan Halpenny** pointed out that most drivers should have spare wet weather clothes. That was all that was needed—the challenge was met and 40 of the keenest local drivers were out to show the Army from Bulford that they were capable of racing in these conditions.

Unfortunately **Sergeant Alan Halpenny** got water in the fuel system of his kart and was forced to retire but **Sergeant Peter Ascough** successfully finished 6th out of a field of 40 karts.

The club continues to flourish, and many more events are planned throughout the summer.

Devizes-Westminster canoe race

With a £500 Nuffield Trust grant for canoes and equipment the 'new 3 Division Canoe Club' decided to try their hand at this difficult competition. Due to commitments only one team was entered this year, consisting of **Corporal 'Paddy' Crothers** and **Signalman 'Mac' McKendrick.** The race was held in extremely bad weather conditions and this, combined with the team arriving at Teddington Lock at the wrong tide, gave them a slow overall time. However, they were pleased they managed to complete the course and they are now hoping to enter British Canoe Club races this year. The race could never have been completed though without the tremendous help by the support team consisting of **W.O.2 Colin Johnson, Gunner John Green** and acting as cook **Lance-Corporal Steve Holmes,** who was found entertaining junior Sappers (who had dropped out of the race) to hot tea and hamburgers.

Sergeants' Mess notes

Friday 13th (dubious day to choose) saw the Sergeants' Mess turned out in full Mess kit for what turned out to be an excellent dinner. Eight members of the CPO and P.s' Messes of HMAS Mercury (the School of Signals of the Navy) were invited and helped to add a salty flavour to the drinking, darts, dominoes, crib and carpet bowls.

The Mess Disco is now well established and performs each Saturday night, providing excellent entertainment at the dances.

The Mess golf course (putting only) is now being restored to its former glory by **Saff Sergeant Ken Booth,** so sunny Sunday lunchtime drinks will go with a swing.

The Mess football team continues to flourish managed by **Sergeant Dave Robertson** and assisted by **Sergeant Geoff Downey.** The team is gaining strong regular support and have games most Sunday mornings. The most recent fixture was versus the 27 Regiment RCT Sergeants' Mess who were beaten with a 3-0 scoreline, all these goals being scored by **Staff Sergeant 'Taff' Buxton.** The social side of these games is, of course, not forgotten and all matches end with a lunchtime drink to finish things off nicely.

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 15

HQ Squadron have drawn the short straw this month and their scribe is anonymous but there are no prizes for guessing his identity.

Personalities are:

OC HQ Squadron — **Major F. C. Hodges,** Royal Hussars
BSM — **W.O.2 R. W. Anderson.** RA
BQMS — **Staff Sergeant E. Sharp,** RA
Squadron Runner — **Sergeant G. A. Black,** Royal Signals
Squadron Clerks — **Lance-Corporal I. Rapley, Signalman E. McLachlan**

Chicken Supreme—again

The scene, an idyllic wood in the lovely Weser Bergland, the time, just after lunch on 12th April. A very cold but pleasant day, and a large cloud of somnolence had settled over Main HQ 4 Division. Not surprising after the delightful lunch produced by **Sergeant 'Lofty' Illingworth** and his brilliant team. A beautiful chicken supreme with pom and it was disappointing for them when, after all their efforts and hours of

C.-in-C. VISITS

The C.-in-C. B.A.O.R. General Sir Harry Tuzo, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C. inspecting the Quarter Guard during his visit to H.Q. 4th Division on May 1 1973

From left to right: Sergeant H. O'Halloran, Signalman C. Headlam, Lance-Corporal A. Clasper, R.E. Looking on is the G.O.C. 4th Division, Major General A. H. Farrar-Hockley, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C.

slaving away at a No 1 burner, the end result is greeted by such remarks as "Bloody chicken supreme again" and "Gawd —pom." As said, somnolence had settled in, operators were sitting quietly at their sets, enchanted by the nostalgic 'Bleep, bleep, bleep.' Staff officers were desperately fighting the battle to keep their eyelids open and brains clear in anticipation of having to make quick, clear thinking, far-reaching decisions.

Action . . .

Suddenly the quietness was shattered by two words, "CRAAASH OOUUT!" The change in scene was instant, surprising and frightening; bodies jerked erect like puppets on a string, soldiers started rushing around throwing kit into and onto vehicles, getting themselves and their equipment entangled with the camouflage netting, and shouting remarks at each other like, "I say old chap, please be careful with your camp bed, you almost poked my eye out." Officers stood by and gave good advice and words of encouragement—situation normal.

. . . then a spot of bother

It was Exercise 'Keel Haul,' the first HQ 4 Division domestic exercise of the year, and everyone was willingly putting all they had into it. One of the first away from the location was OC Administration, Main HQ. The standard excuse is that he must be away early to arrange things the other end, or somewhere on route. Actually he gets away so that he will not get involved if things start to go wrong. Just as he moved off it snowed, an absolute blizzard. Being terribly cold, when the snow settled on the road an icy surface formed. Making reasonably good if slow time, and approaching a slight bend in the road, OC Administration and driver **Lance-Corporal 'Fuzz' Corcoran** of the RCT saw a Royal Military Police Land Rover and trailer on the wrong side of the road, facing the wrong way, trailer in ditch, Land Rover hovering on the edge. Slowing down to enable sarcastic, caustic remarks to be exchanged, "I didn't touch the brakes, sir, honest. Land Rover skidded, result, trailer in ditch, Land Rover hovering on edge, on wrong side of road facing wrong direction!" In the distance appeared the vehicles of Main HQ; **'Fuzz'** ran along the road to slow them down, leading vehicle mistook the signal, stopped, next vehicle braked, skidded across the road into field, trailer turned onto its side.

Further down the column OC 2 Squadron, **Major John Hincks,** held tightly onto his seat whilst his driver tried to push a tree over with his front right wing. Whilst this scene was being enacted, another group of vehicles led by the DAPM, **Major Deans,** RMP, had taken the wrong turning into a cul de sac. The DAPM jumped out of his vehicle and took complete command, turned two vehicles and trailers round and suddenly found three others thundering along the road towards him. Final scene in this drama, OC Administration and **'Fuzz'** bargaining with a German tractor driver to reach a reasonable price for pulling Land Rovers and trailers onto road. All vehicles reached their new location, no one injured, one Land Rover slightly bent in the front.

Spring in the offing and it's sports day

Have you had your Regimental/Unit sports day yet? We had ours on 18th April. It gets earlier each year. It was worked out the other day that at the rate we are going Regimental Athletics 1979 will take place on 2nd January. We were fortunate to be allowed the use of a civilian sports ground in Bielefeld; very good, all mod cons, all-weather track with a restaurant and bar overlooking the track. Despite the bitterly cold weather and the Force 2½ wind about 130 competitors competed, and at least 30 thoroughly enjoyed themselves. During the time they were dashing around the track and throwing things an equivalent number of competitors were in the restaurant competing in the 100 litres. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

No records were broken but one was maintained, HQ Squadron came fourth again, third year running; if they manage to do the same next year they will get a prize.

SIGNALMAN ROGER WOODHOUSE

We regret to announce the death of Signalman Roger Woodhouse on Sunday, 6th May, as the result of a traffic accident. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents in Penrith, Cumberland.

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

Regimental personalities

Commanding Officer — **Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King**
Second-in-Command — **Major B. A. R. Driskell**
Operations Officer — **Major N. A. Walter**
Regimental Paymaster — **Major R. E. Pepper,** RAPC
OC Headquarters Squadron — **Major C. Riley**
OC Light Aid Detachment — **Major P. D. Cronan,** REME
OC 1 Squadron — **Major W. C. A. Kennedy**
OC 2 Squadron — **Major P. Webb**
OC 3 Squadron — **Major B. G. Le Dan,** R. Australian Signals
OC 4 Squadron — **Major L. J. Pertwee**
OC 5 Squadron — **Major D. S. Mullineaux**
OC 6 Squadron — **Major G. M. Finney**
Adjutant — **Captain J. P. Munnery**
Technical Adjutant — **Captain M. Butler**
Padre — **Rev. (CF3) A. J. Heagerty, R.A.Ch.D.**
OC Corps Lighting Troop — **Captain I. McL. Chapman,** RE
Officers' Mess Secretary — **Captain G. E. Mileham, M.B.E.**
Specialist Messing Officer — **Lieutenant J. L. Brumfitt,** ACC

Hockey — six-a-side

The Regiment entered two teams in the 4th Division competition which took place at Gordon Barracks, Hameln, on Saturday, 7th April. The teams consisted of:

Team 'A': **W.O.2 John Loveday, Staff Sergeant John Hurn, Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty, Corporal 'Ginge' Hayward, Lance-Corporal 'Tilly' Tillman, Craftsman Eddie Duncan,** REME.

Team 'B': **Captain Wilf Little, Sergeant Charlie Wickham, Corporal 'Tich' Long,** RAPC, **Corporal 'Paddy' Goslyn, Lance-Corporal Bob Waller, Lance-Corporal 'Bonzo' Marchant.**

Some very good hockey was played in poor conditions. Team 'B,' after a soaking in every game, reached the semi-final of the Plate competition. A creditable performance. Team 'A' reached the final by beating our old rivals 28 Amph Engineer Regiment by two short corners. At half-time in the final against 2 Queens we were a goal down. Not disheartened, however, **Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty** equalised and at full-time the score was even. He concluded a very good personal performance by scoring a brilliant winning goal in a 'sudden death' play off.

As 4th Division Champions we went on to the BAOR Competition at Dortmund on Saturday, 28th April. For this match our team was our 'A' team from the 4th Division competition with **Corporal 'Tich' Long** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Waller** as reserves. The reserves were soon brought into action after **Staff Sergeant John Hurn** received a painful foot injury. We found ourselves in the unenviable position of having to beat 4th Guards Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron, a fine team, to win our league and just managed to top it by one short corner.

With a 2-1 win against 25 Engineer Regiment in the quarter-final we had a tense semi-final against 4 Division Regiment RCT. Inspired by **S.S.M. John Loveday** (who saved a penalty goal) we eventually won by a single goal scored by **Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty.** The final saw us beaten in a BAOR final—for the second time this season—by an excellent team, 3 BAPD, with a single goal.

A first-rate season sees us as runners-up in BAOR and winners of 4th Division competitions, and **Lance-Corporal Tillman** goes off to play in a BAOR Inter-Service festival—a high honour—whilst we rethink our plans for winning all the BAOR competitions next year.

Exercise 'Seagull's Search'

In the latter weeks of April, the Regimental Sub Aqua Club went on a week's expedition to investigate reports of various pieces of Second World War equipment purported to be sunk in various lakes. Diving and recovery operations were directed by **Captain I. McL. Chapman,** RE (OC Corps Lighting Troop) and the Adjutant, **Captain J. P. Munnery,** found himself a place on the venture as archivist and recorder.

The first working day was spent in acclimatising our team of a dozen or so divers to the rather chilly waters—which averaged five degrees Centigrade. During these activities a large crate of ammunition was found and recovered. This, on examination, contained about 600 rounds of assorted Second World War German and Austrian small arms ammunition. As a result, this site was immediately chosen as 'good bet' to start operations and over the following two days a good haul was made here — including German anti-tank weapons, bayonets and various components of rifles and machine guns. Visibility varied from two or three feet to zero, the majority of diving being carried out to a depth of 30-40 feet. A systematic approach was used for searches with the use of weighted lines laid on the lake bed connected to buoys on the surface; this was essential as most of the interesting items were found under a foot or so of mud which, once stirred up, completely got rid of what visibility there might have previously been. One property that the local mud did have, however, was to almost perfectly preserve anything sunk in it and virtually all items recovered were in excellent condition—despite nearly 28 years of submergence.

On the third day we found that a local diving club had appeared early and were investigating our 'shot lines.' We came to the impression that this site had been 'overfished' and that there were probably yet more fruitful areas to be investigated. Some time was spent interviewing the 'natives' in local Gasthauses (the subsequent 1771 claim was not allowed!) and a further two sites were chosen. The first, we were told, had been a seaplane base in 1945 and four aircraft were sunk there following a raid. A fruitless day was spent here and it was eventually discovered that the aircraft had been recovered for scrap in 1948. The second site was near an old munitions storage depot. Apparently the contents of the arsenal were dumped into the water at the end of the war. At first not much was found, only sufficient items to justify continuing the search. On the following day, the search area was widened with no result at all until a new, and highly original, search technique was used. **Lance-Corporal 'Manxie' Moorcroft,** of the Corps Lighting Troop, was invited to dump a weighted bag of rubbish in a suitable quiet part of the lake. This he did. He was mystified to see **Captain Chapman** follow him out—apparently with the aim of recovering his parcel. After a few minutes under water a sealed crate containing 1,500 rounds of German 7.92mm bulleted blank ammunition in original packets was found and recovered.

Following this, on the final day, more equipment was recovered than had been found in the previous six days. We now have the area well plotted, and feel we have only just scratched the surface of the available munitions.

7 Signal Regiment Sub Aqua Club provides diving facilities for all units in our area. We are most grateful to other units, and in particular 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment, for releasing members to accompany us.

SHADES OF WORLD WAR II

Captain J. P. Munnery and W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Raku examining some of the equipment recovered during Exercise "Seagull's Search"

This article cannot be closed without mentioning **Sergeant Bill Tidswell,** of 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment, who is at present the club's 'Diving Officer.' He had singularly bad luck finding things throughout the week and seemed to spend most of his time in recovery of heavy objects found by others. The final straw was on the last day when he was paddling a matter of feet from the shore and trod on a German rocket launcher. Rumours that he is selling his diving equipment as a result are entirely groundless!

Exercise 'White Shod'

'Tony' the Second-in-Command said, "I've nominated you for Exercise 'Whiteshod'." "Thank you, sir," I replied and started travelling. The following day I was in Oslo, sampling the night life. Sunday breakfast was marked by the incident of the 'Odd Milk.' On the food table there were two identical brown jugs. I thought the milk was unusually thick. I sat down and wondered about why people were looking at me oddly. Moral: Take sugar with sour milk!

By Monday night we were installed in comfortable rooms at Jorstadmoen and thinking about the morrow. The next morning, after an opening address, kit was issued. The first essay on skis came in the afternoon. No falls yet!

A few weeks later and many falls later (there are supposed to be worms in snow but I can guarantee there aren't any down to a depth of 2ft.), I had picked up the langlauf style after a fashion.

We were now taken to a 'scenic' spot where we would make a tent of tent-sheets. A comfortable night. I think I had the best sleeping place at every one's feet (memo to those interested: Feet make excellent pillows). I can recommend the one-man Norwegian compo, particularly the cocoa block, which makes an excellent drink.

Time and nights out in Lillehammer flew by, punctuated by the parties we gave for the Norwegians, or vice-versa, and then we were taken up to the Kitilbu Cottage. Here we learnt the practicalities of making a snow hole, which can prove very comfortable. Then we were off on our 100 km cross-country trip. We started with a 25km tow behind a Volvo tracked vehicle and moved on with a short 10km trek to our home for two nights. For warmth, but not perhaps for comfort, it takes a lot to beat an M-39 centrally heated tent. The trip over, we went back in Jorstadmoen for the farewell party.

The course broke up and we dispersed with many stories such as the descent from Nordseter to Lillehammer, the 30kh military ski test, the sauna and snow baths at Kitilbu, to mention but a few.

I learnt a great deal on this course and am most grateful to our Norwegian hosts for all their hospitality and patience shown in their instruction.

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9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 53

THE period April-May has seen a successful FFR Inspection by **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** Commander 3 Signal Group, and a continuing winning streak on the ranges, the hockey and athletic fields.

Shooting and hockey

3 Squadron won the CSO's Cup shoot from the Signals Minor Units on the island and now have their sights set on the NEARELF Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Dhekelia in May. They have also won both the Eastern Sovereign Base Area Minor Units Hockey League and Cup for the second year running.

Football and basketball

2 Squadron, not to be outdone, won the ESBA Minor Units Basketball League and Cup and were runners-up to 262 Signal Squadron in the ESBA Minor Units Football Cup. The following short precis shows what an exciting game it was. 2 Squadron were three down at half-time, but it was three-all at full-time. They managed to get in front 4-3 in the second half of extra time but 262 came back to make it four-all at full-time. The rules allowed for five penalties after extra time and 262 won 4-3. We are pleased to recount that the 2 Squadron team were also runners-up in the Sportsmanship Trophy out of the 16 teams taking part.

Cyprus Walkabout

This year four of our Cyprus Walkabout teams completed the gruelling 35-mile course from Episkopi to Troodos and back again the next day with 2 Squadron 'A' team, **Staff Sergeant Armstrong, Corporal Jarrold** and **Corporal Baker,** positioned 18th out of the 76 teams which started. The 2 Squadron 'B' team, **Corporal Hewlitt, S.A.C. Mills** and **S.A.C. Wallace** 31st, and the 1 Squadron team **Sergeants Yarwood** and **Barrett** and **Corporal Muriel,** 35th; **Corporal Taylor, Corporal Free, Private Chapman,** (all ACC) 42nd. Only 61 teams finished this little walkabout.

Athletics

We have also been successful in the athletic field; already this year the 2 Squadron team, captained by **W.O.1 Riddell,** has won the Regimental and Garrison meeting at Ayios Nikolaos by 37 points in gale force winds. The team went on to win, this time by only two points from 3 Squadron, the Commander 3 Signal Group Athletic Championship Squadron Trophy. The teams now look forward to competing in the Minor Units Athletic Meeting to be held in Dhekelia in May.

Clubs and hobbies

With the exception of the AAC Harrogate, 9 Signal Regiment probably provides more facilities for spare-time activities than any other Corps unit. In an age where reflected glory from success at straight ball games has fostered a degree of inter-unit competition tending to go well beyond the Olympic tradition, more and more people are looking for activities which can provide genuine enjoyment and relaxation.

The full list of activities available to soldiers and their families in this unit is too long to cover adequately here. However, if your 'thing' is riding, ski-ing on water or snow, sub aqua, acting, photography, canoeing or even messing about in boats, then 9 Signal Regiment is the unit for you.

In addition to his responsibilities as Garrison Commander and command of over 600 officers and soldiers, the Commanding Officer of 9 Signal Regiment has over 20 horses under his command. These horses form the permanent cadre of the Famagusta Services Saddle Club.

The Saddle Club is a unique feature of the Regiment and is a popular and well supported club. It caters for anyone, from the beginner to the potential Harvey Smith. It stages its own shows and gymkhanas and members of the club are able to hold their own in competitions anywhere on the island.

Another thriving club is the Sub Aqua Club and surely there can be no better place for diving than in the clear waters round Cyprus.

The Garrison Drama Club, the Mercury Theatre Group, facing fierce competition from larger clubs who also have better facilities, achieved a memorable success by winning the British Forces' Near East Drama Festival. This required a great deal of hard work. Both the cast and the back stage workers, most of whom came from the Regiment, are to be congratulated on their success.

Staff Sergeant Crooks prepares for the dressage event in which he took second place

Corporal Rouse briefs Sergeant Kinnar and Lance-Corporal Newman before a sub-aqua dive at Chapel Rocks

Training Centre

Necessary though they are, leisure activities must be kept in perspective. On an island where a potential internal security crisis could arise the soldiers of 9 Signal Regiment have a very real training target. The Regiment aims at all times to be fully prepared to defend the Garrison.

The introduction of the Military Continuation Training Course has proved a great asset in this direction. Under the sadistic command of **Lieutenant R. A. Couchman,** ably assisted by 'torturer-in-chief' **W.O.2 Pope,** the Regimental Training Centre runs MCTC throughout the year. The MCTC (Military Continuation Training Course), not to be confused with Military Corrective Training Centre courses held at Colchester, is specifically designed to maintain a high standard of individual weapon handling, fieldcraft and physical fitness. Battle runs and section attacks are not always amusing when the temperature rises above 100°F but the results are self evident. Each course provides a fund of stories for the barrack room and the NAAFI, but the first MCTC for Warrant Officers must surely have reached new heights.

Seven Warrant Officers were selected for this particular course which had been programmed to last three days. The differential between this course and the 12 days for a JNCOs' course has nothing to do with 'rank hath its privilege.' It was

merely due to the fact that such experienced individuals would only need a little brushing up, and there is therefore no truth in the rumour that a 12-day course might have reduced the WOs' roster by seven. In three never to be forgotten days, the course relived their recruit training and experienced modern torture techniques which made basic training at Catterick seem like the holiday of a lifetime.

Physical Fitness Assessments (PFAs)—defined as controlled application of severe pain—were followed by a mind bending re-indoctrination into the marvels of NBC cells, Internal Security defined as a lesson in how to avoid haemorrhoids—and concentrated weapon handling. Seven new supermen came through their training and testing well, though they appeared to have experienced a kind of mental rape. We now eagerly await the next 'action-man' course. One wonders, might we see both RQMSs side by side in NBC suits? That would really be an experience for the Training Officer.

Departures

On a sadder note, the Regiment has recently had to say farewell to **Mr. P. J. Newstead. Pat Newstead** has been Officer i/c Civilian Wing in the Regiment for the past three years. We would like to record our thanks to both **Mr. Newstead** and his wife for their support to the Regiment throughout their tour and we wish them every success in the future.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

RHQ (Hounslow)

I THINK I shall begin the notes this time by not mentioning the normal and possibly mundane happenings such as how our inter-Troop sports are progressing. How our Wives' Club and Thrift Shop are flourishing. The booming (pun) Bruno Club. The theatre and TV trips we've had. Or even our excellent communicating record. Instead I think I shall tell you about just two Regimental activities which occurred during the month of April.

Regimental wedding

Signalman Brian Dalton of Radio Troop married **Lance-Corporal Joan Middlemiss** at St. Paul's church on Saturday, 14th April. Is that all? No, not quite. You see **Mrs. Dalton** earns her living driving the Commanding Officer's staff car, but on this particular day the roles were reversed. The CO, resplendent in blues, acted as her chauffeur for the day. The whole affair caused quite a stir, several national newspapers were there to record the occasion as were the local papers. I suspect the prospective bride had too much on her mind to really appreciate the situation, but the RSM who gave the bride away seemed to enjoy the novelty of the occasion. The car was preceded there and back by three outriders from our MT Troop mounted on their 'state occasion' motor cycles. They were **Corporal Bill Martin, Lance-Corporal Fred (Gypo) Alexander** and **Signalman Alan Deane.** After the ceremony, which went off without a hitch, the newly weds came out into the sunlight, yes that was laid on as well, to pass through an arch of honour provided by the men of Radio Troop also rigged out in their blues and holding aloft crossed antenna sections. All then returned to the Bruno Club where amidst the popping of champagne corps and groaning tables the reception was held. Eventually the couple departed in traditional style trailing toilet rolls, beer cans, with stone-filled hub caps noisily rattling. I bet they are still finding chad tape perforations in their what-sa-names. A memorable day for the Regiment as well as for the Daltons.

Calling all wives — by Mrs. Mary Anne Doane

As most articles in THE WIRE are, in fact, written by service personnel, I think it's about time the wives said a few words. Then perhaps we could make it as much our magazine as it is our husbands. Can I start the ball rolling (or should I have said pen?) for this to become a regular item in the magazine?

A CORPS WEDDING—WITH A DIFFERENCE
Signalman Brian Dalton and his bride—the former Lance-Corporal Joan Middlemiss—leaving St. Paul's Church. The bride was the C.O.'s driver but after the ceremony the C.O. acted as chauffeur to the happy couple. (Courtesy of the 'Evening Mail')

THE TOAST IS—"THE LADIES OF 10th REGIMENT"
The ladies of 10th Signal Regiment Wives Club—warming up prior to departure for their Supper Evening at the Ferry Boat Inn, Hampton Court
Left to right: Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Dimmock, Mrs. Rumsey, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Henshall, Mrs. Stephen, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Robson, Mrs. Gowling, Mrs. Doane, Mrs. Galbraith, Mrs. Say, Mrs. Gallogley, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Heath

Many other wives must be in the same position as myself, with their husbands being away a good deal of the time. What do we do in our leisure time? Well, with the re-formation of 10 Signal Regiment Wives' Club, which incidentally meets once a month in the Regimental Bruno Club over a cup of coffee and biscuits, I have now found plenty of things to keep me occupied during the time I'm a grass widow. We have a varied programme, which pleases just about everybody.

Our activities to date have included demonstrations of floral arrangements, sweet making and make-up, a display of stainless steel jewellery, a wig party, a visit to the television studios and a fashion show. We are also at present making toys for the Middlesex District Autumn Fair in aid of SSAFA and running a popular Thrift Shop, from which a percentage of the proceeds helps to finance the Wives' Club. Events in the near future include a ladies' night out on the town and a discussion on The Dangers Of Drug Taking, including two films.

Although we have quite a varied programme we are always interested in new ideas, so perhaps this spot could be used to swop these ideas around the globe.

Hope to hear from you soon ladies. Over and out.

Vehicle vagary

Earlier in the month our MT Troop headed by the MTO W.O.2 (S.S.M.) **Reg Heath** and **Sergeant Tony Cross** organised a Safe Driving and Advanced Motorist competition. The event was held on a Saturday morning in typical blustery April weather. There were 11 teams each consisting of three drivers. The course was made up of seven hazards—a typical piece of British understatement—and 30 questions on the highway code, with a generous 90 seconds to answer them all. We found on arrival that each team had been given 'match names.' Some examp'es are: 'The Pretty Things' for the MT WRAC girls. The 'Hampshire Hopes' for **Captain Meachem,** WRAC, and her team from 3 Squadron. The RHQ team consisting of the CO, the RSM and **Second-Lieutenant Pote,** WRAC — the 'Untouchables'—would you believe?

Each of the 33 drivers completed the course in a Morris 1100, a car many had never before driven. It was difficult but enjoyable, the course having been cleverly thought out and the general standard of driving was high. The accolade for best jockey of the day went to **Corporal Hadden** of Radio Troop. The team booby prize of three 'L' plates and a year's free course on the simulator was taken by Wilton I from 4 Squadron. The smooth driving of the 'Untouchables' produced a final score of 203 which allowed SWS Troop to slip into first place with their 205 points, thus winning the magnificent Heath trophy. This trophy was kindly donated to the Regiment by **Reg and Mari-Anne Heath** and will now be competed for as an annual event. All the prizewinners were most graciously presented with their trophies by **Mrs. Heath.** The morning's efforts were rounded off with a buffet lunch and a few beers in the Bruno Club.

11 Sig Regt Catterick Camp

CADRE—JUNIOR SIGNALMAN SQUADRON
Rear Rank, (Left to right): Lance-Corporal Prinn, Corporal Havlin, Corporal Oakley, Corporal Madden, Corporal White, Sergeant Sharp
Centre Rank: Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Butcher, Sergeant Pedley, Sergeant Birchall, Staff Sergeant Bailey, Sergeant Davenport, Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Davidson, Sergeant Jack, Sergeant Grubb, Staff Sergeant Pengilly
Sitting: Lieutenant R. H. Hoyle, Captain C. C. L. Enright, W.O.I A. J. E. Irons, Major J. W. Roberts, Major J. M. Haworth-Wood, Lieutenant G. R. Elliot, Lieutenant G. R. Farrel

Farewells

THIS month we say farewell to two '22 years served' senior NCOs **Staff Sergeant Brian Ireland** and **Staff Sergeant Joe Morris.** The Depot will miss them for their hardwork and cheerfulness and wish them well and good fortune in civilian life.

Junior Signalman Squadron — Pass-off Parade, 13th April

Whilst 'Black Friday' may not be the most suitable day on which to have a pass-off parade the 20 members of No 1 Junior Troop put on a good display in front of the inspecting officer, **Colonel C. B. Masser.**

The inspecting officer also presented prizes for: Best all round recruit, **Junior Signalman O'Dea;** overall education prize, **Junior Signalman Allison;** military calculations, **Junior Signalman Brockett;** general studies, **Junior Signalman O'Dea.**

Rugby

The close of the current rugby season allows the more senior members of the team to reflect on what might have been and to look forward to next season with a degree of apprehension. Results have not reflected the effort which is put into running the only military team in the Garrison which plays Saturday rugby, but with the assistance of guest players from 8 Signal Regiment we have showed notable successes over Winlaton, Gosforth, Northallerton, Horden and Mowden Park. Farewells are in order to **Captain Chris Enright** who is going to teach the Arabs the finer arts of scrum half play and to **Sergeant Les Grubb** who joins the School of Signals in September. If all the rumours and current posting plot are honoured then our president and secretary may well not find a spot in next seasons team unless they remain on the selection committee.

Squash

Squash continues to flourish in the Regiment and with the arrival of the new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier A. J. Hellier, O.B.E.**, our winning ways should continue. Two teams have been entered for the North-east district summer league which will involve the playing of some 28 matches before the end of August. One wonders whether the squash playing fraternity will be able to stand the strain. Welcome to our new squash captain, **Lieutenant Roger Whitehead** who maintains that he is only a social player.

Instructional Wing

There are always highlights in Instructional Wing as Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Courses (RSSSC) and Detachment Commanders Courses (RSDCC) come and go without scarcely more than half a weekend's break for the instructional staff.

On Saturday 28th April, the penultimate week of Regimental block leave, the wing had one of its favourite parties known as a 'Wing Ding' to say farewell to **W.O.2** and **Mrs. Eddy** and **Val Cooley. W.O.2 Cooley** has been SSM of Instructional Wing for four years during which time he had seen over 800 sergeants through their RSSSC and the mind boggles at the number of J/NCOs who have squeezed through MPC or RSDCC courses. **S.S.M. Cooley** will be a sad loss to the wing for he is a masterful instructor and weapon training king. He has seen three COs hand over command of the Regiment and no less than six OCs of the wing. His departure was marked at the 'Wing Ding' with the presentation for four silver wine goblets — one for each year in the wing and congratulations and good wishes go with **S.S.M.** and **Mrs. Cooley** as he is promoted WO1 and appointed RSM of 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron. The 'Wing Ding' was also a good opportunity to welcome **W.O.2 John Philmon** (Mrs. Philmon followed a week later) as our new wing SSM.

Corps Wedding

The marriage of Major W. P. B. Thomas, Royal Signals, and Captain F. P. Chaffey, QARANC

The sun forebore to shine on Easter Monday but it did not prevent the bride and 'groom or any of their guests from smiling almost continuously.

Living-in Mess members who breakfasted that morning were in a position to observe a pallid bridegroom flitting to and fro in the hall and ante room, declining to remain decently in the background or be waited on. Eventually this pale, hand-wringing wraith did fade from view doubtless to surrender himself to the ministrations of his best man **Major Tony Marley**—who, throughout the reception gave the impression that he was a man amply satisfied with the sensation of having done a difficult job well.

Meanwhile the bride's team were limbering up at the CO's residence, Jutland House. **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. G. Pratt** kindly acted as hosts to the bride (**Sue**) and her parents, **Major and Mrs. E. H. C. Chaffey.**

The scene now switches to St. Martin's Garrison Church and a rapidly filling car park. Those who took up their positions well in advance of 12.00 hours had the advantage of watching many extremely stirring hats arrive. After a good deal of shuffling and muted conversation **Sue** arrived on her father's arm looking quite lovely and admirably calm. The marriage ceremony and communion service were conducted by the **Rev. C. F. Browne,** the Senior Chaplain, Catterick Garrison.

After signing the register the newly weds walked out of church, a guard of honour at the door being provided by **Pat's** brother officers, **Captain Mike Galloway, Major John Roberts, Major Mike Deverill, Second-Lieutenant John Rayner, Captain Chris Enright** and **Major Mike Haworth-Wood.** Fortunately the rain held off at this juncture which is perhaps an even more flattering omen than mere general sunshine.

What followed requires concentration to recall as **Major Chaffey** had provided with such liberality as to leave a largely impressionist memory in the minds of his guests, hats, wine, flowers and chatter against a backdrop of rather delicious food. There were speeches, one from the bride's father who remarked to everyone's private dismay that the first year of marriage is one of adjustment and so also are the rest! There was of course

The Guard of Honour for Major Thomas and his bride

one from the bridegroom, who reiterated several times that no one had expected him to marry, and a speech from the best man, replying on behalf of **Sue's** pretty bridesmaid, **Jane Thomas,** Pat's sister.

13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

OUR readers outside BAOR will be pleased to know that the weather here has been most unseasonal — it has been basically good. Spirits have been at a high level. This was just as well as March has been an eventful month.

Topping-out ceremony

This item is a follow up from February because of the delay in providing photographs. For the first time in this area of Germany, the military entered into a purely civilian ceremony — that of topping-out a set of homes currently being built for occupation by members of the Regiment. On 9th February, 23 quarters built under the open market plan were topped-out in Birgelen. Members of the Regiment joined **Herr Janssen** the contractor and the building crew — very much in the mud — whilst a helicopter of 669 Squadron, ACC, lowered the traditional bottle of champagne to our QM, **Captain Bill Gahan,** and the master builder, perched precariously on a chimney top in a more than average wind. Due to good military planning, the contents of the bottle arrived safely and, after the traditional poem, was more safely despatched.

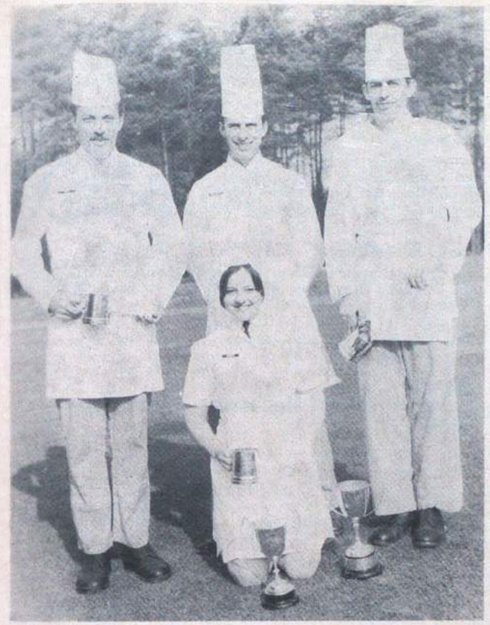
The Regimental visiting team and the pilots of the helicopter were then invited to join **Herr Janssen's** party at the local inn. Those of you who have had experience of these functions will realise how well trained our soldiers are to be able to take such a ceremony in their stride. The belle of the ceremony, without a doubt, **Mevrouw Helene Simons —** an interpreter in many languages — who was responsible for the liaison leading to a successful joint ceremony.
The laugh:

RSM: "Which is to be your quarter Staff . . . . . !"
Staff . . . . . .: "The corner one, sir!"
R.S.M.: "Then get your . . . . . garden sorted out!"

Our messing staff

The Junior Ranks' Mess was the scene of much labour and anguish leading to the Rhine area individual cooking championships. On this occasion the preparations led to a resounding success in all classes.

Sergeant Ray Austin, ACC, won the senior section, **Corporal Jim Crow,** ACC, won the omelette competition and **W/Private Lily Guthrie,** WRAC, confounded all the experts by winning the junior section. All are now mass producing to refine their skills for the BAOR championship on 6th April. At 5p an egg the messing officer is looking a worried man.



COOKS PAR EXCELLENCE—THEY CONFOUNDED THE EXPERTS
Left to right: Corporal Jim Crow, Staff Sergeant Ian Underwood, Sergeant Ray Austin
Kneeling: W/Lance-Corporal Lily Guthrie

Charity fund-raising by squash players of the Regiment—and a challenge to other Regiments

We have initiated a new fund raising scheme and now offer a challenge to other Regiments to beat us.

Sergeant John Wallace of TM Troop, had the idea of a sponsored squash marathon and sold it to three other members of his troop, **Sergeant Mick Taylor, Sergeant Jim Watson** and **Corporal Mick Codd** — all, incidentally, married men! The idea was to play non-stop squash and persuade as many members of the Regiment as possible to pledge a small sum for each hour played. The team clearly needed a manager and (sensibly) co-opted their Troop Commander, **Captain Jim Jenkins,** TOT — TM Troop also provided the duty orderly required throughout the whole period whilst a relay of invigilators was provided by the Officers' Mess to legalise the whole proceedings.

After much preparation — and very little actual practice — the marathon was set on its way at 12.33 hours Sunday 11th March, by **Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Jack,** RAOC, secretary of the Rhine area squash association. The rules were very simple one minute's break between each game with an extra minute allowed between the fourth and fifth game should individual sets go to five games. No break was allowed for the two-hourly change-over of players.

The marathon progressed day and night and finally came to an end at 00.37 hours on Wednesday 14th March, after a total of 60 hours four minutes continuous play. During this period the team played 319 games of squash, thus averaging about five games an hour with each player actually on court for just over 30 hours — no mean achievement. It was interesting to see that during the two final two-hour sessions, there were few signs of fatigue, although a natural decline in precise co-ordinated movement is reluctantly admitted. The team manager is reported as having said that another 12 hours would have been well within the team's capabilities — team comments are not available!

A BAOR OR EUROPEAN RECORD?
They raised DM 1,600 for an Ex-Service charity by a record Squash Marathon after a total of over 60 hours continuous play
Left to right: Sergeant John Wallace, Sergeant Mick Taylor, Sergeant Jim Watson, Corporal Mick Codd with the Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson

When the players eventually came off court they were remarkably resilient and fit and, very quickly polished-off a bottle of iced champagne, thoughtfully provided by the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson,** who had invigilated the final two-hour period.

Our team now feel that their record could well be attempted by another similar team.

The object of the whole exercise was to raise money, and by their efforts these four men have succeeded in spiriting some DM 1,600 out of Birgelen pockets for a most desrving cause, the British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association. Additionally, it is known that a world record for squash marathons exists in the Guiness Book of Records — currently held by a four-man Australian team, each member of which played for 53 hours. Efforts are now being made to have the Birgelen effort ratified as a BAOR — or even European! — record.

We are most willing to send the rules, under which this marathon was held, to any group who may wish to take up the gauntlet.

Statisties

Number of games 319, number of matches 71.

Individuals: Codd, 52 games, 905 points; Wallace. 73 games, 859 points; 125 games. Watson, 78 games, 1,234 points; Taylor, 116 games, 1,459 points; 194 games.

Total number of strokes: 116,656. Percentage time analysis. Estimated distance travelled by ball: 1,600 miles (based on percentage analysis).

Average speed of ball: 35 feet per second. 23.7 miles per hour.

Ball weights approximately one ounce: three-and-a-quarter tons of rubber were moved 16 yards.

Rugby

Our rugby months are over and we are able to report an encouraging close to the season having won our last XV's fixture against 28 Signal Regiment. Regrettably though we shall not be travelling to Osnabruck for the BAOR sevens this year. Wednesday, 2nd May, saw us enter two teams in the Rhine area sevens at Düsseldorf, and despite a major training effort especially for this event we could only reach the quarter-finals with the 'A' team. Coming unstuck virtually on time against RAOC Wulfen 'A' with a penalty against us, meaning we went down with a single point deciding the outcome of 13-12.

However, the rugby horizon for 73/74 looks promising with certain newcomers shaping up well in the form of **Signalman Clive Ashton** and our new 'character' on and off the field **Signalman Steve Vaughan.**

Throughout the season **Sergeant 'Doc' Halliday** has ably captained the side, assisted readily by **Corporals Bud Cook**

and **Mick Codd** to mention a few. **Bud** will be sorely missed next season due to his posting in September, the pack 'never' will be the same without him.

R.S.M. Nelson, another stalwart, this time from the touchline, departs before next season and our thanks go to him for all his behind the scenes work. Best of luck to him and his wife **Betty** in UK.

Sergeants' Mess

Since our last notes in THE WIRE things have been happening in the entertainment line, when the RSM left for the convention at Catterick the entertainments committee went mad and had a 'country western' night square dancing to the music of the 'Wagon Wheels.' Tender steaks barbequed by **Sergeant (Cdn) Andy Forrest** helped the members to really live it up. Horses were expected, but things went wrong and they did not arrive, there is no truth in the rumour that they were barbequed. The costumes were first class and the judges had their work cut out to come up with a winner; final choice being **Sergeant** and **Mrs. Ray Austin** in their Indian (Hessian) outfits. Things were nearly normal by the time the RSM returned and the decorators decided to cause havoc.

Following the western evening we had a 'pub night' for which the PEC, **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) George Watson** found us a one man 'combo,' this went down extremely well with singing and dancing, shoes were lost (the culprit posted next day) and it took two days before the RQMS found the missing shoe of his wife, all would have been well had the shoe been available from Army sources.

A Regimental dinner night was held the following week superbly cooked by **Corporal Jim Crow,** ACC, and served very efficiently under the supervision of **Sergeant Bill Henderson,** our guests were well beaten at carpet bowls. The dinner night was followed by a subdued film night.

To end a month's good entertainment we had a Grand National Draw with dancing to a section of the WRAC staff band, which gave us some good entertainment.

The Mess football team is still turning out and there is truth in the rumour that we require a goalie, are there any likely Sergeant goalies looking for a good posting? Golf is the topic in the Mess at present with birdies and handicaps becoming standard phrases.

In Memoriam

SIGNALMAN GEORGE JOHN MURRAY

It is with deep regret that we announce that Signalman G. J. Murray of 13 Regiment was killed in a car accident on Monday evening, 30th April, and we give our sincere sympathy to his wife Sheila who has returned to her family in Rugby, and to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Murray and family in Bootle.

Gus was a happy, lively member of the Regiment who, with his wife, led life to the full. He was a member of the JRC Committee and with his enthusiasm ran the popular 'disco' evenings.

He was a natural sportsman who put his heart into every game he played, squash, hockey and volleyball. He represented the Regiment at rugby and athletics where he was the pole vault specialist. He gained his colours, however, in the Regimental football team where his strong mid-field play was coupled with a loyal and stalwart faith in the team.

Gus was a character whose enthusiasm and ideas were at the heart of many events in the life of his Troop and Regiment and we shall all miss him.

The funeral service was held at St Marie RC Church, Rugby, at 14.30 hours on Tuesday, 8th May.

Departures

Our farewells for the months of March and April go to **Captain** and **Mrs. Stan McKeever, W.O.2 Dave** and **Jannett Easton, Staff Sergeant John Blandey, Sergeant John Wallace** and **Jeanette, Sergeant Bill Helme** and **Irene, Sergeant Al** and **Rita Preston,** all on posting.

Welcome

And an enjoyable tour in 13 Regiment to **Lieutenant Norman** and **Esme Miller, W.O.2 Dave Cheyne, Sergeant Henry Shackleton, Sergeant Terry Welsh, Sergeant Mick Shail, Sergeant 'Ted' Tedstone** and **W.O.2 Pete Ashford.**

Congratulations

Staff Sergeant Bob Vincent on his promotion to Staff Sergeant and **Sergeants Ray Clay, Dave Thompson, Brian Ward** and **Heather Passey,** WRAC, on their promotion to Sergeant.

14 Sig Regt Worcester

THE Regiment has a lot to report to THE WIRE this month. The reason is that we missed the last issue, so that we have two months notes. And, in addition, a recent exercise in the Gambia has produced articles from our roving correspondents.

Visits to Norton Barracks

Not only did the SO-in-C come to Norton Barracks to see us but he also came out to the joint exercise that is reported upon elsewhere. I will not dwell on his visit to the exercise, but I should just like to say a little about his visit to the Regiment in the Barracks. We were very pleased to see him and his wife both of whom had lunch in the Officers' Mess with the Officers and their wives.

He looked round the communications detachments and presented long service and good conduct medals to **Staff Sergeant John Goodman** (who is now SSM HQ Squadron) and to **W.O. (F. of S.) Dave Potter.**

We were also visited by the communications secretary to the Cabinet Office, **Mr. J. E. D. Lakin,** accompanied by the Commander 1 Signal Group, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** who came to look to see how we fare in the long distance communications business.

IN LIGHTER MOOD

The Signal Officer-in-Chief enjoys a joke with Staff Sergeant John Goodman and W.O.1 (R.S.M.) John Wise during his recent visit to 14th Signal Regiment

News from our detatchments

This Time it's The Gambia

By W.O.1 (F. of S.) Clive Thompson

On and around 1st April some seven Hercules set out for The Gambia. The reason was Exercise 'Adawn,' a joint force communications exercise with 'E' Troop, led by **Captain Dick Gardner,** providing as usual rear link communications.

The Gambia is a small country on the West African coast whose main industry is ground nuts. At least it was until some two years ago when the Danes and Finns decided it would make a good holiday resort. Consequently some two or three large hotels have been built and for six months of the year scantily clad young (and not so young) ladies can be seen decorating the beaches and bars of Bathurst.

So with a very pro-British and friendly population mixed with some gay holidaymakers our social life seemed to be well catered for.

Many of the Force became very friendly with local Gambians and were invited into their homes, some were even offered gifts in the form of goats and chickens. As we have a certain problem in housing livestock, fruit and nuts were finally accepted.

At this point **Sergeant Fred Almond** must be mentioned because of the relationship that developed between him and the Imam of The Gambia. The story behind this is long so will not be related; however, there can't be very many Royal Signals Sergeants who have had prayers offered to the Prophet Muhammad by the Imam over the Gambian Radio.

Lance-Corporal Chris Edler continued his peculiar behaviour on exercise by wanting to walk some 80 miles from up country back into Bathurst. On this particular venture he was to be accompanied by **Corporal 'Chic' Moir.** They had allowed themselves four days to cover the 80 miles, at first sight not too difficult. However, by the time they left the coast area 'in the sun' temperatures in excess of 120° made it obvious four days and 80 miles were not compatible. In fact they found that 8-10 miles a day were all they could manage. To their credit let it be noted that they finished the course even if they cheated a bit in the middle.

Normally, we only have one 'strangeness' per exercise but the sun must have been particularly hot and fearsome because suddenly **W.O.2 Mick Golledge** and **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Keay** made noises about wanting to paddle the length of the Gambian River that is within The Gambia border, a distance of some few hundred miles. Forever in search of 'a first' this would have been one; so, amid much mumbling about tides, winds, currents and charts, the plans were made. A boat was borrowed from a fair young lady from the British High Commission and all seemed well. Stories of hippo and alligators waiting to eat two rotund white men didn't even cause them to falter in their plans. But when the Gambian Inspector General refused permission for the trip a mini cloud of gloom was seen hovering over the crew of the intended 'African Queen.' But not to be beaten **Mick** and **'Paddy'** decided to see how far up the river they could paddle in four days. A blow-by-blow account appears in our notes so I'll say little about it except that after our initial difficulty of not being able to find the river they returned four days later very happy, tired and full of tales. I must add that to my knowledge **'Paddy' Keay** is the only man I know to have blisters on his feet from paddling up river.

The troop fisherman led by **Corporal 'Orph' Mable** and **Corporal Jeff Lester,** RAF, spent many a happy hour catching very little from the beach near camp. **Staff Sergeant Ray Heeley** spent longer catching less, or losing more depending on how you view these things. Whilst on the subject of fish I must say that in a country where fish costs about 40p a boat load, the only fish we had to eat was frozen cod balls (by that well-known firm) beautifully prepared by our kitchen staff under the eagle eye of **Sergeant Don Smith,** ACC.

For the first time we took our own medical staff with us in the form of **Sergeant John Doyle,** RAMC. Whilst his services were little used by us a constant flow of Gambians were seen to use his facilities and he tells me he didn't lose one patient. However, he can now be seen walking about with a 6in. collar supporting his neck.

But eventually all things, good and bad, come to an end as did this exercise on 29th April when the first of our flights returned to UK. For those who may follow us out to The Gambia I suggest that you will enjoy yourselves. There are many worse places, on the other hand if you have £200 to spend on a holiday go now.

Author's note: The exercise was technically very successful so I'm told, and whilst on the ground I must admit it looked good.

The White Elephant in British Honduras

By 'Steel Drum'

The 'White Elephant Troop,' more formally known as Echo Troop, 14 Signal Regiment, first started to take over from Delta Troop in British Honduras in September, 1972. 'The first to arrive was the new OC, **Captain Bill Bowen,** whose dreams of sunny golden beaches were quickly shattered as the RAF Britannia flew in low over the muddy shore line and coastal swamp before landing at the Belize International Airport. As in most tropical countries the high temperature and matching humidity hits the new arrival and the OC was no exception.

Two weeks later the next four members of Echo Troop arrived and quickly settled in to the well established routine of daily telegraph schedules over the 5,000 mile link. The main body arrived in October and the whole detachment of 15 now works daily telegraph schedules, a weekly voice schedule (the quality of which has been an agreeable surprise to the frequent visitors), and produces every Saturday the day's football and rugby results. The rest of the time is spent maintaining the station which means plenty of work for a small detachment working in the prevailing climatic conditions.

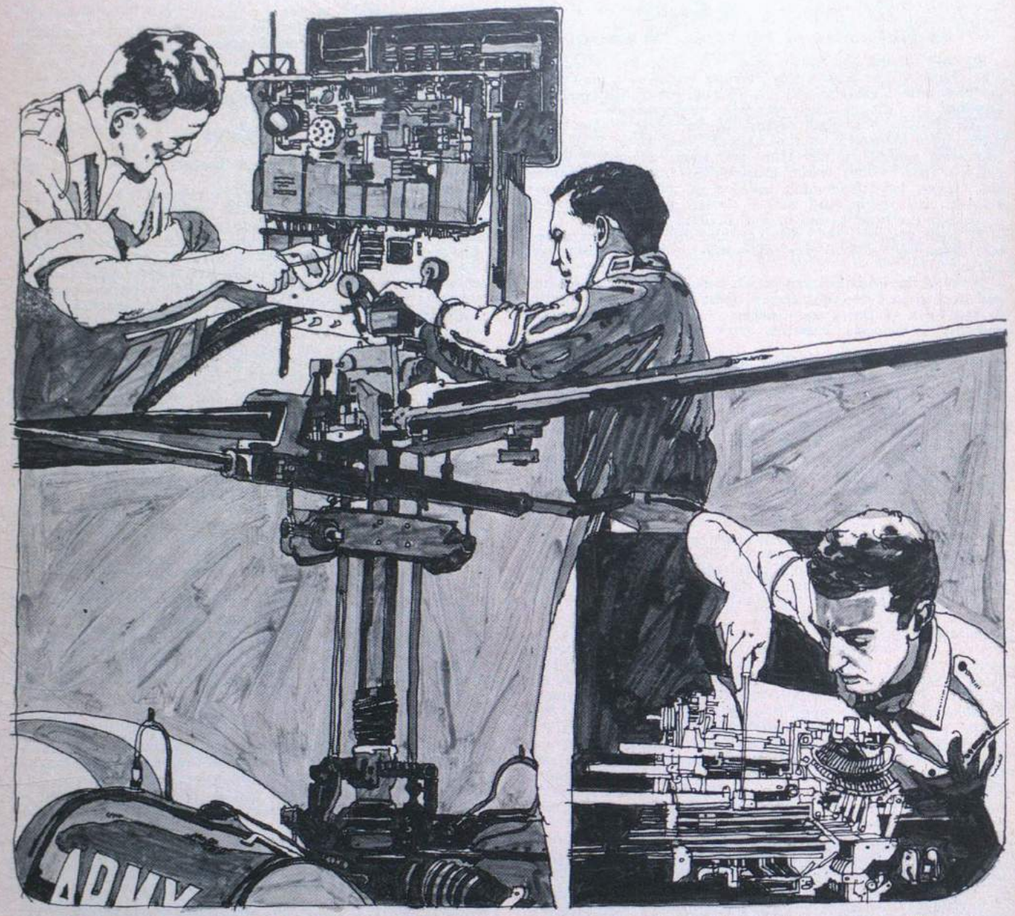
In spite of being kept busy on the station, plenty of time is spent on other activities. Airport Camp is well equipped with sports facilities and most members of the troop have at one time or other become addicted to squash. The troop in conjunction with 633 Signal Troop (Caribbean), the resident communicators, even raised a seven-a-side team for a Garrison sevens competition, but our exit was 'swift and sure' at he hand of a Devon and Dorset team. The OC has refereed rugby almost every Saturday since his arrival but in spite of his apparent addiction to the game he was not averse to helping the troop defeat 633 Signal Troop at hockey, a game that **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Keay** considers to be only a mild variation of hurley.

On a higher plane **Corporal 'Brad' Bradley** and **Signalman 'Fub' Williams** have got everybody in their room playing bridge but so far they haven't divulged details of their own personalised bidding system. **Lance-Corporal Owen Evans** has added a further collection to his many others, the latest being shells. It must be admitted that he does do a very good job on conch shells using a wire brush, Domestos and a final polish with teleprinter oil.

Moving on from shells the OC and **Corporal Bradley** managed to fit in a three day diving trip to one of the offshore cays. The completion of this and other training qualified them both as BSAC Class III divers and they have both been able to see the many fascinating varieties of coloured fish and coral on the reef that is said to be the best preserved example in the world.

Inland there are many other opportunities. British Honduras provides an excellent training area for infantry with country ranging from the coastal mangrove swamp through the deeply ravined Mountain Pine Ridge to the heavy primary and secondary jungle areas approaching the border with Guatemala. Mayan ruins are easily visited and **Sergeant Keith Gilbert** has travelled into Guatemala to visit Tikal, the site of the most impressive Mayan ruins in Central America. **Sergeant Frank Rodgers, Corporal Tom Sharp** and **Lance-Corporal Owen Evans** have all visited Merrida in the Yucatan district of Mexico and **Sergeant Earl Ferguson** has been home to Jamaica for the first time in 18 years.

So at the end of its six month detachment the troop looks back on a tour that has been received with mixed feelings. A sad thought for the future is that Echo Troop no longer exists in its present form after returning to Worcester, due to the requirement to keep one E21 detachment permanently in British Honduras. All those who have been associated with the 'White Elephant Troop' will feel a sense of loss but memories will remain, and the knowledge that this particular 'White Elephant,' which was once considered too big to be useful, has more than proved its worth.



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3 SQUADRON

Personalities

OC — **Major Mike McCann**
Second-in-Command — **Captain John Stroud**
OC 'B' Troop — **Second-Lieutenant Dave Cumming**
OC 'F' Troop — **Second-Lieutenant Charles Day**
OC 'S' Troop — **Lieutenant Paul Holden**
SSM — **W.O.2 Barney Barnett**
Y of S — **Staff Sergeant Stuart Kitson**
F of S — **Staff Sergeant Dave Lowe**

General

Since our last notes the Squadron has had a large intake of new faces. To those who have gone (through no fault of their own) we wish them "Good luck," and "Hello" to the new arrivals.

After a series of Squadron warm-up exercises Exercise 'Wintex' was our first major task of the year. Our fully automatic-human-brain-man powered TRV was the ideal against our forward friends TARIF. The TRV was conducted by **Corporals Bob Marlborough** and **Trev Lloyd** to the sound of 'J Bells all the way' ensuring our Super-op **Robin Steel** got no ZZ-ZZ-ZZs. **Sergeant 'Nobby' Armer** still uses the SSM's tactics for circuit engineering, whilst our **Foreman (Yellow Rubber Duckie) Dave Lowe** and **Sergeant (Smiler) Stan Stanley** carried on with the knitting race (no wonder we have no patch cords left).

Our radio relay detachments were quite happy to listen to the local German 3 broadcasts, while the resupply by **Sergeant 'Taff' Cole** took some time. Regardless of the time of day or night, **'Taff'** always returned washed and shining bright from head to toe; he was the envy of so many others who simply do not believe that mud baths enhance one's beauty.

A few days later and we were out again in the rain and mud on Exercise 'Flying Falcon.' Our HF detachments had a most frustrating time, so much so that they took to carving logs but due to the wording were never delivered. **Signalman Gerald Parker** again excelled himself and provided 'Bravo' Troop with superb 'loos'—respectfully christened by all the hierarchy.

In camp activities

Work. Minimal, thanks to so many other activities.

Sport. The Regimental athletics inter-squadron competition was held on 15th April. From the start of the meeting it was obviously going to be a battle between ourselves and the 'Fiery 2' Squadron team. 3 Squadron emerged the clear winners of the day and it is reported that 'Fiery 2' must have 'burned' themselves out on Exercise 'Wintex'!

The Chain-of-Command race was also won by the Squadron thanks to **Paul Baines, Sergeant 'Chuck' Kemal, Staff Sergeant 'Geordie' Gainford** and **Major Mike McCann.** Special thanks go to **Lance-Corporals Steel, Lytollis, Baines** and **Churchward, Signalmen Bradeley, Martin, Johnson** and **Wilson** and to all those whose efforts help win the day for 3 Squadron.

Military Skills Cup. The military skills cup competition took place from 25th-27th April and thanks to a little forethought and planning by our SHQ leaders we retained the cup for another year with **Corporal 'Paddy' Crawford's** team the clear winners. In fact the Squadron ended up by obtaining the first six team placings! Well done lads—keep it up!

Golf. Our **S.S.M. Barney Barnett** is to be congratulated on his success in the Rhine Area golf meeting where he cleared the field by winning practically everything there was.

Squadron Church Service

A series of squadron church services are being planned and 3 Squadron started the ball rolling on Sunday, 6th May, with most of the squadron members and their wives attending. A splendid service was conducted by the **Rev. Brian Morris** who later joined an informal family gathering in the village hall.

The Save way

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home

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Happy relations with RAF

WHEN a major unit is based entirely on the 'territories' of a different service it inevitably loses a little of its identity, and initially both groups eye each other with some suspicion. How does it all work out, and what advantages if any are there? As the only Royal Signals Regiment which lives and works with a different service, and which is tasked solely by that service, we have a unique experience and knowledge of this subject.

We find that the Royal Signals officer or soldier is particularly well prepared to take the initiative in establishing the desired harmonious relationship because of his previous experiences in working with other arms/services and Commonwealth/Colonial forces. He has learned to respect points of view which differ from his own, and he is quick to learn from the other service by observation and conversely to make a point by example. Over a period of time we find that the best of the two services 'rub off' on each other, and a very healthy mutual respect and trust develops.

In particular, the Regiment has benefited from observation of the very professional RAF aircrew, whilst we believe that the RAF have similarly benefited from observation of our military skills and man-management. Indeed, the Army/RAF relationship is now such that criticisms can be made without fear of offence. This destroys the greatest enemy of inter-service co-operation — suspicion.

An example of this co-operation — RAF Wildenrath had a station defence problem, particularly the security of dispersed Harrier aircraft. By virtually closing down our administrative 'pockets' for one afternoon each week we have trained a Mobile Defence Company of high standard which has stood up exceptionally well to the searching tests of the RAF, and which has been assigned to the Station for its frequent alert practices. Such co-operation is returned in many ways by the RAF — new works services, purchases of sports equipment, SOS requests such as, "Please provide 50 U/S mattresses for pole vaulting tomorrow afternoon," etc.

A disadvantage of being 'lodgers' on RAF Stations is that of not having Regimental Messes. However, we are full voting members and the full facilities of the Mess are made available for Regimental functions. Furthermore, we are spared the chores of stocktaking and auditing! Other advantages are the sharing of the very extensive Station facilities (virtually every sport and hobby is catered for), and no guard duties! Some recreational activities are largely run by ourselves—this is not a takeover bid, but part of the policy of 'give and take.'

Overall, we wouldn't change our lot, and this is endorsed by our exceptionally low wastage figures and the quantity of applications for extensions of tour.

Exercise 'Easter Bonnet' success

Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith, Corporal Bob Todd, Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Young and **Signalman Mick Frost** achieved further sporting distinction for the Regiment with impressive performances in the Exercise 'Easter Bonnet' motor rally held in the Eiffel. This navigational rally was organised by 23 Regiment RCT and was held over a 250-mile course involving long stretches of rough mountainous track.

Corporal Todd (navigating) and **Lance-Corporal Young** (driving) won the Rhine Area beginners' trophy with 345 points, whilst **Sergeant Smith** (navigating) and **Signalman Frost** (driving) were runners-up in the expert class with 198 points, only eight points behind the winners.

Preparations for defence of BAOR Orienteering title

Having won the BAOR Orienteering title last year, together with being runner-up in the Army Championships, the Regiment is determined to make a further strong challenge for the Army title this year. Interest and depth are being achieved by entering two teams in the Rhine Area League and by the introduction of an inter-Troop competition. This was held in late April and was won by the troop comprising RHQ, Q Troop, M Troop and SHQ HQ Squadron—an unlikely combination but an impressive performance, with **Corporal Fred Roissetter** the individual winner. Army cross-country champion **Sergeant Bill Venus** achieved fifth place, but as he claims to have run flat out for the one hour with which he was timed we reckon

THE WINNER

Mrs. de Bretton-Gordon congratulates Corporal Fred Roissetter on being the individual winner in 21st Signal Regiment's Inter Tp Orienteering Competition

EASTER BONNETS MOTOR RALLY SUCCESS

The C.O. (Lieutenant Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon) and M.T.O. (Major W. G. Finch) proudly pose with 21st Signal Regiment's successful participants in Exercise Easter Bonnet. (Corporal Bob Todd, Lance-Corporal Paddy Young, Signalman Mick Frost and Sergeant Smudge Smith)

he covered ten miles against the shortest distance route of 6½ miles! Extra map reading Sergeant! The performances of **Corporal Rick Hough** (1hr 8 min) and **Signalman Brian Foster** (1hr 8½min) were most creditable as this was their first orienteering competition. They will now be groomed in the Regiment's second team ready to take the place of our more experienced competitors when they leave the Regiment.

If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!

28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

'Spring Is Here I'

AT least that was the thought as our recce party **W.O.1 Y. of S. Martin** and **Staff Sergeant Ridley** steered towards Bavaria. Their call 12 hours later for snow shoes was misunderstood by the duty clerk but, sure enough, those items had become necessary where two metres of snow had not yet received melting orders.

Needless to record, our Spring exercise is well under way. The only unsolved problem is how to thaw out rapidly the torture machine on which the junior recce member produces a skirl for reveille.

If other units around the world notice changes in the patterns of bird migrations, they should consider **Ridley o' the Pipes** as a possible cause.

'Spring Is Here II'

"In Spring a young man's fancy, etc." and so it was with **Major Tony Cheal** bidding farewell to bachelordom. As the latest graduate of the Marrige Rapid Results College (three officer wellings in four months), he has now qualified with honours.

AG 11 have made it up to us with a replacement bachelor **Major D. C. Brockhurst,** so the directing staff of the College are still employed.

Crossword anyone?

Clue: Known to produce a tear on many cheeks or a tear(ing) of hair. Anagram experts will have no difficulty in answering TARE as the solution and so it is with our newest equipment. A special package from the American Bendix Corporation has given us a big challenge, and not a little frustration. Visitors here should refrain from references to washing machines and anything described as automation. And we have heard all those computer jokes as well!

Regular readers of this column will remember our success with, "It's a knockout 1972." Well, the 1973 cry here is, "It's a lockout."

Impossible achieved—what's next?

Having had a waiting list of over 200 for quarters, it is now very much reduced. It is no longer unusual for postings in to arrive accompanied by their family.

Our Admin Quartermaster **Major (ret.) Harry Newsham** and his department must surely qualify for a productivity bonus as, with no extra hands, he now administers over 160 hirings in addition to our normal quarters.

One typical family is **Signalman and Mrs. Dixon.** When **Signalman Brian Dixon** and his wife **Vicky** heard in Blandford that their next posting was here they had plenty of advice on just how long is the wait for quarters in Germany.

Their surprise was great when they received confirmation of a quarter with such little delay that they also needed an accompanied passage.

On arrival they were whisked into a new flat full of the latest furniture. "And then there was another surprise," said **Vicky** when we called to see her. "There was a parcel of groceries already for us, enough to get us all, including **Paul** (five) and **Stephen** (2) settled in no time at all after our tiring journey."

The family now look forward to getting a car and the visit of grandparents in the next few months. Although a long way from her home (Wakefield) the only thing **Mrs. Dixon** misses is a decent Rugby League team.

Mini Olympics 1974

The Regimental athletics match this year went off successfully after two postponements due to cloudbursts flooding the local track. As expected, **Sergeant Crossland** stamped some class on our 1,500 and 5,000 metres races, and we had a number of finds including **Sergeant Thomas** (800 and 400), **Signalman Forrester** (400m) and **Signalman Francis** (100m). Another find was **Captain Green** in the old soldiers' race. He really does have sufficient service—the Adjutant says so!

Soccer

Our achievements over the 1972/73 season are as follows: **Regimental team:** Winners of the Rhine Area Trophy; winners of the Rhine Area Inter-Services' League; winners of the BAOR Cup; runners-up to Army Champions.

Sergeants' Mess: Winners of the Rhine Area Deutsche Cup; winners of the District League.

We would like to think that we have put the Corps back on the map in the soccer world. We also intend maintaining this form for the 1973/74 season as most of the current team will still be here. A word of thanks to the 'Backroom Boys,' **W.O.2 Joe Walton** who gave up all his leisure hours for organising soccer, **Signalman 'Scouse' Morris** our medical man who by his own efforts attended every possible match, **Sergeant Ray Francis** who managed the second team. Finally the two players whose wives volunteered to wash the muddy kit each week, **Mrs. Manders** and **Mrs. Snaith.**

Rugby

The rugby team has had its busiest season ever; the overall result, however, has been slightly disappointing, partly due to the increased Regimental exercise commitments, which have continually taken toll on top players. Add to this the loss of **Corporal 'Cap' Bowler** and **Signalman Tony Spittle** on posting and **Signalman Derek Stead's** departure to civvy street, and we find that only on half-a-dozen occasions have we been able to field the top team.

The season's results have been: Played 38, won 13, lost 23, drawn 2, for 566, against 629.

Top scorer with 17 tries (ie 68 points) was **Signalman Gus Hales,** who has also proved to be one of the fastest centres in the Rhine Area.

New talent is coming into the Regiment and it is beginning to look as if next year we should produce better results.

A CAREER IN THE

Computer Industry

We are the premier keyboard training organisation in Europe providing a Service to the computer industry. Most of our training staff have a Service background.

We are interested in recruiting ex-Servicemen aged between 25-40 with an instructional, technical or communications background to join our staff as keyboard trainers and analysts. Successful applicants will receive a full and comprehensive training in our operation.

Salary will be £1700 p.a. on joining, rising to £1900 p.a. on completion of an initial three months training period, and to £2500 p.a. when fully trained.

The job involves travelling and applicants must be prepared to spend some time away from home. This is an expanding company and there is ample opportunity for promotion to management grades.

Write, giving a resume of your career, to:

M. Knights, Managing Director,
Keyboard Training Limited,
Tileman House,
131 Upper Richmond Road,
London, S.W.15 2TR.

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.

1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 102

Exercises

THE Squadron is now recovering from a two-months excess of exercises, including CCR Signals annual Exercise 'Flying Falcon.' During this there were the inevitable dramas such as:

Non-nuclear tree blow down. This resulted in an instant ad hoc rescue team being formed under the leadership of **Corporal Tony Caplin,** REME. One of their more outstanding achievements was to cut through most of the 30 trees that lay between **Corporal Cliff Salisbury's** rebroadcast site and safety. The remaining trees were dispatched by **Corporal Salisbury** himself, and the intrepid axemen met in the middle. "**Corporal Salisbury** I presume."

During the same night the OC Squadron, **Major Jim Crow,** was taking a well deserved rest in the Commander's caravan when a tree fell on the roof. The OC was seen to be elevated three feet horizontally, although **Gunner Eric Cain,** sleeping in the cab, was undisturbed.

The recce party consisting of **Captain Mike Payne, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Richardson** and **Sergeant Jim Harlow** had hoped to repeat a previous success by getting the Brigade HQ located in the grounds of a Schloss. Unfortunately they overstepped themselves on this exercise and the 'Herr Baron' was heard to mutter, "Not on your Nelly" or words to that effect.

The exercise had its quieter moments, particularly over the weekend when most of the Squadron visited the eagle park at Berlebeck and **Sergeant Martin Hardy** took six members off to Detmold to initiate them into the gentle art of gliding.

Immediately after 'Flying Falcon,' the Squadron was involved in the Annual Alert Test for 24 Missile Regiment RA. Although this was mid-April we were blessed with heavy snow falls, and again the REME in the person of **Craftsman Clive Ormandy** excelled themselves by winching us in and out of location.

Visit of C-in-C BAOR

On 3rd May the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, **General Sir Harry Tuzo, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** visited HQ 1 Artillery Brigade. To start this visit he inspected a Squadron quarter-guard commanded by **Sergeant Harlow.** Later he inspected the remainder of the Squadron and a selection of our vehicles.

MEETING THE QUARTER GUARD

The new Commander in Chief, General Sir Harry Tuzo, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C. has a word with members of the quarter guard at 1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. In the picture Gunner Cain, Sergeant Harlow, Signalman Hutchins, Corporal Crutchley, Signalman Cousland, Gunner Kennedy, Signalmen Butler, Hughes and Rees, and the O.C. looks on

WITH THE TECHNICIANS

The C.-in-C. meets the Squadron technicians. Captain Symmons introduces F. of S. Milne. Next in line are Sergeant Hardy, Sergeant Usher and Corporal Maddison

Congratulations

To **Staff Sergeant Peter Emmerson** on his recent marriage. To **Corporal John Richardson** on being awarded Army Colours for chess.

STAFF SERGEANT K. J. DRISCOLL

Staff Sergeant Ken Driscoll died in Millbank Hospital on 13th April after a lengthy illness. Ken Joined 1 Artillery Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron from 8 Signal Regiment in July 1971 and from the first was an extremely popular member of the Squadron. His work as SQMS (A) was always of the highest order and his management of the Squadron soccer team, even during his illness, was quite excellent.

His funeral on 18th April was attended by a number of his friends and contemporaries including Major E. Clowes, RA, under whom he served on joining the Squadron, and Staff Sergeant Waters who represented the Squadron. 11 Signal Regiment provided a bearer party.

He had many friends both in and outside the Corps who share, with his family, a deep sense of loss.

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

Hockey — a successful season

THE April/May issue of THE WIRE was unfortunately unable to print the result of the 2 Division Minor Unit Hockey Final between ourselves and 12 Mechanised Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. We won a very closely contested match by one goal to nil, the goal being scored by **Sergeant Mick Rabould.**

At that point in the season the pressure was on the hockey team. Of the three primary winter sports both the football and cross-country teams were the BAOR champions and the Squadron now looked to the hockey team for the 'triple.'

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Harry Meekings (now **Lieutenant Meekings**) asked, nay ordered, that training would commence at 08.00 hours each morning to ready us for the struggle to come. Some things are best forgotten and the training sessions must rate near the top of the list. Even so, the fitness paid off and at the Divisional Six-a-side Competition we beat the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards three goals to one in the final, goals being scored by **Signalman Nick Waugh** (2) and **Sergeant Mick Raybould.**

The six-a-side tournament saw the emergence of **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Kerr** as a goalie to be reckoned with. Up until that match the 'D' had been inhabited by a padded personage with distinct similarities to an introspective monk. However, in the six-a-side final, with adrenalin flowing, **'Jock'** charged around with frightening aggression and oft was heard the scream "mine" followed by the deafening thud of armour encased boots against ball, stick, ankle, knee or thigh—either team—whichever was in the way.

Two days after the six-a-side tournament, we played the BAOR Minor Units semi-final against the Rhine Area Champions, 15 BOD. With the team in full cry after the sixes and with the help of the supporters' club (poached from the football and vociferously led by **'Give-us-a-four' 'Jock' Young**) we ran out six-nil winners with goals coming from **Signalman Mick Waugh, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Nick Nicholas, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Hazelgrove** with a fine hat-trick from **Sergeant Mick Raybould.**

At that point in the season we were unfortunate to loose one of our mainstays in defence **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Harry Meekings. Corporal Chris Conoughton** has duly filled this position and with this revised team we then met 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron in the BAOR Minor Units Final.

Just before the bully-off **Sergeant Mick Raybould** was presented with his well-earned Corps Colours and his play during the match was obviously affected by this honour. (Note for team captains—never give Corps Colours to a player before the match—its disastrous). The final was a very close and sporting match and was enjoyed by all who watched it. A first-half goal by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Nick Nicholas** gave 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron the BAOR cup and the season's 'triple.'

The season was brought to a close by the BAOR Six-a-side Tournament when we unfortunately failed to qualify for the knock-out section of the tournament.

Question of the day? Who missed the penalty flick? I'll give him Corps Colours!

Looking back it has been a successful season with the team ending up as Divisional Minor Unit Champions, Divisional Six-a-side Champions and BAOR Minor Unit Champions, with a final analysis of only four defeats throughout the season and these at the hands of major units.

We now look forward to next season hoping that it will be as interesting as the season past.

12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 36

EXERCISE 'Flying Falcon' saw us back under command of 2 Division, after two years working with 1 Division, but the motto of **Major Mike Marples,** Royal Signals, OC Squadron, is 'catch us if you can' still prevailed; with a total of 22 working locations. This fast moving with many changes of command confused our refueling driver, **'Crispy' Bacon;** quote, "But my orders are to refuel step up, change of command means nothing to me and if you are Main you are not getting any fuel." Our Rebro AFV 432 commanded by **Corporal Mick Glennon** posed the next problem by slipping halfway over a precipice almost to the point of balance. The road was inaccessible to other vehicles, but **A.S.M. Butler** with the aid of the forestry commission and the communications officer **Captain Nick Mayne,** Royal Signals, with the aid of a helicopter, managed recovery and replenishment without loss of communications.

Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Gibbs, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Corps Commander, paid a flying visit to one of our very wet locations. Whilst in the Bruin Complex he remarked, "You appear to be sinking" (a slight understatement) to which **R.S.M. Frank Williams** replied, "Yes, sir, please do not stand still or you will join us."

The new Recce Officer **Captain Leslie Steane,** Royal Signals, along with **Sergeant Charles Brown** our intrepid Line Sergeant, were quickly dispatched to persuade yet another German farmer that he really would like to have a couple of 432s parked on his lawn.

The Lance Competition which is an inter-Troop sports competition, played for in winter and in summer, is nearing the end of the winter section, with 'Alpha' Troop being certain winners having won the football, rugby and cross-country, but second place is still in doubt between 'B' and T/LAD and SHQ.

The hockey season has now finished and we had a disappointing finish being narrowly defeated by 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron in the Divisional Final and also in the sixes, but we hope to return the compliment next year.

The rugby now under **Captain Willy Hawkins,** Royal Anglians, has produced two very good seven-a-side teams after some very hard training. We are hoping to upset a lot of teams in the Divisional Competition shortly.

Finally to the Sergeants' Mess which has now at long last almost completed the DM 25,000 rebuild programme, and despite many last-minute setbacks and changes the RSM has got what he wanted and all members are looking forward to the final finished effect.

The Squadron would like to congratulate **Lieutenant Mike Jefferis,** Royal Signals, on his marriage to **Miss Joyce Young** in Aberdeen on 21st April.

227 Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 18

Anglo-German power

SOMETIME ago after studying the inadequacies of the existing AFCENT power distribution system, **Hauptfeldwebel Wolfgang Scholz** designed a completely new system.

This was housed in a single vehicle, with power distributed to junction boxes sited strategically around the mobile headquarters. The vehicle is designed to take the output from three 60 KVA and three 40 KVA generators. Under normal conditions these are arranged to give one of each type in use, one of each on standby and the remainder on maintenance.

During periods of peak demand the output from two of each can be used giving a maximum load capability of 200 kilo watts. The whole system forms a mobile power station capable of supplying all the headquarters foreseeable demands.

A very sophisticated control console was designed which facilitates continuous monitoring of voltage frequency and current. It also enables the load to be adjusted without interruption and permits a smooth changeover between generators.

All materials required to build this system were purchased in bulk or obtained as individual items from local manufacturers.

A fine feat of electrical engineering by **Wolfgang Scholz. Corporal Goff Adams** and **Obergefrieter Gerhard Hollander** culminated in the perfect answer to AFCENT's power distribution problems.

QUITE A FEAT OF ENGINEERING

Hauptfeldwebel Wolfgang Scholz and Corporal Adams put the finishing touches to MCC new power vehicle

This is probably one of the most complicated projects of this nature ever undertaken by combat powermen. The high quality achieved reflects credit on the workmanship of **Corporal Goff Adams** and his international colleagues. The experience gained on this project will obviously stand **Goff** in good stead in the future.

Wolfgang asked that **Sergeants Bob Hosey** and **Andy Easton** be given credit for the work they did prior to posting. He also wants them to know that the cookie eventually crumbled to transform the dream into reality.

'Wintex'

Our major biennial staff exercise has once more proved to be a complete success. **For this exercise we were once again augmented by 33 Signal Regiment T & AVR who deserve credit for the manner in which they carried out their duties.** They proved once more that they are capable of working alongside our regular operators and producing consistently good results. A special mention is deserved by the WRAC Volunteers who manned our archaic exchange and still managed to provide a cheerful efficient service.

The arctic conditions which prevailed throughout the exercise, coupled with the spartan living conditions, brought out the best in our personnel who achieved unbelievable feats of endurance and masterpieces of improvisation. Outstanding amongst these were the Foreman who slept with the window of his bunk open because the stove burned too fiercely making the room unbearably hot. The Yeoman who forebore to complain when he did not like the hors-d'oeuvre. Undoubtedly the finest piece of improvisation was performed by our MTO **W.O.1 'Taff' Gundersen.** He improvised on **Sergeant Dave Smith's** birthday cake and used Amstel caps in lieu of candles. We did not have the heart to point out that **Dave** is not 99 yet after the effort he had made to ensure that the bottle caps were fresh. **'Taff'** assures me that he would have also sung 'Happy Birthday' if he had been articulate at that stage.

Our OC **Major Peter Riding** ordered the exchange operators not to connect private calls over the PTT circuits. After the order had been promulgated, **Captain Jon Ingram** was in the exchange talking to the supervisor when a call came in. The girl on the board asked the caller to wait, threw the key, then said, "A **General Bennecke** (CINCENT) on the line asking for a private call, do I refuse him?" She is probably still wondering whether chivalry is dead, as both of them clambered over her to connect the call. The fact that our OC has not changed suddenly, proves how successful they were.

A taste of polish?

At a recent cocktail party, **Captain (TOT) Colin Williams** was conversing with **Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Rosier** (DCINCENT) when **Captain (TOT) John Jupe,** a comparatively new arrival, joined them. By way of introduction **Colin** said, "I don't believe you have met **Captain John Jupe,** have you sir?" Taking it for granted that DCINCENT would be recognised he omitted to identify him.

After shaking hands, **John's** opening gambit was "And where do you fit into the organisation? What department are you boss of?" "I suppose you could say I am number two," replied **Sir Frederick.** "Number two with which branch?" "The number two," was the laconic reply. At this stage, **Colin** intervened and explained that it was DCINCENT to save any further embarrassment. **Captain Jupe's** blush has now subsided, he has taken a crash course on senior AFCENT personalities and has deleted **Captain Williams** from his 1973 Christmas card list.

Anglo-German fractious football

The long-awaited clash between those soccer virtuosos, the Squadron Senior NCOs and their German counterparts has now taken place. Crutches were laid aside, entente forgotton, rules torn asunder and all forms of knavery practised in an effort to wrest victory. Far too often the ball came between assailants and had to be punted aside to facilitate unhindered hacking of shins. The fact that all participants now limp or have more permanent physical impediments bears eloquent testimony to the fact that this match lived up to high standards set in previous meetings of these two sporting nations.

Tension was high and the atmosphere electric. Our manager **S.S.M. Brian Cumming** was on tenterhooks and literally tore out his hair (singular); the remaining one, as his plan for success failed. The final result was 5-2 to the German Senior NCOs.

Views on this match appear to differ somewhat radically. **Sergeant Tony Staveley** saw it as, one own goal and four lucky breakaways resulting in fortuitous goals completely against the run of play. **Kompaniefeldwebel von Kiedrowski** saw it as a triumph of superior skill, football finesse and physical fitness.

Honours were equal in the social which followed the match and the normal friendly atmosphere was quickly restored. Both managers are now hatching their diabolical plots for the next meeting.

Babes and sucklings

Catherine, wife of **Lieutenant 'Paddy' Henry,** wrote to their son **Stephen,** who is attending boarding school in UK, and explained that Dad was posted to 233 Signal Squadron, Northern Ireland.

Stephen replied with a beautiful succinct comment, "They can't post Dad there, he's Irish and will only cause trouble." The Squadron heartily concur with this sentiment.

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

Visitors

THE Squadron recently hurley-burleyed through its first FFR since the 'Withdrawal' last year. Commander 1 Signal Group **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** appeared to be suitably impressed as the newly re-written standing orders proved themselves a match for the various guerilla elements within the Squadron.

This probing inspection was preceded by the less formal visit of the SO-in-C **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** who presented no less than three LS and GCs to locally enlisted men on the first morning of his stay on the island.

Corporals Emmanuel Delia, Maurice Hurley and Signalman Paul Sammut with their long awaited L.S. and G.C.'s. So long with one unit!?

Speaking of presentations, the wives of 'TM' Troop **Sergeant Jack Robson, Marty Bevis, Marty Woodbridge, Al Carratt, Corporals 'Jock' Nicoll, Brian Hudson, Marty Roberts** and **Lance-Corporal Joey Galea** have all presented bouncing excuses for increased bar sales and were considerate enough to avoid clashing with the local brewery strike in so doing.

Beer dries up

This lamentable strike dried up the beer supplies just as **Captain John Reed** returned from a UK course, but this was in complete contrast to his initial arrival in January as **Captain Mike Macklin's** replacement (now enjoying 'sunny' Catterick) when the heavens opened and gave Malta her wettest winter for 100 years.

We trust that **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Callow,** now W.O.1, has not had any similar effects on St Tonis and 28th Signal Regiment and we would like to welcome his replacement **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gus Ward** who has already been seen dancing his first tango with the new Gladiator exchange at Luqa.

There have been other comings and goings in the unit but over at Gharghur the 'inmates' of **Sergeant John Setchfield's** Ace High station have ignored them all and are even reluctant to allow visiting Orderly Officers to disturb their tranquility.

New GEC system installed

Under the supervision of **Captain (TOT) Bob Stather** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Wagstaff** preparations have gone ahead for the replacement of the old reinstalled AT & E 900 Radio Relay with the new GEC system. It is said (possibly by fixed projects division) that this "will improve the island's communications 100 fold." **W.O.2 Joe Grech, B.E.M.,** resents this scathing attack on what is almost his personal web of underground cables but has nevertheless been rousing his cable gangs under **Lorry Lanzon, Jackie Vella, Joe Zammit** and **Corporal Charlie Mizzi** in a huge effort to rationalise routing and provide extra tails for the new system.

In the shadow of all these labours it seems almost blasphemous to mention the approaching summer season but **Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti** (the Maltese Sportsman of 1972) has already been mustering his water polo team for training. As the Mediterranean's temperature climbs towards the 70s, sorry 20s, they can be seen swimming warily in the coastal shallows fearful that some day soon the boats officer might allow the OC Squadron, **Major Ian Robinson,** to take the helm of the Squadron speedboat. "Look out lads!"

244 Sig Sqn. R.A.F. Benson

Vale

THIS month was a particularly sad one as we said goodbye to four stalwarts of the 244th. **Captain Graham Saunders** joined us back in '70 in the days when AG11 thought our 'Air Support' meant pilots only. **Graham** found on arrival he was only fourth pilot. He became an excellent second-in-command and a serious rival to Billy Butlin in the summer camp business, **Geraldine Saunders** will be missed very much by the Wives' Club, she was a founder member.

W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Colin McLoughlin joined us in May '70, and will be remembered for his prowess on all arenas of sport: Corps cricketer, 244, RAF Benson and ex-Corps soccer player; 244, RAF Benson and ex-Corps tennis player. He attained a plaster cast on each leg during his time with us.

Staff Sergeant John Philemon left us after three years on promotion to WO2. A grandfather of 42, who won the high jump at the RAF Benson sports, and who started parachuting again after a 22 year lay-off, **John** was always at the head of his para boys. On the last day with us he did a four mile road run before breakfast.

Staff Sergeant Wally Lockwood arrived in May '69 as a sergeant, he leaves as WO2. Nobody seems to have noticed him during his four years here, although **Mrs. Dorothy Lockwood** has been a very popular and hardworking member of the Wives' Club. Staff did write a letter to us.

To the four above we say thank you for your humour, your efforts and for everything you have given to the 244th, good luck to you and your families in your new postings, we shall miss you in the Red Hand Gang.

SEE MUCH MORE WITH 244

Singapore/Malaysia (and Hong Kong)

Captains Grame Halliburton and **Alan Harfield, Sergeant Dave Whiteley** and a party of 'E' Troop have just returned after a month in Malaysia on the 'ten' day ANZUK Exercise 'King Cobra.' **Captain Haliburton** also visited Hong Kong to see if he liked the look of his next unit.

Cyprus

Lieutenant 'Paddy' Crowley, Staff Sergeant John Lawrence and a 'platoon' of the Squadron have just spent nearly a month in Cyprus adding tone to Exercise 'Hagen' and generally demonstrating the 244th's ability to cope with unusual situations.

Captain Pat Kington has also just returned from Cyprus with a detachment of 'D' Troop. They were far idler than **Lieutenant Crowley's** boys, according to the latter.

Gibraltar

Captain Pat Kington has also just returned with a detachment of 'D' Troop from Gibraltar.

Italy

The same **Kington** has just departed with some of his boys for Exercise 'Little Tape' in Italy.

Sharjah

Corporal Mulley, Signalmen Ralph and **Solomons** (all 'D' Troop) have been sunning themselves in Sharjah; they were also alleged to have been on exercise.

Germany

Lieutenant 'Paddy' Crowley is to be congratulated in having a hard week with the Army Hockey XI in Germany, but more for his first full Army cap.

'M' Troop's academic year 1972/73

'Professor' Tom Stoddart, M.B.E., T.O.T., is to be congratulated on guiding 14 of his Corporal Technicians safely through the T1 Entrance Exmination. They are: **Corporals Arbury, Behan, Bowles, Brydon, Gemmell, Hemming, Hysiak, McLoughlin, Napier, Nesbitt-Clarke, Sawyer, Smith, Thorley, Turvey.**

He also guided **Sergeant Mark Crowe** through the F of S Entrance Examination.

259 Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 53

Sporting activities to the fore

IN Cyprus the sportsmen amongst us are particularly active in the winter and spring since, with the onset of summer, it soon becomes too hot to pursue many of the more strenuous activities. This year has been no exception and the Squadron has taken full advantage of the opportunities that we enjoy here.

The Squadron football team has had a particularly active season under the watchful eye of **Captain (Q.M.) Robbie Burns.** The team reached the semi-final of the Army (Cyprus) Minor Units Cup only to be beaten by the eventual winners Royal Engineers, Dhekelia, after they had twice held the lead in an exciting game. Our picture shows the Sappers' goal under pressure in the closing minutes of the match. Regular players, who travelled from all parts of the island for practices and games, included: **Sergeants Barwick, Butler, Gray, Mills, Payne, Corporals Andrews, Brebner, Jackson, Kidd, Kinnell, Lamarsh, Lumb, Rogers, Lance-Corporals McGivern, Waring, Signalmen Falconer** and **Gratton.**

Our basketball players have also been successful in the Episkopi Inter-Services League and Cup competitions. They were close runners-up in the league competition to a Royal Air Force team from 112 Squadron. In the knock-out cup competition they have reached the final and hope to beat 12 Signal Unit (RAF) to take the cup. Consistently good players have been **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Davis** and **Sergeant Back,** who have played for Combined Services Cyprus against Cyprus and RAF (UK) teams, and **Sergeant Whelan** who, together with the other two, is a regular member of the Army (Cyprus) team.

Army colours

In this 'sports report' it would be wrong not to mention the activities of **Corporal Law.** He is the Squadron cross-country team leader. His recent exploits include an individual win in the Episkopi inter-units competition and the award of his Army Cross-Country Colours. He is seen in the photograph accepting his Colours from the Squadron Commander, **Major P. Valder. Corporal Law** has represented the Army regularly and he has also been invited to run for RAF Episkopi on numerous occasions.

Ski-ing, too

Finally a word about ski-ing. This winter the season has been short since little snow fell before February. However, the Squadron has been able to send a considerable number of novices to Mount Olympus. We have also provided three instructors at the Cyprus Military Ski School and once again

(Continued on page 279)

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.

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but there's more of it in the Australian Army

(Continued from page 277)

Major P. Valder presents Corporal Law with his Army Cross Country colours

SKI ENTHUSIAST
2/Lt. Ian Brown takes a breather on Mount Olympus

skiers have been to the Lebanon where excellent ski-ing is available under the auspices of the Lebanese Army in the country's main ski resort. Our last picture shows **Second-Lieutenant Ian Brown** who, on becoming the troop commander of the highest troop in the Corps (Mountain Troop, 6,400 feet), decided that he should fulfil his role by learning to ski. He is seen here striking a nonchalant pose 'somewhere in his parish.' It must be added that he no longer looked quite so nonchalant when he put the skis on.

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.

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 801

PURELY INFANTRY ROLE

260 Squadron, commanded by **Major W. G. Cunningham,** Royal Signals, is now serving with its parent unit, 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Northern Ireland.

The Squadron operates from Paulett Avenue in East Belfast, and as far as we know is the first Signals unit to operate in Northern Ireland in a purely infantry role. Home base at Paulett is a church hall and a school, and from there the Squadron provides both mobile and foot patrols over the top third of the city east of the River Lagan. Included in its tasks is the protection of St. Mathew's Catholic Church and the Seaforde Street sangar on the Protestant-Catholic areas interface.

Our picture shows the Squadron Commander talking to GOC Northern Ireland, **Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King,** with **Second-Lieutenant D. Case** and **Corporal Earl** in the operations room.

INFANTRY ROLE
(*Left to right*): G.O.C. Northern Ireland, Major Cunningham, 2/Lt. Case and Corporal Earl

261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

The Cyprus Walkabout

THE Cyprus Walkabout, which is an annual event, took place in April this year. It was open to teams from Service Units and anybody else prepared to have a go.

The walk is from Episkopi to the Leave Centre at Troodos on the first day, a stop-over night, returning the following day. The aim is to complete the 60-mile journey in an aggregate time of 24 hours. The terrain between Episkopi and Troodos is very rough culminating in a climb to nearly 5,000 feet above sea level.

The Squadron team consisted of **Staff Sergeant Dave Jolly, Sergeant Reg Dixon** and **Signalman Kev O'Conner.** The various checkpoints along the way were not too difficult to find, generally being situated on the top of the highest hill in that part. **Sergeant Reg Dixon** was disappointed since they passed none of the numerous water troughs that they had seen during their training sessions. A tight rein had to be kept on **Signalman O'Conner** by the older members of the team to prevent him galloping off, more often than not in the wrong direction.

At the end of the first leg Troodos was a very welcome sight and the bed for the night much appreciated. The return journey proved to be just as difficult with even more hills to climb.

The Squadron team completed the course in a time of 18 hours and was placed 17th out of some 80 teams who set out. The event was won by 7 Para RHA.

The MT Troop

The Troop, their wives and the civilian drivers have taken to dining out in Limassol once a month. Kebab, Kleftikon, Kokkinelly along with The Moonlight, Riverside and The Village should bring back memories to those who have served in Cyprus.

Corporal Alan Watts, R.E.M.E., holds the Kokkinelly quaffing record, drowning his sorrows from not winning with the rally team.

At present the MT Sergeant, **Sergeant John Atchinson,** is busy handing over to **Sergeant Dave McGimpsey** and hopes to leave with one or two hairs still left in his head.

Nicosia Troop

The troop managed to win the hockey knock-out competition as part of the Hodgson Cup. This was a notable achievement on their part of the Troop, with one SNCO **Sergeant Jim Allen,** always turn out having made the 60 mile journey from Nicosia. They only have eight men and leave one man on shift and the rest have a day out on these occasions. In the final they beat the happy hermits from Mountain Troop, with a fine goal by **Signalman Bob Kaiser.** The team is still wondering what happened to the winners' beer!

In a big turnover of personnel we say farewell to **Sergeant Hartland, Corporal Von Anrep, Signalmen Berry** and **Bodel,** and welcome **Sergeants Burgess, Rodger, Corporals Plummer, Harber, Whitelock, Lindsay** and **Mason. Lance-Corporals Johnson** and **Martin** and **Signalmen Robertson, Hanman** and **Smith.**

661 Sig Tp
H.M.S. Intrepid
B.F.P.O. Ships

Spring cruise

THIS year we sailed 'Grey Funnel Line' again. This time to the West Indies of rum and pirate fame as summarised below:

Devonport: Last seen on a chilly January morning. 140 new Middies aboard.
Atlantic: A bit lumpy in January. Mids beginning to wish they had stayed at home.
Bermuda: Paint ship again. Gale force winds again!
Jacksonville: Hospitality was overwhelming; so were the prices.
Bahamas: 10 days patrol. No revolutions, few poachers, good banyans.
Nassau: Hospitality exhausting. Left our mark on their jetty.
St. Vincent: Built observatory on volcano, and solved island rum surplus.
Antigua: Solved their rum surplus too!
Puerto Rico: Preparations for Exercise 'Rum Punch,' with 40 Commando and the USMC, it was a noisy run ashore.
Barbados: **H.R.H. Princes Margaret** paid a visit, ship open to visitors, sea trip for VIPs, and a spectacular tattoo. Good week to be on leave.

Between decks

We welcome **Corporal 'Taff' Williams,** who joined in January. He is going round the buoy as the Navy say, having already served in HMS *Fearless* a few years ago. **Signalman 'Russ' Conway** has worked down in HQ 1 (damage control) for months now, only reappearing on pay days and public holidays, and **Signalman Dave Silk** has forsaken OGs for 'RN Ovvies' while detached to the tank deck party. **Corporal Andy Melville** continues to be a stalwart of the ship's band.

Nassau — and we meet 602 Troop

Here we discovered, tucked away near the prison, at the far end of the island, a detachment of 602 Signal Troop, in the form of JRS Nassau. Liaison was quickly established and was so good, that the darts match could only be remembered as a draw! In return, we entertained various of their members and families on board, and managed to arrange a football match between the comms department and the Troop. We would like to thank 602 Troop for their hospitality — we only wish we could visit them more often.

COMMUNICATIONS AT SEA
Signalman Tony Pass lining up one of the C41 Yagi arrays mounted on the starboard bridge wing of H.M.S. Intrepid

Exercise 'Rum Punch 73'

This was a joint UK/US exercise. Although we were not heavily involved, having no military HQ aboard, we were OTC for the passage phase. This provided some good 'goofing' and few spectaculars. At one stage a speed error almost had HMS *Bulwark* trying to dock in with the LCMs, and during the final night when the task force was blacked out, emcon silence imposed, and all manoeuvring conducted by flashing masthead lights, we got a very close 'look' at some of the other ships.

Barbados

This was the climax of the cruise, and our visit coincided with British Week in Bridgetown. A busy week was had by all. We moved a C41 terminal ashore, and provided a RR link to the ship at anchor. **Lance-Corporal Tom Boddison** and **Signalman Tony Pass** soon established themselves ashore (who wouldn't with NRSA at £9.50). Unfortunately, exchange incompatibilities thwarted efforts to fully establish telephone links to the ship. During the visit by H.R.H., we deployed an early warning net under **Corporal Williams,** in the form of **Signalman 'Tiny' Murray** and **R.O.2 Cockbill.** Finally, we provided all the comms required for the tattoo, which, like Topsy had grown to be the event of the week. We were even represented in the cast by **Signalman Phil Bishop,** who took part in the cutlass swinging display, a traditional naval item.

THE VOLUNTEERS

31 Sig Regt (V), Hammersmith

Farewell to Commanding Officer

ON 18th April our Commanding Officer for the past two years, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. B. Crawford, E.R.D.,** handed over to his successor, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Eversfield, E.R.D.,** previously Second-in-Command to **Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford.** The photograph shows:

Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford being chaired out of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess at their farewell dinner. Supporting the Colonel are **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) 'Dusty' Miller** and **W.O.1 (S.C.) Tom Cran. W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Holland** is just visible at the back.

Final exit from W.O.'s and Sergeants Mess

Farewell to W.O.1 D. Jones

On 26th April **W.O.1 Derek Jones** left the Regiment and the Corps after 23 years' service. **W.O.1 Jones** has been our MTWO for the past two years and improved considerably the Regiment's standards in MT Management. Having been concerned with the running of MT on almost every tour of his career one may think that this was 'water off a duck's back,' but in fact the secret of **W.O.1 Jones's** success was sheer and unremitting application to what were often very tedious tasks.

He has now emigrated to Australia and our best wishes go with him and his family in his new life.

Exercise 'Shot Two' — a load of bull?

During Exercise 'Shot Two' one rather unusual break in communications occurred at the 'A' Troop 31 Signal Regiment (V) relay detachment manned by **Signalmen Crabb, Barlow-Stone** and **Wright.** Noticing that the RF reading on one of their R222 receivers had dropped considerably they were horrified to see, on looking out of their vehicle, a very large bull astride the collapsed antenna mast surrounded by a herd of admiring cows. Biscuits liberally dosed with salt persuaded the cows to leave, but the male of the species seemed most reluctant to follow suit. Fortunately prolonged banging of Mess tins at close range ("You call 50 yards close?"—Troop Commander's comment) had the desired effect and the bull moved slowly away, the crew feeling covered in glory and the antenna covered in . . . well . . .

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

AS the Regiment prepares for annual camp a round-up of events over the past few months is given below:

Detachment Commanders' course

At the end of March the Regiment completed its first NCOs' qualifying course after five weekends of continuous training mainly at Proteus Camp. It was quite a change to see Royal Signals personnel charging through the long grass with 'two up' but an unfortunate lack of bags of smoke. It should now be possible under certain detachment commanders to travel as if on a 'Cooks Tour' and live at 'Four Star' level albeit under canvas. After the keenness of this first course this qualification on a trade record card will be a status symbol in the Regiment. Twenty-one began the course, 14 managed to find the time to complete it, of which 11 passed. **Captain J. H. Wardley, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Preston** and **Sergeant Lusty** the course instructors, under the ever-watchful eye of **R.S.M. Dave Shakespeare,** were greatly assisted by two instructors and numerous handouts from 11 Signal Regiment. The instructors will be joining us at camp for course number two.

93 Squadron

Exercise 'Spring Clean' passed without incident from the communications point of view, but it was not without its lighter moments. Our venerable and learned **Lieutenant Terry Lea,** emulating his Squadron Commander, glanced at his map prior to a location move and stated, "We'll go that way." That way turned out to be 1 in 3 in parts, which is a little daunting for a Land Rover towing a generator! But the team won through to the end. At another site **Sergeant Colin Thackwell** found himself virtually suspended in mid-air whilst trying to erect an antenna. But like every good PSI he too won through in the end.

The Squadron dinner and dance was held in the drill hall at Blackburn. Amongst the 130 present were the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Peter Garratt,** and **R.S.M. Dave and Mrs. Shakespeare.** During the evening two presentations were made. The first a watch to **Mr. David Allen** and flowers to his wife. The **Allens** retire in May after being caretakers of the Drill Hall since 1945. We are sorry to see them go but wish them a long and happy retirement. The second presentation was to **Lieutenant Jean Monkman** who is leaving the Regiment after four years as the Squadron WRAC officer, on marrying a regular Royal Engineers Officer **Lieutenant Kevin O'Donogue** and going to live in Germany—it's rather a long way for weekend exercises! **Jean** will be sadly missed by the Regiment and particularly by 93 who will now be without a WRAC officer. Anyone willing to take on this job we wonder? —WRAC TAVR officers seem to be very rare birds indeed.

Finally we congratulate **Signalman Foster** chosen as best recruit on the recent recruits' course and presented with an inscribed tankard.

87 Squadron

The Squadron is sorry to say farewell, on transfer to 46 Squadron, to **S.S.M. West** who was presented with a suitably inscribed silver tankard at the Squadron social evening. **Mrs. West** received a silver candelabra, vase and flowers. **W.O.2 West** has served in the Nottingham area for over 21 years, and 87 are sorry to see the 'oldest' member of this family depart from the drill hall. However, he has left his son **Staff Sergeant West** and daughter **Private West** to carry on the good work.

We were delighted when **Private Jackson** was presented with a travelling alarm clock on being chosen as the best WRAC recruit on the last course. The parade was held at Nottingham and **Colonel Ken Gill** was invited to present the prizes. Further good news for the WRAC was the well-deserved promotions of **Staff Sergeants Stanton** and **Hill. Sergeant Hill,** ex-regular, married and three children, was featured in the local Press; we hope this will bring more ladies looking for outside interests—who have good husbands to mind the family as mum soldiers on.

As usual we were proudly presented in Scotland by **Major Ripley, Major (Doc) Hunting** and **Captain Merryweather** wielding their skis looking, along with **Major Hawksworth** (late this Squadron now 64), for the snows!

We are all preparing madly for camp this year and looking forward to some Cornish sunshine with the chance to not live out of a kit bag!

Support Group

As you will notice we now have a new title; HQ Squadron is no more. The name may have changed, but we are still the Humpers, Suppliers, Diggers and Menders we have always been, and I must say after so many field exercises we are quite proficient at slinging up marquees and 180-pounders.

The winter months have been passed in training our drivers up to BII standard, and obtaining for some their HGV licence. Thanks to our MTWO **W.O.1 Terry Hammill** and **Sergeant John Laidler** for the hard work and interest hey have shown in this programme.

Recruiting recently seems to have gathered momentum, and we are getting quite a few of the right sort of people. Our last recruits' course passed out in March after five weekends of intensive training at Proteus Camp. 13 Royal Signals and 8 WRAC successfully completed the course, despite falls in the water splash and feeling after the Second-in-Command **Major Peter Revill's** military law lecture that they would be shot for any infringement, and a very high standard was reached by all. It is pleasant to see so many of our members bringing along the family even if roll call does become a little complex, and we hope that the instructors' wives were a little repaid by their night out for all the weekends which their menfolk had spent away from home!

Camp this year should be quite a change for Support Group because we shall not have to build it. The luxury of it all, a hutted camp, and rumour has it that the RSM will have a bunk all to himself, instead of sharing with another WO1 who seems to have more kit than both RQMSs put together!

There is no sign of the new TAVR centre taking shape, but we expect any day the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Garratt,** dropping the plans in our office and saying, "There you are, build that," and with the talent which abounds, I think we could.

64 Squadron

The first exercise of the year—suitably named 'Spring Clean' —venue, a large part of England. The primary task to prove the communications potential of half-a-dozen or so static stations and several mobile ones for working VHF radio in readiness for our infantry colleagues use in a large exercise at a later date. To fulfil the commitment completely by combat radiomen alone was, numerically, impossible, so linemen, data telegraphists et al were called upon and 11 performed quite creditably—with the added bonus of some delightful variations on official voice procedure! Being largely a high-ground operation, the weather was an important factor, admirably summed up in the following conversation: "Seen any Eskimoes around?" "No." "There you are then. If it's too cold for them, it's too cold for everyone."

As usual, everyone had their own little cameo experience, frustrating or funny, but there is no truth in the rumour that **Captains Wing** and **Milburn, Lieutenants Trayers** and **Reeves**—who between them clocked up some 1,200 miles on mobile testing—are rehearsing 'Happy Wanderer' for their next Mess function. A good exercise, more important a successful one, but a lot of people would probably regard their respective office, steelworks, bus garage or such, as a haven of rest on the Monday morning.

Sadly our notes of recent issues have failed to record the rather unusual translation of **Captain Toby Seymour** from the post of Regular Training Officer at RHQ to that of Volunteer Traffic and Training Officer with 64 Squadron. **Toby,** now a local government officer, served in the regular Corps from 1945 to 1972. The very next day he became a volunteer—surely a recruiting feat of some note!

Finally, a fond farewell to one of our 'elder statesmen' **S.Q.M.S. Walter Jackson,** who leaves us in May. Thanks for all your help in the past **Wally**—and may your tankard never run dry.

Medal winners

Medals were presented to 16 members of the Regiment at Scarborough by GOC NE District **Major-General J. M. D. Ward Harrison, O.B.E., M.C.** The Sheffield recipients were photographed for the local Press.

[Courtesy: Sheffield Newspapers Ltd

Members of 64th Squadron and Support Group who recently received Territorial Efficiency Medals
Left to right: W.O.2 J. Hodgson, Staff Sergeant W. Jackson, Corporal J. Edis, Corporal K. Foster, Sergeant K. Waller, Staff Sergeant R. Edney, Sergeant W. Skevington

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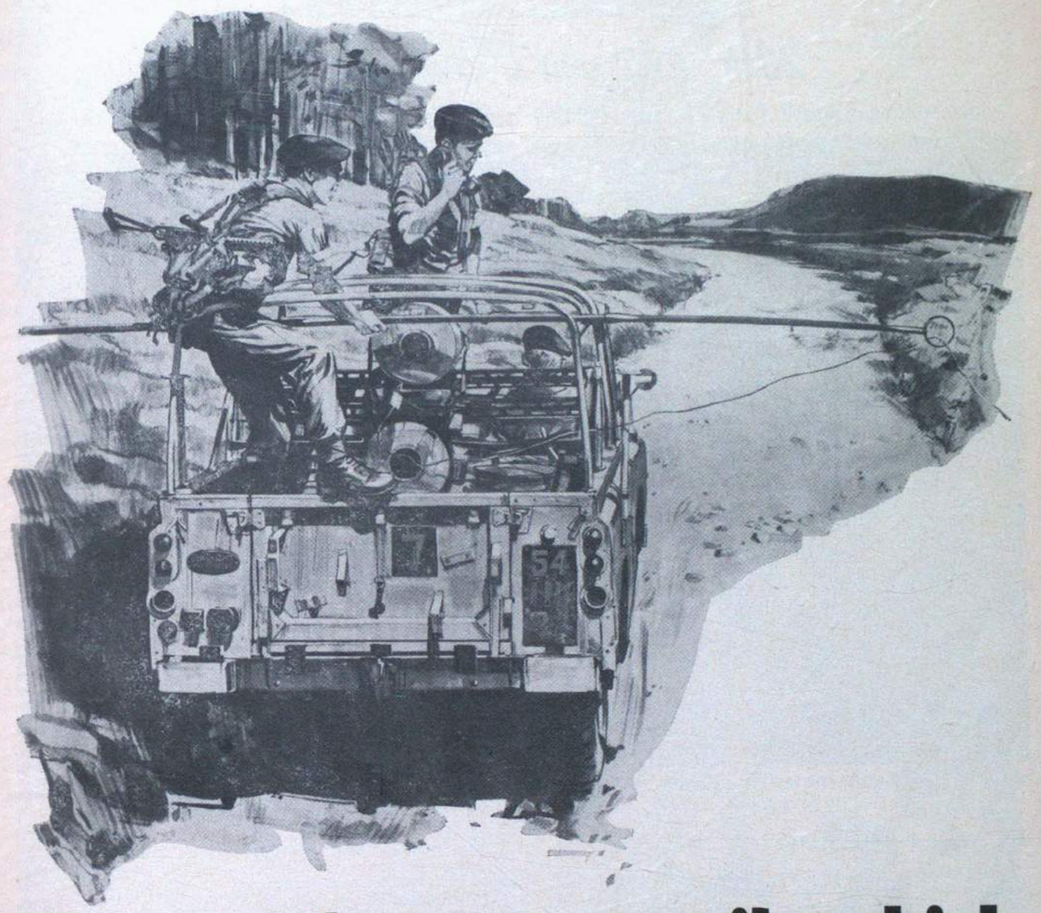

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28th Regiment's Gallant Effort

Association Football Team go down fighting in Final of Army Championships at Aldershot

28th (B.R.) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG), successful B.A.O.R. soccer team, being presented to General Sir Peter Hunt prior to the final at Sennelager. Later they went on to the Army final where they were narrowly beaten 2-1.

The Army Cup Final 1973

The Army Cup Final 1973 was played on Wednesday, 11th April, between 28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) and the Royal Corps of Transport Training Centre, Aldershot. Before the kick-off both teams were presented to **Sir Stanley Rous, C.B.E.,** President of FIFA, who was to present the cup to the winning team.

From the kick-off 28, the BAOR Champions, went immediately on the attack and scored after only five minutes. A neat move between **Sergeant John Harvey** and **Lance-Corporal Tommy Hope** saw **Signalman Frank Quirk** head the final cross strongly towards goal.

The goalkeeper could only parry the header and **Staff Sergeant 'Bunny' Rea,** following up, scored easily. At this stage 28 were playing some neat combination football. However, after 22 minutes, the RCT equalised against the run of play. **Lance-Corporal 'Tom' Reilly** seemed to be unsighted as a shot from **Robson** was hit low and hard into the corner of the net. At half-time the score was still 1-1 although 28 were still the better team.

In the second half it was an even affair, with both teams trying to gain the upper hand. The 2,000-plus crowd saw both sides make and miss chances, and knew that the team to score the next goal would run out winners. Just as it looked as though extra time would have to be played, the RCT grabbed a goal in the 87th minute. The goal was scored from close in after a goalmouth scramble.

The match ended with RCT 2-1 winners and 28 very unlucky losers. The best players in a very good 28 side were **Corporal Jackie Snaith,** the man of the match, and **Staff Sergeant 'Bunny' Rea.** We now look forward to next season when we hope to see 28 in the Army Cup Final again and to see them emerge as winners on behalf of the Royal Corps.

Corps Golfers in B.A.O.R. have a Great Day

The Royal Signals (BAOR) Spring Golf Meeting was held at the RAF (G) Golf Club, RAF Bruggen, on 16th/17th April. The CSO BAOR General H. E. Roper attended the meeting accompanied by Mrs. Roper who kindly presented the prizes.

Lack of space prohibits a full list of prizewinners. The standard of golf played was high despite windy conditions. As the photographs show a good time was had by one and all. (See page opposite).

1. "Afcent in action" from the left: Captain 'Donna' Reed, Sergeant David Falconer, C.S.O., Captain Douglas Burt, Major Cyril Hooper, all of 227 Sig Sqn flank the CSO, BAOR.
2. "I wear this to keep the hair out of my eyes" explains R.S.M. Reg Norris of 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment to the C.S.O.
3. Left to right: Staff Sergeant Graham Chard and Sergeant Bob Eastmond of 13th Signal Regiment, Sergeants John Harvey and Ray Francis of 28th Signal Regiment chatting with Major General Roper.
4. "Who played the best shot"? Mrs. Roper behind the brolly. The golfers from right to left: Major Ken Bicknell, H.Q. B.A.O.R., Major Albert Mercer and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Wally Sugden of 16th Signal Regiment and, with smile, Major (Ret.) Frank Ellis, H.Q. B.A.O.R.
5. The Regimental Greensome Spring Challenge Cup is won for the first time by H.Q. B.A.O.R. Major Peter Tidey and Major Don Hazel were the winning partnership. On the left is Captain Jim Lane the Hon. Sec.
6. Captain 'Donna' Reed was the best golfer of the meeting and here collects the prize for the Scratch competition

Cross-Country Motor Cycling

S.S.M. Tom Fayers wins a 'Gold' for the Corps

The latest highlight achieved by a member of 8 Signal Regiment team is the award of a Gold Medal to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tom Fayers** for his excellent performance in the European Two-Day Championship Trial at Eschwegg in Germany. In this trial **S.S.M. Fayers** rode one of the new 125 cc Dalesman two-stroke machines lent to the Army by the Dalesman company. Competition was particularly fierce and entrants were the expert riders from 14 different countries, and was a tough bike or back-breaking ride with very high speed cross-country work requiring riders to negotiate obstacles without loss of time, and a selection of sections designed to test every part of the motor cycles and every muscle and nerve of the riders. To win through against such a formidable course and opposition is indeed a great achievement; congratulations and well done **S.S.M. Fayers** — also on the recent award of a B.E.M.

THE GOLD MEDALLIST

S.S.M. Tom Fayers, B.E.M., moving down the hill at speed over rough country. The machine is a 'Dalesman' 125cc

The 8 Signal Regiment motor cycle trials team enters a competition each month and continue to obtain good results; a particularly successful event was the Hungry Hill (Bordon) trial in which **Corporal Ken Hendry, Sergeant Gordon Craggs** and **S.S.M. Tom Fayers** competed as a team and won a prize; on individual performance the SSM won the 2nd class award, **Lance-Corporal Brian Thompson,** one of our younger riders now posted to AFCENT, took 17th place, whilst **Corporal Tom Walker,** Royal Signals, of 2 Signal Group, won the prize for the best novice, having taken seventh place. **Corporal Walker** invariably enters the motor cycling competitions usually with assistance and encouragement from the 8 Signal Regiment team. He is now classed as an expert trials rider and has recently won the 2nd class awards in both the Weavers Down trial and the Civil Services trial. **Corporal K. Hendry** won the 3rd class novice award at the Hungry Hill trial and will be a very determined competitor in the Welsh two-day trial in June.

At the time of writing preparation of machines and training of team members and newcomers is underway in readiness for the South East final on 20th May.

FENCING—THE CHAMPION

The Zone B stage of the Army Fencing Championships was held recently at Catterick Garrison. Lance-Corporal S. Graham of the School of Signals had an outstanding competition winning all three individual weapons

The School of Signals team came 3rd in the team event

The photograph shows Lance-Corporal Graham receiving the Champion at Arms Trophy from Brigadier E. J. Hellier

A Pre-war Champion Recalled

Mr. F. A. Jones, of 4 Stratton Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, an ex-RSM of the Corps, writes to us at some length about that famous Corps boxing personality **Signalman V. A. (Tony) Stewart,** whom he says might well be considered the **Cotterell** of the boxing world.

Unfortunately, space precludes publishing all that **Mr. Jones** says in praise of **Signalman Tony Stewart,** but it can be summarised in that he was a complete novice in 1927 and finished up as Imperial Services and U.K. heavyweight champion in 1936. His career continued to 1945 when he fought his last fight in the Royal Albert Hall during which period he won over 500 fights and lost very few. Apart from being a great boxer, he was a warm-hearted and friendly individual and was ever willing to give advice to beginners—a complete sportsman in every sense of the word.

The Corps has enjoyed many successes in the sporting and athletic world today, but it can look back with real pride on those wonderful sportsmen of the 1920s and 1930s of whom **Joe Cotterell** and **Tony Stewart** were such outstanding examples. We publish below a record of **Tony Stewart's** many successes.

Event	Year	Remarks
Champion Royal Corps of Signals	1928–1929–1930	Champion three times
Command Champion	1928–1929–1930	Champion three times
Imperial Services Boxing Association	1928–1929–1930	Champion three times (only times he competed)
Champion of Great Britain	1930–1932–1936–1937	
Champion Empire Games	1930	Held in Canada
Champion Empire Games	1934	Held at Wembley
Golden Gloves Champion	1935	Held in New York
Golden Gloves Champion	1936	Held in London
Olympic Games	1936	Rep. for England

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

Association News

DORSET BRANCH

Submitted by Sam Heywood, HQ Blandford Station, Blandford Camp, Dorset

Our sixth annual dinner was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Blandford Camp—by kind permission of the Station Commander, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. F. Barker,** Royal Signals—on Friday, 4th May, when some 70-odd members, their wives and guests sat down to an excellent dinner in perfect surroundings.

Among our guests was **Sir David Trench, K.C.M.G., M.C.,** late of Her Majesty's Colonial Service and until his retirement recently, Governor General of Hong Kong, **Brigadier and Mrs. A. C. Bate, Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. D. M. F. Barker, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. J. MacIntyre** and **R.S.M. and Mrs. J. T. Wood. Brigadier Pat Hobson** was unable to attend owing to sickness and **R.S.M. and Mrs. M. D. McMahan** owing to a service commitment.

We were most fortunate this year in having with us the Trumpeters of the Royal Signals Band resplendent in full dress uniform who sounded the fanfares 'to dinner' and the 'loyal toast.' The Dorset Branch is greatly indebted to those in 'high places' who granted us the privilege of allowing the Corps Trumpeters to be with us.

In his speech welcoming our guests, our President, **Major-General R. J. Moberly** paid a special tribute to **R.S.M. Tom Wood,** Regimental Sergeant Major School of Signals, for kindnesses shown to the Branch in allowing us to hold our monthly meetings in his Mess particularly during the winter months. On behalf of everyone present our President wished **Tom and Mrs. Wood** the very best on their posting to 37 Signal Regiment (TAVR) at Bristol and on behalf of the Dorset Branch, Royal Signals Association, presented to the Mess a plaque which the RSM was very pleased to accept—the plaque incidentally being placed in a position of honour immediately in the centre position in the new Mess bar!

After an excellent dinner we eventually retired to the bar placed at our disposal for the evening and the tinkling of glasses and sound of raucous laughter from impossible military achievements of past ages went on until the early hours of the morning. A wonderful evening—and morning.

The dinner was arranged by a sub-committee under the chairmanship of our Branch President, **Major-General R. J. Moberly.**

Obituary

Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. F. Paton, O.B.E.

It is with regret that we report the death in February of John Esplen Falconer Paton at the age of 78. Shortly after the outbreak of the First World War he was commissioned in the Public Schools' Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and saw active service in Mesopotamia. He transferred to the Corps in 1926 but spent most of his service in India and Egypt. He was very keen on amateur dramatics and was a producer of great talent. After retirement in 1947 he became an enthusiastic and active member of the Association and was for many years President of the Torbay and District Branch. He was Secretary of the South West area of the Royal Overseas League from 1947 until he retired in 1970. For his work in the Overseas League, particularly with Commonwealth visitors, he was appointed OBE in 1960. He started a local branch of the St. John Ambulance Association and served on the County Committee of the Devon Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs. He was a warden in the Civil Defence Corps and a member of the Royal British Legion. We offer our sincere sympathies to his widow and family.

Lieutenant-Colonel (QM) L. Teal

It is with regret that we report the death of Leslie Teal on 27th April at the age of 63. He enlisted as a boy in 1924 and was commissioned in 1942, retiring in 1964 after 40 years' service. During the war he served in the Western Desert with 7 Armoured Divisional Signals then with Special Communications. Units and Air Formation Signals until rejoining 7 Armoured Divisional Signals Regiment at Celle in 1949. From 1957-1961 he was Technical Equipment Officer at the School of Signals then served with 49 (WR) Signal Regiment. After retirement he was Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce in Scarborough for four years, and Chairman of the local branch of the Association. He was also SSAFA representative for the area. He will be sadly missed by his many friends both in and out of the Corps. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow Florence and daughters.

Ex. W.O.2 J. W. Craggs

All will be saddened to hear of the death of W.O.2 J. W. Craggs. Mr. Craggs joined the 50th Northumbrian District Signals Regiment TA in 1929 and joined the Regular forces in 1934 serving until November 1945. He saw service in India with 5th Cavalry Troop with 252 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron in Mesopotamia, and later in NW Europe. He joined the TA in 1947 and was the first SSM of 2 Squadron, 34 Signal Regiment TA in 1955. He was a Life Member of the Association. The address of his widow, to whom sincere sympathy is expressed, is: Mrs. J. W. Craggs, 2 Leinster Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough.

Movements

Officers

Major B. M. Ashcroft	... ...	To Royal Signals Manning and Records Office
Major P. D. E. Chase	... ...	,, DADPTC
Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) D. Crookes, O.B.E.	... ...	,, MOD (DSTI)
Captain H. A. Culley	... ...	,, 11 Regiment (HS)
Major A. P. de Bretton-Gordon	... ...	,, 22 Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Dexter	... ...	,, US Army Signal Centre, Georgia
Captain P. J. K. Dickinson	... ...	,, attd HQ Northern Ireland
Captain R. E. S. Drew	... ...	,, 22 Regiment
Major W. B. Foote	... ...	,, 224 Squadron
Captain (T.O.T.) G. W. Fordom	... ...	,, 21 Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. W. Gahan, M.B.E.	... ...	,, MOD (PE) (EQD)
Lieutenant A. H. Gibb	... ...	,, Army Air Corps Centre
Captain (T.O.T.) R. Goodman, B.E.M.	... ...	,, 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major D. J. Henning	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain J. M. D. Ingram	... ...	,, 24 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Brigadier A. J. Jackson	... ...	,, RMC of S
Major (T.O.T.) A. J. Lees	... ...	,, 27 Regiment
Captain P. H. MacCulloch	... ...	,, MAT Gulf
Lieutenant G. E. Morrill	... ...	,, 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) A. J. Murray	...	,, 9 Regiment
Lieutenant F. M. Orr	... ...	,, 22 Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) J. A. Peck	... ...	,, 13 Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Petheram	...	,, SHAPE
Captain D. C. Podevin	... ...	,, 39 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Major C. K. Powell	... ...	,, 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major D. A. C. Randel	... ...	,, SAF Oman
Captain J. R. Smith	... ...	,, 644 Signal Troop
Captain P. D. Smith	... ...	,, 13 Regiment
Major M. Stears	... ...	,, 4 Comms Unit
Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Swindale	...	,, CSO London District
Captain J. D. Tydeman	... ...	,, DADPTC

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1 J. T. Wood	... ...	,, 37 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.1 E. H. Cooper	... ...	,, 224 Signal Squadron
A/W.O.1 G. Powell	... ...	,, SHAPE HQ Command and SP
W.O.2 J. Kelly	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 K. Maidment	... ...	,, 13 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Supvr R) R. G. Porter	...	,, 9 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 J. F. Jones	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.2 B. Green	... ...	,, 11 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 R. Adamson	... ...	,, 4 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) M. J. D. Groom	...	,, 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. W. A. Charlton	... ...	,, MAT (Gulf)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) R. K. Owen	...	,, 22 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. A. Meachin	...	,, RMCS
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. J. A. Edwards	... ...	,, 13 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. J. Hodgson	... ...	,, 259 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) T. Crawley	,, SHAPE (BAB)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. Cooper	,, School of Infantry
Staff Sergeant (Supvr R) A. J. Newman	... ...	,, 223 Signal Squadron

Staff Sergeant	E. W. Percival	...	...	,,	229 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant	S. M. Fowler	...	...	,,	14 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	A. McDonald	...	...	,,	Tayforth Universities OTC
Staff Sergeant	(Supvr R) B. D. Roberts	...	...	,,	9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	(Supvr R) R. W. Wells	...	...	,,	30 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	D. W. Barnes	...	...	,,	262 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant	R. G. Stanley-Jones	...	...	,,	22 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	W. Marsden	...	...	,,	2 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	K. W. Webb	...	...	,,	22 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant	M. A. Thurgood	...	...	,,	40 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant	R. I. Scott	...	...	,,	242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant	A. E. Feltham	...	...	,,	653 Signal Troop
Sergeant	K. Blackburn	...	...	,,	63 (SAS) Signal Squadron
Sergeant	E. A. Howell	...	...	,,	555 Rear Link Detachment
Sergeant	M. J. Burke	...	...	,,	233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant	J. A. Brown	...	...	,,	262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant	W. E. Scott	...	...	,,	229 Signal Squadron
Sergeant	D. L. Clark	...	...	,,	33 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant	I. J. Higgerson	...	...	,,	37 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant	G. A. Wilson	...	...	,,	39 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant	M. T. Norton	...	...	,,	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant	P. A. Baldwin	...	...	,,	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant	G. M. Hartland	...	...	,,	7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	T. Haffenden	...	...	,,	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	B. T. Izzard	...	...	,,	16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	R. L. Keep	...	...	,,	605 Signal Troop
Sergeant	N. Howarth	...	...	,,	Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant	D. E. G. Hotson	...	...	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant	G. T. Craggs	...	...	,,	16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	G. W. Adams	...	...	,,	21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	W. Gray	...	...	,,	16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	G. Whelen	...	...	,,	3 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant	J. Crannage	...	...	,,	24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant	M. J. Wickens	...	...	,,	3 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant	B. J. Minter	...	...	,,	22 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	G. W. Wisher	...	...	,,	11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	G. Brook	...	...	,,	9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	J. A. Vivian	...	...	,,	Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant	V. A. H. Barber	...	...	,,	21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	R. Allison	...	...	,,	1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant	A. Macrae	...	...	,,	223 Signal Squadron
Sergeant	M. D. Farmer	...	...	,,	9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant	A. J. Bryant	...	...	,,	RMAS
Sergeant	E. R. S. Potter	...	...	,,	11 Signal Regiment

Promotions

APRIL

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*Trade*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
		REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL			
To W.O.1			NIL		
To W.O.2					
Quinn,	F. A.	A/W.O.2	Cbt Sig	2 Dec. 72	10 Feb. 70
		STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL			
To S/Sgt.					
Golding,	J. H.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	2 Nov. 72	6 Sep. 65
Adam,	J.	Sgt.	R Tg	5 Nov. 72	21 Oct. 69
Howley,	F. C.	Sgt.	R Tg	1 Dec. 72	28 Dec. 68
Bates,	R.	A/S Sgt.	Data Tg	2 Dec. 72	7 Jul. 65
Hanson,	G.	A/S Sgt.	Data Tg	3 Dec. 72	5 Jan. 66
Bayne,	J. M.	Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	5 Dec. 72	6 Dec. 66
Taylor,	R. G.	Sgt.	Data Tg	6 Dec. 72	2 Feb. 66
Mortimer,	N. E.	A/S Sgt.	Data Tg	7 Dec. 72	28 Sep. 66
James,	G. W.	A/S Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	8 Dec. 72	2 May 68
Shaw,	R. J. M.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	9 Dec. 72	1 Aug. 68
Harwood,	G.	A/S Sgt.	Cbt Lmn	10 Dec. 72	13 May 65
Bowden,	D. A. W.	Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	11 Dec. 72	24 Sep. 68
Lawrence,	J. A. G.	Sgt.	R Tg	12 Dec. 72	29 Mar. 69
Pengilly,	B. E.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	15 Dec. 72	8 Mar. 69
Morrell,	K.	A/Sgt.	Cbt Sig	31 Dec. 72	19 Feb. 61
Robinson,	M.	A/Sgt.	Cbt Lmn	1 Jan. 73	9 Jan. 69
Jack,	J. M.	Sgt.	Data Tg	2 Jan. 73	7 Mar. 69
Eastland,	C. M.	Sgt.	R Tg	4 Jan. 73	19 Jun. 68
Curnow,	A. F. J.	Sgt.	R Tg	5 Jan. 73	2 Feb. 66
Sixsmith,	K.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	7 Jan. 73	7 Sep. 61
Braithwaite,	S.	A/S Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	8 Jan. 73	1 Mar. 62
Lewer,	P. F.	Sgt.	Cbt Pmn	9 Jan. 73	31 Dec. 69
Rhind,	J.	A/S Sgt.	Clk Tech	10 Jan. 73	24 Jul 61
Barnes,	D. W.	Sgt.	R Tg	11 Jan. 73	20 May 66
Williams,	H. E.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	12 Jan. 73	20 Dec. 61
Springer,	M. G.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	13 Jan. 73	27 Dec. 66
Flake,	G.	A/Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	14 Jan. 73	21 Nov. 62
Martin,	J. N.	A/S Sgt.	Clk Tech	15 Jan. 73	17 Oct. 66
Bailey,	A.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	3 Feb. 73	13 Jul. 67
Derbyshire,	A. C.	Sgt.	Tele Mech	4 Feb. 73	5 May 68
Porteous,	G.	A/S Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	5 Feb. 73	27 Feb. 68
Davis,	F. R.	Sgt.	Clk Tech	6 Feb. 73	24 Sep. 68
		FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL			
To W.O.1			NIL		
To W.O.2					
Treharne,	D. G. E.	S Sgt.		26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Charlton,	A. W. A.	S Sgt.		26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Sant,	L.	S Sgt.		26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Peplow,	P. J.	S Sgt.		26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Carr,	W. D.	S Sgt.		26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67
Limb,	R. M.	S Sgt.		26 Jan. 73	26 Jan. 67

(Continued on page 290)

ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

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(Continued from page 288)

Signal Centre Supervisor Roll

To W.O.2 — Nil
To S Sgt. — Nil

Supervisor (Radio) Roll

To W.O.1					
Banks,	J. W.	A/W.O.1		5 May 72	28 Apr. 66
To W.O.2					
Parkinson,	H.	A/W.O.2		5 Dec. 72	2 May 70
Haslam,	A. E.	S Sgt.		2 Feb. 73	31 Oct. 70
To S Sgt.		Nil			

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.1 — Nil
To W.O.2 — Nil

To S Sgt.					
Vannan,	O. S.	Sgt.	R Tg	23 Oct. 72	29 Mar. 69

Chief Clerk Roll

To W.O.1					
Jepson,	P. E.	A/W.O.1		15 Dec. 72	31 Aug. 68
Thomas,	F.	A/W.O.1		8 Jan. 73	20 Dec. 68

Terminal Equipment Technician Roll

To W.O.2 — Nil
To S Sgt. — Nil

To Sgt.					
Gray,	M. P.	Cpl.		5 Oct. 72	10 Aug. 68

Radio Technician Roll

Nil

Radio Relay Technician Roll

To S Sgt. — Nil

To Sgt.					
Mills,	C. B.	Cpl.		13 Nov. 72	7 Feb. 69
Kernohan	H. S.	Cpl.		28 Nov. 72	11 Aug. 67
Wisely,	N. A.	Cpl.		28 Nov. 72	13 Apr. 68
Horne,	A. E.	Cpl.		28 Nov. 72	10 Aug. 68
Littlewood,	W. G.	Cpl.		28 Nov. 72	14 Dec. 68
Lyons,	R. A.	Cpl.		28 Nov. 72	16 Apr. 70
Jones,	A.	Cpl.		14 Dec. 72	14 Dec. 68

Telecommunications Mechanic Roll

To S Sgt.					
Derbyshire,	A. C.	Sgt.		4 Feb. 73	5 May 68

Data Telegraphist Roll

To S Sgt.					
Bates,	R.	A/S Sgt.		2 Dec. 72	7 Jul. 65
Hanson,	G.	A/S Sgt.		3 Dec. 72	5 Jan. 66
Taylor,	R. G.	Sgt.		6 Dec. 72	2 Feb. 66
Mortimer,	N. E.	A/S Sgt.		7 Dec. 72	28 Sep. 66
Jack,	J. M.	Sgt.		2 Jan. 73	7 Mar. 69
To Sgt.					
Betteridge,	R.	A/Sgt.		10 Nov. 72	27. Dec 61
Allen,	R. M.	A/Sgt.		13 Nov. 72	30 Sep. 67
Marshall,	S. G.	Cpl.		12 Dec. 72	3 Nov. 69
Larkin,	E. J.	A/Sgt.		13 Dec. 72	1 Dec. 69
Foley,	J.	A/Sgt.		15 Dec. 72	8 Apr. 65
Hall,	R.	A/Sgt.		17 Dec. 72	11 Mar. 66
MacQueen,	C. H. F.	Cpl.		18 Dec. 72	10 May 66
Cadman,	R. H.	A/Sgt.		15 Jan. 73	17 Sep. 66
Beresford,	D. A.	Cpl.		17 Jan. 73	1 Jan. 70
Downie,	L. N.	A/Sgt.		18 Jan. 73	30 Jun. 65
Venus,	W.	Cpl.		19 Jan. 73	16 Oct. 65
Thomas,	K.	A/Sgt.		20 Jan. 73	1 May 66

Radio Telegraphist Roll

To S Sgt.					
Adam,	J.	Sgt.		5 Nov. 72	21 Oct. 69
Howley,	F. C.	Sgt.		1 Dec. 72	28 Dec. 68
Lawrance,	J. A. G.	Sgt.		12 Dec. 72	29 Mar. 69
Eastland,	C. M.	Sgt.		4 Jan. 73	19 Jun. 68
Curnow,	A. F. J.	Sgt.		5 Jan. 73	2 Feb. 66
Barnes,	D. W.	Sgt.		11 Jan. 73	20 May 66
To Sgt.					
Barnett,	S.	A/Sgt.		1 Dec. 72	1 Feb. 66
Bonnett,	J.	A/Sgt.		3 Dec. 72	15 Oct. 66
Doane,	A. C.	Cpl.		27 Dec. 72	30 Jun. 70
Audsley,	D. H.	A/Sgt.		29 Dec. 72	27 Aug. 65
Brown,	D.	A/Sgt.		31 Dec. 72	1 Jan. 69
Taylor,	T. J.	A/Sgt.		1 Jan. 73	1 Nov. 69
Archer,	D.	A/Sgt.		7 Feb. 73	1 Jan. 69

Special Telegraphist Roll

To Sgt.					
Williamson,	R.	Cpl.		2 Sep. 72	1 Nov. 69
Friend,	P. G.	Cpl.		2 Oct. 72	30 Jun. 70
Ellinor,	I. A. T.	A/Sgt.		1 Nov. 72	30 Nov. 67
Smith,	P. J.	A/Sgt.		1 Feb. 73	30 Jun. 70

Chief Clerk Roll

To Sgt.					
Lleweliyn,	M.	Cpl.		16 Jan. 73	31 Aug. 68
Dudding,	I. L.	A/Sgt.		18 Jan. 73	13 Aug. 69

Clerk Technical (Royal Signals) Roll

To S Sgt.					
Rhind,	J.	A/S Sgt.		10 Jan. 73	24 Jul. 61
Martin,	J. N.	A/S Sgt.		15 Jan. 73	17 Oct. 66
Davis,	F. R.	Sgt.		6 Feb. 73	24 Sep. 68

Combat Drivers Roll

To S Sgt.					
Bayne,	J. M.	Sgt.		5 Dec. 72	6 Dec. 66
Bowden,	D. A. W.	Sgt.		11 Dec. 72	24 Sep. 68
Braithwaite,	S.	A/S Sgt.		8 Jan. 73	1 Mar. 62
Flake,	G.	A/S Sgt.		14 Jan. 73	21 Nov. 62
Porteous,	G.	A/S Sgt.		5 Feb. 73	27 Feb. 68
To Sgt.					
Keane,	J. J.	Cpl.		3 Sep. 72	31 Aug. 63
East,	E. V.	A/Sgt.		1 Oct. 72	28 Feb. 62
Judd,	I. T.	A/Sgt.		2 Oct. 72	3 Apr. 62
Wilson,	T. W.	Cpl.		1 Nov. 72	31 Dec. 62
Greeney,	J. B.	Cpl.		2 Nov. 72	31 Jul. 63

Combat Lineman Roll

To S Sgt.					
Harwood,	G.	A/S Sgt.		10 Dec. 72	13 May 65
Robinson,	M.	A/S Sgt.		1 Jan. 73	9 Jan. 69
To Sgt.					
Fitzsimons,	E. J.	Cpl.		5 Nov. 72	31 May 68

Combat Powerman Roll

To S Sgt.					
Lewer,	P. F.	Sgt.		9 Jan. 73	31 Dec. 69

Combat Radioman Roll

To S Sgt.					
Golding,	J. H.	Sgt.		2 Nov. 72	6 Sep. 65
James,	G. W.	A/S Sgt.		8 Dec. 72	2 May 68
Shaw,	R. J. M.	Sgt.		9 Dec. 72	1 Aug. 68
Pengilly,	B. E.	Sgt.		15 Dec. 72	8 Mar. 69
Sixsmith,	K.	Sgt.		7 Jan. 73	7 Sep. 61
Williams,	H. E.	Sgt.		12 Jan. 73	20 Dec. 61
Springer,	M. G.	Sgt.		13 Jan. 73	27 Dec. 66
Bailey,	A.	Sgt.		3 Feb. 73	13 Jul. 67
To Sgt.					
Lowe,	P. J.	A/Sgt.		1 Dec. 72	31 Jan. 66
France,	G.	A/Sgt.		2 Dec. 72	28 Feb. 66
Elliott,	M. R.	A/Sgt.		3 Dec. 72	5 Mar. 66
Vivian,	S. A.	A/Sgt.		4 Dec. 72	17 May 66
Nash,	A. E.	A/Sgt.		6 Dec. 72	15 Jan. 67
Malpass,	M. R.	A/Sgt.		1 Jan. 73	15 Jan. 67
Mumford,	B. R.	A/Sgt.		2 Jan. 73	1 Feb. 67
Stone,	M. J.	A/Sgt.		3 Jan. 73	1 Mar. 67
Duncan,	D.	A/Sgt.		4 Jan. 73	13 Mar. 67
Mason,	S. J.	A/Sgt.		5 Jan. 73	1 Jun. 67
Padden,	T.	A/Sgt.		6 Jan. 73	1 Aug. 68
Graham,	F. G.	Cpl.		7 Jan. 73	1 Aug. 68
Fotheringham,	R. L.	Cpl.		8 Jan. 73	30 Sep. 68

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roll

Name	Initials	Sen. Date
W.O.1		
Gray,	J. W.	31 Mar. 72
W.O.2		
Jackson,	P.	7 Jun. 66

Foreman of Signals Roll

S Sgt.		
Briggs,	D. H.	18 Jan. 68 died 3 Mar. 73

Radio Technician Roll

S Sgt.		
Fraser,	M.	25 Mar. 59
Edmonds,	G. H.	12 Mar. 70

Radio Relay Technician Roll

Sgt.		
Peters,	E. R.	26 Nov. 69

Data Telegraphist Roll

Goy,	S.	1 Mar. 72
Losch,	D.	25 Aug. 62
Haslegrave,	C. D.	5 Sep. 72

Combat Lineman Roll

Sgt.		
Malone,	P. J.	30 Nov. 56
Buzzard,	B. J.	1 Jun. 59
Morrissey,	J.	20 Jul. 61
Smith,	D.	19 May 65

Combat Powerman Roll

Sgt.		
Andrew,	M.	6 Feb. 70
Poingdestre,	T. A.	2 Aug. 66
Burnett,	M. G. S.	1 Jan. 71
Turner,	R.	1 Aug. 71

Combat Radioman Roll

Duncan,	W. J.	1 Dec. 55
Gledhill,	J.	1 Jun. 59
Playford,	A. J.	18 Mar. 62
Heavey,	P. K.	1 Sep. 62
Leak,	T.	31 Jan. 63
Jackson,	L.	23 Jan. 64
Sullivan,	J.	21 Jan. 65
Cartlidge,	B. J.	8 May 72

INSERTIONS

Combat Radioman Converted to Radio Telegraphist's

Sgt.					
23722374	Brister,	J. W.		1 Aug. 68	
23895640	Willock,	J. H.		8 Feb. 70	
23515360	Marsh,	W. R.		2 Dec. 71	
23927140	Doughty,	B. J.		1 Feb. 72	
23827424	Gue,	M. T.		2 Mar. 72	
23963720	Sreeves,	E. R.		16 Oct. 72	

MAY

Name	Initials	Rank	Trade	New Sen. Date	Old Sen. Date

Regimental Duty Roll

To W.O.1					
Penman,	G.	A/W.O.1		24 Nov. 72	16 Feb. 68
Hope,	G. W. E.	A/W.O.1		2 Dec. 72	29 Apr. 69
Danells,	R. L.	A/W.O.1		25 Dec. 72	12 May 70
To W.O.2					
Haughie,	G. G.	S Sgt.	Cbt Sig	4 Dec. 72	30 May 70
Piper,	J. W.	A/W.O.2	Cbt Sig	5 Dec. 72	4 Dec. 70
Henry,	G. C.	A/W.O.2	Cbt Sig	1 Jan. 73	1 Jun. 70
McDonald,	I.	A/W.O.2	Cbt Sig	2 Jan. 73	31 Dec. 65
Wilkinson,	F.	A/W.O.2	R Tg	4 Jan. 73	18 Jun. 69

Staff Sergeants Seniority Roll

To S Sgt.					
Northcott,	D. G.	A/S Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	14 Nov. 72	21 Feb. 63
Acey,	J. R.	Sgt.	Data Tg	13 Dec. 72	16 Jan. 67
Hemstock,	C. J. F.	A/S Sgt.	Data Tg	14 Dec. 72	18 Dec. 67
Hehir,	J. S.	A/S Sgt.	Cbt Lmn	3 Jan. 73	3 Mar. 69
Walker,	R. A.	A/S Sgt.	Tele Mech	9 Feb. 73	9 Mar. 69
Osborne,	A. F.	Sgt.	Cbt Pnn	12 Feb. 73	25 Nov. 69
Emraz,	H. P.	A/S Sgt.	Clk Tech	13 Feb. 73	8 Feb. 70
Stacey,	T. M. C.	Sgt.	Tele Mech	15 Feb. 73	11 Mar. 69

Foreman of Signals Roll

To W.O.1					
Falconer,	A. D. F.	W.O.2		1 Aug. 72	18 Jan. 68
Truran,	M. A.	W.O.2		1 Sep. 72	17 Jul. 71
Benson,	W. L.	W.O.2		15 Sep. 72	16 Jan. 71
Everett,	T. J.	W.O.2		1 Oct. 72	16 Jan. 71
Rowland,	M. E.	W.O.2		1 Dec. 72	18 Apr. 70
Lanyon,	D. E. G.	W.O.2.		15 Dec. 72	18 Jan. 68
Bradford,	J. G.	W.O.2		15 Jan. 73	20 Nov. 66
Collins,	D. B.	W.O.2		12 Mar. 73	16 Apr. 69

Signal Centre Supervisor Roll

Nil

Supervisor Radio Roll

To W.O.1 — Nil
To W.O.2 — Nil

Clark,	W. J.	S/Sgt.		1 Feb. 73	31 Oct. 70
To S Sgt.		Nil			

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.1 — Nil
To W.O.2 — Nil
To S Sgt. — Nil

Chief Clerk Roll

To S Sgt.					
Russell,	A.	A/S Sgt.		12 Feb. 73	5 Aug. 70

Terminal Equipment Technician Roll

To S Sgt.					
Clarke,	P.	Sgt.		11 Dec. 72	18 Jun. 70
Phillips,	J. H.	Sgt.		16 Jan. 73	10 Dec. 60
Selby,	V. B.	Sgt.		18 Jan. 73	1 Feb. 59
Hyde,	T. A.	Sgt.		20 Jan. 73	27 Mar 63
Hanman,	T. R.	Sgt.		29 Jan. 73	11 Feb. 64
Sutcliffe,	R. H.	Sgt.		16 Mar. 73	22 Mar. 62
To Sgt.					
Reid,	P. W.	Cpl.		15 Oct. 72	9 Jun. 70
George,	S.	Cpl.		31 Oct. 72	21 Jun. 67
Ponsford,	P. W. W.	Cpl.		14 Dec. 72	25 May 70
Coleman,	P. H.	Cpl.		21 Dec. 72	14 Dec. 68
Blake,	F. R.	Cpl.		21 Dec. 72	28 Mar. 69
Branson,	R. W.	Cpl.		21 Dec. 72	29 Jan. 70
Doust,	I.	Cpl.		21 Dec. 72	29 Jan. 70

Radio Technician Roll

To S Sgt.					
Jennings,	E. R.	Sgt.		16 Mar. 73	18 Mar. 63
To Sgt.					
Rushton,	S. K.	Cpl.		22 Aug. 72	14 Apr. 66
Partridge,	M. J.	Cpl.		22 Aug. 72	18 Jun. 68
Burnett,	A. J.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	14 Apr. 66
Dring,	P. H.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	23 Nov. 67
Bayes,	J. R.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	14 Mar. 68
Hindmarsh,	J. J. A.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	13 Apr. 68
Stow,	B. V.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	30 May 68
Kellett,	A.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	26 Mar. 70

Radio Relay Technician Roll

To Sgt.					
McMahon,	A. W.	Cpl.		28 Nov. 72	9 Jan. 69
Evans,	G. C.	Cpl.		28 Nov. 72	5 Mar. 70

Telecommunications Mechanic Roll

To S Sgt.					
Walker,	R. A.	A/S Sgt.		9 Feb. 73	9 Mar. 69
Stacey,	T. M. C.	Sgt.		15 Feb. 73	11 Mar. 69

Data Telegraphist Roll

To S Sgt.					
Acey,	J. R.	Sgt.		13 Dec. 72	16 Jan. 67
Hemstock,	C. J. F.	A/S Sgt.		14 Dec. 72	18 Dec. 67
To Sgt.					
Sharpe,	J.	A/Sgt.		21 Jan. 73	3 Sep. 66

Radio Telegraphist Roll

To S Sgt. — Nil

To Sgt.					
Drage,	P. E.	A/Sgt.		12 Dec. 72	29 Feb. 68
Campagne,	T. K.	Cpl.		28 Dec. 72	1 Jun. 71
O'Brien,	M. J.	A/Sgt.		30 Dec. 72	27 Dec. 65
Stone,	M. J.	A/Sgt.		3 Jan. 73	1 Mar. 67
Harvey,	L. R.	Cpl.		4 Jan. 73	30 Jul. 70
Smith,	M. J.	A/Sgt.		17 Jan. 73	30 Jul. 70
Mercer,	P. G.	Cpl.		18 Jan. 73	4 Aug. 64
Hodge,	J.	A/Sgt.		19 Jan. 73	15 Jan. 67
Sobey,	N. V.	A/Sgt.		20 Jan. 73	1 Aug. 68
Noble,	I. H.	Cpl.		21 Jan. 73	1 Oct. 71
Kendall,	D. T.	A/Sgt.		22 Jan. 73	25 Jan. 67
Hawdon,	J. R.	Cpl.		23 Jan. 73	27 Jan. 67
Dagless,	G. J.	A/Sgt.		1 Feb. 73	29 Feb. 68
Harkin,	J.	A/Sgt.		8 Feb. 73	1 Nov. 69

Special Telegraphist Roll

Nil

Clerk Roll

To Sgt.					
Llewellyn,	M.	Cpl.		16 Jan. 73	31 Aug. 68
Dudding,	I. L.	A/Sgt.		18 Jan. 73	31 Aug. 69

Clerk Technical (Royal Signals) Roll

To S Sgt.					
Emraz,	H. P.	A/S Sgt.		13 Feb. 73	8 Feb. 70
To Sgt.					
Palmer,	J. R.	A/Sgt.		1 Jan. 73	2 Dec. 56
Dulling,	J. C.	A/Sgt.		10 Jan. 73	1 Oct. 57
Ulett,	C. L.	A/Sgt.		15 Jan. 73	13 Dec. 60
Handley,	D. A.	A/Sgt.		6 Feb. 73	13 Sep. 63
Higginson,	E. W.	A/Sgt.		13 Feb. 73	31 Oct. 68

Combat Drivers Roll

To S Sgt.					
Northcott,	D. G.	A/S Sgt.		14 Nov. 72	21 Feb. 63
To Sgt.					
Croot,	M. E.	Cpl.		1 Dec. 72	30 Apr. 64
Heselton,	D.	Cpl.		2 Dec. 72	31 Jan. 66
Taylor,	A. S.	Cpl.		2 Jan. 73	31 Dec. 65

Combat Lineman Roll

To S Sgt.					
Hehir,	J. S.	A/S Sgt.		3 Jan. 73	3 Mar. 69
To Sgt.					
Annis,	M. D.	A/Sgt.		6 Nov. 72	31 Aug. 69

Combat Powerman Roll

To S Sgt.					
Osborne,	A. F.	Sgt.		12 Feb. 73	25 Nov. 69
To Sgt.					
Carter,	S.	A/Sgt.		1 Jan. 73	30 Apr. 68
Cardwell,	W. R. M.	Sgt.		2 Jan. 73	28 Feb. 70
Douglas,	R. G.	A/Sgt.		3 Jan. 73	29 Feb. 68
Geddes,	A.	A/Sgt.		11 Feb. 73	31 Dec. 68
Fairhurst,	R.	A/Sgt.		12 Feb. 73	31 Mar. 69
Adams,	S.	Sgt.		12 Mar. 73	31 Aug. 69
Green,	D. H.	A/Sgt.		27 Mar. 73	30 May 63
Brown,	N.	A/Sgt.		28 Mar. 73	31 Jan. 66

Combat Radioman Roll

To S Sgt. — Nil

To Sgt.					
Phillips,	B. A.	A/Sgt.		9 Jan. 73	1 Jan. 69
Cavanagh,	M. J. R.	A/Sgt.		10 Jan. 73	28 Feb. 69
Smith,	J. R. W.	A/Sgt.		2 Feb. 73	31 Mar. 69
Holmes,	B. N.	A/Sgt.		3 Feb. 73	31 Aug. 69
Smith,	R.	A/Sgt.		1 Mar. 73	30 Sep. 69
Roberts,	D. R.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	31 Mar. 70
Johnson,	T.	A/Sgt.		8 Mar. 73	30 Sep. 70
Gavillet,	A.	A/Sgt.		9 Mar. 73	30 Sep. 70

Combat Signalman Roll

Nil

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roll

Name	Initials	Sen. Date
W.O.1		
Gardner,	F. R.	23 Mar. 71
W.O.2		
Neill,	S. G.	17 Jun. 68
Blank,	J.	1 Jan. 70
Rann,	L. P.	12 Aug. 70
Holdsworth,	H.	17 Nov. 70
Patterson,	R.	14 Jul. 71

Staff Sergeants' Seniority Roll

Gillmon,	C. J.	Cbt Sig	14 Sep. 63
Bates,	E. L.	Cbt Sig	18 Aug. 65
Beare,	T. R.	Cbt Sig	10 Mar. 69
Driscoll,	K. A.	Cbt Sig	12 Feb. 70

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.1 Kenyon,	M.	Discharged	17 Aug. 70

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROLL

W.O.2 Arnold,	E.		25 Feb. 64

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.1 Coleman,	A. L. C.		1 Jul. 72

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

Sgt. Llewellyn,	M.		16 Jan. 73
Dudding,	I. L.		18 Jan. 73

TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL

Sgt. Barsby,	K. D.	Discharged	18 Jun. 70
Seaton,	R. A.	,,	12 Aug. 70
Moffat,	R. S.	,,	12 Mar. 71

RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL

Sgt. Bemrose,	R.	,,	9 Jul. 64
Wilson,	A. F. J.	,,	1 Aug. 68

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL

Sgt. Pilkington,	A. K.	Transferred to Cbt Sig Roll	27 Mar. 65

DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Sgt. Loach,	D.		25 Aug. 62

COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL

Sgt. Askam,	F. A.		30 Nov. 61
Fuller,	J. B.		1 Sep. 65
McLeod,	D. W.		18 Aug. 66

COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL

Sgt. Turner,	R.		1 Aug. 71
Burnett,	M. G. S.		1 Jan. 71

COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

Sgt. Craig,	J. M.		1 Dec. 56
Jury,	S. J.		24 Nov. 64

Dangerous Interlude

Dedicated to all those wives whose husbands have to do a tour in Ireland.

His smile wavered, as he walked away,
Pretending that it would be like any other day.
Knowing full well that six months have to pass,
Before his feet enter this portal again.

He is going where lots of brave men have gone
To fight for a reason — whether he know it or not.
All he knew was that the 'Foe' might be children,
Or unseen objects — images and ghosts.

Fading away in the rambling brickwork,
Are silent beings bent on murder and disruption,
Lurking behind walls, wire fencing, lace curtain,
To cause him despair as rubber bullets are dispersed,
At the shadows of snipers amidst the rubble and dust.

This is the job — this is the duty,
That our men have to fulfil.
It's part of the mockery, given to others,
For in the ranks serve some of their own.
Maybe someday, one day, it will all cease
But memories survive and sorrow remains,
For those soldiers who will never return home again.

Yes he goes quietly — turns once to wave,
I can hardly see him, for my eyes are blurred.
Silently I pray as his beloved figure disappears
God keep him safe — out of harm's way,
Whilst he walks those streets among friend or foe,
God please watch over him, wherever he go.

O. M. Betteridge (Mrs.), March 1973.
c/o 3 Division HQ & Signal Regiment.
"I know how they feel. I too have soldiered alone."

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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)

July-August 1973

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly **£1.20;** *monthly* **10p.**
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

☆

JULY/AUGUST • 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture shows two Corps soldiers engaged in one of the vital tasks that comes the way of the Corps. They are a Telegraph Mechanic and a Combat Lineman of an Airfield Signal Troop of 21 Signal Regiment busy jointing a 54 pair U.G. cable. The 32 Regiment is responsible for some 500 kilometres of multi-pair U.G. cables (many over 100 pairs), some 2,600 telephone installations, 120 intercomm systems (each with up to 20 slaves) and many other equipments which form the greater part of the complicated and essential communications of the strike airbases of the Royal Air Force in Germany—truly a responsible and demanding job.

The photograph, taken some time ago, features **Corporals Fred Stacey** and **Ron Stanton** now posted from 21 Regiment.

One of the pleasures of editing the Corps magazine is to receive accounts —and often signals—of Corps' sporting successes. In the last year there has been a considerable increase in these and what has been notable has been the wide variety of different sports involved covering successes at all levels from Troop up to Regiment and Corps—to say nothing of numerous individual achievements.

We must, of course, make due allowance for the absence of a number of our potential rivals on the Ulster front—where we, too, are well committed. Nevertheless we can discern a distinct surge forward in the Corps' sporting capability on a broad front which is all to the good. Indeed so much interest is now taken that a certain amount of healthy rivalry exists between Corps units as our correspondence column in this issue clearly shows.

It is natural for some to think that others have opportunities to achieve results which they in their own particular circumstances find difficult. Be this as it may—and it can be argued endlessly either way—there is one aspect over which there can surely be little doubt and that is a unit which is good at sport is generally good at signalling. The high morale, enthusiasm and team spirit engendered by a good sporting record must surely be reflected in a pride and determination to do equally well in the field of communicating.

We feel, therefore, that the unfolding record of sporting successes in THE WIRE is an outward and visible sign that Corps morale is high and that our units are on top of their jobs.

Of particular interest is the high level of sporting achievement among our young Apprentice Tradesmen at Harrogate which must augur well for the future.

Once again this Wire has been a very full one and despite considerable cuts we go to press with 48 pages. In particular we have had to hold over 'movements' and 'promotions' to our next issue. Unit correspondents **PLEASE** try and be a little less verbose especially on matters of minor importance.

A farewell tribute

Major General A J Woodrow MBE

John Woodrow, son of **Captain F. H. Woodrow** of Portsmouth, was born in 1919 and educated at Nunthorpe and Sheffield University where he was a member of the OTC. He left university on the outbreak of World War II and went straight to 151 OCTU at Aldershot. In May 1940 he was commissioned and joined 43rd Wessex Divisional Signals with whom he served until just after they landed in Normandy in June, 1944. He was then appointed GSO 3 HQ 129 Infantry Brigade with whom he served until the Brigade reached Aachen. After attending the Staff College at Camberley in 1945 he went to Burma where he was DAAG of 19 Indian Division for the last few months of the war. Then followed a long period in Burma in various staff appointments including GSO2 with the British Services Mission where he was adviser to Brigadier, now **General Ne Win,** President of Burma. In early 1949 he and his family were captured by Karen rebels. After their release some weeks later they returned to England and he was appointed MBE.

Then came a short spell as DAAG AG11 followed by a tour at the School of Infantry, Warminster. 1952 saw him in BAOR followed by an exchange tour on the prairies of Canada as Chief Instructor of the Tactical Air Support School at Rivers, Manitoba. From Canada he went to Rheindalen to serve as GSO2 Intelligence HQ BAOR and then to attend the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer. In 1959 he was brigade signal officer 4th Guards Brigade when he was promoted brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1961 he commanded 1st Signal Regiment. Later in 1963 he was posted as GSO1 on the British Army Staff at Washington, D.C.

In 1965 he returned to Catterick as Commander Training Brigade. Then came two years as Director of Public Relations for the Army, during the busy period of the aftermath of Aden and the start of the conflict in Northern Ireland. In 1970 he was appointed GOC Wales where he served until he retired from active duty in June, 1973. He was appointed Colonel Commandant in 1970.

John served much of his career away from Royal Signals but he was never happier than when serving with the Corps at home and abroad. The last parade he took was the graduation parade at the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate when he welcomed the senior term into adult service with the Corps.

He has many interests of which the greatest are sailing and shooting, having been Commodore of the Royal Signals Yacht Club from 1968-1970. In 1944 he married Elizabeth, daughter of the late Sir John Prestige and they have two sons and a daughter. His elder son Charles is a Captain in the Grenadier Guards.

John's retirement breaks a long partnership between him and his driver, Sergeant George, over a period of 10 years. John retired on 8th June and takes up a civilian appointment with MOD (Army) in July, as Director of Security, in which we wish him the best of success and good fortune.

Colonel David Coatesworth

News has just come through that **David Coatesworth** who retired from the Corps in 1962 and who, until recently, was head of the Norfolk College of Arts and Technology has now been appointed County Education Officer for Norfolk. His address is County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NO3 47A.

Honours and Awards

NORTHERN IRELAND

All our readers will join us in congratulating the recipients of the following awards.

B.E.M.: Sergeant J. G. McCrendle (4 Div HQ & Sig. Regt.)
Corporal J. B. Purdie, WRAC (Attd 233 Sig. Sqn.)

Mentioned in Despatches:
Lance-Corporal A. J. Fairburn (4 Div HQ & Sig. Regt.)
Lance-Corporal J. Haldane (HQ Northag Air Sup Radio Sqn.)

Special Mention

For receiving commendations from the Commander-in-Chief Royal Air Force, Germany:

W.O.1 (F of S) Tony Porritt now serving with 4 Comms Unit

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Ken Davis (now W.O.1 (R.S.M.) of 21 Signal Regiment

and Sergeant Peter Gravestock.

The citations describe inspiring leadership and outstanding devotion to duty.

. . . also to Lance-Corporal A. C. Gunn of 233 Signal Squadron and Sergeant R. G. Watson of 13 Signal Regiment who received the G.O.C's. commendation for their devotion to duty in Northern Ireland.

Correction

On page 248 of last month's WIRE we published a group photograph of the Landikotal detachment of Peshawar District Signals. The address of Mr. Robinson who was referred to, should read 83, Bampton Road, Forest Hill, S.E.23, not 85 Rampton Road.

Officers' Reunion—Aldershot Club

21st September, 1973

Arrangements are being made to hold a similar reunion to the one held last year, on Friday 21st September. The purpose is to bring together serving and retired officers living within a reasonable distance of Aldershot for an informal gathering from 6.30 p.m. onwards. Drinks and a cold buffet will be available on payment. A letter giving full details will be sent out about mid August on the same distribution as last year. If you were not on the list last year and are interested in coming please let the General Secretary Royal Signals Association have your name by early August.

The Regular Forces Employment Association

Our Editorial last month dealt with the valuable service given by the R.F.E.A. in finding employment for ex-regular soldiers. We mentioned at the time that the Chairman of the Association represented the Corps on the management committee. This was not correct as he did not take up office until the 4th July. Prior to this the Corps has been represented for no less than ten years by Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E.—a past Colonel Commandant and Signal Officer-in-Chief.

The grateful thanks of many, including some thousands of Corps soldiers, must go to him for the service he has given the R.F.E.A. over such a long period.

Finally, it should be noted that the Headquarters of the R.F.E.A. is now at 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN. Tel.: 01-637 3918.

From our "In" Tray

In Appreciation

Sir,

On behalf of my mother, **Mrs. Constance Fairlie,** may I sincerely thank both the serving and the retired members of the Corps for the recognition they have given to her 22 year 'labour of love' in providing magazines and books for the Corps. (See article on page 98, April–May WIRE).

Brigadier Henry Crawford was delighted to be the means of presenting my mother with a silver 'Jimmy' statuette from **Major-General Max Sawers,** and the badge of a Royal Signals Association Life Member from **Major-General David Price.**

The accompanying photograph which I took on this happy occasion bears witness to my mother's pleasure at this short ceremony which took place in the sitting room of her flat. The Corps shield on the table is the one presented to her in 1954 by the Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment. The papers are a copy of the presentation speech made by **Henry Crawford** which will be preserved in the family archives! My mother had a stroke four years ago and therefore regretfully cannot write her own thank-you letter to the Corps.

From us all at Myres.

Yours sincerely,
David O. Fairlie, Captain

Myres Castle,
Auchtermuchty.

Mrs. Fairlie being presented with a Jimmy statuette on behalf of the Corps by Brigadier H. N. Crawford, M.B.E., D.L.

Posteript

His many friends will be interested to hear that **David Fairlie** was recently awarded the Silver Acorn—the second highest award in the Scout movement.

After leaving the Corps in 1959 he took a very considerable interest in scouting. He was appointed District Scout Commissioner for Cupar district in 1960 and in 1966 he became County Commissioner. His great enthusiasm has now been rewarded by a Silver Acorn for "specially distinguished services to the Scout movement".

Ex Staff Sergeant D. S. Gardiner

News is just to hand that **ex-Sergeant D. J. Gardiner** (well known for his beard) who served in the Far East 1945–55 was awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours for "services to Welfare in Calcutta".

Morrison Cup Athletics

Sir,

May I, through THE WIRE, thank all those of Royal Signals in BAOR who were so kind to me and my wife during our recent visit to attend the Morrison Cup Athletic Championships in Germany? It was a magnificent meeting, strongly competed for and the results of a very high standard.

This was the first meeting I had attended since I presented the Cup 22 years ago and I am indeed grateful for the opportunity given to me to present the Cup.

Thank you all very much and I wish you all the best for the future. I, like, I am sure, all retired Signals, admire the way you are upholding the reputation and spirit of the Corps. Keep it going!

Yours,
A. E. Morrison (Major-General)

Wesley House,
Fairways,
Ferndown,
Wimborne, Dorset.

Companionship and Happy Days Remembered

Sir,

It is now almost six years since I discarded my uniform for a civilian city suiting and at last I seem to have time to look about and take stock. Although the day must come when we all leave behind Service life it is somewhat of a shock when you finally do take that step. The big question of course is when to take it. In my own particular case, one could have stayed on another six or seven years on the Long Service list but then there is no chance of advancement in your newly chosen profession.

So now I am well set in the Supplies Branch of one of the larger Hospital Management Committees in the area and not without prospects of further progress.

However, both my wife and I really do miss the companionship and days spent in the Mess at home and abroad and we would be delighted to meet any old friends especially from our 3 Signal Regiment and Cyprus days.

Would you please publish the enclosed photograph so that many of the people I played cricket with during my service, especially Corps XI's in Singapore and Cyprus can see that I am still at it. Slightly less important games nowadays, however.

We still keep in touch through the medium of the Association and also my son-in-law is now a W.O.2 with 7 Signal Regiment.

If any of my old friends are ever in the vicinity of my home (on the A52 between Grantham and Nottingham) we should be delighted to welcome them.

Yours sincerely
S. A. G. Hulse (Ex W.O.2)

18 Edinburgh Drive,
Bingham, Notts.

Still behind those stumps
(see letter above)

That ski-ing article!

Work and Play

Sir,

In your May/June issue the 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment correspondent describes 21 Signal Regiment (and 7 Signal Regiment) as static, and infers that there is some connection between sporting achievement and geographical location. He also states that, "Many young men do have short-term glamourised views of Army life and are attracted by the colourful sporting reputation which certain units achieve", inferring that units which are able to achieve equally high standards at both work and play attract the wrong type of soldiers. These incorrect statements are included in an article which describes the prowess of his own Regiment at ski-ing (cricket not mentioned), so that the uninformed might assume that his is one of the static units to which he refers.

However, the informed will know that 21 Signal Regiment provides mobile BRUIN communications for the Harrier and Wessex Forces of RAF Germany, and that the numbers involved in this work are not far short of half the size of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

Having served with 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment and two BAOR Brigade Signal Squadrons I know the exercise pressures and how difficult it is to achieve high sporting standards, but Corps units have shown that it can be done, e.g. 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, whilst 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment have some significant advantages with the Regiment located together and no continuous shift duties. In peacetime there is time for the determined unit to do well at both work and play, except in special situations like Northern Ireland. The difficulties naturally vary between units, but they can be overcome. For example, members of 21 Signal Regiment cross country team train during exercises—it only takes 45 minutes for a good run.

It is our experience that soldiers who work hard and play hard are more proficient and more satisfied with their career, and our low wastage figures prove the point. We have no more time for the sporting gladiator who shirks his work than any other unit, but there are ways and means of giving these young men a sense of proportion, and overall we find that our best athletes are also exceptionally good soldiers.

Finally, Sir, I find it most inconsistent for a unit to object to sporting glamour in the same issue in which it portrays a glamourous colour photograph of one of its star skiers on the cover. Incidently, the star skier of 21 Signal Regiment was 'stolen' at the start of the season—by 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment!

Yours sincerely,

Frank Pedley,
Major, Royal Signals.

21 Signal Regiment (AS),
Royal Air Force,
Wildenrath,
British Forces Post Office 42.

Good at Sport—Good at one's Job

Sir,

I am, as most of my acquaintances will verify, a man of tranquil demeanour, not given to panegyrical outbursts. On reading the article by 2 Division Signal Regiment on Ski Racing in the May/June WIRE however I feel I must take up my pen, more in sorrow than in anger. If I may I shall quote the passage that has prompted my literary outburst;—

"Some static Signal Regiments have realised that one effective way of winning spurs *during the long periods when not engaged on active operations,* is by excelling in sport".

I think it obvious that 2 Division's correspondent has no conception of the task of an Air Support Signal Regiment. Quite simply there can never be a period when not engaged on active operations. With four operational airfields, one of which is a master diversion airfield, and a Harrier wing to communicate for, such luxuries as long periods free from operational tasks just do not occur.

In closing I would refer 2 Division's scribe to the remark made by **General Morrison** when presenting his cup at the Royal Signals Athletics Meeting on the 7th of June this year:—

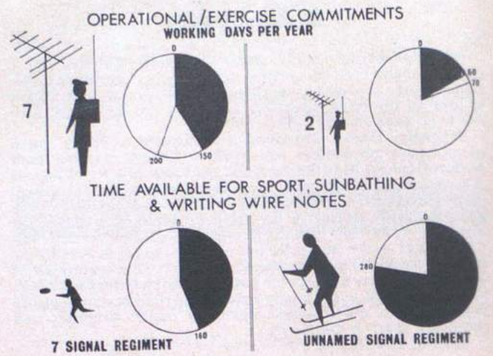
"If a unit is good at sport it follows that the same unit will also be good at its job".

Yours faithfully,

J. V. Prees, W.O.1 (R.S.M.),

21 Signal Regiment (AS),
BFPO 42.

TECHNICAL DIAGRAM SUBMITTED BY 7 SIGNAL REGIMENT



Extract from a letter written to the Editor by a retired Officer of the Corps.

"The ski-ing article on pp 204 et seq of the May/June WIRE is absolutely first class".

Trooping the Colour

Sir,

Whilst watching the Trooping The Colour on television recently I was reminded of the same ceremony as performed by the boy soldiers of 6 (Boys) Regiment in Beverley, Yorkshire.

This idea was originated by **Provost Sergeant Bob Humphries** (now, I believe, a Security Guard in Cardiff) and **Drill Sergeant Jack Jenkins** (now a Captain, I think in Germany). The boys were, with the permission of **Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Keddie,** now sadly deceased, trained by **Sergeant Jack Jenkins,** and were every bit as good as the Guards who recently went through the ceremony.

The Trooping The Colour was to have been televised on one occasion, but unfortunately due to a torrential downpour, both the parade and televising were cancelled. Did anyone ever take a cine film of the Boys I wonder, as this is something they could now look back on and be proud of.

Yours,

G. Jones

Dorchester.

The Battle of Alamein—A National memorial

Sir,

We have our Trafalgar Squares, Waterloo Bridges, Plymouth Hoes and so on, but how many people have heard of Enham Alamein, a sleepy little village of disabled people in Hampshire.

This community came into being after the 1914-18 War when a Rehabilitation Centre was established for wounded and gassed Ex-Servicemen—the first of its kind.

At the end of the last war the Egyptian Alamein Committee selected the Village Settlement to receive a very generous grant of money and it was because of this gift that Alamein was added to Enham and it is as Enham Alamein that the village now appears on the maps.

Enham Alamein also received for safe keeping the name board and bell from Alamein Station, shell cases from the opening barrage and the visitors books, flags and wrought iron gates from the Alamein Club in Cairo. These huge gates can be seen in the village, the Naval gate at the entrance to the factory, the Army gate at the entrance to the offices of Enham Village Centre and the Royal Air Force gate at the entrance to the Hostel which accommodates some 120 disabled men.

This village lies within my parish and I have now been the Chaplain of Enham Village Centre for three years. The time has come when we must enlarge the small church, and in so doing it seems a wonderful opportunity to incorporate in the enlarged building a permanent shrine to the Battle of Alamein, which history books tell us was the turning point of the last war.

This shrine will be a permanent Memorial Chapel at the North end of the enlarged church. On the end wall will be displayed for perpetuity, the Divisional signs and Desert Air Force crests of those who fought at Alamein. The Altar Frontal will incorporate the 8th Army shield together with the RN anchor and the RAF eagle. When the rebuilding is complete the church will be called —St. Georges, The Alamein Church. Winchester Diocese has made a grant towards the extension, as have Enham Village Centre and we are left with the need to raise £5,000.

I am appealing to my friends and comrades in the Corps to help create this National Memorial. Perhaps units could organise a coffee morning or some small function to help pay for the extension or to buy one of the designated gifts. All donors will be recorded in a Book of Thanksgiving which will be placed in the Memorial Chapel. In the case of pews etc. which are donated the unit plaque will be fixed to the end.

We in the Corps serve and have served with all units, so if any of you can help with information about Old Comrades Associations and ex 'Desert Rats' please let me know.

Our Appeal Brochure gives more information than I have written here; if units would let me know how many brochures they require I will send them on.

WE NEED YOUR HELP—Alamein is as much a battle honour to the Corps as to any fighting unit—WE WERE THERE—IN FORCE.

Yours sincerely

Les Pettifer (sometime Major in the Corps)

The Rectory,
Enham Alamein,
Andover,
Hants SP11 6HU.

The Following Signal Units were in the Order of Battle:—

Eighth Army Signals	XIII Corps Signals
1 Armoured Division Signals	4 Indian Division Signals
8 Armoured Division Signals	51 (H) Division Signals
10 Armoured Division Signals	9 Australian Division Signals
X Corps Signals	2 New Zealand Division Signals
7 Armoured Division Signals	1 South African Division Signals
50 Division Signals	XXX Corps Signals
44 Division Signals	

Association HQ is making an appropriate donation covering all branches of the Association. This does not preclude any Branch making a donation if it wishes to do so for reasons of its own.

Would you like to help?

THE British Talking Book Service for the Blind has asked, if the Corps, particularly ex-members, can help in the maintenance of equipment in use by blind people whereby tape recordings of published books can be played back on a machine designed for easy operation by an unsighted person. Servicing of this equipment in members homes is carried out by a country-wide network of volunteers prepared to look after users of 'talking books' who live nearby. Familarity with electro-mechanisms and AF amplifiers is all that is required and repairs normally involve simple fault finding and the replacement of components. Circuit diagrams, guidance notes and technical data are provided including a fault finding chart. No financial obligation is involved and any spare parts are provided by the Library, and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses are re-imbursed.

While there is an adequate pool of volunteers in some parts of the country, assistance is still sought in the areas listed below.

If you feel you can help in this worthwhile service, please get in touch with:—

British Talking Book Service for the Blind, Nuffield Library, Wembley, Middlesex HAA 1RR. Tel.: 902 2161/2163.

AREAS WHERE THE HELP OF SERVICING VOLUNTEERS IS REQUIRED

Bedfordshire — Woburn.
Berkshire — Lambourn.
Buckinghamshire — Buckingham, Fenny Stratford, Stony Stratford, Berkhampstead, Wendover.
Cambridgeshire — Royston, Fordham, Linton, Wisbech, March.
Cheshire — Runcorn.
Derbyshire — Eckington, Bakewell.
Devonshire — Axminster.
Dorsetshire — Shaftesbury.
Co. Durham — Barnard Castle.
Essex — Dunmow, Clacton-on-Sea, Brightlingsea.
Hampshire — Winchester, Stockbridge, Ringwood, Bishops Waltham.
Hertfordshire — Tring.
Kent — Sittingbourne, Isle of Sheppey, Sandwich.
Lancashire — Bury, Liverpool, Crosby, Leigh, Old Trafford.
Lincolnshire — Spalding, Lincoln, Bourne, Skegness, Winterton, Scunthorpe, Barton, Market Rason, Louth.
Norfolkshire — Downham Market, Fakenham, Bungay.
Northumberland — Berwick on Tweed, Otterburn, Hexham, Bellingham.
Nottinghamshire — Tuxford, Ollerton, Newark.
Somerset — Glastonbury, Ilminster, Crewekerne.
Shropshire — Church Stretton, Minsterly, Clun, Market Drayton, Ellesmere, Runcorn.
Suffolk — Debenham, Aldeburgh, Halesworth, Southwold.
Staffordshire — Uttoxeter.
Sussex — Wadhurst, Rye, Winchelsea.
Westmorland — Windermere, Ambleside, Kendal, Kirby.
Wiltshire — Malmsbury.
Yorkshire — Barnsley, Ripon, Withernsea, Aldbrough, Hames, Stockton, Market Weighton.

Changi Re-visited

Sir,

Just before Easter I had to spend a day in Singapore 'between planes.' I took the opportunity to visit the Changi area and append the following notes on my visit, some of which may interest ex-members of 19 Signal Regiment, or any others who remember Changi as it was.

Perhaps another visitor, or a present member of the ANZUK Forces could tell us what has happened to other areas. I for one would be very interested to know.

Yours faithfully

G. G. Campbell (Major)
R. Signals

4 Communications Unit,
Oakley Farm,
Priors Road,
Cheltenham, Glos.
Tel.: Cheltenham 2149, ext. 2692.

CHANGI: IN 1973

TRAVELLING in along Changi Road, the vast acreage of concrete looks deserted, though one can see a group of small aircraft huddled at the Changi Creek end of the main runway. The Changi Creek Hotel itself appears to be closed. I was allowed into the base at the gate there, and walked past the golf club, through the sailing club, past the airmen's swimming pool, across the padang and into the Officers' Club. Very few signs of activity anywhere, and some signs proclaiming the ownership of the National Sports Promotion Board, on all facilities.

The Officers' Club still serves as such for those people resident in the area, and two charming young Singaporean girls in the Bamboo Bar fetched one of the old club servants who served a bottle of Anchor ($1.25) and told me that they still play bingo on two evenings each week. The pool was deserted except for a handful of young men cleaning the surface of the children's pool, and **Alan,** the swimming instructor, whose excellent instruction we all remember, was fully dressed, chatting to a colleague.

Apparently all the sporting facilities are used, mostly at weekends, but not to their full capacity. The angling club, I was told, is closed. I was also told that Temple Hill Mess is used by officers of the Singapore Air Force and that Fairy Point houses the hospital mess. The hospital is still in use as the ANZUK hospital. The HQ FEAF building is signed as belonging to a Commando Battalion of the SAF. OC 1 Squadron's office is boarded up.

Back in the village itself, all the old shops are still in action, with the same importunate proprietors, but there is plenty of room on the pavements. There are only three waitresses in the Europa Bar, which is now primarily a coffee

house. The Sher Khan taxi service still operates 'but not under the old arrangements,' Sahib, the prices in '5-cent Alley' have risen somewhat. The Changi Bus company has been swallowed up by a bigger company, and has a fleet of fine new silver coloured buses.

The village is going to be pulled down completely within the next year and replaced with a big hotel and shopping complex. None of the tradesmen are looking forward to it. There is no doubt that, as customers at least, we are missed.

The Creek itself is as lively and smelly as ever, and there has been some development along the Changi beach. The The China Sea Beach Club is under commercial management, and has been considerably improved, with a screen wall of ship's wheel motifs between the seawall patio and the dancing/restaurant area. The pink tower blocks and chalets are still there, and are used frequently. They don't have duty free beer though.

Back in 19 Signal Regiment area, the Lloyd Leas estate is still occupied as quarters, though by much more junior officers than in my time. The LEP barracks, including the Morgan block, is occupied by the Radio Relay Troop of the SAF, and our old Senran club is their Junior Ranks' Club.

Regimental headquarters is being reorganised as — Headquarters, Changi Prison! The CO's old office will become the prison directors dining room, and the secure room his personal 'wash-up place.' His office will be the Adjutant's old room, with the prison secretary in the Second-in-Command's room and the clerical staff in the orderly room. The pay office will become research and statistics. I was able to offer informed advice as to necessity of, and required capacity of, air-conditioning in the conference room, which will continue as such.

Selarang Naafi continues as such, with the same staff, but much emptier shelves, and Selarang Barracks is occupied by a unit of the SAF. The Cameron Hotel appears to be thriving, though the Good Earth is now occupied by Sammy Yik (Lt Industries) Ltd.

And would you belive it? Changi Road is 'up' again. Yet another cable is being laid along it. I wonder what they've done with all of ours?

In appreciation

Major C. F. Kirby, M.B.E., T.D.

Many past and present members of the Corps, Regular and Volunteers and those concerned with the Officer Training Corps —or Combined Cadet Force as it is now, will be interested to know that Bill Kirby, or 'Uncle' (as he was affectionately known by his wide circle of friends) having previously retired at 60 as a Major and having re-enlisted as a Lieutenant retired finally from the CCF in March this year having reached the 'upper' age limit of 70.

Bill was educated at Christ's Hospital joining the OTC at 13, becoming an Under Officer at 16. His wide, varied talents took him to a scholarship at Cambridge. There he promptly joined the University OTC (which was then only Infantry) and joined the Signal Section when it was formed in 1922. He was in fact the first to gain a Certificate 'B' Signals. He was commissioned in the University OTC in 1925 and was amongst those who saw the horse cable wagon in action.

On leaving Cambridge Bill returned to Christ's Hospital as a master to teach biology and apart from his war service has remained there since having retired 'on the premises' to the delight of all those who find it difficult to imagine Christ's Hospital without Bill Kirby.

His life was and is wrapped up in Christ's Hospital and the Corps. His 'lab' bristles with Signal equipment; some issued, some 'acquired', some bought (he was a good customer of surplus WD equipment shops) and other pieces he had constructed for himself with the 'boys' lending a hand in their spare time.

During the war Bill Kirby became Chief Instructor of the 3rd Operators Training Battalion where he demanded and exacted the highest standards. Towards the end of 1943 his wider talents and potential were recognised and he became a prime mover in the Biological Research side of the then developing Operational Research Establishment. However, he was glad to return to Christ's Hospital at the end of the war and get back to Signalling. It was always his idea that the Regular Corps and the Cadets should get closer together, and it was due to his initiative and the co-operation of Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, the Master

Major C. F. Kirby, M.B.E., T.D. holding the statuette of a Blue Coat Boy and a 'Jimmy' which had been presented to him

of Signals, and then commanding 1 Corps Signal Regiment that the Christ's Hospital Cadets, paying for their own fares, did their annual training in BAOR in the early fifties, to start a pattern which subsequently received official recognition and financial support.

But Bill always wanted the cadets to be given a proper job to do, HF links to man, cable to lay, exchanges to operate and he had little enthusiasm for the Cook's tour concept which appeared to develop later on. As he was also a member of the then Army Emergency Reserve he usually did his own 14 days training in addition' invariably carrying out some trial on behalf of AORG and/or SRDE. The first trials of the much maligned B 70 sets took place at Christ's Hospital under the guidance of two old boys (one a member of the SRDE and one in the Signals Directorate) and Bill Kirby with his boys giving an invaluable hand. Important results were obtained which though not officially accepted then, were to be proved correct later under operational conditions.

Bill's outstanding service to the CCF and the Corps was recognised by Chief Signal Officer Eastern Command in 1956 and it was on his recommendation that Bill was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1957. He has the TD and three clasps and drily reminds one that in 'those days' the 1st required a minimum of 20 years 'effective service.

Bill's retirement was marked by a memorable occasion at the School, when after a superb buffet supper attended by the Headmaster, the staff of the CCF, many former colleagues and a large number of his former cadets, including several officers from the Corps and other Arms, Bill was presented with a statuette of a Blue Coat Boy and a 'Jimmy'. He spoke with deep emotion of his feelings for the School and the Corps and the happiness and fulfilment both had brought him throughout his life. He hoped his friends would continue to come and visit him.

Few people have done more for the Corps than Bill Kirby although he has never, because of his modesty, wanted to hit the headlines! Through his influence at least 100 boys must have served in the Regular and Volunteer Corps in their time, many are still serving and some are of senior rank. Few men have put service before self to the degree that Bill always has and in this he has set an inspiring example to all those who had the great fortune to serve under or with him and share his friendship. The Corps owes him a great deal of gratitude.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

Harrogate Old Boys' Reunion

All ex-Harrogate Apprentices will be interested to hear that there is to be a Reunion at the College on Saturday, 4th August.

The day will be open to all ex-Apprentices regardless of whether they joined the Association of Harrogate Apprentices when they graduated or not. Naturally, those attending will be expected to join the Association on the day if they have not already done so. All ex-Royal Signals Boys will also be welcomed whatever their vintage and the subject of their position in relation to the future Association will be discussed on the day.

The Summer term drill competition takes place in the morning and it is anticipated that ex-Apprentices will arrive in time to take a nostalgic look at this traditional event. There will be an Annual General Meeting at the end of the morning to discuss the shape of the Association for the future and this will be followed by drinks and lunch. In the afternoon, Past v. Present Hockey and Cricket Matches are to be arranged.

The Association of Harrogate Apprentices has not been very active in recent years for a variety of reasons but the College feels that there is now a strong support among ex-Apprentices for a revival of the Association.

The Reunion Day will be a starting point for reviewing the aims and policies of the Association and making it into the strong body of support for the College which it ought to be. It is therefore hoped that there will be a big turnout of ex-Apprentices.

The Commandant is writing to all Units to ask them to publicise the meeting and encourage as many as possible to attend. Those who will not hear through Units, should write to the Secretary for full details:

Captain R. Staniford, Royal Signals,
Army Apprentices College,
Harrogate,
Yorkshire HG3 1RU.

Late News Flashes

21 REGIMENT VICTORS AGAIN IN MAJOR UNITS BAOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

21 Regiment have again won the BAOR Major Units Athletics Championship being an easy first with 145 points. The Regiment established a new record for 1,500 metres with maximum place points and equalled its own 100 metres relay record with a time of 43·7 secs. They won all track events except the hurdles but narrowly lost the Viking Trophy which is awarded to the team scoring most points in the field events. 4 Guards Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron were second in the Minor Units Championship.

CORPS MARKSMAN IS ARMY'S CRACKSHOT

At Bisley, two Corps marksmen have achieved successes unique in Corps shooting history . . . **Corporal G. L. Jaques** of School of Signals won the Queen's Medal for coming first in the Army Rifle Championship and **Corporal R. G. Kingham** of 7 Signal Regiment, won the SMG Championship.

These two events have never been won previously by the Corps.

CORPS CRICKETERS IN FINE FORM

Up to date the Corps cricket team has yet to be beaten. Matches against the RCT, RMA, RAPC, REME, RAOC and RAC have all been won while an all officer team held Welbeck College to a draw.

Communications Engineers and Technicians

Racal-Mobilcal Limited designs and manufactures a range of high quality electronic communications equipment.The Company has enjoyed considerable success and is currently embarking on a substantial expansion programme.

There are now vacancies within the **Quality Assurance and Test Engineering** functions for experienced personnel with a thorough practical and theoretical knowledge of HF SSB + VHF FM communications techniques.

There is also a unique opportunity for a man with the above experience to apply **Work Measurement techniques,** for which full training will be provided, the the efficient testing of our range of equipments.

These are immediate vacancies.We are, therefore, particularly interested in hearing from men who will be leaving the Forces within the next few months.

Commencing salaries will be competitive and will reflect the importance we attach to these positions. The Company offers over 4 weeks annual holiday and membership of an excellent contributary Pension and free Life Assurance Scheme.

Please write in confidence, with details of experience and present salary, to :
Brian Jones, Personnel Officer,
Racal-Mobilcal Limited, PO Box 4,
464 Basingstoke Road, Reading RG2 0RY.

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Straight from the Heart

A letter from Staff Sergeant Lockwood to his Squadron Commander on the subject of the Cyprus Walkabout 1973 is published below as a rare example of the true depth of feeling that can, over a period, subtly build-up between a senior NCO and his OC.

To the Squadron Commander (holidaying in the South of France).
From ex-Staff Sergeant 'Wally' Lockwood, c/o The Intensive Care Unit, South Devon.

Sir,

I lie here in my oxygen tent, gripping pen and paper firmly between my only remaining set of toes. Taking great care not to dislodge the life-giving tubes attached to my nostrils, I thump my one good arm vigorously against my body plaster and think fondly of you and the Cyprus Walkabout. I hope when this letter reaches you, sunning yourself, sipping your Cyprus sherry, munching your Mediterranean oranges, you will not be too embarrassed by this tribute I pay you.

You know, sir, I owe all this to you. Without you I would not be here now, idling away in bed, waited on hand and foot and without a care in the world. Why only yesterday I was visited by a vicar in long, flowing robes who while ascertaining my last request, inquired as to how I came to be here.

My last request is to be able to get out of here and repay you in some small way for all you have done for me. I told him how, in March, you asked if I would care for a two-week holiday in Cyprus. I get a lump in my throat when I realise even then, you were thinking of me; sparing me the knowledge that I would have to walk some 100 miles in training and finally 70 miles up and down a 6,000ft. mountain, all in temperatures of 80 degrees. plus. I remember, as you boarded the Trident jet and I clambered aboard a 1931 Argosy (with an outside toilet), how important I felt because you had explained that as I was your Second-in-Command it would be unwise for us to travel together.

I apologise, sir, for telling people in Cyprus why you were there. So silly of me. I should have known that you were banned from the island. What fun it was on those first few days. You used all of 261 Squadron's transport for unofficial trips to collect your two tons of duty free. We had a fine time packing it into those MFO boxes and throwing away the radio kit, didn't we?

How kind you were to insist I would be lonely at Episkopi's 'Happy Valley' Beach Club and that I should join you and **Corporals Derrick Sunley** and **Bob Naylor** on some carefree jaunts into the mountains. Joy! Joy! When I now think of us tramping to and fro, from dawn to dusk up and down those mountains.

How amusing it was when **Corporal Naylor** (whom I think I should tell you now was only joking) said, "Let's go without lunch today." What a good idea it was of yours to save valuable marching time by not eating any more. I soon killed the rumour that you were having a seven course dinner every night.

I remember how kindly you treated me even when I made you angry. Do you remember the day when, in your wisdom, you sent me to look for a short cut up that 500 foot cliff face. How embarrassed I was when the whole cliff face collapsed and I hung by my hands 300 foot above the valley. Why, even then, although I wasted valuable marching time (or so you said), you thought of me.

I can hear you now shouting to me, "Do not move Staff." What good advice! Thank you for phoning the Mountain Rescue Team and also for stopping **Corporal Sunley** throwing rocks at my hands. You certainly made those two-and-a-half hours seem like minutes—what with your discussing the effects on the human body of a free fall from such a height. You were thoughtful enough to suggest I throw the compass and all my other kit to one side, so should I fall it would not get crushed.

I'm a little ashamed to mention this, as I owe you so much; however, I was slightly disappointed by your unpleasantness when I suggested that if I fall you might take a box of fruit back home for me.

Even now, as they fit the heart massage machine to me I cannot suppress a chuckle. I think of how you refused to allow the helicopter to winch me up as the pilot was not Army Air Corps and only after you had **Signalman Brown** take photographs of you and all the rescuers grouped was I rescued.

Then came the day of the march. What a terrific jape you played on me, eh sir? You insisted I come along to the pre-dawn start to see you with **Messrs. Sunley** and **Naylor** depart. Then as a surprise you registered me as a walker. What spirit and determination you showed when the organisers said I could not compete without a team of three.

Never-the-less you selflessly hunted around and it was so easy to persuade the man who spoke no English and had a slipped disc that he was in my team. Your finest move was getting the third member. Do you recall? The funny little man, with spectacles and a badly tailored suit. He has just climbed off an aeroplane from England. You slapped a number on his back, put raisins in his pocket and pushed all three of us through the start gate. The other two never made it, I left them at the foot of Troodos, busily fashioning tiny clay models of you sir, into which they were going to stick pins. Thank you for arranging accommodation at the top of Troodos for me. The cold shower was very refreshing and the half of a GS blanket very cosy. It certainly helped me to get up before dawn. By the way, sir, I erased nearly all the words **Corporal Naylor** wrote about you on the hotel toilet wall.

The walk back to Episkopi was also very enjoyable, the temperature dropped right down to 75 degrees. The 70 miles with its sadistically placed check points I completed in 21 hours. I was again a little disappointed (easily dejected as I am) to find on my return that you had entered my name, initials and unit incorrectly and that I was disqualified. It does not matter. I looked for you in Episkopi, sir, but unfortunately you had flown home some hours earlier. Thank you for taking my wallet, ID card and passport home with you. Finally, sir, do not worry about the Chief Signal Officer Cyprus finding out about your unauthorised and totally unofficial visit not to mention your fourth illegal entry into the Cyprus Walkabout. It appears the well-bribed Officers' Mess staff booked your suite of rooms in a false name.

Yours, etc.

CYPRUS WALKABOUT 1973

A training session. *Left to right:* Team chauffeur Signalman Alan Brown, Staff Sergeant Wally Lockwood, one of his team, Lance Corporal Derrick Sunley, Staff's No. 3, on the floor Corporal Bob Naylor

Footnote

Yet again 244 Squadron failed to gain legitimate entry into the Cyprus Walkabout Competition. At the final invitation of a UKLF Staff Officer to 'use your initiative', we did and this year we performed under the colours of 2 JRS—thank you 2 JRS for having us.

The Squadron held a 25 mile cross country eliminator to select the three man team. **Captain Mike Rice** came first with **Lance-Corporal Derek Sunley** and another officer a joint second. **Corporal Bob Rylance** who was in 2nd place, unfortunately lost his way. The selected team was however **Captain Rice, Corporal Rylance** and **Lance-Corporal Sunley. Captain Rice** rushed off to JCSC and **Corporal Rylance** twisted his knee. **Captain Graeme Halliburton** (7th last year) was selected as team leader but but filed up to the OC demanding to go to Singapore 'with his soldiers' and not to Cyprus.

In the end the OC went as team leader taking **Staff Sergeant Wally Lockwood** out to join **Corporals Naylor** and **Sunley** who were already in Cyprus.

Staff Lockwood came very near to losing his life on the preliminary training. He was exploring an apparently reasonable rock face when the whole thing crumbled beneath him, he was left with two hand holes and one foot hold 150 feet above the ground. We were very grateful for the timely intervention of the RAF Troodos Mountain Rescue Team. Staff was none the worse for his 2 hours 21 minute suspension, his sense of humour never left him and after the rescue he refused any offers of cups of coffee and carried on walking.

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Up the Gambia — without a Paddle!

By W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Mick Golledge

Have you ever thought of paddling up the River Gambia, or any river for that matter, in a sailing dinghy? No. Well neither had I until **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Keay** suggested it. Actually the original idea was for the two of us to canoe down the River Gambia, a feat which has not yet been accomplished. Our proposed plan was put forward to **Major R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.**, Exercise 'Adawn' Force Commander, who provisionally agreed to it, final authority having to be given by the Inspector General of Police. The plan was in fact vetoed due to low water and increased crocodile and hippopotamus activity in the upper reaches of the river. Authority was, however, given for **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Keay** and I to spend four days on the river for a little adventurous training.

Stores, food and two jerricans of water were made available from exercise supplies. The dinghy I must add was very kindly loaned to us by a person whom neither of us had met, **Miss Pauline Wilcox** who is PA to the British High Commissioner in The Gambia. Our journey started early Sunday morning on the 15th April. The dinghy was loaded onto a flatbed trailer, borrowed from RAF 38 Gp TCW Det. The log kept during our four day trip tells the story.

Sunday 1504Z APR — a crocodile and stuck in the mud

Departed Bakau, Police Field Force Headquarters en route for the village of Kafuta, which is some 40 miles up river from Bathurst, the Gambian capital, accompanied by **Corporal Ron Phillips** and **Signalman John Warrilow.**

06.00 hours. Tracks shown on map do not equate to actual tracks on ground. Have been through three straw hutted villages at times having to remove goats from the track with the aid of a boot.

06.30 hours. Friendly African points us in the right direction. Lesson learned, if you want to go map reading in Africa during the night, use an African not a map.

07.00 hours. Arrived Kafuta and watched by villagers we launched the dinghy, waved farewell and paddled into the morning sun up the creek towards the River Gambia, some seven miles distant.

10.30 hours. Paddling a dinghy is not easy at the best of times, but against a flood tide it becomes much more difficult. We pass through very wide and very narrow stretches of creek bordered by mile after mile of mangrove swamps. As buzzards circle overhead, we hear a loud splash of something entering the water behind us. **'Paddy'** is certain it is a crocodile, this, quite naturally, urges us on.

11.00 hours. After three hours of paddling we arrive at the river. At first sight it looks like the sea as it is some six miles in width at this point. We head up river against what is now an ebb tide. Half a mile further on we turn shorewards to what looks like solid ground amongst the mangroves.

11.30 hours. Preparing lunch — chicken supreme and carrots, no less — compo is not what it used to be.

12.00 hours. Contacted Bakau police depot, on the racal squadcall tranceiver on loan from 30 Signal Regiment Detachment. Comms voice five by five we report progress and location.

12.45 hours. Paid a visit by some African women who are gathering leaves in their canoes. They were more interested in our dinghy than us, but are quite keen to have photographs taken.

13.00 hours. On way up stream again.

15.45 hours. Would you believe — stuck fast on the mud flats. After battling against the ebb tide for six miles the river just disappeared from under us. There is nothing left to do but get out and push. If you have never tried pushing a loaded dinghy over a mud flat, take my advice, don't. I think **'Paddy' Keay** must be the only person in the world to get blisters on his heels from walking up the River Gambia. A swell first for **'Paddy!'**

16.15 hours. Gave up doing our 'African Queen' bit and brewed a cup of tea. First time we had tried that in a sailing dinghy.

17.50 hours. Flood tide and **'Paddy'** pushes us clear of the mud. We are both soaking wet, covered in black, caked mud and looking very hard for somewhere to spend the night. Two fishermen in a sea canoe are close at hand, so we ask them the direction to the nearest village. They are of Senegal extraction and only speak French and Mandingo (local dialect). We surmount the language barrier and tie up alongside their boat, as they are going to guide us when they have pulled in their nets.

18.00 hours. Contact Bakau and pass on our plans for the night.

18.10 hours. One paddle decided it had had enough of our company and quietly slipped overboard to be lost to us forever.

18.15 hours. Towed from our location at Biere Point to the fisherman's settlement. This was situated one-and-a-half hours' paddling up a creek and about a one mile walk from the village of Brefet.

19.15 hours. Aided by Africans our dinghy is pulled ashore, unloaded and camp set up.

20.30 hours. Supper over we sit round the fire talking with some of the local boys, including the two fishermen whose names we find are **Abdou Jarju** and **Saliff Sain.**

23.30 hours. Having drank **'Paddy's'** whisky and sang a few songs we manage to find our sleeping bags and take a short course death of until next morning.

Monday 1606302 APR — a village welcome

We are woken by the chatter of women and children collecting water and stoking our fire. Deciding it is not yet time to join the living we drift off once more into peaceful sleep until the glare of the sun awakes us at 08.30 hours.

09.00 hours. Contact Bakau (**Staff Sergeant Ken Griffiths,** 30 Signal Regiment). Communications difficult, they are going

to erect dipole. At present both stations on eight foot whip.

09.20 hours. Bakau control call, we inform them of our predicament, i.e. 'up the creek without a paddle.'

09.40 hours. Bought a paddle from locals, cost — one tin chicken supreme, one tin of apricots. Wonder if **Miss Wilcox** will accept the same price for the lost paddle, or if she will want a couple of tins or margarine thrown in. This is a slightly embarrassing bridge we will cross on our return.

10.00 hours. An English speaking gentleman, **Mr. Momadou Lamin Sanyang,** who is the Brefet village headman's son, arrives at our camp. His father **Lang Sona Sanyang (Alkali)** requests we honour him by paying a visit to his village. This, after all the kindness shown us, we cannot refuse.

10.30 hours. Dressed in a soldier-like manner, armed with cameras and radio, we depart our camp leaving all our supplies in the care of the fishermen.

11.00 hours. After a sweltering walk along a twisting path through elephant grass, palm trees and scrub, with the sound of chattering monkeys and the screech of birds still in our ears, we reach Brefet village. Here we are given a guided tour. The villagers are all out to welcome us, shaking our hands and waving. Our followers grow in number so that by the time we reach the Headman's home it seems the whole population is around us. Greetings and photographs over we are entertained by the local musician playing a cora; this is very similar in sound to a mandolin. We are offered a baby baboon for 20 Dallasi and a parrot for the same price. Both of these offers have to be refused through lack of funds. Our host invites us into his home for a drink of milk; we accept a little apprehensively thinking it will be goats milk. It turns out to be cows and tastes delicious.

14.00 hours. We bid farewell to the people of the Brefet. The Headman gives us three eggs in token of his appreciation of our visit. Again men, women and children come to shake our hands and wish us well. These people may be amongst the poorest in regards to worldly goods but they possess a wealth of kindness which makes them richer by far than most.

16.00 hours. **Abdou** and **Saliff** request we visit their settlement and take photographs. Again we accept and spend a very interesting hour browsing around watching them at their daily tasks.

20.00 hours. Dinner over we relax over a bottle of my home-brewed red wine. **Abdou** and **Saliff** arrive back from fishing and cook us a large sole on the open fire. It tastes very nice and rounds the day off well.

22.00 hours. Fire banked up we retire only to be plagued by what must be bed bugs. An uncomfortable night spent by both of us.

Tuesday 170730 hours — much kindness from locals

Fresh boiled eggs provided by **Momadou** for breakfast.

08.30 hours. We break camp assisted by many helpful hands and accompanied by **Abdou** and **Saliff** in their dugout canoe; we head for the river watched by waving friends. This is a rather sad parting as, during our stay here, these people have washed our clothes, cleaned our mess tins after meals, washed out the boat, stoked the fire, erected a shade against the heat, in fact, done everything in their power to make us comfortable. This kindness was explained to us by **Saliff** on the previous day: "This is the way of all people of The Gambia; we give assistance and kindness to all men, as who knows when we in turn may need a helping hand."

09.30 hours. A sea dhow fitted with outboard motor catches us up and tows us all out to the mouth of the creek. Here, with pelicans fishing, and the dorsal fins of sharks circling the dinghy and canoe, we say our farewells. **Abdou** and **Saliff** sit in their canoe and watch us out of sight. Strange how one can make such good companions in so short a time, especially when we could not speak each other's language.

14.30 hours. Have been paddling steadily since 09.30 hours and are hoping to make another ten miles today. The tide is ebbing fast so we decide not to stop for lunch.

15.15 hours. Move further away from shore to avoid mud flats, about one-and-a-half miles out now. The river at this point is over five miles wide.

15.45 hours. We've done it again, 40 yards from deep water and we are firmly embedded in the mud. This we feel has cancelled all chances of reaching Bathurst by tomorrow afternoon. Still in a happy state of mind we make the best of our situation and have a kip until the flood tide.

17.30 hours. Alter our plans, as we cannot now reach Bathurst in time, we decide to return to our starting point which is some 20 miles distant. Inform control of our decision and request transport be available at 181400 hours.

18.10 hours. Tide rising fast we push ourselves clear of the mud and head upstream the 12-odd miles to the creek at Sansankoto island.

21.00 hours. On a 20-foot square piece of dry land, amongst the mangroves, we camp for the night. Our sleeping bags well sprayed to kill off remaining bugs, we bed down.

Wednesday 150700 hours — lost but all is well

I awaken to find '**Paddy**' sleeping with the line from the dinghy round his wrist. He had woken at 23.30 hours to find the stake, to which the boat was fastened, loose and decided he was not going to lose the boat as well as a paddle, and if it went he would go with it.

08.00 hours. The tide is in so we move off towards our pick-up point about eight miles up the creek.

09.30 hours. Making much better time than we thought, the creek is like a sheet of glass and we glide easily along stroking smooth and strong together. There are numerous pelicans, parrots and other beautifully coloured birds along this creek. Fish too are in abundance and churn up the water here and there as they squabble for the insects which settle upon the surface.

10.30 hours. Have come the length of the creek and somehow missed our turn-off point. Searched lots of small narrow creeks without success. This is just like everglades, easy to get lost in, which we have now proved. We must find our way soon or it will be a 'hat trick' on the mud bank scene. Ebb tide starts at 11.00 hours.

11.20 hours. Our determination and strong paddling has paid off, one second we hadn't a clue where we were, the next there it was. We feel good and cheer ourselves knowing we will not have to sit in the mud waiting for the tide again.

12.00 hours. Everything unloaded, the dinghy washed clean and a brew going we inform control of our landing.

12.45 hours. Many villagers have visited us and now about two dozen women and children are nosing around with curiosity. Having no further need for what is left of the compo we share it among them, except for the tea, with which we start another brew. The villagers want us to take photographs which we do. Then we decide to give them a show and prepare to shave off our four-day growth. They sit in a semi-circle around us clapping, cheering and laughing at their jokes about us. We enjoy it and give them full value. On completion of our task they claimed we looked very nice, a fact of course we did not dispute.

13.30 hours. The villagers invited us both to go up to the village for a look round. On the way we see baboons, which we keep clear of as they can be dangerous. In the village we sit on a wooden platform built around a tree, and answer the various questions put to us. A mixture of wheat, sugar and milk is offered to me; I accept, it is very nice. On leaving we are presented with a half-dozen eggs and '**Paddy**' is given half-a-dozen cigarettes as he has run out.

14.00 hours. Just finished our last brew and boiled eggs when the transport arrives, driven by **Sergeant Dave McMeekan,** of 38 Group TCW DET, and escorted by **Corporal Ron Phillips,** 14 Signal Regiment.

14.30 hours. Move off towards Police Field Force Depot at Bakau cheered on our way by the villagers.

15.30 hours. Back at the Police Depot we have our first shower for four days; it feels good. The dinghy is all ready to hand back tomorrow. She may not be the best type of boat to use as a canoe but she has served us well and we enjoyed every minute of her company. **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Keay** and I both feel the same in that it was a good experience; we learned a lot not only about the River Gambia but also about the very kind, friendly and hospitable people who live in The Gambia. God bless them and may their future be a prosperous one.

WIRE CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for Wire contributions is the 12th OF THE MONTH preceeding the month of publication. After nearly 50 years of existence we still cannot get all correspondendents to remember this. Let us try and get this right in our second half century!

THE MINOR WIFE

A report from Royal Signals in Bangkok — Both of them!

OUR numbers are small. One is the personal representative of the Chief of Defence Staff at SEATO and the other is **Corporal Fred Lucas** who looks after the codes and cyphers and plays a good game of soccer for the SEATO XI.

Despite our size A.C.D.S. (Signals) gave us two days of his time when he toured the Far East recently.

Rear Admiral Sir Peter Anson, Bt. and Colonel E. J. Bardell of the Corps are received at Supreme Headquarters, Royal Thai Armed Forces

In reply to the Editor's oft repeated cry to make unit notes more interesting we have carried out some light-hearted research into a Thai institution—the 'minor wife'.

LITTLE MOUSE

In the days when Thailand was still Siam it was customary for the Prince and princely to keep a bevy of 'nuu' (little mouse) in the palace or family compound. In those days polygamy and slavery were still part of daily life so that the presence and function of the 'nuu' caused little comment. In fact, simply remembering who was who in such large establishments was almost impossible and really not worth the effort.

The demise of slavery came in the early 1900's and with it the end of the mouse. The gap had to be filled and in her place evolved the 'minor wife' who was neither slave nor exactly a wife. She has now made her career a national institution. Whereas 50 years ago giggling 'nuu' scurried bare foot between the potted palms of the palace, the present day minor wife is dressed in silk, wears shoes by Jourdan and has her perfume from Worth. She makes do with pots of orchids in her air conditioned apartment and only giggles when her patron's cheque arrives at the beginning of the month.

Let's take the old fashioned chap who wants a girl like the one his father married. He chooses his sweet young thing and they settle like two lotus blossoms on the lake of matrimony. A year passes, the freshness fades and his fancy changes. A few decades of decreed monogamy cannot change the basic needs of the Asian male. There comes the day when he takes a hard look at his wife. He weighs the assets and the liabilities; her disposition, her figure and her teeth. His choice may have been at fault as the lady has a foul temper, an annoying bite and a depressingly tiny bosom. He will understandably be attracted to a soft spoken creature who has less to nibble with and a little more to nibble on.

Accurate statistics as to who are minor wives and from whence they come are not available as they have no organised trade union. The majority appear to be working girls; receptionists and fashion models, night club singers and beauty queens. A few may be former bar girls or ladies of the town but they are the exception.

The institution costs the Thai male a fortune in gifts and offerings over and above the rent for an apartment or the cost of building a house. The essential gift is a car, and the current favourite is a BMW 1600—preferably a bright yellow. Next in importance is a television set and then a telephone. The present

One of Bangkok's "little mice"

installation fee for a 'phone is about £300. The more attractive and clever girl demands—and gets—a home of her own or at least the down payment on one and a legal contract guaranteeing the balance.

Looked at from this point of view it seems doubtful if the hundreds of Thai men who are supporting minor wives are getting a good bargain. What was good enough for grandpa and free almost breaks the bank today.

The acquisition of a minor wife entails no detailed courtship. The classic operation is simple and straightforward; one of attack and response. The gentleman advances and the lady demurs. He persists and she, with a sweet but enigmatic smile, reaches for the telephone and in a few brief calls ascertains his income, his social status and other matters that are crucial to an enduring relationship.

Friday night is minor wives night in Bangkok. The husband calls home to tell No. 1 wife that he has just remembered that he has to meet a visitor, visit the provinces, play golf or just finish a report. He returns home later on Saturday to spend some time with the family. Other rendezvous are arranged by telephone during the week. The minor wife soons works out the basic schedule. Her daily life is quite pleasant if she has no job to follow. On a typical day she rises late, breakfasts at noon and some times sees a film in the afternoon. The 2 p.m. performance at the cinema is known locally as the minor wives showing.

Most No. 1 wives know when husband is supporting a minor wife but generally as long as the family budget does not suffer they do not talk about it. There was however one incident reported in the press recently where an irate No. 1 was so incensed that she took a razor to her husband whilst he was sleeping at home, cut off the offending object and took it to the local police station wrapped in newspaper. She then charged the poor fellow with adultery.

Some local critics of the institution argue that society should be ashamed of its minor wives. But the fact remains that it works in Thailand and is an acceptable compromise for the many Thais who chafe under the bonds of monogamy.

So much for our lighthearted research. When the Ministry of Defence team visits next year we are going to suggest that an element should be included in our Local Overseas Allowance to cover the cost of a minor wife. We do feel, however, that our chances of success are slim and that like Queen Victoria, the man from the ministry may not be amused.

THE OTHER MAN'S JOB

(1) COMBAT POWERMAN—BAOR

By Lance-Corporal Colin Thirkettle

LANCE-CORPORAL **Colin Thirkettle** is one of four Combat Powerman Junior NCO's in Tropospheric Scatter Troop, 1 Squadron, 28 Signal Regiment. The article which follows describes in his own words his employment in the troop:

We have twin 30KVA Struvers supplying our power requirements. There are two sets in each generator with the facility for 'change over'. In Tropo Troop we have had the same generators running for two weeks, each set doing a 24 hour shift. We find them very reliable under all weather conditions, and on varying loads.

The engines are 4 cylinder, diesel, air-cooled 'Deutz A.G.' and fitted with a 350 litre fuel tank. This gives us about 40 hours working, depending on load. The generators are AC three-phase working at 400/231 volts and 50/60 cps.

The real highlight for Combat Powermen is the electronic fault controlling system, with audio and visual warnings for low fuel, engine overheating, low oil, low oil pressure, reverse power and alternator disconnected.

Lance-Corporal Colin Thirkettle—Combat Powerman B1

The best of these, for the hard working Combat Powerman is the low fuel warning. If this is calculated correctly it can be timed to give an early morning call. This has been known to backfire, as some of Tropo Troop will testify after they were woken at 4.30 a.m.

A lot of thought has gone into minor refinements, such as fuel hand pump, hours run clock, heaters which are automatically switched on to the set which is not running, this enables the set to be started without waiting for a warm-up period. It can also be modified for multi-fuel working.

All these up-to-date facilities add up to a generator which is a pleasure to work with but one must remember that with all these elaborate alarm systems, the electrical circuits are more sophisticated so a Combat Powerman working with these generators must be able to diagnose when a transistor is faulty and also be able to check through a printed circuit.

(2) TECHNICIAN—ULSTER

A report from 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn

Job satisfaction

THE unique part of being a Royal Signals technician in Ulster in general, and Belfast in particular is that he can feel very much involved in the effort to stabilize the troubled situation. Here, no job is pointless because every job contributes directly to the military effectiveness. Perhaps the most satisfying part about a job here, is that if you monitor a circuit, instead of as in other theatres hearing bored clerk A talking to bored clerk G, you could be listening to tense exchanges between a roof top observation post (OP) and a foot patrol somewhere in the maze of streets that make up the Ardoyne.

The city crew

Most of the communications in Belfast are by courtesy of Royal Signals, as all the talk-through stations in the city are maintained by Royal Signals personnel. The job closest to the ground in the city is the UHF call-out crew, who have three main jobs.

Firstly, to react immediately to rectify faults in the UHF system. Secondly, to regularly visit all the Talk-Through sites checking batteries and aerial systems whilst keeping an eye on local conditions. For example, what was once a draughty open landing ankle deep in pigeon droppings became a carpeted comfortable Ops room between service visits. There was another site where normal access was via a lift, that is until (certain organisations) put pressure on the civilians who were employed in the same building, after which the lift was left on the second floor with the doors jammed open, and of course couldn't come when summoned. When one went via the stairs (not funny with a 12 volt 75) one was confronted with a bolted door, but there are ways! The third task of the crew is to assist new units who are unfamiliar with the equipment, like the unit who thought that the tube of an encapsulated dipole was directional; like a ray gun!

A typical day for the UHF crew doesn't really start or finish, its just a merry-go-round of ringing telephones, coffee, wet stone strewn streets and draughty lofts. At nine in the morning the crew are topping up batteries in the roof of a police station when an anxious driver appears up the ladder saying "Scouse is on the radio, says the Paras have gone off". A quick phone call confirms the loss of a channel, and after a crazy ride across Belfast the crew hasten to another loft where a small fault is quickly remedied. A test call back to the control station of the net alerts all the unseen outstations, and very soon the loudspeaker is jabbering with live traffic—stolen car—man apprehended etc., etc.

On return to base there is an instruction from the TOT, which in order to satisfy certain boundary changes requires that Talk-Through equipment should be moved from one strategically placed site to another, timed to occur exactly between the last patrol of company A, and the first patrol of company B, (0600 hours of course). The afternoon is taken up with a trip back to base to change faulty equipment, the evening is maybe spent with feet up in front of the TV, willing the telephone not to ring but it isn't often quiet for long.

The workshop

Back with the Squadron, life is only slightly less interesting, there is quite a pleasant roomy workshop where the emphasis is on commercial equipment, which brings with it a wealth of useful experience and handy test equipment. At the back of the building there is the skeleton of our car-port which has been a long time coming. Work on ambulances, pigs, saracens, helicopters and minis has so far been out in the open.

We maintain a startling number of intercoms, at the last count something over thirty installations of at least five different types.

Outside of the workshop there are always temporary antennae to be erected either for a live net or a radio survey and these usually go up at night. Once a month we hire a helicopter to inspect some of our more remote, remote equipment which on a good day can be a very pleasant trip.

End

All in all we have a happy lot. If there's work to be done there's never any difficulty in finding somebody to do it, no matter how close to or after o'clock it is. We expect to get our rewards in heaven, there's still no sign here!

If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!

REPORT FROM ULSTER

GOOD GOING BY 3 BDE SIG SQN

Runners up in the Mourne Mountains Patrol Race—10 miles with peaks of 1,500 to 2,000 feet

Back row (left to right): Signalman Thomas, Lieutenant Richards, Corporal Hatch, Private Mullane (RPC), Sergeant McGarry

Front (left to right): Signalmen Kirkpatrick, Graham, Private Hallatt (RAOC)

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

THE last two months since our previous WIRE notes have been full of activity, sporting as well as operational. The major sporting event was perhaps the marriage of the Officer Commanding, **Major K. Ryding** to **Miss Sue McWade** at Wilton on the 18th April. Congratulations and best wishes to you both from the Squadron.

The Mourne Mountains patrol race

The patrol race is an annual event sponsored by the Brigade over a course of some 10 miles and seven peaks of between 1,500 and 2,500 feet high. Each team by the end of the race has climbed a total of 5,000 feet and not surprisingly descended 5,000 feet as well. The Squadron team of eight led by **Lieutenant P. Richards** completed the course in 3 hours 21 minutes, a good time which ensured second place behind the winning team, 2 Para. Later some of the team took part in a 20 mile walk round the same peaks, and even more peaks just for kicks. All that fresh air made a welcome change to the stuffy air in Kitchen Hill factory.

The communications which helped to make the race a success were organised and executed by **Staff Sergeant Hamilton** and the TAC HQ crew. Needless to say, the control set up was at the bottom of a deep valley, overshadowed by a high dam, with some outstations the other side of a mountain ridge, just to make things a little difficult. Well done lads, even if one of you did scoff the Second-in-Command's haverbag, **Lance-Corporal Titman.**

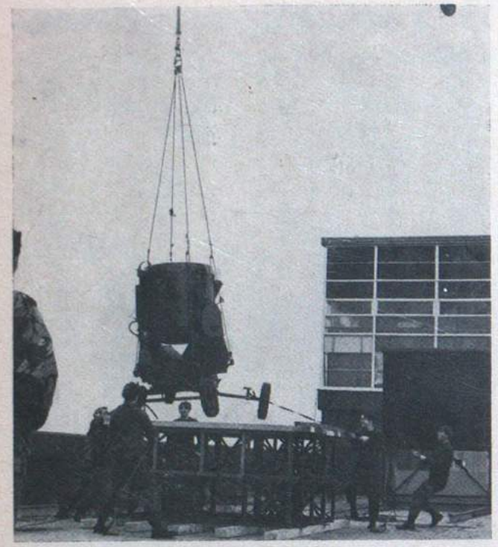
Royal Signals with bomb disposal

Attached to the squadron is 3 Section 321 EOD RAOC who cover the 'bomb disposal' tasks or the 'Boomwatch' in our area. To assist in communications they have several Royal Signals combat radiomen attached and so we felt that they deserve a mention for all their sterling work, attending to things that go bump in the night. The photograph shows the Boomwatch crew relaxing whilst waiting for the next explosion. **Lance-Corporal Moy** is at present detached from 22 Signal Regiment and apart from driving a Matra sports car is a dab hand at repairing Goliath, the bomb disposal robot. **Corporal Brooks** who is now posted, normally worked as documents clerk in the SHQ. He often used to ride 'Shotgun' to the team by way of a break from routine. **Signalman King** from 21 Signal Regiment is one of the operators required to operate the various electronic equipments in use with the EOD. Its a funny thing, every time the barber visits the squadron they just happen to be going out to deal with a bomb.

Spot the watt's-it competition

Alpha Troop continue to be kept busy with innumerable and varied tasks, not all of a communications nature. The photo shows some of them helping to land one of the latest anti IRA devices on our factory roof. A prize of a free posting to 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron (Royal Signals Manning and Records permitting) is offered to anyone able to identify this very technical and highly sophisticated piece of electronic equipment. Answers (with the part numbers) to the Second-in-Command, envelopes to be marked "SPOT THE WATT'S IT".

A clue to its identity; its powered by a 22KW/100v generator which is tended by **Signalman Robinson,** Alpha Troop's resident powerman.



SPOT THE WATTS IT
Lowering from a helicopter. Facing the camera, Signalmen Barratt, Egan, Pakes

CORPS COMBAT RADIOMEN WITH BOMB DISPOSAL
BOOMWATCH—The EOD crew waiting for the bang. Royal Signals soldiers amongst them: Lance-Corporal Moy, Corporal Brooks, Signalman King

Shore to ship communications

One running battle we have apart from the IRA is trying to maintain communications with Royal Navy patrol boats on the Brigade coastline. Their weird and wonderful radio procedure coupled with their voracious appetite for radio spares has turned **Corporal Simpson,** the troop storeman, off naval communications in a big way. The score so far—4 x A40's, 12 headsets, 15 A40 antennas, 2 x 12v 75 AH Batteries for A40's!)—This is in addition to a Pye Westminster a week that **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hall** and **Sergeant McGarry** end up trying to waterproof/de-salinate.

As the ships are only 75 feet long and toss about uncomfortably even in calm seas there seemed a dearth of volunteers to stay on board to sort things out. At last we have a volunteer, **Signalman ('I'll buy myself out') Widdall.** Among his many tasks will be to man the HF command net back up, for when the ship parks itself at the bottom of steep cliffs. For a combat radioman his morse is in quite good shape.

Exercise 'Bodkin'

To keep Alpha Troop combat radiomen occupied during their long off duty seconds the Second-in-Command **Captain M. A. Rowbory** organised a morse link up with the Apprentice College Harrogate, Exercise 'Bodkin'. "But sir, morse is no longer taught to combat radiomen" sez we, "Rubbish", sez he, "we all wear a Jimmy". So twice a week we slowly but surely under the guidance of **Corporals Harrison, Parker** and **Simpson** pass traffic by way of the morse key over our C11/R210 link. Tis a crying shame that we's don't get paid for it! We'd like to thank the Apprentice and **Captain (Tfc) T. Jonstone** of Harrogate for their co-operation and for organising the link for us.

Sport

In amongst all the activities the Squadron has run inter-troop 5-a-side football and volleyball competitions. Alpha Troop won the football and Bravo Troop the volleyball. The trophies themselves were presented to the Squadron by members of the Northern Ireland Volley Ball Association as a gesture of thanks for the Squadron's assistance over the past year.

Arrivals and departures

We wish the following members of the Squadron the best of luck in their new units/careers, **W.O.2 (Road runner) A. Waugh** the MTO, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. Jackson, Staff Sergeant Foster, Sergeant Ed Little, Corporal L. V. J. Brooks,** Singapore bound **Lance-Corporal Pakes, Signalman K. Barratt** and **D. Pescod.**

We also welcome to sunny Lurgan (on the one day in the year its not raining, that is), **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. Hall, Lance-Corporal D. Priday, Signalmen D. Cornfield, D. Gilfillan, G. Butler.** We trust you enjoy yourselves with all the amenities on offer here, shooting (not rabbits), fishing, hunting (bombs?), and the many other delights to be found in the gymnasium.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

A usual beginning

FOR once the Squadron had no real 'news' this month. Even the OC, who is very keen on our notes, began to concede that the scribe was more than a little pushed this time. The traditional method of obtaining essayists from amongst those who had muttered that they hadn't had a mention for some time had almost dried up.

Further efforts (threats) to find someone with flowing thoughts and hand failed dismally, and, eventually, our line chief, **Staff Sergeant Jones** was ordered (Army Act 1955) to produce a contribution. He immediately disappeared for a week and was only just caught in time for his notes to catch the last post to Cheltenham Terrace. However, just at this point; news had arrived with a bang—literally!

Friday 1500 - 1600 hours — a letter bomb arrives

On Friday, 25th May at approximately 1500 hours the calm serenity of the Squadron orderly room was rudely disturbed by the appearance of a letter bomb. The event caused little interest with our battle hardened clerks but, for the sake of our readers, we produce a brief summary of the period 1500-1600:

Corporal Smith (Orderly Room Corporal). "We don't have a Corporal . . . in the unit do we? Hello, this is a strange book. Oh dear, I think it is a letter bomb".

By this time the letter is open. Orderly room staff complete reshuffle into corridor.

OC 'B' Troop. "Its probably a hoax but I'll take it outside anyway".

RSM (some time later). "Don't all stand there like . . .".

Major Wiley (Admin Officer). "I should never have left the infantry".

OC 'B'. "I'm sure its a hoax".

Second-in-Command. "Had anyone told the EOD? **Corporal Smith** where's my coffee".

Unknown clerk. "Shall I get a bucket of water, Sir".

Second-in-Command. "No thank you, I'll have my coffee in a cup like all the others".

Enter three gallant EOD men. Meet **Major Wiley** drinking coffee with Second-in-Command approximately 2 feet from bomb.

Enter Brigade Major as senior spectator, 2½ feet from bomb.

Enter sundry other persons, 3 feet from bomb.

Enter Second-in-Command's dog who attempts to retrieve same for master. Master not very amused but continues to drink coffee, this time with BM.

RSM suddenly realises bomb is to be neutralised next to his office. Departs muttering.

OC 'B'. "It must be a hoax".

Staff Sergeant EOD. "There's definitely a detonator and something else here".

WO2 EOD. "Can someone clear the area and can I have a cup of your coffee, Sir".

Pay Sergeant suddenly appears having only just heard news. OC 'B' retires hurt.

OC returns from playing squash; looks vaguely surprised by scene. Returns to office to drink coffee.

Corporal Smith. "Well it didn't look like a bomb". Does not have time to feel shocked is too busy making coffee for Second-in-Command.

Brigade PRO (much, much later). "The Belfast Telegraph have just rung to say we've had a letter bomb. Do you know about it—nobody tells us anything".

Saturday a.m.

OC 'A' Troop is a nice chap and lends car to OC Int Section. OC Int Section parks overnight (Friday) in supposedly safe place. Next morning, being naturally suspicious and aware of letter bombs on Friday, thinks car has been interfered with. Calls EOD. EOD suspicious. Blow doors and boot with small charges. Very neat job. Hoax! OC Int Section embarrassed and buys drinks at lunch time. OC 'A' Troop still on leave and knows nothing of event. Remainder of unit look forward to his return with interest.

Lest we forget

This article has already taken up much valuable space. **Staff Sergeant Jones's** notes will have to wait until next month!

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

THE months continue to rush by and depending on the security situation we are either busy, over-worked or plain snowed under. In addition to the normal communicating work every unit must bear its full share of security guards, standby crews and such like. The present average is 4 guards per month which means that most soldiers average a 60 hour week. This over a 2 year period can be very demanding, however we are pleased to say that the Corps' young soldiers and NCOs are coping magnificently.

Mentioning young soldiers causes one to reflect on the 'marriage stakes' in Ulster. We are a mixed Squadron, having some 40 WRAC and of course many of our confirmed bachelors fail to last the course. The local girls put up a strong challenge and are in fact winning the 'battle' at the moment. Arranging and getting married in Northern Ireland sets its own problems and so we now devote the rest of our space to one such tale of woe, written by a Corporal—who prefers to remain anonymous at this stage.

So you think you've got problems — try and get married in Lisburn!

Courting has its problems because of the restrictions that are applied to Belfast after dark. Lisburn provides a couple of quite good pubs and there is a hotel which offers a discotheque every week, but even so facilities are few and easily tired of. The Camp offers some functions, but again the security is rather discouraging although absolutely necessary.

Anyway, I managed to survive all this, the day was named and we were ready to go. We bought the engagement ring in a Belfast jewellers. A discount of 10% was available when I proffered a borrowed Civil Service discount card. However, the assistant in rather guarded tones asked if I was in fact a soldier, saying in the same breath that she didn't like to ask as she knew some of us did'nt like to advertise the fact. I readily replied and was told that I qualified automatically for 10% discount in their jewellers (perhaps I shouldn't advertise that fact!). With the ring we were given a note entitling us to a free lunch in the plush Royal Avenue Hotel. Indeed a very nice bonus. Anyway that was the engagement settled.

The party was held in the camp and ill fell on me when my future in-laws couldn't get into camp. I finally convinced the guard that my mother-in-law to be was not a weapon of the IRA and we got in. Not a good start. The next problem was that I couldn't find the key to the sports pavilion which housed the ladies toilet. To this day I'll never know how the ladies managed.

The wedding was fixed for 31st March in the Garrison Church. I started the first problem by choosing a Navy man to be my best man. The Navy must have cold feet because it was quite a game getting him over here. Who would want to shoot a Matelot anyway? My parents were the next problem. Finally, only Dad managed to make it (does he get the GSM?). Everything was set, the Stage Coach Inn, a very nice place on the Lisburn to Belfast Road was booked for the reception (excellent cuisine for anybody who is coming out here).

All was well until a fortnight before the day, then 'bang'—up went the Stage Coach. Hurried recces to assess the damage and plans for step-up arrangements were made, but luckily, with typical Irish resilience to bomb damage all was well and the Reception rooms were ready for use.

The day arrived. A few brandies as a stimulant and then into uniform and off to the Church. Why were the guests standing outside the gate? A hurried conference with the guard established that my list of guests had not reached him. Anyway, that was resolved and the Service commenced. After what was really a very quick ceremony we all went off in various types of transport to the Stage Coach. Most of the guests had not bothered with dinner and were understandably quite hungry. However, the food was not to be for at least 45 minutes. The photographer took an age. Mind you it gave certain guests a chance to listen to the Grand National! When we were able to sit down to the meal, eventually, we were all quite relieved that the standing around was over. The speeches are a complete blank, but having seen a cine film of my reaction to the best man's words they must have been good! The reception ended and off we, the happy couple, sped towards our one night hotel before going to England.

I was stopped for doing 80 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. speed limit, but after I had explained that I was going on my honeymoon I received a warning and commiserations from the RUC!

Departures

Sergeants Beavis and **Brumfield. Corporals Bell, Knox, Laing, Souter** and **Stirling. Lance-Corporals Galbraith, Gate** and **Scurr. Signalmen Harrow, Lane, Parry, Rawson, Reeve, Shaw** and **Tayler.** Our thanks and best wishes go with you and your families.

Arrivals

Sergeant Emmott, Corporals Buchan, Davies, Innes and **Tresidder, Signalman Berrington, Carruthers, Durcan, Evans, Osman** and **Whitesmith.**

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH!

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 801

Belfast report

OC	... ...	**Major Bill Cunningham,** Royal Signals
Second-in-Command	...	**Captain Peter Lenthall,** Royal Signals
IO	... ...	**Lieutenant Rory Clayton,** RA
OC 'X' Troop	... ...	**Lieutenant David Dobson,** Royal Signals
OC 'Y' Troop	... ...	**Lieutenant Nigel Noble,** RA
OC 'Z' Troop	... ...	**Second-Lieutenant David Case,** Royal Signals
Watchkeeper	... ...	**W.O.2 Ray Hicks,** RA
SSM	... ...	**W.O.2 Charles Hay,** Royal Signals

Readers who have read this far will immediately have noticed that one third of our Officers are members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

This state of affairs was heralded in early 1972 by a warning order given to the five sub-units of 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, that from April to July, 1973, the Regiment would provide a roulement unit for OP BANNER.

The Squadron reorganised from SHQ Troop, W (Workshop) Troop, X and Y Troops (RR) to SHQ Troop, X, Y. and Z Troops and W (Rear Details) Troop. 25 members of the Squadron left to join HQ Battery in posts ranging from Training Operator (to man the Brigade teleprinter net) to the ferrets of Recce Troop.

First Corps unit in I.S. company role

Our preparations for deployment as the first Royal Signals unit in the I.S. role are briefly described for the benefit of any other Royal Signals units who may be fortunate enough to follow us.

Training began with individual training in January. February was occupied by section training and March by sub-unit and regimental training. Individual training covered shooting, fitness, first aid and voice procedure and the intricacies of Irish politics. Section training, which since we subsequently operated mainly as half sections should more accurately be described as half section training, consolidated the individual training. Subsequent experience in Belfast bore out the often made assertion that we are engaged in a section commander's war, which explains the jump from section to sub-unit and regimental training.

All these changes, and our own training did not, of course, just happen by magic. The hardworking OC and his even harder working Second-in-Command coped with the challenge of how to organise and run an IS Squadron for its new role, while at the same time arranging for a painless reversal to the SAM role in August. The true laurels for the execution of this go to **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Dave Wilcox** who withdrew stores from the SAM Troops and handed them across to **Staff Sergeant** (SQMS for the duration) **Tony Morgan,** for issue to the Operation Banner Troops. To **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Charlie Hay** fell the confusion of allocating weapons to soldiers as they, and the weapons, came and went with bewildering rapidity. He was, of course kept at his primary task of providing QM's (both types) fatigues and RSM's fatigues.

Royal Signals Manning and Records did us well by providing as many men as were available. Four soldiers of 653 Signal Troop (SAM) from Larkhill volunteered to come with us and joined us in time for the start of the training.

A recce made by the OC and **Staff Sergeant Morgan** in January revealed that the Squadron would be split between two locations, 'SHQ' Troop, 'X' Troop and two sections of 'Z' Troop would occupy Paulett Base, in a protestant area south of the Catholic Ballymacarrett. 'Y' Troop plus the third section of 'Z' Troop would occupy St. Matthews Church Hall to keep the peace at the North end of Ballymacarrett.

After three months of training, culminating in 10 days camp at Sennelager, where we received our baptism of stones and petrol bombs in 'Tin Town', the Squadron was air-moved to Belfast, moving in groups during the course of several days. This was an intricate operation made more difficult by the antics of the unit emplanement officer, **Major Terry Brecht,** RA and the need to phase in our men as the unit that we relieved, 49 Field Squadron RE, phased their men out.

Mention must be made of the very hard worked rear details who took a huge load off our shoulders. During training they absorbed the normal SAM and Special to Arm tasks and enabled us to concentrate on Operation Banner.

Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell and **Sergeant Alan North,** our past and present chief clerks coped with the unbelievable amount of paper involved in the change of roles. **Corporal 'Taff' Lidbury** gave up counting the number of times that he opened and shut the armoury which he did when he was not working on one of the many hammer and nail jobs that became necessary during Operation Banner training. **Lance-Corporal Les Harrison** and **Signalman Mick Calder** the two clerks went through a lot of paper and proved so useful that they were allowed to come to Belfast with us.

At the half way point of the 4 months tour 'SHQ' and 'X' Troops have been allowed to contribute to these notes. 'Y' and 'Z' Troops will have their turn in the next issue.

Postscript—extract from a letter received from Second-in-Command Squadron (see opposite page)

I am sorry to have been so long in sending the enclosed photographs (see opposite page).

I am sure that you will be glad to know that during the violence of 10th/11th June, the Squadron distinguished itself by shooting and capturing a gunman and the Japanese Armalite that he was armed with. Another gunman was also claimed hit by one of our patrols.

Morale is very high indeed. We are all proud to be representing the Corps on the streets. A futher twist to the strange circumstances we are in, has been to have had Infantry under our command.

(Editor's note;—Owing to heavy pressure on space with regret notes from S.H.Q. Tp. and 'X' Tp. have had to be cut out in order to include the photographs on the opposite page.)

Clothing, etc.

Since the beginning of April, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Colonel E. J. Bardell, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Mr. A. Walsh, Major P. White, Staff Sergeant Stevenson, Colonel and Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Colonel D. R. W. Thomas, Mr. W. E. Osborne, W.O.2 J. Rocke, Mrs. A. Wilkinson, Major M. M. Barker, Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, Major G. Corden, Royal Signals Association, Bristol Branch, A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq., Captain H. J. Crocker, Major K. N. Smartt, Blandford Garrison Thrift Shop, W.O.1 and Mrs. J. Maher, Mrs. E. J. Powell, Mrs. V. A. Heath, Mr. and Mrs. D. Greenbrook, Major-General and Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. A. Dally, Major J. F. Bedford, Mr. C. Fry, Major P. J. Rowland, Major P. S. Reader, Mr. H. W. Doze, Major J. A. Bevan, Major and Mrs. R. E. Barber, Sergeant C. E. Dixon

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during April, 1973:

	£ p
OC, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2·00
Honorary Secretary, Central Scotland Branch, Royal Signals Association	3·95
Honorary Secretary, Shrewsbury Branch, Royal Signals Association	50·00
Honorary Secretary, Bristol Branch, Royal Signals Association ...	20·00
Honorary Secretary, Glossop and District Branch, Royal Signals Association	21·00
A. T. Francis, Esq.	1·15
Major F. W. Natolie, Royal Signals	1·05
L. Maycroft, Esq.	75
Captain G. W. Ogden	65
R. A. Briggs, Esq.	53
E. P. Piers, Esq.	53
J. N. B. Penny, Esq.	50
J. F. Timings, Esq.	50
H. M. Kirklandy, Esq.	50
R. E. Pickford, Esq.	50
R. M. A. Jones, Esq.	50
G. Cawthorne, Esq.	50
I. Procktor, Esq.	50
S. Tearse, Esq.	45
Various small donations	97
Total	£106·53

260 Sqn Personalities on the Job in Ulster

The Squadron in its Infantry role recently shot and captured a gunman

(1) Lance-Corporal Les Harrison, Squadron clerk, surprised at work
(2) Staff Sergeant 'Fosdyke' Morgan—ready to do anything, anywhere, anytime
(3) S.S.M. Charlie Hay—handyman in general
(4) Sergeant Gerry Lilley with Corporal Chris Conroy on the Squadron net
(5) Sergeant Dave Gaskill keeps the inner man content
(6) Staff Sergeant Pete Lori mans the Regimental net
(7) Lance-Corporal 'Ozzie' Croome, Squadron Commander's driver, thinks about things to come
(8) Lieutenant David Dobson completes the next day's tasking
(9) Captain John Cowe brings the information

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Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

MUSIC HATH CHARMS . . .

WE had a rare—indeed, unique—musical treat on the evening of Friday, 18th May, when a group of singers, headed by **Patricia Lewis,** came to the College to sing for us.

It all started back in January. The Hockey team, returning from a match, along the icy Skipton Road in a heavy snowstorm, saw a car skid, hit the verge and overturn down an embankment. They helped the driver and her two little girl passengers—mercifully not seriously hurt but badly shocked—out of the car and brought them back to the College, whence **Corporal Marsh** of Telecommunications Workshop drove them in his own car back to Ripon.

The driver turned out to be none other than **Patricia Lewis,** the well-known mezzo-soprano, and the concert was her way of saying 'thank you' to the College for timely assistance in a distressing situation.

We had not had a recital of this kind—including Grand Opera!—before and there were many who wondered how it would be received. But we were not left long in doubt. The theatre was packed, and every song was greeted with tumultuous applause.

Miss Lewis had clearly taken great pains to produce a suitable programme, including works by Mozart, Lehar, Gilbert and Sullivan and a group of Folk Songs from Jamaica, Ireland and Hungary. Perhaps the most popular items, however, were **Jack Smith's** colourful rendering of Bizet's 'Toreador's Song', and Rossini's 'Cats' Duetto' most mischievously sung by **Nancy Blackburn** and **Kathleen Scott,** while **Joan Bennett's** wit and dramatic art brought resounding applause. There was also thunderous sympathy for **Mavis Fletcher,** who had badly cut all the fingers of her left hand just before the concert, and yet, although in great pain, gallantly accompanied throughout the evening.

The verdict of 'an unqualified success' was virtually unanimous: the loyal support which the whole College lent to the occasion was its own indication of our appreciation of **Miss Lewis's** most generous gesture. She, and her delightful Company, can be sure of the warmest of welcomes whenever they care to visit again.

A HAPPY OCCASION

Patricia Lewis with her daughter Sian, the Commandant, and some of her 'rescuers'—*Left to right:* A/Ts Fry, Reece, Lance-Corporals Robertson, Gaunt, Farrer and A/T Quinn

A/T NEIL CASS

IT is with deep regret that we have to record the death of **A/T Neil Cass** (Phillips Squadron) as the result of a road accident on 25th May, 1973.

Neil joined the College as an Apprentice Technician in January, 1972 and was making excellent progress in all aspects of his training. He sang regularly with the College choir and was a very loyal and popular member of Phillips Squadron. He will be sadly missed by his many friends. We extend our sympathy to his family in their loss.

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

INTER-SQUADRON ATHLETICS

Field

THE importance of field events is often overlooked at Inter-Squadron level, but in this year's competition they contributed greatly to the tense climax of the meeting at the end of the day. However, the lack of practice was more than obvious, though some good individual scores were returned.

Track

The 110 metres hurdles was perhaps one of the 'hard luck' stories of the day, when **Lance-Corporal 'Dodger' Green** (1 Squadron) fell in the final when he seemed to be well in the lead after a much faster time in the heats. The event was won by **Captain Eric Gillespie; Second-Lieutenant John Fletcher** was second and **Lance-Corporal 'Dodger' Green** third.

Both the 1,500 and 5,000 metre finals were won by **Lance-Corporal 'Chippy' Woods,** whose performance for 2 Squadron was outstanding, and considerably helped their final result.

By 3 p.m. the field events were finished and the score board showed 2 Squadron, HQ Squadron and 3 Squadron, all close together. Four track events remained.

START OF 100 METRES FINAL
Won by 2nd Lieutenant John Fletcher

The 400 metres final was won by **Lance-Corporal Wayne Ardern** (3 Squadron), but 2 Squadron gained more points on the combination scoring system. They edged further ahead on the 100 metres final, won by **Second-Lieutenant John Fletcher. Lance-Corporal Ardern** showed further promise by winning the 200 metres final, but even miracles could not stop 2 Squadron from winning now. They finished in fine style with a fine win in the Medley relay. **Mrs. Blake** kindly presented the prizes.

This year's athletics continued to be as always, a most enjoyable meeting. A keen team spirit is always a dominant factor in the annual inter-squadron competition.

1 SQUADRON

After a very successful 'first half' in the training and exercise season the Squadron has now put its mind to the serious business of enjoying the adventure training facilities offered in BAOR throughout the summer months. Needless to say, the bias within the Squadron (boasting as it does the only two maritime Comcen commands in the business) is towards the water.

Recent visitors to the British Kiel Yacht Club include **Major** (of course I have been to Kiel before) **Saville, Lieutenant Mike**

Crowther, Signalman 'Mac' McSherry, Signalman (Queen's Scout) Humphries, Signalman 'Burl' Ives and **Signalman 'Monty' Walsh.** With the latest batch of recruits perhaps the press gang will allow the Squadron time for other things occasionally. The next big off-shore event is the Royal Signals regatta. Suffice it to say that we reckon we have a fighting chance of first boat home with **Captain Martin Roberts** (gang boss) at the helm.

Canoeing also plays a big part in our lives. **Sergeant Derrick Reynolds** is sharpening his paddles for the summer season and his white water course. Two of his latest converts **Corporal Lishman** and **Signalman Wales** have recently attended basic courses successfully.

In the Regimental dinghy regatta **Captain Martin Roberts** (will he ever find time to marry?) snatched first place from under the stem of **Colonel Maltby** (HQ REME) after an exciting day's sailing on the Weser.

Athletics did not go well for us purely because there is no water-borne event in the programme. This may be rectified in time for next season. We all miss the clock which held pride of place in the Squadron Bar.

We are looking forward with trepidation to the Squadron summer camp. What camp begins in the old tennis courts with a RMP detachment in attendance? When asked what the camp would be like the OC Squadron replied "As short and as painful as possible!"

Our most outstanding, recent departure from the Squadron has been **Sergeant Eddie Potter,** the daddy of us all. We wish him well as **Staff Sergeant Potter** knowing he will serve 11th Regiment as well as he did us. In the near future **Captain Mike Shaw, Lieutenant John Thornton** and **Second-Lieutenant Mike Crowther** also go their separate ways.

2 SQUADRON

The month of May produced some surprises for 2 Squadron, the first being;

Sports Officer to Troop Commanders; "Well, where are the competitors for the Regimental Athletics? It happens to be next week you know".

Troop Commanders' answer; "Gulp".

The second surprise was;

OC to Troop Commanders; "As you well know summer camp is a fortnight away".

Troop Commanders' answer; "Gulp Gulp".

However being 2 Squadron the budding athletes were gathered together and on the day swept aside all opposition and won easily. Our notable athletes turned out to be;

Second-Lieutenant John Fletcher (Team Captain), **Corporal Wally Walton, Corporal Mick Pettis, Corporal 'Clogs' Freudenfeld, Lance-Corporal 'Chippy' Woods, Lance-Corporal Bruce Mansley, Lance-Corporal Mick O'Brien, Signalman Dave McNulty, Signalman Chris Little.**

We welcome to the Squadron, **Staff Sergeant Jim Golding** who replaces **Staff Sergeant Robin Stanley-Jones** who leaves us on promotion.

3 SQUADRON

'Bravo' Troop. A welcome to **Second-Lieutenant Stephen Lee** who is a SSLC, will no doubt go away suitably impressed after a taste of Rear HQ Recce. Commiserations to **Lance-Corporal Dave Pike** who after several months qualifying himself in the physical training field, succeeded in breaking his leg in his first game of football. **Signlaman Reggie Hahn** who ignoring the cries of "Put the brake on" whilst connecting a genny managed to chop off the top of one of his fingers. So once again a shortage of operators exist.

'Line' Troop have led a quiet life with the exception of **Lieutenant Chris Smith,** newly hitched and **Sergeant Bob Townsend,** who having attended his first sailing course is now bending everyone's ears about the joys of nautical life.

'TM' Troop who are always busy (ask **F. of S. Chris Meredith**) supplied a patrol leader, **Corporal John Davis,** for a night movement exercise. Since this he has been heard muttering about maps that show one path when there are in fact two.

'SHQ' Troop has finally said farewell to **Captain Howard Culley** who left after a 'right old Ding Dong' organised by **Sergeant Andy Evans,** his Comhead Sergeant, and attended by all members of the redoubtable Oscar. **Captain Graham Saunders** now assumes his role as Squadron Second-in-Command and Comhead Command Oscar.

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

Headquarters Squadron

IT is comparatively rarely that Headquarters Squadron features for any length in the celebrated pages of THE WIRE, and we have after much deliberation come to the solemn conclusion that this tradition should be broken.

Headquarters Squadron is situated in Lubbecke some 25 kilometres from the bulk (if you will excuse the expression) of the Regiment which avid WIRE readers will know is in Bunde. Our role is considerably different from that of the Squadrons in Bunde, in that our primary task is to give aid and support to the Staff in Divisional Headquarters (by amazing coincidence also situated in Lubbecke) coping, with parry, thrust, and considerable entente cordiale, with the many Staff problems.

Bearing this weighty burden are about 165 ORs (it varies from day to day) who share 37 different cap badges between them. The Royal Signals soldiers in this merry band are few and far between, and like to think themselves the strong, silent types who normally only converse behind locked doors. Today, however, they have agreed to come into the open, and wishing to greet all WIRE readers are Second-in-Command, **Captain Neil Mackereth;** SSO, **Captain Eric Robinson;** Chief Clerk, **Sergeant Colin Claypole;** FAMTO Storeman, **Signalman Tony Jenkins;** SQMS Storeman, **Signalman Tony Zammit** and last but certainly not least **Signalman Roland Fletcher** who runs the battery shop.

Running a quick eye down this list, you can now see why **Captains Mackereth** and **Robinson** have the best lighted caravan and softest mattresses on Exercise.

Which brings me really rather neatly to discuss the position of Headquarters Squadron in the field; the BAOR exercise season is firmly upon us, which means that at erratic intervals throughout the summer months the Squadron is galvanised into a hive of Signals activity (amongst other things) in running Rear HQ. The required communications are provided by courtesy of other Squadrons in the Regiment, but once in the field are commanded most ably by the OC, **Major Bernard Corner,** RCT.

For those WIRE readers hitherto unfamiliar with the workings of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment it is hoped that the role and situation of Headquarters Squadron at least is a little clearer now. Regular readers of this column will learn more in months to come.

General

1 Squadron has been involved in a lot of domestic activity since it last appeared in these pages. **Lance-Corporal Ron Leake** is now the proud father of twin girls, and both **Lance-Corporal Mike Kirk** and **Lance-Corporal Dave Sherriff** have taken the matrimonial plunge recently. Departures are sad at any time and this month we have had to say farewell to **Lieutenant Chris Nind,** who has gone to 3 RTR, to **Foreman (Staff Sergeant) 'Spud' Murphy,** who joins the School of Signals, and to **S.S.M. Frank Nutter,** who is now with 242 Signal Squadron in Edinburgh; **Lieutenant Alastair Clarke** and **S.S.M. Frank Atkins** are with 1 Squadron however, and seem well ensconced in their respective niches.

2 Squadron's moment to remember for the month was their Pickled Egg Competition organised by **S.S.M. Dave Speirs,** to use up eggs left over from Exercise 'Snow Queen'. **Signalman Geoff Carnay** was the brave man who ate 45 eggs in one hour.

In 3 Squadron OC **Major David Miller** led a recce party to Bavaria, in preparation for a Squadron Military Training Exercise. A week was spent there by the greater part of the company based at the Regimental Ski Hut in Haag, and although the days were passed in fairly arduous military pursuits, **Sergeant 'Ti' Graham** made sure that the evenings were not lacking in 'enjoyable' entertainment. (Here, let it be explained that **Sergeant Graham** spent a considerable amount of time in Haag during the winter skiing months, and got to know the area's night spots really rather well.)

Let me end this chapter in the life of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment with a minor triumph. The Division Tug of War was held in May and the Regiment came second and third to 39 Missile Regiment. I understand that spurred by this triumph, the team is already in training for next year's competition.

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

7th REGIMENT'S ATHLETIC TEAM

At centre of front row (left to right): Q.M.S.I. Pete Seddon, Major Paul Webb, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King and W.O.I (F. of S.) Bob McKay

FEW months are busier in BAOR than May for Royal Signals units, both at work and at play. Certainly, 7 Signal Regiment has been fully occupied with a programme of nine exercises, covering every aspect of our communications, together with a hectic and intense programme of athletics training and competition.

We were pleased to see DS and students from the Staff College on their summer visit to see us deployed in the field. For many students it is their first opportunity to see communications in the field at Corps level. Their critical interest and penetrating queries always make these visits a pleasure to us. We feel that they are of value as well.

Visit of DWS

On the 22nd May the Army Works Study Team, based on 7 Signal Regiment, were visited by the Director of Works Study (Army), **Brigadier M. C. Lanyon, M.B.E., M.C. Brigadier Lanyon,** late Royal Artillery, has been concerned with work in the communications field over many years. His grasp of our communications systems and the implications of **Captain Doug Willis'** team's work on them made this visit particularly stimulating. We told him how much we value the team's work and he was kind enough to say that he had been most impressed by the unstinting support given to the team by the Regiment, at all levels.

Athletics

After the Regimental sporting triumphs of the winter season the warmer weather brought out track suited figures equipped with spiked shoes.

The athletics this year is being run by **Major Paul Webb,** most able assisted by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Bob McKay** and **Q.M.S.I. Pete Seddon. W.O.2 Frank Worrall** coaches the tug-of-war team.

The season started off in the first week of May with a Regimental Tug-of-War Meeting and a Regimental Athletics Meeting. Both of these score points towards the inter-squadron Page Trophy Competition, which was instituted by **Major-General Charles Page** when he was CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps. They were also used as a vehicle for selection of the regimental teams to take part in the 4th Divisional Meetings, the BAOR Individual Meeting and an 'International' athletics unit team Meeting run by the Belgium Army in Cologne.

The morale of the team was at once boosted when we narrowly defeated all opposition at Cologne and brought home with us the 'Le Clerc' Trophy.

In the Divisional Meeting all was going well when we were just pipped at the post by a last minute disqualification in the hurdles event. Such is life! But we still go through to the BAOR Final in early June, having finished in second place.

In the Divisional Tug-of-War Meeting the teams, both 560 and 640 kilos, pulled well and ended in third position in their respective competitions.

As individuals, members of the athletics team entered 16 separate events in the BAOR Individuals Meeting at Sennelager at the end of May. **Q.M.S.I. Pete Seddon** won the hammer event and **Sergeant Iain Haldane** achieved a distinctive win in the 110 metres hurdles. They, together with **Lieutenant Mark Riley** for high jump, **Lance-Corporal Ray Betson** 800 metres and **Signalman Sam Grandison** 200 metres go through to the Army Individual Finals at Aldershot in early July. Our hopes and best wishes go with them.

At the time of writing the Regiment is immersed in final preparation for the Morrison Cup Meeting which this year we have the task of hosting. We now feel quite prepared to take any offers to run Commonwealth or even Olympic Games in the future.

6 Squadron — Exercise 'Fresh Breeze/Sword Point'

The first location on 6 Squadron's Exercise 'Fresh Breeze' was indeed memorable. Not only did the Covering Force Staff visit us, but the location was generously endowed with 'wild garlic'. The smell was overpowering and beneficial only to those with heavy colds.

The Staff spent two days learning all about us and how everything works: slowly a feeling of continuity and teamwork was engendered.

The object of the exercise was to practice the Liaison Officers and staff procedure. Control HQ, with **Lance-Corporal Hardisty** as resident operator, kept us very busy. At one stage, a very well made up **Lance-Corporal Hardisty** staggered into the 'enemy' complex with a plastic 'blown off' shoulder and gave **Sergeant 'Don' Remmer** the 'triangle' Sergeant a problem of disposal.

As usual, the Squadron moved about the countryside much more rapidly that 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment implied in the April/May edition of THE WIRE! On the last evening we found ourselves in woods with only hours to end of exercise. It was at this stage that both triangles were 'crashed out'. This resulted in a fast and furious drive to a new location and a quick sprint to achieve satisfactory communications since one cannot receive the 'end of exercise' message unless the triangles can talk to each other. In record time communications on the nets were considered adequate and we returned to barracks.

After 48 hours refurbishment we were off again on Exercise 'Sword Point'. The staff and communicators operating well as a team demonstrating, once again, how slick we can be 'up at the sharp end'.

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

Hockey

HAVING won our first round Army Cup Match, Officer i/c Manning dealt us a severe blow by posting six of our first team, including two of our Corps players, **Sergeant Robbie Gallagher** and **Corporal Peter Havlin.** Readers of Hockey Scene will have read **Peter Havlin's** letter concerning hockey on Gan Island. A depleted team was soundly beaten by last year's winners, 36 Engineer Regiment, at Chatham. Our congratulations to them on retaining the trophy.

We won the Northern Section of the North East District League without conceding a point, but unfortunately lost the play off with the Southern Section winners—38 Engineer Regiment from Ripon—Some of the kindred spirit for the REs is absent from this unit lately!

Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Hyde, Sergeant Mick Weaver and **Corporal Ray Hunter** also played for the Corps last season. **'Paddy',** however, will look back on the season as one of stitches. There was a rumour that Catterick Military Hospital asked for a fixture list so that they knew when to expect him.

Last July this unit boasted 11 qualified umpires. Officer i/c **Manning** obviously heard about them as well. Of those remaining, **Mr. Moon,** one of the civilian instructors and **W.O.1 Ken Mason** were upgraded to Class Two and **Lieutenant Jim Lawrence** gained his Class One. **Lieutenant-Colonel Vic Impey** has umpired regularly for both Durham and Newcastle Universities in the U.A.U. Championship. Looking towards the future the Garrison Summer League is due to start in June and we hope for better things next season. Perhaps Officer i/c **Manning** will be kind next season and actually post some players in.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

(Photo: Courtesy Soldier Magazine)

11th EXCHANGE SUPERVISOR'S CONFERENCE

Back row (left to right): Major G. J. H. Grist, Royal Signals, Mr. Halford (Winchester), Mr. Bright (Worthy Down), Major F. W. Natolie, Royal Signals, Mr. Richards (Shorncliffe), Mr. Underwood (Brighton), Mr. Clench (Netley), Mr. Dent (Longmoor), Mr. Ashby (Chatham), Captain R. R. Johnson, Royal Signals, Mr. Day (SHQ)

Centre row: Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith, Royal Signals, Mrs. Phillimore (Barton Stacey), Mr. Fowler (SHQ), Mr. J. Smith (2 Signal Group), Mr. Rushen (Bicester), Mrs. Davies (SHQ)

Front row: Mrs. Fraser (Bicester), Mr. Richardson (Guildford), Mrs. Shelley (Byfleet), Mrs. Studd (Camberley), Sergeant B. A. Hawes, WRAC (Aldershot), Mrs. Jackson (Bordon SEME), Mrs. Besch (Southwood), Mrs. Harding (Aldershot), Captain K. H. E. Meachem, WRAC (Aldershot), Mrs. Stoter (Didcot), Mrs. Ball (Chertsey), Mr. Orr (RHQ), Second-Lieutenant E. A. Ruffle, WRAC (SHQ), Mr. Egan (SHQ), Mr. Jones (Ashford)

11th supervisors' conference

On a Tuesday morning in May, military and civilian staff of 3 Squadron, 10 Signal Regiment met in conference at The Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot. Twenty-one Telephone Exchange Supervisors from installations all over South East District attended the 11th annual Supervisors' Conference.

The Conference is used as an opportunity for the staff of all the switchboards administered by 3 Squadron to get together and exchange views and ideas on swithboard operation. It also gives the Regiment and HQ 2 Signal Group the opportunity to explain new policies, procedures and developments within the Army Telephone System. It also gives everyone the chance to see old friends and meet others who, till now, were merely disembodied voices on the telephone! After the formal but instructive meeting, the Conference members adjourned out-doors into the sunshine, to complete the proceedings with a photograph.

Visit of the band of the Royal Corps of Signals

ON the 15th and 16th May we welcomed the Band, who performed at two functions to celebrate our Regimental days.

The first was a band show held in the Garrison Theatre, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, where an excellent, lively and witty show regaled a full house. It was standing room only for the organisers who were most gratified to see such a good turnout. The band as ever proved itself a tip-top professional body and many were the compliments they received on their performance.

The next evening, which turned out to be a bright spring-like one, the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals performed the ceremony of Playing Retreat. The bright spring evening is perhaps a slight exaggeration: what had started as a most promising summery day developed into one of those evenings so common to an English spring, bright but decidedly breezy and cool. At 6.30 p.m. the 50 strong band under their Director of Music, **Major Keith Boulding,** to the accompaniment of the ever present 'Hounslow jets', marched on and the ceremony was under way. Retreat was played on the fine area of grass in Cavalry barracks with the facade of the old fashioned Headquarters building making a natural and pleasing to the eye background, which can be seen in our photograph. The salute was taken by the new Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow, **Councillor Raymond J. Padley,** ex Royal Signals!) in front of a record crowd. The cocktail party, which followed in the Hounslow Garrison Officers Mess, Cavalry Barracks, was hosted by **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. C. S. Galbraith** and was attended by the Chief of Staff London District, **Brigadier M. J. P. O'Cock, M.C., A.D.C.; Brigadier J. C. Clinch,** Commander 2 Signal Group; **Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Dexter,** CSO London District and their ladies as well as representatives of the four local Volunteer Signal Regiments, and many other guests.

3 SQUADRON

Exercise 'Shot Two'

'Shot II' was held over the weekend of 27th to 29th April and 3 Squadron, 10 Signal Regiment had a small but vital role to play.

The co-ordination of visiting TAVR and Regular units fell to the Squadron OC, **Major Greg Grist.** On the traffic side, **Captain Kate Meachem** and her girls in the Aldershot Comcen worked long hours keeping the signals moving. Extra shift personnel were employed at HQ 2 Signal Group, Malta Barracks, Aldershot for the duration of the Exercise.

4 SQUADRON

There have been some changes in the Squadron since our last notes. **Second-Lieutenant Jane Freebairn** has departed for Krefeld; **Lieutenant Rhona Burns** is just about to take up a Works Study appointment.

The weather has been treating us well enough to allow some of the girls on their rest days to frolic with the ponies in the New Forest, so we have some bright rosy faces about the place. It has also given our drivers, **Lance-Corporal 'Taffy' Davies, Private Rose Sainsbury** and **Private Alex McPake** some valuable driver training, after their 'booby prize' winning effort in the Regimental Safe and Skilled Driving Competition.

The weather has also given the OC, **Major Dick Carroll,** a chance to get his golf swing improved just in time for the Army Championships. We wish him well in his endeavours.

Lieutenant Anne Stead, M.B.E., WRAC

It was with great pleasure that we heard the news of **Lieutenant Anne Stead's** appointment as a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Our photograph shows her reading the announcement of her award, surrounded by an admiring group of colleagues. Congratulations, Anne!

M.B.E. AWARD

Left to right: Private Joy Parkinson, Captain Pippa Jarman, Second-Lieutenant Ann Ruffle, Private Linda Chilton, Lieutenant Anne Stead, M.B.E., Private Josie Stevens, Captain Katie Meachem, Sergeant Pat McNeil, Private Chris Roberts

Seated: 'Kajik'

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

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11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

Pass-off Parade

ONE of the greatest pleasures of a Pass Off Parade is the discovery among the parents and relations of some one who knew the Catterick of the bad old days—when it really was a camp near Catterick. To see **Signalman James Roberts** pass off came his uncle, **Mr. William Bernard Watson,** now 77, he first came to Catterick in 1914 to the Army Service Corps and as M2/2277630 **Driver Watson** saw service in East Africa and Egypt as well as in UK.

In Catterick he served with 381 Company as a despatch rider with the General Staff at Hipswell Lodge. As HQ Staff he was lucky and lived in a wooden hut, however, there were no beds. "We got a straw palliasse and you picked your own spot on the floor. The equivalent of the NAAFI was a rough place but it did have a cast iron stove. The countryside was very open and bleak and entertainment came in the form of shows like 'Charlie's Aunt' in the Garrison Theatre. For weapons we had the Long Lee Enfield—the Short Lee Enfield was just coming into issue".

Mr. Watson was most impressed by all the changes he saw and before disappearing into the soldiers mess where his eyes were really opened he told us the changes were "all for the better, the recruits turnout was marvellous, the accommodation terrific. I would like to see an exhibition of all the past uniforms etc. available to the recruits".

Perhaps we should add to the Satisfied Soldier Scheme a Satisfied Relative Scheme—we certainly found one here.

Presentation of Corps Badge to the Borough of Scarborough

The Corps has been connected with the Borough of Scarborough since 1929. For the past four years this connection has been through the regimental adventurous training centre which we have in Burniston Barracks. This centre is one of two centres we run for training recruits who have completed their basic military training and are waiting to start trade training. The Borough has made available to the Regiment numerous training facilities and the Regiment has reciprocated by helping the town in various ways.

To mark the friendship that now exists between the Regiment and the Borough the Commanding Officer, **Lietuenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt,** attended the Council Chambers on 19th May and presented to the Lady Mayor, **Councillor I. M. Slarke,** a shield bearing the Corps badge. The Lady Mayor then presented the Commanding Officer with a shield bearing the town's coat of arms. The date of the presentation was particularly significant because it was the end of the mayoralty year and **Councillor Slarke** had, during her year in office, done a lot to help the Regiment.

The Regiment was represented at the Mayor Making ceremony by our two WRAC Officers, **Lieutenant Rosemary Clayton** and **Second-Lieutenant Cathy Birtwistle.**

Athletics

The athletics season started off to a good tempo at the Regimental athletics meeting on 10th May, It started on a not very bright Thursday evening which promised rain which eventually came during the 500 metres. The meeting was run on an individual basis with prizes for winners and runners up. Every member of the Regiment, both cadre, and recruits competed in some event. and it turned out to be a very revealing day.

From the winners and runners up in each event a Regimental team was formed to go on to the Training Brigade Royal Signals athletics meeting. This was a two afternoon event, the eliminating rounds taking place on Monday, 21st May and the finals on the following Wednesday.

We did very well in the eliminations managing to get at least one competitor through to the finals in each event, with the exception of the shot, discus, high jump and the 400 metres, however, we did get a full team through to the finals of the hammer.

In the field events the afternoon opened with **Lieutenant R. G. L. Hill** in the pole vault and **Corporal Kenyon** in the long jump, both tried hard but due to a far superior AAC Harrogate team we didn't manage to get a placing.

In the 110 metres hurdles **Signalman Storey** did well and came a close 3rd gaining 10 points for the Regiment, so at 1425 in the afternoon we were lying in 2nd place. Our first pitfalls occurred in the 100 and 200 metres, **Lance-Corporal Munroe** was unable to run due to a knee injury. He was one of the Regiment's stars and without him we undoubtedly suffered a blow.

In the hammer **Staff Sergeant Davidson** and **W.O.2 Palmer** as a team managed to gain overall 2nd place, **Staff Sergeant Davidson** coming individual second in the entire competition.

This, together with **Junior Signalman Osman,** who came 4th in the 800 metres, meant that by the middle of the afternoon we still retained 2nd place, but were closely followed by 2 Squadron of 8 Signal Regiment. Later they drew ahead as we had no shot or 400 metres competitors. Only **Corporal Hucker** to go now in the javelin, the ground was not ideal for throwing and he had a couple of unfortunate no-throws, however, he scored some more vital points. At the end of the afternoon we had slipped down the scale a bit but this was not an ignominious defeat. The scoring was very close and we ended up an overall fifth. We enjoyed the meeting and were very pleased to have taken part, which is indicative of the Regimental spirit today in all aspects of life here in Catterick.

INSTRUCTIONAL WING

The Royal Signals Staff Sergeants and Detachment Commanders Courses continue relentlessly and here are some stastistical results since 1st January, 1973.

Course	Type	Grades				
Staff Sergeant Courses		**A**	**B**	**C**	**E**	**F**
RSSSC 72	RD	—	9	9	3	1
RSSSC 73A	F. of S. & RD	—	6	11	2	—
RSSSC 73B	Y. of S. & RD	—	6	11	2	—
RSSSC 74	CC & RD	—	7	8	4	1
Detachment Commanders Courses						
RSDCC 35	—	—	4	8	—	6
RSDCC 40	—	—	4	6	1	5
RSDCC 41	—	—	7	12	1	2

For anyone about to come on these courses it is essential to prepare for the course by ensuring they are fit, well turned out, and can handle the SLR, SMG and LMG proficiently. Such preparation can make all the difference between gaining a worthwhile B grade or falling below standard with an E or even an F grade.

The Instructional Wing is entering into an exciting time with many departures about to take place. We say farewell to **Corporal Hill** and **Corporal Ellis** next month and this month **Sergeant Scott** and **Sergeant Minter** leave us. They all leave for BAOR, the latter pair having both gained their promotion to Sergeant in the Instructional Wing. Well done; we wish them all good luck in their next posting.

Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course No. 74 — personal report

On the 25th April we were delivered to the Instructional Wing Administration Staff Sergeant (**Staff Sergeant 'Honker' Briant**).

After a gentle start of PFA and PE tests, RSM's inspection and weapon TOETS things started to liven up.

Sergeant Andy Keenan, weapon training instructor, was the first of the staff to crack. Introducing the firing position of the SMG he inadvertently backed into the water ditch getting rather wet, however he was as ever safety conscious and told the squad to 'Make safe' whilst he dragged himself out.

In the second week we were introduced to the delights of section attacks on the Catterick Ranges. It was unusual, to say the least to see so many Royal Signals Clerks, covered with 'cam' cream and adorned with grass, sallying forth with rifle and bayonet instead of pens.

At the WARCOP Battle Camp we learnt how easy it was to condense seven days into three. This was a crash course on slimming and how to go three days without sleep (Instructors Note: He means three nights as well). A steady moonlight stroll proved that the students could do better than a petrol-less Bedford 3 tonner to get back to Camp at 0100 hours after the thrills of night navigation.

After WARCOP came the build up to the final tests.

We strongly recommend to future inmates that they are fully conversant with SO-inC's PD No. 4 and prepare properly for the course. One of our course lost TWO STONE!

The Scarborough deer

Sergeant Bill Harland and **Corporal Sam Dool** of CT Troop, Scarborough are to be congratulated on their successful rescue of a young deer on the 12th May. The deer was seen swimming in the North Sea at Scarborough. **Sergeant Harland** paddled out an Army kayak and shepherded the frightened animal ashore where it was captured and cared for by **Corporal Dool.** The slightly injured deer was taken to Scarborough Zoo and lodged there in the new Marineland Deer Compound

It is perhaps significant that this deer was the Compound's first arrival. Any rumours that the deer was chased into the sea by CT Troop to achieve this 'first' are hotly denied.

Orienteering

With no mention of 11 Signal Regiment's Orienteers since the February edition, readers of THE WIRE may have thought that the sport had died. Nothing could be further from the truth, for in the last three months the club has grown and travelled all round the North competing in civilian matches with a fair measure of success.

On Sunday, 11th March, the team travelled to Westmorland for a Badge event. **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** came 23rd in his class and **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones** and **Sergeant John Davies** came 43rd and 29th in their respective classes. **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** now has his silver orienteering badge. Congratulations.

In the beautiful setting of Clipstone Forest in Mansfield the team comprising of **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones, Sergeant Norman Naylor** and **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** (a recent convert from Cross Country) competed in the second British orienteering federation relays. Although they did not finish competively in this very high standard event, the name of 11 Signal Regiment orienteering team listed in the county's best.

The last event in the period was held on 1st April in Weardale. Despite snow storms and rain **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** managed to finish 5th on the B Course whilst **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones** and **Sergeant Norman Naylor** were forced to retire on an extremely difficult map memory A Course.

Orienteering is here to stay in 11 Signal Regiment. With the summer sun, this sport for all the family is to be enjoyed by all.

13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

Regimental weekend

THE merry month of May has been hectic because of the detailed preparation for our Regimental weekend run over the period 25th to 28th May, 1973. We do take these activities seriously and many an organiser could be seen moving from point to point —muttering! Particularly noteworthy was the TOT, **Captain Jim Jenkins** who, until the actual event, was certain that 'Its' a knockout' was going to be 'It's a wash out'.

'All Systems Go' was declared on Friday, 25th May when two TEV's arrived from 22 Signal Regiment and two C50's, two C42's and a cable demonstration arrived from 21 Signal Regiment; all forming part of the "Meet the Modern Soldier" display.

During the evening our 47 visitors, families and friends of members of the unit, arrived mainly in the Regimentally organised coach from UK. They were greeted like lost friends, dined—in their own words a superb meal—and settled in for the night.

On Saturday morning the sun beamed down upon us and but for short breaks at night stayed with us throughout the rest of the weekend.

Our guests enjoyed a shopping morning in Roermond whilst the last minute preparations for the 'Meet the Modern Soldier', stalls, raffles, 'It's a Knock Out' and the Regimental dance in the evening were completed. The social circle white elephant stall and cake stand almost qualified as a crush barrier event before the afternoon officially opened.

The 'Meet the Modern Soldier' display literally introduced all to the weapons, NBC kit and some of the modern equipments in service. Particularly well attended was the stall where observers were required to pinpoint camouflaged soldiers on a prepared map of the area. The volunteers from the current detachment commanders course enjoyed their part in the weekend.

Afterwards the bottle stall run by our very active Youth Club, was cleared within less than an hour and the remaining stalls were completely occupied until the start of 'It's a Knockout' competition at 1600 hours.

It is surprising what one can do with polystyrene blocks, large empty cardboard boxes, buckets with holes in them, balloons, large tanks of water, soap liquid, boxing gloves and champers and dark tunnels. Three Squadron teams and a Youth Club team fought a very close contest which to most spectators was hilarious. 1 Squadron, the winners, celebrated with the ducking of their Squadron Commander.

Old soldiers at speed!

Younger element at even higher speed

The gymnasium, packed to the doors, reverberated to modern and 'mouldy oldie' rhythms for the Regiment dance during the evening and late hours. Congratulations to 2 Squadron, and in particular **W.O.1 Lew Hammond,** Int Corps for an original. decoration and a very well organised dance and buffet.

And so to bed!

For our visitors and families a beautiful May Sunday morning heralded a coach trip to the Eiffel which, the editor is assured, was breathtaking in its beauty.

Within barracks, after the church service, we saw the six-a-side hockey competition. After a most exciting semi-finals in which 2 Squadron beat HQ Squadron 'B' team (the favourites) by a short corner, we saw 2 Squadron play against HQ Squadron 'A' team. The well drilled 'A' team proved too much for the lively 2 Squadron team. Regrettably **W.O.1 Stephenson** fell rather heavily on the tarmac whilst saving an attempt at goal and was carried off to RAF Wegberg Hospital with a damaged hip and pelvis.

In the afternoon the annual cricket match Officers' and Sergeants' Messes v. the JRC resulted in a narrow win for the management. One of the stars was our newly arrived Australian Officer (**Captain Bob Smith,** one-time Troop Commander in 28 (Commonwealth) Brigade and Signal Squadron) who made a magnificent first appearance at 'wielding the willow'; OC 1 Squadron, **Staff Sergeant Alan Tomlinson** and **Signalman Edge** did not do badly either! For the spectators there were, fortunately, refreshments available for it was a scorching summer afternoon.

The Regimental athletics competition was held on Monday, 28th May in glorious weather—this was made abundantly clear by the sale of Amstel Beer during the course of the afternoon. Much in evidence during the afternoon were the Chief Steward, **Captain Colin Smith** and his assistant (yes, you've guessed it—his yeoman, **W.O.1 Gray**). Trying to maintain the programme in the face of children, old soldiers and on the spot challenge events. During the course of the afternoon **Corporal Hooper** won the

100 metres in a time of 11·2 seconds thereby establishing a new Regimental record. 1 Squadron won the inter Squadron cup.

On Monday evening our guests departed for the journey back to UK. Modesty restrains the writer from printing their generous thanks and comments. Suffice it to say that we look like being even busier next year.

Other events

On 5th May the Regiment was well represented at the Anglo/German Spring Dance at the Berg Wassenberg. The event this year included short excerpts from light opera and operetta by two leading members of the Monchengladbach opera company.

The Rhine Area Rugby seven-a-side competition was not a success for the Regiment. The team, with tails up, started with a very high scoring sequence. Thereafter the cry was "We were robbed" true or false does not matter now—we were out before reaching the award level.

Sergeants' Mess

Life is still full within these 'Hallowed Halls'. April functions included a Cheese and Wine Night, and an Easter Bonnet Dance where **Mrs. Audrey Cooper** won the competition with a bonnet decorated with small chicks.

May provided an even fuller programme with Jaap Ments, the Dutch organist, visiting on 5th May. The Country and Western Group, The Waggon Wheels on 14th May during a Barbecue Evening where **Sergeant Andy Forrest** donned the cook's cap.

Saturday the 19th May was the 'Mad Hatters' dance and the committee's final fling. This turned out a very good evening with free cheese and wine, curry and other dishes. The raffle prizes for this night looked like another Christmas draw with watches, barbeque, clock etc., it was a fine raffle. The entertainments committee got a shock when the PEC, **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) 'Geordie' Watson** presented them with miniature tankards and the two W/Sergeants with miniature heart shaped lockets in appreciation for the work they had done. But poor **Geordie"** got a bigger surprise when the PMC, **W.O.2 Jim Hearfield** presented him with a miniature-silver plated spoon and blew the trumpet for **'Geordie'. Sergeant Des McGonigle,** MC for the evening did a fine job and kept everything moving including water. A vote of thanks goes to **Staff Sergeant Ian Underwood** who helped so much with buffets. But never let it be said that we don't live it up in the Sergeants Mess of 13 Signal Regiment.

A Sergeants Mess team nobly defenced the British style football against a Manager/Trainers XI from the German first division club Borussia Monchengladbach. A most creditable performance by the Mess resulted in a 2-0 win for the Management/Trainers The Mess were entertained to dinner after the match and invited the opposition to round off the evening in the Mess.

Welcome to **W/Sergeant Maggie Faulkes** who now officially joins **Sergeant Davey Faulkes** on the Mess nominal roll.

Arrivals

Welcome to **Major Leslie Webb,** Int. Corps who takes over from **Major Graham, Major Bill** and **Helene Nicoll** who are taking over from **Major Robin** and **Margaret Ovenden, Lieutenant Nigel Cory** who is taking over from **Lieutenant David Sharpe, W.O.2 Wally** and **Margaret Lockwood** who takes over in the Training Wing from **W.O.2 John** and **Edna Jones,** and **Sergeant Ron** and **Jaqueline Bulley** and **Sergeant Jim Page. Mrs. Jean Olszewski,** from Fife, has joined the Regiment as our first WRVS representative for nine months. Welcome to the Regiment, **Jean.**

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Farewells

Farewell, thank you, and bon voyage to **Major Peter** and **Sarah Graham, W.O.1 Ernie** and **Chris Cooper, W.O.2 John** and **Edna Jones, A/W.O.2 'Paddy'** and **Pam Porter** and finally **Sergeant Angus** and **Jo Macrae.**

Photographs are a little slow in coming though. We trust that those which do not arrive in time will be given space by the Editor of THE WIRE in next month's issue.

IN MEMORIAM

Sergeant Douglas Boxall
late Royal Signals

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Sergeant Douglas Boxall** who died suddenly of natural causes on 20th May. Our sincere sympathy goes to his sister, **Miss H. Boxall** and his adopted family, **Mr.** and **Mrs. John Lane** and **Kenneth Lane** of Croydon.

Doug Boxall was a well known Regimental character, full of life and extremely active. He will long be remembered for his attachment to the tape recorder. He was a great enthusiast and the Messes and Regimental Clubs benefited greatly from his music and expertise.

A full career dating from January, 1950 covered service in UK, Cyprus, Singapore and BAOR (on three separate postings). He will be remembered by many JNCOs, and some not now so junior, as an instructor on the old MPCI Courses and the NBC Expert on Detachment Commanders Courses.

The funeral was held at St. Boniface Church, Rheindahlen on 24th May, 1973.

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14 Sig Regt Worcester

Open day

IN addition to sending people off all round the world as usual the most notable event in the monthly calendar of the Regiment has been the open day. As ever, much effort was expended in preparing the Barracks (built in the 19th century) for the occasion, and it is an ideal setting. It is said that the cricket pitch is, indeed, one of the finest pieces of grass in the whole of the county of Worcestershire.

We were very fortunate that we had the services of both the Corps Band under their Director, **Major Keith Boulding,** and also the White Helmets with their intrepid leader, **Captain Gordon Davies.** Although it is fair to say that the weather conditions were unkind to both. A slight early drizzle had left the arena for the motor cycles slightly damp and only by consummate skill were the White Helmets able to control their machines on an almost impossible slippery surface.

The Band played throughout the afternoon in glorious sunshine, but as the time passed the storm clouds could be seen gathering over the Malvern Hills and their development was matched by the nervous westward glances of the organiser, **Major Colin Bunce,** the Second-in-Command. And, as one could guess, the world renowned law that operates against all organised military endeavour came into play at exactly the right time. The Band marched on to Beat Retreat and the rain came down.

Not all of the efforts were in vain. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Mick Golledge** ran a very successful stall selling tickets for the Worcestershire Branch of the Army Benevolent Fund and made a handsome sum of £50. **Staff Sergeant Dave Parker** the leader of our Regimental Recruiting and Information Team with his smart caravan and matching team members was doing a lucrative business selling teleprinter pictures to his visitors. But I don't think he managed to bemuse anyone as much as the satellite demonstration organised by **Captain Philip Whitemore** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Roy Morris.** A retired officer from the Indian Army came out of the control cabin after a dazzling explanation by **Corporal 'Loud Lew' Lawton** and said "I seem to remember we did all this sort of thing by mirrors". But strangely, even primary school children seem to have some idea of what a synchronous satellite is.

Initiator of the day could well be said to have been **Signalman Les Croy** who ran a treasure island stall using his own 'group' dressed up as pirates. He gathered an immense crowd of spectators giving the impression that he was setting up in opposition to the Band. Whilst on the subject of stalls one must say how much effort was put into it all by the people concerned—and note that the prize for the best stall went to the Royal Pioneer detachment commanded by **Sergeant Tom Fowle,** RAPC.

On the professional side one cannot pass without mentioning the announcing skill of **W.O.2 Ben Coleman** the RQMS General who provided a constant background of pertinent comment and useful information, only to experience heavy interference at the hands of the White Helmets' radio microphone which appeared to be incompatible with our PA system. The highest accolade must go to **Captain Don Clarke** the Technical Adjutant and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) John Wise** who wandered around impressarily as a Val Parnell/Lew Grade double act eyeing the talent to select a Miss 14 Signal Regiment. They succeeded.

Finally, to return to shop and noticing that there is a tendency for units to advertise in THE WIRE, I thought it just worth mentioning in conclusion the parts of the world from which we signal from time to time for those interested:—

Ascension Island, British Honduras, Cyprus, Gan, Hong Kong, Kenya, Korea, Singapore, The Gambia, The Gulf.

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

Athletes in good form

The rebuild of the Regimental athletics team is progressing most satisfactorily. Regular readers will remember that a few months ago we announced that 60 per cent of last year's outstanding team had left on routine postings, and that a major rebuild would be necessary in 1973.

This rebuild has been almost entirely achieved by developing the existing talent in the Regiment, without the bonus of outstanding athletes being posted-in. For example, a Part I Order appeal for likely lads to come forward and be taught the pole vault resulted in a nucleus of vaulters from which we now have two very useful candidates attempting 10 feet, and still progressing. In addition, many of the remaining members of last year's team have significantly improved their standards—**Sergeant Dave Kuester** is now throwing the javelin 18 feet further and has a personal best of 178′ 6½″, whilst on the track **Corporal Charlie Dowie** and **Sergeant John Turvey** have already set new BAOR records. Cross country runner **Signalman Phil Madden** has made an astonishing conversion to the track and achieved a splendid 2 minutes for 800m in an Anglo/German meeting in the Grenzland Stadium at Rheydt in early June. He is the first to admit that he had no idea of his track ability until he joined the Regiment. The team spirit developed by **Lieutenant Dick Farrimond** and **C.S.M.I. Stan Woods** is quite remarkable and overall we are able to look forward to a very good season.

ACHIEVEMENT

CSO BAOR presents 21 Signal Regiment with a silver wine goblet during Exercise 'March Hare' in recognition of the Regiment having won the Morrison Cup on three successive occasions

Sub-unit sport

All the Summer sports have featured in sub unit competitions during recent weeks. The enthusiasm and competitive spirit have been quite remarkable, whilst a number of individuals have been spotted for the Regimental teams. 2 Squadron won the athletics in early May, and 3 Squadron the swimming, including the water polo. The cricket final is between 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron and promises to be a particularly closely contested event with the success of **Sergeant Ron Luis'** hard hitting and steady bowling likely to be the key factor.

A great day for the SSM

THE first day of June 1973 is a day which **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Ken Davis** will never forget. The day did not begin well—the Sergeant-Major cut himself while shaving and was soaked in the torrential downpour which always seems to precede the Regiment's inter-Squadron swimming competition. Then it all happened—shortly after lunch, just as the competition was getting under way he was summoned to the Commanding Officer:

"Sergeant-Major, I want to be the first person to congratulate you on receiving a commendation from the Commander-in-Chief Royal Air Force Germany, which will be announced tomorrow on the official birthday of Her Majesty. Well done".

Five minutes later he was again summoned to the Commanding Officer;

"Sergeant-Major, I have just received a signal from Records. You have been selected to fill the WO1 (RSM) appointment in 8 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and are granted acting rank in accordance with Queens Regulations 1961 para 401(c) to (e). Congratulations!"

W.O.2 KEN DAVIS
C.-in-C.'s commendation and promotion all in one day

and a frustrating day for the RSM

We all know that beneath the facade of growling irritability, RSMs have a heart of gold and are kindness itself. However, **R.S.M. Prees** did take it to the extreme the other day. He was quietly motoring through the Station when a small red squirrel dashed across the road in front of him. Without any consideration for himself or for his car the RSM swerved, counter swerved, leaped over a ditch and jammed his car between the dense conifers of an adjacent wood. Take note young soldiers—if the RSM will do that for a red squirrel what would he do for you if ever you were in trouble?

Drawn by Lieut. P. J. Read

Encounter between R.S.M and Red Squirrel. Game and set to red squirrel

Additional commendations

In addition to the commendation for **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Davis,** the Commander-in-Chief Royal Air Force Germany commended **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Tony Porritt,** now serving with 4 Communications Unit, and **Sergeant Peter Gravestock.** Both of the citations describe inspiring leadership and outstanding devotion to duty.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

Swiss border and Baltic linked

MAY has been an extremely active time for the Regiment, combining exercises with sporting activities. 'Eagles Flight', our biggest exercise was the brain child of our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Spear** who aimed (and succeeded) at linking Neustadt on the Baltic with Neustadt on the Swiss Border a distance of some 900 miles. Without wishing to steal others thunder suffice it to say that both Burgemeisters talked and sent each other Mufax copies of their respective coat of arms. This is how the exercise was seen through the eyes of 3 Squadron.

The majority of the Squadron were located at Site Tango (Site Alpha or RHQ was on the Swiss Border and Site Whisky was on the Baltic coast) on the outskirts of Hamburg and the immediate problem, as is the case with all exercises was where to sleep. Fortunately the site afforded luxury accommodation, in the form of a disused brickworks, with ample shelter. It wasn't long before **Sergeant Gary Beattie** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John Young** discovered the intricate secrets of the antique hot water system which breathed Hell fire, brimstone and plenty of hot water.

Other members of the Squadron were less fortunate when on awakening they discovered someone had stolen their roof.

Reeperbahn reconnoitred

The natural instincts of our Commander, **Major John Grys-peerdt,** soon prevailed and it was not long before the Recce party were pounding the streets of the Reeperbahn (for the uninitiated that's Hamburg's equivalent of London's Smithfield Market). The task was put into the able hands of **Sergeant 'Geordie' Anderson** who returned much later exclaiming that he done a good job!!?

This paved the way for organised trips into the city but not all were without mishap. Even **Signalman John Oakes** came unstuck when he could only produce 40 pfg in payment for drinks for himself and his 'lady friend'. Fortunately he was able to part with his watch, but he was not allowed into town without an escort to ensure that he trod the straight and narrow. Even the British Consulate rang to say that they had found a soldier, but apparently they find them quite often so we let them keep that one.

After three hectic days and nights the pace began to tell and the money ran out and so **S.S.M. Denis Holder** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Trevor Sherwin** organised a fishing competition. It started well with **Sergeants Pat Garrigan** and **Jim Hilton** disqualifying **Lieutenant Keith** (all I want for Christmas is my 2 front teeth) **Dewis** for moving his peg. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John Young** was declared 'persona non grata" when it was discovered he had netted two-thirds of the fish in the pool and was thinking of going into partnership with **S.S.M. Denis Holder** in the fish and chip business. The outcome, as always, was that the OC declared himself the winner (well he is the boss, after all) but rumour has it that he had already found out that the first prize was a box of Mars bars (a six a day man). Far be it from me to give the impression we did no work at all—its quite true—but we made it work and everyone was able to find out and experiment with Equipments, even the SSM had no problems in lining up the circuits (one behind the other—ugh!). However it was an extremely interesting Exercise, enjoyed by all, and we are all looking forward to the next one.

SPORTING NEWS

Table tennis

The 4 Division Inter-Unit knock-out competition got away to a late start and the eight teams involved did battle in March. The Regimental team assisted by **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Trevor Sherwin** and coached by **Corporal Ken Elgood** sailed through the preliminaries to meet 1 RIR in the final. The result was a decisive win for the Regiment. Congratulations to **Corporal James, Signalman Fawcett** and **Signalman Killeen** on being selected to represent 4 Division in the BAOR finals.

Cricket

The Regiment played RAF Gutersloh in a warm up match but unfortunately **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) John Brunt's** XI came unstuck and are now thinking of taking up soft ball!

4 DIVISION TABLE TENNIS WINNERS
Left to right: Corporal Elgood, Signalman Killeen, Staff Sergeant Sherwin, Signalman Fawcett and Corporal James

Football

The Sergeants Mess played in a local German competition and although expected to win fell foul of the local team. After an early goal by **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Trevor** (you would think he wrote this article) **Sherwin** the opposition went on to win by 4 goals to 1. All teams received a prize and a presentation dance in the evening concluded an enjoyable day.

Athletics

The Regimental Athletics got off to a good strat with a fine sunny day and a number of new records being set. **Lance-Corporal Colin Finlay** set a new record in the long jump and **Lance-Corporal Roger Frampton** again gave a very polished performance in the 5,000 metres and 1,500 metres. The old soldier's race was won by **Major Bill Mawson** with 31 years service to his credit—well done. Last man home was **W.O.2 Bernie Tune** who is leaving the service shortly. He set-off in his blue and white hooped combinations (these were on issue when I came in lad) but failed to complete the race because someone thrust a bottle of beer into his hand as the 'Off' was given—good thinking, "why run all the way up there when I can stay down here and drink".

By comparison the 4 Division Inter-Unit Athletic Championships took place on a cool, drizzly day and although we had an under strength team we pulled off a very good 4th position. Special mention should be made of **Lance-Corporal Whittingham, Signalman Parris, Signalman Grier** and **Driver Jones** who came 1st in 4 × 800 metres relay also of **Lance-Corporal Roger Frampton** on coming 3rd in both the 1,500 and 5,000 metres. Things are looking better for the Morrison Cup in 2 weeks when the team should be back to full strength.

"WELL, WE'VE MADE IT—HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?"
Left to right: Major David Neale, Major David Lycett-Gregson, Captain 'Paddy' Stringer, Major Mike Miller

27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

HONG KONG IN THE 70s THROUGH THE EYES OF A RR TECH.

By Sergeant Dave Hirst

THE familiar silhouette of Hong Kong, the traditional Pearl of The Orient, is rapidly changing. Huge edifices of concrete point their way to the sky, underground railways are soon to be burrowing their course like a family of hungry moles, and a cross-harbour tunnel now links Hong Kong Island with Kowloon as an everlasting tribute to modern engineering. The rickshaw and the cheongsam are now being replaced by the taxicab and the miniskirt in the names of progress and westernisation.

Not to be outdone, 27 Signal Regiment is also keeping pace with current requirements. The majority of our short range communications are extended at present over cables bequeathed to us with the compliments of the Nippon Government on the 30th June 1945. It suffices to say that the onset of the rainy season is synonymous with much tearing out of hair by all those involved with lines. So that we might 'keep our cool' and that a stability of communications be attained, an intricate radio relay project has been devised.

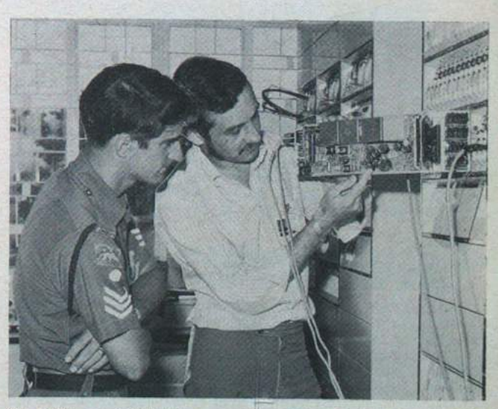
Phase I of the project (UHF) is at present being installed by Microwave Associates Ltd. of Dunstable, embracing Stanley, Mount Butler, Stonecutters Island, RAF Kai Tak and Victoria Barracks (HQLF). **Major (TOT) Norman Merrifield** (SO Tels) and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Laurie Benson** (Project Liaison Officer) are coping with such problems as an urgent demand for tag blocks which were despatched from UK *by the first available ship!* In spite of all this, Phase I is due for completion in early August of this year, at which time no doubt, their cups shall runneth over (with what, being anybody's guess).

Looking ahead

Looking to the mid-seventies, Phase II of the project shall be concerned with partial redeployment of the UHF equipment, and the installation of the Microwave system. Units throughout the whole colony shall then be involved, and a fond farewell made to the existing UG cables.

As regards our world-wide communications, **Captain (TOT) John Grigsby** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Jones** head the only major DCN station in the Corps, employing totally non-standard equipment, and engineering satellite communications. Communicating in Hong Kong is very much a joint service venture with **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow** at its head as Chairman of the Joint Signals Board Hong Kong.

The communication centre in Victoria Barracks is supervised by **Captain (Tfc) Ted Hill** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) George Lile.** In between the celebrating of engagements, marriages and births, the members of the comcen are to be congratulated on maintaining their overall efficiency.



Mr. E. Brewer (MAL/ Microwave Associates Limited describes the UHF multiplying equipment to Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Vince Lamb

Lance-Corporal Colin Seymour, controlling Satellite Circuits. He didn't learn this on his TIII

So you're posted to 27 . . .

For those people in the Corps who are anticipating a tour in Hong Kong, many varied and interesting jobs can be guaranteed. Most sports and pastimes are available, ranging from tenpin bowling on one hand, to the more energetic athletics on the other. Incidentally, the regiment recently won the Colony Minor Units Athletics Championships and were runners-up in the Brigade Athletics Championships.

For married personnel, accompanied passages are unfortunately a rarity due to the shortage of MOD accommodation. Private accommodation is available however and those concerned are encouraged to 'shop around' as soon as possible after their arrival. The monthly rents for private flats in Hong Kong are very high (around £150) but a rent relief scheme is in operation, in addition to the recently increased LOA, so don't be at all dismayed if you are not in a very favourable position on the quartering list.

In closing, we would all wish a hearty bon voyage to the members of the regiment and their families (too numerous to mention individually) who are departing for climates more moderate, and a sincere welcome to those who have recently joined us. Particularly, we wish **Captain** and **Mrs. Peter Whitehead** and their children a happy farewell to 'civvy' street.

28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

BELIEVE someone rashly remarked at the beginning of the month that it would be a quiet month. Perhaps he was overheard by our superior Headquarters and as a result we have been busier than usual, which is just as well for the writer of these notes.

During May some of the highlights have been Exercise 'Fransud 73', our annual adventure training exercise. We have also had Exercise 'Northern Signal 2/73', Commander NORTHAG Signals Support Groups communications Exercise. NORTHAG Signals Support Sports, a Mini Olympic Games. In addition we have also had a visit from the Forces Chance Quiz Team and for two weeks an Exchange au Pair Officer of the Swiss Army.

Fransud '73 — Trekking, survival and rock climbing

Despite many difficulties, but primarily transport restrictions, our adventure training exercise got under way. Because of commitments the exercise was held much earlier than usual and as a result there was still quite a lot of snow in the area of the exercise in Bavaria. The camp site near Tegernsee lay under six foot of snow two weeks prior to occupation. **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tim Martin** suggested the exercise might be renamed Franski as the snow was so perfect. However, adventure training it was, and over two 10 day periods two parties each of 40 soldiers took part in the exercise. Activities such as trekking and survival had to keep to the low ground on proven routes because of the danger of avalanches. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Rod Mansfield** and **Sergeant Steve Watson** organised the trekking and survival. The routes they used, became longer with each telling by those who walked them.

Staff Sergeant Pete Ridley established the rock climbing camp at Schliersee, found a suitable clear rock surface for climbing and an interesting fast flowing stream, across which he built a rope bridge. His assistant **Sergeant Rupert Lund** isn't speaking to him any more, perhaps because he insisted on playing his bagpipes (he still has 'L' plates on them) at some unearthly hour.

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) George Devine Oi/c Phase II of Fransud, the 'Free Fall' expert in the Regiment, fixed himself up with a free fall jump with the American Special Forces at Bad Tolz. Unfortunately on exit from the aircraft he left half of a finger of his right hand behind in the aircraft. Nevertheless he performed a perfect aerial manoeuver to place himself with the rest of the stick and landed dead on target. The green beret medic who inspected his hand outdid a chameleon in his colour changes. Three days in hospital and **George** was back to duty again. He claims modestly that his typing isn't very much slower, however some of his close friends say that **George** now finds counting up to ten very difficult!

IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS
Resting weary feet and enjoying the view
From left to right: Signalman Herbert Brackenbury, Corporal Charlie Drake, Signalman John Madigan and Signalman Graham (Windy) Ford

Exercise 'Northern Signal 2/73' — perfect circuits

The exercise took place in the Eiffel in some of the most beautiful country in Germany. Unusual for our exercises was the fact that we had some really excellent weather. It must have been warm as our oldest soldier **Captain 'Jock' Souter** was seen in shirt sleeve order, so rumour has it. The exercise went extremely well and our tropospheric scatter Troop having been through many difficulties over the past months, more than proved their worth providing perfect circuits for the entire exercise.

Northag Signal Support Group sports

The sports meeting is a mini Olympic Games with four nationalities Belgian, Dutch, German and British participating and is held over two days. Winning is not that important and in this particular meeting we tend to lose gracefully. The sports which figure in the meeting are swimming, athletics and tug-of-war, soccer and volleyball. Each Company or Squadron of the Support Group fields a team for each sport. Of the results its probably best left that we neither excelled nor disgraced ourselves. This meeting proves to be a good means of sorting out the talent for Regimental teams for national competitions, which fall later in the year.

Forces chance quiz

On the 15th May the BBC Forces Chance first round took place. Prior to this a series of inter-troop and inter-squadron competitions took place to produce a Regimental team. The final team selected to represent the Regiment was captained by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tom Brown,** with **Lieutenant Phil Sharman, Corporal Ted McKie** and **Corporal Barry Groves.** REME making up the team. The BBC team was made up of **Ted Moult** (the gentleman farmer), **Nan Winton** (the team's nanny) and **Neil Durdan-Smith** (the ex sailor). The quiz master, **Alun Williams,** who is a well known sports commentator, chaired the competition.

FORCES CHANCE QUIZ TEAM
Left to right: Corporal Ted McKie, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tom Brown, Lieutenant Phil Sharman and Corporal Barry Groves (REME)

The evening was a tremendous success, with an opening warming up of jokes conducted by **Alun Williams.** His introduction made the atmosphere for a very successful evening. Our team scored 64 points to the BBC's 75. It should be noted that for those familiar with the quiz that it is not necessary to beat the BBC resident team, only to get the highest score possible in comparison with other teams taking part in the competition. We all hope that our team has enough points to get them to the finals at the BBC in London later this year.

Squash

Although football is the main sport in the Regiment other sports do figure and squash is one of them. From September last year until April this year our team consisting of **Corporal 'Mo' Vaughan, Captain Charles Kemp, Staff Sergeant Dave Williams,** RE, **Captain Peter Brown, Signalman Steve Drew** and now departed **Corporal 'Rocky' Barron** have met twice a week and sometimes more often in the evenings and have put a good deal into their particular sport. perseverance has paid off and it was not until the squash team reached the Rhine Area final that many realised we had such a team. The team have had a very good season and although beaten in the Rhine Area major units squash final by Rheindahlen Garrison they can be very proud of their performance.

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BLANDFORD CAMP

Exercise 'Norman Quest' — a mission to Alderney

WHEN writing an operation order one of the first lessons one learns is that the mission must, unless limitations have been ordered by higher authority, be singularly unambiguous and within the capability of the unit to attain.

Every year this Regiment has an annual training exercise in Alderney and as each year goes on it becomes more and more difficult to meet the requirements of providing an unambiguous mission for the exercise without undue limitations which will still describe accurately the activities to be carried out. As usual a compromise is run and this year the compromise mission for 30 Signal Regiment was "30 Signal Regiment is to carry out training in Alderney during the period 7-17 May".

Exercise 'Norman Quest', which was this year's nickname for Alderney training, was agreed by all parties including the islanders to have been a great success. It started as usual with near disaster due to prevailing weather conditions. However, by redeploying stores from ramp powered lighters (RPLs) into island class trawlers (the MULL), we managed to ensure that even if the main party arrived before the advance party—which due to weather conditions was storm-bound in Marchwood—we would still be able to set up a reasonable camp in the Victorian Fort Tourgis. In the event the advance party got its vehicles ashore on Alderney just two or three hours ahead of the arrival of the main party, and the whole of the evening of 8th May was spent setting up the Fort to achieve some sort of comfort. Morale rose abruptly when we sat down to our first meal, which was steak, eggs and chips, and I don't think steak and eggs has ever tasted so good before. I can recommend fasting at sea for working up a good healthy appetite. By 10 p.m. Fort Tourgis was organised and there were very few people who wern't tired enough to be asleep by 11 p.m.

On the morning of 9th May we started our training and PT. Our Training Officer, **Captain Jack Jenkins** and his assistant, **R.S.M. Mick McMahon** had devised a programme which made the best use of the facilities we had on the island, and a training programme of orienteering, physical fitness, escape and evasion exercises, and first aid and cooking in the field, although it caused a few mutterings from the soldiers, some of whom compared it with 'P' Company, was generally enjoyed by everybody. Thus we were achieving our main aim, and with the prospect in hand for amphibious training in the second week we hoped that all of the troops carrying out training would find the camp worthwhile, interesting and enjoyable.

As usual the hospitality of the islanders was superb and by the Wednesday evening everybody had found his own special pub to have a drink in in the evening and was on nodding terms with a number of the islanders.

Project training

As usual when we visit Alderney, as the adopted Regiment of the island, we like to help out with public and charitable works, and this year three projects had been agreed between the Regiment and the President as being suitable for our participation. The first of these projects and by far the largest consumer of time was the construction within a shell of an old German abattoir of an animal clinic. **Y. of S. Ted Rawlins,** who became the Clerk of Works for all the projects on the island, and **Staff Sergeant Bob Hogger** who is our REME Staff Sergeant and who was given the responsibility for seeing through this project, soon gathered a small team of experts around them, including **Sergeant Vic East,** our MT NCO, **Corporal Clifford Hatchard,** another of our REME fitters, **Sergeant Vic Butcher,** our APTC NCO, and in the final stages of the project our Padre, the **Reverend John Davidson,** who called upon his old expertise as a Sapper officer and was very helpful in preparing and fitting locks and door furniture on the new doors that had to be hung. The project consisted of building several partitions in the shell, lighting and wiring the building, and rehabilitating a very ancient operating table which had not worked for 12 years. With a little bit of ingenuity, **Staff Sergeant Hogger** and **Sergeant Butcher** managed to get the hydraulics working again properly within about 30 minutes. We are hoping that after all the work put in by the Regiment, the Animal Welfare Society in Alderney may well call the new clinic the Swan Animal Clinic. We feel that this would be a pleasant and permanent record of our association with this project.

Our second project was to build two concrete ramps at the hospital so that patients who are bedridden could be moved outside into the sunlight. The work here was carried out by our Chief Clerk, **W.O.2 Dave Ewer, Y. of S. Ted Rawlins,** the recommended Clerk of Works, and **Major Bob Martin,** acting as the recommended foreman of the site and who claimed to have done most of the work. This was naturally disputed hotly by the remainder of the team including **Sergeant Vic Butcher** and **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Marr.** Despite all the claims and counter-claims as to who did the work, the ramps were built and are now being used daily by the hospital for the benefit of the patients. They say every picture tells a story and certainly the workers in our picture did not bear any resemblance to any of those claiming to have done the work except **Sergeant Butcher.**

Our third major project was a wiring project which was carried out to provide up to date electric wiring in a new suite of offices which are to be used by the States administration in Alderney This work was carried out by **Sergeant Brian Nicholls** and **Corporal David Thorne.**

The Regimental weekend

Phase II of Exercise 'Norman Quest' was the arrival of most of the Officers from the Regiment, our Recruiting Team Warrant Officer, and the Corps Band. The social activities which lasted from the Friday to the Sunday left a lasting impression on our weekend visitors, all of whom looked distinctly tired when they left the island en route for Guernsey and the UK on the Monday afternoon. The States of Alderney gave all the Officers and Warrant officers and Senior NCO's a Cocktail Party in the Anne French Room at the Island Hall on Friday evening and as is usual with any social occasion on Alderney the liquid hospitality was absolutely magnificent. On Saturday afternoon the Corps Band played a concert for the old folks of Alderney who live in the Jubilee Home which is provided by the States and which takes care of the senior citizens of the island. An old lady who enjoyed every minute of the programme, as did all the others, was telling me a little later in the afternoon how she used to watch her boyfriend marching down behind the band from Fort Albert to church parade every Sunday. When I asked "When was this?", she said, "Oh, before the War, that is before the 1914/18 War". The old people really did appreciate this Band programme, and the setting in the High Street was absolutely ideal, and with the almost perfect weather not only the old folks but over 100 of the islanders gathered around to listen to the Band playing.

On Saturday evening the Regiment gave a Cocktail Party for the islanders and again the Band played. This party went on until 8 p.m. and on its completion our Second-in-Command and his band of well-tried organisers quickly converted the Island Hall into a dance hall for the soldiers' main social event on the island which was the all ranks dance. This was voted by many of the young ladies on the island and most of our soldiers, including that veteran of 5 Alderney trips, **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Marr,** as being the best all ranks dance that they had ever had. All credit must be given to the Jazz Group provided by the Corps Band, and to this writer's mind it seemed more like a visit to Top of the Pops than a dance as people tended to gather round the band and listen avidly as they played all the latest tunes.

On Sunday morning we had our church service which was attended by all Church of England members of the detachment and at which the Corps Band played all the hymn tunes and appropriate music both before and after the service. We are suspicious that the padre **(the Reverend Peter Shaw)** is trying to get a new church built as he always includes 'Onward Christian Soldiers' as the last hymn of the service and all our Christian soldiers did their best to lift the roof off the church with their singing. On Sunday afternoon the Band gave its final concert for the islanders in the Island Hall, and with those gathered outside who could not get in we estimated that about 500 of the inhabitants attended that concert. It was, needless to say, superb, and our Director, **Keith Boulding,** manages to introduce such a flair of showmanship that it becomes more than just a Band Concert.

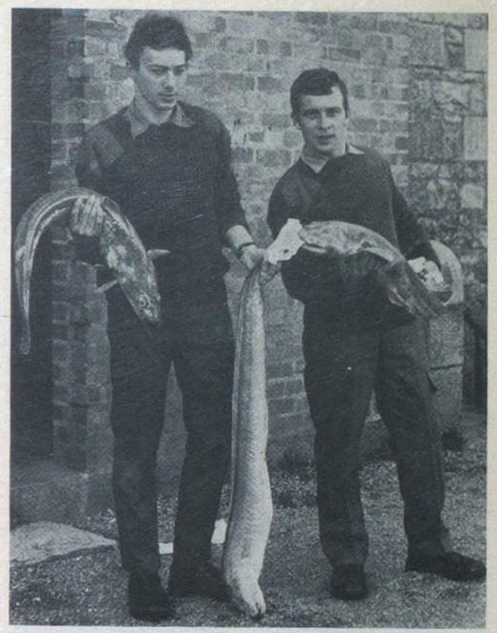
On Saturday morning 12th May our recruiting organisation went into full swing and we gave a 3-hour presentation at the school. It included films, demonstrations of equipment and a discussion with all the schoolchildren in the age bracket 14 to 16. At the Regiment's behest, all the children, including the 4 and 5 year olds, came to the second part of the presentation where **Keith Boulding** and the Band again gave a marvellous concert which he entitled "A young person's guide to the military band".

DRUMMER BOY
A young admirer takes a few drum hints from the Corps Band

We could go on for several more pages describing the enjoyment we all got in the Regiment from what must surely be one of the most interesting training camps one can attend. However, space requires me to draw to a close by saying that we are already negotiating for allocation of Fort Tourgis for next year so that we don't miss out.

A fishy postscript

I couldn't end these WIRE notes without reference to the lack of fishermen we had in this year's WO's and Sergeants' Mess.



NO DOUBT ABOUT THEIR CATCH
Signalmen Dave Wiggin and Graham Blondel of TM Troop prove that brains beat brawn
Left to right: Ling, Conger and Dogfish

However this year we did manage to obtain a photograph of some of the fish caught, without using a micro-lens, and **Signalmen Dave Wiggin** and **Graham Blondel,** both of TM Troop, have been able to prove that brains baffle brawn. The fish that they caught provided one of the alternatives for lunch for the whole of the detachment. **Lieutenant Henry Jennings** of 8 Signal Regiment, please note—every picture tells a story.

News from Squadrons

6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 106

BRIGADE GETS NEW SIGN

NOT just change for changes sake . . . but to bring into the Brigade a sign that symbolises its role.

Old . . .

For that reason the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier D. B. Alexander-Sinclair** made the opening move to obtain a new Brigade sign . . . The old one, the famous crossed bayonet and key surmounted by the figure 6 was really no longer applicable. The symbols represented the infantry by the bayonet and the crossed key was part of 2 Division's insignia, the badge conveyed to all concerned that this formation was the 6th Infantry Brigade in 2 Division.

Nowadays the Brigade is not only in 4 Division, it is an armoured brigade and, therefore, in need of its own badge.

. . . and new

The new badge is a black rhino on a white oval with a blue background. Not only is it symbolic, it is clearly and easily distinguishable from other formation signs. The sign, as chosen by 6 Brigade, has never been a formation sign before, but the animal, the rhino has. There are several instances of cavalry formations in Africa having a rhino for their sign and the 2 Armoured Brigade in Italy adopted the rhino for their sign until July 1946.

A ceremony was called for

To mark this important Brigade occasion, there was a flag lowering and raising ceremony outside the Brigade Headquarters near Soest at precisely 1600 hours on 4th June. As a bugler from the 1st Battalion, the Royal Irish Rangers played the Last Post the old Brigade flag was lowered. In contrast, a bugler from the 2nd Battalion, the Queens Regiment blew as the proud new flag was hoisted.

The youngest, and also, newest arrival to 6 Brigade HQ, Signalman Wilfred Fradgley of the Headquarters Signal Squadron, raises the new Brigade flag as Brigadier D. B. Alexander-Sinclair salutes behind. Standing just behind eighteen and a half year old Wilfred is forty three year old Sergeant Dennis Cufflin who lowered the Brigade's old flag for the last time

Significance

If anyone was wondering why the Rangers played out the old, and the Queens . . . in the new . . . one can only suppose that the Irish are so much better at celebrating 'wakes' than the English are.

Good luck to the Rhino Brigade.

Sailing

For the past two weeks, several members of our Squadron have been learning to sail dinghies on the Mohnesee whilst taking part in courses run at the Mohnesee Sailing Club. The idea was to take two separate courses, each of one week's duration, and to qualify the sailors as 'C' helmsmen by the end of a week. The courses were run by **Captain Mike Keohane,** RCT, assisted by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Blair Smart.**

Throughout the first week the sun shone brightly and we were treated to an ideal breeze for sailing. Perfect sailing weather. On the Friday the students raced against each other in a series of races to show off their prowess. However, this being the first time any of them had ever raced, the first race was more of a procession than a race. However, they soon got the hang of things and by the afternoon some very creditable performances were being turned out as they raced in company with a course from 22 Signal Regiment. We were pleased that all of the students from the Squadron, plus the two 'guests' from 4 Field Ambulance RAMC were able to qualify as 'C' helmsmen by the end of the week. A mention should also be made of the fine performance during the racing events of **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Dick Colley, Corporal Ray King** and **Signalman Ian Davis.**

We were not so fortunate with weather conditions on the second week as there was very little wind and by the Friday we felt unable to test anyone on a day when there was absolutely no wind at all! Instead, the instructors took the students out on to the water to demonstrate the 'finer points of sailing' or, how to make a boat move where apparently no wind exists. And, as **Sergeant Tim Squire** remarked later, "It was quite an eye-opener!" It was decided to test the students at a later date and, fortuitously, Saturday morning produced a fine, stiff breeze—the one we had been waiting for all week—and **Staff Sergeant Smart** took two of the students through their paces and qualified them.

All in all, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it is hoped that a new activity has been added to their list of interests.

Summer camp '73

Between the 21st May and 8th June we held our summer camp '73 just outside the village of Dodenau, on the banks of the River Eder, in the Sauerland. After having just completed an intensive and successful spring training programme it proved to be a pleasant change and very relaxing.

The hospitality of the local villagers was excellent and as often happens, challenges to games of football and a shooting match resulted. Unfortunately, we were well beaten on all counts. The social activity afterwards, however, took away, some say drowned, the task of defeat although we don't think anyone really worried a great deal about the results.

In between fostering Anglo-German relations the happy campers participated in various activities such as canoeing on the River Eder, orienteering, initiative tests and the dreaded 45 kilometer walk.

The canoeing provided many thrills and spills. It was surprising how many who considered themselves experts finished upside down while some newcomers proved quite efficient.

The 45 kilometre walk proved the most unpopular feature of the camp. It was combined with a map reading exercise and lasted two days, the night being spent in bivouacs at the half-way stage. It took place through an area of beautiful countryside but it is felt that the participants did not stop to admire it. There were a few sore feet but, once completed, it was considered a task well done.

Corporal Ron Allen found time apparently to stop and tickle a trout he spotted in a stream en route. But the all-seeing eyes of the forestmeister, aided by his binoculars, whilst on a nearby hill, spotted him. **Corporal Allen** was later summarily fined one glass of beer by the forestmeister who had expressed a desire to meet the first man he had seen successfully tickle a trout.

Sergeant Dennis Cufflin proved a very able fisherman by catching a total of 40 fish during his stay at the camp. This included chub, roach and pike, though according to the locals no pike existed in the river. The Squadron Commander, **Major Peter Goldney,** was invited by the Headmaster of the local school to go fishing. He returned extremely shocked at the methods of his host but had the satisfaction of catching two trout to his host's one.

The initiative tests always seemed to involve water—the participants, ergo, tended to get wet. Especially **Sergeant Jim Menzies** who was a little slow dodging and was thrown into the Eder by his section—for what crime we know not.

Orienteering provided opportunities for friendly banter and leg pulling between teams. Not many finished the course in under three hours due to getting lost in the tracks in the forests.

Mention must be made of the instructors who did a grand job. **Sergeant John Rolfe** (Orienteering), **Corporal Graham Twisse** (Canoeing) and **Sergeant Pete Barlow** (Trekking). **Pete** actually completed the two-day walk in one day much to the chagrin of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Derek Allen,** because by arriving before tea-time **Pete** won free beer from **Derek.** Lastly, the whole camp was organised and run in a very efficient manner mainly due to efforts of **Y. of S. Allen.** The success of the camp speaks volumes for the quality of his efforts.

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 37

THE Squadron has now successfully completed the CPX season with Exercises 'Morning Glory', 'Flying Falcon', 'Double Stretch' and 'Hurst Park'. The distinguished visitors on 'Flying Falcon' included the Chief Scientist Army, accompanied by the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** and the CSO BAOR, **Major-General H. E. Roper.** The Squadron experienced some unexpected bad weather with driving snow and gale force winds, and this was in early April. In order to get out of one location, a 432 had to be used as a bulldozer to move fallen trees in order to get the wheels out along a track.

After Easter the Squadron went out immediately on Exercise 'Hurst Park', a Divisional CPX. We were blessed on this exercise, however, by better weather. On this exercise the Brigade Headquarters was visited by the C-in-C BAOR, **General Sir Harry Tuzo, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** who was shown round the Headquarters in the field by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier I. H. Baker, M.B.E.** and **Major J. O. C. Alexander,** the Squadron Commander.

On 8th May the Squadron was duly represented at the Brigade athletics meeting and as usual, walked off with the minor units

'CAMS' GOOD—THERE IS A 432 BEHIND THEM

Signalman McEntyre, Staff Sergeant Dave Gwinnell and Second-Lieutenant Phillip McDoull pose outside their communications control vehicle during an exercise

Sergeant John Wooley receiving the Brigade athletics shield from Brigadier H. Baker, M.B.E., Commander 7 Armoured Brigade

winners shield. Our star athletes were **Corporal Mogg,** who won the 800 metres, **Corporal Kite,** who won the 200 metres, **Sergeant Woolley,** who won the high jump, **Corporal Waghorn,** REME who won the javelin and **Corporal Kelly,** who won the shot, the Squadron also won the 4 W 100 metres relay.

Other events in May included half the Squadron going to Todendorf on the Baltic coast to practise their low level air defence skills shooting at target aircraft, sailing on the Baltic, and Exercise 'Queen's Patrol'.

Exercise 'Queen's Patrol' was an internal security exercise to give the Queen's Own Hussars some realistic training before going onto the streets of Belfast. The Squadron set up a full scale Tactical Brigade HQ in Hohne Camp, complete with sangars, sand bags and barbed wire.

11th Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 29

THE time 0830 hours, Monday, 4th June. The place—the OC's office.

OC. "I haven't seen any articles from the Squadron in THE WIRE recently.

Second-in-Command. "Well, we haven't been in Minden much since January, and when we are we seem to be in so much of a rush that WIRE contributions have had a low priority."

OC. "Priorities have changed. I want to see us sending in regular contributions. We've had plenty of exercises, inspections and visits to talk about".

Second-in-Command. "Sorry, can't do that. The editorial in the May/June issue asks us not to". (Which proves he at least reads THE WIRE.)

OC. "Good point! We'll have to talk about that routine day the editor was on about. Trouble is we don't have routine days. I can't remember when we had two days in a row that were anything alike. By the way, whose turn is it to write the notes this time"?

Second-in-Command. "It should be Bravo Troop but they are off to the Summer Sales site to lay in the lines".

OC. "Of course, and Alpha Troop are up to their eyeballs getting the comms kit read. MT and 'Q' Troops are spread between here and the Dutch border, so you know who is left don't you"!

Second-in-Command. "Yes sir. I'll start writing straight away".

The OC then goes to a conference in Brigade HQ. Ten minutes later—the scene changes to the Second-in-Command's office.

Second-in-Command. "Its amazing how everybody has vanished now that the word has got out that WIRE notes have to be written".

Training Yeoman. "Yes sir. The Comms Officer has been called suddenly to Corps to talk about Summer Sales. The Adjutant doesn't count because he's not in Signals and anyway he's got to sort out the problem of the moles in the Officers' Mess lawn. The QM's sorting out the arrival of the new single soldier's furniture. The RSM's arranging the Wives Club barbecue, and I've got to rush now as the Corporal's Mess bar stock has to be checked today. I'll leave you in peace, but why don't you write about all the exercises we've done recently".

The training Yeoman leaves just as the PRI adding machine hurtles across the room. It's just as well that the Second-in-Command's aim is poor as training Yeomen are hard to get.

1030 hours—The Chief Clerk's voice is heard in the corridor. The Second-in-Command rushes out, falling over his dog on the way.

Chief. "Really sir, just look at the mess you've made of my highly polished floors".

Second-in-Command. "Sorry about that Chief but I need help. I've got to write the WIRE notes but what on earth can I say? I've been looking at a blank piece of paper for the last hour and a half".

Chief. "Tell them about the exercises we've just done. Now if you'll excuse me, the stationery we've been waiting for for months has just arrived and I want to see it safely locked away".

1228 hours—back in the Second-in-Command's office. The Second-in-Command has just had a flash of brilliance and is about to write THE WIRE notes. The phone rings.

Operator. "Are you Minden 479—I have a call for you".

The line crackles, splutters and goes dead—30 seconds pass—the Second-in-Command is patiently holding the phone to his ear.

Operator. "Have you finished your call?"

Second-in-Command (keeping cool). "I haven't even been connected yet".

Operator. "What number were you calling?"

Second-in-Command (even Second-in-Commands get hot under the collar). "You called me. I don't want to talk to anyone. I just want to write an article for my Corps magazine".

Operator. "Why don't you tell them about all your exercises. You must have been on a lot because we can never get anyone in 11 Brigade. Good morning!"

By this time the Second-in-Command has forgotten his flash of brilliance. He throws down his pen and goes to lunch.

1400 hours—the Second-in-Command is just returning to his office when he sees a Troop Commander in the distance.

Second-in-Command. "Peter, how about some ideas for THE WIRE notes".

Troop Commander. "No problem. I'll write them for you. Can't do it today but I'll let you have a draft by tomorrow evening".

The Second-in-Command breathes a huge sigh of relief and happily goes about his lawful business of central bank, PRI and Officer i/c canteen for Exercise 'Summer Sales'.

1640 hours Tuesday, 5th June—the Second-in-Command's office.

Troop Commander. "Here are THE WIRE notes. I've written a full account of all the exercises we've had since January".

The Second-in-Command faints!

0830 hours Wednesday, 6th June—the OC's office.

OC. "We've got a pretty full few days ahead of us. Today I want you to talk to a journalist about what you think of the Army. That should take some time! Tomorrow we've got the Morrison Cup athletics and then on Friday we start the long weekend. Thank heavens for that, I need the rest. Its a good thing you've written THE WIRE notes because the deadline is the 10th and we'll still be on the long weekend then".

Second-in-Command. (Says nothing—just quietly slips out).

BAOR.....?

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12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 36

MAY has been quite a military month. The CPX season managed to occupy the first half of the month fully, and we are confident the 12 'Clockwork' Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron are the same efficient fighting force that they always have been.

Exercise 'Rhine Express'—out to beat a canoeing record

Some years ago an RAF Sergeant (whose name is lost in history) canoed down the Rhine from Chur, in Switzerland, to Wilhelmstadt in the Netherlands—i.e. the entire navigable length of the river, 1,315 Kilometres. He did the trip in 17½ days. This record is being challenged by a team from this unit.

Three crews, led and trained by **Sergeant Tony Ashton,** REME (our 432 expert from the LAD) started from Chur on 1st June and aim to do the distance in only 16 days. As we go to press, they are up to schedule, and have covered some 400 kilometres.

The crew are: **Sergeant Ashton** with **Craftsman Mick Ikin** (both from the LAD); **Corporal Trev Richards,** QLR (NBC Section) with **Corporal Alan Rippon** (Bravo Troop); and **Corporal Keith Westmancott,** RAOC (Brigade HQ) with **Signalmen Barry, McMillan** (Bravo Troop).

Wait for next month's edition, with the latest headlines.

The lance competition

The winter sports season closed formally with the presentation of the winter lance to Alpha Troop. The winter lance is presented by the Officer Commanding, **Major Mike Marples,** to the troop which wins a competition in both sorts of football, hockey and an assault course time trial.

We now start the battle for the summer lance! Bravo Troop have taken the lead by winning the Inter-Troop athletics. It remains to be seen if they will keep it.

Signalman Robinson receives the Winter Lance from Major M. Marples on behalf of Alpha Troop

Tallest lineman competition—a challenge to 603 Troop?

We note that 603 Signal Troop claim to own the tallest lineman in the Corps but they have not mentioned his height. We believe that **Signalman 'Lofty' Hatton,** who at 6′ 8″ has been known to hang skyhooks on gutters without help of poles or ladders, is a strong contender for the 'Tallest Lineman' title. Any takers?

A team from the Squadron win 2 Divisional Kiel regatta

Once again the intrepid crew from the Squadron set off for Kiel, this time to take part in the 2 Division Regatta from 2nd-5th June. On arrival they were pleased to discover they had drawn a Dan boat, Goosander, as this was the same class as they had been successful in last year in the Corps Regatta.

Who were 'they'? **Signalman Pete Clunie, Lance-Corporal Steve Hurst,** the mate—**Corporal Dave Stanley,** who had just passed his 'Skipper 35' rating, and **Lieutenant Nigel Pullman.** Indeed the same quartet whose exploits in Denmark have been reported before in this column.

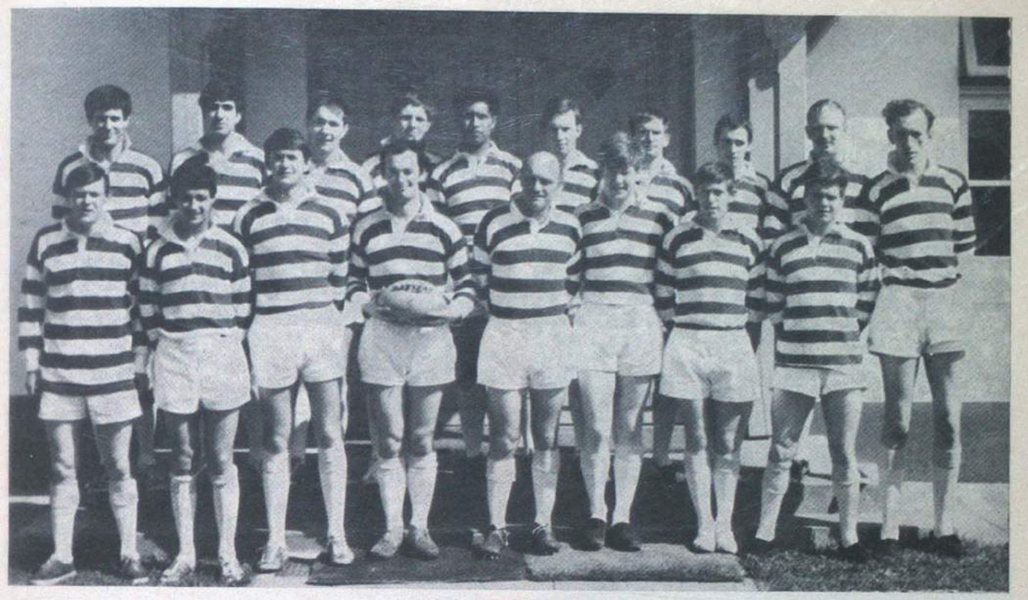
The weather on the first day was gloomy and wet, with a forecast of strong gusting winds. Sadly therefore the committee made the wise decision to restrict racing to the fjord that day. This turned out to be good news for our crew, who, after a good start, led the fleet the whole way round.

Any early start on Sunday morning meant reveille at 0330! Whoever knows how many 'bells' that is, or was it 'bells' you said, **Steve?** Anyway it was a lovely day, sun and wind and we set off completely for Aeroskobing in Denmark. **Dave Stanley's** skill in trimming the sails was one of the chief factors that ensured further success. So it was a happy crew that set off to find the night life in this pretty, but sleepy little part. There was none, still we found Irene—but that is another story!

The next leg took us to Sonderberg where we arrived second. This town was more lively, and there was virtually no competition from the other crews who all went to bed. Indeed the only other crew we saw after midnight were our neighbours from 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. We finally found our way back to the boat in time to get a couple of hours kip before yet another early start, this time headed for home.

Despite the fact that we all felt rather the worse for wear we had a good race, once again coming second. But our 2 firsts and 2 seconds were good enough to give us first overall, and so it was a tired but happy crew that finally crossed the final line with **Pete Clunie** at the helm.

Our next report from Copenhagen!



SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY TEAMS

Front row (left to right): Lance-Corporal Kerr, Signalman Hennon, Corporal Hilton (REME), Captain Hawkins (Royal Anglian), Padre Preston, Lance-Corporal Johnson, Corporal Parkinson, Sergeant Thomas

Back row (left to right): Corporal Proudfoot (REME), Lance-Corporal Duncan (REME), Signalman Clunie, Corporal Blackburn, Sergeant Matakitoga (RAOC), Signalman Williams, Lance-Corporal Bird, Corporal Karbaneck (ACC), Lance-Corporal McDonald, Signalman Hatton

Second Division seven-a-side rugby

A team from the Squadron gallantly entered the 2 Division 7-a-side Rugby held in our barracks on the weekend of 5th/6th May. Their sterling efforts brought them to the semi-finals thus justifying all their training under **Captain Willy Hawkins,** Royal Anglians, but there they met their match.

Departures

This month we lose **F. of S. Bob Scriven,** who is posted to the 'land of apes and peacocks' at the other end of the mediterranean after years with the unit. He is not to be replaced so **Foreman 'Taff' Hope** is being left with a big job on hand. Good luck to them both.

Faraway Places! Unusual Job!

Why not send us your Story?

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 41

MAY has been 'Training Month' for most of the Squadron, combat suits being changed for track suits in preparation for the swimming and athletics season which is now upon us.

The Inter Troop athletic meeting held on Hobart Barracks airfield in the hope of finding hidden talent was a successful day, especially for **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Dobson** who won the 100 metres, 200 metres, javelin and also a long weekend into the bargain!

The 4 Division athletics meeting on the 26th May was a useful warm up for the Morrison Cup. The Squadron qualified for the BAOR Minor Units athletics meeting together with 4 Division Aviation Regiment. The 4 × 100 metres team—**Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Dobson, Corporal 'Jock' Inglis, Sergeant Terry Becket** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Thomas** broke the 4 Division Minor Units record for this event. In addition **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Dobson** (yet again!) broke the Minor Units 200 metres record and **Staff Sergeant George Stubbings** broke the shot record.

The Angling Club

The four members of the Club, photographed with **Brigadier Bob Coleman** presenting the cup for the BAOR Championships, have firmly established angling in the Squadron. In addition, **Corporal Floyd** had an individual win at the same match on the Gaheyee, near to Sennelager.

BAOR CHAMPION ANGLERS

Brigadier Coleman presents the cup to (*left to right*) Corporal Dave Gratewood (9/12 Lancers), Corporal 'Bluey' Floyd, Corporal Tim Haynes and Corporal Ray West

Detmold Open Day

This year's Open Day took place on Saturday, 17th May in bright sunshine on Hobart Barracks airfield. It included static displays from 20 Armoured Brigade units and an afternoon's flying display by American and German helicopters. The display was rounded off by the Army Air Corps 'Blue Eagles' team who gave a brilliant performance of precision flying and 'aerobatics'.

Squadron events

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Beynon,** on the recent addition to his family and also to **Sergeant Gregory** on his promotion to Sergeant. Farewell to **Signalman Bill Henderson** who is off to 30 Signal Regiment and **Sergeant Eric Rose** to RMA Sandhurst.

We welcome **Lance-Corporal Barrington** and **Signalman 'Taff' Thomas** and hope that their stay with us will be both interesting and enjoyable.

248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 1

Coming and going

SINCE our last notes were written a number of changes have occurred in the ranks of the 12 British personnel of the Squadron.

Corporal Jewitt terminated his tour in Brunei to continue his studies on a T1 course in Catterick and **Staff Sergeant George Foggo** side-stepped to 48 Gurkha Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron on promotion to RQMS. We extend our thanks, congratulations and best wishes to them both.

A side step in the other direction saw the arrival of **Lieutenant John Davies** from 48 Brigade. Having said farewell to one **Maloney** in our last notes we said hail to another in the form of **Staff Sergeant George Maloney** who is the second SQMS to have been posted to us from 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. We will be happy to accept other offsprings from this stable. Talking of offsprings; the wife of **Sergeant Barry Weld-Richards** recently presented him with a bouncing baby daughter. **Sergeant W-R,** his wife and daughter are all progressing satisfactorily. **Corporal Alan Hooley** showed his face in Hong Kong for a few days before going to Brunei where he was joined by his wife. We hope that everyone has an enjoyable and successful tour in the Squadron.

To-ing and fro-ing

Whilst the above postings and arrivals were taking place other UK personnel were 'doing their thing' in various parts of the globe. **Captain Danny Fisher** returned from a Warminster course to take over as OC whilst **Major Ron Fletcher** spent five weeks on duty in Nepal. There he met **Captain David Howie,** RAEC finishing a short trek in the hills and just missed **Colonel Bob Benbow** who was carrying out a lightning trek visiting all the serving and retired members of Gurkha Signals in Nepal. Other Gurkha Signallers in Nepal at the time included **Major Peter Riddlington** on one of his frequent trips, **Captain Roger Willsher** the hard-worked Staff Captain at Dharan and **Staff Sergeant 'Robby' Robertson** who is still enjoying life there and has been granted yet another tour. **Sergeant Alf Gorham** our man in Brunei has also extended for a further tour.

If there are any single Data Telegraphists (Cipher) or TE Technicians who would like an unusual job in a far away place about 1976—apply now.

Alphabet soup

Our PRE/UEI was successful and was closely followed by an overnight IS exercise and a CRW exercise which involved the use of a variety of transport including MFVs from the RN, LCM and RPLs of the RCT, and helicopters provided by the RAF. Ten days after the CRW exercise we had our FFR inspection carried out by **Brigadier P. J. A. Sibbald, O.B.E.,** the Commander of 51 Infantry Brigade. Our results were A1.

Exercise 'Highlights'

The CRW exercise entailed the move of a complete brigade and an enemy force to Lantau Island. Eight rebroadcast stations were heli-lifted to a number of high spots before the exercise began and **Captain Richard Anderson** was volunteered to look after them. This should have been a pleasant break for him with many opportunities for admiring the views and getting a sun tan, but we reckoned without the weather! Throughout the duration of the exercise rain fell heavily, thunderstorms occurred regularly, visibility on the mountain tops was down to a few yards and helicopters were grounded most of the time.

Conditions on the rebros were 'difficult'. Poncho-cape shelters were secured by boulders against a wind which was strong enough to blow down **Major Ron** who was carrying out a rum resupply on foot. Mules were also used to get supplies to the mountain top and one mule was unfortunately killed in the attempt.

Due to continuing bad weather it was impossible to recover all stations by helicopter. **Lieutenant John Davis** mindful of all the kit he had signed for and assisted by his detachment managed to manpack most of a C42 rebroadcast station down to the boats for evacuation. After four aborted helicopter missions all available manpower was loaded onto an RPL and sailed to the island where the last of the equipment was recovered by manpack, seven days after the official end of exercise!

261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

History

THE history of the Squadron dates back to July, 1941 and 4th Air Formation Signal Regiment which was given the responsibility of providing ground communications for the Middle East Air Force. In January, 1969 under the RISTACOMM proposals the Squadron emerged in its present role to support the Near East Air Force under operational control of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

Role

The Squadron provides all static line communications for the Near East Air Force within Cyprus where they cannot be provided by CYTA (Cyprus Telecommunications Authority). This includes landline circuits for all operational, and some administrative telephones, radio relay tails, and keying lines for radio and telegraph circuits.

Organisation

The Squadron consists of 6 Officers and 131 soldiers. Our Headquarters is at Episkopi in the South West of the island and we have troops at Episkopi, Akrotiri, Nicosia and Troodos. These troops are responsible for the day to day running and maintenance within their areas.

Besides this we have a project troop responsible for the installation of new projects. Thrown in for good measure the Squadron also 'parents' 603 Signal Troop.

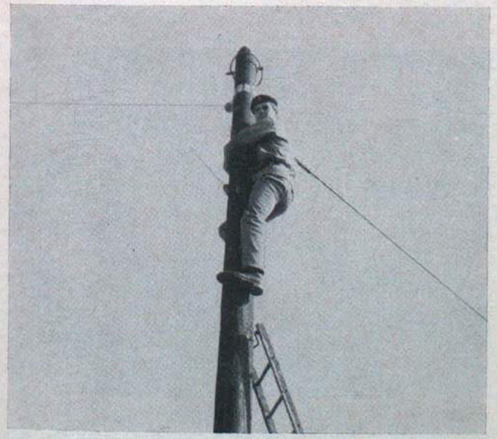
Communications and Equipment

The major element of the Squadron's task centres around the provision of telephone facilities. There are three main telephone exchanges, a 1,000 line non director which is currently being expanded by 200 lines, a combination of 400 and 500 line PABX No. 3 at present being moved to new accommodation and increased to 1,400 lines and a 100 line PABX No. 3. In addition there are a number of smaller CB (10 + 50) exchanges at various RAF Stations. This results in the provision maintenance and repair of some 4,500 telephone instruments of various types and the associated lines and cables.

The Squadron also installs, maintains and repairs terminal equipments provided from RAF sources, covering intercomms, telebrief AD 3950 and overdown RT control.

Current projects

The Squadron is currently involved in major projects such as rationalisation of cable systems and the installation of an AD 3950.



Lance-Corporal May on P.L. work

Jointer's Platform

Sport

Although the Squadron is split up we manage to participate in a number of sports including football, rugby, cricket and hockey.

We are presently engaged in the CO's Cup competition involving 22 teams with 16 sports varying from table tennis to rugby and an inter troop bi-monthly competition comprising of 261 Signal Squadron and 259 Signal Squadron.

In addition we have a good rally club and play friendly matches in the popular sports.

644 Signal Troop H.Q. UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 567

Co-operation

THE theme of this month's contribution to THE WIRE is inter contingent co-operation featuring our out detachments. We have three out detachments which we share with our Canadian counterparts. Two of the detachments are wholly Canadian manned. They operate the rear links from the Danish and Swedish contingents. This is because of the language problem. The third detachment comprises two British and two Canadians and sits adjacent to Mount Olympus in the Troodos range. The Detachment Commander is **Corporal Any Paillé,** Royal Canadian Signals and his Second-in-Command is **Lance-Corporal Phil Binns** and their helpers are **Private Brian Brown,** Royal Canadian Signals and **Signalman Steve Coxe.** Life for them is like one long mountain retreat holiday! However their job is a vital one for they rebroadcast the VHF Command Net and act as a relay for the Motorola net.

These detachments are part of the radio section of the troop under the guiding hand of **Lieutenant Martin Stone** recently arrived from 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, but already initiated in the rites of rover rallying and mast climbing, and **Sergeant 'Ricky' Arscott** soon to return to the homeland. This section has the challenging task of close co-operation with the other contingents which at times can prove quite frustrating—I don't think we've achieved an 'All Stations' call yet—and at other times quite a sweat as was experienced recently in the sauna at the Finnish contingent's camp on top of the Kyrenia mountain ridge. Some such as big **Corporal 'Herby' Elhorn,** Royal Canadian Signals received more benefit from this treatment than others. **Lance-Corporal Dave Butler** declined the offer although other were quick to reassure him that it was excellent for sunburn.

Co-operation is the theme of all radio sections tasks and this has been greatly eased by the verbal efforts of **Sergeant 'Ricky' Arscott.** Although at times the entente cordiale he has fostered is really stretched, as was the case when the Irish contingents came to move to a new camp, with remarks such as ". . . sure you can borrow my avo. Have you any batteries for it?" and "I don't know what I'm going to do about the 250V in the new camp. It's playing havoc with the bulbs of my projector".

Take-over bid

The Troop at the moment is in the throes of being temporarily taken over person by person by 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. 30 Signal Regiment have been granted respite from the 'chore' to take on the responsibility of Exercise 'Nishan'. We would like to welcome the new arrivals from 3 Division. Some are already well ensconced in their duties. Reputations continue to follow persons from theatre to theatre, and **Lance-Corporal Dave Taylor** is no exception. He managed a 'pick up' on his second day here and that whilst on exercise too. Admittedly the exercise was based on the beach at Kyrenia. She's even reputed to be good looking, too!

The technicians have not escaped the merger. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) George Clark** has just taken over from **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Mike Pittock.** Already **Foreman Clark** is trying to convince the OC that the Swedish Contingent camp at Famagusta is the best place for his workshops. Even the Comcen has had a rush of blood at the sight of such personalities as **Lance-Corporal 'Smudge' Smith** who has forsaken his clerk's seat for the chariots of SDS.

Hullo-hullo, goodbye-goodbye

Radio section are sad to see **Lieutenant Nigel Fairley** go. Cries of "the cage, duty beast" are no longer heard and the loss of the occasional early morning spectacular has left a gap in the entertainment of the troop's programme.

Finally we would like to welcome **Captain Richard Smith** and his wife **Trudy. Captain Smith** has just arrived to take over as OC having spent an exhausting time as a watch keeper for HQ 39 Infantry Brigade. This means of course **Captain Dick Stokes** and his wife **Anne** are leaving. We wish them and their son **Tim** every success for the future and thank them for all that they have contributed to the troop over the past year.

Imperial War Museum

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMME

In the Imperial War Museum there is a Department of Sound Records, which is a National Archive which collects, preserves and makes available recordings which have a bearing on the understanding of warfare in the 20th century.

As the next major project in the Imperial War Museum's sound recording programme, it is proposed to interview men and women who served on the Western Front during the First World War, and to record their reminiscences of those years for permanent preervation in the Museum's Sound Archives.

The purpose is to build up a sound record of all aspects of life on the Western Front in the voices of people who served there between 1914 and 1918. It is the aim to achieve a reasonable balance as between officers, N.C.O.s and junior ranks.

If you would like to take part in this programme, or would like to discuss it further with the Imperial War Museum, please write to the Editor *The Wire.*

The WIRE—

Without it—

You're not With it!

Lance-Corporal Dave Butler (*right*) admires a Swedish radio being put through its paces by a Swedish operator

"ALL SYSTEMS GO!"
Private Brian Brown (Royal Canadian Signals) and Lance-Corporal Phil Binns (Royal Signals) on shift in the Troodos Radio Room

"HAVE YOU 'FINNISHED'!"
Signalman Morris Armitage watches a Finnish telephone operator at work

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

Exercise 'Shot Two'

THE task set for this Regiment in Exercise 'Shot Two' was a very testing one and which required considerable preparation and planning.

Our task covered a large area of the United Kingdom from Troon in Scotland down to the Manchester area and including the Isle of Man over which we were to communicate. Deploying a Volunteer Regiment into these locations during a weekend training exercise posed no mean problem bearing in mind the Volunteers had to be back at work on Monday morning in Northern Ireland.

The Training Major **(Major Mike Adams)** and the Yeoman **(Staff Sergeant Alan Winstanley)** carried out a detailed recce of all our proposed sites in January of this year. Each communicating Squadron of the Regiment, 66 (City of Belfast) Signal Squadron Commanded by **Major 'Bunny' Scott** and 85 (Ulster) Signal Squadron Commanded by **Major Jim Brown,** carried out full rehearsals of their tasks on the last two weekends in March respectively.

Major Dick Chappel, the Admin Officer and **Agnes (Miss McLoughlin** to some) made all the travel arrangements for the rehearsals and the exercise and with the assistance of the RNVR minesweeper HMS *Kilmorey*, the AA Regiments' Beavers and helicopters achieved complete success.

74 Engineer Regiment (V) from Belfast carried out a road building scheme for us to provide access to Relay 2 at Beneraird. Without this assistance Relay 2 would not have made it but still we needed sand channels and hours and hours of digging out of bogged in vehicles on this feature. The CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Len Rogers,** helped the score along here during his own recce.

The Civil Aviation Authority provided us with the use of their diesel locomotive to move our detachment to the top of Snae Fell and the services of **Mr. Joe Westwell,** who was an excellent host to our men in the Isle of Man.

The deployment in Northern Ireland was covered by the local security forces, 3 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron providing a link on their command net from our Comcen Q at Portaferry. The telephone line to our Relay Station at Slieve Croob was frequently cut by we know not 'whom'.

32 Signal Regiment (V) providing Gateway 3 at Troon looked after our RR terminal there and gave admirable assistance with our HF detachment as well.

33 Signal Regiment (V) who set up Comcen X at Cowpe Moss were more than helpful to our detachments in their location and excellent liaison was established quickly with both Regiments.

Our most grateful thanks cannot go unrecorded to **Major Brian Blackwell** who commands 233 (Northern Ireland) Signal Squadron, whose generous assistance with the loan of vast quantities of equipment was invaluable.

Major Teddy Russell commands HQ Squadron of this Regiment and he ensured that administrative support for RHQ was properly provided at Comcen Q. **W.O.2 Brian Appleby,** the RQ, was the mainstay here and praise for his work during all phases of this exercise cannot be too high.

Lessons were learnt during our rehearsals and these mini exercises proved their worth. When the exercise weekend arrived all our equipment and men were in their locations with time to spare, despite the thin numbers at Comcem Q the engineering of the RR chains was easily accomplished and the HF circuits were in very quickly. The speech and telegraph circuits within our part of the whole system were of excellent quality and before the exercise was over circuits were provided from HQ Northern Ireland to Bulford. The circuits from Troon to Cowpe Moss also worked very well.

The Volunteers of the 40th returned home from this splendid exercise full of achievement and pride in their Regiment. Our motto 'Excel with 40th' was proved to be no idle boast.

Our girls took part in this exercise and worked at Troon, Lisburn and Comcen Q. They, too, thoroughly enjoyed their work and our recruits visited Comcen Q which was, like the Slieve Croob Relay, playing soldiers for real. Did 40th establish the first Comcen of its type where defence was not an exercise problem but an operational necessity?

Nearly the last word from us must be about 'TM' Troop (**Lieutenant David Baxter,** our TOT and **Foreman Staff Sergeant Keith Eustace**) whose team worked for many days and nights on getting the equipment up to spec. All of the equipment worked all of the time, enough said! Syscon and Sigs Ops had no problems. **Captain Tom Adams** and **Major Bill Surgeon** were in charge there, "didn't they do well"?

The Sunday was SLR and Sub-machine gun and here most of the Regimental team took part, putting up a good show on behalf of the Regiment. To all concerned a very well done, and let's show them next year what we can do when we have more practice.

Sergeants' Mess

On the 4th May we dined out **R.S.M. Dave Jones** on his departure not only from the Regiment but sadly from the Army on completion of some 23 years Service.

Both he and his wife **Margaret,** will be sadly missed both in the Sergeants' Mess and in all other social activities in the Regiment. We would like to take this opportunity to wish both **Dave** and **Margaret** and their family all the best in civilian life and ask them to remember us occasionally.

FAREWELL PRESENTATION TO R.S.M. DAVE JONES
New R.S.M. Terry Cushen (left) looks on

Northern Ireland Skill at Arms Meeting

Here for the first time the WRAC from 40 Signal Regiment (V) competed in the competition. Although they did not win any prizes, the boys all agreed that they did a lot of morale boosting. **Sergeant Atherton** was the only member of the men's team to collect any silver, coming second in the pistol competition. As a team we have not had much chance to practice due to the shortage of range space and allocations here in Northern Ireland, but the team in no way disgraced itself and this was a good indication of what the team will be capable of at Bisley 1973.

Ulster Rifle Association Meeting

This was a much more relaxed shoot, with the Saturday being donated entirely to Target Shooting. There were three competitions held, the main one being the Irish Open Championship. We entered a team of five, none of whom has had much experience, and were pleased when **Second-Lieutenant Mercer** came second in the Royal Ulster Rifles Cup, and twelfth in the Open Championship with a score of 137, from shoots at 200, 500 and 600 yards.

Arrivals and Departures

We welcome the following to the Regiment, **R.S.M. Terry Cushen** and our new Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Ted Bird.** We hope they will have a happy tour with 40th. We also say farewell to **Sergeant Iain Smith** who leaves us for civilian life amongst the tourists visiting bonny Scotland.

33 Sig Regt (V), Huyton

Exercise 'Shot Two' — Regiment deploys with success

THE first hours of Annual Camp at Scarborough are not the best moments to choose to write a few notes for THE WIRE, especially when, as usual, they should have been completed many weeks ago! Nevertheless it would be unfortunate to leave unrecorded some mention of the Regiment's participation in what turned out to be a UK-wide communications tour-de-force during the last weekend in April involving nearly all the Royal Signals Volunteer Units.

Anything you can do, we can do . . . too? 80 Squadron at Sutton Common in the Peak District

Two Commcens were deployed, one north of Manchester provided by 42 (Manchester) Squadron (V) and the other on Cannock Chase provided by 59 (Liverpool) Squadron (V). The Commhead Troops from both Squadrons supported District and other Headquarters in conjunction with the Terminal Troop from 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. This Squadron's main task was the establishment of the inter-commcen circuits and the necessary relay sites. Meanwhile HQ (Huyton) Squadron set up the Regimental Echelon at Swynnerton Camp and prepared to provide the normal repair and recovery effort which, in the event needed to be used very little.

In the main the communications were established on time and remained throughout despite some manning difficulties. The necessity to get as many elements into position during the Friday evening had been well appreciated but for many Volunteers it is by no means easy to leave work in time. Those who were able to do so were sufficient to make a significant start to the exercise early on the Saturday morning, which, certainly at 42 Squadron, was rather critical as they were visited at 1115 by the ACDS Signals, **Rear Admiral Sir Peter Anson, Bt.,** and six other distinguished service and civilian visitors! Since the visitors were required to grind slowly up an extremely bumpy track in a minibus for about 20 minutes to get to the Commcen, it was gratifying that they seemed to enjoy what they saw with such evident interest!

At 59 Squadron we were delighted to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** who spent an hour or so talking to the soldiers and WRAC Volunteers. When he asked one of the two linemen who had managed to turn out on the Friday evening how much line he had laid, the General was most amused to be told, "All of it, Sir", in a tone of voice which spoke volumes!

Without doubt the successful outcome of the exercise was ample justification for the many long hours put in by those who turned the plans into reality and those whose preliminary trials on wet and windy hills in February and March contributed so much to the final result.

The inevitable chores! Signalman Marshall, 42nd Squadron gets stuck in

34 Sig Regt (V) Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

Exercise 'Shot Two'

IN common with all other Volunteer Signal Regiments we were involved in Exercise 'Shot Two' during the weekend 28th-29th April, 1973. The Exercise gave us an excellent opportunity to put into practice the trade training we have done during our last Annual Camp, and it was no surprise to us that we were able to cope with a complicated Signals task with complete success. In fact most of our part of the system was 'through' by midnight of the day we deployed.

During the Exercise we had many VIP visitors, including our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Olds** fresh from 22 Signal Regiment. This was our first opportunity to show him that we are really soldiers and can communicate.

Ski-ing

Once again we managed to book the Army ski hut near Aviemore for the Regiment, and the following notes on the visit were written by **Corporal Yvonne Swinney,** WRAC, a 'learner' from 49 Squadron in Hull.

A party of 23 from the 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V) spent Easter at the Rothiemurchus Hut in Aviemore. Ski-ing was to be the main feature of the weekend but on arrival we were dismayed to find that there was not sufficient snow for this. Overnight this problem was solved, and another created, as a blizzard blew up and the road to the ski slopes was blocked. Due to this our day was spent visiting an Exhibition of 'Early Man in the Highlands' and trying our skills at the various other sports offered at Aviemore, swimming, ice-skating, drinking, etc. The following day snow conditions were much better and we set off for the ski slopes, going up by chair lift to 3,600 feet. With the sun shining and everyone in high spirits we donned our skis and spent a very memorable and eventful day on, and in, the snow. After spending the night at a 'Folk Evening', and teaching the Scots how we hold a party in the North East of England, our final day arrived all too soon. As the opportunity was too good to miss we braved the heavy mist which then encircled the mountain and spent the morning once again on the ski slopes. We are very pleased to learn that our new CO is also a keen skier as we were afraid that these ski-ing trips might stop when our present ski-ing CO left us.

Officers' Mess

During our Regimental Training Weekend, 19th/20th May, we had the opportunity to dine-out **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Stewart** who on the 20th May left the Regiment to become Deputy Commander TAVR North East District. Thanks to **Colonel N. A. Butler** we were allowed to use the Army Apprentice College Harrogate Mess. Among our guests for the evening we were delighted to welcome our Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** and **Colonel N. A. Butler,** Commandant, Army Apprentice College Harrogate.

Stop Press

Our WRAC detachment at Hull are to be congratulated for providing a display at the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday, 2nd June. Out of 200 entries in the show they collected the Special Award. More details next month.

39 Sig Regt (V) London

Exercises Gibraltar, Cyprus, Germany

APRIL and May have again been most successful months for the Regiment. For our main Spring Exercise 'Fulminate' we despatched detachments throughout Europe to Gibraltar, Cyprus and Germany. These detachments consisted not only Royal Signals and WRAC communicating tradesmen and tradeswomen, but also clerks and cooks who became over-night part-time operators in the Communication Centres, and they were most successful in communicating back to UK on low power HF radios.

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith White,** congratulated all participants on their improved standard and efficiency.

To prove that the success on 'Fulminate' was not a fluke of the ionisphere, 4 Squadron, commanded by **Major Mike Upson,** parachuted three weeks later into Cyprus for Exercise 'Advert', and, with the assistance of our WRAC flown into RAF Akrotiri, again carried out a successful HF exercise communicating back to UK.

Star and Garter visit

Former members of the Regiment will well know of our annual event when disabled ex-servicemen are entertained by the members of the Regiment. This year's visit took place on 12th May, when 40 of our friends from three ex-servicemen hospitals joined us in an afternoon of various activities. The microphone was evidently a human magnet and RHQ became a reunion for veterans of Egypt, Mons, Ypres and Marne. 'A long way to Tipperary', 'My old man said follow the van" and hundreds more 'oldies' resounded from Tower Bridge to Kings Cross station. The Regiment, particularly the WRAC element, can feel justly proud of the way they gave these wonderful gentlemen an afternoon to remember— **Sergeant Pauline Quince,** WRAC being outstanding in her efforts to attempt to acquire celebrities to assist us in our entertainment. In a world dominated by pop stars and teeny boppers it was encouraging to hear one ex-gunner of 93 years give a faultless rendering of 'We'll gather lilacs in the spring again'— but oh! the thought of those hangovers afterwards.

Sport

CORPS TEAM AT BOURNEMOUTH HOCKEY FESTIVAL

Back row (left to right): Lieutenant Mike Crane, Captain Patrick Dickinson, Signalman Chris Wooff, Captain Gus Vigurs, Sergeant Mike Weaver, Lieutenant Jim Lawrence (Umpire)

Front row (left to right): Second-Lieutenant 'Paddy' Crowley, Major Jim McLuckie, Sergeant Lennie Rowland-Jones, Major John Higton, W.O.I 'Mac' McMahon, Lieutenant Brian Chubb

They won three matches — and lost three

4 GUARDS ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON HOCKEY TEAM
BAOR Minor Unit Champions, 2 Division Minor Unit Champions, 2 Division Six-a-side Champions
Standing (left to right): W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Hazelgrove, Sergeant Diaper, Corporal Chenery, Lance-Corporal Kerr, Lance-Corporal Lamb, Sergeant Tatnall, Sergeant Raybould
Sitting (left to right): Captain Hope-Gregory, Major Moss, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Meekings, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Nicholas, Signalman Waugh

Corps Cricket

Royal Signals v. Royal Corps of Transport

The match was played at Buller Barracks, Aldershot on 29th May, 1973. Weather conditions were unsettled and rain interrupted play on one occasion.

RCT—202 for 7 wickets declared. (Manton 2 for 38, Stanbridge 2 for 47).

Royal Signals—203 for 8 wickets. (Coltman 96, Parrish 37, Baldwin 25, Manton 24.

Result—Royal Signals won by 2 wickets.

The Corps team was as follows:

Captain J. Radford (School of Signals), **Captain S. A. Coltman** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis** (8 Signal Regiment), **Staff Sergeant J. Lawrence** (244 Signal Squadron), **Sergeant P. Baldwin** (223 Signal Squadron), **Sergeant G. Manton** (ACIO Stafford), **Sergeant D. Stanbridge** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Sergeant J. Willock** (8 Signal Regiment), **Corporal R. Lawrence** (School of Signals), **Corporal P. Leach** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal S. Parrish** (223 Signal Squadron).

Officials: **W.O.2 K. Coker** (AAC Harrogate), **Corporal K. Orton** (11 Signal Regiment).

Royal Signals v. RMA Sandhurst

The match was played at Camberley on 30th May, 1973. Weather conditions were unsettled and there was the threat of rain.

RMA—158. (Leach 3 for 28, Willock 3 for 30, Radford 3 for 45).

Royal Signals—159 for 6 wickets. (Manton 71 n.o., Parrish 40.

Result—Royal Signals won by 4 wickets.

The Corps team was as follows:

Captain J. Radford (School of Signals), **Captain S. A. Coltman** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis** (8 Signal Regiment), **Sergeant P. Baldwin** (223 Signal Squadron), **Sergeant G. Manton** (ACIO Stafford), **Sergeant M. Richards** (School of Signals), **Sergeant D. Stanbridge** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Sergeant J. Willock** (8 Signal Regiment), **Corporal R. Lawrence** (School of Signals), **Corporal P. Leach** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal S. Parrish** (223 Signal Squadron).

Officials: **W.O.2 K. Coker** (AAC Harrogate), **Corporal K. Orton** (11 Signal Regiment).

Corps wins first ever Inter-Corps Target Rifle Match

Fullbore Target Rifle shooting got away to a good start at Bisley on 20th May, when the Corps won the first-ever Inter-Corps Target Rifle Match arranged by the Army Rifle Association.

We had arranged with the Nishan Team that none of their members would be called on, and the Corps Team finally selected was:

Colonel R. H. Gilbertson (Captain)
Major D. C. N. Genders
Major J. Cox
Sergeant C. M. Blowman.

The match was to be shot under Empire Match conditions. This is a match traditionally fired when teams from Great Britain, Canada and Australia meet on the same range, and consists of one sighting shot and ten to count, at each of four ranges, 300, 600, 900 and 1,000 yards. Eleven teams took part, including RA, RE, Royal Signals, two Divisions of Infantry, the RAMC/RADC, REME, RAPC and ACC. Each team could field up to two Reserves, who shot for an individual prize. Our Reserves were **Captain C. C. L. Enright** and **Sergeant D. L. Challis.**

Royal Signals led right from the start, with a lead of eight points over our nearest rivals, the Gunners under **Major Roland Greenwood,** at 300 yards. Thereafter, we increased our lead with every range. **Sergeant Blowman's** 186 was the best individual score of the day, but he was well supported, our lowest member coming only six points behind. **Captain Enright** led the Reserves at short range, but fell behind to finish well down the field

Would-be snipers will realise that the real problem in a match of this sort, is not 'Holding, Aiming and Firing'. These can be taught more than adequately on a short range, or even on a smallbore range. The problem is wind judging, bearing in mind that at 1,000 yards the bullseye is 30 inches across and a moderate wind can move the point of impact of a 7·62 bullet seven feet.

The drill, therefore, is for experienced members of the team to help each other, one watching the flags while the other shoots 'as directed'. Then each helps one of the less skilled members. We were lucky in having four established shots, two of whom have

THE CORPS TEAM
Front row: Major Genders, Colonel Gilbertson, Sergeant Blowman, Captain Enwricht (reserve)
Back row: Sergeant Challis, Major Cox

had a fair amount of long-range shooting. Even so, towards the end of the day, **Sergeant Blowman,** with a 49 at 900 yards under his belt, was being coached at 1,000 yards and had dropped only one point, with one round to fire. One of our rivals was heard to say—"Just you watch, the Colonel will get him a Magpie with his last one"—and the Colonel did. Sorry, **Sergeant Blowman,** but that was nothing compared with what **Major Genders** did to the Colonel!

The final scores were:

1st	Royal Signals	731—61Vs.
	Sergeant Blowman	186—17Vs
	Major Cox	183—12Vs
	Colonel Gilbertson	182—20Vs
	Major Genders	180—12Vs
2nd	Royal Artillery	703—47Vs
3rd	RAPC	693—38Vs.

Royal Signals Squadron Level Skill at Arms Meeting 16-18 May

by Major G. A. S. Exell, Captain of Corps shooting

For the first time, the meeting was held at Bellerby Ranges, Catterick, instead of its normal site at Bulford. The Training Brigade, Royal Signals acted as host and provided all administrative backing and range parties.

The success of the meeting can be judged by the record entry of 128 firers of whom 47 were competing as individuals from the Nishan Team.

Weather always plays an important part in any Skill-At-Arms Meeting. We were lucky in having only a few spots of rain and were actually blessed with 2 days of brilliant sunshine. The wind, however, was very strong indeed and a 5 foot aim-off was required to hit the bull at 500 yards! Many of the young soldiers (and some senior shots!) found this a problem but to their credit still managed to record some fine scores.

The trophies for the various team matches were well spread but 223 Signal Squadron (still led by **Captain Geoff Hudson**) took the team championship after a close tussle with two teams from the School of Signals.

The overall champion shot was **Corporal Roger 'Dodge' Kingham** who thus repeated his success of 1972.

Brigadier E. J. Hellier, O.B.E., Commander Training Brigade kindly presented the prizes. He thanked all those associated with organising the meeting, in particular **Major George Cowsill** (now in his last year of shooting), **Major Stan Woods** and **Captain Lee Hood.** In conclusion he wished all those involved in the Nishan Team the best of luck for their CENTO competition in Turkey in September.

The main prize winners were as follows:

Match	**Winning Team**
Roupell	Trials Squadron School of Signals
Whitehead	653 Signal Troop
Roberts	244 Signal Squadron
Army 100	223 Signal Squadron
Para Regiment	223 Signal Squadron
Falling Plates	1 Squadron, 30 Signal Regiment
Champion Team	223 Signal Squadron
Individual Prize Winners	
Champion Shot	**Corporal R. G. Kingham** 7 Signal Regiment
Best Class B	**Lance-Corporal Mackender** 14 Signal Regiment
Best Young Soldier	**Signalman D. Collins** 10 Signal Regiment
Best Apprentice Tradesman	**A/T L. R. Hammond** AAC
SMG Match	**W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith** 30 Signal Regiment

Corps WO2 is BAOR Golf Champion

On the 7th May the best golfers in BAOR, more than a hundred in number, converged on the RAF, Germany golf course at RAF, Bruggen. Their prime intent was to find the 1973 BAOR Champion. Four days and six rounds of golf later this proved to be **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Simpson** of 16 Signal Regiment.

The Championship contest, sponsored by Teachers Whisky, began with two medal rounds, the 16 best gross scorers qualifying for the match play knock-out stages. In addition to **Reg Simpson** two other Royal Signals golfers made the select last 16, **Captain Don Reed** of 227 Signals Squadron and **W.O.2 'Barney' Barnett** from 16 Signal Regiment, so the Corps was well represented.

Our eventual winner did not have an easy passage as he was required to dispose of the 1972 BAOR Champion, **Captain Ian Clarke,** Army Legal Services, at the quarter final stage and in the final he crushed the current Army Champion, **Captain Richard Drake,** RAPC, 3 and 2. A wonderful performance. **Staff Sergeant Duncan Palmer,** RAPC from 16 Signal Regiment, who himself made the last 16, caddied for **Reg** in the final.

This Championship has been won only twice before by members of Royal Signals. **Signalman Lionel Platts** won it in 1954. He became a British Ryder Cup player and is currently the professional at Pannal Golf Club near Harrogate. **Corporal Bill Milne,** now a professional somewhere in Canada, was the 1966 Champion.

D.J.L.

TENSE MOMENT
W.O.2 Reg Simpson holes the vital putt that brought him the BAOR Golf Championship

Pistol Festival 1973

On the 27th April, a Pistol Festival was held at 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) between the units of the NORTHAG Signal Support Group comprising 28 (BR) Signal Regiment, 13 (Belgian) Cie TTr, 840 (German) Signal Battalion, 1 (Netherlands) Signal Squadron, Group HQ and a guest team from the local town of St. Tonis.

Each team was represented by four firers, of which one had to be the Commanding Officer of the units and in the case of St. Tonis, the Burgermeister.

The shoot comprised two parts, the first being the normal British Army pistol classification shoot and the second, a falling plate competition (using balloons), fired from 15 yards. In order to ensure that no team started with an advantage, two members of each team were required to fire with the Browning and the other two with German Walther pistols.

Competition was fierce and at the end of the first stage 840 (GE) Signal Battalion was in the lead with 28 (BR) Signal Regiment only one point behind.

The balloon competition, although fired with great gusto (no team managed to hit all balloons) did not change the placings, 28 (BR) Signal Regiment just failing to oust 840 (GE) Signal Battalion from first place. In third place was the team from St. Tonis, and considering that they were unused to the military timed practices and were also firing strange weapons, this was a remarkable feat.

The evening was concluded by a private pistol match between the Commander NSSG, **Colonel G. R. Schneider** (GE) and the Commanding Officers of 840 (GE) Signal Battalion, **Lieutenant-Colonel W. Schmidt** and 28 (BE) Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Carnie.** The firers fired ten rounds using both the left and right hand, and the loser presented a plaque of his own design to the winner.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Schmidt was duly presented with a 'do it yourself' plaque kit by **Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Carnie** who, although being the right handed winner, would have been better throwing the bullets than trying to use his left hand. He intends to go into strict training for next year by using his left hand for drinking.

INTERNATIONAL PISTOL FESTIVAL
Organised by 28 Signal Regiment this proved a popular occasion. The picture shows competitors waiting for the final results—and for the beer tent to open!

223 Signal Squadron win South East District Minor Units Skill-at-Arms Championship

223 Signal Squadron pulled off a magnificent 'coup' during the first week in May, by winning the South East District Skill-at-Arms Minor Unit Championship at Ash Ranges, in the teeth of the stiffest competition from 11 other units including the Parachute Depot. It is the first time that a Royal Signals unit has won this Championship.

THE WINNING TEAM WITH THEIR SPOILS
Back row (left to right): Sergeant Terry McGrath, Signalman Wally Wallbridge, Sergeant 'Chas' Hall
Front row (left to right): Corporal Jerry Bardoe, Captain G. L. P. Hudson and Sergeant Derek Scott

. . . And afterwards!

The feat was rendered all the more remarkable by the fact the team produced only one individual prize-winner during the 5-day meeting, out of a formidable total of 87 individual prize-winners. The lucky team-member was **Sergeant Terry McGrath,** who came second in the WO's and Sergeants' SMG match. In addition to the Championship Cup, the team also won the Minor Units Rifle Match—a truly remarkable team effort, bearing in mind the nature of the opposition.

For the record, the team consisted of **Captain G. L. P. Hudson** (Team Captain); **Sergeant 'Chas' Hall; Sergeant Terry McGrath; Corporal Jerry Bardoe;** and **Signalman Wally Wallbridge. Sergeant Derek Scott** was reserve, and fired as an individual. We look forward to even greater achievements by this team during the coming months.

STOP PRESS! To prove that it wasn't just a flash in the pan, the same team won the Royal Signals Squadron-level Skill-at-Arms meeting at Catterick during the third week in May, in competition with 15 other Squadron teams. Their next hurdle will be the Royal Signals Corps meeting at Bulford during the third week in June, followed by the Army Skill-at-Arms Championship at Bisley commencing on 27th June.

Corps Sailing v. Royal Engineers—23 May

Results. Signals beat Sappers by 2 races to 1.
Points were as follows:

	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3
Sappers	14¾	19	19
Signals	21	16¾	16¾

The Signals team was:

Helms	Crews
Major M. F. Collins (Captain)	**Major C. E. R. Story**
Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Briggs	**Sergeant M. J. Lincoln**
W.O.2 (S.S.M.) D. N. Wheeler	**Major S. W. Read**
Corporal Dave Ellis	**Sergeant M. Wringe**

Corporal Ellis was outstanding, winning races 2 and 3 out of three hard-fought races.

Stop Press Signal From 21 Regt.

"Army Cross Country Champion **Sergeant Bill Venus** won German National Championship 25 Kilometre Race at Pattern near Aachen on 23rd June from over 200 Competitors and is accordingly German National Champion at this distance. He was eligible to participate because of over 12 months residence in Germany. Is now considering entering British National Marathon Championship in October. Opposition included German Olympic runners."

Obituary

Major W. C. Jarvis, M.B.E.

It is with regret that we report the death of Major Jarvis who died suddenly at his home in Paignton on the 1st April. Wally was born in 1906 and enlisted in the Corps in 1921. He was commissioned whilst serving with Egypt Command Signals in 1940 and served in various higher formation signal units in the Middle East until returning to the UK in 1944. Four months later he went to North West Europe and was employed with the Control Commission and later Air Formation Signals and HQ BAOR Signal Regiment. He was back in the UK in 1950 but went out to Germany again in 1958 where he was lines officer in Signals Works Services on the staff of the CSO BAOR, until he retired in 1961, but he continued to serve in Germny as an RO.

Wally was an extremely efficient and painstaking officer with a very pleasant personality, who set a high standard of integrity for himself and all who came in contact with him. He was dedicated to the Army and like many of his vintage devoted the whole of his active life to the Corps. We offer our deep sympathy to his family.

Major W. Warren, M.B.E.

We are sorry to have to report the death at the age of 71 of Major William Warren on the 27th April. Major Warren enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1919 and transferred to the Corps in 1920. He was commissioned whilst serving in Egypt in 1940. During the war he served in higher formation units in Egypt, North Africa and Middle East until returning to the UK in 1943, where he served as a staff officer at the War Office and with 38 Divisional Signals. After the war he went out to Germany where he filled appointments as assistant controller, Regional Officer and Control Officer with the Military Government at Minden until his retirement in 1947. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

Major B. A. Canham

It came as a great shock to all who knew Barry to learn of his sudden death on the 21st May, he had just recently passed his 43rd birthday.

Barry joined the Boys' Squadron in 1944 where he was an outstanding member reaching the highest rank in the squadron as C.S.M. Boy. After reaching man's service he was amongst the first of the ex-boys to receive a regular commission in 1951. Whilst in the Corps he served in Egypt and commanded the Sudan Signal Troop, was a captain in 6 Boys Training Regiment, 1st and 2nd Divisional Signal Regiments and also had two stints at the War Office. His last appointment before retiring in 1969 was with 30 Signal Regiment.

Barry was the second of three brothers all of whom went into the Army. His elder brother, who was the first C.S.M. Boy, is still serving as a Major in the Corps, his younger brother is a regular with the Queens Own Hussars. Barry had great charm and reliability, he was always interested in others and had the capability of inspiring confidence and getting the co-operation and best out of all with whom he worked. After he retired he joined Plessey on the Personnel Management side where, as was expected, he was making a very successful second career. We would like to express our very sincere sympathy to his wife Pamela and four children, and his mother and two brothers in their great loss.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Cogan-Harris, M.A., C.Eng., F.I.E.E.

Edward (Jackie) Hugh Cogan-Harris died on the 20th March at the age of 76. He enlisted in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in 1914 and was commissioned in 1915. He served with his regiment in France during the 1914–18 war and was wounded at the battle of Cambrai. After the war he served with the Royal Sussex Regiment in the Army of Occupation on the Rhine and was Adjutant of 3 Corps Concentration Camp. He was seconded to the Corps in 1923 and transferred in 1925. In 1926 he took his B.A. degree at King's College Cambridge and then went out to China where he was Adjutant of Shanghai Defence Force Signals and also served with the Wireless Sections at Hong Kong, Tientsin and Peking where he was Wireless Officer to the British Ambassador. During the 1939–45 war he commanded 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment with the BEF, he was later CSO Northern Ireland District and Hants and Dorset District. During the last months of the war he served in 16 Air Formation Signal Regiment in North West Europe and after the war commanded 53 Mixed Civil Depot in Germany. He retired in 1949 and settled in Hove where he took up painting at which he was no mean exponent, he was a member of the Brighton Arts Club and had his pictures shown at a number of exhibitions. In 1919 he married Miss Vivian Helmore who has very kindly presented his medals and other articles to the Corps and to whom we offer our deep condolences.

Mr. Clifford Preston

Major J. Birchall, Vice-president of Manchester branch, writes:

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death of Mr. Clifford Preston, better known to the number of the older members of the branch as 'Boy' Preston. He died on 17th June.

Mr. Preston enlisted as a boy soldier in 42nd East Lancs Div Sigs T.A. in 1938. Subsequent to war service Mr. Preston was employed for many years as a civilian clerk in the Orderly Room of the Regiment. Mr. Preston was a very likeable man who made friends very easily and members of the Manchester Branch held him in high esteem.

He leaves a widow and four children to whom genuine sympathy is expressed. The address is: 73 Wrigley Head, Fallsworth, Manchester.

Local Sergeant G. D. Jordan

From 36 Signal Regiment (V):

It is with regret that we announce the death of **Local Sergeant George Duncan Jordan** on 25th May, 1973. He was cremated with Military Honours on 31st May at St. Faith's Crematorium, Norwich. **Local Sergeant Jordan,** though ill for some time, continued to serve as a Permanent Staff Instructor with 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) right up to the time of his death.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife **Elizabeth** who, as a member of WRAC Signals (**Private Thomas**), served in Catterick, Gloucester and Edinburgh. She and her family intend to settle in Norwich.

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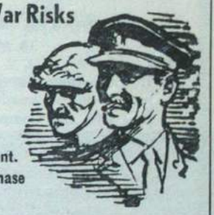

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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by 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).

August-September 1973

wire

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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. 4RH. 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80**; *monthly* **15p.**
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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 8**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture
A GREAT MOMENT FOR CORPS SHOOTING

It is with much pleasure that we are able to publish a photograph unique in the history of Corps shooting—the chairing of a Corps winner of the Queens Medal at Bisley.

Corporal G. L. Jaques of the School of Signals is the worthy recipient of this much coveted trophy and he is seen at the beginning of the old established ceremony of being chaired round Bisley by fellow marksmen who include **Major G. Exell** (Captain of Corps Shooting), **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Cole, Lance-Corporal Ford, Sergeant Provert** and **W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith.**

The warm congratulations of all our readers will certainly go to **Corporal Gerry Jaques** for his fine achievement For further details and photographs see page 344

Cover photo: Courtesy Thomas A. Wilkie, F.R.P.S., A.I.B.E. Drummond Road, Guildford, Surrey

Catterick Reunion Weekend – 23/24 June

Once again the well established Royal Signals Association weekend took place at Catterick Garrison (note the new title "Garrison" but in the minds of many it will still be irrevocably known as "Camp"). The Training Brigade, Royal Signals, performed their annual miracle and laid on the most excellent arrangements for over 700 members of the Association who were wonderfully looked after and entertained—this despite a crude conspiracy on the part of the Clerk of the Weather who arranged intermittent rain for 48 hours within a radius of 10 miles round Catterick while the rest of the country was bathed in sunshine!

It is of interest to recall that this annual gathering first took place in 1946 and has been held at Catterick every year since. As each year is generally said to be better than the year before the inference is that the earlier reunions may have been rather mediocre. This, of course, is anything but the truth—every year has been a bumper one thanks to the serving Corps in Catterick to whom we in the Association owe a great debt of gratitude. On this subject we would remind all who attend Catterick that there is no statutory obligation for the Training Brigade to hold this reunion. It, therefore, behoves all of us who attend Catterick to show our sincere appreciation not only by being properly grateful for all that has been done for us but also by the way we conduct ourselves while at Catterick.

It was a particular pleasure to have as our guest preacher, Brigadier the Reverend Charles Nettleship who gave his usual challenging address at the St. Martin's Church Service—also Major-General Mike Hancock, Representative Colonel Commandant, who took the salute at the march past after Church.

We could pick on every item that was arranged for our pleasure and entertainment and describe it as excellent. We will, however, only make mention of two as they involved both risk and a high degree of expertise. These were the Corps 'Blue Helmets' free fall parachutists and the 'White Helmets' motor cycle display team. Despite very poor weather conditions (low cloud base and wet slippery grass) they both put on shows of a very high standard which rightly earned universal applause from the large crowd on the Sunday afternoon.

And so another excellent weekend came to an end—the crowd departed—and the rain promptly stopped!

From our "In" Tray

Kanchanaburi Military Cemetery, Thailand

Sir,

Accompanied by **Major F. W. Mathews,** I recently had occasion to be in the Kanchanaburi province of Thailand and was able to visit the site of the infamous bridge over the River Kwai.

The story of the wooden bridge built by British, Commonwealth, Dutch and allied prisoners of war as part of the 'Death Railway' is all too well known and needs no elaboration by me. However it may be of interest to some to know that the original has now been replaced by a steel bridge. This new bridge has been built about one hundred yards up-stream of the old one because—it appears—the Japanese engineer responsible for the first bridge got his sums wrong and in the rainy season the piers of his bridge caused considerable local flooding.

Near to the bridge and in the provincial town of Kanchanaburi is a military cemetery in which nearly 7,000, of the 16,000 POW who died building the railway, are buried. It is perhaps somewhat incongruous to describe any cemetery as beautiful when one remembers the reason for its very existence but it is difficult to find a more appropriate adjective when describing the one at Kanchanaburi. The place is a mass of colour—the almost vivid green of the velvet-like lawns blending with the many coloured orchids, local petunias, tropical hydrangeas and numerous other shrubs—whilst the surrounding screen of near blue casurinas and huge, brilliant yellow Laburnam trees shelter the whole area from the noise and bustle of the town as well as protecting the resting place from the heat of the day. In common with other military cemeteries the focal point at Kanchanaburi is a fine stone cross around which, in neat plots, the graves lie. Details on the headstones show complete disregard for the nationality, regiment or rank in the layout all of which emphasises the close comradeship of the fallen and the common cause in which they died. After only a few moments in the place I had the strong feeling that I was but a spectator at some large and dignified parade.

Major Mathews and I were able to see 214 of the Royal Signal graves in the cemetery. It may be of some comfort to relatives to know just how well the place is kept. The Sexton, appointed by the War Graves Commission is a **Mr. Pramote Limtraleul** who was an NCO in the Royal Thai Army Signal Corps before retiring to his present job, which he clearly tackles with a fine combination of reverence, charm and energy.

On hearing of our visit the Officer Commanding No. 7 Area of the Thai Border Patrol Police, **Police Colonel Kitisak Kaolamhad** (recently of BPP Signals) presented a wreath, to be laid by us at the cemetery, from the BPP. It was a very kind thought and the wreath was made up of some of the loveliest flowers I have ever seen. In a very simple ceremony **Major Mathews** and I jointly laid the wreath, at the base of the cross, with BPP officers in attendance.

I append a list of those whose graves we were able to see. I do hope that we did not miss any, however should there be a member of the Corps buried at Kanchanaburi, whose name is not on my list, his relatives can be assured that his grave is both beautifully and reverently maintained by a devoted staff. Should any relative like a more detailed description of the area I would be only too pleased to write to them.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Trelawny, Major, Royal Signals

Signals 32(b),
Ministry of Defence.

Graves of Royal Signals Personnel in Kanchanaburi (River Kwai) Military Cemetery visited in April, 1973

L/Cpl.	W. T.	Dighton	Sig.	A.	Wood	Dvr.	J. G.	Hodge	Sig.	C. F.	Wheeler
Sig.	A. F.	Henry	Capt.	R. H.	Hallam	Sig.	J. C.	Gilbert	Sig.	H. D.	Lumb
Sig.	R. P.	King	Sig.	I.	Shapiro	Dvr.	A.	Williams	Dvr.	O. E.	Danby
L/Cpl.	J. C.	Sheehan	Sig.	D. A.	Smith	Sig.	F. J.	Gathercole	Sig.	J. R. E.	Evening
L/Sgt.	A. P. J.	Stevens	Sig.	W. E.	Williams	Sgt.	P.	Conroy	Sig.	R. A.	Smith
L/Cpl.	G. R.	Powling	Sgt.	J.	Hughes	Sig.	J.	McLachlin	Cpl.	D.	Hyde
Sig.	A. E.	Tonge	Sig.	E. W. M.	Swann	Dvr.	J.	Jackson	Sig.	H. A.	Massey
Sig.	E.	Dixon	Dvr.	T. H.	Smart	L/Cpl.	L. R.	Laker	L/Sgt.	A. C. R.	Ellis
Sig.	E.	Hesp	Sig.	A. R.	Weatherley	L/Cpl.	J.	Dasson	Sig.	D. A.	Allan
Sig.	R.	Martin	Dvr.	H.	Rodley	Sig.	G. A. B.	Smith	Sig.	A. L.	Robertson
L/Cpl.	L.	Lowes	Cpl.	P. W.	Clarke	Sig.	G. W.	Thompson	Sig.	J. W. H.	Leith
Sig.	W. E.	Crabtree	Sig.	G.	Hobson	Sig.	T.	Walls	Sig.	E.	Turnpenny
Sig.	W. A.	Mills	Lt.	C.	Walker	Sig.	J.	Scott	Sig.	W.	Evident
Sig.	A.	Waring	Sig.	R. H.	Wood	Sig.	W. R.	Clive	Sig.	W. A.	Linley
Dvr.	E. J.	Burgess	Sig.	M. J.	Cassidy	Cpl.	H. G.	Benton	Sig.	E.	Jones
Sig.	W. H.	Wood	Sig.	W.	Gray	Cpl.	R. A.	Pleavin	Dvr.	F. J.	Ockelford
Cpl.	E. W. R.	Tolly	Sig.	A.	Hunt	Sig.	E.	Cooper-Gregory	Sig.	W.	Belgian
L/Sgt.	G.	Bell	L/Cpl.	J. J.	Hathaway				C.Q.M.S.	J. W.	Wood
Sig.	W. A.	Morris	Sig.	J.	Kerr	Sig.	B. S.	Hendrick	Sig.	R. E.	Jennings
Sig.	L. H. J.	Taylor	Sig.	J. E.	Aberdine	Sig.	J. E.	McKenna	Sig.	A. W.	Lawson
Dvr.	M. E.	Broughton	Sig.	A. J.	Lomas	Sig.	A. J.	Ray	Sig.	K.	Edington
Sig.	H. A.	Taylor	L/Cpl.	J. R.	Gill	Sig.	T. W. A.	Burton	Dvr.	E. W.	Ponsford
Dvr.	E.	Glassett	Sig.	A. J.	Borgen	Sig.	R. A.	Wagstaffe	Sig.	A. E.	Blanchard
Sig.	L. S.	Moult	Sig.	J.	Bridge	Sig.	F.	Thompson	Sig.	P. G.	Morgan
Sig.	T. E.	Lynn	Sig.	H.	Mason	Dvr.	W. H.	Coombstock	Dvr.	F. H.	Foster
Sig.	W. D.	Jones	Sig.	H. J.	Darby	Sig.	A. W. C.	Cooper	Sig.	S. W.	Smithies
Sig.	N.	Craig	Sig.	S.	Goddard	Dvr.	J.	Franlin	Sig.	L. J.	Rootham
Dvr.	H.	Flaherty	Dvr.	A. A.	Silk	L/Cpl.	L. W.	Faulkener	Dvr.	J.	Anderson
Sig.	J. W.	Purcell	Dvr.	J. E.	Hoare	Sig.	A.	Lynch	L/Sgt.	G. W. E.	Rashbrook
Sig.	R. C.	Bassett	Dvr.	J. M.	Alexander	Sig.	J.	Thompson	Sig.	W. R.	Clemshaw
Sig.	R.	Grant	Dvr.	A. V.	Prodger	Sig.	F. O.	Papsworth	Sig.	A. R.	Steen
Sig.	J. C. H.	Ellis	Sig.	D. C.	Farr	Sig.	H.	Curtis	Dvr.	J. N.	Mannion
Sig.	R. B.	Yeo	Sig.	E. J.	Doyle	Sig.	E. J.	Chew	Sig.	R. E.	Blackmann
Sig.	J. H.	Gadd	Dvr.	L. J.	Colwill	Sig.	C.	Burkitt	L/Cpl.	A. B.	Chilton
Sig.	L. M.	Swinnerton	Sig.	J. W.	Robertson	Sig.	W. G.	Bland	Dvr.	E. F. H. F.	Frobisher
Sig.	P. W. J.	Cornish	L/Cpl.	C. T.	Noble	Sig.	L. G.	Green	Sig.	A.	Weller
Dvr.	G. A.	Baker	Sig.	S.	Westwood	Sig.	C. E.	Wakeling	Sig.	A. B.	Macfie
Sig.	K. S.	Smith	Sgt.	S. H.	Buckland	Dvr.	K. J.	Studd	Dvr.	J.	Houghton
Sig.	A. J.	Bailey	Dvr.	W.	Grimes	Sig.	J.	Whalen	Dvr.	W.	White
Cpl.	W. A.	Rees	Sig.	C. E.	Wilkie	Dvr.	J.	Worden	Dvr.	S. D.	Bray
L/Cpl.	W.	Nightingale	Sig.	E.	Bedford	Sig.	L. R.	Greenwood	Sgt.	J.	O'Callaghan
Cpl.	W. J.	Boyde	Sig.	A.	Almond	L/Cpl.	V.	Hipple	Sig.	M.	Thompson
Sig.	W. J.	Smithers	Dvr.	A.	Hall	Sig.	J. H.	Alderman	Sig.	J. L. H.	Morey
Sig.	C. N. W.	Fox	Sig.	R. C.	Dand	W.O.2	J.	Badderley	Sig.	A. E.	Vitler
Sig.	L. E.	Elkins	Sig.	L. R.	Ford	Sig.	H.	Lester	Sgt.	C.	Davies
Sig.	A. R. N.	Tuck	Dvr.	H.	Stokes	Sig.	S.	Tatham	Sig.	F. H.	Sprout
Sig.	G. E.	Russell	L/Cpl.	R. H.	Hill	Sig.	J.	Gasson	Sig.	T. D.	Craig
L/Cpl.	E. H.	Windsor	Sig.	T. A.	Duncalf	Sig.	J. C.	Pearson	Sig.	A. G.	Smith
Sig.	E. W.	Upton	Cpl.	A. T.	Payne	Sgt.	J.	Kelley	Sig.	J.	Sugden
L/Cpl.	E. E.	Dackhan	Sig.	R. K.	Rogers	Dvr.	P. R.	Sadler	L/Cpl.	D. E.	Jones
Sgt.	W. G.	Waters	Sig.	W.	Bamford	Sig.	S.	Morgan	Dvr.	L.	Singer
Sig.	E. A.	Curtis	Sig.	A. W.	McKewan	Sig.	J.	Douglas	Sig.	H.	Brook
Dvr.	A.	Sanderson	Sig.	S.	Colenzo	Cpl.	R. J.	Gardiner	Sgt.	B.	Hope
Dvr.	D.	Powrie	Sig.	J. R.	Carr				Sig.	M.	Steel

Did you serve in Turkey fifty years ago?

Sir,

Fifty years ago next September various units of Royal Signals returned home from Turkey. I, myself, served in Chanak and there were units at Kelia, Lancashire landing, Constantinople, etc. We called ourselves various names—2 Division Signals, 83rd, 85th Brigade Signal Sections, Army of the Black Sea Signals etc.

I wondered if there are enough of us left interested in a spot of reunion? I have at times come across **Lieutenant-Colonel J. Ellis** and **Captain E. W. Pack.** If there are enough interested a note to the address given may get something on the move.

To introduce myself, I was; 2312934 **Sergeant V. Brown** and I served in 2 Division Signals at Aldershot, Wellington Barracks in London, Maresfield, Crowborough and Peshawar, Landi Kotel and Jubbulpore in India, as well as, of course, Chanak. My home address is: Nagara, Cley Hall Drive, Spalding, Lincs. Tel. Spalding 2761. My car registration number is 1 EGG.

Yours faithfully,

Victor Brown,

Victor Brown (Gosberton) Ltd.,
Gosberton Egg Packing Station,
Spalding, Lincs.

Looking back to Beverley days

Sir,

In your last issue a letter from **Mr. G. Jones** of Dorchester made me realize how time passes. It is twenty years ago that the Boy's Regiment then stationed at Beverley trooped the colour. I think they did it well but perhaps their efforts were even finer if one recalls that they often did the complete parade on grass. Many Old Comrades will recall the Reunion of 1953 perhaps. Many of the boys were very small boys yet they carried rifles and bayonets through the slow and quick march-past and an advance in review order at the slope. Not until the present arms after the advance in review order, were they able to move their left arms. I know it was a strain for each of them but I never saw a boy drop his rifle.

Yours faithfully,

J. I. Jenkins (Captain),

2 Squadron,
30th Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset.

Situations Vacant

Permanent Administrative Staff Officer in 35 (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

There will be a vacancy for a PSO (Captain) in the Rugby Squadron of 35 Signal Regiment (V) with effect from 1st April 1974. The ideal applicant would be an SSC Captain who is retiring from the Regular Army in the age bracket 45–50 who wants to put his roots down and still have a job with a strong military flavour. Needless to say the job is an active one.

Rate of pay, on appointment, is £2,117 p.a. Normal retiring age is 60. Completion of 10 years service qualifies an officer for gratuity and pension.

Any one interested in applying for this post should write to:

Lieutenant-Colonel K. Kirby, Royal Signals,
35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers),
Stoney Lane,
Sparkbrook,
Birmingham B12 8AT.

The Need is Urgent for—

MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Please send what you can spare to the Welfare Section

Chief Steward

Chief Steward Grade I required to take charge of small staff in Officers' Mess. Pay £25·88 for basic 40 hour week with extra duty pay and some overtime required. Leave 3 weeks per year. The post is considered most suitable for an ex-Warrant Officer with a knowledge of catering an advantage but not essential.

Applications should be made to the PMC, Officers' Mess, HQ South West District, Sherford Camp, Trull Road, Taunton, Somerset.

All applicants will be required to attend for interview.

NEARLY 50 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE CORPS

Mr. Man Yung-Gai joined the Army Department in Hong Kong in 1927 as a cable jointer, finishing up as a Technical Supervisor Grade I, the highest grade in this field of employment

He is seen here receiving a substantial final gratuity cheque from Mr. John Porter (Command Secretary) on his retirement. Present also is Major Norman Muir his immediate O.C.

In 1954 Mr. Man Yung-Gai received a C.-in-C.'s testimonial. His loyal and efficient service is typical of that rendered by many Chinese civilians employed by Signals in Hong Kong

CORPS SOLDIERS OF THE FUTURE?

Cadets of Durham Army Cadet Force, all badged Royal Signals, and affiliated with 50 Squadron (Darlington) of 34 Signal Regiment (V) look keen and smart before moving off to weekend camp. In the foreground, Lieutenant H. S. Appleby (O.C.) and R.Q.M.S. J. P. Baldry, R.Q.M.S. of South Durham A.C.F.

Unique Distinction for Corps Shooting Ace at Bisley

☆

Corporal Jerry Jaques wins Queen's Medal

Courtesy: Thomas A. Wilkie, F.R.P.S., A.I.B.E., Guildford

SUPREME MOMENT

Corporal Jaques just after he had heard that he had won the Queen's Medal, which he is seen wearing with pride—a rare distinction. Around him and obviously delighted are Captain Enright, Corporal Kingham (who also distinguished himself by winning the S.M.G. Championship) and Major Genders

Picture the scene at Bisley at about 1200 hours on Saturday, 7th July 1973. The final snap practice in the third stage of the Army Championship was about to be fired on Century Range. All Royal Signals binoculars were focused on Target Number 34. We waited for the spotting discs on the Figure 12 target to see if they confirmed what appeared to have been a good shoot. There was an audible gasp of relief as a rash of red discs was visible around the centre of the target. Now for the score! As soon as it was announced "10 hits, 7 at 5, 3 at 4" we realised that it was virtually certain that **Corporal Gerry Jaques** would take the Championship. We waited for what seemed to be eternity for the snap scores of his nearest rivals. One by one they came, but never high enough to top **Gerry Jaques's** total. At long last, after many attempts by notable Corps shots over the years, Royal Signals had a winner of the Queen's Medal.

At the start of the day **Gerry Jaques** had been placed ninth and 14 points down on the leader. It will be to his eternal credit that he was able to make up the leeway and still 'keep his cool' while firing that final snap knowing that he was 'in with a chance' —the hallmark of a true champion.

The moment of triumph that all Army marksmen pray for is to be chaired off the Range at Bisley. In this case a willing band from the Corps supplied the carrying party and off we went, preceded by the pipes and drums of 10th Gurkha Rifles. A call at the Sergeants' Mess for a quick sip of champagne, then on to the prize-giving for the presentation of the coveted medal itself. **Gerry Jaques** was then lunched in style in the Officers' Mess by no less than 7 Generals!

Gerry Jaques first made his mark in Army shooting with 21 Signal Regiment in 1969 when he won the Manchester Regiment Cup for the Best Class 'B' shot in the Army Championship and was placed 16th overall. He was then posted to 30 Signal Regiment and in 1970 and 1971 was placed 15th and 40th respectively in the Army Championship. He was also well placed in 1972 but was unable to shoot in the final stage of the Championship because of 'flu. In late 1972 he was posted to the School of Signals. In addition to his success at Bisley this year he won the Rifle Championship at the South West United Services Meeting and was our Corps Champion Shot at Bulford. This is a remarkable record of consistent shooting and it is therefore no surprise that **Gerry Jaques** was among the first names to be included when

DISTINGUISHED COMPANY

Corporal Jaques is flanked by General Sir Michael Carver (Chief of the General Staff) and General Sir Basil Eugster (C.-in-C., U.K.L.F.) prior to lunch at the Officers' Mess

potential shots for the NISHAN Team were being selected. He is now entitled to wear the ribbon of the Queen's Medal on normal dress and thus joins a very select band of top class Army Marksmen.

The whole Corps offers its congratulations to **Corporal Gerry Jaques** on a magnificent achievement unique in Corps shooting history.

Footnote: **Corporal Jaques** was born in Manitoba and is aged 26. He is married and lives in married quarters in Blandford Camp. He is a Telephone Mechanic B1.

Morrison Cup 1973

A 7th Regiment correspondent writes:

"This year's Morrison Cup Competition was sponsored by 7th Signal Regiment and held in the Stadt Stadium, Herford, on the 6th and 7th June. The final day was attended by **Major-General H. E. Roper,** CSO, BAOR, CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps, **Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane** and handsomely supported by spectators from competing units.

However, the undoubted highlight of the meeting was the presence of **Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.,** whose name the competition bears and whose cup has been annually presented to the winning major unit for the last 22 years. Having heard there was no cup for the winning minor unit, **Major-General Morrison** has also presented a Minor Units Cup for this and future years.

Major-General Morrison, accompanied by **Mrs. Morrison,** most kindly made the trip to Germany especially to be with us for this 1973 competition. It was indeed a pleasure for us to have them both and for the General in person to present his two trophies at the end of this year's competition. We very much hope that **Major-General** and **Mrs. Morrison** will both visit us again.

The weather was kind and the participation by nine major and eight minor units gave us an excellent day for the competition.

(Unfortunately owing to late submission detailed results and reports from units, as well as photographs, have had to be omitted in order to avoid holding over this report for a further month—Editor).

Results

Major Units:	**1st**	**21st Signal Regiment**
	2nd	**7th Signal Regiment**
Minor Units:	**1st**	**7th Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron**
	2nd	**11th Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron"**

Sailing at Catterick gets a new lease of life

Excellent prospects at Selset reservoir, Lunedale

CATTERICK has long been a backwater for Sailing in the Corps and a banishment to the Training Brigade meant hanging up the wet suit and buying a bag of clubs or a horse. But all this has now changed. Selset reservoir, sited in Lunedale, some 1,100 feet above sea level, has recently been opened for sailing. This last week the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board recommended that the site be developed for sailing, canoeing, rowing, fishing and bird watching at a cost of £94,000.

The reservoir is very picturesque with rolling moorland, stretching away into the distance. It covers an area of 275 acres and is 120 feet deep. Great attention is paid to buoyancy testing! The area is only 30 miles from Catterick, within very easy reach for a Wednesday afternoon sail. Being situated so high in the Pennines the wind always blows and the strong winds have ensured that every boat has been thoroughly buoyancy tested, some on several occasions, and every helm has been for a swim. I speak from experience when I say that the water is cold and wets suits are essential even in June and July.

The Garrison have recently purchased 9 new GP 14's and these. are currently sited at the reservoir. So now we have the boats and the water, next year the clubhouse, and then, a note for O.I.C. Manning and Records, please post us a few of the Corps sailors.

SAILING PERSONALITIES — 1973

Major Mike Collins

Currently serving with 8th Signal Regiment as the Chief Instructor, Engineering Wing, he is also Regimental Sailing Officer. He is shortly to be posted to BAOR to serve with 21 Signal Regiment and our loss will undoubtedly be Rhine Area Sailing Club's gain. A very experienced sailor he has been messing about in boats from the age of 12. During his years with the Corps he has sailed for Welbeck, RMA Sandhurst, Royal Signals and the Army. This year he has sailed in the Victory Trophy for the Army Team, has won the Royal Signals Dinghy Championships and by the time of going to press will be sailing the Seaview Mermaids for the Corps Team in the Army Championships.

Corporal Dave Ellis

At present on an upgrading course for TE Technicians, **Corporal Dave Ellis** has been sailing in the Army since 1969. He first stepped into a boat at Changi, Singapore whilst serving with 19 Signal Regiment and sailed Snipes and Ospreys. He was then posted to BAOR where he carried on sailing at Rhine Area Sailing Club in Bosuns and 420's.

Whilst in BAOR he first represented the Corps and Army, quite an achievement after such a short sailing career. This past season has seen him sailing in the Corps Team and he was a member of the team that beat the Sappers.

In the Army Championships he crewed for **Captain Nick Ross,** the eventual winner and the pair of them have teamed up in a 470 for an assault on the British Championships in that class. A formidable partnership which should do well.

Sergeant Mick Wringe

A sailor of that breeding ground of many of Britain's good seamen the mud flats of East Anglia, sailing as a boy in the many One design craft of that area and finally graduating to the Hornet. A very experienced sailor, current Northern Command Champion, has his Corps Colours and is at present en route to BAOR as a Class 1 Telecommunications Mechanic. A very keen team racing man he has developed a liking for offshore sailing and recently obtained his first Mates' Ticket whilst serving with AAC Harrogate. We wish him the best of luck and good sailing in his new posting.

Signalman Tom Nixson holding the Robinson salver which he recently won (see below)

Signalman Tom Nixson

Currently training as a TE Technician with 8 Signal Regiment he has been sailing for 4 years. Starting as a youngster under the careful guidance of **Staff Sergeant Kitchen** at the MohneSee Yacht Club. Has so far done most of his sailing in Bosun dinghies apart from a one week course at the British Kiel Yacht Club. This season he has crewed in the Corps regatta at Whale Island for **Corporal Dave Ellis** and also crewed in the winning boat at the Royal Signals Regatta at Seaview. He won the Best Soldier Helm at Seaview and the photograph shows him admiring his trophy, the Robinson Salver. Aged 20 now, he must have many years of good sailing to look forward to.

21st Signal Regiment win Army Inter-Unit Team Athletics again

For the fourth year running the 21st Regiment have succeeded in winning the Army Team Athletics—this time by a handsome margin from 1st Battalion Worcestershire and Foresters Regiment.

A full account will appear in the September/October Wire.

At the same meeting 8th Signal Regiment were sixth in the Major Units competition and 4th Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and 244 Signal Squadron were fourth and fifth respectively in the Minor Units.

5 Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment came sixth in the WRAC section of the meeting.

Corps win Golf Championship

The Corps won the Benson and Hedges Trophy for BAOR Inter-Corps Golf Championship on 20th July at RAF Bruggen.

Eagle's Flight — an Exercise with a difference

Report by Sergeant Whenman of 22 Signal Regiment

A new approach

22 Signal Regiment, Lippstadt spends some eight months of the year in the field providing communications for exercises at all levels. A small portion of this time is spent on Regimental exercises, practising new methods, training new crews etc.

The CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. C. Spear** decided that the next Regimental exercise would deviate from the normal, and would be as interesting and enjoyable as possible for all concerned. All the usual skills would be practised, but under unusual conditions and with unusual facets.

Twenty relay stations

The main aim would be to communicate from the very north of Germany, to the very south, more than 1,000 kms., using VHF and UHF only. This equipment has a 'line of sight' range, in, other words, with good hilltop sites, we expect about 50 to 70kms. but by the use of some twenty relay stations, we were to increase the range to cover the whole length of the country.

Mufax

To give the exercise more interest, it was decided to bring two towns together, to have the Burgermeister of these towns exchange greetings over the radio telephone, and if possible exchange pictures of their town crests over the picture transmitting equipment (Mufax). Which two towns? What better than Neustadt in Holstein, on the Baltic Sea near Kiel, and Neustadt im Schwarzwald near the Swiss border.

International hospitality — and co-operation

We left barracks on the 24th April and began to set up our chain of relay stations down the whole length of the country. Many people of the civilian population and our NATO allies too, were to come into contact with British troops perhaps for the first time, and more important, we with them. Could we co-operate and get along together? It is impossible in so short an article to give all the examples of friendliness that we met wherever we went. Suffice to say that we were overwhelmed with genuine hospitality and were not only welcomed but when we left, were begged to return again soon.

An example of two of the sites chosen for relay stations. Feldberg in Schwarzwald, 1,945 metres above sea level, snow to a depth of at least 2 metres and in the middle of a ski resort. How to get a vehicle to the top? Simple, phone the American Signals base on the summit and they sent two Snowcats to tow us up. Hornisgrunde

The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel I. C. Spear presents a Regimental Plaque to Burgermeister Hans Gallinger of Neustadt im Schwarzwald

1,000KM LINK UP

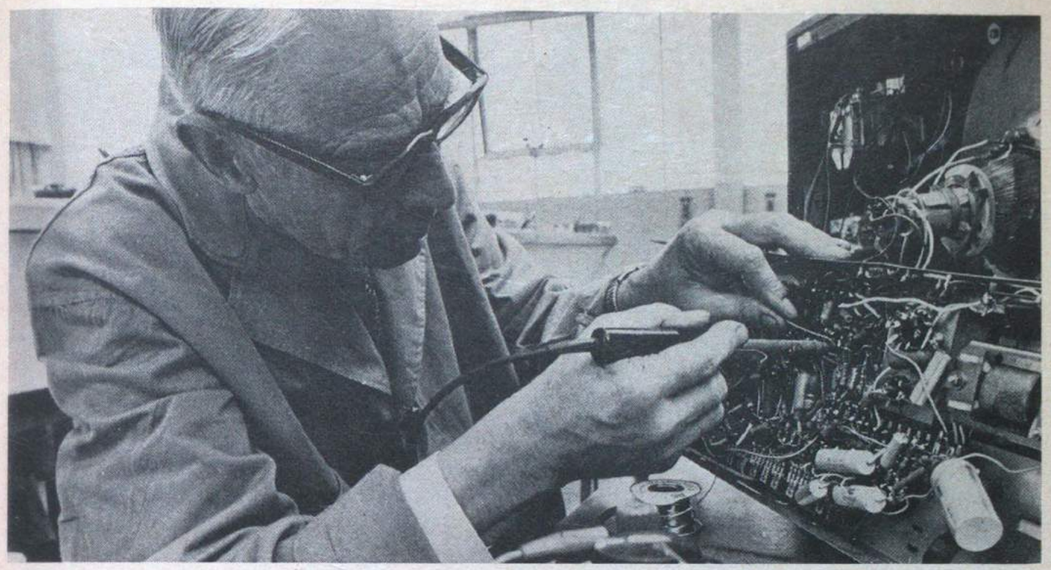
The Coat-of-Arms of Neustadt im Schwarzwald as received at Neustadt in Holstein on Mufax

near Baden Baden, 1,200 metres above sea level and more snow. This time we are billeted in a French Air Force compound. They provide us with a complete hostel. Central heating, beds, baths, dining room, bar and all. The lads of both camps get on great together and I think the French enjoy the change of scene even more than we do. So it continued right up the chain.

The pictures come through

At last the big day arrived. 1100 hours Wednesday, 2nd May. All the guests and V.I.P.s are gathered at each end and right on time the Burgermeisters are in contact by phone. They say some very nice things to each other and are already speaking of 'sister towns'. We then went to the vehicle where the town crests were to be transmitted. "Are you ready to receive". "I am transmitting now". etc. and a German guest remarks, "It's just like NASA HQ waiting for the first pictures from the moon" and it was. Needless to say, the pictures were a success and the celebrations could begin in earnest. We think this may be a first, and that's exactly how we celebrated it.

Local newspapers carried many reports, and I'll close by quoting the headlines of a Schwarzwald paper, **"Royal Signals make it possible."**



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2. **Do you make friends easily?**
3. **Could you get a complete stranger enthusiastic about your job?**
4. **Do people laugh at your jokes?**
5. **Are you as good a listener as you are a talker?**

   If you answered 'yes' to four or more of those questions, have a go at these.

6. **Do you know why the 'BURST' swings?**
7. **Why is no separate intelligence of 'green' transmitted?**
8. **What is the 'pilot tone' used for in a stereo radio transmission?**
9. **Do you understand the main function of the 'colour killer' circuits?**
10. **Why is there a reference oscillator or equivalent circuit in a colour television decoder?**

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Royal Signals Return To Ten Tors

Background

IT was in September 1960 that **Fred Barlow** (a leader of the Dartmoor Rescue Group) was walking the moor when he saw small groups of soldiers scurrying across the countryside. He stopped a passing patrol and asked what they were doing, "Ten Tors", was the mystifying reply. Later that day he met **Lieutenant-Colonel L. M. M. Gregory, M.B.E.,** Royal Signals, CO of the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Regiment at Denbury Camp in South Devon. He explained, "It was an idea I had. Groups of soldiers walk around ten of the Tors on Dartmoor, spending one night out in the open. Come and join us". That was how it all started, and from that time on the popularity of the expedition has increased. First other army units asked to attend, then the other services and finally it was thrown open to the public. This year 2,148 boys and girls from youth organisations and the Services travelled from all over the country and arrived in Okehampton Camp on Friday, 18th May to take part in the Ten Tors expedition, and for the first time since our Junior Leaders Regiment left Denbury, Royal Signals (in the form of 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment) provided the administrative and communications support for the expedition.

Organisation

The Regiment was split into two separate groups to carry out this extensive task. Firstly 120 men were committed to administration with a variety of tasks such as clerking, cooking, driving and stores distribution and secondly 110 men were employed purely on communicating. All were under the overall command of **Major John Brian** which accounts for his worried countenance throughout the whole period.

The administration was controlled by **Captain Harry Hamer,** who rarely left his leader's side and shared his countenance, continuously concerned about such earthshaking matters as the Officers' Mess papers and the ration strength return. Like the good officer he is, **Captain Hamer** delegated the majority of his tasks to three trusty aides. The camp and stores were managed by the Quartermaster, **Major Don Stow, M.B.E.,** Green Howards. He had arrived several days before the main party and had taken over Okehampton Camp and had also spent his time amassing 24 × 4 ton loads of equipment from stores and depots all over the South of England. For the comfort and support of the Tor parties who were to live and work on the moor, **Major Stow** had collected a diversity of stores, including tentage, stoves, cooking equipment, beds, toilets, heaters, tables, chairs and anything else you could possibly think of. **Major Stow** also had the responsibility of collecting and erecting a large amount of tentage for officials, the start, the finish and spectators. This proved a very tricky job in the very high winds and continuous rain which persisted for the whole period. For this task he used a small group from the D and E platoon under the command of **Corporal Jim Farrar.** These lads worked like trojans for the whole exercise period, the majority of the time in the pouring rain, and yet never were they heard to complain. They were always ready to go out again and do more work. They still seemed to find time to enjoy themselves, because by the weekend they had a camp follower in the shape of a rather nice young lady who sat doting on the whole team. **Captain Hamer's** second ally in the administrative battle was **Captain Ron Acott,** Royal Signals, who controlled the transport. Over 70 vehicles had been brought to Okehampton and it was **Captain Acott's** job to maintain them (with the help of a detachment from our LAD), and keep the vehicles supplied with petrol, of which 7,000 gallons were consumed during the period. He also controlled the drivers and the movement of vehicles. The last of **Captain Hamer's** trusty men was **Captain Colin Broom,** ACC who looked after the rations (of which literally tons were consumed) and the cooks in the Officers', Sergeants' and Soldiers' messes. It was noticed that the **Captains' Hamer** and **Broom** spent a considerable time together, and let it not be me to cast aspersions, but it was noticed that **Captain Hamer** always got the brown eggs at breakfast and **Captain Broom** always got the pick of the newspapers. It was probably

(*Continued on page* 349)

(*Continued from page* 348)

nothing really. Communications came under the direct control of **Major David Morris,** and were all important on this expedition especially from the safety aspect. There were 18 Tors each manned with two VHF radios, one as standby. Some of the more inaccessible ones had three just to make sure. For communications purposes the moor was split into four areas. One net worked for the North East Tors and one for the North West Tors both into control stations at Okehampton where exercise control was situated. In the South a similar plan was followed with a control being established just outside Princetown. The two were connected by a radio relay teleprinter link.

There were also parts of the expedition organisation under the control of HQ South West District. These included reception of the participants, recording the progress of patrols, accounting for all the participants, the drop out organisation and the medical support. For all these tasks, members of the Regiment were co-opted in to help. For instance **Corporal Eric Tai,** who took part in the first three Ten Tors Expeditions, was helping on the recording organisation as a clerk. It may also amaze members of 1 Squadron that the staff of the exercise control found a use for **Signalman Dick Henderson**—he makes reasonable coffee!

Preparation

On Monday the 14th May the administrative party arrived, occupied Okehampton camp and settled in. Work started early Tuesday morning with stores being sorted, tents being moved and erected and accommodation being prepared for the communications and follow up parties. It was the evening that the atrocious weather began—it was to be one continual problem. A fierce gale started to blow and most of our good work collapsed on us as wind speeds reached gale force 10. This continued all day Wednesday and when the communications party arrived such comments as "look what the wind blew in" were rife. Work that day was impossible as the tremendous force of the wind made even standing a tiring occupation. Wednesday was voted a write-off and finally cancelled. Thursday dawned bright and blustery—but the show had to go on. In the morning the Tor parties formed-up and drew their stores. The parties consisted of six members. Officers and Warrant Officers were drawn from the Royal Air Force, Dartmouth Royal Navy College, Army Youth Teams from the local area and two from our own Regiment. These were supported by a three man communications team. It was decided that these parties should deploy in the afternoon and with them the control party for the South of the moor under command of **Captain Keith Turner,** Royal Signals. Each party spent Thursday morning collecting stores and preparing their detachments whilst those remaining at Okehampton prepared the exercise control area. The condemned men ate a hearty meal at lunch and at 1400 hours all the Tor parties began to leave.

At the very moment that the first vehicle left, the heavens opened. The rain drove horizontally forming a grey blanket across the whole moor and a helicopter lift planned to take parties to inaccessible Tors had to be cancelled. Meanwhile those Tor parties which had left by road were setting up their check points and got soaked for their troubles. The Southern moor control was also being set up with great difficulty, visibility was down to 15 metres and the area chosen for them quickly turning into marsh. Many of their vehicles stuck fast in the bad conditions and the weather never lifted in their location until they moved out on the following Monday.

The Fleet Air Arm Wessex arrived on Friday morning to air lift the two remaining Tor parties. The weather was kinder and the visibility was good over the majority of the moor but obviously not quite good enough for the pilot who promptly dropped one party on the wrong Tor! Frantic phone calls managed to secure his return the same afternoon. **Staff Sergeant John Staward, Corporal 'Jock' Stevenson** and **Lance-Corporal 'Swede' Coulthard** were dispatched to help move the equipment from one Tor to another. The first lift of personnel and equipment went well but half way through the second lift of more stores and fuel, the weather clamped down and the pilot made a rather 'hairy' landing, threw out the stores and returned for the last lift, which consisted of the important communications trailer. Meanwhile on the 'wrong' Tor, our brave trio waited in the mist for the return of the helicoptor, they could hear it circling but could not see it. Finally **Staff Sergeant Staward** walked down the Tor until he found the helicopter and then walked back in front of it until he had guided it back to the other two lads waiting at the trailer. The pilot had had enough by now and taking the three on board tried to return to Okehampton. He spent half an hour trying to follow streams and looking for landmarks. He failed, and was finally grounded in a farm yard, where they eventually found their exact location on the map. The pilot now had only one idea, to get home as quickly as possible. He raised the helicopter above the clouds and his first stop was Exeter where he dropped out three soaked heroes.

However this incident had more repercussions. This Tor now had no communications and the expedition started the next day. **Major Morris** quickly gathered a small band around him with communications stores, heaters, lamps and tents. All this equipment then had to be manhandled up the side of the Tor in visibility down to 10 metres. It called for a high degree of compass accuracy and **Major Morris** was always stopping to check his compass. (Well that's what he said he was doing.) Anyway when we reached the top, **Corporal 'Wally' Staines,** the detachment commander had tasked his 'acting' cook **Signalman 'Fred' Fry** to prepare coffee for us and we never found out who was most grateful, the Tor party because we had arrived or ourselves because of the reception waiting for us. By Friday evening competitors were streaming into Okehampton camp to stay for the night.

The expedition

Saturday the 19th May will remain lodged in the mind of many of the competitors, who stood shoulder to shoulder in the grey, damp, mist of the early morning, waiting for the start. It was a moving experience as the 2,000 competitors bowed their heads and listened to the Ten Tors prayer, evoking safety upon them and extolling the beauty of the moor and the virtue of brotherly help within teams. The Mayor of Okehampton declared the expedition started and they were away. Teams were soon seen scurrying across the mountains and messages were already flooding in as teams arrived at nearby Tors. By the end of the expedition over 3,000 messages had been received at Okehampton, been processed through the recording organisation and actioned.

However the beauty of the moor soon turned into the beast for which it is renowned. The damp mist turned into torrential rain and the grey gloom had turned into thick, impenetrable fog. Map reading became erratic. Groups were slowed down considerably as plains turned into marsh, streams became full flood rivers and every stitch of clothing they had on became sodden. Many teams just could not force themselves to go on in such conditions and drop outs started flooding in. Fifteen × 4 ton vehicles were used for rescue work. They drove along a known circuit continuously and from the start of the expedition until the end the vehicles were nearly always full. These drivers, all from the Regiment, worked very hard in very bad driving conditions. The Dartmoor Rescue Group kept going throughout the first day as casualty reports came streaming in from all over the moor. At first it was mainly injuries to the lower limbs but as the day wore on and with the continuation of the wind and rain the inevitable exposure cases arrived. Teams struggled on for the rest of the day. The River Tavy, normally passable, was a raging torrent but not to be deterred the youngsters forced their way across. They used their safety ropes and waded chest high through the water. One team watched their equipment float away down stream and chased a mile and a half to catch it and then continued on their way. Another boys' team found a girl floating face down in a pool, they pulled her out and carried her to the nearest Tor party. There were countless cases across the moor of teams helping teams across difficult stretches of the country. Throughout the day continuous safety checks were carried out and any team found unsuitably dressed or missing vital equipment was stopped. One ACF team was nonchalantly seen walking with rolled umbrellas, a perfect parody of city gentlemen. By the evening, teams were exhausted as they came to make camp for the night. The girls teams stopped at a tented camp prepared for them in the South of the moor. All those who visited this camp were heartened by their high spirits and smiling faces. One officer watched amazed as a small girl just fainted away in front of him but with tea and warmth from the nearby medical tent, she was soon back to life again.

Back at Okehampton events were becoming serious, the rain still fell and by 0100 hours we still had two girls teams unaccounted for. Weather conditions and the lack of knowledge of their position prevented any kind of search but units of the Dartmoor Rescue Group and six of our own men were put on standby just in case. We thought they they would be safe, as they should have been carrying tents, sleeping bags, food and a change of clothing. Little did we know that one team had none of these

items. Luckily the two girls teams had joined together and late in the evening they had met a boys team, between them they had enough to survive the night. Early on Sunday the weather was brighter and two Army helicopters from Netheravon began the search and quickly found the groups.

Two of the girls were airlifted for medical attention but the remainder continued to the next Tor before dropping out. Although the weather was better that day, teams were far behind time and it was impossible for them to make up the distance lost. Yet one young team of scouts on the 35 mile course finished by 0845 hours and were really fit and well. All through the day teams were arriving back to complete the course and to collect their medallions. **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Briggs,** CO of our Regiment was very proud to present prizes to one of the chirpiest junior girls teams, who came over the finishing line whistling, linking arms and laughing after what must have been a most gruelling 36 hours. On the other hand more and more dropped out, and by the end of the event 1,555 competitors had dropped out making it one of the toughest competitions in the history of the expedition.

Post script

It was not over yet for the administrators, as tents and stores had to be returned and communication detachments dismantled. The majority of the Regiment had returned to Bulford by late evening on the Monday but a small work party under the Quartermaster stayed on until the following Thursday.

This was a new and exacting task for the Regiment, but even though men were soaked (and stayed that way) and the hours were long, spirits were high and the challenge was enjoyed. All felt it was a worthwhile job making sure that 2,148 young people could take part in this adventure in relative safety over some of England's toughest country. Because of the popularity of this event and of the slight problem of the two girls teams, this year's Ten Tors came under close scrutiny by all the national press, and all were agreed that this was a very safe and well run competition. We were proud in the Regiment to have been able to make a sufficient contribution to think that part of that accolade belongs to us.

Once round Fyn—A trip in the Corps Yacht

Nearly all beginners

ON 4th May 1973 the crew gathered at Kiel. They consisted of the Skipper, **Major Trevor Grice** and five young signalmen, none with more than one year's service after training. They were; **Reg Parker** who had some previous sailing experience, **'Buster' Harris, Alan Bellamy** and **Geoff Fenwick,** all of 16 Signal Regiment. On arrival we took over *Petasus* which we found in excellent condition, gleaming like a new pin. **Signalman 'Chas' Maycock** from 1 Division Signal Regiment was the boat-husband and, as we had a spare berth, having checked the boat, we hijacked him to travel with us. Except for the Skipper and **Reg Parker,** experience of sailing or indeed boats at all was almost non-existent.

Like all plans, we had a multiplicity of aims, to have an adventurous week, to learn boat handling, to sail round the Danish island of Fyn and lastly to enjoy ourselves. As the tale unfolds it will be seen all aims were achieved.

Basic drills practised

Early in the morning of Saturday, 5th May we moved slowly away from the Kiel Club jetty under engine. We hoisted sails which soon filled to a steady easterly breeze. After passing Kiel light we practised basic manoeuvres, putting reefs in the main, changing jibs and 'man overboard' drill. **'Buster' Harris** was the first to pay his respects to Neptune; he had enjoyed his breakfast too well!

First port of call

We sailed steadily to Sonderborg, a port in South Jutland situated at the South end of a fjord. On approaching the harbour at 3.30 p.m. the sky blackened to such an extent that we had to use the harbour lights to navigate into the fjord. As we approached the jetty a tremendous thunder storm burst upon us with lightning flashing all around and torrential rain. Not ideal conditions to bring a strange craft with a raw crew alongside a jetty, the Skipper fluffed it leaving *Petasus* several yards off.

Luckily and unexpectedly **Sergeant Robert Webb,** also of 16 Signal Regiment, appeared to catch moorings cast to him. He was with a crew consisting of **Corporal Pete Catterall, Lance-Corporals Bob Wright, Bill Cropper** and **'Paddy' Knox** together with **Ian Betts** from the LAD who were also sampling the delights of the Baltic Sea in a vessel called *Tern*.

On to Svendborg

Over a glass of beer it was decided the two boats would sail in company to Svendborg on the South coast of Fyn. A cold wind was blowing strongly from the N.E. carrying heavy rain showers. *Petasus* led *Tern* out of harbour and gradually pulled away; within two hours *Tern* was out of sight and in fact not seen again. They never reached Svendborg, but in fact as conditions deteriorated put into Faaborg.

The town of Svendborg is at the centre of a long narrow fjord. As the wind was dying we motored into the harbour. The BP garage on the quay has a shower which we found most welcome.

Fresh fish for supper

The next morning we sailed out of Svendborg Fjord into the Great Belt, the main shipping channel from the Baltic to the open

sea. Many ships moved majestically along the lanes as we sailed slowly north. The fine weather kept the crew on deck: **'Chas' Maycock** proved a true lineman by sleeping for hours on the deck! The two fishing lines trailing astern caught two fish, which were gutted by **Reg** and **Geoff.** As we sailed into Nyborg Harbour we caught a seagull. On trying to pull it aboard it went underwater.

We let go of the line and did 'Man overboard drill' picking up the bird on the first attempt. **'Buster' Harris** and **'Chas' Maycock** succeeded in getting the hooks our of the gull's beak. The gull left squawking loudly. After this excitement we motored into Nyborg Yacht Basin which was very full of a large dredger. **Reg Parker** managed to get alongside the piles on the third attempt. Naturally we had fresh fish for supper.

Tricky navigation

On Tuesday the wind swung to the N.W. The Gods seemed determined that we should sail 'uphill' all the time. The trip from Nyborg to Horsens took 24 hours. The leading lights on Horsens Fjord had been changed but the chart had not been amended. As the gap is only 100 yards wide this was somewhat worrying, particularly at 4 o'clock on a dark morning. However, the gap was negotiated and the seven miles fjord into Horsens was behind us by breakfast. Wednesday was a recovery day. We were visited at moorings by the Mayor of Horsens who sampled the whisky and welcomed us to the town. Unfortunately, the message got around and several visitors later the whisky supplies ran out. However, we recommend Horsens for hospitality as we then paid return visits to our new friends.

The open sea looked horrible

After our day of rest a rather tired crew crawled from bunks to a grey day. The S.W. wind was howling through the rigging with the rain moving horizontally. Under 6 reefs in the main and storm jib, we sailed down the fjord to see what the open sea looked like. It was horrible. However, we decided to attempt to beat down to Middlefart. The day was a long slog into the wind. We could carry no more canvas but had insufficient to really force our way up wind. During the afternoon Skipper ordered two reefs out. The main halyard was jammed but **Reg** 'volunteered' to go up the mast hoisted by the Skipper and **'Chas' Maycock.** Unfortunately **'Buster'** at the tiller stood up to view the scene and was laid out by the boom. Eventually the shambles was sorted out, **'Buster'** brought round and we sailed on into the Little Belt. A very tired crew moored at Middlefart soon after dark. On entering harbour, **'Buster',** obviously accident prone, caught his foot between jetty and boat.

Back to Kiel

Friday was a pleasant day. In early morning sun with a mere wisp of wind we moved out of the very pleasant harbour of Middlefart and beat slowly down into the wider channel. The wind soon strengthened from the West. Soon after midday we were off to Assens with a force 6 wind on the beam. *Petasus* really got down to the job and we sailed very fast over a bumpy sea. We covered 60 miles in eight hours getting into Kiel before dark. **'Buster'** spent all day in his bunk except for a brief visit to deck when he thought we had sunk. It was only a particularly large wave which swept the deck giving a submerged feeling.

So we had achieved all our aims with a fair amount of excitement and one slightly battered crew member. The Club House at Kiel swayed a little that evening as we celebrated our safe return.

UNUSUAL JOBS

I have 360 wives!

By Corporal Roy Andrews of 260 Squadron (a married man with three children)

DURING the month of February sometime, I cannot recall the date, I was called to the OC's, **Major Cunningham's** office and told to go on leave for a week. My immediate thoughts were 'this can't be bad while the Squadron is in full training for duty in Ulster'. When you return from leave report to the Married Families Centre. Hence the 360 wives, which I help to look after.

The main party of 36 Heavy AD Regiment, RA of which 260 Signal Squadon (SAM) is an integral part were on Operation 'Banner' (training for Ulster)—the first time that a Royal Signals Squadron has been formed as an Infantry Company, or so we are told.

So there I was a week later amidst mounds of nappies, baby bottles, toy tractors, tipper trucks, wheelbarrows and baby bouncers, not forgetting to mention next-of-kin forms, passport applications, birth certificates and what have you all in triplicate

'After the first works servicing it was found that a toy tractor was damaged so it was 1045'd through usual channels to workshops.

Part of our job in the Centre is to give advice and help to any of the wives who have any problems while their husbands are away on Operation 'Banner'. We also have a mobile caravan which tours all the quarter areas, some of which are 20 miles from barracks. It is also our job to sort out and make sure all the mail is delivered and supervise welfare telephone calls in the evenings, for husbands on Operation 'Banner' to chat to their wives. We have heard from Belfast that this is a big morale booster.

We entertained the families to a turkey lunch one Sunday, at the cost of DM.1 (approx. 15p) each. This was an enormous success and it was voted that we do it more often. So at Whitsun we laid on a buffet luncheon. At least the wives appreciate Army cooking and at the price who can blame them?

Some of the Squadron wives help to pack up the weekly cigarette ration for the single soldiers. A big thank you goes to them for this and it is certainly appreciated.

There is never a dull moment in the Centre which is staffed by three different cap badges, Royal Artillery, REME, and of course the Royal Corps.

We are about half-way through the Operation 'Banner' tour now. The wives all have their chuff charts out counting off the days to their husbands' return. The families officer, **Captain Harry Guite,** RA, is often heard humming around the centre that famous old English ballad, "They are coming to take me away, HA, HA". I wonder why. I am by the way, a 'Hairy' if you haven't already guessed it so in August it's back to telephone lines instead of clothes lines for me!

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in June	**44**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**83**
Amount spent	**£874·87**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants made	**7**
Amount spent	**£93·00**

One of the Month's Cases

DRIVER, served in R.E. Signals and Royal Signals from 1913 to 1929. Now aged 78. His wife died early this year, and he now lives alone in one of the troubled areas of Belfast. The Association made him a grant of £26 for clothing needs and to clear a small Hire Purchase commitment.

One of the Month's Letters

(From a SSAFA Representative)

MRS. K.'s gratitude to you and your Committee knows no bounds. She is absolutely thrilled about her holiday, and the anticipation is almost doing her as much good as the holiday itself. It is exactly what was needed to build her up after the long strain of her husband's illness, and I just wish you could see yourselves what your generous grant is already beginning to do for her. My very grateful thanks.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during May, 1973:

	£ p
Honorary Secretary, Bath and District Branch, Royal Signals Association	7·00
Honorary Secretary, Jersey Branch, Royal Signals Association	5·00
H. R. W. Marsh, Esq.	10·00
Colonel T. W. Vigurs, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L.	2·10
Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, T.D.	1·00
L. J. Jennings, Esq.	75
J. O. Buchannon, Esq.	50
Various small donations	54
	£26·89

Amateur Theatricals at Blandford Camp— Another successful production

BLANDFORD CAMP MUSIC AND DRAMA CLUB'S PRODUCTION "ALL FOR MARY" PRESENTED ON 14th, 15th AND 16th JUNE 1973

Left to right: Brian Whiteley as Humphrey Millar, Sylvia MacGillvray as Mary Miller, John Chambers as Clive Norton and Jo Blandford as Nannie Cartwright

ANOTHER very successful production by Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club was staged in the Princess Mary Hall of the School of Signals on the 14th, 15th and 16th June 1973. This was the three act comedy 'All for Mary' by Harold Brooke and Kay Bannerman, produced by **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Brown.**

The cast was a very small one of six characters, each with an equally important part and a prodigious amount of lines to remember. Their memories were equal to the task and the prompter was speechless at each performance.

The plot conjured up a most unlikely situation in which a husband **(Brian Whiteley)** on his honeymoon in Switzerland develops chicken-pox and is quarantined in an attic of the hotel, only to be joined later by his wife's ex husband **(John Chambers)** who has also developed chicken-pox. The wife **(Sylvia MacGillivray)** meantime, enjoys the ski slopes with the handsome continental hotel manager **(Patrick Dickenson).** To make the situation even more absurd the manager obtains the assistance of a retired English nurse (an outstanding character study by **Jo Blandford)** to look after the invalids. By a terriffic coincidence she turns out to be the husband's old Nanny and soon introduces some pretty strict nursery discipline into the sick room. Alphonse the hotel porter **(Richard Owen)** completed the cast. The acting was of a very high standard and provided hilarious entertainment for appreciative audiences on the three nights.

Stage management was by the **Bonakers,** and the set designed and built by **Ken Goulding.** Many others were involved and all are to be congratulated on achieving such an excellent show.

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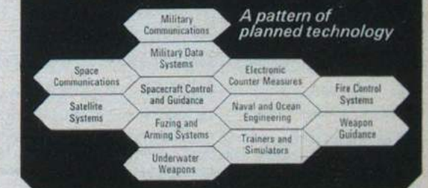

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 801

OC—**Major Bill Cunningham,** Royal Signals
Second-in-Command—**Captain Peter Lenthall,** Royal Signals
IO—**Lieutenant Rory Clayton,** RA
OC 'X' Troop—**Lieutenant David Dobson,** Royal Signals
OC 'Y' Troop—**Lieutenant Nigel Noble,** RA
OC 'Z' Troop—**Second-Lieutenant David Case,** Royal Signals
Watchkeeper—**W.O.2 Ray Hicks,** RA
SSM—**W.O.2 Charles Hay,** Royal Signals

FINAL BELFAST REPORT

This is the second part of our Northern Ireland report. The period covered takes us up to within three weeks of end of tour. A salute from 'Y' and 'Z' Troops is included.

Before letting them take the stage, however, a few more words about the Squadron as a whole. Readers of our first report may have been puzzled by the omission of **Captain John Cowe,** Royal Signals, normally our Administrative Officer. It was felt that for a man of his mature years the rough and tumble of a Troop Commander's life in Belfast was too undignified. However, no one was better suited to be Regimental Intelligence Officer. He now proudly boasts that he is the shortest haired IO in Northern Ireland. The same cannot be said of our Squadron IO. With the inquisitiveness of a ferret, the determination of an elephant and hair enough to stuff a sofa with, the ex-OC of the short lived Recce Troop, **Lieutenant 'Audie Murphy' Clayton,** RA, commands **Sergeant Tom Margrett** and **Sergeant Neil Wiseley** his AIO's.

Another very welcome addition has been **W.O.2 (T.S.B. S.S.M.) Ray Hicks,** on loan from 10 (Assaye) Battery RA as watchkeeper. He runs the firm from 0200–0900 hours and lets the rest of the Ops Officers, especially the Second-in-Command, get some sleep.

One of the most striking additions to our strength is **Corporal 'M.A.S.H.' Henderson,** our extremely able RAMC Medical Orderly. During pre-tour exercises he performed the role of IRA gunman so ferociously that we later found the real thing somewhat easier to countenance. During the tour he has treated a large number of civilians and has done much to promote good will with the local civilian population.

During the tour we have enjoyed the excellent services of the pig drivers of 17 and 19 Squadron RCT. At times they have had little to do as the pigs they drive suffer recurring epidemics of swine fever.

Now to introduce 'Y' and 'Z' Troops.

'Y' Troop

Troop Commander—**Lieutenant Nigel Noble,** RA
Troop Sergeant—**Sergeant Dave Meredith**
Admin. Sergeant—**Sergeant Bob Taylor**
Half Section Commanders (Callsigns not given for security reasons):

First Section	**Sergeant Duncan Innes** **Corporal Pete Tarrant**
Second Section	**Corporal Bob Langley** **Corporal 'Ginge' Greenacre**
Third Section	**Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' O'Halloran** **Lance-Corporal Rod Webdell**
Fourth Section (Attached from 'Z' Troop)	**Corporal Clive Gregory** **Lance-Corporal 'Rick' Lee** (Detached from 653 Signal Troop (SAM))

The Troop is based at the Church Hall of St. Matthews Church, situated on the North Interface between the Catholic and Protestant areas. The Troop carries out all Squadron SOP tasks, plus manning the Seaforde Sangar, strategically placed to guard the Catholic area.

'Y' Troop's message to the Corps is that they would like to give the assurance that serving in Northern Ireland as Infantry, though tiring and frustrating, is not nearly as bad as shivering in the snow at Soltau or digging vehicles out of a bog at Sennelager. However, they will not come back again until invited.

'Z' Troop

Troop Commander—**Second-Lieutenant David Case,** Royal Signals
Troop Staff Sergeant—**Staff Sergeant Peter Lori**
Half Section Commanders (Callsigns not given for security reasons):

First Section	**Corporal Bill Hickey** **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Blundell**
Second Section	**Sergeant Dennis Parker** **Lance-Corporal 'Stew' Fowler**

'Z' Troop is the Squadron's third rifle troop, formed especially for Operation 'Banner'. Its members are drawn from 'X' and 'Y' (RR) Troops and newcomers to the Squadron. All are in good heart and send greetings to the rest of the Corps.

Finally, a note from the scribe. With three weeks left before our relieving unit arrives, we look back with pride (and thankfulness) on what we have achieved. To date (10th July 1973) our main achievements have been the elimination of the following:

1 gunman wounded and captured, with his rifle.
1 home made mortar and a number of bombs.
3 rifles, 1 shotgun, 1 Stengun and 2 magazines.
1,174 rounds of assorted ammunition.
23 lbs. of explosives, plus fuses, detonators, and 7 timing devices.
35 home made riot shields.
5 bayonets and knives.
1 electric duplicator and 1 radio.

These are the main fruits of thousands of man hours of diligent work by all ranks. We feel, however, that our greatest contribution has been to bring a little nearer the restoration of peace and normality to both sides. We have shown our impartiality in a manner that even the most bigotted troublemaker cannot deny.

During the training and the tour the Squadron has been very appreciative of the many visitors who went to considerable trouble to some and see us. Recently we welcomed the Signal Officer-in-Chief and later **Brigadier O. J. Peck,** Commander 12 Signal Group.

We have been helped by numerous agencies. We would like to make special mention of 39 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, 'E' Troop, 653 Signal Troop (SAM), 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment T & AVR, 7 (City of Belfast) Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment, the RUC of 'E' Division and the many citizens who have shown us kindness and gratitude for the little that we have been able to do for them. A special thanks go to the legion of kind people who showered us with tea, beer and 'stickies'.

At the end of July, Operation 'Banner' will become a memory, the Squadron will go on three weeks block leave, then redeploy in its SAM role, having had a very unusual four months.

With 260 Signal Squadron in Northern Ireland

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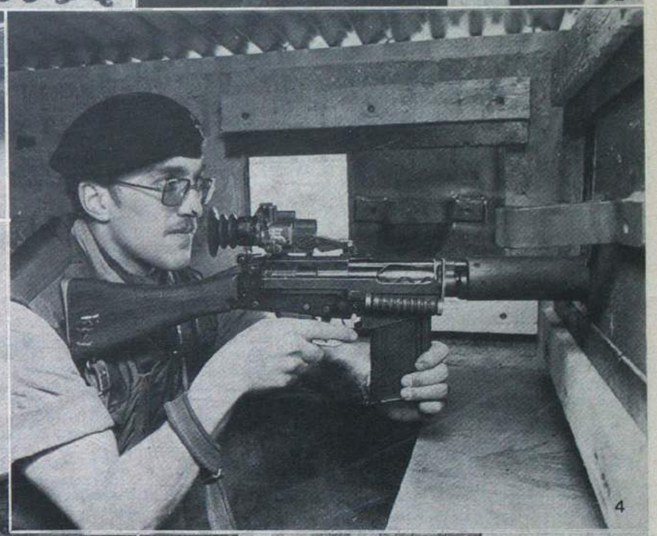
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1. The Baron Lieutenant Nigel Noble, R.A. and his two escorts Signalmen Rufus Rice and 'Tich' Wright
2. Captain Peter Lenthall, Corporal Bill Hickey standby while the S.O.-in-C. has a word with Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Blundell
3. Signalman Gus Cutt has his own solution to tired feet on patrol
4. Lance-Corporal Dave Hogben on Sangar duty
5. Signalman Steve Alsopp covers Royal Engineers building a sangar
6. The Bomb Squad. *Left to right:* **Lance-Corporal Waddy Waddington, Signalman George Ridley, Signalman Dave Slater.** *Kneeling:* **Signalman P. J. Parry-Jones and Signalman 'Hammy' Hamilton (653 Troop)**

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

'M' Troop — *Sergeant Colin Miller reports*

IT has been suggested by no less august personalities than the 'Ed' and 'Co-ed' of THE WIRE that unit correspondents keep well away from the stodgy nature of unit reporting and personalise the whole thing. This suggestion has been taken to heart by our Second-in-Command and this month the spotlight falls squarely on the broad shoulders of Mike Troop. (EVERYBODY brings us their problems!)

The opportunity of boasting about the work and abilities of his troop (and thereby his own) rarely falls within the jurisdiction of a F. of S., and judging from the performance of ours, **F. of S. Bob Wherry,** with his weeks local leave and a sidestep executed with a flair and elan which would do credit to a professional matador when it came to WIRE notes time, it will become rarer still!

In the van of more recent contributions to the 'Report from Ulster' by our sister squadrons in the Belfast area, and to preserve our undoubted superiority complex the order of the day would appear to be to produce pictures of our finest and most alert technician **Joe Cool,** decks cleared for action.

Diligent research has however failed to produce said photographs of our **Joe,** the sight so commonplace in this Squadron as to occasion no attention whatsoever from the rash on energetic PR men.

The completion date of our second phase of 'Operation Spiral' (our new communications system for the city) hurtles towards us, seemingly accelerating, like our mini van driven by **Sergeant** "in skating over thin ice, our safety is in our speed" **Porter** at breakneck speed through city limits. **Bob Porter** has been with us for three weeks now, on loan from 30 Regiment on a six month emergency tour replacing **Sergeant Dave Miles** also from 30 Regiment. Both have proved tremendous assets—but oh, are they wearing on the nerves! The regimental sense of humour at 30 Regiment is obviously something else! Both have rejoiced in the title of 'Operation Spiral Co-ordinator', which may have something to do with their outlook on life.

The completion date of 'Spiral' will not of course give us an entirely redundant troop as changes in the operational requirement, routine maintenance and faults, not to mention the activities of the 'baddies' will effectively bung the spoke in that proverbial glimpse of Utopia.

In fact, just this week we had a woebegone RMP Corporal arrive in the workshop brandishing one of our lovely new sets with a gaping hole right through it. I am assured by the experts that it was caused by an armalite bullet, and not as I had imagined, a friendly prod from aforementioned stocky RMP Corporal.

Throughout the last four months or so the Squadron has been running an inter-troop decathlon competition, and believe it or not, 'M' Troop in conjunction with SHQ and 'Q' Troops, is currently second. It must be the youth and vitality injected by us I imagine as events are entered with much greater enthusiasm than skill.

Variorum

As one of the principal purposes of THE WIRE is to keep comrades in contact, however remotely, the cast (not necessarily in order of appearance—especially in the mornings) is:

—Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob Wherry—Troop Commander, who leaves the Squadron bereft of a quarter of its personnel weekly and the workshop smelling like Billingsgate. No prizes for guessing the Squadron's most popular hobby.

—Sergeant Bob Porter—mentioned previously, and still driving us all mad with his 'Mad Hatter' method of speech.

—Sergeant 'Kev' East—currently on leave whilst his wife **Sue** is in hospital awaiting delivery of their second born. Don't forget **'Kev',** any unexpected packages should be reported to EOD immediately.

—Sergeant Frank Running—very recently married to **Gloria**—congratulations from us all once again.

—Sergeant Keith 'The Bosun' Essam—continues to confound us by liberally strewing bits of his million mile an hour Fiat and or his yachts around the place. These affluent single men!

—Corporal Frank Byrne—but I *must* be on a class I soon.

—Corporal Bill Cook—proud owner of a new set of contact lenses and wandering around unrecognised by half of us in the absence of his more usual horn rims.

—Corporal Derek Roberts—our most, I'm led to believe, ardent 'socialiser'.

—Corporal John Arbury—don't worry **John,** the cares and pressures will soon have you slimmed down!

—Signalman Mike Moore—recently joined us from training and currently 'getting to know the ropes'.

No cast could possibly be complete wihout mention of our worthy FATSO, **Sergeant 'Wes' Braithwaite,** RAOC sender of more 02 indents than the rest of the province.

I think as an 'M' Troop we must enjoy the unique distinction of having **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Jack Wraith** as honorary Troop Commander in the absence of the F. of S. All this by democracy yet!

Amendment No. 1 to our notes of January-February vintage—our mythical married man going to lunch each day from Ebrington Barracks to his quarter would NOT go over 44,928 bumps of security road ramps—one has been removed!

Pips from that damned radio however at 10,540,800 per four month tour, provisionally at least, stay the same.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

REPORT FROM MT TROOP

The SDS run in Belfast is a little out of the ordinary

DRIVING in any city can be a problem especially to the driver who is unfamiliar with the area. Belfast is no exception to the rule with its maze of tiny streets, one way systems and roads which invariably have more than one name. However even if the driver masters all that, he is still faced with further problems—terrorists, bombs, brick throwing school children and a long list of 'Out of Bounds' roads.

Stones, bottles and . . . bullets

The combat drivers in the troop who are employed on SDS duties are just a few of the military personnel who are required to drive under these conditions and are faced with the fears and frustrations of this unhappy city. Their duties require them to run the gauntlet of bullets and bricks twice a day and their routes take them through some of the worst trouble spots in the Brigade area. It is therefore these members of the Squadron who catch most of the stones, bottles and on occasions the bullets.

A changing route

Their day begins with the receipt of a telephone call informing them that the Brigade brief for the previous 24 hours has been completed and is ready for despatch to HQ Northern Ireland. Having completed this task they prepare their vehicles for the morning SDS, have a quick breakfast and report to the Comcen to collect the despatches. The SDS driver is responsible for checking his route, these change daily for obvious security reasons, briefing himself on any changes to Battalion boundaries and finally obtaining clearance to proceed along his route to his first port of call. A quick radio check is made and the SDS is ready to leave.

The SDS vehicles always travel in pairs, each vehicle carrying escorts. This requires a fair amount of expertise by the drivers and understanding between the vehicles' escorts, for the vehicles must remain in sight of each other, often in very dense traffic, and the escorts are required to be alert at all times and capable of reacting to any given situation that may arise. They must be prepared to give covering fire if either vehicle comes under attack from gunmen but at the same time be capable of restraint if opening fire means endangering innocent life.

BELFAST S.D.S. RUN
The leading S.D.S. Vehicle with Lance-Corporal Dave Hazel, R.P.C. and Private 'Jock' McSkimming, R.P.C. riding shotgun

A typical run

The SDS is a convenient way to tour the Brigade area and see the problems that the troops on the ground are faced with. If you travel with them you soon become aware of the strain that is imposed upon crews. The vehicle is just entering the Andersonstown area when one of the escorts puts his head through the hatch and warns the driver that there is a group of young children playing by a parked lorry up ahead, the driver slows down and pulls out to give the lorry a wide berth. As the Land Rover draws level with the stationary vehicle there's a shout from behind, "Look out they have a pile of bricks", the driver pulls the cord which raises the front stone cage just in time to save the windscreen from being smashed by a house brick. At the same time the escorts take cover as a hail of stones, bricks and bottles strike the side of the rover. Once clear the driver picks up speed and the event noted and reported to the next Tac HQ on the run.

Five hours each way

If one joined the Battalion Tac HQs by the shortest and most direct routes, the SDS complete round trip would be approximately 25 miles and under normal conditions could be completed in about 2 hours but due to the security situation and route restrictions, the run can take up to 5 hours which means 10 hours driving a day under great pressure. The camp gates are always a welcome sight at the end of such a trip, but there is always the possibility that when the driver reports into the Comcen he will be greeted with the news that there is a stack of immediate despatches that must be cleared straight away and so with half a cup of coffee inside them the SDS crew leave once more to face the perils of the city.

One can argue of course that the Belfast Battalions are on the ground every day and do not have the relative safety of Lisburn to return to. The difference here is that our SDS crews are faced with 2 years of this existence rather than the 4 month tours of the Battalions. It is for this reason that a high standard of proficiency and sense of purpose is required by our crews.

Time off

To alleviate the strain and tension incurred from their duties we are always striving to find ways and means to give the drivers and their crews a break from their duties. This is often difficult with all the restrictions imposed on movement in Ulster, however four members of the troop have recently returned from a four day cruise with the Royal Navy, aboard HMS Ashton. Although we are not sure exactly what they did or where they went, they all returned with tales which, if true, should be submitted as a prologue to 'The Cruel Sea'.

Normal military training also offers variation in the soldiers' day to day routine, however this is not always tackled with as much enthusiasm as cruises. The Squadron has recently carried out the annual PT Tests and Range Classifications and in conclusion we would like to leave you with a few reasons for not attending the PE Tests.

Reasons for not attending PE tests

Pay Sergeant—"I'll be 40 in the current financial year".
Welfare Willy—"My wife's pregnant—again".
Driver Craft—"Shifty has borrowed my webbing".
Corporal Jockstrap—"I'm in strict training for the athletics and I don't want to get stiff".
Driver Shifty—"Crafty has borrowed my webbing".
Sergeant Portly—"I don't want to disgrace the Regiment".
Chief Clerk—"I've got to open the Adjutant's mail".
Adjutant—I've got to open the Chief Clerk's mail".

Staff Officer-A—"I've just sprained my ankle for the first time in my life, whilst playing squash".
Staff Officer-B—"Working until 1 a.m. every morning doesn't leave me much time".
Staff Officer-C— (When being told the test was to be held on DIVIS Mountain). "But doesn't that mean it will be an uphill task".
Staff Officer-D—"I haven't seen my boots for at least three postings".
Staff Officer-E—"I have a written chit saying I have already done it. Its been good for the last three years and I don't see why you won't accept it".
Staff Officer-F—"I will only do it if it is the full ten miles otherwise not at all".

STOP PRESS

Northern Ireland tug-of war championships

Our sporting achievements took another step forward on Tuesday, 19th June when we entered two teams for the Northern Ireland Tug-of-War Championships (One team in the 560 kg. and one in the 640 kg. event).

From a hastily organised Inter-Troop competition 18 stalwarts were selected for training under the Squadron coach, **Staff Sergeant Roy Burge,** RCT. Despite the frustrations of trying to train both teams and still fulfil our operational role, they were finally weighed, graded and sorted!

The 'Heavies' were in a pool of four teams, organised on a league basis, we finished a creditable third to 3 Para. Having watched 3 Para win all their rounds in two straight pulls, our team administrator, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Phil Daniel** was heard to say, "Their team is exactly the same weight as ours, but their arms are longer!"

The lightweights met 49 Field Regiment RA in a very good final, and won by two straight pulls. This effort earned them a place in the UK 'B' Zone finals at Donnington on July 6th.

We wish our own 'little people' good luck and congratulate 3 Para on joining us at Donnington. Watch this space for our progress on the way to the Army Cup.

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233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

The OC, Major Brian Blackwell writes:—

THE twelve months stage of my tour in Northern Ireland is an opportune moment for me to make my first personal contribution to our WIRE notes. It is all the more suitable because it gives me the opportunity to say farewell and pay tribute to our main WIRE notes contributor and one of our Squadron's great characters, **Captain Bob Peake,** and also to mention those members of our Squadron who received well deserved honours and awards in the latest operational list.

Captain R. A. Peake, B.E.M.

Bob Peake arrived to take up the appointment of Second-in-Command and Administrative Officer on the day after internment was introduced in 1971. As a result of internment, the increase in terrorist activity and the build up of force levels produced a mass of administrative problems which **Bob** dealt with in the efficient and tactful manner which has become the hallmark of his work in the Squadron. During his time with us **Bob** has seen direct rule, the 'Truce', operation 'Motorman', the border plebiscite and the assembly elections. He has seen the Squadron double in size until today when there are now detachments of the Squadron in Lisburn, Belfast, Lurgan, Londonderry, the border areas and on Divis Mountain.

During these very difficult but exhilarating times **Bob** has devoted long hours to producing nothing but the best for the Squadron. His first concern has always been the soldiers, their families and their welfare. His excellent relationship with all the staff of the Royal Signals Manning and Records Office has ensured their constant awareness of all our problems and requirements. His friends and contacts are so many that it has often seemed that he has performed the impossible by making just two telephone calls. He will be greatly missed; as an administrator supreme, as our football coach, as our disco organiser and our WIRE contributor but most of all as a friend and a fine officer.

We wish **Bob** and **Pauline** and their family Godspeed and a very happy tour with 28 Signal Regiment.

OPERATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS JUNE/JULY, 1973, FOR SERVICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

B.E.M.

Sergeant J. G. McCrindle. We paid tribute to **John McCrindle** in a recent edition of THE WIRE when he left us on posting to 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. We would only now add our congratulations for an award of the B.E.M. which is most truly well deserved.

Corporal J. B. Purdie, WRAC. **Jane Purdie** has been the Assistant Supervisor in the HQ Northern Ireland telephone exchange since September 1971. Despite the build up in force levels and the massive increase in the staff of HQ Northern Ireland during the last two years our switchboard has remained the same size. The pressure on the operators during peak periods is intense. They suffer equally the abuse of irate civilians and the impatient demands of staff officers.

Despite all the pressures **Jane** has always maintained the very highest standards and insisted that they be maintained by the other operators. She has often carried out the duties of Supervisor with skill and maturity.

Jane Purdie's award of a B.E.M. is timely recognition of our WRAC girls and the excellent job they are doing here under very difficult conditions.

Mention in Despatches

Lance-Corporal J. Haldane and **Lance-Corporal A. J. Fairburn. Lance-Corporals Joe Haldane** (now with NORTHAG Radio Squadron) and **Allan Faurburn** (now with 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment) made a major contribution to particular successes of the security forces in operations against terrorists while serving with the Squadron. We offer them our congratulations, on their Mention in Despatches.

General Officer Commanding's commendation

Corporal A. C. Gunn. No NCO ever had more appropriate initials than **'Ben' Gunn** our senior Combat Powerman. For the last two years during power strikes and power cuts he has kept the emergency power supplies running for HQ Northern Ireland, the GOC's residence and Division Radio Site in addition to his responsibility for our mobile plant. In recognition of his devotion to duty the GOC's Commendation was presented to him by **Colonel F. Ramsbottom,** O-in-C Royal Signals Records and Manning during his visit to the Squadron on 2nd July 1973.

Departures

WRAC: **Corporal Purdie, Lance-Corporal Charnock, Privates Craig, Cleary, Cummings** (nee Whittaker), **Lee, Vandenkerkof.**

Royal Signals; **Corporals Borck** and **Jenkins, Signalmen Chandler, John, Millar** and **Morton.** Thank you for your good service and our best wishes go with you and your families.

Arrivals

WRAC: **Privates Aldred, Barker, Birks, Graham, Green, Griffiths, Hesketh, Mann, Paddon, Parker, Rae** and **Rose.**

Royal Signals: **Sergeant Burke, Corporals Barker, Jones, Leach** and **Walsh, Signalman Millward.**

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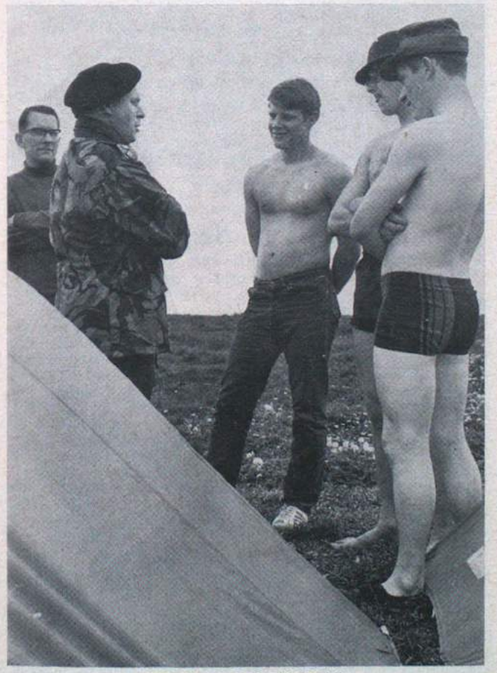
If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

2 SQUADRON REPORTS

OUR notes for May were brief to say the least. Not that May was a quiet month, the very opposite being nearer the truth. After the first week on exercise, the second was spent winning the Regimental Athletics, under the vigorous leadership of **Second-Lieutenant John Fletcher,** providing communications for a number of minor exercises and, most important preparation for our summer camp. The camp, under the name of Exercise 'Heave Ho', took place in North Jutland, Denmark, on the northern shore of Limsfjord. Eighty members of the Squadron with a further ten from HQ Squadron set up a tented camp near Oslos and prepared for, in teams of nine men, activities which were just a little out of the ordinary for us. Four main activities were undertaken. Survival training, with minimum facilities, teams in turn were placed on a superb little island in the middle of a fjord. Fifty metres in diameter, at most one metre above sea level and with only thousands of birds, feathered variety, for company. The teams came back having learnt the delights of finding, preparing and eating such delicacies as sea bird eggs, mussels, cockles and winkles. On the return from the island a much greater appreciation of civilisation was also noted. The second activity was boating, with assault boats and paddle power for 40 km. in 4 days. The third was trekking for 70 or 80 km. through sand dunes. Fourth and finally, canoeing.



IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL

The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Blake, has a word with the survivors. Looking hungry are Signalman Bennett, Corporal Wright and Signalman Colbeck

Throughout the fortnight the weather was almost too kind, with plenty of sun and virtually no rain. The local people were extremely friendly and of the two football matches played against them honours were drawn even with one game being won by each nation.

To remind us of home and work we did operate a C11 link back to Verden, 320 miles, also a C42 safety net when required. The CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Blake,** Royal Signals, accompanied by the Adjutant, **Captain Francis Wilkinson,** by courtesy of 651 Squadron AAC also managed a one day trip to visit us.

The camp was rated a success by most and enjoyable by all, notwithstanding blisters on feet and hands, and mutterings of "Norway next year" are already being heard.

S.S.M. "Taff" Harding—man of action! Rumour has it he has ordered 500 copies of this photograph—and 10 copies of The Wire

3 SQUADRON REPORTS

The month of flaming June has certainly lived up to its name in North Germany and with it an increase in the number of outside jobs that can be performed in 'bare buff'. The Squadron occupied itself in preparing for Exercise 'Summer Sales', which included an inspection of Squadron personnel and vehicles in exercise order by the CCR Signals. Bravo Troop were also tasked with laying out Commhead Oscar for the Regimental Open Day, (which coincided with the school sports). Our resident F. of S., **Chris Meredith,** it was rumoured, locked himself away, rather than watch hordes of children playing with his phones, teleprinters etc. The cricket season is in full swing and RE Troop under **Sergeant 'Chalky' White** have finished laying the new wicket in Caithness Barracks, although his engineers are primarily signallers and drivers it proves that the basic skills of combat engineer are well worth it. In SHQ **Sergeant Dave Parmley** continues to run the Admin. of the Squadron and takes some of the weight off **S.S.M. Colin French** leaving him more time to run home tombola, stamp club and chess.

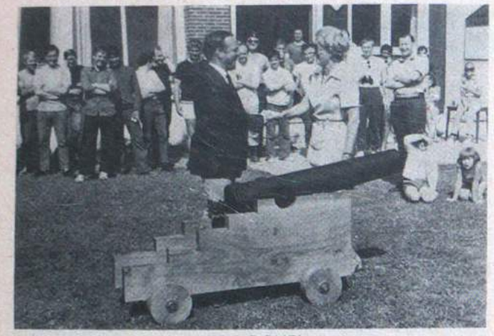
1 Division are the Royal Signals BAOR dinghy inter-unit champions

After two days of intensive team racing with moderate winds on the Mohne See, out of 8 teams, the Regimental 'A' Team came 1st and the 'B' Team 4th. The 'A' Team comprising **Major Jardine, Major Tanner, Captain Roberts, Squadron Leader Crawshaw, Signalman Humphries** and **Signalman Norrie,** won all of its races, but the closest and most exciting was the one against 22 Signal Regiment in which **Lieutenant-Colonel Spear** was the individual winner but our team had 2nd, 3rd and 4th position and thus won the race.

Lieutenant-Colonel Blake, Chairman of the Royal Signals (BAOR) Yacht Club, has donated two cannons, one for the Dinghy Championships and the other for the Baltic Regatta which this year is a race to Copenhagen. The two cannons are old German guns which **Lieutenant-Colonel Blake,** when he was Second-in-Command in Verden, noted as being misused as bollards marking the edge of a car park. When he returned to command the Regiment he had the cannons dug up, renovated and mounted. It is the intention that a good sailing unit will possess both cannons.

It is perhaps fitting that the Dinghy Cannon should be won for the first time by 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

(See photo overleaf)



WELL DONE!

Mrs. Roper presenting the cannon to Captain M. W. H. Roberts who skippered the team that won the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Dinghy Championships

Participants in the helicopter training described in 2 Squadron notes

Left to right: Sapper Samuel, Signalman Evans, Lance-Corporal Lee, Lance-Corporal Innes, Signalman Rydz, Signalman Pither, Signalman Mepham, Corporal Davies, Signalman Heaton and Signalman Boyle

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

2 Squadron news

BY way of a change from the normal routine of 2 Squadron, the services of two Wessex helicopters from 18 Squadron RAF were enlisted for a day in June. The morning was spent in learning how to get in and out of the moving aircraft—not as easy as it sounds! The notorious Mr. Brown, (who still has not earned his promotion by owner/Adjutant, **Captain Roger Morgan**) I think enjoyed that part of the morning more than anybody, finding chasing helicopter wheels much more fun than chasing soldiers.

That pastime proved rather noisy however, and it was a relief to the placid workers in RHQ and neighbouring buildings when the party of aspiring Icarus-es moved to a neighbouring field and out of earshot. The tasks were dual here, as the priority of rushing in and out of helicopters, into cover and thence to pick up points, vied with that of trying to sunbathe in combat kit. OC **Major David Jolly** and **Signalman 'Paddy' Price,** who was desperately trying to photograph for posterity the events of the day, had a tricky job as camera-shy soldiers dived into cover whenever the control helicopter appeared. He managed to take some good shots nevertheless, as our supporting photograph will prove.

Lance-Corporal Brian Innes organised a Squadron sports/social afternoon on Saturday, 16th June, along with **Lance-Corporals Pete Simpson** and **'Spider' Webb.** The three 'leaders' are by good fortune members of the Bar committee and so the event was suitably well lubricated throughout. In brilliant sunshine, various members of the Squadron sat back, glass in hand, and gently turned delicate shades of pink and brown as they watched the Squadron athletes disporting themselves on the sports field. The juniors beat the seniors at football 3–1, and in the boat race by a handsome margin. However, they met their downfall when the wives (endorsing women's Lib), beat them in both, and even ran their own Tug-of-War Team. **Corporal Ken Davies** achieved fame by leading a team of the Squadron children to victory over the seniors, juniors, and wives in a bicycle race.

Regimental athletics

The showery weather broke to make way for two days of sunshine for the Regimental Athletics held in May. Participation was enthusiastic and 1 Squadron gained the coveted first place with 90 points. **Signalman 'Terry' Rocque** of 3 Squadron was awarded the new Victor Ludorum Cup, and is to be congratulated on his sterling efforts.

Another notable victory was by **W.O.1 'Joe' Izzo,** our long suffering Superintending Clerk, in the veterans race against very fierce competition from such 'veterans' as the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis,** Second-in-Command, **Major John Heyes, R.S.M. Reg Norris, Lieutenant Frank Palmer** from the LAD, and **S.S.M. 'Jimmy' Letham**—our photograph shows the cut-throat determination and single mindedness with which these athletes took part.

FLYING START

Some of the participants in the Regimental Athletics' Veteran Race

A WEEKEND IN THE MOSELLE

Report by Corporal Ian Gillett and Signalman 'Sticky' Fowler of Lima Troop

Friday, 8th June

After having such a splendid time on Exercise 'Cochem Fair I' (Easter 1973) we decided to repeat the 'performance' for the Whitsun Break. Following a hectic time trying to organise our cars, we managed to get away just after lunch. That is to say **Signalmen 'Sticky' Fowler, Dave Stocks, Roy Cropper** and **Alan Donnelly,** left at full haste for the Eiffel. **Corporal Ian Gillett** was meanwhile up to his elbows in grease trying to fix the hand brake on the other car and once satisfied he made full speed to Rheindahlen to pick up three WRAC girls from 68 Squadron RCT, whom we had all met on our Easter Exercise. Meanwhile our OC, **Second-Lieutenant Martin-Rhind** made dust to our destination in his Ford Capri.

Saturday, 9th June

After a good night's 'Gonk' the girls were first on the scene, apart from **Ann** who insisted on having her first cup of tea in bed. This was followed by **Roy** dishing up a really first class breakfast consisting of the usual compo range of delicious offerings.

A couple of hours later saw us all travelling up the local chair lift to appreciate the view from the top and to snap a few photographs, although the girls insisted our only reason for ascending was because of a rather attractive Gasthaus at the top. After a quick sampling of the good local beer and wine we descended to scrutinize the town.

On returning to the camp site **Ann** and **Kay** decided to have a paddle in the shallow river Ahr less than ten metres from our tents.

Unfortunately **Ann** was a little worse for wear and after trying to push **Ian** into the river, fell backside first which resulted in a soaking for everyone. Nearly all the Germans on the site gathered round to watch the show.

After a change of clothing and a good tea we went into town. The one and only Disco was about as big as the back of a four tonner so we went into the first pub we came across for starters. This was a bit dull so we decided to liven it up a bit. Our table was near the door within easy shouting distance of the street and believe it or not, in the space of time it takes to sup one bottle of wine between the nine of us the place was really swinging. The Anglo-German relationships were really flourishing. It wasn't a case of anyone getting a round bought, it was, "It's your turn for the two bottles of wine". This was the scene right up to 'kicking out' time.

Sunday, 10th June

Sunday morning saw **Roy** and **Dave** practising Anglo-Dutch relations with two lovely lassies from Roermond. The remainder of us went to visit the Effelsburg Radio Telescope which proved to be very interesting and is really well worth seeing.

We then went for a meal in Altenahr and then returned to the camp site for an afternoon nap, but who sleeps in the afternoon? Not us! We played soccer instead. If you'd planned on going to the circus over Whitsun you dipped out on a special performance on the Europe Camping Platz in Altenahr! Even the Germans applauded us.

A small snack was produced at dusk after which we proceeded once again to where the wine flows freely. The two previously mentioned Dutch girls accompanied us this time to see how the English 'Squaddie' celebrates Whitsun. This particular evening's entertainment went off even better than its predecessor.

Monday, 11th June

This morning **Maggie** and **'Sticky'** both had rather thick heads so they decided to give the day's outing a miss and instead went back to bed. On leaving the camp site we headed for the Nürburgring which was a distance of roughly 20 kilometres. For a small fee we took our cars round the track and **Second-Lieutenant Martin-Rhind** took his Capri round. He treated the girls to a 'cabbie' and finished the 23 km. course ten minutes before the rest of us.

On our return to the site we found **'Sticky'** and **Maggie** in the camp site pub, so we joined them for a couple. The camp site owner was more helpful when we asked to have a camp fire and the next moment we were half-way up a mountain collecting fuel for the fire. Having gathered enough fuel **Second-Lieutenant Martin-Rhind** built a fire, quote, "Just like I did in the Boy Scouts", while **Ian, Ann, Kay** and **Alan** decided to walk back down the mountainside.

At dusk the fire was lit and the wine and beer started to flow freely yet again! We all 'flaked out' by about 2.30 a.m. as the girls had to be back in Rheindahlen by lunchtime Tuesday.

Tuesday, 12th June

After **Second-Lieutenant Martin-Rhind's** fantastic egg banjos for breakfast, **Ian,** plus the girls left for home at about 8.00 a.m. leaving **'Sticky', Dave, Roy, Alan** and the OC to pack up and head for Bunde.

Having once again had a really enjoyable weekend we would like to pass on our thanks to **Second-Lieutenant Martin-Rhind** and the three smashing girls from 68 Squadron RCT for making it all possible.

We would also like to pass on our best wishes to **Ann Brown** as she is shortly to leave BAOR for a period of duty in Ulster.

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

THE month of May was one of the quietest that the Regiment has experienced since April. Our activities in Okehampton didn't go unnoticed, and you can read all about those in the separate article in this month's WIRE. Having said all that though, the Adjutant has put in a lot of overtime, the CO and the Second-in-Command have had great success at golf, and the Chief Clerk, **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) Ray Hamilton** has recommended himself for pay of higher rank.

Visit of CSO UKLF

Sergeant Malcolm Lincoln features again in these notes. This occasion was the visit to the Regiment of the newly arrived CSO UKLF, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.** who presented to **Sergeant Malcolm Lincoln** the LS and GC during a suitable gathering of WO and SNCOs in the Sergeants' Mess. **Sergeant Malcolm Lincoln** was warmly congratulated on his award which was suitably 'wetted' immediately.

C.S.O. U.K.L.F., Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E. presenting Sergeant Malcolm Lincoln with the L.S. and G.C. Medal

Tidworth tattoo

This year was the 50th Anniversary of the Tidworth Tattoo and, as usual, it was a great success. The Regiment helped to put up tents and instal PA equipment, and this year provided two performers for the Grand Finale. The organisers were keen to have representatives of every unit that took part in the 1923 Tattoo in the Finale of that of 1973. This seemingly impossible task was finally accomplished too. It seems that in 1923, 'E' Troop, 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signals were stationed in Tidworth and rode their horses with great skill and daring at the first Tidworth Tattoo. Heads were scratched, and it was decided that 2nd Cavalry Brigade finally became HQ RAC, 3 Division, and 'E' Troop finally became 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. **Sergeant Malcolm Lincoln** and **Corporal Terry Walker** were fitted out with 1923 uniforms, marched into the arena with the Massed Bands, and added a little more colour to the grand spectacle. I wonder what they will do 50 years hence.

Sergeants' Mess — Burned to the ground!

The sad news from the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is that on the morning of 26th May, the sleeping accommodation was burned to the ground. In minutes the old wooden buildings were aflame from end to end, and were completely destroyed. The good news is that nobody was hurt. The Sergeants are now busily looking for new accommodation. In the meantime, the building of the new bar continues, when Star Trek isn't on the TV that is.

Sailing

Major John Barret skippered *Quicksilver* again for a weekend taking some raw recruits on a guided tour of the Solent.

The CO and **Sergeant Malcolm Lincoln** were chosen to represent the Corps in a dinghy match versus the Royal Engineers at Whale Island recently and an unnamed Officer snapped the centre board on his Enterprise in Poole Harbour after an ignominious capsize in only 5 feet of water. *Seaweed,* the Regimental fishing boat decided it couldn't make Iceland, and settled for a quiet stroll in Poole Harbour instead. The Regiment is entering three crews in the Regatta at Seaview this year, and the Chief Clerk wants promotion to WO1, or he threatens that he too will take up sailing.

June's activities

June, unlike May, was rather quiet. There was the Regimental Week, six exercises, two orienteering championships, the Royal Signals Skill at Arms meeting, a visit of the CSO UKLF,

Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., sailing on the Isle of Wight, golf at Tidworth, a hygiene inspection, the Aldershot Display and the LAD went on a summer camp all by itself.

Regimental week

This was a great success. The Regiment downed tools for five days and indulged itself a little. There were inter-troop football, driving, swimming, athletics and cricket competitions. On Saturday, 9th June, the Regimental Open Day was held, and this year took the form of a Summer Fair. Every troop made and manned a stall, and some £150 were collected and donated to Army and local charities. The week finished with a large All Ranks dance which continued into the small hours of the morning.

The skill-at-arms meeting

It was pleasant to see so many familiar faces in Bulford again. The Regiment enjoyed hosting participants from far and wide, fortunately the weather only managed to dampen our clothing and not our spirits, so to those who came and conquered, we wish 'bon chance' in future competitions.

Post scriptum

As the Regiment puts itself on a war footing, and sets off for Cyprus for the second time this year, we give the last word to our strange Training Major. He is surely responsible for the quote of the month. In the joining instructions for a driving course, paragraph 3 (a) (1) "All driving licences MUST be in possession of valid students . . ."

Have you run out of date recently?

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

The usual stuff

YOU might call May 1973 a typical month for a Divisional HQ and Signal Regiment in BAOR. Of all the things we did, hardly any can be called NEWS, and so they hardly qualify for THE WIRE.

We had a Divisional CPX in which everything went with the usual monotonous smoothness. Most of 1 and 2 Squadrons spent a week in the infantry role on guard duties, replacing men in Northern Ireland. We came third in the Divisional Athletics and fourth in the Morrison Cup; which was good going with a team sadly depleted since last year and even shorter of training time. Most of 2 Squadron and some others are on the RA Practice Camp for 5 weeks. All pretty ordinary.

News flash

But wait! One event did make headlines. It was 1 Squadron ("Again" did you ask?) engaging in a private battle for the hearts and minds of Stadt Herford.

Admittedly, they got off to a poor start by grinding a Comcen into deep ruts all over the piece of embryo parkland on the outskirts of town. For a week or two we quite thought that the local authorities had gone off us a bit.

However, it transpired at a subsequent meeting with the local authorities that even they hadn't really known that this particular stretch of mud was supposed to be a park as the Oberstadtpark-direktor had omitted to tell anyone else. (Score 15–all and a good moment for counter-attack).

We generously offered to provide a force of handpicked professional British soldiers (who would all volunteer, of course) backed by the might of an RE grader, to level the ground again. The local press were briefed, and on the great day our gallant lads swung into action in that inimitable fashion for which the British are so justly famed.

It was then that we played our trump card; not to say ace. Not content with the superb men and equipment (wheelbarrow, shovels GS, axes, pick heads and helves—to name but a few) we had placed the whole force under command of **Staff Sergeant Dehdashty.** Those readers who know the extent of **Staff Sergeant Dehdashty's** influence in the corridors of Herford power will need no reassuring of the result.

When the news broke in the local papers it quite eclipsed 'Skylab', 'Watergate', 'Lambton' and other such mundane stuff.

HAND PICKED TASK FORCE

Note how the leader has grasped a pick-axe just in time to be photographed

Left to right: Signalman Deas, Corporals Roberts and Cartwright, Signalman Forrest, Lance-Corporal Ankers, Signalman Crawshaw and himself (Staff Sergeant Dehdashty)

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

Well earned awards

WEDNESDAY, 16th May 1973 saw the presentation of three awards to members of Basic Radio Technician Course RA 09.

Two of these awards were made to **Signalman Lockie.** During the course **Signalman Lockie** had worked hard and obtained 5 A and 6 B Gradings in Formal Tests for this outstanding performance he was awarded the prize for 'Best Student' and a prize to record his having obtained an overall 'A' Grade on the Course.

Signalman Lockie and Signalman Joyner with their awards gained for excellent results during technical training

Every course has a best student but few and far between are the Technician courses with a student gaining an overall 'A' Grade.

Another rare award was the one made to **Signalman Joyner** of the same course, he joined 8 Signal Regiment as a Sapper in September 1971 with the trade of Driver operator RE B2, he commenced training as a Radio Telegraphist, by May 1972 it became apparent that **Sapper Joyner** was well above the standard required in theoretical subjects required for a Radio Telegraphist, he therefore joined Radio Technician Course 09.

In August 1971 on completion of transfer formalities he became **Signalman Joyner,** Combat Signalman B3.

During the course **Signalman Joyner** obtained 5A and 5B Gradings *narrowly* missing an overall 'A' Grade. For this excellent performance he was awarded a special prize as the student who made the most noteworthy progress.

Signalman Ian Maclellan

8 Signal Regiment write;

It is with deep regret that the regiment announces the death of **Signalman Ian Maclellan** in a road accident. Our sympathies are extended to his young widow Patricia, his parents, brothers and sisters and other relatives.

Sad to say Patricia who is expecting a baby in July, suffered a double tragedy. Her grandmother, who brought her up, died in the High Street, Harrogate hours after **Ian** was killed on Saturday, 23rd June 1973.

Report from the White Helmets

AFTER a long lapse, the Corps Motor Cycle Display Team, has decided that a 'SITREP' on the team would be in order.

After an extremely successful 1972 season the team, including the newly selected members, found themselves with a new OC, **Captain Gordon Davies,** and a new Team Sergeant, **Sergeant Ray Hancock.** The team were however, grateful that the Team Adjutant, **Second-Lieutenant Wendy Hall,** WRAC, was not leaving and she provided the necessary continuity, so vital to the team's continued well being.

In January the team began full show training with the added bonus that the weather could not have been better. In February delivery was effected of the first batch of new machines and 17 Triumph Adventurers duly arrived ready for the road. Whilst this would have been fine for 'Mr. Average Civilian' the team mechanics **Signalmen Don Cragg, 'Gofor' Dunstan, Tom Mitchell, John Deegan** and **Trevor Armstrong,** found themselves with the task of putting these machines into display trim. Off with all road equipment, on with new alternator, wiring harness, forks, wheels, tyres—the list was endless. As the mechanics battled their way through these changes the team were frantically trying to run in the machines for 1,500 miles on a two mile circuit.

With all of the main problems overcome the team then prepared for the opening show. This show was to be held for the first time in Coventry and scheduled for 12th April. The invitations were sent out and the team prepared for the big day. The show was a great success and the team were able to relax and prepare for the main tour season.

The season began at Wolverhampton on 7th May, and to date the team have appeared in Gibraltar, 14 Signal Regiment, the Birmingham Tulip Festival and the Tidworth Tattoo. The SO-in-C attended the final performance of the Tidworth Tattoo and he was very pleased with the team's performance. At this tattoo the team OC, **Captain Gordon Davies** broke his ankle and although he continued with the final show, **Captain John Maclean** had to be recalled to duty to tour with the team. The team will be appearing throughout the UK during the coming months and have acquired bookings for Hong Kong and Berlin.

If the Team are in your area please come along and see them. They will guarantee a warm welcome.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

Versatile, variable, virile

BUZZ! Buzz! "Come in a moment RSM." That was how it all began. What was that about big oak trees from little acorns? "Good morning RSM," begins the CO fixing me with one of his 'we are about to start World War III looks!' "The press want to visit us again; this time it's to take a few pictures of a model posing against a military background". I relax a bit. "Some soldiers, a few weapons, vary it a bit, you know the form . . .".

You get quite a lift out of working with half a dozen happy, willing, eager soldiers, but that was later. On the same day that the press were scheduled to arrive, the Regiment was involved with ceremonial duties for the visit by the Head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria. I did say we were versatile and so we are. A quick lunch and we are all assembled awaiting the arrival of the press; and here they come. Four of them. One male photographer, one female reporter, one willowy model and a chap in a flowery shirt who told us he was skiving. He rashly produced a box of cheroots which my volunteers had finished off by the end of the session.

The model changed from one outfit to another, posed with the soldiers, walked with them and even rode pillion! In fact as she rode behind **Lance-Corporal Fred Alexander,** with her arms around his waist, he was heard to roar "Let it never end!" But of course all good things must come to an end. Flowery shirt had run out of cheroots, the model had exhausted her supply of costumes and anyway it was tea time. A couple of days later the *Evening Mail* gave the event full page cover.

(Photo: Courtesy Slough Evening Mail)

WELL COVERED!

Model in military surroundings

Left to right: Corporal Innis, Lance-Corporal Holme, Signalman Levy

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11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

Retirement of well-known Corps personality — Mr. F. J. Button

ALF Button retired from service with the Corps on 29th June 1973.

Alf joined Royal Signals on 15th October 1927 at Catterick and trained in the Mounted Wing as driver, horse transport. He remained in Catterick and joined the horse display team, the forerunner of the White Helmets, in 1929. He rode with the team until 1934. In 1937 he left the Army and joined the Civil Service as a storeman and again served within Royal Signals in Catterick in this capacity.

In 1939 **Alf** re-enlisted in the Corps and served as a storeman in Catterick until 1942 when he was posted to the Far East and served in India and Burma with 14th Army. He changed his trade to cobbler. He left the Army in 1945 and returned to his previous employment of storeman with the Corps in Catterick, serving with STC and the School of Signals. In 1953 he moved to 11 Signal Regiment where he has been the Sports Storeman for 20 years.

Alf will be missed for his immense loyalty to the Corps, his enormous wealth of stories and his devotion to duty. The CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt,** presented **Alf** with a tankard to mark his final retirement from the Corps after 46 years service.

Alf Button receiving a tankard from Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt to mark 46 years service with the Royal Signals

Pass-off parades

The Pass-off darade for 7 Troop on the 29th June 1973 was a very special parade for the Regiment. The Parade Commander, **Lieutenant R. J. R. West,** had the signal honour of having his father, **Colonel J. R. West, M.B.E.,** late Royal Signals, as the Inspecting Officer. To have a father and son of the same Corps on parade together must be Corps history. The Parade was the last one for the RSM, **W.O.1 J. R. Markham,** who is leaving the Regiment on appointment to a commission. During his tour as RSM he has attended 68 Pass-off Parades and some 2,700 recruits have passed through his capable hands. We wish **Mr. Markham** every happiness in his next appointment in Germany and thank both him and his wife for all they have done for the Regiment.

Two other parades were held during June. On 1st June No. 8 Troop, commanded by **W.O.1 Penman** was inspected by **Colonel Butler,** from the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate. On 15th June, **Colonel Chiswell** inspected No. 3 Troop, commanded by **W.O.1 Walton.**

AFTER THE PARADE

Left to right: Lieutenant R. J. R. West, Mrs. West, Colonel J. R. West, M.B.E.

Junior Signalmen in the Dales

2 Troop (Intermediate term) recently completed the 'Three Peaks Walk' in the Yorkshire Dales; the three peaks being Pen-y-Ghent, Inglesborough and Whernside. From a base camp in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, the troop set out in two parties; one led by **Junior Lance-Corporals Osman** and **Black** to carry out the walk in a clockwise direction, while the other group, led by **Junior Lance-Corporal O'Dea** set off in the opposite direction. The target time to complete the walk was 12 hours, with a 'NAAFI' break supplied by **Sergeant Jack** and his mobile soup kitchen midway.

The weather made going difficult and uncomfortable, visibility above the 1,500 feet cloud level was down to 20 yards or less, and all the peaks are above 2,300 feet! The main difficulty was in finding the 'trig points' on the hill tops; this was only accomplished by slow, accurate map reading and fast movement in the valleys to make up time. Some measure of the poor visibility can be gained from the fact that the two groups passed the checkpoint on Whernside within two minutes of each other—but never met!

The two groups and the base camp were in frequent radio contact during the walk (much to everybody's surprise) and this proved good training, the Junior Signalmen taking it in turns to act as radio operator.

Both groups were back in base camp by 1930 hours, tired and with a few sore feet after a gruelling 25 mile hike, but happy to have qualified for their '3 Peak Badge".

No 2 Troop (rent-a-Troop)

This term we have been occupied with less routine activities as a result of which military training has been somewhat curtailed.

No. 3 Troop combined with us in the middle of term and whilst continuing to be known officially as No. 2 Troop, we soon received the more popular designation, 'Rent a troop'. We have specialised in tent erection, any marquee hiring firm would have been delighted to have us.

We began by putting up marquees for the North East District Skill at Arms meeting. It was achieved with pace stick precision under the able direction of **Staff Sergeant Bailey.** Our task then developed into one of administration. Once that meeting was over, we started to enjoy a great variety of visits, including one to a coal mine, a Tyneside Shipyard, a fertiliser factory, the Post Office telephone exchange at Darlington and many others.

Our noted talents in the tent erection field were brought into play once more for the Training Brigade Athletics, the Catterick Army Display, the Regimental Barbecue and the North East District Tennis Tournament. Somewhat away from our usual field of operations was butt marking for the Corps Shoot at Bulford. However as we were down in that part of the country we took a look at the Artillery Fire Power Display at Larkhill.

In a word 'Rent-a-Troop' has worked and played equally hard, this term.

Exercise 'New Envoy' — Aldershot Army display

This year Training Brigade were tasked with supplying the personnel to man and operate an air rifle range in the Corps Stand at the Aldershot Army Display. The entire team was found from 11 Signal Regiment and consisted of **Sergeant Dave Scott,** a weapon training instructor from the weapon school, **Corporal Colin Wing** a drill instructor from 4 Troop, 1 Squadron, and the team coaches, **Signalmen Pontin, Henstock, Wallace, Shields, Bicholls, Jones** and **Sinnott** who all came from Continuation Training Troop. The team was led by **Lieutenant Mike Stanners** from Instructional Wing.

The weather tried hard to thwart our efforts during Tuesday and Wednesday, luckily for us the showers abated and the week reverted to brilliant sunshine, although it took until Saturday to dry out completely. However despite the inclement weather, the display went well for the range, and it was a great success. The range, now under new management, will go to the 'Bristol 600', and perform the same task there.

Potential Officer Troop — 4th June - 4th July Motorcycling

This course, which assembled on 4th June, consisted of the following personnel;

Sergeants Len Rowland-Jones, Alan Doane, Graham Crossland, Pete Johnson.
Corporals Jon Kelway, Derek Boyd.
Lance-Corporals Tom Turnbull, Steve Paul, John Power.

Also with us was the resident PO, **Signalman George Blythe,** who was the course 'admin. officer'. OC Troop was **Lieutenant Robin Hill,** and his approachability and hard work earned him the respect of all members of the Troop.

On arrival, the initial interview revealed just how many hurdles there were to cross if any of us were to get to Sandhurst. First the Unit Selection Board, then the course itself, then the Brigade Selection Board, the Brigadier's interview, the Regular Commissions Board, followed by the course at Sandhurst. Needless to say the casualty lists are pretty high after that lot and it is only a small percentage that actually survive to qualify at Sandhurst. **Lieutenant Hill** also hinted that it would be useless to continue if one didn't indulge in his favourite pastimes of orienteering and squash!

No time to settle in but straight into it, and the time-table was both hard and full. Seven o'clock each morning saw us disappearing after our resident greyhound, **Sergeant Crossland,** for our morning run, and four o'clock each evening saw us disappearing into the gym for circuit training. The troop resolution calling for an immediate cessation of such activities on both legal and moral grounds elicited no response other than the two gruff words "Character Development". 'Such Activities' continued! Between our periods of exertion, the day was well filled with sessions of News Round-ups, debates, presentations, lecturettes, military appreciations, verbal and written orders, current affairs and a host of other secondary subjects.

Two nights of exercises gave us good opportunity to practice what **Lieutenant Hill** had preached, by enabling us to take turns at playing leader. The leader would plan, brief and conduct the group in ambush operations against the enemy and this was invaluable experience for those of us who had never done this sort of thing before. It was also invaluable training for the group members as they were able to take a detached view-point and offer constructive criticism of the methods used—making debriefs nerve-wracking for the leader. Closer to home similar opportunities to practice leadership were afforded by our sessions of 'Command Tasks'. With limited materials, a time limit and a fixed number of men, the leader had to negotiate his group over one of a series of obstacle courses. Again it was the leader's task to devise a plan, brief his group clearly and concisely and generally exercise control of the group while the task was being performed. Again it was the debriefs that proved the most valuable part of the exercise.

Then, in the third week, we were off to the Lake District for a four day 'walkabout'. Split into groups, we had to cover 50 miles and 15,000 feet in 3½ days, accompanied by Cocker Spaniels 'Lasha' and 'Golly' of 30 Signal Regiment fame. 'Lasha' must surely claim distinction by being the first dog ever to be 'worried' by a sheep, and a complaint is being lodged with the sheep's owner. Despite the OC's prophecies of doom, the addicts of the weed had not quite succeeded in filling all of the valleys with cigarette ends and the last morning's climbing was as hard as any. The incentive for the winning team was a ride back to Catterick in **Lieutenant Hill's** car, and therefore the rate of progress was noticeably slower for the final stage. The fourth week and, horror of horrors, we had to deliver lecturettes on 'Closed Circuit TV'. The embarrassment of the playbacks was universal as all our little mannerisms were brought into sharp relief. However it served as an object lesson as to how mere details become enlarged while personal feelings such as nervousness, are successfully masked.

The course as a whole was extremely close-knit and everyone, regardless of the results of the Brigade Selection Board, expressed deep satisfaction with it. Although only two from the course will be going on to the Regular Commissions Board, the lessons to be learned from the leadership side of things are legion and will be of great benefit to us all in our regular jobs. The structure of PO Troop is shortly to be revised, but its lessons will remain, incorporated into leadership courses, thereby enabling every NCO to experience this invaluable form of training.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. R. Markham assisted by Mrs. Markham planting a tree after his last Pass Off Parade in 11 Signal Regiment. Watching R.S.M. and Mrs. Markham is Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt, Commanding Officer, 11 Signal Regiment

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

Congratulations

ALL members of the Regiment congratulate **Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc) Sam Wyatt** who has now left the Regiment on posting to the MOD, on his award of the MBE and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Brian Rice** on his award of the BEM in the recent Queens Birthday Honours List.

Presentation of the Resolution of the City of Leicester

On the 11th May, as part of their visit to the City of Krefeld, which is the twin City of Leicester, a delegation of councillors and officials from the City of Leicester, led by the Lord Mayor, **Councillor A. Wakefield** and the Lady Mayoress, paid a visit to the Regiment in Bradbury Barracks. The Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Major-General H. E. Roper** accompanied by the Lord Mayor of Leicester inspected a parade and lance party escort formed by HQ Squadron and 3 Squadron and commanded by **Captain C. W. Collier.**

The Lord Mayor then made a presentation to the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson,** of a Resolution made by the City of Leicester in appreciation of the important contribution made by the Regiment towards the success of the twinning of the Cities of Leicester and Krefeld; in return the CO invited the Lord Mayor to unveil the coat of arms of the City of Leicester.

The shield is now displayed alongside the shields showing the coat of arms of the City of Krefeld and the formation signs of the British Army of the Rhine and Rhine Area, as a permanent reminder of the Regiment's strong association with Leicester and Krefeld as part of the British Army of the Rhine and Rhine Area.

VISIT BY THE LORD MAYOR OF LEICESTER
Inspecting the parade accompanied by Captain Clive Collier

On completion of the parade and ceremony, the CSO BAOR presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) W. J. A. Naismith** the Squadron Sergeant Major of 2 Squadron.

Report from WOs' and Sergeants' Mess

ODE TO THE WIRE EDITOR

These compact notes and photos clear,
if ever published for friends so dear,
We hope will bring our 'Ed.' some cheer,
when we arrive we shall have a crate of beer.

To enable us to assist our 'Eagle Eyed Ed.' in keeping our notes short and compact, we are not going to tell you about the Easter Dance in the Mess which was a great success.

We shall only touch briefly on the fact that we had a games evening with 28 Signal Regiment on the 4th May (the first one for a long time) when **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. Meredith** presented the 16 Signal Regiment pennant to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) P. J. Harris** 28 Signal Regiment.

It would seem that all our games evenings end in a draw. As the final glass on the boat race slams on the table, **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Rice** downs a pint in 4 seconds.

The other minor events we shall not tell you about include football, when Sergeants' Mess played the Corporals' Club on the 6th May and allowed them to 5–3 and when we played our German friends on the 13th May and won 11–5.

INTERNATIONAL POLICE CONVENTION
"Good Evening—Guten Abend—Buenas Noches". But the sign for "Would you like a drink" would seem to be international

However, we are going to tell you about the evening of the 10th May. It was on this evening that our Regimental Police Sergeant **'Nick' Knight** joined the International Police Confederation for drinks in the Mess. Language being no problem (it seems that the sign for drinks is international) with Guten Arbend, Buenas Noches, Good Evening, we managed to entertain policemen from four nations and a good time was had by all. It is rumoured that **Sergeant 'Nick' Knight** is now sporting a pair of Spanish jack boots and pace stick. During the evening, the Spanish Police won a game of carpet bowls. (Drake would not be amused).

Our next Mess function will be to say farewell to **W.O.1 C. Speight** on his commission and posting at a Regimental Dinner to be held on the 25th May. But to comply with 'Ed.'s Ode', we shall tell you about that next time.

Corporals' club

In the Regiment we have an extremely active Corporals' Club, which is run on Sergeants' Mess lines with its own Committee. Recently the Club has been redecorated and refurbished in parts on a self help basis and amongst the many members who put in a lot of their own time and materials the following committee members took a major part:

Corporal Constable, Corporal Colcomb, RAPC, **Corporal Adams, Corporal Nicholls, Corporal Brown, Corporal Dodds, Lance-Corporal Churchward, Corporal McCathie, Corporal Fraser, Lance-Corporal Mitchell** and many others.

The Club now have a new bar which they have paid for themselves and on the 30th May the Commander 4 Signal Group, **Colonel J. L. Akass** who was visiting the Regiment was invited to officially open the bar and pull the first pint.

Social functions are varied and many, the next one being the Corporals' Club summer ball, which is being held in the unit gymnasium on Friday, 15th June.

The Club darts team led by **Corporal 'Spike' Spencer** recently won several individual darts trophies and the Rhine Area Corporals' club league dominoes runners up shield in the league dominoes and darts competition.

JUSTIFIABLE ABSENCE

A one act play by W.O.2 (I was on leave at the time) Burgess

Players: RSM : Who shall be nameless.
SSM HQ SQN : Who shall be nameless.
Scene : A pastel coloured corridor in RHQ outside the RSM's Office.
Lined up for initial interview by CO are several apprehensive soldiers recently posted in.

Enter Stage Left from Green Door the RSM

RSM : (In usual subdued tones) Listen for your names—Smiff!
Voice : Sir!
RSM : Brocklebottom!
Voice : Sir!
RSM : Nalmen!
Voice : (Pregnant silence)
RSM : (In slightly louder voice) Nalmen!!
Voice : (Pregnant silence)

Enter Stage Left (unfortunately) SSM HQ SQN

RSM : Sergeant Major! Where's Nalmen?
SSM : Nalmen?
RSM : (At 200 decibels) Yes! Nalmen?
SSM : Never heard of him, Sir.
RSM : He's in your Squadron, where is he?
SSM : (Thinks—is he?—slight cog noises can be heard.)
RSM : (In whispered voice, consulting official looking paper) Oh! its Sig'nalmen.

A great silence descends on proceedings as RSM exits Stage Left (Presumably to the Sergeants' Mess).

News from 1 Squadron

Who says 1 Squadron is a static squadron? During the last month we have seen **Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope, Corporal Jim Adams, Signalman Chris Farrell, Signalman Paul Claringbold** and **Signalman Mel Barkworth** represent the Regiment at orienteering, under the able supervision of the team trainer/coach and admin. officer, 1 Squadron's SSM, **W.O.2 Frank Crawford.**

We also staged the grand finale of the Inter-Troop quiz competition which proved to be an overwhelming, all-singing, all-dancing (yes, really!) success. The eventual winners were the 'A' Shift team, **Corporal Gary Mason, Corporal 'Taff' Davies, W./Private 'Jo' Chandler** and **W./Private 'Bev' Curtis** and there is no truth in the rumour that **Sergeant 'Ricky' (Master of Ceremonies) Gordon, Corporal Chris 'Bamber' Allen** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dick Palmer** have been recruited by the Beeb to set up in opposition to University Challenge.

We lay claim to possessing the nucleus of the Regimental rally team with such stars as **Corporal Dave "Call me Timo" Isherwood, Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope, Corporal Chris Allen** and **Signalman Chris Farrell.** Already, in their first season, **Corporal Dave Isherwood** and **Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope** have gained a number of trophies in BAMA and local rallies, but have 'no comment' on their chances of winning the '74 Monte Carlo (though we don't think it will be in a ½ ton LR! !).

Royal Signals in Antwerp

It is difficult to classify British Forces Antwerp as a far away place as it is the nearest unit to the UK, neither should it be classified as out of the way as the majority of military personnel pass close by when travelling to UK on duty or on leave. However we have so far received little of no mention in THE WIRE. At present the Corps is represented by the Commander British Forces Antwerp, **Colonel Brackenbury, M.B.E.** (late Royal Signals) and the Staff Captain, **Captain G. K. Rothwell.** There are two Royal Signals detachments, Antwerp Detachment 16 Signal Regiment commanded by **Staff Sergeant W. G. G. Williams** and a detachment from 608 Signal Troop (Equipment) commanded by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) L. Crowe.** The former lives in Emblem maintaining static communications and the latter at Olen maintaining and storing Signals equipment for Ordnance Depot Antwerp.

Antwerp Detachment 16 Signal Regiment has already won two Comstar awards—a Bronze and a Silver through Comcen Emblem. The bronze was the first award to any Comcen in BAOR. The silver was recently presented by the Commander British Forces Antwerp. This was presented at a very busy time (20th March) as the Olen telephone exchange went automatic on 24th March and both **Staff Sergeant Williams** and **Signalman 'Wilf' Morris** (supposedly a Combat Driver but really the detachment Jack of all trades) were very much involved in the changeoever. They were assisting the Tels Group personnel and a temporary detachment from 16 Signal Regiment under **Corporal Savage.**

Golfing achievements

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) P. C. Barnett excelled himself in the Rhine Area Spring Meeting 1973. He was winner in: 36 Hole Scratch Event, 36 Hole Handicap Event, 2nd, 18 hole Scratch, 2nd, 18 Hole Handicap, Foursome Event (partnered by **Lieutenant Speight**).

Staff Sergeant D. D. J. Palmer, RAPC, attached to 16 Signal Regiment, was winner of 18 Hole Scratch Event (Fyfe Cup) and 18 Hole Handicap Event at the RAPC Spring Meeting.

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

Taceval — what is it?

ASK any soldier of this Regiment or any airman employed at a 2 ATAF Station what is meant by TACEVAL and he will tell you immediately, but very few outside this circle are likely to have even heard the word. It stands for, 'Tactical Evaluation', and is the most thorough and searching test of the operational capability of a military force yet devised. The normal fitness for role (FFR) inspection, which we also experience, is tame by comparison.

Tactical evaluation consists of a team of some ten to twelve 2 ATAF specialists (of all Nationalities) descending on a Station without warning and at any time of the year, declaring a state of emergency, then examining and reporting on the Station's reaction and competence in adopting a war stature and in dealing with a multitude of injects and incidents. The 2 ATAF team normally arrive in the middle of the night or some similarly inconvenient time. The duty operations officer, having checked their identity and responded to their codeword challenge, will sound the Station hooter and every soldier and airman will curse as he leaps into an SOP Drill which puts the Station into full operational posture in minutes. There is no time to shave or kiss the wife goodbye—all movement is at the double and seconds count. Fire engines and ambulances with sirens wailing awaken those in the more remote areas and every driver proceeds to his place of duty with horn blaring just in case a deep sleeper or someone recovering from a heavy night requires a few extra dBs to enliven his body. NBC clothing is donned immediately and every serviceman on base is likely to be stopped and questioned by 'the team' on NBC drills—points being lost for every incorrect answer.

During the next 48 to 72 hours the Station will generate aircraft, fly live missions and react to intruders and all forms of air attack, including nuclear. There will be 'injected' damage to communications, operations rooms, air traffic control, fuel points and other vital areas, and for each of these incidents, 'the team' will be observing every detail of the Stations' reaction, adding or deducting marks. The reaction has to be complete—it is no good saying, "I would do such and such a thing", you have to do it, and be praised or be damned!

In order to achieve the desired standards, regular Station practices are held, at least every month. Again, they are without warning. They are called MINIVALS. Additionally, for the Harrier Force, there is an off-base TACEVAL, but because of the need to clear the use of private land in advance of the evaluation, this is pre-planned.

Overall, these evaluations keep the Regiment 'on its toes'. When the evaluation is completed a grading is given—it is the moment of truth! Readers might consider whether this evaluation system should be adopted throughout the Army?

Adjutant on the move

Arrivals and departures are not normally included in this Regiment's articles—such information can be found in ROPOs and the Corps List and is unnecessary 'padding'. The editor appeals to units to reduce the size of contributions because of lack of space—why doesn't he ban arrival and departure data? (Because people coming and going like to be acknowledged in their unit notes and friends in other units are also interested—Ed.)

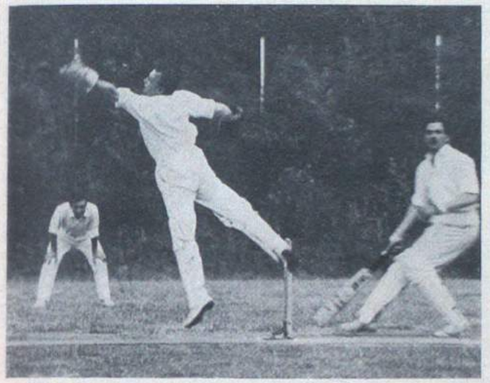
However, the move of our Adjutant and his wife, **Mike** and **Wendy Yolland** deserves special mention. **Mike** arrived in the Regiment as a bachelor, driving a small Opus 'fun car', with a suitcase on the back seat. During his tour he acquired a wife. Now wives, even without children, cannot travel light—a car boot alone can be easily filled with their shoes. Our photograph of their departure shows the penalty of changing to a marital status. Beware, you young bachelor subalterns! Perhaps **Captain Yolland** will let us know in the next edition of the reaction of HM Customs when he arrived at Dover.

TRAVELLING LIGHT! — WHAT A YOUNG OFFICER CAN ACHIEVE IN ONE POSTING

Captain Mike and Wendy Yolland all set for their move to the AAC Harrogate. (See notes)

VIP cricket player

The Regiment's cricket team saved one of its best performances of the season for a distinguished guest player—**Major-General H. E. Roper,** CSO BAOR. Despite the match being held on the hottest day of the year the General gave a most creditable performance behind the stumps, taking a difficult catch and narrowly missing a stumping from one of **Captain Les Waumsley's** off breaks. He was not required to bat, however, for in reply to our opponents' (HQ AFCENT) 131 all out, the Regiment 'knocked them off' for the loss of two wickets in less than two hours. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bert Taylor** scored 65 not out.



MYSTERY WICKET KEEPER

Who is this new and energetic wicket keeper playing for 21st Signal Regiment? (see notes)

Athletics

No WIRE Notes from 21 Signal Regiment would be complete at this time of the year without mention of Athletics. The past week has seen two tremendous competitive events, with both Edinburgh University and the best in BAOR having to bow gracefully to the now well known strip of tangerine and scarlet.

The match against Edinburgh University was held on our own track at Wildenrath on a beautiful summer evening, and was very well supported considering the absence of 2 Squadron on exercise. It was evenly contested throughout the programme, but despite some outstanding performers in the University team we just had the edge, and were able to clinch victory in the final event—the 4 × 400 metres relay. Then followed a most memorable social, at which the University Team were guests, when a silver tray was presented to our departing coach and team captain—**W.O.2 Stan Woods** (APTC). The tray was inscribed with all our major successes during his tour with the Regiment, both at Athletics and Cross Country—6 Army Championship and 5 BAOR Championship wins! A unique achievement.

Five days later the team left for Sennelager for the defence of its BAOR title. An assessment by the secretary of the BAOR Sports Board based on the achievements at Division/Area Meetings showed that if they were repeated we would only achieve third place. We had not been pressed in our Area Meeting and track and weather conditions had not been favourable, but clearly top performances were needed to retain the title, and the most optimistic agreed that this would only be by a point or two.

Four events were completed in the morning session. We won the 5,000, 800 and 200 metres, but secured only sixth place in the hammer, whilst our hurdles team failed to qualify for the 'A' final. With 1 WFR running second to us on the track the lunch-time scoreboard gave us only an 8 point lead which could be wiped out by the first afternoon event—the 'A' and 'B' finals of the hurdles. Few could digest their chicken sandwiches that lunchtime.

However, immediately after lunch the hurdles team improved their morning performance by winning the 'B' final, thereby securing fifth place. All the 21 Signal Regiment supporters cheered for 7 Signal Regiment in the 'A' final, and bless their hearts, they pushed 1 WFR into second place.

Meanwhile, in the high jump, **Corporal Percy Drummond** (who loathes the event as it interferes with his running) produced a personal best jump of 5′ 10¾″ to secure first place, whilst some fine muscle work by **Lance-Corporal Lori Vula** helped secure second place in the discus and shot.

The 100 metre relay team had to equal the 1947 record of 43·7 seconds to push 1WFR into second place, but 6 points had to be conceded to 1WFR in the Pole Vault, Long jump and Javelin, so that at 4 p.m. the scoreboard showed 21 Signal Regiment with 113 points and 1WFR only 2 points behind. At this point, however, athletics officer, **Lieutenant Dick Farrimond** was loosening the champagne corks—no military team was likely to beat us in the two remaining events, the 1,500 metres team race and the 4 × 400 metres relay.

Indeed, we did win both these events and in convincing style, setting a new BAOR record in the 1,500 metres. The final score gave us 9½ points margin over a very fine 1 WFR Team, with 3 LI in third place.

General Sir Harry Tuzo, G.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., C-in-C BAOR, presented the trophies, the champagne corks popped, the teams congratulated each other, mothers collected their ice creamed children, and the flags were lowered. So ended what is probably the most spectacular sporting event in the BAOR calendar.

THIS MAN IS DANGEROUS

WATCH HIM!

This is the man who tripped and fell,
Knocked a switch and ran like . . . . .

(Lance-Corporal John Bryant caused the complete loss of tropospheric scatter communications between Germany and the U.K. for 3 minutes when he fell over a heater, straight into the main power switch—clumsy lad!)

WIRE CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for Wire contributions is the 12th OF THE MONTH preceeding the month of publication. After nearly 50 years of existence we still cannot get all correspondendents to remember this. Let us try and get this right in our second half century!

What can you do about the old problems of House Purchase, School Fees and Service Pensions?

It could n't be easier. Contact us!

We know the problems. Housing, educating the children, and ultimately retirement. At times these problems are more difficult than an old Chinese puzzle. They're time consuming and exasperating, and mistakes can be very expensive. Take heart! We offer our highly specialised advice free of charge. Advice especially designed to meet the individual needs of members of the Armed Forces everywhere.
Let us look at these problems separately.

House Purchase
Do you know it is possible to reduce the cost of house purchase by as much as 60% or more?

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Has it occurred to you that it is possible to reduce the cost of educating your children by as much as 50% or more?

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plan to protect your future

THEY ALSO SERVE
Civilian employees of 28th Signal Regiment

ON returning from sick leave, after being in hospital, I went through my diary, Part I Orders, the officers Order Book, and all the other things one has to check after being away, and at the top of my long list of things to do was 'WIRE Notes' by 1st July.

For a few days I went digging around looking for news of a wife having quads, a mention in the Honours List, anything to get a start.

Having read through the last few months notes I realised that we had only been writing about soldiers, unit activities and military subjects, and it was then that I thought that a few lines (plus a photograph) of the sometimes 'Forgotten Army' of a unit, the civilian employees, would not go amiss.

They help to keep the Regiment ticking

I started by enquiring who was who and soon discovered far too many to mention them all by names, so I give you this summary and a mention of but a few, of the people who help to keep 28 (BR) Signal Regiment ticking along each year, and Francisca Barracks in pretty good shape.

Our Senior Citizen of course **Major (Retd.) Q.M. Harry Newsham** who is our QM (Admin.) and has been with us for four years, **Harry** is well known throughout the Corps and for those who know him, rest assured, he hasn't changed, and is still the same big hearted **Harry** we have always known and still going strong. To help him he has **Herr Charles Antoine** who deals with married quarters and MFO, **Frau Gerda Gardner** his civilian labour clerk and **Frau Ursula Schneider** the office clerk, each one of these are also being constantly called upon to help out with interpretation of bills, phone calls to German firms and many other queries which occur with out being a NATO Regiment and having many dealings with local firms, and not forgetting **Herr Rolf Brueck** who has a similar, but sometimes more exacting job with the QM (Tech.).

Our two longest serving employees must be **Herr Wilhelm Naumann** the unit tailor who has been with us 20 years and seen many soldiers through different generations of uniforms and a close second is **Frau Margarete Dubberke** with 19 years, and if only one could count the number of cups of tea she has served over those years, within the walls of RHQ and through numerous terms of Commanding Officers.

Our two oldest by age must be **Herr August Busch** and **Herr Herman Christelet** who can go back to 1897.

The strangest professions must be those of our Storeman, **Herr August Kleiner** who was once a farmer, and **Herr Hans Schneider**, a driver, who was once a diamond cutter.

Then we can also boast a man and wife team in **Herr** and **Frau Oelmuellers,** both of whom work at different tasks within the barracks.

Not forgetting some of our Dependants, starting with our movements clerk, **Mrs. Margaret Jones** whose expertise is moving soldiers, wives, families, and even pets by hand, sea or air, is something to behold, and shut away in their small room **Mrs. Irene Bell** and **Maureen Ellis,** make up our RHQ typist pool, with one 'long wheel base' and one 'short base' typewriter one marvels at the amount of typing they really do manage to get through each day. Then you can meet **Mrs. Marion Downie** who through her PRI Shop can sell you anything from a regimental tie to a washing machine, or, a beer mug to a TV. Then there are those we sometimes take for granted, like, **Mrs. Yvonne Gallagher** and **Marion Hodgson** who run our YMCA bookshop, please cancel papers and comics before going on holidays, and **Mr. Ron Harber** who with his staff keep our NAAFI Gift Shop, Canteen, and Golden Axe Club going, with next door **Miss Margaret Power** of the WRVS who manages to keep her small place in very good shape for the boys, with two billiard rooms, TV, radio and plenty of games.

And so we could go on with long list of earnest workers from waitresses to clerks, from barbers to labourers, cooks, kitchen help, housemaids, clerks and plain cleaners, all of whom one cannot really do without in a much worn, and busy barracks. Finally let's not forget our small HSC/HSO unit who employ, electricians, painters, carpenters and such to help keep the place in trim. To all of them, whether locally employed or Dependants, we say thank you for a valuable service and hope you all like the photograph, and perhaps ex members of the Regiment may recognise a few familiar faces.

Stop Press — Regimental news items

Beating Retreat Francisca Barracks 73, was performed this year by the Band and Drums of the 2nd Queens and produced an excellent evening's entertainment for all ranks, plus many guests from various HQ's, other NATO NORTHAG Units and St. Tonis, our parent German town.

Nijmegan Marches 73

W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Rod Mansfield is out daily, training his team for this annual event and participates in the Rheindahlen Marches on Wednesday, 4th July, as a warm up for the real affair starting 15th July.

Back Troubles
Disc and muscular complaints seem to be fairly prevalent in some of our older soldiers and one wonders if they are taking their daily Phylosan.

Complaint
Staff Sergeant Duncan Logan McIntosh was overheard to say that he never got a mention in THE WIRE—so—Hallo Mac!

Sport
Tennis—although not a major sport in the Regiment, is one in which quite a few take an interest and last week our team of **Signalman Steve Drew** (Captain), **Captain David Walden, Corporal 'Mo' Vaughan, Lance-Corporals Derrick Barker** and **Lee Davies** and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Peter Harris** got through the first round of the Rhine Area Inter-Unit Championship with a splendid 5–4 win over 40 ASR.

Cricket—Sergeant Dick Barton has been getting our team into shape for the forthcoming Major Unit Cup Match, with games against Antwerp, Command day and Rheindahlen. We also take this opportunity of thanking **Captain Lou Wells,** REME (Ex OC LAD) for master-minding a splendid new Cricket Scoreboard, which although not automatic, requires only a short course of instruction for a short or tall person.

Shooting—Captain (TOT) Reg (have gun will travel) **Davies** is in England with our team of experts, namely, **W.O.2 Ken Hammond-Haley, Sergeant Portlock, Corporals Jim Hunter, Jim Rennie, Lance-Corporals Terry Dakin** and **Bushell, Signalmen Eric Calvert** and **Jan Strefford** and not forgetting our Pioneer member, **Captain Arthur Holmes,** and although still at Bisley competing, we can put out the news that we came second to 30 Signal Regiment in the Corps Shoot at Blandford, a splendid effort.

Water Polo Rhine Area Inter-Unit Championship—Our water polo team, trained by **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Watson** and Captained by **Corporal 'Mo' Vaughan** had two splendid victories over 40 ASR by 4–2 and 13 Signal Regiment by 2–1 to reach the final and there they will play our arch rivals in 16 Signal Regiment.

Wanted in Exchange
Two Y. of S. with 10 fingers for two Y. of S. with 9½ fingers. Alas! **Y. of S. Devine** injured while free fall parachuting and **Y. of S. Maclaren** injured while leaping from the rear of a vehicle are each now minus ½ a digit and as they cannot now do Mess Treasurer, due to counting problems, are up for exchange.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

EXERCISE 'SIGNAL VIEW' — OPEN DAY TO CADETS

BLANDFORD Camp, during the weekend of 7th/8th July 1973 was the scene of the annual presentation of Corps life and activities to ACF/CCF contingents located in the South of England. The display is not confined to the technical aspects of Royal Signals. Indeed it was most revealing to see the variety of sporting and leisure time activities demonstrated by the participating units.

The centre point of the whole display was concentrated on what is usually the Blandford Helipad, the theme of the display being tactical communications and support. The professional layout showed that much pre-planning and thought by the static display co-ordinator, **Major Bob Martin,** Second-in-Command 30 Signal Regiment, and his assistant ringmaster, **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) 'Ted' Rawlins** had borne fruit from the host of willing workers provided for the setting up and manning of each demonstration.

Visitors were able to see modern communication equipment in typical operating environments together with defensive positions prepared by the crews. The cadets were impressed by all they saw, from the satellite terminal to the D11 Airportable installation working to HMS Ark Royal off the coast of Newfoundland. Particular interest was paid to the modern weapons and the equipment worn by the soldiers, particularly the Volvo Snowcat and the life-like Arctic snow scene.

Signalman Jim Gardiner, School of Signals demonstrates the AFV 432 mounted G.P.M.G.

Corporal Charlie Peach supervising 30th Signal Regiment's underground cable jointing demonstration by Lance-Corporal John Keohane with Signalman Clive Johnson manning the G.P.M.G.

For those who like to do their own operating 3 Signal Regiment supported by 30 Signal Regiment provided a rover force radio net which proved most popular.

A helicopter landing site was laid out and Sioux and Alouettes of 6 and 14 Flight AAC flew numerous sorties giving our visitors a bird's eye view of Blandford Camp.

The most popular sporting attraction appeared to be the dry ski-slope provided and manned by **Second-Lieutenant Poole** and **Second-Lieutenant Mackay** (WRAC).

It is hoped that this year's display will bear fruit should any of the cadets decide to make a career of service life. Certainly, two visitors would have no hesitation in joining the modern Corps—**Sergeant John Mudge** and **In-Pensioner Dick Osgood,** both ex Royal Signals, and now at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, visited Blandford Station over this period and some of the stories they recounted of heliographs, cable waggons and horses impressed both soldiers and cadets alike.

2 SQUADRON

Life in the Squadron goes on in spite of the temporary, yet hasty, departure of our OC, **Major Ray Lettin** and **S.S.M. Ian Hassett** who have just left for a six-week exercise in sunny Italy —such luxury—nay, such faith to leave all in the hands of the Squadron stalwarts, **Captain Jack Jenkins, Second-Lieutenant Jill Mackay** and **Staff Sergeant 'Johnny' Howes** (who at present has about five different appointments in the Regiment—at the last count).

On the Line Troop side we recently said farewell to **Lance-Corporal 'Ise' Linton** and will shortly be losing **Signalman 'Ginger' Doak.** We wish them both the very best of luck in their new jobs. **Corporal John Thorne** and his merry men helped out the 'Quicksilver demonstration team' recently in preparation for the Aldershot Army Display and were relieved by two others from the Troop plus **Signalman 'Paddy' McAllister** from the Driver Training Wing who will be doing the same sort of work but for the 'Bristol 600'.

Jack Jenkins is to be heartily congratulated on his recent award of honorary Corps Rugby Colours.

We have also lost our indispensable **Y. of S. Ken Palmer** who has left to work for Nestlé (don't forget the 'ay' on the end!). We all wish him and his family the best in his new career.

Once again, we wish all faithful WIRE readers a fond farewell from 'Work Squadron'. See you next month. Keep trucking!

605 Sig Tp

Group photographs appear in most issues of THE WIRE, and they serve a useful means of locating 'old what's his name'. This month however, there is a story hidden in the photograph above.

The story begins with a visit to Blandford Camp by **Captain (Retired) Bill Farmery,** who, on learning from the CO, 30 Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre,** that the Gan Island troop was a regimental responsibility and was numbered '605' he expressed a keen interest in the troop since he had commanded the original 605 Signal Troop during the early 1960s. Amongst his souvenirs he kept the last pennant to fly at the masthead in Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow, before his troop was absorbed into the newly re-formed 10 Signal Regiment in July 1964. The pennant duly arrived and was sent to the present Troop Commander, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. S. Kidd,** to fly proudly over Gan Island.

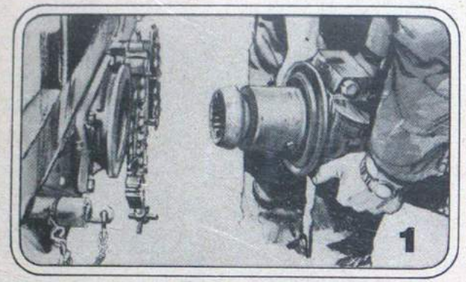
The roles of the two 605 Troops are poles apart. The original 605 Signal Troop might be remembered as the Household Division's communications staff, providing cover for almost every State occasion taking place in London. Although the soldiers of 605 Signal Troop were never in the forefront of publicity they covered each ceremony from rooftops, doorways and windows with their equipment. Additionally they manned the HQ London District communication centre at Horse Guards and boasted of their Buckingham Palace extension off the switchboard.

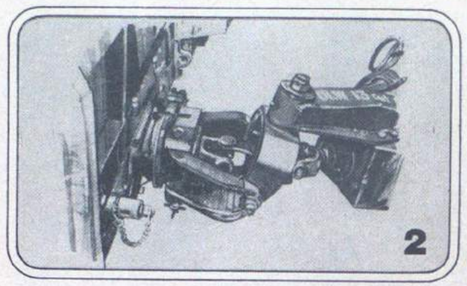
The new 605, formed after the withdrawal of 19 Signal Regiment from Singapore, are responsible for airfield communications at the RAF staging post on Gan Island. There is obviously none of the glamour of their predecessors associated with the present 605, but they can equally boast of having a unique task.

On behalf of **Foreman Kidd** and 605 Signal Troop grateful thanks are offered to **Captain Bill Farmery** for presenting a most treasured possession. "Viva 605".

605 SIGNAL TROOP—GAN ISLAND, JUNE 1973
Rear row: Corporal Aggrippa, Corporal Hagan, Signalman Williams, Signalman Lewis, Signalman Holton, Signalman Cross, Signalman Brown and Signalman Johnson
Front row: Corporal Capel, Sergeant Gray, Staff-Sergeant F. of S. Kidd, Abdul Didi, Sergeant Essig, Sergeant Keep and Corporal Havlin

Faraway Places! Unusual Job!
Why not send us your Story?





Exceptional performance is given by the addition of a powered-axle trailer. Not only is the combination of 4 x 4 plus 2 x 2 more flexible than a rigid 6 x 6 vehicle, but the increased traction allows country impassable to a 4 x 4 to be easily traversed. Over heavy going the trailer can push the vehicle. Illustration 1 shows the drive being lined up; illustration 2, the drive fully engaged.

4x4 PLUS 2x2 ADDS NEW DIMENSION TO 1 TONNE LAND ROVER

6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 106

BFBS visit us!

ON Thursday, 14th June, the 'Six Thirty' programme on BFBS went out 'live' from our hallowed location and to hear **Derek Hale** describing the camp, it's a wonder we haven't been flooded with applications for postings—in! !

The previous day, **Terry James** and **Richard 'Asters' Astbury** had recorded interviews with units within the Garrison, one of which was very interesting. **Richard Astbury** went to Werl to interview **Herr Euler,** who has spent ten years collecting information in order to make a film showing what really happened when the Mohnesee Dam was breached in 1943.

During the programme, **Derek Hale** interviewed the OC, **Major Peter Goldney** and **Lance-Corporal Frankie Callaghan.**

Athletics

This year's Morrison Cup has come and gone and we lifted our performance from last year mainly due to some hard training. However, some of the team seemed to suffer the same complaint as some top athletes and on the day were not at their best. **Signalman 'Stew' Proctor,** who had been putting the Shot 12 m. 50 cms. could only manage 11 m. 57 cms. and 3rd place, whilst **Corporal Graham Lawrence** could only do 27 m. instead of his usual 35 m. in the Discus. **Sergeant Harry Kernohan** however did a personal best in the long jump with 6 m. 06 cms. but was soon deflated when **Corporal May** of 7 Armoured Brigade took the lead with the very best jump and broke the Minor Units' record.

The Tug-of-War team pulled allcomers to take the Minor Units' competition in straight pulls but lost the 'crate' against the Major Units' winners—a creditable performance by all.

Sailing

This year, we were the only team from a Minor Unit to enter the Signals Regatta held at the Mohnesee on the 13th, 14th and 15th June.

In amongst all the Major Units we felt that to come anywhere but last would be quite good going in the team championship. The team, consisting of **Captain Mike Keohane, Captain Hugh Grenville-Jones** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Blair Smart** with their respective crews, **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Dick Colley, Signalman 'Jock' McAveety** and **Sergeant Tim Squire** took their first race when **Staff Sergeant Smart** 'stole' first place overtaking the opposition's leading boat approximately ten yards from the Finish. Our best performance was perhaps the beating of 22 Signal Regiment, with **Captain Keohane** first and **Staff Sergeant Smart** second.

At the end of the competition we were third and were very pleased with the performance of the team. The team were presented with the Minor Units' Cup which had been presented for competition by our own unit. We hope that next year more Minor Units will be encouraged to take part.

Congratulations also to **Sergeant Tim Squire** on taking overall second place in the Novice Individual Class—having only learned to sail two weeks previously!

From communicating to navigating

Recently, 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron Sergeants' Mess held a Motor Treasure Hunt. Those who took part had an enjoyable afternoon thanks to the hard work put in to organising the event by **Sergeant Harry Kernohan** and his wife **Helen.**

The hunt took the competitors in a circle around Soest using the many bye lanes which abound in a farming area. The clues were many and varied but easy to solve providing one kept to the route, and the navigators (wives and children for the most part) kept to their task.

The route was just under 40 miles and though that is not very far, it took all the competitors over 2 hours to complete the course. To add to the confusion, some cars were alarmed to see others travelling in the wrong direction and the inevitable doubts started to creep in. A few wives tried to claim a new pair of tights from the Mess as one of the treasures was a ladder!

MONTE CARLO NEXT STOP

Left to right: Staff Sergeant Harry Creedy, Sergeant Harry Kernohan, Sergeant Dave Darlington

On the return to the Mess, the cool drinks dispensed over the bar were both welcome and refreshing and then the wait was on for the later cars.

Staff Sergeant Harry Creedy and **Sergeant Dave Darlington** managed a creditable total of 52 points from a possible 58 to claim first prize, closely followed by **Staff Sergeant Jack Whittaker** with a car full of ladies (don't worry, one was his wife!) whilst **Yeoman Derek Allen** and his wife took third place.

The booby prize—appropriately a tow rope—went to **Sergeant Tim Squire** and family (one of the cars going the wrong way).

For the rest, there was just the enjoyment of a Sunday afternoon drive with a difference in the fresh air on a beautiful day.

11 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 29

AERONAUTICAL LINE LAYING — A VENTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN AS REPORTED BY LINE TROOP

Strapped into a helicopter

AT the end of two weeks of hard labour and long hours most of the linemen anticipated an easing of pressure until the end of the exercise and the long job of reeling in began, however, someone somewhere had obviously got different ideas. The rumour came down through the chain of command, "We're going to lay lines by helicopter", and was promptly laughed off by all concerned as just another bulletin from 'Rumour Control'. The 25th of June began like any other day, and followed a similar pattern of hard graft until three o'clock in the afternoon when I received a telephone call from **Sergeant John Luck** of 16 Signal Regiment instructing me to collect eight packs of Don-10 and go with him to the helicopter pick up point. After arriving at the pick up point, and receiving a quick briefing from **Sergeant 'Taff' Callear, Sergeant Luck** and myself tossed up to see who would have the honour of laying the first line. Almost before I had time to wonder where he got the double-headed coin from I found myself being strapped in beside the helicopter pilot with four packs of Don-10 on my knee and a crook-stick wedged in a very uncomfortable position. The idea was that we would fly over the start point lower the end of the cable (to which was attached a large iron picket) and then zoom off over the horizon paying out cable as we went. It all sounded so simple . . .

Caught up in the struts

As we flew over the start point for the first time I opened my eyes (which had been tightly shut since take-off) and there on the ground millions of feet below (or so it seemed) were **Sergeants Callear** and **Luck** with **Signalmen Ian McKnight** and **'Buck'**

Buchanan controlling traffic with some small assistance from a party of RMPs, and **Signalman Keith Lloyd** taking photographs left, right and centre. As we flew over the pilot gave me the nod, and I threw out the picket and the cable only to see it dangling from the struts of the helicopter a few feet away, just out of my reach.

The pilot flew back to the puck up point and after some funny looks from the Army Air Corps chaps and some unprintable remarks from the pilot I managed to get the cable free from the helicopter, and off we went again.

Success — then disaster strikes

The second attempt began much more successfully and the picket went straight as an arrow to the road below, and off we went with the cable paying out merrily behind us. The events that followed seem to me even now like the climax of an Alfred Hitchcock movie. The first sign of trouble came when the cable began to snag as it passed through the crook-stick, as I tried to correct this, the cable jammed completely and the crook-stick snapped like a dry twig (we still daren't tell the RQMS). As the crook-stick snapped the cable whiplashed and went round my neck and began to choke the life out of me. I eventually managed to escape its clutches, although it did leave me with a nice friction burn on my hand. All this was too much for the poor pilot and he instructed me (a little bit hysterically I thought) to throw the lot overboard. As we were flying over the Officers' Mess area at the time I just closed my eyes and threw the packs out, hoping that if they did hit an officer, it would be one with a sense of humour. The pilot (now looking 20 years older) then landed and in a wavering voice, asked me to leave the helicopter, this I did untangling the odd packs of Don-10 from the superstructure as I went. The pilot, muttering quietly to himself then took off. I made my way to the start point to find **Sergeant 'Taff' Callear** gasping for breath, as he had apparently been racing down the road trying to grasp the picket and cable as it zoomed by. After a few muttered curses we agreed that the idea was, to say the least, a failure.

Never again — if I can help it

After getting treatment from the medics for my burnt hand I offered a quick prayer to the patron saint of all linemen (and brewers) that the boss (**Second-Lieutenant 'Paddy' Hughes**) wouldn't include me in any more of his schemes.

One final thought, if you do happen to see a helicopter pilot who bursts into tears at the sight of a lineman, bear with him, it wasn't a nice experience.

REPORT FROM TECH WORKSHOPS

Star of our show no less than **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. N. Howes** called by his underlings **'Tricky Dicky'.** After he had finished threatening me with all sorts of terrible punishments like 'work' and 'jobs' I could find no fault with him, and I can honestly say I have never worked with anyone quite like him.

Sergeant Colin Firman, definitely the wariest technician in the world, has just spent four months in Ireland with the 3 Light Infantry as a section commander! He went for a rest from work, he says.

We seem to have reached a critical stage in our careers almost all at once. In the past six months all five Corporals have passed T1 entrance and both Lance-Corporals are shortly to be promoted having passed their T2. All we wait for now, with baited breath, is **Sergeant (Secret Squirrell) Bromidge's** F. of S. entrance result.

COMCEN NOTES

The days of the Comcen operator have now left the Brigade scene and the overworked, underpaid Radio Telegraphist reigns supreme.

Time and space doesn't allow for the mentioning of the deeds of hard working staff, but the following remarks are overheard quite frequently, From **Signalman Norman Johnson,** "Now when I was on Intrepid"! What exactly his job was remains a mystery to this day. From **Signalman Chris Harden,** "Has anybody seen my out numbers?"

It has been mentioned that we have a Yeoman in the Comcen, but to date only the privileged few have seen him. So, Sir, may we see him too?

Mention work and **Corporal Pete Ling** goes and catches mumps twice, we won't say where he caught it the second time as it may cause him some embarrassment.

A special mention must go to our fleet of DR's. At first we thought that we had four of these stirling lads, but looking under **Signalman Phil Tonks** long hair we came to the conclusion that there were three DR's and a traffic querie.

To conclude we all offer our congratulations to **Lorraine** and **Pete Ling** on the birth of yet another son.

Until the next instalment from behind the green door is published, we bid you all farewell.

Footnote

Heard about the Communications Officer who wasn't right for once, drew an 'F' Section and committed Radio Silence.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 41

SINCE the publication of our last notes much has happened, both on the exercise and sporting fronts. All this we have attempted to cram into the rather limited space available.

Morrison Cup

We had some bad luck shortly before the meeting. **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Dobson,** our 200 metre and 4 × 100 metre man, was injured and unable to compete. **Signalman 'Taffy' Smitham,** another excellent athlete, injured his ankle during the 800 metre event but nevertheless managed to complete the race.

However, our bad luck did not dominate everything. **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) George Stubbings** came second in the Shot and Alpha Troop's Tug-of-War team represented the Squadron and came third! Quite a creditable performance.

Rhine Army Horse Show

Once again the Squadron was fully committed in preparing the Rhine Army Horse Show. Our MSO, led by **Supt. Milan Radovanovic,** spent several days erecting the considerable amount of tentage required. The remainder of the Squadron were engaged in providing telephone communications, selling programmes and guarding the silver prizes!

Exercise "Long Hop" 1973

For the third year running we organised a 14 day long range skywave exercise with the dual aim of practising the HF skills that otherwise seem to be so neglected and, at the same time, of giving some of our operators a welcome change from the usual sort of exercise! The exercise took place in June and detachments were sent to Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Bavaria, each taking a C11 and a D11 station (the D11's and crews were loaned to us by 16 Signal Regiment and 604 Signal Troop). In addition crews were made up from 35 Engineer Regiment, 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin), 20 Ordnance Field Park, 4 Division Regiment, RCT and 4 Field Workshop, REME. The C11's worked as a skywave net with a control station in barracks and the D11's worked one-to-one FSK links. As last year the communicating timetable was so arranged as to leave plenty of free time for all!

The exercise worked extremely well, providing some very good experience for our operators. It was a welcome change from barrack routine, a worthwhile contribution towards mutual understanding among Allied armies and a great success.

Visit of CSO BAOR

On 2nd July the CSO BAOR, **Major-General H. E. Roper** visited the Squadron in barracks. After talking with the Squadron Commander, **Major D. C. Whitehead,** the CSO visited Detmold Comcen followed by various departments of the Squadron. The CSO met the senior ranks of the Squadron in the Sergeants' Mess before going on to the Brigade Officers' Mess for lunch with the Squadron Officers.

During the afternoon **General Roper** saw the Squadron at fitness training before visiting the newly opened Detmold military telephone exchange.

All in all a most enjoyable visit which we hope the CSO found interesting.

Swimming

As runners-up in BAOR for the past 3 years we again entered a team for the 4 Division Minor Units Swimming Championships.

The event was held in the rather cold and gloomy pool at Sennelager and our only opposition 44 Field Support Squadron, RE. This unknown team much worried our Captain and Coach, **Corporal Steve Dunnings.** Happily, however, his worries were groundless as, apart from breaking three Divisional swimming records, we won every event.

Our team this year consists of **Corporal Steve Dunnings, Corporal Brian Guest, Corporal Brian Mountain, Lance-Corporal 'Stu' Saunders, Corporal Ken Pearce, Lance-Corporal 'Mick' Graham** (REME), **Signalman 'Mike' Rowan, Signalman Kevin Downes, Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bill Donnelly.**

We now go forward to the BAOR Championships to be held in Berlin on 25th July. Hopefully we will win and thus justify the efforts of our team captain.

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

Ericsson exchange reappears at RAF LUQA

ON the 8th of June the new Gladiator Automatic Telephone Exchange installed at RAF LUQA was officially inaugurated by the Station Commander, **Group Captain M. J. Armitage.**

This Swedish equipment (the first of its kind to be used by British Forces) was first installed here in late summer 1971 by a PEPS team headed by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Freestone.** It replaced the pre-2000 type equipment which had been in use since 1960 but was recovered in some haste during our 'Withdrawal' some months later.

Re-installation began in October 1972 and this time was undertaken by a team of technicians from the Unit under **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Callow. W.O.2 (F. of S.) 'Gus' Ward** assumed control in February and although work was completed in April he may still be seen visiting the exchange to enjoy the refreshing effect of the air conditioner. He claims that he is planning the future increase from 900 to 1,200 extensions but the team stalwarts, **Corporals Paul Evans, Maurice Hurley, George Brown, John Connolly** and **Keith Mathers** suspect that he is still tapping the sherry vat that appeared from nowhere (the joint pit?) for the opening ceremony.

AUTO EXCHANGE INAUGURATED—AND IT'S SHERRY
"No Shir—we don't antipicate any faulsh!" Despite the sherry W.O.2 (F. of S.) 'Gus' Ward, Sergeants Jack Robson and Don Buschers were able to explain the 'Swedish System' to Group Captain Armitage

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.

244 Sig Sqn. R.A.F. Benson

Recruit of the day!/week!/year!

244 since its last re-incarnation has had a small element of RAF parachute telegraphists. The last of these have now left us. They were **Corporal Ron Campbell** who led our winning team in the 16 Parachute Brigade Rigging Competition, and **Senior-Aircraftsman Dick Kilpatrick. Ron** has gone back to the RAF, **Dick** who gained an official Corps Radio Telegraphist A2 classification whilst with us, has joined the Army.

One Friday as an SAC, **Dick** was with a Detachment of the Squadron on operations in Northern Ireland, the following Wednesday saw him at Oxford Recruiting Office, the same day he reported to 11 Signal Regiment at Catterick for recruit training.

Two days later he had finished recruit training and was posted to —wait for it— the 244th as **Signalman Kilpatrick.** Our RAF friends remain amazed at the Army's audacious efficiency. Welcome home **Dick!**

Wednesday in the R.A.F.—next Monday Signalman Kilpatrick was back with 244 Squadron wearing new livery

261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

THE last month has seen a change of command. We said farewell to **Major B. C. Hodgson** and taking over we welcome **Major P. J. Rowland.** So far it hasn't been too painful although it must be said that the day seems longer.

Sportlights

Our main feature this month is with Airfield Troop at Akrotiri. It all started when the Squadron Commander took **Staff Sergeant 'Budgie' Ray Stokes** to one side and told him to produce a Tug-of-War team. The final comment being, "Make sure you B. . . . . Win".

The day of reckoning dawned and the team representing 261 Signal Squadron paraded in all its splendour, confident of a win at the 3 Signal Group athletics meeting.

Without much difficulty they pulled away all the opposition to collect the winners trophy and medals from **Mrs. C. Bound,** wife of the Commander 3 Signal Group.

The professionalism of the team was soon bandied around Cyprus, an invitation being extended by 12 Signal Unit RAF for us to enter our team in their Sports. This time it was a formality; another trophy under their belt and the team gaining in experience and confidence.

PLENTY OF BRAWN IN 261 SQUADRON TUG-OF-WAR TEAM

Standing (left to right): Lance-Corporal 'Lofty' Riddlesden, Signalman Ian Thornycroft, Lance-Corporal Roger Martin, Sergeant Dave Simpson, Lance-Corporal Bill Pitt, Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Bart, Corporal John Telford

Sitting (left to right): Lance-Corporal John Goodfellow, Staff Sergeant Ray Stokes, Major B. C. Hodgson, Captain B. Turner, Signalman 'Tich' Peck

Absent: Signalman Ron Wilkinson

The talking point on the Airfield was now the chance of a 'hat trick' at the Army Cyprus Minor Unit Athletics.

In this final they met the reigning champions, BMH Dhekelia. It was a good final with neither side initially giving an inch. The first pull lasted well over three minutes with 261 producing the vital extra ounce to win. In the second pull 261 made light work of it and so became the new Army Minor Unit Champions.

Since then the team has gone on to win at the RAF Episkopi sports meeting and then had the temerity to enter and win the Army Cyprus Major Units event pulling in the final against the 1 Para having disposed of 1 Royal Anglian to reach the final.

This is a remarkable achievement for a team, only brought together just over a month ago. The final accolade has been bestowed with the selection of our sturdy troop team to represent the Army in the Inter-Service meeting at the end of the month.

Farewells and welcomes

In this edition we say farewell to **Sergeant Dickinson, Corporals Feetham** and **Smith, Lance-Corporal Hall** and **Signalmen Allen, Morris** and **Kaiser.** On the other side of the coin we welcome **Sergeant Raybould, Corporals Carse, Harding** and **Young,** and **Signalman Menham.**

THE VOLUNTEERS

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

THE highlight of the TAVR year is undoubtedly Annual Camp, and considering the enormous amount of work, sport and social activity which is crammed into this fortnight, this is not surprising. With Squadrons spread over five different counties, the Regiment is seldom able to get together as one complete unit. This year's camp at Penhale near Newquay, Cornwall, provided a welcome opportunity for the Regiment to assume its full identity. There was certainly no lack of Regimental character or team spirit, and the RSM **(W.O.1 Shakespeare)** seemed to enjoy having a whole Regiment within shouting distance again, but let our Squadrons speak for themselves.

However before letting the Squadrons have their say, we would like to thank the many senior officers who visited us for taking such an interest in our activities. Among our visitors were; **Major-General C. W. B. Purdon, C.B.E., M.C.,** GOC North West District; **Brigadier J. C. Clinch** Commander 2 Signal Group; **Brigadier E. J. Nolan,** DWRAC; **Brigadier H. M. H. Ley, C.B.E., D.L.,** Secretary Lancashire, Cheshire and Isle of Man T & AVR Association and **Colonel J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, T.D., D.L.,** Honorary Colonel, 38 Signal Regiment (V).

Support Group (Sheffield)

After several weeks making lists, checking lists and scrapping lists, Support Group finally moved off to camp on 19th May, where all arrived safely in time for first works parade Sunday morning. All that is, except for our intrepid members of LAD who were driving 'Bessie' the Scammell, who refused to move beyond the first halt; which at her age probably seemed quite far enough. However she arrived under her own 'steam' to a great reception on Wednesday morning. The highlight of camp was the Regimental parade for which practices were held daily. As usual the SSM was rushing around battling with various departments

in order to keep sufficient men available for parade. Although most of Support Group are rather mature, we managed to quit ourselves well in the orienteering competition. In the soccer we went down fighting, but full marks for bravery must go to the team manager, who substituted the RSM at half time. We would like to thank **Private Janet Beatson** for volunteering for the team. Maybe if she had played we might have pulled it off. Our Squadron Party was a tremendous success, thanks mainly to the efforts of the younger members. We have several movements to report. We have lost our SSM, **W.O.2 Joe Hodgson,** who is congratulated on his appointment as RQMS. With some well-earned promotion his successor is **W.O.2 Bill Evans.** Our LAD PSI, **Sergeant Roger Orme,** REME has left on posting to Korea. Weight for weight he has a good replacement and we welcome **Sergeant 'Taffy' Smith** to LAD and Support Group. **Signalman Fisher,** the CO's driver has left us for a course at Catterick. We wish him success and hope that he returns one day.

Lance-Corporal Graham Armett has transferred to 93 Squadron in far-off Blackburn. Good luck **Graham,** we shall still see you occasionally. Finally we would like to thank **Lieutenant Judith Fleming,** WRAC for a very well organised orienteering competition.

46 (Derby & Leicester) Squadron

We look back to a very enjoyable and successful camp. Our Squadron successes included winning the tug-of-war competition, thanks to the superior coaching of **Captain John Rose;** producing the two best radio detachments in the competitive exercise—the detachments were; 1st, **Corporal A. R. Lowe, Lance-Corporal M. D. Fidoe, Lance-Corporal G. Gowers** and **Signalman M. C. Stone,** 2nd, **Corporal J. H. Johnson, Corporal P. J. Bown, Corporal F. E. Franklin** and **Signalman M. D. Grant.** The Regimental Pistol Shoot was won by the OC, **Major A. J. Tyler** and **Captain John Rose** came second. We would like to congratulate **Sergeant Len Fowkes** who was presented with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritious Service, by **Brigadier J. C. Clinch** on a ceremonial parade at camp, and **Staff Sergeant S. M. Ward** and **Corporal N. Bullough** who have been selected to represent the Squadron in the Regimental Nijmegan March team. Lastly, we would like to mention a new venture, in that we are having a Squadron families day at Kipworth Ranges on Sunday, 29th July.

64 (Sheffield) Squadron

We were glad of a change from a mobile camp to spend the whole of our fortnight this year at Penhale. The Squadron settled down quickly to work and walk—the camp being scattered over a hillside. The fortnight proved to be a successful blend of intensive military and trade training, organised sport and—after working hours—social activity. On the sporting side the Squadron won the Regimental soccer tournament, gained both first and second team placings and individual winner in the orienteering competition, and were runner-up in the tug-of-war. A special mention goes to **Sergeant Roy Wilkinson** of the Squadron, already known for his skill in the Regimental and All-England TAVR soccer teams, who at camp won the individual orienteering prize and has been selected as a member for the Nijmegen Marches team. At 39 years of age he is an example for our younger members to follow. There were some failures however. For instance, the WO's and Sergeant's Mess failed, for once, to drink the Officer's Mess dry on their traditional visit, although they did manage to do justice to a magnificent buffet lunch. Still on the social side, the Squadron party was an unqualified success. The Squadron possibly being the first to present its Commanding Officer with his own private yacht. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Garratt,** in accepting said that he would look forward to bath night!

87 (Nottingham) Squadron

The posters say 'Come to Sunny Cornwall'—we did, and arrived in the pouring rain. After a couple of days the Piskies obviously liked the look of us and so brought the sun to shine for a while. The Squadron party was a great success, as usual. (Well, who wants to hear about work anyway?). The Squadron officers had a very enjoyable dinner night, thanks to the recce carried out by **Captains Merryweather** and **Childs.** The food and drink was good and there was some very interesting conversation.

Thanks to **Major ('Doc') Hunting,** the phrase "Who rattled your cage?" was to be heard echoing around camp for some time afterwards. We didn't shine particularly well in the sporting competitions, but every one in his or her way joined in, and they all looked as though they were enjoying themselves. On most days at 3.30 it was 'down tools' off with uniforms and on with those kinky shorts and vests to go cavorting on the sports field, or a brisk run down to the beach and into the sea. A lot of energy was put into the football match when 87 Squadron Officers challenged The Rest, although it resulted in a 2–2 draw. The trainer, **Lieutenant Marjorie Tindall,** WRAC, did well with the oranges at half time, and the bucket of water came in very handy at the final whistle. Our congratulations to **Sergeant Barry Austin** who achieved the highest score with the LMG. Our admiration for **Padre Hiles** deserves a mention. He led the singing with a full verse unaccompanied solo at the start of each hymn at the Sunday service. One of the girls was heard to say afterwards "Hasn't he a smashing voice". Actually we would like to thank both padres for all their help at camp.

Footnote; Who is the smartest PSI? The one with the spray-starched pullover of course. **Sergeant Wade's** the name.

93 (East Lancashire) Squadron

The Squadron went to camp with 4 officers and 52 Rank and File, including 8 members of the WRAC. We are pleased to congratulate **Margaret Fallon** on her appointment as an Officer Cadet at the beginning of camp. The Squadron worked hard and played hard. **Lance-Corporal David Corrie** is to be congratulated on passing out joint First on the Detachment Commanders course. In the Regimental orienteering competition the individual Ladies prize was won by **Sergeant Isa Hall,** WRAC. A very popular win. The Squadron team reached the final of the inter-Squadron soccer tournament and put up a good performance against a stronger and more experienced team.

We too had a Squadron party, and thanks largely to the efforts of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Preston** and the Squadron's tame entertainers led by **Sergeant Peter Carney,** it was a great success. Immediately after camp we said farewell to our PSI, **Sergeant C. A. Thackwell.** We wish him all the best in his new job with RMA, Sandhurst, and extend a warm welcome to his successor **Staff Sergeant Boulton-Lear.**

39 Sig Regt (V) London

A Royal occasion

A FURTHER landmark was made, not only in the history of the Regiment but also in the TAVR Association, when on Tuesday, 22nd May we were honoured with a visit by **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent** in her capacity as Controller Commandant of the WRAC. This was the first time that **Her Royal Highness** had ever visited a TAVR Regiment and we were proud that our Regiment was selected.

VISIT BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUCHESS OF KENT
Corporal Hammersley introducing Corporal Hart to H.R.H., The Duchess of Kent, when she visited the Lynx Club

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by her Lady in Waiting, arrived at 1915 hours and was met by the Deputy Director, WRAC UKLF, **Colonel B. M. Metcalfe, M.B.E.** and the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White.** After formal introductions and a briefing on the Regiment and the TAVR Association, she was conducted around the drill hall and was introduced to all Royal Signals and WRAC tradesmen and tradeswomen undergoing training. The attendance for that evening broke all records for even WRAC personnel based at Tunbridge Wells, Banbury and Dundee travelled to London for the occasion. The visit concluded with **H.R.H.** meeting the junior ranks informally in their Lynx Club, the warrant officers and sergeants in their mess and having supper with the officers.

Since **Her Royal Highness** did not make her departure until 2250 hours, a half an hour later than was scheduled, we can only conclude that she must have thoroughly enjoyed her visit to the Regiment.

Skinners' visit

During the previous week we held our annual evening with the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Skinners when they visited Worship Street to hear from the CO as to the progress which the Regiment had made during the past year. They appeared to be satisfied with the report. The Master, **Mr. H. O. M. Knox, O.B.E.,** then presented the Skinners Award to **Lance-Corporal Peter Woodman,** Royal Signals and **Lance-Corporal Linda Cook,** WRAC since they had been judged as the best tradesman and tradeswoman who has contributed the most to the Regiment during the past year. Finally the evening was concluded when the Master and Wardens 'did the rounds' of the drill hall by visiting all the clubs and having supper in the officers mess.

MASTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SKINNERS TOURS THE REGIMENT

The Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners discussing a point with W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. Howker in the warrant officers' and sergeants' mess

Annual camp

Besides these two very important visits we are also preparing for annual camp. Read our Regimental notes next month and find out what happened!

Sport

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

HARROGATE ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL ATHLETIC SEASON

Winners of Army Junior Team Championships

THE Army Apprentices' College Athletics Team is completing its busiest and most successful season for many years. After a dozen or so interesting and, in many cases, exciting friendly fixtures, the final glory was achieved in the unusual surroundings of the Catterick Military Stadium on three days from the 5th to the 7th of July.

Because of the Wembley massed bands display, accommodation could not be found in Aldershot for the usual assembly of junior athletes, so North East District kindly offered to stage the Army Junior Units Team Final and the Juniors and Youths Individual Finals at Catterick.

Despite the attempts of an infantry battalion who shall remain nameless, but which held a Saracen race around the track four weeks before the big day, the meeting proved to be a great success.

The College team went to the team finals as the underdogs. True, the zone competition had been won but Chepstow had gained a narrow victory in the Triangular Games and the Infantry Junior Leader Battalion (the champions for the past three years) had thrashed Chepstow in their zone. In addition, the Junior Guardsmen's Wing were known to have a strong team.

Finals day began encouragingly. The hurdles team which had struggled all season did not finish last as had been expected. In fact, the team consisting of **A/T Corporal 'Mick' Parsons, A/T Ian Anton, A/T Hugh Mitchell** and **A/T Neil Duncan** eventually achieved third place out of the six teams. A stray hand on one of the hurdles by one of the strong Oswestry squad led to their disqualification. 8 points instead of 2—it must be our day.

The next result to arrive was the discus. First place gained and in an event where again little was expected. **A/T Lance-Corporal Chris Walton**—only a Youth but using the Junior Discus—threw over 113 ft. and his number two, **A/T Steve Spink** threw 100 ft.—each adding over 6 ft. to their previous personal best performances.

In the following track events, second place was achieved in the 4 × 800 metres, the 4 × 200 metres and in the 1,500 metres team race. There was an element of luck in both the first two. In the 800 metres race an accidental collision between two opposing competitors greatly helped our cause. The team of **A/Ts Dick Gunson, Robin Hodder, Keith Robinson** and **David Purnell** clocked a creditable time of 8 minutes 35·2 seconds.

The Sappers' disqualification in the 4 × 200 metres raised our position by a place and the 1,500 metres result was a real nail-biter. Chepstow ran away with this event but only six points separated the next 4 teams—and Harrogate was on top again.

More field events results helped the cause. We had expected **A/T Lance-Corporals Steve Slade** and **Harvey Douglas** to win the high jump. With personal bests of 5 ft. 9 in. and 5 ft. 10 in. respectively the army record was well within their capability. However, as so often happens, conditions and the day were not right and the pair had to be content with 2nd place.

Our two young pole vaulters, **John Brooks** and **Len Mills** gained 4th in their event and another win was in the javelin where **Mick Parsons** and **Tony Ellis** missed the Army Junior Team record by just over a metre.

As the afternoon progressed, it became obvious that the College stood more than an outside chance of pulling off a victory not previously achieved. And so to the final event—the 4 × 400 metres. Victory over Chepstow in this race would ensure success and we knew that this was their weakest and our strongest track team.

Dick Gunson gave us a good start which was maintained by **Robin Hodder. A/T David Purnell's** lap was the crucial one. He pulverised the opposition with a magnificent last 150 yards and **A/T Corporal Ross Boyd's** task was a mere formality. With a 53·3 seconds 400 as a personal best performance, no junior team can afford to give him thirty yards start. The final result was;

1st	AA College, Harrogate	81½ points
2nd	AA College, Chepstow	73 points
3rd	Junior Guardsmen's Wing	69 points
4th	JLR RE	53 points
5th	Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion	52½ points
6th	JLR RAC	45 points

Harrogate A.A.C. 4 × 100 metres Relay team—Army Junior Champions for the 8th time in 9 years

Left to right: A/T Corporal Steve Hall, A/T Steve Spink, A/T Walter Bacon, A/T Lance-Corporal Dennis Prince

Individuals notch many successes

And so to the individuals. Those who thought the College's talent had all been on show on Thursday were in for a shock. After the first night, held in pouring rain, the team had already amassed eight medals from eight completed events. Notable was a splendid 5,000 metres run by **A/T Corporal Jim Wakenshaw** in 15 minutes 50 seconds which just failed to give him the gold medal, and a winning leap of 20 ft. 2 in. in atrocious conditions by **A/T Corporal Steve Hall.**

Saturday was a better day and **Steve** took full advantage. He knocked 0·2 seconds off the old 200 metres record with a time of 22·4 seconds and then scorched round the track in 49·7 seconds to knock 1·2 seconds off the Army Junior 400 metres record. This performance has earned him selection for the Army Senior Team in the Inter-Service Fixture on July 18th. To finish off a splendid day, he anchored the 4 × 100 metres relay team to their 8th success in 9 seasons and so retained this trophy. He was ably assisted by **A/T 'Walt' Bacon, A/T Steve Spink** and **A/T Lance-Corporal Dennis Prince.** The winning time was 45·1 seconds.

The Youth (Under 17) Relay Team just missed making a clean sweep of the trophies when they were narrowly beaten into 2nd place. The team, consisting of **A/T Karl Potter, A/T Barry Mazey, A/T Lance-Corporal David Taylor** and **A/T Mark Ypey,** had the edge in running ability but lost a lot of ground on poor changes.

Another notable performance was **A/T Brian Moore's** retention of the 800 metres title. He ran a splendid tactical race and left the opposition in his wake in a sprint finish. 45 minutes later, he won the bronze medal in the 1,500 metres.

Other winners included **A/T Lance-Corporal Chris Walton** in the Youth Discus; **A/T Roger Ham**—a new recruit—in the Youth Javelin and **A/T Gordon McManus** in the Youth Triple Jump. In addition, **A/T Dave Walker** ran two splendid races in the Youth 1,500 metres and the 1,000 metres Steeplechase. Although only managing 4th place in the former, he recorded his personal best time of 4 minutes 21·6 seconds and then he won the 3rd place medal in the Steeplechase in 3 minutes 5 seconds—a time which would have won him the race most years.

All in all, then, the whole squad enjoyed an excellent three days. Several members of the team have been rewarded with selection for the Army Junior Team fixture v. Wales which has been postponed until September.

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

A.A.C. Harrogate win Arthur Barrett Cup

The College Junior Cricket XI defeated Knaresborough Juniors in the Final of the Arthur Barrett Cup on Sunday, 8th July at the County Ground, St. George's Road, Harrogate.

The Barrett Cup is competed for annually by all the Junior Teams in the Harrogate Area and is limited to 25 overs per side.

Knaresborough won the toss, put the College in to bat and dismissed us for 69 in 24·4 overs. **A/T Chris Marshall,** who has made over 500 runs this season, was restricted to 21 runs in 19 overs—an indication of the extremely accurate Knaresborough bowling, backed up by fielding of a very high standard. **A/T Tony Quinn** smote a 6 and a 4 and **A/T Ian Capper** two 4's.

The College attack, in the hands of **A/T Chris Marshall** and **A/T Steve Jordan,** was equally hostile, but poor ground fielding in the early overs made a present of at least 12 runs to the opposition. With Knaresborough at 40 for 1, the match appeared to have slipped away from us. However, the fielding improved, vital catches were held, **A/T Steve Cadywould** made a smart stumping and the final over, the like of which can rarely have been seen before, arrived with Knaresborough at 65 for 7.

Six balls left, 5 runs to win, 3 wickets in hand. No score off the first ball. Two singles. A run out off an attempted short single. A leg bye. 68 for 8. So to the last ball—one to draw, two to win and two wickets in hand. The non-striking batsman had been warned after the 4th ball of the over for backing up too far. He did not heed the warning and was run out off the last ball for the same offence. 68 for 9 and the College had won by 1 run.

Glenn Turner, who was visiting the College as a guest of the Commandant had readily agreed to present the Trophies. **A/T Ken Evans,** the College Skipper, received the Arthur Barrett Cup and he and all the other players received individual prizes. In addition, **Steve Jordan,** who bowled that exciting final over was nominated man of the match (13 overs, 2 maidens, 29 runs, 5 wickets), and was presented with the Len Sadler Cup and a miniature.

Glenn Turner, the New Zealand opening batsman and the only player to score 1,000 runs in May since 1938, presents the Arthur Barrett Cup to A/T Ken Evans

Also visible, if only partly, are, *left to right:* A/T Alan Balderstone, A/T Ken Jones, A/T Tony Quinn, A/T Lenny Lawrence, A/T Dave Gunn, A/T Steve Jordan, A/T Dave Ladbrooke, A/T Lance-Corporal Steve Cadywould

Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Bulford Ranges, 18–22 June, 1973

Report by Major G. A. S. Exell, Captain of Corps shooting

THE Meeting had an all time record entry bid of over 160. Our normal ceiling is 120 but in order to permit Major Units to send 8 competitors (the ARA limit for 1973) and also to include the NISHAN individuals we stretched our resources to accommodate 130.

We had none of the problems of gale force winds encountered in the Squadron Level Meeting at Catterick. Nevertheless nature had its say by providing two days of continuous rain with poor visibility. In fairness one must add that the first and last days were blessed with warm sunshine.

The standard of shooting was far higher than that at Catterick. For example, it was encouraging to find 17 scores of 160 or over in the Army 100 match, four of which were obtained by young soldier NISHAN shots.

30 Signal Regiment once again took the Major Unit Championship although without the clean sweep they made in 1972. The runners-up were 28 (BR) Signal Regiment. A mere handful of points separated the top teams in the Championship and the honours in the team matches were well spread.

223 Signal Squadron also repeated their success of 1972 by virtually sweeping the board in winning the Minor Unit Championship. The runners-up were 653 Signal Troop who finished only 6 match points behind the winners but 11½ points clear of 11 Signal Regiment who finished third.

Corporal Gerry Jaques won the Individual Championship thus firmly establishing himself as a top class Senior Shot having won many prizes as a Class 'B' shot in previous years. Like the 1972 winner **(W.O.2 Eric Smith)** he also clinched his win with an HPS of 50 in his final snap.

Other performances of particular note include **W.O.2 Eric Smith's** magnificent 191 (46, 47 48, 50) in the Methuen Invitation Match and **Lance-Corporal Mick Bushell's** 179 which gained him top score in the Army 100 Match. This latter score was outstanding for a Young Soldier shot.

With NISHAN so much on our minds it was perhaps not surprising that NISHAN shots took 16 out of the top 20 places in the Championship.

Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, CSO UKLF kindly presented the prizes. He thanked all those responsible for the organisation of the meeting. Once again the brunt of this work fell on 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment but other units providing assistance include The Training Brigade, School of Signals, 30 Signal Regiment and 10 Signal Regiment.

It is sad to record that this was the last Corps Meeting in which **Major George Cowsill** will participate either as a firer or organiser. **George** leaves the Army in 1974 after a long shooting career in which he has put his heart and soul into furthering the interests of Corps Shooting. He has a string of successful unit teams to his credit and latterly, of course, has acted as Secretary of Corps Shooting, never an easy job with the conflict of interest inevitable in the modern Army. We thank him for all he has done and wish him well in the future.

The summary of main results of the Corps Meeting is as follows:

WINNING TEAM

	Match	*Major Unit*	*Minor Unit*
1(a)	Roupell (ETR)	School of Signals	223 Signal Squadron
1(b)	Whitehead (ETR)	16 Signal Regiment	223 Signal Squadron
1(c)	Association Cup	30 Signal Regiment	223 Signal Squadron
15/16	Section Match	28 Signal Regiment	223 Signal Squadron
19	LMG Match	7 Signal Regiment	653 Signal Troop
27	Para Cup SMG	28 Signal Regiment	223 Signal Squadron

The Falling Plates Match was won by 7 Signal Regiment. **Signalman Cowie** of 16 Signal Regiment won all the Class 'B' events and the Champion Class 'B' Shot. The Best Young Soldier was **Lance-Corporal C. M. Bushell** (School of Signals/NISHAN potential) and the Apprentice Tradesman's Spoon went to **A/T P. J. Connelly. Lieutenant Woods,** REME (attached 28 (BR) Signal Regiment took the Best Non Royal Signals prize.

The following trophies were awarded for Non-Central ARA Matches;

Royal Signals Unit Shooting Trophy; For the Best Royal Signals Unit in the ARA Unit Championship; 30 Signal Regiment

The Bulford and Blandford Cups; These were won by **Colonel R. H. Gilbertson** who was the best Royal Signals shot in the Individual Fullbore Target Rifle Match (ARA Match 51) and the Individual Smallbore Target Rifle Match (ARA Match 67).

The Aldershot Cup; Awarded for the Best Royal Signals shot in the Individual Smallbore Championship (ARA Match 66) to **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. R. Cole** of 16 Signal Regiment.

Royal Signals Smallbore Trophy; For the Royal Signals Team with the highest score in the Unit Team Smallbore Championship (ARA Match 69): 7 Signal Regiment.

Motorcycling

Tough preparation but they brought Silver back from Wales

IT was a tough time for **Corporal Ken Hendry** and **Sergeant Major Tom Fayers,** being chased every evening for many weeks over hill and dale by members of the MT Troop, 8 Signal Regiment under the watchful eye of **Captain M. E. Wilson,** but it was good cross country motorcycle training for all concerned. Many hours were spent cleaning and preparing the machines and checking every last detail. International competition licences were obtained, entry fees paid and racing numbers fitted to the machines.

Early on Wednesday 20th June a Landrover bulging with bikes, beds, tents and rations left Catterick en route for Llandrindod and the Welsh International Two Day Motorcycle Trial.

At dawn on Thursday with the morning mist lingering in the air some 200 competitors started on the 400 mile trial which took them along forest tracks ducking under branches, across farmlands with sheep lining their route, through virgin moorland, up river beds and into sticky soft swamps, down twisty lanes where the bends ahead were judged for severity by the number of black skid marks on the road—or the number of holes in the hedgerow made by those who failed to negotiate the bend. One particular part of the route which slowed everyone down was an earthen track running around a reservoir with a 40 foot drop on one side into an unknown depth of water. In spite of all the obstacles three Royal Signals riders achieved outstanding success and won a Silver Medal each.

Corporal Ken Hendry who rode on an Army Issue BSA 350 cc. as an individual 8 Signal Regiment entry, is a very praiseworthy example of a serious injury being overcome to the extent of becoming a champion. Many readers may remember that he was badly injured several years ago as a member of the White Helmets when a motorcycle and rider landed on him during the famous—now discontinued—long jump over a row of prostrate soldiers.

Corporal Tommy Walker, currently serving in 2 Signal Group as driver to the SO-in-C, had produced such good results in recent competitions that he was selected to ride as a member of the Army 'B' Team. He rode very well on a Dalesman 125 cc. two stroke machine and certainly justified the faith of his supporters by bringing back a Silver.

The third Corps Silver Medallist was **Sergeant Major Tom Fayers** who rode a Dalesman 125 cc. two stroke as Captain of the British Army Motorcycle Trials Team. **The team won the Best Services Team Award and if they had entered for the Best Club Team Award and Best One Make Team Award, they would have won them also as they had returned the best scores of the competition.**

Corps Cricket

CENTURIES FOR CORPS BATSMEN

The Corps team is carrying all before it, and Corps batsmen knocked up centuries against REME, RAPC and RAOC. The three results given below add up to five consecutive victories for the Corps Eleven.

Royal Signals v. REME

The match was played at Arborfield on 8th June 1973, the weather was fine but cloudy.

Royal Signals—238 for 5 declared. (**Thewlis** 103 n.o., **Manton** 51, **Coltman** 31, **Carson** 28).

REME—232. (**Leach** 4 for 59, **Radford** 3 for 47.)

Result—Royal Signals won by 6 runs.

The Corps team was as follows:

Captain J. Radford (School of Signals), **Captain M. K. Carson** (HQ 3 Division), **Captain S. A. Coltman** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis** (8 Signal Regiment), **Sergeant G. Manton** (ACIO Stafford), **Sergeant D. Stanbridge** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Sergeant J. Willock** (8 Signal Regiment), **Corporal R. Lawrence** (School of Signals), **Corporal P. Leach** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal S. Parrish** (223 Signal Squadron (Radio)).

Royal Signals v. RAPC

The match was played at the Winchester Council Cricket ground. Weather conditions were perfect for playing cricket and the wicket was up to first class county standard.

Royal Signals—231 for 3 declared. (**Coltman** 117 n.o., **Lawrence** 66).

RAPC—157 (**Willock** 4 for 28, **Richards** 3 for 29, **Manton** 2 for 1).

Result—Royal Signals won by 74 runs.

The Corps team was as follows:

Captain J. Radford (School of Signals), **Captain S. A. Coltman** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis** (8 Signal Regiment), **Lieutenant C. L. Wright** (RMCS Shrivenham), **Staff Sergeant J. Lawrence** (244 Signal Squadron), **Sergeant G. Manton** (ACIO Stafford), **Sergeant M. Richards** (School of Signals), **Sergeant J. Willock** (8 Signal Regiment), **Corporal R. Lawrence** (School of Signals), **Lance-Corporal S. Parrish** (223 Signal Squadron (Radio)), **A/T Lance-Corporal P. Hambrook** (Army Apprentices College).

Royal Signals v. RAOC

The match was played in the delightful setting of Bramley, Hampshire, the weather was fine and warm and the wicket was good.

RAOC—117 (**Stanbridge** 5 for 10), **Radford** 2 for 17)
and 214 (**Richards** 4 for 40, **Stanbridge** 2 for 50, **Willock** 2 for 33).

Royal Signals—132 (**Manton** 37, **Lawrence** 31, **Coltman** 29)
and 200 for 4 wickets (**Lawrence** 102 n.o., **Parrish** 39, **Campbell** 23 n.o.).

Result—Royal Signals won by 6 wickets.

The Corps team was as follows:

Captain J. Radford (School of Signals), **Captain S. A. Coltman** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis** (8 Signal Regiment), **Sergeant G. Manton** (ACIO Stafford), **Sergeant M. Richards** (School of Signals), **Sergeant D. Stanbridge** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Sergeant J. Willock** (8 Signal Regiment), **Corporal R. Lawrence** (School of Signals), **Lance-Corporal S. Parrish** (223 Signal Squadron (Radio)), **Signalman B. Campbell** (8 Signal Regiment), **A/T Lance-Corporal P. Hambrook** (Army Apprentices College).

Umpire: **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) K. Coker** (Army Apprentices College).

Royal Signals (Officers) XI v. Welbeck College

The match was played at Welbeck College on 13th June 1973. The wicket was very good and weather conditions were bright and warm.

Royal Signals—144 for 8 wickets declared. (**Speakes** 39 n.o., **Price** 30).

Welbeck College—140 for 9 wickets. (**Fisher** 5 for 38).

Result—Match drawn.

The Corps team was as follows:

Colonel N. A. Butler (Army Apprentices College), **Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Tripp** (Army Apprentices College), **Major W. A. Price** (School of Army Aviation), **Major J. N. Needham** (36 Signal Regiment (V)), **Captain A. R. Bailey** (RMCS Shrivenham), **Captain M. K. Carson** (HQ 3 Division), **Captain J. H. Radford** (School of Signals), **Captain J. A. Speakes** (63 (SAS) Signal Squadron), **Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis** (8 Signal Regiment), **Lieutenant I. R. Wilson** (8 Signal Regiment), **Second-Lieutenant N. Fisher** (School of Signals).

Umpire: **Colonel (Retd.) J. E. S. Sanders** (Welbeck College).
Scorer: **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) K. Coker** (Army Apprentices College).

Late Cricket

Sixth Corps Consecutive Win.

Royal Signals v. Royal Armoured Corps

The match was played at Bovington on 6th July 1973, weather conditions were very unsettled but although there was a threat of rain it did not arrive until after the match ended.

RAC—192 (**Willock** 3 for 33).

Royal Signals—193 for 5 wickets (**Lawrence** 57, **Manton** 50, **Coltman** 36, **Campbell** 31 n.o.).

Result—Royal Signals won by 5 wickets.

The Corps team was as follows:

Captain J. Radford (School of Signals), **Captain S. A. Coltman** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant J. M. Thewlis** (8 Signal Regiment), **Sergeant G. Manton** (ACIO Stafford), **Sergeant M. Richards** (School of Signals), **Sergeant D. Stanbridge** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Sergeant J. Willock** (8 Signal Regiment), **Corporal R. Lawrence** (School of Signals), **Corporal P. Leach** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal S. Parrish** (223 Signal Squadron (Radio), **Signalman B. Campbell** (8 Signal Regiment).

Officials: **W.O.2 K. Coker** (Army Apprentices College), **Sergeant D. Hope** (School of Signals).

BAOR CRICKET FINAL — CORPS DO WELL

At the BAOR Inter-Corps cricket tournament held in the Rheindalen area over the weekend 14th–15th July, Royal Signals did extremely well to reach the final against RAOC. Unfortunately, rain prevented the final being played and it was postponed until 1st September.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

Corps Rugby

The 1973–74 rugby season starts on 1st September and once again our thoughts turn to the Corps representative XV. If you consider yourself to be Corps standard, or near Corps standard, you are asked to contact by letter or telephone;

The President of Corps Rugby—

Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt, Royal Signals,
11th Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
Yorkshire DL9 4HH.
Telephone: Catterick Military 501.

The Secretary of Corps Rugby—
Captain J. I. Jenkins, Royal Signals,
30th Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset.
Telephone: Blandford Military 423.

If you are going to be stationed in the United Kingdom or North West Europe at any time during the coming rugby season make sure you get in touch with one of the above officers.

Report on Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Championships 27-30 June 73

General

The Championships were played on the three courts by the Headquarters Officers' Mess. The entry of 36 was 2 less than last year. The weather was good for most of the time and the final day produced excellent weather.

Finals

The finals were played in the following order:

Single Plate Competition
Sergeant Mundy beat **Captain Pearson** 6–1, 6–1.

Doubles Plate Competition
Captain Pearson and **Staff Sergeant Adlington** beat **Major Penny** and **Signalman Smith** 6–2, 9–8.

Open Doubles Championship
Major Siderfin and **Captain Smith** beat **Lieutenant-Colonel Oehlers** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Lowe** 8–9, 6–1, 6–4.

Singles Championship
Major Siderfin beat **Corporal Dunster.**

Inter-Unit Doubles Championship
Lieutenant Podmore and **Staff Sergeant Adlington** 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment) beat **Sergeant Mundy** and **Sergeant Drika** (School of Signals).

Mixed Doubles Championship
Lieutenant-Colonel and **Mrs. Oehlers** beat **Major Siderfin** and **Mrs. Chase.**

Presentation of Prizes
Major-General J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E. presented the prizes.

A challenge from our Display Team

The White Helmets offer a challenge to all who would like to ride with the Team in 1974. The dates of their selection course this year are 13th–28th October.

The Team Commander writes;

If you would like to be a member of the 1974 team, apply NOW through your Commanding Officer.

The job of the team is tremendously exciting, glamorous, but requires considerable dedication by all members to provide the general public with a display which has a reputation second to none.

To qualify for the selection course;

You do not need any previous motor cycle experience.

You can be qualified at any trade, but you must have passed at least to Class II standard by October. (Here is an extra challenge to those of Class III standard now to show your determination to get upgraded).

Corporals, Lance-Corporals and Signalmen are required.

You must be physically fit, mentally alert, free from any over riding personal problems, and not just 'looking for a skive'.

Do not waste my time by applying if you do not meet the above qualifications. This course is one of the toughest and most demanding in the Royal Signals.

Good luck to all successful applicants!

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION REUNION—CATTERICK 1973

Photos: J. K. Hendren, Richmond

SATURDAY EVENING

1. Pints and reminiscences; 2. Old friends reunited

SUNDAY—CHURCH PARADE

Taking the salute Major-General M. S. Hancock, C.B., M.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant

3. The Corps band leads the parade; 4. The bowler hat brigade are really smart!; 5. Nineteen Standards parade past with escorts; 6. Association members march past in solid phalanx

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Garrison on Sunday, 24th June, 1973

Present:

Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E., Chairman; **Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D.,** Vice-Chairman; **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary; and some 120 members of the Association.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming all who had come to Catterick for the weekend. All told some 770 members were attending and 30 branches were represented as well as wives and families. Particularly welcome were **Major-General Hancock** (Representative Colonel Commandant) as well as **Major-Generals Moberly** and **Woodrow** who were attending as Old Comrades. The Chairman also warmly welcomed **Brigadier the Rev. Nettleship** who had preached such a fine sermon at St. Martins. Finally he conveyed the deep appreciation of all present to **Brigadier Hellier,** his staff and members of the Training Brigade who, despite considerable difficulties over rebuilding and security, had made such excellent arrangements for the reception and entertainment of all attending. This statement was supported with loud applause. The Chairman went on to say that **Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Donald** was due to retire in April 1974 after having been responsible for co-ordinating the arrangements for Reunion weekends for the last 5 years. To mark the appreciation of all Old Comrades, who had attended during this period, he then presented **Lieutenant-Colonel Donald** with a tankard. This presentation was supported by the acclamation of all present.

Minutes of the 27th annual general meeting

These 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 the main points being:

Branches. There were 45 Branches in the UK, 2 had closed but a vigorous Branch—Cinque Ports (Medway)—had opened up and had enrolled **34** new members in **3** months. A number of Branches were very much alive and both the General Secretary and the Chairman had been much impressed by the various Branch functions they had attended during the past year.

Membership. Since the last A.G.M. 572 new life members had been registered of whom 440 were ex-regular soldiers leaving the Corps. Branches were to be congratulated on enrolling 132 new life members on their own steam. 127 annual members also joined over the last period.

Welfare. The pressure of welfare work had increased if anything. During 1972 some £13,800 was spent on 536 cases. Nearly £1,000 was spent on 181 special Christmas grants. The average grant per case was in the order of £27 during the year. Over and above this 622 clothing parcels were also sent out in 1972. While obviously most Welfare aid went to ex-members of the Corps substantial assistance had been given to serving soldiers particularly loans to help them settle down in civilian life on completion of service. During 1972, in conjunction with the Army Benevolent Fund, loans totalling £18,750 were made to serving soldiers. In addition loans from Association funds totalling £763 had been made to serving soldiers plus 5 grants totalling £222. In all during 1972 serving soldiers had benefited by loans and grants adding up to £19,735 and this reflected some return on the very generous support received from the Corps by way of the Day's Pay Scheme. He would mention here that as a very special case the Association stood surety for £3,000 so that a bank could loan a soldier a considerable sum in order to buy up a very promising business. Normally the Association avoided getting mixed up in business transactions as they could be risky, but this one was given the highest recommendation from a very reliable source.

All members of the Corps and the Association took great pride in the splendid job Corps soldiers were doing in Northern Ireland in the face of much provocation. To mark its appreciation the Association sent a cheque for £280 last December to assist in providing amenities for soldiers on duty there.

In conformity with the understanding that any surplus accruing from the Day's day Scheme not required by Corps/Regiments should be transferred to the Army Benevolent Fund the Association, having looked after all calls on its welfare funds, had handed over £20,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund in 1972.

The Wire. THE WIRE continued to be well supported—almost too well from the great volume of contributions that came in each month. Sales were showing a clear *upward trend.* Nevertheless the ever increasing costs of printing and postage made it very difficult to keep up a magazine of reasonable size and quality without going into the red. The Central Committee had accepted that a degree of subsidy was necessary and was some return for the large income received from the serving Corps by way of the Day's Pay Scheme. The subsidy amounted to some £2,300 in 1972 and it looked as if at least this amount would be required for 1973.

Accounts for 1972 (See page 391) These had been audited, looked at by the Association finance sub-Committee and passed by the Central Committee. Salient points were;

	1972	1971
Accumulated funds now stood at ..	£169,782	£154,287
Market value of investments as at 31st December 1972 was	£235,093	£214,573
The General fund showed a surplus of (The smaller surplus was due to increased cost of reunions, greater subsidy to THE WIRE and some reduction in investment income.)	£88	£1,367
The Benevolent fund showed a surplus of (Although a grant of £20,000 had been made to the Army Benevolent Fund income from the Day's Pay Scheme was up by over £5,000.)	£5,549	£4,008
Overall surplus of income was therefore	£5,637	£5,375

The Chairman then put the accounts to the meeting for consideration and, there being no queries, having been duly proposed and seconded the accounts were passed by a show of hands.

Staff. The staff continued to render their usual loyal and efficient service. They were of course;

Miss Hyde-Parker **Miss Cook**	Welfare.
Mr. Greenbrook	Assistant to the General Secretary and keeper of Branch and Membership records.
Mr. Shelbourn **Mr. Nazarin**	Accounts.
Mr. Wood	— Assistant Editor of THE WIRE.
Mr. Walsh	— WIRE mailing list and post.

Conclusion. Despite difficult times for some Branches a number were doing very well. Association spirit and Corps loyalty was very evident from the large and enthusiastic attendances at Catterick. Association finances had never been in a stronger position and Association welfare work, there was reason to believe, was both effective and held in high esteem in service and welfare circles.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the staff at Association Headquarters for their loyal and efficient service during the past year which he very much appreciated.

Election or re-election to the central committee

The Meeting was asked to elect or re-elect the following to the Central Committee:

Chairman and Treasurer: **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.** (Re-election).

Vice-Chairmen: **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E.** (Re-election); **Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D.** (Re-election).

Branch Representative (Zone 'B'); **Major T. S. Wragg, M.B.E., T.D.** (Chesterfield Branch); vice **Mr. J. J. Coggin** (Shrewsbury Branch) retiring.

ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

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 well ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** and set in motion **now** a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan 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. The longer the Plan is in force, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice,** the higher the loan possible and the more financially beneficial the purchase.

Other financial benefits are the diversion of expenditure on quartering charges to your own benefit and the facility given by MOD of reimbursement of certain expenses entailed in house purchase, such as survey fees, legal costs, etc. Ask our advice now in order that your purchase may be **arranged on the most economic basis possible** in line with your circumstances and needs, with the maximum financial advantages to yourself.

If you would like **to receive a House Purchase Plan** and/**or details of** our **other Plans,** e.g. an all-embracing **Family Life Assurance Plan,** Immediate/Future **School Fees Plan,** monthly **Investment Plan,** Capital Investment in **Assurance Bonds,** etc., please telephone or **write to:**

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B.
Services Advisory Bureau Manager
H. R. MARTIN & CO. LTD.
27/29 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berks.

Associated Insurance Brokers
Incorporated Mortgage & Finance Brokers
Member of the Services Insurance Brokers' Association
Life Assurance & Investment Consultants (Services)
Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

T & AVR Representative: **Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D.;** vice **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D., A.D.C.** retiring.

There being no other proposals the above mentioned were duly proposed and seconded and elected or re-elected en bloc by a show of hands.

Any other business

The General Secretary outlined the arrangements for the one day re-union at Blandford on Sunday, 5th August 1973. He stressed that this was in no way intended to be a second Catterick-type reunion—simply an informal gathering of Association members. He asked that all applications to attend should be submitted to Association Headquarters not later than **30th June 1973.**

Brigadier Good (Catterick and District) raised a point in connection with the appeal for funds to help organize an Alamein (8th Army) Chapel at the village of Enham Alamein. This appeal had been sent out on a wide net including all branches of the Association. He proposed, that rather than Branches make small individual contributions a suitable donation be made from Association central funds on behalf of all Branches. This was accepted by the Chairman with the proviso that should a Branch have a particular reason for wishing to subscribe it should not be inhibited from so doing.

Major Birchall (Manchester) said he would like to express his appreciation for the speed and sympathy with which a case of a member who had died had been dealt with by **Miss Hyde-Parker** of Association Headquarters.

Mr. Littlefield (Manchester) said he felt he must propose a vote of thanks to H.Q. Training Brigade and all those who worked so hard behind the scenes for organizing such an excellent reunion. This was supported with loud applause.

Colonel Wright (Vice-Chairman) said he wished to express the appreciation of all for the work done by the General Secretary and to congratulate him on becoming U.K. Chairman of the World Veterans Federation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.40 p.m.

Movements

Officers

Captain (Tfc) B. Adcock	...	To 10 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) C. J. Bayfield	...	„ HQ 2 ATAF (641 Signal Troop)
Captain H. B. Bennett	...	„ 244 Signal Squadron
Captain M. E. Billett	...	„ 13 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant P. J. Bonser	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Major A. H. Carling	...	„ Sultan's Armed Forces
Lieutenant D. M. J. Chatterton	...	„ 39 Inf Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain (TOT) M. D. Cherry	...	„ Malaysian Armed Forces
Captain B. Chubb	...	„ 23 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant W. M. Clarke	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) R. C. Coaker	...	„ 241 Signal Squadron
A/Captain J. N. Copley	...	„ 33 Signal Regiment (V)
Lieutenant G. C. F. Day	...	„ 3 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain R. G. Drake	...	„ 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. G. Ellen	...	„ 27 Signal Regiment
Colonel P. J. Evans, M.B.E.	...	„ MOD (Signals 36)
Captain F. H. Farey	...	„ Att School of Ordnance
Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Flear, O.B.E.		„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
A/Major B. W. Giller	...	„ DADPTC
Lieutenant R. D. M. Graham	...	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Captain J. H. Griffin	...	„ 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron
Major T. W. Hackworth	...	„ 11 Signal Regiment
Captain D. G. Halliburton	...	„ 27 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. Henry	...	„ 233 Signal Squadron
Captain B. C. P. Higson	...	„ 3 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Major P. J. Hodges	...	„ 225 Signal Squadron
Major B. C. Hodgson	...	„ HQ Northern Ireland
Lieutenant D. P. Howshall	...	„ 4 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) G. L. P. Hudson	...	„ 10 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) R. W. V. Hutley, M.B.E.	...	„ 223 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant M. J. Jefferis	...	„ British Outward Bound Centre, Norway
Captain (TOT) R. E. Kenkins	...	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Captain D. Jessett	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Major S. Low	...	„ Abu Dhabi Defence Force
Lieutenant A. M. Lovatt	...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Captain G. P. Maddren	...	„ 12 Mech Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain W. T. Matthews	...	„ HQ Northern Ireland
A/Major G. A. Maude	...	„ 3 Comns Unit
Major (QM) D. T. Neale	...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Major M. J. T. O'Connor	...	„ School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Captain D. G. M. Overton	...	„ HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Lieutenant R. C. C. Palmer	...	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Captain S. S. Paul	...	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Captain M. A. Rice	...	„ School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant P. M. Sharman	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Captain M. P. S. Shaw	...	„ 28 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. J. Skaife	...	„ 2 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant C. P. B. Smith	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Captian (TOT) F. A. Smith	...	„ HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Captain H. Smith	...	„ 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron
Lieutenant C. I. Spencer	...	„ 1 Arty Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant N. G. Stevens	...	„ 3 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain R. G. Stokes	...	„ 28 Signal Regiment
Captain A. H. Symmons	...	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant P. L. Tilson	...	„ 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) R. S. Todd	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant M. S. Wallis	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Major H. R. Williams	...	„ HQ 1 Signal Group
Major K. A. C. Wilson	...	„ HQ UKLF
Captain R. M. Yolland	...	„ Army Apprentices College
Lieutenant-Colonel B. F. Allen	...	To RMC of S
Major K. S. H. Allwright	...	„ 244 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant J. D. Ambrose	...	„ 259 Signal Squadron
Major R. E. Barber	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Major G. A. J. Barnaby	...	„ 31 Signal Regiment
Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, O.B.E.	...	„ CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps
Captain A. J. Briggs	...	„ S03 School of Signals
Lieutenant R. M. Burrows	...	„ 244 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant G. A. Carmichael	...	„ Army Apprentices' College
Lieutenant D. W. Conran	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Captain H. A. Culley	...	„ United Defence Force
Captain K. G. Danby	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Captain M. S. Davies	...	„ HQ (1 (BR) Corps
Major R. Dorrell	...	„ 3 Inf Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Major K. W. E. Ferguson	...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Captain (QM) W. J. Gahan	...	„ 234 Signal Squadron
Major N. C. Grayson	...	„ HQ (D155d)
Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Hackworth	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Captain R. N. C. Harrison	...	„ 8 Inf Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain J. Hawthornthwaite	...	„ 13 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. G. Heaney	...	„ 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant J. Kay	...	„ 28 ANZUK Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Colonel R. A. King	...	„ MOD (GS(OR)5)
Lieutenant-Colonel C. N. Last	...	„ HQ BAOR
Captain O. M. Lewis	...	„ HQ British Honduras
Major H. G. Mackinlay	...	„ MOD (AG11)
Captain N. J. Mayne	...	„ School of Signals
Captain G. Meakin	...	„ MOD (DSS(A))
Captain R. A. Peake, B.E.M.	...	„ 28 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel M. W. Pollard, M.B.E.		„ MOD (Signals 32b)
Lieutenant-Colonel R. Pope	...	„ JWE
Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. Reader	...	„ School of Infantry
Captain (Tfc) R. Reid	...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Rogers	...	„ HQ 1(BR) Corps
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. P. Russell	...	„ 3 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) K. A. Rutter	...	„ 224 Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant M. A. J. Sheehan	...	„ 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain J. T. Smith	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) P. J. Steeples	...	„ 642 Signal Troop
Captain M. R. Stephenson	...	„ 5 Airptbl Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant V. G. Strivens	...	„ 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron
Lieutenant J. A. V. Thornton	...	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Tripp	...	„ HQ AFCENT
Lieutenant C. G. Webb	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) K. J. West	...	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant I. R. Wilson	...	„ 21 Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

W.O.2 P. Drake	...	To 34 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 F. Nutter	...	„ 242 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 N. H. R. Leach	...	„ 21 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) M. R. Back	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 R. J. Mathieson	...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 J. Harvey	...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) S. H. Waudby	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. J. Peplow	...	„ 642 Signal Troop
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. Thorn	...	„ 632 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. A. Murphy	...	„ Project Engineering Planning Staff
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. C. Scriven	...	„ 259 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) V. F. Hall	...	„ 262 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. S. Cook	...	„ 27 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. Burdes	...	„ 32 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant J. Lyons	...	„ HQ Signal Support Group, Northag
A/Staff Sergeant R. W. Adey	...	„ HQ Scotland
Staff Sergeant D. G. Harrod	...	„ 5 Airptbl Bde Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. Unwin	...	„ 223 Signal Squadron
A/Staff Sergeant C. H. Davidson	...	„ 5 Army Youth Team
Staff Sergeant D. D. Smith	...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. W. Barnes	...	„ 262 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. C. Ablon	...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. Parish	...	„ Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Sharpe	...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. J. Lowe	...	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant E. Rose	...	„ Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Sergeant T. Holmes	...	„ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
A/Sergeant R. J. White	...	„ 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant N. Fendley	...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. C. Gordon	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. R. Tai	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. Boase	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. S. Innes	...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. M. Whitrick	...	„ Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Sergeant G. L. Paton	...	„ 521 Rear Link Detachment
Sergeant R. M. D. Collins	...	„ 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. Chambers	...	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. Atkinson	...	„ 242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. B. Robertson	...	„ 10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. L. Linton	...	„ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sergeant C. Oliver	...	„ School of Signals
Sergeant J. Scoular	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. P. Paulley	...	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. S. Gibson	...	„ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant R. P. Portlock	...	„ Army Air Corps Centre
Sergeant G. E. Cort	...	„ 36 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. F. Miller	...	„ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. E. Dickinson	...	„ 3 Dvision Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Nichols	...	„ 7 Arty Bde Signal Squadron
W.O.1 (F. of S.) P. A. Cook	...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
W.O.1 (F. of S.) R. A. Jeffery	...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. C. Lee	...	„ HQ Training Brigade, Royal Signals
W.O.2 (F. of S.) W. Sawyer	...	„ 35 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. W. Maltby	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. K. Angus	...	„ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. H. Noden	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) L. Sant	...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 P. R. Uttridge	...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 K. O. Davis	...	„ 8 Inf Bde Signal Squadron
W.O.2 C. J. Walton	...	„ 8 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) T. G. L. Green	...	„ 3 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Sup(R)) G. Widdowson	...	„ 13 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 R. C. Pearce	...	„ HQ Northern Army Group
Staff Sergeant C. S. Webb	...	„ 28 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant I. K. Ryder	...	„ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant A. Rae	...	„ Joint Services Mountain Training Centre (Long Service List Appointment)
Staff Sergeant R. Fortune	...	„ 639 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant A. Patterson	...	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. Wrigglesworth	...	„ Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant A. B. Hill	...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. W. Boag	...	„ 32 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant R. Harris	...	„ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. Moore	...	„ 37 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant J. R. Hacker	...	„ 28 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. Mullin	...	„ 36 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant H. E. Williams	...	„ 35 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant T. R. Mallabone	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Sup.(R)) B. Stanton	...	„ 9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. A. Strickland	...	„ Royal Brunei Malay Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. J. B. Maiden	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. V. Lamb	...	„ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant R. M. Parry	...	„ 7 Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant J. Beavis	...	„ 562 Rear Link Detachment
Sergeant W. R. Marsh	...	„ Honourable Artillery Company Battery RHA (V)
Sergeant R. L. Terrett	...	„ 23 (SAS) Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. R. Hawdow	...	„ 12 Mech Bde Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant W. D. B. Tatnall	...	„ SHAPE HQ Command & Support (BE)
Sergeant A. M. Boyle	...	„ RMA Sandhurst
Sergeant A. Rains	...	„ 241 Signal Squadron
Sergeant V. Unwin	...	„ HQ AFNORTH
Sergeant H. J. A. Homewood	...	„ Recruiting and Liaison Staff Eastern District
Sergeant J. Manwaring	...	„ 224 Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. A. McMahon	...	„ 262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Taylor	...	„ 240 Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. K. Sutherland	...	„ 19 Airptbl Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. V. Harcourt	...	„ 39 Inf Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant H. Strang	...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. Gumbrill	...	„ 36 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant R. Clayton	...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. L. Kelly	...	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. C. Sobers	...	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Jarratt	...	„ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant M. Warne	...	„ 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. A. East	...	„ 226 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Hume	...	„ 261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. J. Davies	...	„ HQ BAOR
Sergeant M. F. Court	...	„ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant E. Butterworth	...	„ 4 Guards Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Davies	...	„ 28 Signal Regiment

Promotions

JUNE

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*Trade*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
		REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL			
To W.O.1					
McMahon,	M. D.	A/W.O.1		12 Feb. 73	30 May 70
Holland,	G. J.	A/W.O.1		16 Feb. 73	27 Feb. 68
To W.O.2					
Akehurst,	J. G. P.	A/W.O.2	R Tg	1 Dec. 72	9 Feb. 70
Quayle,	J.	A/W.O.2	Clk Tech	3 Jan. 73	21 Jun. 68
		STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL			
To S-Sgt.					
Jenner,	B. N.	Sgt.	R Tg	1 Feb. 73	23 Jan. 67
Grey,	D.	A/S-Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	2 Feb. 73	16 Jan. 67
Lamont,	D.	A/S-Sgt.	R Tg	7 Feb. 73	21 Oct. 69
Fortune,	R.	Sgt.	R Tg	8 Feb. 73	10 Oct. 68
Stanley,	H. C.	A/S-Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	10 Feb. 73	18 May 66
McCarthy,	T.	A/S-Sgt.	Cbt Pmn	11 Feb. 73	20 Feb. 63

Henderson,	J. D.	Sgt.	Tele Mech	14 Feb. 73	5 Sep. 69
Kennington,	R. C. E.	A/S-Sgt.	R Tg	1 Mar. 73	30 Nov. 68
Boag,	A. W.	Sgt.	R Tg	3 Mar. 73	21 Oct. 69
Gledhill,	C. S.	Sgt.	R Tg	5 Mar. 73	1 Apr. 68
Robinson,	P. D.	Sgt.	R Tg	6 Mar. 73	5 Nov. 69
Blood,	G. C.	Sgt.	Cbt Rmn	7 Mar. 73	5 Aug. 70
Stevenson,	F.	A/S-Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	8 Mar. 73	21 Nov. 69

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
Horner,	R.	Sgt.	TE Tech	14 Dec. 72	23 Oct. 69
Cook,	J. S.	Sgt.	R Tech	14 Dec. 72	4 May 68
Austin,	K. V.	Sgt.	RR Tech	14 Dec. 72	14 Jan. 69
Smurthwaite,	P. C.	Sgt.	RR Tech	14 Dec. 72	1 Apr. 69
Rothwell,	G.	Sgt.	RR Tech	14 Dec. 72	15 Nov. 68
Tanner,	L.	Sgt.	TE Tech	14 Dec. 72	14 Apr. 70
Spence,	T. J.	Sgt.	RR Tech	14 Dec. 72	14 Dec. 67
Taylor,	H. G.	Sgt.	RR Tech	14 Dec. 72	16 Dec. 70
Killick,	M. J.	Sgt.	R Tech	14 Dec. 72	29 Nov. 66

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROLL

Nil

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

To W.O.1				
Storey,	L. G.	A/W.O.1	1 Apr. 73	23 Feb. 70

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.1				
Lockley,	T.	A/W.O.1	22 Sep. 72	1 Mar. 63
To W.O.2				
Nil				

To S-Sgt.					
Pond,	R. G.	Sgt.	R Tg	23 Oct. 72	21 Oct. 69
Hogg,	R. A.	Sgt.	R Tg	16 Nov. 72	8 Jun. 71
Kitson,	S. M.	Sgt.	R Tg	16 Nov. 72	1 Oct. 70
Hall,	K. W.	Sgt.	Data Tg	16 Nov. 72	12 Feb. 70
Atkinson,	J.	Sgt.	R Tg	16 Nov. 72	4 Jan. 71
Jones,	E. C.	Sgt.	R Tg	16 Nov. 72	20 Aug. 68
Beresford,	M. H.	Sgt.	R Tg	16 Nov. 72	25 Oct. 70
Haylock,	I.	Sgt.	Data Tg	16 Nov. 72	19 Oct. 70
McLaren,	R. W.	Sgt.	R Tg	16 Nov. 72	2 Apr. 70
Doherty,	J.	Sgt.	R Tg	22 Mar. 73	17 Dec. 71
Greatbanks,	J. A.	Sgt.	Data Tg	22 Mar. 73	5 May 72
Farndon,	J. A.	Cpl.	R Op	22 Mar. 73	1 Dec. 68
Chapman,	J. D.	Sgt.	R Tg	22 Mar. 73	5 Apr. 72
Stubbings,	C. G.	Sgt.	R Tg	22 Mar. 73	23 Sep. 71
Lomax,	A. P.	Sgt.	R Tg	22 Mar. 73	1 Nov. 70

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

To W.O.2					
Jeffery,	L. A.	A/W.O.2		2 Apr. 73	4 Feb. 71
Cole,	P. D.	A/W.O.2		3 Apr. 73	29 Feb. 70
To S-Sgt.					
Long,	S.J.	A/S-Sgt.		2 Apr. 73	29 Aug. 71
Unwin,	B.	Sgt.		3 Apr. 73	19 Nov. 69
Bowman,	T.	A/S-Sgt.		4 Apr. 73	24 Sep. 68
Martin,	J. W. H.	A/S-Sgt.		5 Apr. 73	19 Nov. 69
Burdes,	P.	A/S-Sgt.		6 Apr. 73	5 Aug. 70

TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL

To Sgt.					
Watson,	J. W.	Cpl.		21 Dec. 72	11 Aug. 68
Davey,	D. R.	Cpl.		21 Dec. 72	27 Oct. 68
Nisbet,	G. B.	Cpl.		21 Dec. 72	22 Apr. 71
Whitelock,	C. V.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	25 May 67
Haldane,	I. D. F.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	22 Aug. 69
Hewitt,	J. P.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	27 Jan. 70
Green,	J. M.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	4 Feb. 71
Bell,	I. J.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	4 Feb. 71
Payne,	R. M.	Cpl.		15 Mar. 73	30 Sep. 66
Isaac,	B. W.	Cpl.		3 Apr. 73	5 May 67

RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL

To Sgt.					
Hall,	R. G.	Cpl.		15 Mar. 73	18 Jun. 68

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
Stewart,	J. D.	Sgt.		16 Mar. 73	11 Dec. 64
To Sgt.					
Murray,	D.	Cpl.		18 May 72	9 Jan. 69
Roberts,	E.	Cpl.		26 Mar. 73	25 Jun. 70
Cuthbertson,	G.	Cpl.		27 Mar. 73	12 Feb. 67
Hodgson,	G. J.	Cpl.		27 Mar. 73	14 Dec. 68
Spicer,	T. C.	Cpl.		27 Mar. 73	8 Oct. 70
Berry,	P. R.	Cpl.		27 Mar. 73	21 Jan. 71
Traynor,	D.	Cpl.		3 Apr. 73	31 Jan. 70
Sherman,	S. E.	Cpl.		2 May 73	16 Oct. 69
Wills,	M. H.	Cpl.		11 May 73	11 May 69

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
Henderson,	J. D.	Sgt.		14 Feb. 73	5 Sep. 69

DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
Nil					
To Sgt.					
Maybank,	G.	A/Sgt.		22 Mar. 73	30 Nov. 67
Gibbon,	C.	Cpl.		24 Mar. 73	27 Feb. 70
Poole,	A. R.	Cpl.		29 Mar. 73	12 Oct. 61
Tams,	P.	A/Sgt.		31 Mar. 73	18 Dec. 61
Smith,	T. J.	A/Sgt.		1 Apr. 73	21 Mar. 64

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
Jenner,	B. N.	Sgt.		1 Feb. 73	23 Jan. 67
Lamont,	D.	A/S-Sgt.		7 Feb. 73	21 Oct. 69
Fortune,	R.	Sgt.		8 Feb. 73	10 Oct. 68
Kennington,	R. C. E.	A/S-Sgt.		1 Mar. 73	30 Nov. 68
Boag,	A. W.	Sgt.		3 Mar. 73	21 Oct. 69
Gledhill,	C. S.	Sgt.		5 Mar. 73	1 Apr. 68
Robinson,	P. D.	Sgt.		6 Mar. 73	5 Nov. 69
To Sgt.					
Copley,	B. P.	A/Sgt.		22 Mar. 73	1 Jan. 70
Calvert,	J. F.	Cpl.		23 Mar. 73	1 Feb. 70
Beag,	A. W.	A/Sgt.		24 Mar. 73	18 Dec. 65
Davies,	P. G.	Cpl.		25 Mar. 73	20 Jul. 66
Birchall,	C. H.	Cpl.		27 Mar. 73	1 Jan. 69
Parker,	D.	Cpl.		28 Mar. 73	1 Jan. 70
Janaway,	A. D'.	A/Sgt.		29 Mar. 73	1 Jan. 70

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Nil

CLERK ROLL

To Sgt.					
Thomas,	P. M.	A/Sgt.		12 Feb. 73	31 Dec. 67
Walker,	J. M.	A/Sgt.		7 Mar. 73	1 Dec. 60
Blackett,	M. J.	A/Sgt.		2 Apr. 73	31 Mar. 65
Judge,	M. G.	A/Sgt.		4 Apr. 73	28 Feb. 66
Eves,	K.	A/Sgt.		5 Apr. 73	30 Apr. 57
Hughes,	R.	A/Sgt.		18 Apr. 73	30 Sep. 64

CLERK TECHNICIAN (R SIGNALS) ROLL

Nil

COMBAT DRIVER ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
Stanley,	H. C.	A/S-Sgt.		10 Feb. 73	18 May 66
Stevenson,	F.	A/S-Sgt.		8 Mar. 73	21 Nov. 69
To Sgt.					
Baird,	N. G.	Cpl.		1 Jan. 73	31 Dec. 69
Atchinson,	J. E.	A/Sgt.		1 Feb. 73	1 Oct. 58
Preston,	A. E.	A/Sgt.		2 Feb. 73	4 Apr. 62
Mills,	B. W.	A/Sgt.		1 Mar. 73	30 Apr. 64
Berry,	A. A. G.	Cpl.		2 Mar. 73	31 Jan. 66

COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
Nil					
To Sgt.					
Nil					
To Cpl.					
Nil					

COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL

To S-Sgt.					
McCarthy,	T.	A/S-Sgt.		11 Feb. 73	20 Feb. 63
To Sgt.					
Nil					
To Cpl.					
Nil					

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
To S-Sgt.		COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL		
Grey,	D.	A/S-Sgt.	2 Feb. 73	16 Jan. 67
Blood,	G. C.	Sgt.	7 Mar. 73	5 Aug. 70

COMBAT SIGNALMAN ROLL

Nil

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Trade*		*Sen. Date*
W.O.1				
Martin,	T. M.		(Commissioned)	14 Feb. 71
Bramhall,	A.		(Discharged)	11 Oct. 71
Jones,	D.		(Discharged)	11 Oct. 71
W.O.2				
Nil				

STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL

S-Sgt.				
Morgan,	K. I.	Cbt Sig	(Discharged)	8 Mar. 69
Morris,	J. B.	Cbt Sig	(Discharged)	22 Mar. 71

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.2			
Waite,	M. J.	(Discharged)	1 Dec. 63

SUPERVISOR RADIO ROLL

W.O.2			
Gayhter,	J. F.	(Discharged)	15 Sep. 70
S-Sgt.			
Wesley,	J. A.	(Discharged)	20 Jun. 69

RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL

Sgt.			
Kay,	D.	(Discharged)	2 Feb. 63
Lloyd,	R. V.	(Discharged)	27 Aug. 68

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Trade*		*Sen. Date*
Sgt.				
Sandall,	R. D.		(Discharged)	25 Jun. 70
Parkin,	B. A.		(Discharged)	12 Aug. 70

DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Sgt.				
Brown,	C. L.		(Discharged)	2 Feb. 66
Delamare,	E. W.		(Discharged)	1 Jan. 56
Travers,	P. E.		(Discharged)	21 Jan. 65

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Sgt.				
Andrews,	J. T. M.		(Discharged)	2 Apr. 70
Marchant,	L. G. F.		(Reduced to Cpl.)	11 Oct. 70

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Sgt.				
Button,	A. H.		(Discharged)	4 Sep. 72

CLERK ROLL

Sgt.				
McNaulty	G. W.		To Cpl.	31 Jan. 65
Bell	I. M.		To Soldier	19 Nov. 69
Smith,	J. K.		(Discharged)	19 Nov. 69

CLERK TECHNICAL (R SIGNALS) ROLL

Sgt.				
Herns,	H. E.		(Discharged)	31 Dec. 64

JULY

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*Trade*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
To W.O.1					
McGregor,	R. A.	A/W.O.1		1 Jan. 73	4 Mar. 70
Clarke,	J. W.	A/W.O.1		20 Mar. 73	21 Feb. 69
To W.O.2					
Bartlett,	J. B.	A/W.O.2		2 Apr. 73	22 Jun. 71
Hazard,	J. Q.	A/W.O.2		3 Apr. 73	25 Jun. 70
Nicoll,	J. R.	S Sgt.		4 Apr. 73	4 Sep. 71
McDonald,	A.	S Sgt.		5 Apr. 73	2 Jul. 71

STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Macdonald,	T. W.	Sgt.	R Tg	2 Mar. 73	18 Nov. 68
Davis,	F.	A/S Sgt.	R Tg	4 Mar. 73	29 Mar. 69
Farr,	G. H.	Sgt.	Cbt Lmn	1 Apr. 73	21 Mar. 70
Collins	R. M. D.	Sgt.	Cbt Lmn	2 Apr. 73	5 May 70
Coventry,	C. T.	Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	3 Apr. 73	31 Dec. 64

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Nil.					

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROLL

Nil.

SUPERVISOR RADIO ROLL

To W.O.1					
Nil					
To W.O.2					
Etherton,	R. P.	S Sgt.		1 Apr. 73	31 Oct. 70
To S Sgt.					
Nil					

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.1					
Lightfoot,	C. N.	A/W.O.1		5 Feb. 73	19 Apr. 69
Powell,	G.	A/W.O.1		20 Mar. 73	22 Mar. 70
Glenville,	K.	A/W.O.1		1 Apr. 73	16 Jun. 68
To W.O.2					
Donnelly,	W. J.	S Sgt.		1 Apr. 73	7 Aug. 69
To S Sgt.					
Thomas,	D. M.	Sgt.	R Tg	22 Mar. 73	1 Jan. 70
Castle,	P. M.	Sgt.	Data Tg	22 Mar. 73	20 Apr. 70
Richardson,	A. E.	Sgt.	R Tg	22 Mar. 73	2 Apr. 70
Lingard,	J. R.	Sgt.	Data Tg	22 Mar. 73	19 Nov. 70
Smith,	B.	Sgt.	R Tg	22 Mar. 73	9 Apr. 72

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

Nil

TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL

To W.O.2					
Nil					
To S Sgt.					
Nil					
To Sgt.					
Coxon,	M.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	1 Apr. 71
Solomon,	A. G.	Cpl.		9 Apr. 73	11 Nov. 67
Bennett,	K. L.	Cpl.		9 Apr. 73	14 Dec. 67
Orr,	I. M. L.	Cpl.		8 May 73	4 Feb. 71
Robinson,	E. F.	Cpl.		12 May 73	26 Feb. 70
To Cpl.					
Nil					

RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Nil					
To Sgt.					
Richardson,	A. J. R.	Cpl.		27 Apr. 73	30 Sep. 69
Essam,	K. L.	Cpl.		3 May 73	7 Oct. 68
Taylor,	A. G.	Cpl.		7 May 73	7 May 69
To Cpl.					
Nil					

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Nil					
To Sgt.					
Robinson,	C. A.	Cpl.		27 Mar. 73	20 Nov. 69
To Cpl.					
Nil					

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL

Nil

DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Nil

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Macdonald,	T. W.	Sgt.		2 Mar. 73	18 Nov. 68
Davis,	E.	A/S Sgt.		4 Mar. 73	29 Mar. 69
To Sgt.					
Nil					
To Cpl.					
Nil					

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Nil

CLERK ROLL

Nil

CLERK TECHNICIAN (ROYAL SIGNALS) ROLL

Nil

COMBAT DRIVER ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Coventry,	C. T.	Sgt.		3 Apr. 73	31 Dec. 64
To Sgt.					
Benbow,	M. R. A.	A/Sgt.		5 Apr. 72	29 Feb. 64
Nichols,	J. A.	Cpl.		1 Apr. 73	30 Jun. 64
Symons,	L.	Cpl.		2 Apr. 73	31 Jul. 64
To Cpl.					
Nil					

COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Farr,	G. H.	Sgt.		1 Apr. 73	21 Mar. 70
Collins,	R. M. D.	Sgt.		2 Apr. 73	5 May 70
To Sgt.					
Nil					
To Cpl.					
Nil					

COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL

To S Sgt.					
Nil					
To Sgt.					
Lockwood,	R. W.	A/Sgt.		3 May 73	31 Mar. 67
Bayley,	D. W.	A/Sgt.		6 May 73	31 Oct. 67

COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

Nil

COMBAT SIGNALMAN ROLL

Nil

BAND ROLL

Nil

DELETIONS

SUPERVISOR RADIO ROLL

Name	*Initials*	*Sen. Date*	
W.O.2			
Elliott,	N. C.	9 Sep. 65	(Discharged)

COMBAT DRIVER ROLL

Sgt.			
Harris,	G.	1 Jun. 65	(Discharged)

COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL

Minter,	B. J.	2 Oct. 71	(To Cbt Sig)

COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

Wickens,	M. J. J.	6 Oct. 72	(To R Tg)

INSERTIONS

COMBAT LINEMAN TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC

Name	*Initials*	*Sen. Date*
Cpls.		
Saharibinubu,		28 Feb. 66
McLaren,	W.	1 Feb. 67
Morris,	D.	31 Aug. 67
Mason,	J. H.	31 Aug. 67
Rhodes,	C. N.	29 Feb. 68
Burgess,	J.	30 Jun. 68
Dugdale,	L. A.	31 Jul. 69
Buttery,	V. M.	31 Jan. 70
White,	P. J.	31 Jan. 70
Cerrone,	K. V.	30 Jun. 70
Hall,	F. C.	30 Jun. 70
Brooks,	A. S.	30 Oct. 70
Ellison,	K.	31 Dec. 71
Bowman,	A. J.	2 Feb. 72
Collins,	L.	3 Feb. 72
Finney,	A.	6 Feb. 72
Sykes,	E. J.	16 Jul. 72
Lloyd,	D. F. J.	1 Aug. 72
Collier,	D. A.	3 Aug. 72
Buckley,	L.	6 Aug. 72
Telford,	J. E. P.	4 Oct. 72
Thompson,	R. A.	5 Oct. 72
Dixon,	H.	6 Oct. 72
Raybould,	M. M.	7 Oct. 72
Marchant,	M. A.	8 Oct. 72
Stanton,	R.	9 Oct. 72
Agrippa,	E.	10 Oct. 72
Powis,	W.	16 Oct. 72
Burnett,	R.	17 Oct. 72
Dickens,	A. S.	18 Oct. 72
Read,	M. J.	19 Oct. 72
Young,	D. G.	7 Jan. 73
Buchan,	M. D.	22 Jan. 73
Sgts.		
Sargent,	R. G.	1 Nov. 70
Denniss,	M. F.	23 Jun. 71
Hornby,	T.	2 Oct. 71
Wilson,	N. R. S.	2 Oct. 71
Oxford,	R. V.	3 Feb. 72
Rodger,	J. K.	3 Mar. 72
Fred,	I. W.	5 Nov. 72
Fitzsimons,	E. J.	5 Nov. 72

FROM RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL

Jaques,	G. L.	20 Oct. 67

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in July	**28**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**54**
Amount spent	**£1,058·92**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants made	**12**
Amount spent	**£218·00**

One of the Month's Cases

EX-CORPORAL, 9 years' service, died suddenly last year, leaving a widow and 7-year-old twins. The widow at once took a part time job to supplement her income and help to keep the home going. The Association helped her with a grant of £50 to clear a hire purchase commitment taken out during the husband's lifetime, and to help with the purchase of materials to enable her to carry out some much needed decorations to the house. Clothing parcels have also been sent for the children. The widow's letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

MANY many thanks for the kind help the Royal Signals Association have given me. I was so excited when I read your letter, I could have jumped for joy. I felt on top of the world to think I was having help from people I had never seen or heard of. Thank you once again.

Goods available from Association HQ

Corps Ties—Woollen	65p
Terylene, Type A	55p
Terylene (narrow) Type D	55p
Terylene (narrow) Type E (Horizontal Stripes)	45p
Corps Scarves—Woollen	£1·32
Corps Squares—Rayon	£1·05
Cravats—Terylene	£1·05
Corps Cuff Links	85p
Association Badges, Brooch Type (Members only)	22p
Corps Blazer Badges (Silver 'Jimmy', Crown and Motto in gold, as approved by the Corps Committee) on Black or Dark Navy Blue background	£1·80*
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	16p
Small (each)	14p
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours) Bumper or Radiator fittings	£2·20*
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled on Corps Colours)	75p
Corps Plaques with 'Royal Corps of Signals' Scroll or Scroll left blank	£2·36†
L.P. Record of the Corps Band	£1·37
Key-Rings with Corps Badge Tag (each)	16p
Glass Ash Tray embossed with Corps Badge (each)	55p
Driving Licence/I.D. Card Holder with 'Jimmy' Crest (each)	15p
Corps Clipper Board Folders in Blue Vinyl with 'Jimmy' Crest in gold (each)	£1·00
Corps Stick-on P.V.C. Transfers:	
Large (10″ × 7½″) each:	44p
Medium (7½″ × 5½″) each:	35p
Small (3″ × 2⅜″) each	30p

CASH WITH ORDER—POSTAGE CHARGES MAY HAVE TO BE ADDED ON CERTAIN SMALL ORDERS

Prices include V.A.T. as appropriate.

NOTES: * Please state which type is required when ordering.

† Special named scrolls, other than 'Royal Corps of Signals', may be an extra charge and will be added to invoices where necessary. Please state clearly what type of scroll is required when ordering plaques.

CORPS TABLE AND COCKTAIL MATS—A NEW ITEM

We are now pleased to be able to supply attractive Corps table and cocktail mats. These mats are made of a hard acrylic plastic with a green nylon fibre under surface. The colour scheme is basically dark blue with a silver edging line (table mats only) and a bold central 'Jimmy' in silver with crown and motto in gold offset with red in the crown and green leaves beneath the motto. The mats are rectangular measuring 9½ x 7¼ inches and 3 x 3 inches respectively. They sell in boxes of six at £4·68 plus postage (table mats) and £1·40 plus postage (cocktail mats). They are attractive to look at and should wear well provided they are not washed in boiling water or cleaned with abrasive substances. Instructions on the care of mats are enclosed in each box. We are happy to supply boxes of mats on the basis that we will refund money if the purchaser is not satisfied. In the case of large orders, such as from messes, we will happily send a specimen of each mat for approval.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1972

1971				1971			
£	£		£	£	£		£
		ACCUMULATED FUND				CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	7,897
139,366		Balance at 1 January 1972	154,287	2,451	3,679	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS	3,331
		Add: Excess of income over expenditure for the year	5,637	2,239		INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	1,992
5,375		Profit on sale of investments	9,858			STOCKS IN HAND, at cost	1,337
9,546						*Less:* provision for slowmoving stock	80
14,921			15,495	1,326			1,257
154,287			169,782	176		LOANS TO ASSOCIATION BRANCHES	
2,642		Sundry Creditors and accrued charges	6,335			INVESTMENTS AT COST	
						Quoted (market value £235,093, 1971—£214,573)	161,335
	146,720	NOTE: Included in bank balances is an amount of £3,000 deposited with Royal Bank of Scotland as security for a loan made by the bank to a member of the association. The loan is expected to be repaid in 1974 and the deposit together with accumulated interest will then be released.				Unquoted	4
	4				146,724		161,339
				334		OFFICE FURNITURE—AT COST LESS DEPRECIATION	301
						Chairman: M. D. PRICE	
						Secretary: P. M. P. HOBSON	
£156,929			£176,117	£156,929			£176,117

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 31 December 1972 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

3, Frederick's Place,
Old Jewry,
London, EC2R 8DB.

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1972

GENERAL

1971					1971			
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			272		SUBSCRIPTIONS		289
		Salaries, National Insurance, Superannuation contributions	1,140		50		RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES		33
1,003		Pensions to former employees	468				SUNDRY INCOME		
477		Other administrative expenses	2,061				Income from sales of Corps clothing, badges, records of Corps music and diaries	494	
2,052							*Less:* Provision for slow-moving stock	80	
	3,532			3,669					414
		DEPRECIATION OF FURNITURE AND FITTINGS		33	347				
37		COST OF ASSOCIATION REUNIONS		1,529	7,114		INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS—GROSS		6,827
1,133		CONTRIBUTION TO COST OF PUBLICATIONS		2,274	151		BANK DEPOSIT INTEREST		30
1,865		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		88					
1,367									
£7,934				£7,593	£7,934				£7,593

BENEVOLENT

1971					1971			
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES					DONATIONS		
		Salaries, National Insurance, Superannuation contributions	3,808		1,709		Individuals and local branches	850	
3,586		Postage of welfare parcels	322		1,060		Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals	1,241	
236									
	3,822			4,130	2,769				2,091
13,111		BENEVOLENT GRANTS		13,853			RECEIPTS FROM CORPS FUNDS		
		DONATIONS:			6,050		Officers	6,480	
18,000		Army Benevolent Fund	20,000		29,868		Other ranks	34,798	
400		Star and Garter Homes	240						
250		Shaftesbury Homes	—		35,918				41,278
221		Others	624		1,125		BENEVOLENT GRANTS REFUNDED		1,027
	18,871			20,864					
4,008		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		5,549					
£39,812				£44,396	£39,812				£44,396

SUMMARY

1971					1971			
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		OVERALL EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE TAKEN TO ACCUMULATED FUND		5,637	1,367		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE: ON GENERAL ACCOUNT		88
5,375									
					4,008		ON BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT		5,549
£5,375				£5,637	£5,375				£5,637

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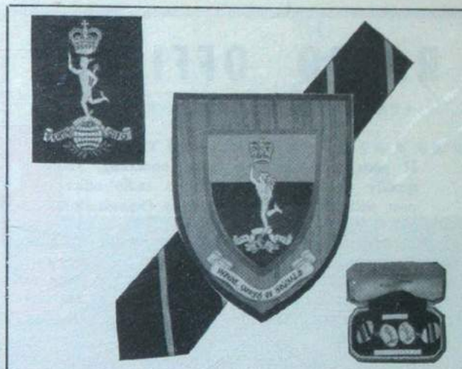

ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

TIES		Crested Tankards	£4·10 / £5·10
Silk	£1·50	Silk Blazer Badges	£1·00
Terylene/Crimplene	£0·85	Gold Wire Blazer Badges	£3·50
Crested Terylene	£1·50	Wall Shields	£2·55
Crested Cuff Links	£4·40	Car Badges	£2·65

Items made to your own design (by quotation)
U.K. Post Free Overseas Post Ties/Badges 10p
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FJP

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Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.

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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.

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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).

September-October 1973

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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1973 THE QUEEN'S AWARD TO INDUSTRY

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. 4RH. 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly **£1.20;** *monthly* **10p.**
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

☆

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ● 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our photograph depicts the sporting trophies won by Royal Signals Units at BAOR and/or Army level during the last Summer season (1972) and Winter season (1973). The representative from each unit holding his unit's particular trophy is in some cases a member of the winning team and not necessarily the captain. The Army Athletics Shield, 1972, won by 21st Signal Regiment is not displayed as it had been returned to Aldershot prior to the photo being taken.

NOTE: Copies of the colour photograph can be obtained from 21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 42. Prices:— 7½in × 9in D.M.12, 5in × 7in D.M.6. Cheques payable to P.R.I., 21st Signal Regiment.

See details of trophies and individuals on page 395.

Royal Signals Association Reunion, Blandford Camp, Sunday, 5th August

Sunday, 5th August, saw a one day gathering of the Association at Blandford, which with wives and families totalled nearly 500.

Apart from the special 1970 celebrations this is the first such reunion to be held at Blandford and the grateful thanks of all who attended must go to Brigadier Chris Bate and all those members of the School of Signals who gave up their day of rest to lay on such excellent arrangements for the benefit of the Association. The only person not giving of his best was the Clerk of the Weather who outdid his earlier Catterick reunion performance by producing a surfeit of lashing rain and high winds. In fact the General Secretary of the Association had foreknowledge of this some two days before when, with growing horror, he read his horoscope by Katina in *The Evening Standard* as follows:—

> Don't try to organise things for other people's pleasure this weekend; it will be difficult to please them. Much better to spend the weekend quietly in the way which appeals to you; much better to stay within familiar surroundings than to make tracks elsewhere.

Despite this watery setback all who attended had a most enjoyable day. At a well attended and homely Service in the modern Station Church, Major-General David Price, Chairman of the Association, formally handed over curtaining presented by the Royal Signals Association to cover the extensive concrete reredos behind the Altar. This curtaining, in old gold—including a set of changeable centre panels in different colours appropriate to the four religious seasons of the year—made a significant and worthy addition to the furnishings of what is essentially a Corps church. They were accepted and dedicated to the adornment of the Church by the Reverend J. S. Davidson, R.A. Ch.D., Station Chaplain, Blandford Camp.

After a period for suitable liquid refreshment a first-class buffet was served in the Junior Ranks' Mess, the standard of which was so high that one member insisted upon paying double for his wife's lunch ticket!

After lunch the School buildings were thrown open for inspection and a wide variety of most interesting displays was available for all tastes—well set out and expertly explained by members of the School staff.

The excellent Corps Museum was, of course, a centre of attraction for many and was thronged throughout the afternoon.

As the weather showed no signs of relenting the Retreat Ceremony had, perforce to be cancelled. Nevertheless, a good day was had by all of which the numbers of letters of appreciation since received are ample evidence.

From our "In" Tray

22 Signal Regiment make history

Sir,

It will be particularly satisfying to previous members of 22nd Signal Regiment and of general interest to members of the Corps to know that in October, 1973 this Regiment is to extend the alliance formed with our sister Regiment of the Bundeswehr, 7 Fernmelde Bataillon, to include the people of Lippstadt.

In March the Stadt Council of Lippstadt unanimously agreed to jointly bestow the honour of Civic rights on 22nd Signal Regiment and 7 Fernmelde Bataillon. Both Regiments are to receive the Freedom of the City of Lippstadt on Saturday, 27th October, 1973.

We believe that the bestowal of such an honour by a German city to a German unit at the same time as to a British Unit is both a unique and an historic event.

To quote the Stadt Direktor in his letter to the Commanding Officer:

"The solemn act itself will become a function of special importance because of its singularity".

On the Thursday night the Corps Band will play Retreat in the town square. On the Saturday afternoon the Freedom Ceremony is to take place outside the Marienkirche.

We anticpate a weekend of considerable activity and we hope to see many old friends, both previous members of the Regiment, and any other members of the Corps, past and present who are able to be in Lippstadt on Saturday, 27th October, 1973.

Yours sincerely,

J. V. Culbert (Captain)
Publicity Officer

22nd Signal Regiment,
B.F.P.O. 107.

Careful with those Explosives

Sir,

Our attention has been drawn to an article in THE WIRE entitled "Seagulls' Search". It concerns sub aqua sport in search of explosives and armaments located in European lakes.

Without wishing to dampen the adventurous ardour of sub aqua enthusiasts it is necessary to sound a note of caution. Explosives and armaments were generally dumped at the cessation of 39–45 hostilities because their condition was suspect. The ensuing years and poor storage generally does nothing to improve it. Before recovering this sort of material the advice of experts should be sought and this letter apologises for mentioning this point if it is already covered.

S. G. Styles, Lieutenant-Colonel
for Chief Inspector Land Service Ammunition.
HQ, Director of Ordnance Services,

Royal Signals Gliding Club

Royal Signals Glider Pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Royal Signals Games Fund for the period December 1972–November 1973.

Applications are required by 20th November and should be addressed to:

Major D. H. Scarfe, Royal Signals,
c/o CSO UKLF,
Erskine Barracks,
Wilton,
Salisbury, Wilts SP2 0AG.

Details *are* required. Grants will not be made unless the claim states: (a) Flying fees paid in 1973 (no other expenses); (b) Number of launches in 1973 and total launches; (c) Cross country kms 1973, and total; (d) Results of competitions or badge attempts; (e) Qualifications held; (f) Full address of claimant, including regimental number; (g) Confirmation that you subscribe to Corps Funds under the Day's Pay Scheme, or similar.

The limited funds available will be allocated in the order in which applications are received.

Laarbruck Singers — 1966/69

Would Lance-Corporal Hutchinson Robert and any other junior ranks members of the Laarbruch Singers who were with the Royal Air Force at Laarbruch between 1966 and 1969 please contact Ex-Corporal Don Webb at: 113 Plough Road, Clapham Junction, London SW11 2BJ.

Dear Kind Friends . . .

It has been the playful custom over the years for you, our warmhearted WIRE correspondents, to overwhelm your Editor with much more written material than he can possibly print in any one issue. We have had to apply the death of a thousand cuts once again in this issue.

But this month there is a brand new approach. Let us drown him in photographs, you are all saying. Get the cameras clicking, call in PR, ask for complete pages of photographs, for double-page spreads, for the front cover—nothing is too much in this deluge of photography run riot.

Dear king friends, amid a flood of over 100 shots of sports teams, CSOs visits, summer camps, we stand defeated.

Bear with us as you thumb eagerly through these pages to discover that we have only printed two or three of those ten photographs you submitted.

As usual we know you will understand.

The Empire Field of Remembrance

The Field of Remembrance for this year will be held at Westminster Abbey from 8th–12th November inclusive.

The Field will be opened at 12 noon on Thursday, 8th November, by a short service at which members of the Corps and the Association are invited to be present, and it will remain open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. although access thereto is, of course, possible at any time.

The Royal Signals Plot is No. 203. As in previous years, Association HQ Staff, together with members of Branches and local Units who can get along at the time, will be the official representatives of the Corps and Association at the opening. Any serving or retired member of the Corps will be very welcome.

The following are available from the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory and can be planted on behalf of Branches, Units or individuals by the official representatives at the opening ceremony.

24in × 12in Badge Cross, price £1·50.

24in × 12in Field Cross, price £1·05.

12in × 6in Poppy Cross, price 75p.

12in × 6in Wreath Cross, price 35p.

Personal Remembrance Crosses, price 5p each.

Prices include V.A.T.

It is felt that Branches will wish to be associated with this central act of Remembrance on behalf of fallen members of the Corps. Crosses will each bear a card with the name of the donor or Branch pinned to it.

Correspondence and orders relating to the Field of Remembrance should be addressed direct to: The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6UR, with a copy of order to this HQ for information. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd." and crossed. Please ask for a **card with the donor's or Branch name to be attached to your order.**

Send in your orders as soon as possible, but in any case not later than **1st November, 1973,** stating that you would like the order delivered direct to the **Field of Remembrance** and **not** to Royal Signals Association HQ.

Officers Appointments and Promotions

The following information has been extracted from Royal Signals Appointments and Promotion List No. 8 and is published for general information. Names of those already promoted or posted at time of going to press are omitted.

Selected for substantive promotion in 1973 or 1974

TO BRIGADIER

P. A. C. Baldwin, W. A. Sykes.

TO COLONEL

G. J. Curl, A. Yeoman, G. W. Gittins, G. L. Davies, G. W. A. Stephenson, J. A. J. Massey, P. J. Garratt.

TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

J. O. C. Alexander, K. S. H. Allwright, R. Bell, G. Corden, H. A. Cuerden, K. W. E. Ferguson, R. F. Hills, J. A. Montague, F. H. Pedley, J. W. Swindells, R. J. Tanner, M. R. Topple, J. T. Treglown, T. H. Wheawell, D. C. Whitehead, H. R. Williams.

TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (T.O.T.)

A. V. Render.

TO MAJOR—P.R.C.

J. Barrett, B. L. Belton, A. H. Boyle, P. J. R. Brown, D. T. Burton, S. Cowan, J. J. Cullen, P. H. Dale, R. Dorrell, K. G. Doyle, G. M. Finney, G. R. Funnell, D. J. Henning, J. F. Higton, D. R. Hodges, A. W. de V. Hunt, M. S. Louden, M. J. McCann, T. C. McCoy, J. G. M. McLuckie, G. A. Maude, N. C. Muir, C. R. M. Noonan, R. W. Simmons, J. F. Storr.

TO MAJOR—S.R.C.

A. P. de Bretton-Gordon, E. C. Byrne, B. W. Giller, F. W. Matthews, C. Riley, D. G. O. White.

Selected for Commissioning

For appointment to Regular Quartermaster category commissions during 1974.

QM

Captain B. Cleaver, Captain A. J. Cowe, Captain R. Jones, W.O.2 (L.S.) E. J. Mann, Captain D. H. M. Rumsey.

T.O.T.

W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. V. Bridgeman, W.O.1 (F. of S.) A. J. Cook, W.O.1 (F. of S.) G. Geldard, W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. Kenyon, W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. Langford, W.O.1 (F. of S.) R. Morris, W.O.1 (F. of S.) A. G. Norton, Captain B. T. O'Connor, W.O.1 (F. of S.) D. O'Connor, W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. J. Pankhurst, W.O.1 (F. of S.) G. C. Webb.

TFC. OFFICER

Captain G. Hayes, Lieutenant W. J. Ankers.

For appointment to SSC non-QM category commissions during 1974

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) S. F. Bloom, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) T. Keaney, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) E. H. Le Quesne, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) G. McGilvray, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) G. J. McKie, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. V. Prees, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) F. D. Rogers, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) D. Shakespeare, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. E. Stephens, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. F. Thornton, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) F. Williams, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) A. L. C. Coleman, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) D. M. Maxted, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) G. E. Rawlins, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) E. S. Storie, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. S. J. Wootten, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) J. C. Kirton, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) G. E. Shakeshaft, W.O.1 (S.C.) T. E. B. Cran, W.O.1 (S.C.) K. Sloane, W.O.1 (S.C.) P. D. Studd.

Senior Staff and Command Appointments notified

BRIGADIERS

W. T. MacFarlane	D.P.R. (A)	October 73
A. A. G. Anderson	Commandant School of Signals	June 74
P. A. C. Baldwin	Commander 2 Signal Group	March 74
J. C. Clinch	Dep. President R.C.B.	March 74

COLONELS

R. W. Millo	D.A. Buenos Aires	October 73
P. J. L. Wickes	M.A. Brasilia	February 74
A. P. Baker	C.S.O. 3 Division	October 73
G. J. Curl	Commander 3 Signal Group	February 74
J. H. Hild	Commander 1 Signal Group	December 73
R. D. Whitehead	Colonel G.S. (W) Special duties with Security Services	October 73

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS

J. R. Burrows	G.S.O.1 NATO/West Staff of C.D.S.	January 74
D. J. Macintyre	G.S.O.1 (W) Signals Branch HQ BAOR	November 73
J. R. Gibson	G.S.O.1 Chief Plans Branch C. & E Division HQ NORTHAG	October 73
L. A. Welton	C.I. A.A.C. Harrogate	September 73
R. Plant	S.O.1 D.S.S. (Central)	October 73
M. U. Ryan	G.S.O.1 (Ops.) NORTHAG	September 73
G. A. W. Hickman	S.O.1 (Comsys.) NORTHAG	October 73
P. A. Dally	G.S.O.1 (W) Signals 35b	October 73
T. Rigby	G.S.O.1 School of Signals	February 74
B. C. Complin	G.S.O.1 (C.D./O.R.) School of Signals	November 73
J. B. J. Halford	G.S.O.1 (W) Surveillance R.M.C.S.	September 73
I. R. D. Shapter	G.S.O.1 D.S. A.S.C. Camberley	November 73
J. P. Brian	G.S.O.1 (W) S.R.D.E.	October 73
W. L. Wood	G.S.O.1 (W) Trials Director School of Signals	September 73
D. C. Whitehead	G.S.O.1 (Signals) HQ BAOR	March 74
R. J. Tanner	C.I. 8th Signal Regiment	October 73
J. Westlake	C.O. 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment	November 73
C. N. Last	C.R. Signals Northern Ireland	January 74

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during June, 1973:

	£ p
OC, 8 Signal Regiment	200·00
Staff Sergeant E. W. Unwin, Royal Signals	17·50
Colonel H. Llewelyn Daniel, T.D., D.L.	10·00
Treasurer, Military Historical Society	5·00
W. G. S. Kidson, Esq.	1·75
Colonel R. G. L. Giblin, O.B.E.	1·00
Major F. C. Forbes	75
Various small donations	12
	£236·12

The following donations were gratefully received during July, 1973:—

	£ p
Officer Commanding, 11 Signal Regiment	65·86
Officer Commanding, 8 Signal Regiment	46·00
Chief Signal Officer, HQ, BAOR	28·89
Officer Commanding, 260 Signal Squadron (SAM)	2·64
Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron	2·00
The Treasurer, Harrogate Branch Royal Signals Association	1·20
Douglas Sisson, Esq. (in memory of soldiers who have lost their lives in Northern Ireland)	102·24
Brigadier, H. V. G. Bloodworth, C.B.E., M.S.M.	5·00
J. I. Johnston, Esq.	4·00
Corporal D. E. Hicks	3·00
D. W. Lloyd-Davies, Esq.	1·25
R. A. Oswick, Esq.	1·00
Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. H. Herdon	1·00
Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford	1·00
T. A. Roberts, Esq.	83
G. E. Bassil, Esq.	75
J. A. Springett, Esq.	50
Various small donations	1·31
	£268·47

Details of Trophies and Individuals shown on front cover picture

Back row, left to right: **W.O.2 A. Simpson** 15 Sig Regt BAOR (Ind) Golf Champion 1973, **Sergeant P. Scriven,** 21 Sig Regt BAOR Inter Unit Table Tennis Champions, 1972, **Lance-Corporal B. Owen,** 11 Armd Bde Sig Sqn BAOR Rugby Champions (Minor Units) 1973.

Middle row, left to right: **Second-Lieutenant S. G. Hughes,** 11 Armd Bde Sig Sqn Army Orienteering Champions (Minor Units) 1972, **Sergeant L. J. Nicholas,** 4 Gds Armd Bde Sig Sqn BAOR Hockey Champions (Minor Uunits) 1973, **Lieutenant R. A. Farrimond,** 21 Sig Regt BAOR Orienteering Champions 1972, **Lance-Corporal H Holder,** 2 Div Sig Regt BAOR Cricket Champions 1972, **Lieutenant T. E. Richardson,** 2 Div Sig Regt 5 Agra Skiing Cup 1973, **Lieutenant M. S. Reid,** 4 Div Sig Regt BAOR Canoe Champions 1972.

Front row, left to right: **Corporal M. E. Durow,** 4 Gds Armd Bde Sig Sqn BAOR Soccer Champions (Minor Units) 1973, **Corporal B. Snaith,** 28 Sig Regt BAOR Soccer Champions 1973, **Sergeant T. Storer,** 21 Sig Regt BAOR Cross County Champions 1973, **Lance-Corporal D. A. James,** 7 Sig Regt BAOR Rugby Champions 1973, **W.O.2 (C.S.M.I.) S. W. Woods,** 21 Sig Regt BAOR Athletics Champions 1973, **Lieutenant L. R. Smith,** 21 Sig Regt Army Cross Country Champions 1973, and **Lance-Corporal M. J. Toole,** 4 Gds Armd Bde Sig Sqn BAOR Cross Country Champions (Minor Units) 1973.

FAREWELL TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HARRY ROWLANDS

Officers of the Communications and Electronics Division of HQ Northag say farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Rowlands, who has completed over 15 years service in various NATO appointments and is now returning to live in Austria

Left to right: Major Ken Bicknell, Major Jimmy Teglown, Major Wolf Correll, Colonel Kurt Bodenhausen (ACOS C and E), Lieutenant-Colonel Heinz Laue, Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Rowlands, Major John Cox, Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Sterkens, Major Guy Thienpont, Major Jan Schulten, Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Van Goylen and Major Mike Weiner

(Army Public Relations Photograph: Eric Sommer)

ANGLO-DANISH ENTENTE

Corporal Derek ('Ches') Thomasson pictured at the Nijmegen Marches with Corporal (yes, that's right) Else Steensgaard of the Danish Army. Both are stationed at NATO Headquarters, Oslo, Norway. Derek has made quite a name by taking part in marches all over Europe

WIRE CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for Wire contributions is the 12th OF THE MONTH preceeding the month of publication. After nearly 50 years of existence we still cannot get all Correspondents to remember this. Let us try and get this right in our second half century!

Reserve Army Ball is outstanding success

DEPUTY COMMANDER 12 SIGNAL GROUP'S SWAN-SONG

JOHN COX, EX-EDITOR OF PRIVATE WIRE WRITES:—

TO mark the occasion of the end of office of **Colonel Robin Chell** the Reserve Army held a Ball. It appeared to be to celebrate that occasion, for the whole of the left flank was the massed scarlet mess kit of Royal Signals. The remainder of the Reserve Army held the right. I know that I am biased, but this was the best Reserve Army Ball that I have ever attended. I have enjoyed others more, but this *was* the best. The Corps were the hosts this year at the Royal Lancaster Hotel and, as **Robin** said, both in his speech and in his printed report in the programme, the prime objective was a good get-together where we met our opposite numbers in other Corps and enjoyed ourselves. This we did. The second objective, so he said, was to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund. We did that too. Successfully.

There can be no one better suited to raising money than **Robin Chell.** I can remember when at camp in the Sherwood Forest we wanted to 'get at' the Regular Quartermaster, some particularly courageous subaltern came up with the phrase "Robin Hood, Robin Chell and robbin' bastard". The last epithet could well have been directed at **Robin Chell's** method of collecting money for the raffle. Never before has so much money been collected from so many, in so few minutes.

In that short time he had blackmailed £300 from 300 men, in such a way that no one dare back down. The remainder of the cash was raised, more or less legally, by the British love of a gamble, and a large quantity of tombola tickets sold by the 'decibelles' (WRACs, Royal Signals).

The tombola enclosure, sited strategically next to the bar, looked like a gipsy horse trading fair; it would appear that most officers in the Reserve Army carry their roll in a special note-pocket in the front of their trousers and a merry trade was done by all.

The Trumpeters of the Corps called us to dinner and regrettably, when ranging on me they had no need to bracket, they hit me full blast in the left ear first salvo.

The pipers of 32 Signal Regiment provided further entertainment during the evening and an opportunity for the main party to work up an even greater thirst, the slaking of which took them back again to the bar and the proximity of the tombola . . . The dance orchestra of the Royal Corps of Signals kept the evening swinging.

I would like to remark on only two lucky winners of tombola prizes, which caused cries of 'fiddle' from both flanks. These were **General Max Sawer** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Len Rogers** who won two of the larger prizes.

Members of the Corps turned up from all over the British Isles to support the Ball and the departing Deputy Commander. I don't think he intended it to be a farewell party for he was Chairman of the Ball Committee, all members of which contributed so much to the overall success of a memorable evening and none of whom will mind me mentioning the splendid energy and devotion, beyond the call of immediate duty, of **Captain John Sylvester.**

I am ordered to include a list of the more important guests and I have been instructed to leave out the names of my personal friends. This is going to be difficult, because I have found in the TA my greatest confluence of friends. And now that I am no longer serving, the annual Reserve Army Officer's Ball is really the only chance I have of meeting them.

Speeches were notable by their absence, only one was delivered —a carefully prepared and rehearsed, rambling dissertation which would have done credit to one of our more illustrious comedians!

The final total handed over to the Army Benevolent Fund was £1,001·08, a record of considerable significance, which will not appear in the Guinness Book of Records but to close with a quote from a Colonel in the next host Corps—"Gawd 'elp us!".

OUTCOME OF RESERVE ARMY BALL

Colonel Robin Chell presents a cheque for £1,000 to Brigadier Jago of the Army Benevolent Fund

LIST OF DONORS

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21st Regiment pull it off again!

Fourth consecutive win in Army Major Unit Team Athletics

Report by
Captain R. A. Farrimond
Unit Athletics Officer

C.S.M.I. Stan Woods receives the Army Shield from Lieutenant-General Sir T. D. H. McMeekin, K.C.B., O.B.E.

NO team had ever won the Army Major Units Athletics Shield four years in succession, and this was the target for the 21 Signal Regiment team in 1973. It was also the last season for our coach, **C.S.M.I. Stan Woods,** to whom so much of the Regiment's success is due.

The team spent the ten days prior to the Championships with 223 Signal Squadron at Winchester. During this, his last days with the team, the CSMI put the athletes through his expert final training, which was to produce the superb performances his departure deserved.

PERSONAL BESTS TO START THE DAY

The Championships were held at the Aldershot Military Stadium on Wednesday, 25th July. Very early three personal best performances were recorded. (**Lance-Corporal Fred Payet,** pole vault and **Corporal 'Sonny' Henderson** and **Sergeant Eric Williams** in the hammer).

The Regiment showed its track supremacy in the first race, 5000m team event, with the distinctive tangerine vests and red shorts well to the front. Again **Sergeant Bill Venus, Sergeant Peter Macmillan, Captain Leslie Smith** (personal best) and **Corporal Fred Roissetter** proved a winning combination.

In his first Army Championships, **Signalman Paul Conway** ran a fine first leg in the 4 × 200m, to lead into three old hands—all of them reigning Army individual champions, **(Corporal Charlie Dowie, Sergeant John Turvey** and **Corporal Percy Drummond).** Again 21 streaked home ahead in a unit best time of 1 minute 30·2 seconds (0·3 seconds outside the Army record). **Drummond** quickly returned to the high jump, where with **Signalman 'Chalky' White** (personal best of 1·64m), he jumped 1·77m, to gain the team another first place.

Another unit all time best followed in the shot putt with **Lance-Corporal Laurie Vula** (12·50m) and **Corporal Brian Saberton** (12·08m) putting personal bests for the season.

The 4 × 800m team produced a commanding lead in the first three legs, **(Corporal Eric Paul, Sergeant Chris Cottam** and **Corporal Graham Campbell),** which allowed **Signalman Phil Madden,** known as 'Clockwork' from his running, to finish a restrained last leg.

A FIGHT IN THE HURDLES

After lunch, the 'A' final of the 4 × 110m hurdles saw 21 pushed by inches into second place by 1 WFR. As in the heats before lunch, **Lance-Corporal Harry Girvan** (the team veteran at 36 years old), ran a superb leg, backed up by **Sergeant Dave Kuester, Corporal Harry Pegg** and **Corporal Brian Black** (Time: 1 minute 10·1 seconds). In the pole vault **Black,** vaulting on a borrowed pole because ours had broken in training the week before, took us to second equal place.

This season has been marked by the sprinters training (for a change, some would say), harder than ever before. In the 4 × 100m they gave another victorious display with **Corporal Charlie Dowie** rounding off fine runs by **Signalman Alan Chapman, Corporal Brian Wilson** and **Signalman Paul Conway,** with a casual backward glance to the distant opponents. The time—another unit best at 43·5 seconds.

21 have been described as just a track team but this season, we finished second in the field events competition at BAOR. In the Army Meeting, it was second again after good throwing against the eventual winners, SEE in the javelin, **(Sergeant Dave Kuester** and **Corporal Tom Moran)** and the discus **(Corporal Ron Thompson** and **Lance-Corporal Laurie Vula),** and jumping in the long jump **(Corporal Charlie Dowie** and **Corporal Brian Wilson).**

WINNERS OF NEW CARRINGTON TROPHY

At lunch time, the 1500m runners had eyed a new trophy, presented by the London jewellers Carringtons for the 1500m team race, and with our four runners in the first six **(Corporal Graham Campbell, Sergeant Chris Cottam, Sergeant Peter Macmillan** and **Sergeant Bill Venus),** it was ours. **Corporal Graham Campbell** produced a fine piece of front running to finish first.

The 4 × 400m is one of**four Army team records held by 21** and the squad of **Corporal Harry Pegg, Signalman Phil Madden, Sergeant John Turvey** and **Corporal Percy Drummond** were never pushed in this final event as they strode to another victory with an ease which was a real joy to see. Thus having dropped only 13¼ points out of a possible 126, the Regiment had won the Army Championships for a record fourth year.

For **Lieutenant-Colonel de Bretton-Gordon, C.S.M.I. Woods** and the athletics officer **Captain Richard Farrimond,** there was delight that all had been so worthwhile.

THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT

Throughout the season the team has received much support and encouragement. Special thanks to our Colonel, and **Majors Frank Pedley** and **Tony Bushell,** who have never failed to give backing to the team. The whole Regiment shares in this success, and many thanks go to all the soldiers, who work on whilst the athletes compete and thus make records possible. Again this year, many serving and retired members of the Corps came to support us at Aldershot—we are most grateful to them. The days before any event are all important and again **Major John Ingledow** and all at 223 Signal Squadron cared for all our requirements—thank you.

The final thanks must be to the athletes themselves, who have given so much and provided a wonderful spectacle throughout the season, and to **C.S.M.I. Stan Woods** and his wife **Margaret,** who through their own efforts have earned 21 a lasting reputation in Army sport.

21st Regiment at the Army Athletic Team Championships

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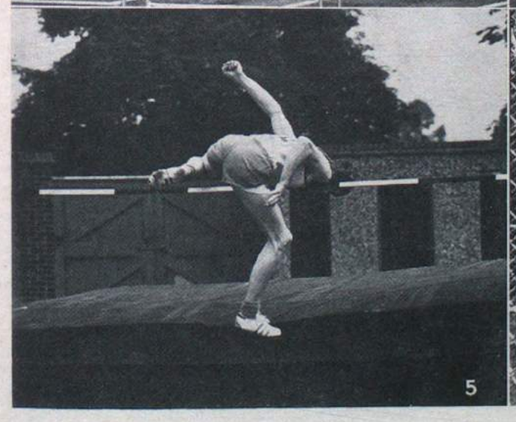

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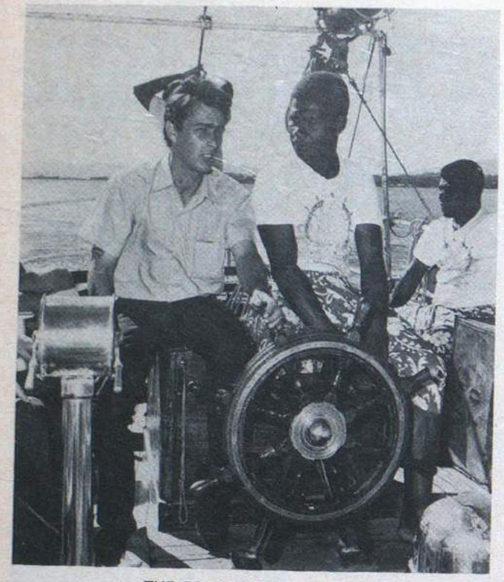
(Photos taken and processed by Corporal D. Price, 21 Signal Regiment)

1. **1500m winners of Carrington Trophy: Sergeant Bill Venus, Sergeant Peter Macmillan, Corporal Graham Campbell, Sergeant Chris Cottam**
2. **4 × 400m: Two Army Champions, Sergeant John Turvey (800m) hands to Corporal Percy Drummond (400m)**
3. **Corporal Brian Black—4 × 110m hurdles**
4. **4 × 200m: Signalman Paul Conway hands over to Corporal Charlie Dowie (Army Sprint champion)**
5. **Signalman 'Chalky' White high jumping**
6. **Hammer—Corporal 'Sonny' Henderson**

South Seas Cruise of a Lifetime

(COURTESY ARMY NEWS SERVICE, HONG KONG)



THE CORPS GETS AROUND

Lance-Corporal Allan Trenchard takes the wheel of the schooner *Sea Spray* during a voyage to the island of Malolo Lai Lai in the Fiji group. Allan, who is serving in Hong Kong with 27 Signal Regiment, recently spent a month on Fiji's principal island of Viti Levu on exercise with a Company Group from The Black Watch. The cruise came at the end of 15 days tough jungle familiarisation training in the dense rain forests south of the capital city of Suva. See account from the Army News Service below

With her four sails billowing in the wind the 83 foot schooner raced through the blue waters of the South Seas. Waves broke over her bows as she lived up to her name *Vuso Ni Ua*—Sea Spray.

Sounds like a romanticism from a James Mitchener novel doesn't it? But for three Hong Kong-based British soldiers it was a dream come true.

Exercising in fascinating friendly Fiji they had taken time off from tough jungle training to make a memorable storybook voyage to the Island of Malolo Lai Lai.

Their journey took them through Bligh Waters, so named after the famous **Captain William Bligh** who sailed these very same seas on his epic voyage from Tonga to Java after having being forced off his ship, *The Bounty*, by mutineers in 1789.

The Glasgow-built vessel the soldiers had chosen for their cruise is herself famous for the part she played in the Australian television series 'The Adventure of the Sea Spray'

Strumming guitars and voices raised in song highlighted the 42 mile return cruise as the crew of *Sea Spray* alternated between being sailors, waiters, guides and entertainers with equal efficiency.

Destination was Plantation Village which borders on a sheltered bay of Malolo Lai Lai. This is an operating copra plantation island in the Mamanuca group west of Viti Levu, Fiji's principal island.

Here, in brilliant sunshine, the soldiers were able to enjoy lounging on miles of golden sands fringed by stately palm trees. In the Vale-Ni-Naro—the traditional thatched Fijian meeting place—they ate their fill of a sumptuous buffet lunch, and after a walk among the native bures they explored the surrounding coral

THIS IS THE LIFE!

Lance-Corporal Allan Trenchard, with two Black Watch friends, relaxes in a real South Seas environment

atolls in crystal clear waters, picking at random mementoes of their short stay and watching dazzingly beautiful tropical fish swim lazily by.

All too soon the time came to bid a reluctant Isa Lei (farewell), but excitement was still to come as the breeze changed to a brisk wind for the homeward journey and *Sea Spray* filled her sails and, dipping into the waves, headed for the setting sun.

May in the Maldives

(CONTRIBUTED BY 14th REGIMENT)

"An engineering trial in Gan? Sounds good, almost a holiday in the sun! When do we go?"

"Oh, lets see! About the first week in May and return about the first week in June, I should think".

DEPARTURE FOR GAN THE GLORIOUS

On such a vague basis began the latest foray of S Troop, 14 Signal Regiment. If only it had been so simple. Immediately snags appeared, not the least of which was the non-availability of planes. However we were rescued by two friendly Belfasts and a Hercules with standing room only. The RAF then produced the comfort of 18 seats on a VC10—a much more acceptable mode of travel, and certainly better than walking.

Thus early one morning we departed in style for glorious Gan; jewel of the vaccination certifications. Some 14 hours later we touched down in the early hours at Gan to the welcome of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Kidd** of 605 Signal Troop and an open bar. In an 80° temperature the breakfast of ice cold Carlsberg was a delightful experience! Our equipment was still lumbering en route so we were able to settle in to a weekend of relaxation and exploration—a two hour task with the island perimeter only 4 miles!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RAIN!

The task in hand was simple—to test three sites for interface and communication capability under the eagle eye of our Trials Director, **Mr. Tom Gordon** of 90 Group RAF. Unfortunately we arrived in the middle of the monsoon and persistent winds of over 30 mph and heavy rain did little to ease the job. The sight of bedraggled technicians and combat powermen like drowned ducks with water oozing through the eyelets of their boots moving the station during the nine consecutive days of unending rain would have been amusing had not the writer been in the same condition. However all was not wet and we had our fair share of

sun during which panic tans were acquired with varying degrees of success. Despite rumours to the contrary, the success of **F. of S. Mike Pankhurst, Corporal Ian Plenderleith** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Young** in this field had nothing to do with heredity or their work rate but mostly total disregard to the dangers of the ultraviolet. Ironically, **Captain Dick Ellis,** well aware of the dangers, constructed a hide to protect himself whilst indulging in his hobby of oil painting and then suffered very bad blistering on his legs while sitting in total shade!

SATISFACTORY RESULTS

Despite the handicaps of wind and weather, the trials progressed smoothly even allowing for the delay in arrival of generator batteries and one cabin—not forgotten but no space was available. Satisfactory results were presented to our Zoonie visitors from UK—**Squadron Leader Roger Payne** of MODUK AIR (Signals 54) and **Major Colin Grundy,** our Squadron Commander.

SOCIAL AND SPORTING LIFE IN PLENTY

Spare time was plentiful and full use was made of the extensive sporting and social facilities of the island. **Sergeants Darrell Allard** and **Ken Barnes** with **Corporal Keith Parsons** spent their time prospecting the seabeds for coral and shells whilst the less ambitious of us were content to keep to the shallows, disbelieving the local rumours that sharks disappear in the daytime. Despite falling down a monsoon drain on his first excursion, **Sergeant Stan Adams** developed a liking for water and could be seen fishing at all times of night and day—with little success however. The more energetic troop members played their skills at squash and badminton (replacing the sweat with appropriate refreshment) and competing at both these and at 11 and 5-a-side football, basketball and volleyball. The extent of our prowess can be seen from the fact that we were only narrowly beaten on both occasions by the Station basketball team—all credit to **Sergeants Joe Meredith** and **Keith Hawke.**

Mention must be made of the Marine Craft Unit who obligingly took half the Troop on a survey trip to one of the deepest ocean areas in the world, about 15 miles from the Atoll. Most of the passengers were not so grateful after setting out, however, as they left their breakfast over the stern. The only cheerful face on return was **Signalman Terry Rampton,** who seemed quite indestructible. Perhaps the least happy members of the excursion were **F. of S. Ray Kidd** and **Sergeant Darggie Gray** of 605 Signal Troop who hopped aboard under the impression that it was the normal daily ferry to Hittadu.

WHERE IS THAT PENNANT?

Despite threats to steal the bicycle of **S.W.O. Jack Russell** by **Sergeant Stan Adams,** he was thwarted by the SWO's cunning. However after **Stan** had left, it was noted that the station pennant had disappeared—for the 9th time this year. Despite all our readers in Gan may believe, we do not have it! The Troop arrived back safely in UK, mostly in the comfort of a VC10 although half a dozen intrepid adventurers undertook the journey by Belfast despite its greater length. However, they enjoyed excellent hospitality from the crew and during a transit stay in Masirah by **Sergeant Dick Sargent** and others of 603 Signal Troop. Although all were richer for the experience, only one—**Staff Sergeant Alan Osborne**—was richer in pocket having a magic influence on the cards for the whole of our stay!

June Bug Rally '73

Organized by 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, the Herford Motor Sports Club June Bug rally was voted a great success by all taking part, covering as it did 530 miles including a special stage.

THE June Bug Rally which is promoted by the Motor Sports Club, Herford is the longest annual event put on by any motor club in BAOR. The Motor Sports Club, Herford has its home in 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment and as it has quite a big following from within the Regiment its resources were put to good use in organising this year's ambitious rally.

PERFECT INSTRUCTIONS

The organisers of this year's 530 mile event were **Staff Sergeant Dave Wells** (RA), of the Headquarters and **W.O.2 John Driver** of 2 (Radio) Squadron. **Dave** used the resources of the Head-

BEFORE THE START

Competitors line up at Herford

quarter's to produce route instructions par excellence; making full use of photocopying and even professionally overprinted maps (by courtesy of an RE survey unit) giving competitors perfect instructions. **John** was responsible for the administration and one can be quite sure that he also made full use of his Squadron Commander's generous offer of men and communications for the event, in actual fact though he had no difficulty in getting volunteers to do everything.

58 STARTERS

The event started at 13.01 hours on Saturday, 3rd June but long before this the fifty-eight competitors in a variety of machinery which included a Renault Alpine, a Porsche, a Matra Simca and others, side by side with AD Land Rovers were forming up on the Square. Units from all over BAOR were represented and it was pleasing to see a number of the major Signal Regiments entering Land Rover crews, showing that an increasing number of units are appreciating the military training value of the sport.

The first two hundred miles of six stages proved too much for most of the very novice crews who had never rallied before, one or two of the expert crews went out through mechanical failure too. At this point there was a compulsory rest halt of one hour.

SPECIAL STAGE ADDS EXCITEMENT

In the first stage after the halt there was a special stage, which was a section of the rally held over a closed forest track where drivers had to try and beat an impossible bogey time. A number of crews came to grief on the stage through driving too fast and either causing a mechanical failure or 'running out of road'.

The commander of the stage was **Staff Sergeant Fred Howley,** who with the help of **Lieutenant Alan Wallace** and three radio crews did sterling work to run this as a separate entity from the rally. A radio station was at the start and one at the finish and because of the terrain the other was used for re-broadcast. **Fred Howley** positioned himself at the finish but he also started the crews by counting down the seconds over the radio and through a loudspeaker which the driver could hear through the car window. This enabled **Fred** to observe the vehicle over the flying finish line and time it to the second.

There was a second hours halt after a further two hundred miles just after dawn on Sunday morning before the final drive of one hundred and thirty miles back to Herford.

NEW RADIO MARKING SYSTEM

Radio was again made use of in the final three stages of the rally to get the results calculated more quickly. Competitors time cards were marked at the controls where they were handed in and the scores sent over the air to be received on a remote handset beside the scoreboard and filled in as they were received. Competitors booked in at a final control outside Herford and in the ten minutes it took for them to drive to the barracks their score had been worked out and their final penalties totalled up before they arrived. This was something never seen before and raised quite a few eyebrows to see it in action.

35 VOLUNTEER HELPERS

Obviously in an event of this size a large number of helpers are required; in fact there were over 35 so it would be futile to try to

mention many of them, but two people who were very much responsible for the smooth running of the event were **Corporal Pete Younger** and his wife **Kath** who acted as the chief marshals. They were responsible for ensuring all the 17 manned controls were properly organised, this meant working out the marshals' schedules and going to each control just before the competitors were due, to ensure the marshal was there and his clock was set right. It was a credit to them that there was not one slip up, in fact there was not one throughout the whole event,

SIGNALS PROMINENT IN RESULTS

The overall winners of the rally were **Lance-Corporal Willie Williams** of HQ 1 Division and **Corporal 'Kiwi' Nation** of 1 Division Signal Regiment who just beat the home club crew members **Sergeant Mick Dewey** of 4 Division Signal Regiment and **Sergeant Graham Pryke** of 654 Squadron ACC. Among the thirty finishers we were pleased to see that the three crews from 4 Division Signal Regiment had made it. Those seasoned rallymen from 1 Squadron, **Corporal Ken Bertram** and **Mike Filmer** finished ninth, another crew from the same squadron who are not quite so seasoned, **Signalman 'Jock' Shaw** and **Corporal Shaun Korrimboccus,** finished 25th. **Signalman Doug Bristow** and **Staff Sergeant Dave Weston** managed to squeeze an AD Rover out of OC 3 Squadron and finished 26th which is a good performance, considering only twelve of the original thirty-three AD Rovers managed to classify as finishers.

Judging by the comments of all those who took part in the event this one can be counted among the many successes of the club which has got a name throughout BAOR for its meticulous organisation.

The Shrivenham Letter

GRADUATION DAY, 1973
Brigadier Sherratt, the graduating officers and their families

ANOTHER year has passed and your scribe is able to report that 1972/73 has been another good one for the Corps.

GRADUATION RESULTS

27 Degree Course, one of the largest and most lively for some time, graduated on 6th July in the presence of **General Sir John Hackett, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.** The Roll of Royal Signals Graduants and Prize Winners was:

Second Class (Division I) Honours Degree

Lieutenant Michael Wallis (winner of the Royal Signals Prize for the Royal Signals student obtaining the best degree), **Lieutenant Christopher Spencer.**

Second Class (Division II) Honours Degree

Lieutenant John Griffin, Lieutenant Richard Skaife, Lieutenant Philip Tilson.

Unclassified

Lieutenant Robin Burrows.

Ordinary Degree

Lieutenant John Kay (winner of the Sandhurst Prize for displaying the highest personal qualities and contributing most to the College during his course and of the Heilbron Prize for the best article published in The College Journal), **Lieutenant Hugh Smith** (winner of the Stradling Prize for the best Engineering Ordinary Degree), **Lieutenant Bob Graham** (winner of the College Prize for a particularly good result in the Final Examinations), **Lieutenant Brian Chubb, Lieutenant Martin Clarke, Captain Ben Higson, Lieutenant Derek Howshall, Lieutenant Bob Palmer, Lieutenant Steven Paul, Lieutenant Colin Smith, Lieutenant David Jessett, Lieutenant Nick Steven.**

The number of prizes won by Royal Signals officers this year is thought to be a record.

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES

27 Degree Course have contributed greatly to life at the College and it would be wrong not to mention at least some of their sporting and other activities as follows:

Robin Burrows: Sails to international standard, and takes hordes of fellow officers and their ladies on ocean cruises in a catamaran reported to be of exceptional size and luxury.

Brian Chubb: A pillar of the College hockey and cricket teams. The changing of the seasons is marked by the particular form of wooden club he is seen to be holding.

Bob Graham: Keen rugby player and member of the Club committee, also, it is said, the best dressed officer, RMCS, 1973.

John Kay, Dick Skaife, Derek Howshall and **Chris Spencer:** Mountaineers and globe trotters extraordinary.

Gerry Maddren: For three seasons full back to a rugby team that beat many of the best in the Army. During the season he kicked 32 goals and 22 penalties for the RMCS XV.

Stephen Paul: Master of Hounds. During his time as Master the Shrivenham Beagles have become a very smart pack with a growing reputation.

David Jessett: Coached a College rowing four that looked like really getting somewhere at Henley until they were drawn against First and Third Trinity.

(*Continued on page* 403)

(*Continued from page* 402)

SEEN AT THE GARDEN PARTY ON GRADUATION DAY
Lieutenant John Kay who, as well as graduating and winning two prizes, also announced his engagement to be married. (This must be something like a hat-trick we feel). Unfortunately, the lady avoided the camera

NEW ARRIVALS MAKE THEIR MARK

In the meantime 7 Army Staff Course have moved on to Camberley and 8 have joined us at RMCS. They have very quickly made their mark. **Major John Almonds,** cross country runs and, as usual, stays more than fit, **Captain Bill Roper** is a key man in the College offshore crew, **Captain Gordon Howard** plays cricket for the College, **Captain Jeremy Ventham** is away in Cyprus on a project the awesome nature of which his colleagues are not empowered to divulge. **Major Peter Dale** mans the department of lateral thinking. By September, he hopes to have completed his plot for communications in the year 2000, and to move on to something completely different—say an invisible tank.

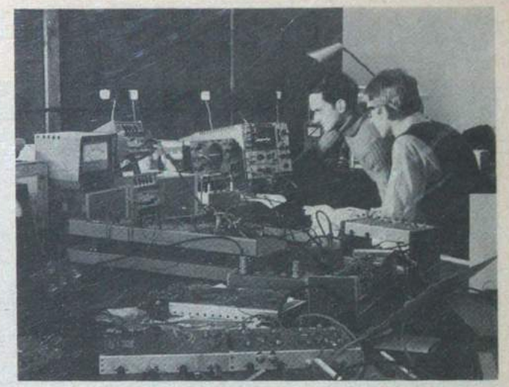
REPORT FROM DIVISION II

Our correspondent reports as follows:

"It has been alleged that members of Division II of 8 Army Staff Course are keen, sparkling eyed, and bushy tailed. We do not disagree with this appreciation, but the goings on at RMCS Shrivenham suggest that at times horticulture commands a greater interest than ohms, amps and cryogenics. **Captain Alan (M.H.) Eastburn** is growing metric runner beans which are now 24 inches tall, or 60·96 cms as we say in the trade.

'Play' might be the operative word for **Captain Adrian Bailey's** activities. He spends much of his time playing cricket for the College and winning single wicket competitions. The intellectual side of the course is not totally ignored. **Captain Sam Cowan** is very knowledgeable in his technical consideration of golf balls in flight. His analysis is particularly convincing as he does after all spend much of his time on the golf course, obtaining experimental data—he says!! Perhaps we should have been students at the Royal Agricultural College. Time will tell providing we dry out the sand in our hour glasses". (Scribes note: This is too deep for me).

On the staff the Corps' influence increases all the time—we recently welcomed **Brigadier A. J. Jackson** as Deputy Commandant. In July we said farewell to **W.O.2. (F. of S.) Steve Waudby** on posting to 7 Signal Regiment, and welcomed **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Brian Meachin** from Masirah. He says that he finds things different here. **Colonel Ian Rose** remains as Commodore of the College Yacht Club. During the last year there has been increasing emphasis on offshore sailing resulting in many new offshore hands, mates, and skippers.



27 DEGREE COURSE IN THE LABORATORIES
Lieutenants Philip Tilson and John Griffin at work on a Directory Translator for Bruin. (Incidentally—it worked!)

BEAGLES OPENING MEET
The Signal Officer-in-Chief, accompanied by Colonel Ian Rose and Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Jarrett takes a stirrup cup and meets Lieutenant Stephen Paul, Second - Lieutenant Charles Le Gallais (in pullover) and other members of the hunt

During the year we were pleased to welcome many members of the Corps in particular the Signal-Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** whose visit happily coincided with the opening meet of the Beagles (already mentioned). Other visitors have been **Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E.** who spent the day with us and met most of the Royal Signals students, and **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E.** who represented the Signal-Officer-in-Chief on Graduation Day.

To conclude this year's Shrivenham letter we show some photographs illustrating the life of Royal Signals officers at the College. (Space has only permitted of a few—*Editor*).

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

REPORT FROM ULSTER

NORTHERN IRELAND CHAMPIONS
39 Brigade Signal Squadron lightweight tug of war team
Standing (left to right): Signalman 'Mac' MacArthur, Lance-Corporal Dave Gilbert, Royal Signals, Staff Sergeant Roy Burge (Coach) and Lance-Corporal 'Chalky' White RCT, Corporal 'Chas' Vines
Kneeling (left to right): Corporal 'Ginge' Barker, Royal Signals, Sergeant Bill Price RPC, Sergeant John Hamer and Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones, Royal Signals

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

UNLIKE most units, Troops and Departments in 39 Brigade have to stand in line clutching reams of paper, pleading for a chance to have notes published in THE WIRE. If everything that was written was printed, the Editor could publish in advance and take a couple of months off!

This month, if errors are made, the whole blame is in the hands of the Sergeants' Mess.

SPOTLIGHT ON 39 BRIGADE SERGEANTS' MESS

Over the last few months we have attempted to give you an insider's view of the Squadron at work. Just to reassure those fortunate enough to have received a posting order to join us, we do manage to find time to relax and to enjoy the normal aspects of mess life, both sporting and social. Indeed, some of the less tenacious members have been heard to declare that they have enjoyed themselves as much as they can stand, before retiring after some of our more elaborate functions!

As we are all aware, the Brigade is an integrated one, but possibly more so than others. In the last six months we have had 125 new members, of 25 different cap badges varying from EOD (Bomb Disposal) to REs who are in Northern Ireland drilling for water, so I'm sure readers will understand if we don't have an arrivals and departures column. With the numbers arriving it was thought possibly General Amin had a finger in the pie.

I'm intentionally not mentioning the situation in Northern Ireland (3 Brigade and 8 Brigade please note—we are having a day off). Recently the Northern Ireland representatives of various UK newspapers visited the Brigade to try their skill on the range under the instruction of **Staff Sergeant (VCP) Mick Westerby, Sergeant Ernie Buck** and **Sergeant Bill House.** They fired SMG, SLR, pistol and the riot gun. The only riot that broke out that day was amongst the seniors to see who would be coaching the pretty young ladies of the Press.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

At 12.30 hours on the 26th of July a Marathon March around the all-weather sports pitch began in aid of the Thompson House, Lisburn, home for multiple sclerosis. The magnificent nine, headed by the Squadron Commander (and please note in order of seniority, not miles marched) **Major John Bromley, Captain Ron Abbott, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Phil Daniel, Staff Sergeant Bob Swaine, Sergeant John Hamer, Sergeant Geoff Nelson, Lance-Corporal Derek Holley, Signalman 'Mac' MacArthur** and **Signalman Stuart Bower** started to walk dressed in all kinds of garb—plimsolls (which don't last long) to DMS boots. It was intended that the Squadron Commander just did a mile or so to boost the morale but due to the fact that he was sponsored at £3 a mile he carried on quite effortlessly for 5 hours 20 minutes, completing 20 miles. He was joined by CR Signals Northern Ireland for a lap towards the end and then (having dealt with his 'in tray' which was brought to him by the Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones,** whilst walking and then had a 'mobile' conference with **R.S.M. Dennis Connell)** he dashed off to play squash!

After a magnificent effort by all concerned, the final mileage was **Major Bromley** 20 miles, **Staff Sergeant Swaine, Captain Abbott** and **W.O.2 Daniel** 25 miles, **Sergeant Hamer** 30 miles, **Lance-Corporal Holley** 33 miles, **Signalman MacArthur** and **Signalman Bower** 35 miles and last but certainly not least **Sergeant Geoff Nelson** 40 miles. But all was not done. At 22.30 hours **Lieutenant Bob Freeman** and **Corporal Henry Banks,** who had just finished work, decided to enter and walked round all night in total darkness, seeing the dawn break and finished at 05.45 hours having completed 25 miles. The magnificent nine plus two raised £360 to purchase televisions for the Thompson House. Well done.

SHOPPING BASKETBALL

On the sporting scene, we have recently played (alphabetically, if not chronologically) basketball, cricket, hockey and volleyball against such high-calibre and universally famous teams as 3 Brigade Sergeants' Mess, Lisburn Garrison Sergeants' Mess and last but by no means least, our own Brigade Officers. The basketball, against 3 Brigade Mess was played in accordance with the generally accepted rules until we decided to combine the game with a talent contest. We invited a number of wives, specially chosen for their complete ignorance of the rules and a compulsive urge to blow whistles, to take turns to referee the game. When the match ended (for the pedantic among you it was a draw—referees 25, players 25) we left the children to savour the delights of the trampoline under the watchful if somewhat bloodshot eye of **Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones** and wended our way towards the mess to lick our wounds. In the afternoon whilst the children sat enthralled by the exploits of various film heroes we managed to replace the body fluid lost in the morning's exertions.

FULL TOSS

For the first of the cricket matches we changed our schedule slightly and replaced a certain amount of body fluid before its loss. We then went out to beat the Garrison Mess in no uncertain terms. Our success perhaps owed something to **Sergeant Terry Mumford's** cunning strategy in putting the opposition in to bat first, thereby allowing them to take advantage of the bar facilities whilst our team had the advantage of fielding whilst relatively sober, and the obvious converse. Even our tail enders managed to hit the right bat with the right ball! One of the highlights of the match was when the Garrison Catering Officer **Captain Harry Clegg** who was heavily disguised as a WO/SNCO, enraptured by the perfection of his delivery, followed through with the top half of his body whilst neglecting to do so with the lower half and finished up inspecting the wicket rather closely. This however was only the dress rehearsal for the needle match against the Brigade Officers.

"THERE'S A BREATHLESS HUSH IN THE CLOSE TONIGHT . . ."

We employed the same strategy as before against the Brigade Officers and this paid off handsomely until the middle of the batting order. Our complacency was suddenly shattered by the loss of four wickets for about the same number of runs . . . **R.S.M. Dennis Connell** was seen to look thoughtfully at the 'extras' column of the scorebook. This had the desired effect and we managed to win—by one run.

The Sergeants' Mess does not have a monopoly on entertainment. We hold regular all ranks functions, some in our own Club, the Horseshoe Club, others in the gymnasium or the cookhouse. We recently held a knockout quiz in the Club, the first round being between the Intelligence Section and the Brigade Officers. I would love to report that it was a goal-less draw, but I must be truthful. The Brigade Officers went forward and eventually won a hard-fought final.

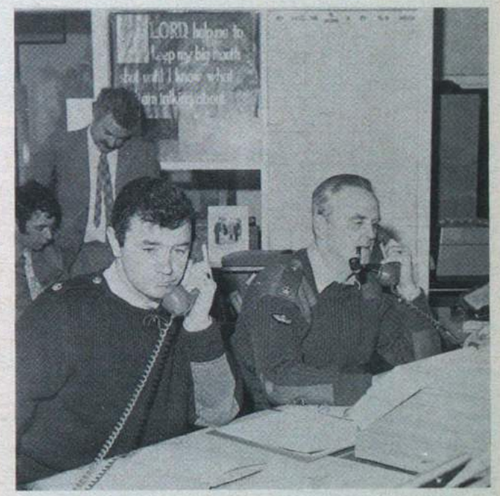
WISHFUL THINKING

Finally, a quote from Part One Orders which may appeal to those of you who follow the Ulster situation with bated breath:

"There will be no parade on 12th July 1973".

BRAINS OF THE SQUADRON
Left to right: Sergeant John Hyde, Staff Sergeant Bob Swaine, and Sergeant Bob Lockwood, Royal Signals, Sergeant Roy Morrish, REME and the scorer Staff Sergeant Wally Cutler, Royal Signals, representing the Sergeants' Mess in the inter-department quiz competition

Corps Officers—Official Spokesmen in N. Ireland



"WE HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS"
Majors Ronnie Sampson and Freddy Oakes provide a Royal Signals tandem working team at the Army Press Desk, H.Q. Northern Ireland

"Women and children screamed and innocent passers-by jumped for their lives as . . .". Such are the histronics added by the press to the bulletins available from the Army Press Desk at Headquarters Northern Ireland, Lisburn.

24 hours each day the Press Desk provides a service of press releases, information, statistics and co-ordinates, details of incidents. It is from this office that the 'army spokesman' speaks. To assist him before he speaks and to ensure he has the best information available he is at the centre of a spread of communications that includes a concentration of telephones, radio, TV,

including video recording, intercom and telex. The British national daily papers are in constant contact with the Press Desk watchkeepers as are the major radio and television news desks. Variety and occasional humour comes from the many visiting press who arrive from all corners of the world. The watchkeepers who are drawn from an army wide pool, have been heard to lapse into various languages acquired in more exotic surroundings when dealing with overseas correspondents. Other Royal Signals officers who have communicated from the Press Desk to the media include **Majors Bernard Strange** and **Mike Allen. Major Freddy Oakes** having completed his stint has left for the Apprentices College, Harrogate. **Major Ronnie Sampson** has moved to a PR appointment in 39 Infantry Brigade and continues as a spokesman but in a lower key.

Royal Signals Team, Army Work Study Group, Blandford Camp

The team has reached a new peak numerically and now consists of:

Major T. C. Livingstone	OC
Mr. A. A. E. Hunt **W.O.1 (F. of S.) G. J. Wright** **Mrs. L. Beale**	Blandford Team
Captain (TOT) G. D. Willis **W.O.1 W. R. D. Clark** **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) L. J. Davey, RA**	BAOR Detachment

The UK team are engaged in several studies, including consultancy work on 'Ptarmigan', whilst the BAOR detachment is trying to make life easier for the engineers and operators of the 'Bruin' system.

The need for a larger number of work study operators to carry out surveys during Exercise 'Winter Sales' provided an occasion for the members of the team to say farewell to their Officer Commanding, **Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Vallé,** who retired from the service in May 1973.

'Colonel Vic' joined the City of London Yeomanry (The Rough Riders) in September 1938, was commissioned as a gunner in May 1941 and didn't see the light until January 1951 when he transferred into Royal Signals. His life as a gunner officer of AA Command took him into such exotic places as Windsor Great Park (he still has the Corgi teethmarks on his ankles). Royal Signals found him a 'better ole' and sent him to Paris where he enlarged his knowledge of the French people, their food and their wines. In between he covered the wide variety of places and appointments which have produced such a fund of stories, humorous, witty or serious.

'Colonel Vic' has convinced us of the rightness of the only doctrine he preaches—"it's all about people" and we remember the many occasions on which he has demonstrated to us that indeed people are his chief concern. We wish him luck in the warm, soft world outside and happy gardening at Corfe Castle.

Major Livingstone took over as OC Team in June 1973 (own electronic calculator, will travel) and terms of reference for a statistical study of the *Financial Times* are being negotiated with our sponsor.

Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Vallé with retirement presentation

Physically Handicapped visit 8 Signal Regiment

A PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodies) Club meet meet weekly in the Prince Philip Centre at Leeds. The handicapped members are collected from around the city in ambulances and Variety Club buses and take part in numerous activities to assist the physically handicapped and able bodied members in living and working together. The physically handicapped element's request is simple—'Opportunity not pity'.

The voluntary organiser of their handball team Mr. Peter Cain, wrote to the Regiment and asked that we accept a challenge to play them at hand ball.

This game is played in a gymnasium and the rules are simple.

The game consists of a 7-a-side and is much like soccer except that the ball is hit with the hand, and players must keep their bottoms on the floor.

The challenge was accepted and a team was organised from the members of Course Clerk Technical No. 11 (Basic).

A group of volunteers headed by **Captain A. Brown,** Royal Signals and consisting of **W.O.2 (ORQMS) Keith Derrick, Sergeant John Keen** and **Corporal G. McNulty** agreed to make all necessary arrangements.

The PHAB Club were invited to visit the Regiment in Catterick on Saturday, 9th June, to play the game of handball and to spend the afternoon at the Catterick Open Day.

On the day, two Variety Club mini buses arrived with some 22 members of the PHAB Club at 10.30 a.m. They were first entertained to coffee in the WOs and Sergeants' Mess at the kind invitation of **R.S.M. R. Vasper.**

They then proceeded to Hipswell Gymnasium to play handball. Their team consisted of six physically handicapped boys with one able bodied player in goal.

The match was played with a lot of enthusiasm, some skill and tremendous amount of spirit by both teams. It was soon apparent that the PHAB Club needed no consideration and, in fact, proved so superior that they eventually won the game by six goals to one.

After the game, the two teams proceeded to lunch which was arranged by **Captain Peter Godbold, ACC,** and his staff in Vimy Dining Room. This was followed by a visit to the Harewood Club for a more relaxing form of refreshment.

The afternoon was spent touring the various displays of the Catterick Open Day until tea time when the party was again treated to a meal by the catering staff of the Regiment.

After tea the party returned to the display area to watch the playing of Retreat.

By this time the members of CT11B and those Cadre acting as hosts had a group of tired but happy people on their hands.

Nothing more was left then, but to see them on their way back to Leeds. All the visitors agreed that they had spent a thoroughly enjoyable day in Catterick and this was echoed by their hosts.

After meeting the group, no one could help but feel a tremendous admiration for those who were handicapped, and their helpers. After their performance at hand ball and the way they moved around the various displays everyone also appreciated how well the phrase 'Opportunity—not pity' summed up their requirements.

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY required

by the WELFARE SECTION

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

I SQUADRON MARCHING TEAM AT NIJMEGEN

Pictured are (from back to front): Signalman 'Dickie' Henderson (cycle orderly), Lance-Corporal Mick Wells (hidden), Signalman 'Jock' Norrie, Corporal Colin Ross, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Marsh, Corporal Paul Steele, Lance-Corporal Alan Jones, Signalman 'Paddy' Roche, Lance-Corporal 'Hyph' Graham-Jones, Signalman Kirk Wilsoncroft, Signalman Alan Platt, Lance-Corporal 'Sandy' Sanderson, Corporal George Lishman

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Marsh was 'conned' into organizing a marching team in 1972. However, strange as it may seem the marchers enjoyed the sport and have gone from strength to strength in the different competitions they have entered and successfully completed. Places as far apart as Bonn in the south and Emden in the north have given variety to the team and a lot of interesting places and people to add to the enjoyment.

This year the team decided to try the 50 kilometre course without equipment but, unfortunately were restricted to 13 marchers including a cycle orderly, and for the fourth time in 5 years gained the team award, can any other Royal Signals unit beat that at Nijmegen?

Plans for the rest of the season include a 100 kilometre march in 24 hours in the European Championships at Unna in September plus 3 or 4 more 40 kilometre events before 'resting' for the winter, then preparations again for Nijmegen 1974. Oh yes, we'll be there again to win another team award.

2 SQUADRON

The scene: Change of Command plus two minutes.
Radcon controller: "Well the Division command's quiet".
Second-in-Command: "That's funny, so is Corps".
Radcon controller: "And the phone and DAIO and Aahh . . .".

The night the mad axeman chopped the lines in main. At first no one quite knew what was happening. As vehicles sped from Radio Village into main, the Staff were only just arriving from Step Down. In the ensuing chaos (organised?), **Sergeant George Paton** was seen standing in the road with a hand set through one epaulet and another in his hand, whilst he commanded 1 Division. More enjoyment, and good practical training, was had that night than on many exercises. Everyone was delighted with the unexpected practice.

This month has also been one of goodbyes notably to **Captain 'Sandy' Lipin** and **Cheri,** who returned home to Canada, **Sergeant Tom Stirzaker** who departs for Northern Ireland, **Sergeant George Paton** off to teach 4 Field RA how to communicate and **Corporals 'Chunky' Childs** and **Don** (the old man) **Burst,** these latter leaving a big gap in the Rebro troop. To you all and your good ladies, from 2 Squadron, it was nice knowing you and the very best of luck for the future.

3 SQUADRON

Amidst the hive of activity in the Squadron, a couple of 'quotes' we thought worthy of mention. Firstly, from Bravo Troop's intrepid **Staff Sergeant Bob Bates** who, when being questioned about a missing soldier replied, "No, he's NOT absent without leave—just absent . . .". The second quote was overhead when **Signalman** - - - - said about a JNCO, "Oh, he's OK—it's just his image . . .".

The refurbishing of vehicles and equipment after Exercise 'Summer Sales' has taken up much of the time and now we are preparing for our Summer Camp at Reinsehlen. **Captain Graham Saunders** is at the helm and has been inundated with sadistic suggestions for military training (mainly from those who will be on leave over the period of camp). However things are proceeding smoothly and ten days of intensive military activity is foreseen.

The Squadron won the inter-Squadron football competition by beating Headquarter Squadron in the final; more valuable points towards the Page Trophy. On the cricket field we have started well by winning our first match and Headquarter Squadron were once again the unlucky losers.

As Officer-in-Command Youth Club, **Lieutenant Chris Smith** is really looking forward to the children's summer holidays. If his enthusiasm is anything to go by there shouldn't be a bored youngster on the Station.

Job of the month goes to **Sergeant Paul Lamb** (Data Tg?) who is covering many miles scrounging 'bits and pieces' to make the backloading of several 4 ton RLs possible.

Our congratulations go to **Corporals Billy Paton** and **'Paddy' Fallon** who have been selected for the potential Y. of S. R Tg course. They are now sweating over maths and morse vide Policy Directive No. 9.

A final item of good news. The conscientious objector who cut all the cables from COMMHD OSCAR to the Radio and RR sites on the last night of Exercise 'Summer Sales' has been caught. A request by Line Troop to interview the individual was denied. That *one* man could do so much damage to a field trunk system is a point worth noting.

2 SQUADRON—WINNERS OF INTER-SQUADRON SWIMMING GALA

Back row (left to right): Sapper Sammels, Signalman Guy, Corporal Stone, Lance-Corporal Halliwell, Signalman Baker, Corporal Ford, Signalman Kolling, Corporal Swanson, Signalman Pye

Front row (left to right): Sergeant Bowen, Signalman Fox, Staff Sergeant Purnell, Signalman Dyson, Signalman Kirk

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 46

GENERAL

We have had two major successes in the Regiment recently when the swimming team won the Divisional Championships in Berlin, and came second in the Water Polo Championships. Congratulations to all concerned.

There have been other changes among our members. Leaving us for better (?) things are **Captain Eric Robinson, Captain 'Wes' Thomas, Captain Malcolm Cherry, Captain Guy Meakin** and **Captain Jim Peck.** Officers taking their places are **Lieutenant Ted Morrill, Captain 'Paddy' Cairns, Captain 'Benny' Goodman, Captain Vivien Stephens** and **Lieutenant Richard Skaife.** We would like to extend a warm welcome to newcomers, and wish good luck and goodbye to these officers departing our ranks.

KOHIMA

July saw once again the annual celebration of the Battle of Kohima, the time when 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment helped repel the Japanese offensive against the fourteenth Army in March 1944, relieving the hard pressed garrison at Kohima, and re-opening the sole land supply road to the 4th Corps, cut off Imphal.

The celebrations were many and varied, including an all ranks dance, a Summer Ball in the Officers' Mess, and a Memorial Service followed by lunches in the various messes. Much hard work went into the preparations for the Kohima weekend by the members of the Regiment but the large turnout and the general enjoyment made it worthwhile.

EXERCISE 'BRONZE QUEEN'

For three days, the members of the Lubbecke WRAC Detachment went into the field, using a simulated Divisional Headquarters to test the abilities of the Service-women to carry out their trades in a field environment.

One day and one night move were achieved during each 24 hours of the exercise, and the girls were fully integrated into their crews; they carried out most of the associated tasks of crew members such as camouflaging vehicles, digging and cooking. A gas alert was held, also a crash-out. Despite the minor discomforts like sleeping in the rain, and very long periods on shift the girls seemed to enjoy their time in the field, and the variety it provided from their normal 'peacetime' role. Rumour has it that certain soldiers are rather worried by this female competition moving into hitherto all-male preserves!

2 SQUADRON NEWS

REGIMENTAL SWIMMING GALA

We feel that description of the Regimental Swimming Gala should come under 2 Squadron News, since we won five out of the eight events on the day's programme.

After a disappointing start in the first race, the 100 metres Freestyle in which we gained last place, **Lance-Corporal Jim Halliwell** made up for this in the 100 metres breast stroke, bringing the Squadron into the reckoning with its first win of the day—well done, **Jim.**

The next race on the programme was a speciality event, the 4 × 50 Freestyle Officers and JNCOs. OC 2 Squadron **Major David Jolly,** and his Second-in-Command **Captain Mike Brock,** well supported by **Corporals Ray Booth** and **'Geordie' Laidman,** managed to gain first place.

The race following was the 4 × 50 metres breast stroke. Inspired to great lengths by their leaders, **Lance-Corporal Jim Halliwell** and **Signalmen Gary Baker, Phil Dyson** and **Frank Kolling** won the race without too much trouble.

Our next swimmers, **Staff Sergeant Ken Purnell, Sergeant Tony Brown, Signalmen Steve Kirk** and **Jim Fox,** gained yet another victory for the Squadron, and inspired **Corporals 'Nobby' Ford** and **Dave Stone** to win the 2 × 50 metres back stroke.

"Who said that?" the OC was heard to groan as the 5 × 50 metres chain of command event was announced.

The rest of the team charitably said that the reason that the OC swam every stroke in the book and a few others beside was because he had got confused with the medley relay following. It gained him third place however. He did not participate in the medley relay, but **Corporal 'Del' Swanson** and **Signalman Frank Kolling, Steve Kirk,** and **John Fox** had another fine win.

These successes ended with the final event, the water polo competition, when the Squadron just managed to pip 1 Squadron to win 2–1.

Before we close this saga of success, we would like to say farewell and good luck to **S.S.M. Speirs** who leaves us to go to 14 Signal Regiment. His place in the Squadron is being taken over by **Sergeant-Major Patch,** late of the Officers' Mess. Another major change in the Squadron luckily does not mean a complete departure. OC **Major David Jolly** is moving to Lubbecke to take over HQ Squadron, and **Major Bob Mansfield** is handing his crown of Regimental Recce Officer to **Captain Roger Breese** and his command of RHQ Squadron to **Major Bernard Corner** late of HQ Squadron—yes, we know its confusing!

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

2 SQUADRON (RADIO)

Squadron Commander ..	**Major John Hincks**
SSM	**W.O.2 John Driver**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant John Bennett**
F. of S.	**Staff Sergeant Fred Brown**
Y. of S.	**Staff Sergeant Tony Young**
A1 Troop	**Captain Mike Patterson**
	Staff Sergeant Bill Kerr
A2 Troop	**Lieutenant Nigel Hope**
(Designate	**Lieutenant Howard Van Praag)**
	Sergeant Billy McIntyre
D Troop	**Lieutenant Alan Wallace**
	Sergeant Mick Harrison
SHQ Troop	**Second Lieutenant Ian Griffiths**
	Sergeant John Kitchener

After a prolonged series of BAOR winter sports, which went on to the end of July, the Squadron involved itself in more original pursuits on the sports field and on summer camp. It all started with a bold challenge from the ranks to take on the officers and seniors at football, and Wembley being unavailable, the two teams met on Wentworth Sports Ground on a very wet and cold Friday. In a game noted for its physical qualities and its remarkable footwork, the boys emerged as overall winners by 7 goals to 6. This result was due in no small part to some fine blocking tackles by **Lance-Corporal Phil Seed,** most of them aimed at the Squadron Commander who usually came off the worst and also the fact that **Staff Sergeant Bill Kerr** was exceedingly loathe to dirty his shorts. However there is always next year.

RA PRACTICE CAMP

For once the Gunners gained **S.S.M. John Driver's** approval by claiming the Squadron Commander and the CRA and DAIO elements of the Squadron for most of June. Those at Hohne had the opportunity to watch all the Divisional Artillery firing during their stay; including a finale of three Honest Johns.

In addition all RAC admirers in the Squadron took the opportunity to watch Chieftain, FV 438 (Swing fire) and the new Scorpion being put through their paces. All enjoyed the camp due to the perfect weather and out of hours entertainment.

SUMMER CAMP

Preparations for Summer Camp began in earnest early in the year and the Squadron moved to camp in the middle of July. The site chosen was in Rachtig near Bernkastel on the Moselle. By sheer coincidence the camp site was adjacent to a contingent of charming Dutch girls who demonstrated their support for NATO by allowing **Sapper 'George' Best** to spend the night in their luxury loo! Once again football played an important part in the programme and the Squadron team, led by **Second-Lieutenant 'Wee Gee' Griffiths** soundly beat the local opposition before taking on the might of the 'Hahn Hawks' of USAF, Hahn. This proved to be the social event of the year and no-one was particularly bothered about the score. The visit provided an opportunity to make new friends and acquire new uniforms, and was an outstanding success. The line was drawn, however, when **Signalman McDonald** was only just prevented by the base police from removing a Phantom which he claimed he had swopped for a KF shirt and a Royal Signals stable belt.

The high spot of the camp programme was a three day escape and evasion exercise with added ingredients. The first one being that the rations for the first day consisted of two live chickens for ten men. Only one survived to complete the 'long march' on day one and he too was finally executed at the first RV only to be pronounced too tough to eat. However, thanks largely to the butchering skills of **Signalman Stubbs,** the rest were rendered edible. Before very long, both sides doubled the DS impartiality and by the end of the exercise, as the final battle will testify, neither side trusted them an inch. The final assault on **Corporal Jimmy Balfour's** interrogation centre was a classic counter attack to a counter-counter attack. In the end victory was awarded to the DS as the only people who ever thought they knew who attacked whom. Thus ended a thoroughly enjoyable camp and we look forward to returning next year.

A1 TROOP PARTY

Our return from camp was celebrated by what was generally agreed, was the best troop party ever held in the Regiment, A1 troop were the generous hosts to guests from the rest of the Regiment. Entertainment was provided by **B.S.M. Andy Anderson's** travelling cabaret, the star of which was undoubtedly **Sergeant 'Shirley' Fotheringham.**

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

THE month of July started with that great Hollywood extravaganza Exercise 'Summer Sales', and the comheads were to be seen dashing from village to village whilst the two comcens sat quietly on their respective hills and soaked up the sun (no doubt they would have you believe they do otherwise). We even managed to persuade our chaplain **Captain Alistair Heagerty** to come out with us and sample the joys of muddy boots and compo cheese, in fact, he even had a few words to say about it all . . .

"And it came to pass . . . when kings go forth to battle . .."
(2 Samuel 11 verse 1)

"A thoughtful touch", I muttered,
As we trundled down the autobahn,
"Providing lads with yellow flags
To wave us on our way;
And to line the route with vehicles
As our convoy thundered onwards
To distant destinations
At a steady forty K".

For the season had come round again
Once more to go on exercise
Not in freezing sleet and snow
Or Flying Falcon Gales,
But in flaming June in temperatures
That scorched the forests and the farms
With blinding heat and thunderstorms—
They called it Summer Sales.

"I learned a lot", the Padre said,
"Of step-ups, mains and echelons,
That maps aren't always what they seem;
That hills are always steep;
Of camouflage and C-in-C's;
Of jungle juice and compo cheese;
Of nets and dets and terminals;
That zed meant more than sleep".

When it all was over
With the battle settled suitably
Everyone was happy to
Communicate in vain;
To leave locations peaceably
And bid farewell to scenery
Till we see you in a month or two
When Bruin rides again.

W.O.s AND SERGEANTS' MESS

On Thursday, 12th July the WO's and Sergeants' Mess bid farewell to the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King.**

The farewell dinner was held in the men's restaurant, as the WO's and Sergeants' Mess is still undergoing redecoration, and the PMC, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Jon Edgington** and his committee must be complimented on an excellent table.

After dinner the CO was asked to change into more suitable dress for the journey ahead of him. He appeared clad in a silver space-suit and prepared to board his space craft APOLLO 7½. When the CO was securely in position the RSM gave the command for lift-off and the rocket accelerated rapidly down the flarepath and away. It must be added that APOLLO 7½ is the slowest and lowest flying spacecraft yet constructed and should not be confused with CP 7.

OFFICERS' MESS

Unit for sale or rent
Sevens the name—fifty pence,
I'm a man of 'means' by no 'means'
King of the Bruin.

On the evening of the 29th July it was the turn of the officers' of the Regiment to bid farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel King.**

The evening started when **Lieutenant-Colonel King** arrived at the mess in an AFV 432 (suitably modified) escorted by the PMC, **Major Brian Le Dan** and OC, 6 Squadron, **Major George Finney.**

Lieutenant Colonel King arrives at the Officers' Mess in a well fitted out AFV 432

Dinner was accompanied by the band of the 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment who played a selection of music based on a 'King' theme. That is, every tune had the word King or its foreign language equivalent somewhere in it.

After the loyal toast and coffee we settled down for some entertainment, to be provided either by ourselves or **Lieutenant-Colonel King,** as we were sure that he would not allow himself to be upstaged. We had decided to keep the dining out night a family affair, but we thought that the CCR Signals and the CO's of the other Corps Signal Regiments might like to bid farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel King,** so we toured their units with a mobile TV studio and video-taped their goodwill messages which we replayed during the evening.

The first item on the programme was the recorded farewell from the CO's of 2 and 4 Division Signal Regiments. This was followed by a few choice words from **Second-Lieutenant Phillipe Rossiter** who spoke on behalf of the Second-Lieutenants of the Regiment—all two of them. He explained in great detail that there were only two worthwhile jobs in an organisation, the man at the top and the man at the bottom.

The CCR Signals. **Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane** then appeared on TV and said a few words, followed by the CO of 22 Signal Regiment. No sooner had they finished than **Lieutenant Mike Wallis** was on his feet holding forth on behalf of the Lieutenants in the Regiment—there are not many of them either. He discussed the whys and wherefores of fleas and elephants and the dropping of things and concluded with the presentation to the CO of an elephant; cut in half and mounted as bookends. The significance of this is known to all those familiar with the story of the 'Flea'.

Back to SOP's—**Captain John Daglish** and the rest of the Captains rose and sang a song entitled 'Amazing Reg' but luckily they were not accompanied on the bagpipes. They concluded with a presentation to **Lieutenant-Colonel King** of a silver post horn upon which he was immediately called to play the Post Horn Gallop—which he did.

Another song—not to be outdone, our resident Aussie and PMC gave a rendering of a parody of 'King of the Road' entitled 'King of the Bruin', arranged by the officers of the Regiment.

By this time everyone was well on the way to getting square eyes, provided free of charge, with a flash back to 1 Division Signal Regiment for a typical day in their life. This was an extremely well produced show and enabled us to see just how lavishly our northern neighbours live.

Then, by popular request (he was going to do it anyway) the Second-in-Command, **Major Brian Driskell** gave our serious speech of thanks and best wishes, amplifying the theme that it takes an exceptional officer to command the biggest Signal Regiment in BAOR, and presenting **Lieutenant-Colonel King** with a silver salver engraved with a diagrammatic representation of the regiment in the field, and a Bruin tankard.

Finally the time came for **Lieutenant-Colonel King** to depart, and reinforced by the WOs and Sergeants who had also gathered to bid farewell we escorted him to the waiting ACV upon which he left for MOD. We would like to wish **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. King** every happiness in England and we welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Oehlers** to Herford and we hope they enjoy their stay here with us.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

REGIMENTAL PERSONALITIES—MR. 'JIMMY' ORR

WE write a lot about our soldiers, a fair amount about our WRAC girls, even the odd piece about our wives. However, we seldom write anything about that loyal band of staunch civilians who form more than half our Regiment's establishment. This month we are going to mend our ways and introduce the 'Daddy' of all our civilian staff, **'Jimmy' Orr,** HEO and Senior Civilian Personnel Officer.

Picture a stocky figure, round head topped with white hair, a cherubic smile and a lowland Scots voice, soft yet firm. That's

JIMMY ORR
Cigarette and pen—a typical Jimmy combination

Jimmy; a loyal friend, an excellent adviser and a very tough negotiator indeed. He usually has a cigarette in one hand, often a pint of bitter in the other. Catch him in an expansive mood at the bar and you may persuade him to turn the pages-back.

Jimmy joined the Civil Service a mere 40 years ago. At about the same time he decided to become a part-time soldier in the Supplementary Reserve. (They were an earlier version of the TAVR). To the loss of the Civil Service he was called up on 3rd September 1939 and, just two weeks later, was in France with the British Expeditionary Force. In May 1940 he was evacuated from Dunkirk, where he was wounded for the first time, and the following year found himself with the Gordon Highlanders in Singapore.

Jimmy again had his fair share of fighting, being wounded for the second time (and in the same leg too!), just three hours before Singapore surrendered in February 1942. For the next three years he was a 'guest' of the Japanese, working on the notorious 'Death Railway' and finishing up in the infamous Changi Gaol. He suffered from malaria and malnutrition, not to mention sheer ill treatment. Even today he still needs medical attention from time to time to have removed splinters of bone and teeth that work towards the surface of his jaw—relics of a Japanese rifle butt.

In 1946 it was back to the Civil Service again. A good Scot follows the money, so that it was Finance, Audit and Establishments for **Jimmy** until he joined the Regiment in December 1970.

What does he do? Well, he is responsible to the CO for the efficient administration of the other 630 civilian staff on the Regiment's books. Pay, health, welfare, conditions of work, hours of work, training, leave, recruiting—you name it and you will find **Jimmy** with a finger in the pie. Because of his long tour in Whitehall he is a well known figure in 'The Corridors of Power'. He is equally well known to the 'Top Brass' of several Civil Service Trade Unions, and has now started to leave his mark with the various District Secretaries. Of course it's difficult to conceal a good man so now HQ 2 Signal Group is doing a bit of poaching and we have lost **Jimmy** to **Brigadier Clinch** for one or two odd jobs. Mind you, it's not all work. Happily married to Mary, a talented musician and teacher, he does a bit of social work, is Godfather to umteen children, and plays a very reasonable game of golf. Although he doesn't look it, he must be getting on a bit 'cos he plans to retire at the end of the year. He will be sorely missed.

LS & GC PRESENTED

We know that the Editor doesn't like articles about FFR Inspections. All we will say, then, is that Commander 2 Signal Group, **Brigadier J. C. Clinch,** inspected the Regiment on 5th July and says that he was well pleased with all that he saw. Travelling by helicopter, accompanied by our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith,** the Brigadier visited our sub units at Hounslow, Cold Blow Lane, Swingate, Wilton and Aldershot. Whilst at Cold Blow Lane he presented a well deserved LS & GC to **W.O.2 Thom,** the Station Supervisor there. That's our excuse for submitting this brief note and we hope that the Editor can find space to include the accompanying photograph.

ACE HIGH TROOP—1 SQUADRON
Seen having a quick one to wet the 'Gong', are Brigadier J. C. Clinch, Commander 2 Signal Group, the CO, Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith, and the man who got it—W.O.2 (F. of S.) Thom

ALDERSHOT ARMY DISPLAY

The Royal Signals demonstration team again co-ordinated the Royal Signals display at this year's Aldershot Army display. This annual show seems to go from strength to strength. This year there was a crowd of 160,000 on the Saturday and Sunday.

Improvements have been made to the hard standing for the Corps display and this year the stands looked better than ever showing off the full spectrum of Corps activities.

This year the show was blessed with good weather; all but one day in the build-up period was fine and hot.

Brigadier Clinch, Commander 2 Signal Group, inspected the show and was pleased with what he saw.

Behind the scene, unseen by the general public, 3 Squadron provided a never ending supply of tea for the staff of the stands. Amongst the girls who helped were **Private Parkinson** and **Private Horrill** from the Aldershot Exchange. Our new officer, **Second-Lieutenant Sarah Poulson,** WRAC, got her first taste of co-ordinating an important task, and what's more important than 'Tea'?

Also at the show were the girls of the Aldershot Commcen, who manned a Teleprinter in the WRAC stand for the duration of the show. **Lance-Corporal Wilson, Privates Swan, Rice, Blacklock** and **Buntin** did this job.

The show was a success by any standards. Next year will be even bigger and better.

SIGNAL WORKS TROOP ALDERSHOT

The Troop has been very busy during the last two months providing public address and telephone communications for the Aldershot Army Display, and ARA and NRA Small Arms meetings at Bisley.

I believe the OC **(Major K. V. Risby),** begged, borrowed and made up a certain amount of PA equipment to keep all our customers happy! Our whole force of METs were engaged at Bisley with weekend help from our Dover Detachment.

On Firday, 13th July we said goodbye to our OC, **Major Ken Risby**—his replacement as the new OC for Aldershot SWS Troop is **Captain G. L. P. Hudson** from 223 Signal Squadron, Rushfield Park, Winchester. We welcome him to the Troop. I believe he is a crack shot! so we are told; so he will know all about PA at Bisley.

During the next few months we will be losing a few old stalwarts. The civilian Technician Officer, **Dick Hollingsworth,** leaves us on the 21st August. **'Dodger' Green,** ex-member of the Corps, our Clerical Officer, throws his pen away on the 31st October, and our charge hand MET, **Sid Boxall,** bows out on the 6th December. **Sid** will be remembered by many old timers in the Corps. Since he left the uniform side, as it were, he has served at RMA Sandhurst and Aldershot. That's over 100 years of service between them "gone for a Burton".

ALDERSHOT BRANCH ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Aldershot Branch of the Royal Signals Association is still flourishing very well, and **'Dodger' Green,** who is the Chairman, ropes them in as soon as they arrive in Aldershot. Incidentally, a number of the Branch will be attending the reunion at Blandford Camp on Sunday, 5th August, and we are all hoping to have a very nice day.

4 SQUADRON—WILTON

JOTTINGS BY CARPETMAN

SPORT

We have had some good sporting successes since our last jottings. **Private Sue Haydock** has been selected to swim in the Army Championships at Camberley in September. She won the 100 yards backstroke in the West Midland/South West District Inter-Unit Championships in fine style, and her selection for the

Army team is well deserved. **Private Sue Green** surprised us all by her agility at throwing the javelin. In spite of her pint-size she won the Inter-Unit Athletics title with a magnificent throw of 86 feet, and we hope she goes on to greater things.

ARRIVAL

We welcome **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Norman Gelling** who arrived from 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron in late May. Each shift in the HQ UKLF Communication Centre is now in the capable hands of either a Yeoman of Signals or a WRAC Warrant Officer.

REGIONAL LIAISON VISIT

On Tuesday, 3rd May we were host to the other Squadrons for a Regimental liaison visit. Having shown them our Communication Centre our visitors were given a guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral and the site of the original city at Old Sarum. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side, although a liquid lunch in a country pub did much to restore morale.

OBITUARY

Finally we regret to report the death of **Mrs. Ruth Nunn,** one of our long serving and popular operators in the Bulford Military Telephone Exchange. We extend our deepest sympathy to **Mr. Nunn** in his sad loss.

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

PASS-OFF PARADES

THE following Pass-Off Parades took place from 11 Signal Regiment:

1 TROOP

1 Troop passed-off on 13th July. The Inspecting Officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. W. New,** 4 RTR. The Troop Commander was **Lieutenant A. Whiddett.**

The prize for the best all-round recruit of his intake was awarded to **Signalman N. A. Scott,** who is to be trained as a Radio Telegraphist.

The prize for the champion shot was awarded to **Signalman K. Atkin** who is also to be trained as a Radio Telegraphist.

4 TROOP

4 Troop passed-off on 27th July. The Inspecting Officer was **Brigadier P. E. Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O.** The Troop Commander was **Lieutenant C. P. Conlon.**

The prize for the best all round recruit of his intake was awarded to **Signalman P. Hall,** who is to be trained as a Clerk.

The prize for the champion shot was awarded to **Signalman H. G. Muir** who is to be trained as a Combat Powerman.

JUNIOR SIGNALMEN ENJOY SUMMER CAMP

It is necessary, if dull, to paraphrase the exercise instruction. The camp took place at Garelochhead Training Camp against a backdrop of attractive lakeland scenery, which during the course of our story was not infrequently concealed from sight by wretched weather. Fifty-three Junior Signalmen were divided into six sections to pursue one of six different activities each day on a rotational basis. The system worked smoothly and proved an entertaining week.

HMS Neptune at Faslane offered excellent facilities for the sailing. The Navy lent us three 'Bosun' dinghies and an Arden 4 keelboat. The latter was skippered by **Staff Sergeant Chris Davidson** vaguely assisted by **Lieutenant Rosemary Clayton,** WRAC, whom he politely referred to as his 'crew'. She returned from Scotland with every fingernail intact and sensations of warmest gratitude to so sympathetic a skipper, notwithstanding his 'salty' and 'essential' nature to which he freely and frequently alluded.

The 'Bosuns', under the direction of **Captain Chris Greig,** proved an exhilarating, if not downright hairy, introduction to sailing, shipping a fair quantity of salt water during the first two extremely windy days. **J/Signalmen David Lambert** and **Gary Damms** experienced the most thorough baptism of all when a dinghy capsized and landed them in the loch. Later in the week the wind dropped very considerably. What was lost in excitement was compensated for by useful tuition in near ideal conditions.

Wind, or the lack of it, did not greatly affect the assault boat which was fitted with a splendid 50 LP outboard motor. In

SAILING AT FASLANE

Left to right: Lieutenant Rosemary Clayton, Junior Signalmen Paul Elgood and Bob Brown, Staff Sergeant Chris Davidson, Junior Signalmen Doug East

addition to acting as safety boat to the yachts and its daily task of ferrying the hillwalkers from one side of the loch to the other, it allowed 2 half sections per day to try their hand at fishing for mackerel. Some were already expert and an enormous number of fish were caught and cooked under the direction of **Corporal Marchant,** ACC. They were eaten by whoever was shrewd enough to be around. Of course, the assault boat's potential for speed was not overlooked by its skipper, **Lieutenant Graham Elliot,** who raced it around the loch with glee and succeeded in tipping **Y. of S. Phillip Castle** into the water; an adventure he bore quite bravely.

Whilst the part of a section were training in the assault boat the remainder of the section were acquiring the difficult art of canoeing. This activity was run for us by 19 AYT which, under the command of **Lieutenant Phillip Chaganis,** RCT, did a good deal towards making the camp the success that it was.

Ashore, section after section endeavoured to better its predecessors time over the 10 mile hill walk. The walking section camped under canvas each night of the exercise and this gave rise to a number of incidents which could be seen as funny only by those to whom they did not happen. For example, **Corporal Len Madden** suddenly found himself without his tent at night, and nothing between himself and the elements but the sleeping bag to which he was desparately clinging. The tent had blown into a nearby stream.

Such blows as these were softened on the day following by visits to places and events of local interest, ferreted out by **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle.** Highland Games seemed to be in season and this was an appropriate visit for a number of the boys on their first trip to Scotland. Indeed **J/Signalman Stingmore** expressed surprise at finding Scotland much the same as anywhere else and **Lieutenant Phillip Chaganis** became almost petulant when his claim to having seen a loch dwelling monster was disbelieved by all in whom he confided. Also under 19 AYT auspices was the rock climbing and abseiling activity. Each morning the section scheduled for climbing would be greeted by the 19 AYT breezily declaring how easy it all was. A rock face of a mere 90 feet was found and classified by the pundits as 'very difficult'. There were a number of falls proving the efficacy of protective helmets once and for all. **Corporal Len Madden** made the summit without mishap by adhering strictly to his instructions to cling to the rock face at all times with finger nails, toe nails and teeth. His sense of achievement is still lingering. The Navy also granted us the use of their very modern sportsdrome. This included excellent facilities for swimming, indoor football and squash. This was a section activity manned by **Lieutenant Robin Hill** but the facilities were also much appreciated by the cadre who used them extensively in the evenings.

Finally a word of thanks and congratulation, is due to those with background jobs. The SSM, **W.O.2 Brian Green,** the SQMS, **Staff Sergeant Edward Davenport** and of course, the cooks The smooth running of the entire operation was largely due to their efforts.

PASS-OFF AND DISBANDMENT OF JUNIOR SIGNALMEN SQUADRON

The final pass-off parade of Junior Signalman Squadron took place on Thursday, 9th August. There were 51 juniors on parade. The parade Commander was **Major J. W. Roberts,** the Squadron Commander. The Inspecting Officer was **Colonel E. H. Davies,** who retired from the Army that day. During the 18 months that the squadron has been part of 11 Signal Regiment it has trained over 300 junior soldiers.

From now onwards junior signalmen entering the Corps will be trained at Harrogate. We wish good luck and bon voyage to all past and present members of the Cadre and to the juniors who have been in the squadron. It is hoped that if it is ever decided to reform a Junior Signalman Squadron, proteges of this new original squadron become the Cadre NCOs.

Major J. W. Roberts planted a tree on the south side of the parade ground to commemorate the departure of the squadron from 11 Signal Regiment. The Parade was followed by a drumhead service conducted by the regimental padre, **Rev. B. J. L. Hay, C.F.**

REGIMENTAL GOLF

11 Signal Regiment has not, in the past, been known as one of the Army's great golfing units; however, if events of the past three months are any indication it may well become THE golfing regiment of the future.

About three months ago observant career minded members of the regiment noted that the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** and the Adjutant, **Captain Mike Galloway** had ventured on to the holy ground of Catterick Garrison Golf Club and enlisted the aid of the Club professional. Since then many a set of clubs has been rescued from the attics and cellars of quarters and messes where they had languished for many a long year, gathering dust, woodworm and rust.

Repairs having been made, the air-space of the local course became perilous from the affect of widely hit balls, flying turf and abusive language. Fortunately no one has been killed or maimed. All of this activity was finally put to good use on 1st August when the Regimental Summer golf meeting took place. The meeting took the form of an 18 hole medal tournament, off handicap, in the morning and an 18 hole greensome stapleford in the afternoon. All this was a daunting prospect for one or two players who expired from heat exhaustion and excessive consumption of ale at lunch time. However, they excused themselves from the afternoon play through reasons of age, flat feet and other unlikely causes.

Late in the afternoon, after all the scores had been manipulated, it was found that **Major (Retd.) 'Bertie' Butler** from TET HQ Training Brigade, playing off a handicap of 13, walked off with the medal prize after returning a net 71, a good round under any circumstances. But the real killer of the day turned out to be **W.O.2 Harry Moore** (40 Squadron RCT) who not only shot a 72 to take second prize in the medal but also carried off the prize for being nearest the hole on the short fifth, being only four metres from the pin, and, together with his partner **Sergeant Eric Birchall** took first prize in the Stapleford.

Mrs. Pratt, who herself swings a pretty mean club, kindly presented the prizes and after an almost perfect day everyone went home weary, beery and happy; well almost everyone.

The Commanding Officer has now suggested that we have another event during October so it seems as though everyone will have to carry on flailing until he wins a recognised prize and not merely a couple of golf balls for the highest gross score. **Lieutenant Carl Conlon** holds the regimental record of 159, but the Commanding Officer is adamant that the prize would have been his but for the 'manipulation' of scores by the golfing officer, **Captain Ken Paige,** who also happens to be the unit education officer!

ORIENTEERING

Our stalwart band of orienteers have continued to do well running in highly competitive civilian events. In a training event at Ecclesall Woods Sheffield on 3rd June, **Lieutenant Robin Hill** finished 8th and **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** 18th. The weather was good and the undergrowth thick, necessitating careful choice of routes. Conditions were similar for the 8 Signal Regiment event when seven runners from the team all finished in the top 30, **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** finishing 2nd and **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones,** 4th.

Badge events are always very well attended by orienteers from all over the country and 460 turned out in wet, unpleasant weather for the Stang Forest 'Beehive' event on 24th June. Unfortunately the event clashed with the Catterick Old Comrades weekend and only a small number of the team could attend. Results were quite encouraging with **Lieutenant Robin Hill** and **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** coming 15th and 16th respectively in the M21B class and gaining a silver standard. In the W19B **Second-Lieutenant Cathy Birtwistle** WRAC, finished 8th to gain a bronze standard.

Meanwhile our man in Scotland **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones** gained a silver standard, finishing 6th in the M21B 1973 Scottish South-East District Orienteering Championships. There are few events over the holiday period but with the Northern Senior and Army Championships in the Autumn there is always need for training.

13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

JULY—a month of delightful weather if you worship the sun and a tanned skin. It has been a good month for the outdoor enthusiasts and entirely the wrong time for our swimming pool to develop a puncture. If any reader knows of the existence of a puncture repair kit manufacturer willing to produce a do it yourself patch the size of a bicycle wheel and the requisite rubber solution, we would be delighted to hear of him.

The two water based sports, sailing and canoeing have had a tremendous month.

SAILING

The GP14 and four Mirror Dinghy kits have been in constant use. We gather, on good authority, that the Regimental sailing officer is virtually camping out with the boats at the Effeld Lido. He did find time to organise the XIIIth crew for the Royal Signals Baltic regatta and is even now working hard to plan the three Baltic adventure training cruises in two months time.

CANOEING

Mainly a weekend sport in this part of Europe where hills and white water are something of a rarity. Nevertheless we have a very active club and they are out as often as possible. Our team of experts has been enlarged and strengthened by the arrival of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Scriven.**

After the sailing club's success in obtaining and building the Mirror Dinghies, the canoeing club is now murmuring about showing them how water craft should be built.

During all this activity the sports president has been keeping a very wary eye on the lining of the swimming pool and planning the Regimental skiing courses. He admits to being something of an ostrich at this time of the year.

CRICKET

The cricket team is having a mixed season in that it either wins most convincingly or loses even more convincingly. The 'ostrich' emerged for a short while to suggest that the batsman should agree on a common strategy with the bowlers. The immediate reaction to this pearl of wisdom resulted in his burying his head once more. 'A' Troop retained the Inter Troop Cricket Cup by defeating 'D' Troop in a keenly contested match on 17th July.

GOLF

The Regimental team—**W.O.2 Cheyne, Staff Sergeant Chard, Signalman Edge** and **Signalman Dennis** started the competitive season with a bang by defeating 3 BAPD in the BAOR Inter Unit Competition by 16 holes. They are now honing up their niblicks to face HQ BAOR 'A' team in the second round on 15th August. They will need to be very sharp indeed to beat a reputedly excellent team. Tactics may very well give us the edge as there is a whisper that a new player, dare we say it—an expert—is due shortly.

Signalman Dennis and **Signalman Edge** played in the successful Royal Signals eight that won the Benson and Hedges Inter Corps knockout. In the final against the RAPC the Corps won by nine holes—**Signalman Edge** finished three up and **Signalman Dennis** two up. A very fine achievement by these two young golfers.

The golfing officer is very well pleased with his team and is now advocating a pitch and putt course within the Regimental perimeter.

BASKETBALL

The basketball team started in once more with a hard match against our friends from the Dutch Training Regiment in the Ernst Kasimir Kaserne in Roermond. Tuesday the 24th July will be noted as a red letter day—we won!

ATHLETICS

Lance-Corporal Keith Hall is proving his earlier potential as a pole vaulter. The aim is now to buy the biggest and best pole on the market. Who knows, next year we may produce a champion. The Regiment is with him every centimetre of the way up.

TENNIS

Keeness is the watchword. Three Regimental teams entered for the BAOR doubles competitions in Rheindahlen. **Major Bill Nicoll** and **W.O.2 (C.S.M.) Sam Law**—Royal Signals, **Mr. Colin Holman** and **W.O.2 Law**—Open and **Staff Sergeant Chard** and **W.O.1 Hammond**—Intelligence Corps. All fell in the first round.

VISITORS

We are a great Regiment for entertaining visitors. July has been no exception. To mention just a few: **Brigadier J. M. Gow** from HQ BAOR paid us a farewell visit on the 18th July. **Major-General Sir John Younger, B.T., C.B.E.** and **Brigadier M. S. Bailey, M.B.E.** visited us from MOD and stayed to lunch on 26th July. After lunch we welcomed Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Manning and Records, **Colonel F. Ramsbottom.** We like to think that he was really looking forward to his visit to 13 if only because we were the last Regiment in a very busy and worthwhile year of BAOR.

SERGEANTS' MESS

There was greatly reduced activity in the Mess this month due to many members taking leave to see the sights of Europe.

Our main function was a take-over bid by the ladies of the Regiment for their annual dinner. As a result of our caterer, **Staff Sergeant Cliff Chapmans'** sterling efforts, the ladies want to come again. Unfortunately **Cliff** will not be with us next year as he has decided to retire from the service.

A fondue night proved most popular. Our PEC, **Staff Sergeant ('Muscles') Marchant** and his Committee were most gratified by the active support of so many members.

The Mess was honoured to be hosts to a GOC's (Northern Ireland) Commendation presentation to **Sergeant Bob Watson** by **Brigadier J. M. Gow,** BGS Int and Sy HQ BAOR. Well done Bob.

We said our farewells to **W.O.1 Pete Merritt, W.O.2 Tom Neal, Staff Sergeants Barry Stanton, Bob Phippard** and **Sergeant Pete Royle.** Welcome to **W.O.2 Bill Grierson, Staff Sergeants Bob Scriven, Alex Mitchell, John Groves, 'Jock' Ross, 'Fos' Edwards.**

FAREWELLS

The Sergeants' Mess notes having said farewell to Mess Members we will simply add 'Bon Voyage and best wishes for the future' to **Captain (TOT) Jim Jenkins, Dorothy** and family, **Captain Don McH. Overton, Jackie** and family, **Captain (Q.M.) Bill Gahan, Enid** and family and **Mr. Colin Holman, Margaret** and family. **Colin** and **Margaret** will be sorely missed in the church and youth activities of the Regiment. **Colin** as group leader of the Cubs and Scouts and treasurer of the church account and **Margaret** as chairman of Guides and Brownies have also given so much of their time to our social and welfare activities. On behalf of all of us—a heartfelt thank you.

WELCOME

To **Captain (TOT) Ian Morris, Glynis** and family, **Captain Peter Smith, Judy** and family, **Captain Mike Billet** and **Captain John Hawthornthwaite, Mary** and family and **Mr. Brian Collier, Val** and family.

And so to August when the main summer leave exodus begins. Now that the German holiday month of July is over, the expatriates are hoping to find room on the autobahns to travel to their continental spot for 1973—see you at the end of August.

14 Sig Regt Worcester

THIS month there are two articles from our roving reporters. Both contributors wish to remain anonymous—we can't say we blame them. (See page 400).

WHERE IT ALL HAPPENS

RANGING FAR AND WIDE

Most Corps members know that we in 14 Signal Regiment range far and wide throughout the world on our Force Rear Link exercises. It's quite normal to hear lads conversing, "Where's 'Fatty' Bowes?", "In Gan this week" is the reply—"Or Singas, BH, Gambia, Keo country, Denmark". "He'll be for it", replies matey. "He is down for duty on Sunday". The RSM, **W.O.1 John Wise** has his hands full producing the duty rosters and his office has even been known to publish an amendment in advance of the roster!

WORKWISE WE HAVE OUR LITTLE PROBLEMS TOO

Last month our Editor suggested that there is much in our daily routine of communicating and carrying out military duties that can make absorbing reading. As any of our wary foremen will say, our comms are dead straight forward and we don't have any problems; just instructions allocating a single frequency for working duplex; or, is it mark high, neg low or space high/low and has it got reversed in the 'plessey', the straps, or the lines and who left the short on when we tested the lines and looked for a tx keying fault for 'n' hours! Then there is, no, our frequency is not varying but the generator is surging causing a fluctuation in the mains input. Who else has similar problems? Don't all shout at once.

We do, however, occasionally have mobilization problems. Not the bogies and running gears but cranes and lorries to move the equipment to airfields, Sandhurst demos, Blandford demos, demo demos etc. Ask the MTO, **Lieutenant Freddie Gardner,** he may wring his hands and chant, "We haven't got trucks, we haven't got trailers . . .".

If it goes out to tender, large civvie lorries roll in, load up—(usually on a Sunday), then when loading lists are checked, haver-bags handed out, the civilian drivers may say: "Sorry, we cannot move as we have run out of hours and must have the regulation rest period". Fortunately the MTO was grey of hair before he arrived!

ANNUAL CAMP LOOMS UP

We are knee deep in preparing for annual camp in North Devon but won't go into the transport problems for this one, but it could well be bicycles. Last week **W.O.1 R.S.M. John Wise** and **W.O.2 S.S.M. John Goodman** carried out the recce. Reporting back the RSM said, "Super camp, Sir, ideal buildings for my Mess". "And?", queried the Second-in-Command, **Major Colin Bunce.** "And what, Sir?", replied the RSM . . .

Whilst they were in Devon, a visit on board the historically authentic replica of the 'Golden Hinde' nearing completion at Appledore, was arranged by **W.O.2 John Goodman** who has family connections with the construction of the vessel. The local craftsmen appeared suitably impressed by an RSM complete with pace stick being the first to inspect the ship. RSM and SSM competed (unsuccessfully) for the job of ship's operator when she sails for America later this year.

The WIRE—

Without it—

You're not With it!

TUG-O-WAR FINALISTS—16th SIGNAL REGIMENT

The only Royal Signals Finalists in the Army Tug-O-War Competition held at Aldershot on 24th July were from 16th Signal Regiment. The team, placed fourth overall, was: (*Standing, left to right*): Corporal Alan Ridley, Signalman 'Mac' McKerron, Sergeant Alan Hill, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bob Arnold, Sergeant Nick Nixon and Corporal Dave Dodd

(*Kneeling*): Lance-Corporal Alex Spiers, Lance-Corporal Pete Halstead, Corporal Sid Wilson, Signalman Scouse Morgan and Signalman Paddy McConnell

Trophies: Morrison Cup and Rhine Area Shield as winners

16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

SWIMMING SUCCESS

LAST month we wished our swimmers well in the BAOR championships and how well they did! The Olympic Stadium in Berlin was a splendid setting for the championships held in July when both our swimming team and water polo team finished runners-up to the QDG and Coldstream Guards respectively. This earned them a place in the UK Championships, to be held at Aldershot early in September, and for **Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope, Corporal 'Chippy' Wood** and **Lance-Corporal 'Stu' Lockie** it earned them their BAOR colours.

TUG-O-WAR FINALISTS

Just returned from the UK are our Tug-o-war team led by **W.O.2 (RQMS) Bob Arnold.** They came fourth overall in the Army Championships and it is said that our master of resourcefullness the QM (Tech) **Captain Joe Adams** is using the rope to tie the RQMS to his desk so that the QM can get off on a well earned leave.

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

Once again **Staff Sergeant Geoffrey Williams** led a team in the annual Dutch marches held at Nijmegen. This year's team was found from the British Forces Antwerp base where **Staff Sergeant Williams** commands the Comcen detachment from 1 Squadron of the regiment.

THE RSM WRITES:—

"During the past few weeks Mess life has been hectic both socially and in other fields. It is encouraging that a high percentage of WO's and Senior NCO's are actively engaged in an ever increasing regimental sporting world.

Socially we have had two successful dinners. The first to say 'Goodbye' and 'Good Luck' to two of our members on commissioning. **Lieutenant Chris Speight** is now with 227 Signal Squadron, and **Lieutenant Cliff Webb** is at 8 Signal Regiment. The second was a Ladies' Dinner night which was to prove a splendid evening with a good dance.

On Sunday 29th July the Mess took on the Officers' Mess at, cricket, and won, but only just, by 6 runs. Proceedings during the match were slowed somewhat by the fabulous lunch and the two local rules that for every 6 hit, or wicket taken the person completing the act had to consume one pint of the best! **Sergeant Alan Hill** took four wickets on the trot in what must have been an all time record for the length of an over while he struggled with his beer.

Sergeant Gordon Craggs carried off a very fine trophy by winning the Rhine Area motor cycling championships. The Mess football team have won all five of their friendly warm up matches to the forthcoming season, and the darts team are now getting their eyes in too.

LATE NOTE

Congratulations to **Sergeant E. Harper** on his selection to represent the Army in the Inter Services Slalom Canoe Championships to be held in Scotland in early October. **Sergeant Harper** is a keen white water canoeist who recently gained his ACU Instructors Certificate at BOBC Norway.

16th SIGNAL REGIMENT SWIMMING AND WATER POLO TEAMS 1973

Back row: Signalman Denniss, Signalman Bowerbank, Signalman Howes, Lance-Corporal Copestake, Lance-Corporal Lockie, Signalman Atherton, Lance-Corporal Wilson, Signalman Ruane

Centre row: Corporal Catterall, Corporal Webb, Corporal Wood, Second-Lieutenant Pope, Sergeant Long, Signalman Wright

Kneeling: Sergeant Le Carpentier, Signalman Mutch, Signalman Jarvis, Corporal Stewart

Missing: W.O.I (F. of S.) Webb (on commissioning leave)

BAOR.....?

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ITALIAN INTERLUDE

Having heard that great things were happening in the mountains of Central Italy, we sent our foreign correspondent, Corporal Arnie Fleischer, to investigate. He returned, sun-tanned, footsore and several pounds lighter. This is his report:—

RELUCTANT CORRESPONDENT

ONE day in the camp bar I was informed by the OC that I was going to do the write-up for Exercise 'Appian Way III' which was the Regiment's recent visit to Italy. My beer immediately assumed a flat, muddy taste and my flat, muddy brain started working to find a way of avoiding this. However, my plea of illiteracy was not accepted so here goes.

HARD MILITARY TRAINING WITH RELAXATION AND SIGHTSEEING

Colfiorito, in Umbria, Central Italy, is a place that probably means very little to most people, but it was put on the map recently when it was visited by 120 sun seekers from the Regiment, who took occupation of a small camp used by the Italian Army as a training centre.

The object of the exercise was to mix some hard military training with some relaxation and sight-seeing in a country which is rarely visited by British troops. The road party set out on Wednesday, 11th July and drove through France, reaching Colfiorito the following Saturday, only one minute late, after driving for four days through some of Europe's worst roads; the only casualties being a hazard warning triangle, a land rover fuel tank which burst and a Bedford 4 ton wagon which, for some malicious reason, decided to catch fire in the middle of a tiny French village causing much panic and a large traffic jam. Our thanks are due largely to **Sergeant Alan Ward's** detachment from LAD for getting the road party there on time.

The main party was flown to Italy the following Wednesday in two Hercules aircraft of RAF Air Support Command, making the journey in something less than four hours!

FOUR TROOPS

The detachment led by **Major C. H. D. Cross,** was split into four troops, as follows:

Whiskey Troop driven by **Captain Roland Ebdon** and **Sergeant Alf Croft;** X-Ray Troop pushed by **Lieutenant Peter Innocent** and **Sergeant John Nicholls;** Yankee Troop fearlessly led by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Richard Hall** and **Sergeant Charlie Birchall;** Zulu Troop kept under control (almost) by **Second-Lieutenant Bob Holmes** and **Sergeant Ron Smith.**

Each troop had to go through a programme of training which included hill climbing, orienteering and night map reading. Much embarrassment was caused to **Captain Ebdon's** Whiskey Troop when they did their night march. They had intended sleeping in the hills for a few hours and arising at about 03.00 hours to finish the next stage. However everyone was so tired by the day's work that it was 06.00 hours before they finally set off! Thank you **Captain Ebdon.** Also, thank you **Corporal George Gallant** for the short cuts!?

At this point I must mention Yankee Troop, largely because of threats of a slow and painful death if I don't.

They did, I must admit, do more than their fair share for local public relations by singing to the accompaniment of **Corporal Val Longstaff's** guitar at most of the bars they visited. They also renamed themselves Yeti Troop, as it seemed more appropriate.

Yeoman Hall declared that anyone not having a mountain under his feet all the time was cheating and indeed most of us spent a remarkable amount of time going up and down hills.

ESCAPE AND EVASION TESTS ALL

The escape and evasion exercise was the biggest scheme we did and this involved W, X and Z Troops going out as escapers and Y troop trying to catch them. The penalty for being caught was to be taken back 2 kilometres and held up for 30 minutes. This scheme lasted for 36 hours and involved walking during daylight and at night, each man carrying only his water bottle and a 24 hour ration pack for supplies. The route was about 25–30 kilometres long and traced a course over some pretty rough terrain.

At various points marshalls were placed acting as friendly locals, with such characters as **Captain Brian Robinson** acting as a friendly, if somewhat cold and wet, hermit and **Second-Lieutenant Bob Holmes,** who is the first shepherd I've ever seen to peer from behind a bush with a pair of army pattern binoculars. Most of the team got caught, some more than once, but all in all the map reading was very good and everyone felt a sense of achievement at having finished the course. Competition was not confined to the camp and the camp team played football against a local team from Foligno, a nearby town. Unfortunately Foligno won 2–0. Yankee Troop also lost against Colfiorito 3–2, but the camp redeemed itself by beating an amateur team from Perugia 7–2 with one of our side scoring an own goal.

Yeoman Hall briefs 'Yeti' Troop on escape and evasion

CANOEING ATTRACTS

Canoeing was organised by **Staff Sergeant Les Hedges** on Lake Trasimeno and this proved to be the most popular scheme of the exercise.

Basic tuition was given on how to handle a canoe, how to manoeuvre it and full instruction was given on emergency drills.

All four troops went canoeing and everyone got thoroughly wet and enjoyed themselves immensely.

A BIT OF SIGHTSEEING TOO

Trips were also organised to Rome, San Marino and various Adriatic seaside resorts.

Rome, the eternal city, is probably so called because no one has bothered to knock it down and in spite of the derelict state of most of the buildings and tenaments, there appears to be no redevelopment scheme in hand and the drainage system would not be tolerated in Britain or Germany. However, in spite of the seediness of most of the city, there are some sights which should not be missed. The most important is probably Vatican City which has some truly beautiful art and architecture.

San Marino is the world's smallest and oldest republic and is about 15 kilometres across, being built on a hill. The view from the top is terrific on a good day and anyone who goes there is strongly advised to take a camera and a good pair of shoes!

ARRIVADECI ROMA

All good things come to an end, and it was with much regret that we packed our bags and said 'Goodbye' to Italy, taking back with us memories of a most enjoyable exercise which will never be forgotten by any of the participants.

HIGH SPEED VISITORS
Signalman Gordon and passenger shake them in Rimini

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JULY was going to be a quiet month for the Regiment owing to the absence of a number of the staff of HQ NORTHAG on leave and having no major communications exercise planned. Members of the Regiment were seen getting out their tennis rackets, swimming trunks and cricket bats in preparation for 'Those lazy hazy days of Summer'. The pages of the diary were not blank, however, for the month of July. Exercise 'Franfist'—the North Eifel is really very pleasant in the summer, the Nijmegen Marches—it only involves a few people and they all enjoy walking, and then training and maintenance were all planned. Yes, July was going to be no less busy than any other month.

EXERCISE 'FRANFIST'

The Regimental field training exercise, Exercise 'Franfist' was held once again in the North Eifel. Vogelsang training area and Camp St. George in Vogelsang Camp provided excellent facilities.

The training started at 06.45 hours on 7th July with 20 minutes PT for the whole Regiment under **Lance-Corporals Colin Booth** and **Nick Williams.** This was followed by BE tests, range classification, grenade throwing, rocket launcher firing, field craft and sport. It was not long before these activities became a way of life.

Sharing the camp with our Regiment were 44 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers and 7 Guided Missile Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. We took part in each other's training whenever possible and as a result we have the new Trade of Technician (Bailey bridge builder) in the Regiment.

TAKING A CAREFUL AIM
Major-General H. E. Roper, C.S.O., BAOR, preparing to fire a 3·5 inch rocket launcher during his visit to Exercise 'Franfist', held in the Vogelsang training area
Left to right: Signalman J. Whittle, Colour Sergeant Chafer (Parachute Regiment), General Roper

"IT IS SUPPOSED TO COME OUT THE OTHER END!"
Left to right: Lance-Corporal Tony Vrsalovich, Captain 'Jock' Souter
Corporal Danny Nallon

"11 STONE? YOU MUST BE JOKING!"
Left to right: Lance-Corporal Mick Hogben, Sergeant Tex Gallagher, Signalman Alf Garnett, Signalman Rob Anderson at training camp

The CSO paid the Regiment a visit on the morning of the 11th July and it was not long before he was firing weapons and throwing grenades with the rest.

A 36-hour transport-for-the-DS-only exercise was held. It was named Exercise 'Happy Wanderer' by the DS but seldom referred to as such by those being exercised. It served to consolidate training, gave a step by step look at the Eifel and introduced some watermanship training.

NIJMEGEN MARCHES 1973

The Regiment's marching team under **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Rod Mansfield** planned to leave Francisca Barracks in 3 private cars. One broke down before we left camp and **Corporal Bill Taylor's** big ends went on the outward journey, consequently the Yeoman had to make two trips, still we had the bike if anything else went amiss.

The team was well received at Heumensoord Tented Camp just outside Nijmegen by **Captain Peter Brown** the Camp Adjutant, we were shown to our tents and had a good meal.

Day 1

A free day except for registering the team, paying the fees and attending a very impressive flag raising ceremony at Nijmegen station. Early to bed because some one said Reveille was at 03.30 hours.

Day 2

He wasn't joking! 03.30 hours and the Camp is like the London underground, people dashing in all directions.

We left the start point at 05.00 hours (I wish they would move it nearer the tents, we had marched 2 kilometres already). The days march went without incident, only a couple of blisters, proudly displayed by **Signalman John Madigan.**

We found we should have practiced our singing not marching. That evening everyone put pen to paper. We have a lie-in tomorrow, our Group does not leave until 06.00 hours.

"SMILE PLEASE"
Leading: Lance-Corporal John Clare, Corporal Bob Hutchings with Corporal Charlie Drake (on bicycle) during the Nijmegen Marches

Day 3

04.00 hours, who wanted to sleep anyway. There is so much noise and activity we decided to make an early start—its a good job we did today we found that march was 48 kilometres and everyone was shattered. Still we encountered the civilians today and I had a job slowing the lads down. Where's the optician.

Day 4

02.50 hours a Sergeant in the RAOC woke us up and told us to ensure the tent was tidy because the Brigadier was coming today. It took us an hour to sort our boots out around the tent entrance—we never saw the Sergeant again! Today's march is over Seven Hills, a piece of cake after Vogelsang. **Corporal Charlie Drake** our cycle orderly/singing leader is losing his voice.

The last day and we are determined that the whole team will complete the distance even if we have to crawl in. It seemed that the final check point would never come. **Signalman Brackenbury** and **Signalman John Gosling** are both limping badly, in fact we didn't know we had finished even when **Corporal Mick Cook,** RAPC grabbed us and said come on lads it's all over.

At this point in time all we wanted to do was collapse in a heap, but **Captain Peter Brown** gave us 10 minutes to change into best kit for the march past (stagger past would be more appropriate, or so we thought), anyway we formed up with the British Element, just in time for the rain. The Band started and we marched through the centre of Nijmegen, not a limp to be seen anywhere. The reception by the Dutch public was absolutely fantastic. We've done it. The final activity was to collect the Medals—13 individual and one for the team presented by **Corporal Charlie Drake.** We shall be back next year.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

GUN FIGHT AT MERE RANGES—REPORT FROM THE CORPS' NISHAN TEAM OF CRACK SHOTS DESTINED FOR TURKEY

IN previous reports from the Regiment we have explained the background and purpose of Nishan and we have also explained how our Nishan team is proceeding on its training. Well—from 31st July to 4th August we entertained our opponent team from the United States Army Europe to a friendly gun fight at Mere Ranges. The US team, captained by **Captain Vernon Edwards** and with chief coach **Master-Sergeant Tony Herman** in charge, consisted of a total of 38 ranks. They came from the 1st Battalion 7th United States Infantry and have the battalion sobriquet 'the Cotton Balers'. This nickname derives from an action which they fought in the American War of Independence against the British at Louisiana when the fabulous **Davy Crockett,** who was a member of the Regiment, devised a plan whereby they would ambush British forces from behind baled cotton in the cotton fields. The British forces were defeated in this battle and could not understand why their bullets did not go through the apparently flimsy, loosely packed cotton. Any budding ballistics expert who watches TV crime programmes could no doubt have told them.

ON THE MERE RANGES
Major Geoff Exell, UK Team Captain, and Master Sergeant Tony Herman, Pistol Range Officer, examine the scores of Captain Derek McLean during the Pistol Match

However, to proceed with the visit of our American guests, the gun fight was most friendly and was used by both teams as an introduction to the very severe and nerve testing ceremonies and inspections which both teams will meet when they fire at the CENTO Nishan competition in Turkey in September. Just to re-cap our readers, the match will be fired between the United States, United Kingdom, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. We heard several horrifying stories from **Master-Sergeant Tony Herman** and **Master-Sergeant Pete Bradish** of the type of gamesmanship which we can expect to meet from some of the countries during the competition. However gamesmanship does not make up for marksmanship and ultimately it is the best shots who will win the match, and we wish our Nishan team, which travelled to Cyprus on 8th August the very best of luck in their task representing the Corps and the British Army against our CENTO partners.

To come back to our match at Mere Ranges, the inspections and ceremonial parades before the match obviously had an effect on the scores and our young soldiers will obviously have to avoid being caught out committing unnecessary faults on the firing point. We lost the match by 169 match points, the Americans scoring a total of 2,979 whilst we scored a total of 2,810. However, every member of the UK team was firing well below his best and we are hoping that with a month's intensive coaching and competition in Cyprus the team will turn the tables on not only the Americans but also the rest of our CENTO partners.

3 SQUADRON

In a previous set of notes we promised a not too serious look at the type of training carried out on 'Hardfall', and an anonymous writer has provided the following short, but pithy resume of the training that was carried out in 1973 . . .

AN INEXPERIENCED VIEW OF 'HARDFALL' TRAINING BY 'NOT TOO LATE AS I THOUGHT IT WAS'

Exercise 'Hardfall' took place in Voss, Norway, and for the duration of the exercise Force Radio Troop were based in a Norwegian Army camp. The training officer was **Lieutenant Mike Telfer,** who with the services and assistance of 2 Norwegian officers, **Lieutenant ('Coffee') Junker** and **Lieutenant ('Sleepy') Mueller,** aimed to have the Troop proficient in the use of skis and snow-shoes and become aware of Arctic communication problems and personal survival in just 4 weeks.

Three days' training in a valley 5 minutes from base enabled everyone to ski and be capable of covering average terrain and we then spent 4 days on the well known ski slope Hangur where as the pressure was piled on us we learnt the techniques of snow ploughs, herring bones and turns. Each day finished with a treck across the slopes with **Lieutenant Junker** who always managed to make even the way back difficult or stubbornly uphill!

The remainder of our training was carried out under canvas in 2 camps in the Rong Valley. In these camps we lived in Arctic tents—a situation where it had to be, one turn, all turn! A typical day began at 07.30 when first the cook rose to heat some water followed in rotation by the remainder of the group who dressed, rolled up sleeping bags and sat down to give the next man a chance to move. Before the day's skiing began, after a heavy fall of snow the previous night, the first task was to dry out packs and make the camp presentable.

Ski-jouring—the name given to the art of being towed behind a snowcat on skis—was a very popular exercise. Each snowcat, issued with 2 × 25ft lengths of nylon rope, then equipped itself with 6 men who then joined ski sticks ready to be towed. A 'Buzz boy' helped in operating a buzzer every time a skier fell to warn the driver to stop. On the other hand if the driver decided to stop suddenly on a down-hill slope one had the spectacle of all the skiers unable to stop in time piling up behind the snowcat with assorted looks of horror on their faces.

Training ceased at 16.45 to prepare for night ski patrols which began at 18.30. After a brief by the instructor, came an hour of 'follow your leader' up hill on skis and down dale with cries of "Herring bone, snow plough and side step" and such like being passed back.

By 22.30 after the evening meal and the disappearance of washing, shaving gear, we, the happy campers, settled down quietly thinking of the days to come—skiing, trail break-up, snow-shoe walk-up, navigation and map reading, driver training and communication drills in the Arctic.

At the end of the training period 60% of the Troop gained their 10 kilometre bronze Medal (Norwegian) for langlauf and **Signalman Molloy** gained his well deserved silver medal.

ARMY CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS—CORPS CANOEISTS GAIN NOTABLE SUCCESSES

The 30 Signal Regiment team, which represented the Corps, had some notable successes in the recent Army canoe sprint and long distance championships which were held at Monmouth on 21st and 22nd July, 1973. The team won the senior sprint beating 36 Engineer Regiment into second place, and the positions were reversed in the senior long distance where our team were beaten into second place by 36 Engineer Regiment. It is interesting to note that equal 8th place in the senior sprint was held by the QARANC and the 1 Queens team.

Individual successes in the sprint championships came to **Sergeant Fielding** in event 4A which was won by a joint team of **Sergeant Fielding** and **Staff Sergeant Brett.** In event 1A we achieved second and fifth places with **Lance-Corporal Story** and **Sergeant Clark** respectively. In event 2A **Sergeant Clark** and **Lance-Corporal Story** achieved second place, and in event 3A **Staff Sergeant Brett** and **Lance-Corporal Parry** achieved first and third places respectively. In the long distance championships **Sergeant Clark** and **Lance-Corporal Story** won event 2A, and **Sergeant Fielding** and **Staff Sergeant Brett** won event 2S. Well done to all our canoeists.

News from Squadrons

1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 102

OC	**Major C. J. Crow**
Second-in-Command	**Captain M. A. Payne**
QM	**Captain C. C. McCarthy, R.A.**
OC A Troop ..	**Lieutenant C. I. Spencer**
OC B Troop ..	**Second-Lieutenant B. J. Scott-Morton**
SSM..	**W.O.2 J. H. Richardson**

INTRODUCTION

Since our last write-up, the Squadron has enjoyed, taken part in, or endured, (depending from which angle you viewed the events), 2 dances, 3 Summer Camps and 2 or 3 small exercises.

The dances consisted of one all ranks dance held in the Gymnasium, and a fantastic piece of public relations work held to celebrate yet another extension to the Woodstock Bar. (This takes the form of a beer garden called the Woodstock Aide). We invited locals from various sources to come and listen and dance, to 'Wilt the Stilt'. The best proof of the good relations held between this unit and the local Germans, must surely be the fact that, by the time the dance finished it was impossible, when joining a group of people to work out which were English and which were German.

The Summer camps consisted of the 3 Troops going at different times to the Harz mountains, to complete their military training programme and for a change of scene, (at least thats what they told us clerks they left behind), but the effect of all the war stories and tired looks was spoilt by the bills for alcoholic refreshments published by our PRI, **Captain Mike Payne,** on the troops return to camp. The camp activities are typified by this account from the Bravo Troop Journal.

BRAVO TROOP SUMMER CAMP

B Troop was the last of the Squadron's three troops to go to Summer camp. 22 all ranks under command of **Second-Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton,** who had only taken over the B Troop chair a few days before, departed for the Harz mountains. In spite of a slight hitch over the camp's tentage, the troop quickly set up and by the time OC B arrived, had already made considerable inroads into the stock of refreshments.

The second day saw the troop getting down to the job in hand. Divided into two groups, one half went off for two day's canoeing on the Oderstausee and the other half on the first of two days of trekking. The groups changed over halfway through the camp.

The trekking led (sometimes) by the Yeoman, **Staff Sergeant Dave Snowdon,** consisted of routes averaging 12 kilometres per day in distance on the map but equated nearer to 17 or 18 kilometres when the nature of the terrain was taken into account. The halfway point on each trek, by pure coincidence, was a local hostelry. The trekking parties finished each day with a visit to a nearby civilian swimming pool which was sited only 700m from the camp (who said the Yeoman couldn't map read).

The canoeing was designed to give those of the Troop who had never been in a canoe an insight into the art and was unfortunately condensed in content. Some of the Troop showed potential and are earmarked for courses for the ACU proficiency certificate. The remainder are thought to be emigrating to Australia, particularly **Corporal Mick Bowkett** and **Signalman Roy MacGowan,** having spent so much time 'down under'.

The week soon passed and was uneventful until the final evening. The first event was a small fire in the cookhouse area which was quickly extinguished by the Foreman, **Staff Sergeant Roger Milne,** and **Corporal Dave Thorley.** The second incidence involved the administration Land Rover which was inconveniently suspended at an alarming angle over a bank at the edge of a forest track by **Gunner Eric Cain.** This delayed our final departure by some two hours, the vehicle being 'lowered' down the rest of the drop to an adjoining track. It is hoped that a suitable photograph will be available for our next WIRE notes.

Some wild life was encountered during the week. Apart from the various frogs and other nasties found, mention must be made of Eric the Jay, who despite his broken wing did not appreciate our company and flew, or to be correct walked, away shortly after being found. Finally, anyone visiting the Harz and finding a slow worm answering to the name of 'Tiddles' is requested to contact **Corporal Barry Maddison,** who is still bemoaning his sad loss. Our congratulations go to **Craftsman Clive Ormandy** for enduring three weeks as canoe instructor on all troop camps and our sympathy is extended to **Private Bob Graham,** ACC who volunteered to cook on all troop camps because he got fixed up in the first week only to find that by the second week she had left.

PARISH NOTES

Welcome to: **Lieutenant Chris Spencer** straight in at the deep end after 3 years at that 'Mecca of learning', Shrivenham. **Signalman Bob Barnes** from 3 Division Signal Regiment and **Lance-Corporal Pete Wetherall** (who, let's be honest, was only three weeks late).

Farewell to: **Captain Andrew Symmons** who has left for 22 Signal Regiment. (Could we please have our MML back now).

Congratulations to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Ball** and **Corporal** and **Mrs. Jenkins** on producing a pair of sons—one per family.

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

THE 'FAMOUS FOURTH'

IT seems like an eternity since the 'Famous Fourth' made its presence felt in this most illustrious and informative magazine. Since all our fans last heard from us we have had a most hectic time, getting in as much leave as possible before continuing with the almost endless exercise season. A hearty welcome to our **Second-Lieutenant John 'Lulu' Gareze,** whose arrival as officer commanding Bravo Troop heralds the departure of **Second-Lieutenant Mike Fisher.** (Thank goodness he's gone, no more BAOR Championships to worry about!). Seriously, we all wish him the very best at the RMCS Shrivenham.

NORTHERN IRELAND—SQUADRON WELL REPRESENTED

The Squadron, like many others, has, with the permission of the General Staff, a number of men in Northern Ireland with

Brigade Units on emergency tours there. Currently, we have **Signalman Parnell** just having arrived in Ulster to help 2 Royal Anglian with their teleprinter problems, and also **Signalman 'Jock' McKenzie** as a specialist reinforcement. We haven't heard from him as yet, so hope all is going well. The 1st Battalion Scots Guards (. . . wait for it) have a slightly larger detachment. This is ably led by **Sergeant 'Tup Three' Walls** who has recently taken very commendable action in averting a possible helicopter disaster. Very many congratulations to him on his quick thinking. We are told by their Adjutant that it is difficult to stop **Sergeant Walls** and **Lance-Corporal Kirk** from being permanently out on patrol instead of working in the Comcen. **Signalmen Tate** and **Roberts** are doing very well with Support Company in Armagh and **Lance-Corporal Rees** and **Signalman Jones** are both popular members of 'C' Company in Dungannan. We all wish them the very best and hope to see them back soon.

ATHLETICS

The Unit Athletics team has had an enjoyable and successful season. Training started prior to the Morrison Cup meeting at Herford where the team could only manage third place in the minor units competition. Working on Zulu time at the start of the day didn't help the result. After this, attention was turned on the Army Competition which started with the Divisional meeting at Sennelager on 27th June. Our competitors were now beginning to get into top gear and they succeeded in retaining the title won last year. Our picture shows the team captain **Lance-Corporal Toole** receiving the trophy from the GOC with **Captain Duffy,** Irish Guards, supervising.

At the BAOR meeting on 7th July the team again performed extremely well but had to give best to the very proficient team from our old rivals 54 Squadron RCT. However, second place was good enough to earn the team a ticket to England for the Army Championships at Aldershot on 25th July.

The Army meeting was a most enjoyable and sporting event. Everybody did extremely well despite their pre-match nerves and nobody dropped below fourth place in his event. **Captain 'Bunny' Whitehead,** the Adjutant, won the discus event with a throw of 37·10 metres and **Sergeant 'Tom' Taylor** put in a fine throw at the end of the day to win the Javelin with 52·28 metres. This put the team right back into the running for the championship for at the start of the final event they were tying for first place with three other teams. Unfortunately the second hand-over in the 4 × 100 metres relay went badly wrong resulting in disqualification. Hence the final position was fourth.

2 DIVISION MINOR UNITS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS
Lance-Corporal Toole of 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron receiving the cup from the GOC 2 Division, Major-General Archer

SWIMMING

Selecting and training a swimming team was a new venture for the Squadron. However, thanks to the enthusiasm of all our swimmers, together with the expertise of **R.S.M. Wells** the coach, a team was entered for the Divisional Championships in Berlin. They said it was the swimming that attracted them but the rest of us have our doubts about the reasons for this trip to the old capital of Germany, well known for its fleshspots! In the event the team did extremely well to come second to the fine team from 229 Signal Squadron. We gave them a real fright when we won the 4 × 50 metres freestyle in which our competitors were **Sergeant Hayes, Trooper Bolton, Signalman Andrews** and **Signalman Kelly.** No one disgraced themselves and we now have a good basis on which to build for next year.

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 37

EXERCISE 'BERG RAT'—ARDUOUS TRAINING IN BAVARIA

"WHAT does this man think we are—mountain goats, yaks and mules??". This phrase, along with many others, mysteriously appeared on the base camp notice board during Exercise 'Berg Rat', an Alfa Troop arduous training exercise in Bavaria held from 8th–18th June. **Second-Lieutenant Philip McDouall,** the exercise controller and **Staff Sergeant Dave Gwinnell** led the advance party down and the following day the camp was finally completed. The next morning the main party, led by **Captain James Sweetman,** arrived at the camp site on the South Western tip of the Walchensee and training commenced that afternoon. **Captain James Sweetman** conducted practical demonstrations on how to tie knots and 'be prepared' for severe Alpine conditions, whilst **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Pete Sharp** and **Sergeant Pete Cole** practised the signalmen on the A–13 radio set. The second day every man climbed the 'local berg', the Simetsberg, which in fact was the highest peak attempted at 1,836 metres. This was certainly felt by the older members of the troop, particularly **Staff Sergeant Arthur Cotillard** who joined us the day before the exercise began and did an invaluable job on the administrative side.

Varied training continued throughout the ten days with such activities as abseiling, canoeing, two 36 hour exercises, BE tests and an educational visit to the Walchensee hydro-electric plant.

The final Exercise, 'Terminal Trog', consisted of a night out followed by the climbing of the Benediktenwand remembered by all for being a very hot, hard climb over rough rock and snow although a Gasthaus selling litre beers near the top was a great relief. Once again The Rat was inserted in the visitors book at the top which found its way to the peaks of most of the mountains.

The troop said farewell to **Staff Sergeant Dave Gwinnell** who has done invaluable work on the communications side for over four years. A very good time was had by all and many walking sticks were well decorated with numerous place shields.

EXERCISE 'COUNT DOWN VIII'—SMUGGLING NUCLEAR WARHEADS

The squadron summer camp was again held at Eckernforde this year from 13th–27th July. If those members of Alfa Troop who thought that the most they were going to be for this year was either a mountain goat, yak or mule they had a shock. Besides the normal training of map reading, orienteering, shooting, infantry training and inter-section competitions, the final exercise demanded that each man should become an espionage agent with the task of smuggling a nuclear warhead and attachments from alien territory. Exercise 'Clandestine Rat', as it was called, written by the Officer Commanding, **Major John Alexander,** involved four sections firstly assembling their land rovers, after finding their contact agents, secondly locating and gaining possession, by force if necessary, of the rocket fuel, warhead and launcher. Finally everything had to be smuggled back to the base camp, a total distance of about 30 kilometres, through various agents over two stretches of water and lastly a competitive phase rowing an assault boat and heaving the warhead, prior to detonation, up a cliff.

Section commanders displayed much initiative in many varied ways. **Corporal 'Rick' Houghton's** section had his bomb, weighing 160 pounds, transported by a millionaire's motor yacht while **Corporal Ray Spence's** section had his bomb trans-

ported by train although he was very surprised to find 8 enemy lined up on the station waiting for him. A variety of methods of transport were used mainly vans and cars although **Lance-Corporal 'Lofty' Nevols** was seen pedalling furiously around a village clutching spark plugs and vehicle tools.

Once again our ties with the local Germans were further strengthened. The **Duke** and **Duchess of Mecklenburg** and **Count Christoph von Bethmann-Hollweg,** the landowners in that area of Schleswig-Holstein, were invited to the Officers' luncheon and a dance was held for the Bundesmarine whose Signals School is in Eckernforde. They generously presented the Sergeants' Mess with a pair of oars and an engraved anchor. It is rumoured that the boat will be presented next year—a problem for the RSM to fit it into the Mess.

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ONCE again the Squadron has been busy in June. With everybody doing their own thing, and whats more getting away with it.

TENT PEGGING

Mike has been at it again. After being the BAOR champion last year our OC **Major Mike Marples** knew that the competition would be fierce. Unfortunately a few pegs split and were not picked up cleanly and the other member of the team **'Fuzz' Vasquez** had an unfortunate last charge when his horse veered and he missed his strike by at least three metres. However the OC did get into third place.

BRONZE PRINCE III

It had been almost three weeks since we were last out and about in the German countryside, so the Squadron was looking forward to getting out again. If this exercise is remembered it will be for the Hagen saga. The OC left saying to **Lieutenant Nigel Pullman,** "See you in Hagen in two hours". OC 'A' quite rightly pointed out that he was in Hagen now. OC replied "Check your grid" and moved off shouting "Catch us if you can". However OC 'A', still not convinced, kept muttering "but this is Hagen, I know it is". We did see Step Up 2 in Hagen, but by that time the Recce Officer had found a third suitable location—yet another Hagen, and Step Up 1 with **Lieutenant Mike Jefferis** were about to be moved there. If you think OC 'A' was confused, you should have heard HQ 2 Division! **Lance-Corporal 'Beastie' MacDonald** is rumoured to be forming his own breakaway packet, but we hope he and his DSO 432 will join us on a specified route some time on a future exercise.

VISIT OF MAJOR-GENERAL H. E. ROPER

The CSO paid us a visit on the 16th June and caused some consternation. He arrived slightly early. Fortunately **Sergeant Ray Hawkins** had the quarter guard ready, though the bugler was slightly out of breath for his bugle call. Overheard during the visit in the workshops:

CSO: "What is going on in here?"

F. of S. Hope: "Just finishing off the last jobs before the Exercise on Monday, Sir".

CSO: "It's funny, but that's what you said on my last visit".

Exit everybody quickly to the range where the Second-in-Command classified on the pistol.

EPIC CANOE TRIP

Last month we said that a team from the Squadron was attempting to break the record of canoeing from Chur in Switzerland to Holland; a distance of 820 miles in 17 days. Unfortunately, the attempt has failed. After a good start, the canoeists ran into some really bad weather and on day six only managed four kilometres. The rescue boat spent a lot of time pulling people out of the water. In fact **Signalman Barry McMillan** in his canoe was lifted clean out of the Rhine by the waves and carried by the wind and wash of passing barges. His canoe received damage as it hit a tree that was on the bank. The weather did not let up, and after a few more days when the remainder of the team still trying to push on were a long way behind the schedule the attempt was abandoned. However we gained valuable experience for an attempt again next year.

CRICKET

Last year it was difficult to get a team; this year it was difficult trying to get selected. Our first match in the Army Cup found us playing our old opponents 1 (BR) Corps Field Workshops who beat us by 10 wickets last year. This year we turned the tables and some fine batting by **Lance-Corporal Gabriel, Captain Leslie Steane, Lance-Corporal David Proudfoot** and **Sergeant Leslie Budworth** gave us a score of 183 for 7 declared and some accurate bowling by **Signalman Michael Dawson,** who took five wickets, helped us to get them all out for 76.

SERGEANTS' MESS

At long last the rebuild is completed, and it doesn't seem like 2 years have passed since the project was put to paper. However the end product is a great improvement as indeed are the coloured concealed lights fitted in the ceiling of the bar. It was an anxious moment when these were switched on for the first time, because the electrician who wired the circuit couldn't speak English and everyone thought the RSM **(Frank Williams)** couldn't speak German, but as each switch was pressed, the correct light and colour appeared. Mess members believe it was still more by luck than by judgement!

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ATHLETICS

IN the BAOR minor units athletics meeting, held at Sennelager, we failed to finish one of the leading teams. However, the athletes enjoyed the meeting and are much better off for the experience.

AT THE STATIC COMCEN

'Funnies', are often received at the Comcen and we thought readers might be interested in the following that a certain Cavalry Regiment gave us to transmit. "You are to inform this Regiment immediately of your intentions as to whether you intend to report back to Detmold as a Lance-Corporal or to Bovington as a Trooper! Right now, signalmen in this Squadron are debating going AWOL, maybe they could be lucky also!

SUMMER CAMP

This years' summer camp was held near Messinghausen (Brilon area), about half a mile from a large lake. The area was excellent for orienteering, swimming and fishing. The locals were friendly and were always eager to taste English cigarettes! The sporting activities which took place over the duration proved a boost for the soldiers morale.

The first main event was **Staff Sergeant Gordon Blood's** orienteering exercise, named 'Walk About'. The participants moaned and groaned but in fact completed the tasks well. **Corporal Chhetri's** patrol actually arrived at a check point before the DS **(Sergeant 'Mal' Caswell)** arrived to book patrols through.

The BE tests which normally take place at summer camp ended up in a race around the lake, **Signalman Thomas McDowell** won, bettering the remainder by a least five minutes.

Exercise 'Taras Dream', which was an escape and evasion exercise with **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Colin Markie** commanding the soldiers against evading officers, WO's and SNCO's. Possibly, the soldiers did win; matters were not helped when **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bob Wade** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Stubbings** were ambushed, refused to be shot, ran for cover in a thick wood and finally escaped the pounding feet of **Signalman 'Jock' McGowan** and **Lance-Corporal David Cook.** The infuriated RSM was later seen flicking through the pages of the extra duty book.

On afternoons and evenings off duty, the BAOR Champion fishermen were getting in plenty of good practice. **Staff Sergeant Tom Jenkinson** caught over 80 roach in one session.

Other events were a stamina and initiative exercise conducted by the OC, **Major David Whitehead,** volley ball, potted sports and driving competitions. We have reason to believe that the MTO **Captain Les Reason** declined to enter MT Troop in the contest for the fear of losing face, if beaten.

SWIMMING

It is with deep regret that, once again we are the runners-up in the BAOR minor units Swimming; this being the fourth time in succession. Rumour has it that **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Donnelly** (who does so much for swimming in the Squadron) is trying to get **Mark Spitz** posted to Alpha Troop.

CRICKET

The talent of **Major David Whitehead,** who recently broke his forearm was sadly missed when the Squadron were beaten in the semi-final in the 4 Division minor units cricket competition by 4 Field Workshops.

224 Sig Sqn, Loughborough

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Officer Commanding	**Major W. B. Foote**
Chief Instructor	**Major J. M. Ellingworth, M.B.E.**
Squadron Subaltern	**Second-Lieutenant J. Blake**
SSM	**W.O.2 P. A. Winton**
SMI	**W.O.1 E. H. Cooper**
RQMS	**W.O.2 F. C. O'Brien**
ORSQMS	**Staff Sergeant W. Semple**

AN ACTIVE YEAR

After another quiescent year, THE WIRE 'notes' file has surfaced once more and a brief historical record of the year is required. Following a summer noted for its sporting activity and record numbers of trainees, the winter continued in the same vein.

The Unit soccer team won nearly all the local soccer competitions, and did well in the Minor Units competition, being beaten in the UK final by 216 Squadron. Rugby fared badly as usual, though interest has grown in the Squadron, and a very young side did well to get to the semi-finals of the District 7-a-side competition.

The hockey team played a number of very good fixtures with local sides, having some very good games and the occasional good win! There were also some basketball and badminton matches, as well as cross country and orienteering fixtures.

The monthly military-training afternoon produces some interesting moments, the most popular complaint being that the 10-mile-bash has been incorrectly measured and is at least twelve miles! This and the PFA tests have convinced many that to be fit is not such a bad thing.

The Summer sports have started well with a good cricket team and some excellent performances in the Squadron potted sports afternoon. On the social side, another at home has come and gone.

This year we entertained more than ever, with fewer staff and surprisingly fewer hitches. The Chief Clerk, on his third, reckons that his future on retirement, lies in 'Rent-a-Fete'. What with **Corporal Stamford** our own Chelsea Pensioner visiting and **Major Forge** and The Blue Helmets from Harrogate, as well as the AAC Pipes and Main Band, Signals were well represented.

OFFICERS' MESS

Being a somewhat small albeit sumptuous mess we decided to dine out the departing OC and Adjutant together. After an excellent meal with much wine we retired to the Hall where two packages waited. The first was opened and the OC was formally presented with his Junior Birdman outfit of large wings, suitably winged and antennaed silver helmet and even a 'chopper'. Better was yet to come as the Adjutant received his presentation of a full naval diving suit with weights, lead boots and helmet. Eventually fully dressed he was taken to the Guard Room nearly breaking the rear-axle of the Rover with his weight!

SERGEANTS' MESS

On Friday, 22nd June, 1973 a total of 43 mess members gathered together to dine out **Major K. A. C. Wilson** and to welcome his successor **Major W. B. Foote.** After an excellent dinner the President, **W.O.1 (Supvr R.S.M.) Ernie Cooper** presented **Major Wilson** with a canteen of cutlery on behalf of the members. The occasion culminated in the early hours of Saturday morning with **Major Wilson** being borne from the Mess on a somewhat ornate bier.

As usual departures and arrivals have been numerous. Mainly however we have said farewell to **Major K. A. C. Wilson** and his family; in particular **Mrs. Wilson** will be missed by the Wives Club. We wish them well in their new post. Also we said farewell to our Adjutant, **Captain Matthews.** His memorable speeches about us, despite his hate for a desk job will be long remembered.

From the Sergeants' Mess we lost to civilian life, **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Holdsworth** and **W.O.2 Hall,** we wish them well after their long service. Also to 13 Signal Regiment we lost our SSM—**W.O.2 Maidment** on promotion to W.O.1 RSM.

We welcome to the Squadron, **Major** and **Mrs. W. B. Foote** and family. Also **W.O.1** and **Mrs. Cooper** and family, and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Winton,** and we now have as RQMS—**W.O.2 O'Brien.**

Finally, we would like to congratulate **W.O.2** and **Mrs. O'Brien** on the commissioning of their son **Tom,** into the Corps.

229 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 45

O.C.	**Major G. D. A. Mackay**
Second-in-Command	**Captain R. W. Barry**
TOT	**Captain I. R. Lidstone**
Radio Officer	**Lieutenant J. P. Beasley**
SSM	**W.O.2 L. V. Stoneham**
Chief Clerk	**Sergeant M. J. McHale**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 D. G. Phillips**
F. of S.	**W.O.2 G. S. Alyson**

Time goes by so slowly say the words of a well known song but Berlin appears to work on an inverse time scale of this in the general case. It is with horror that we confess to a lack of WIRE contribution since last November and that seems such a short time ago. Having confessed where do we begin to clear the back log.

After consideration, with an aim at originality, we will fall back on THE WIRE 'norm' and subdivide our activities into exercises, sport and social.

EXERCISES

We get the impression that visitors do not associate exercises with the way of life in Berlin. It is true, and obvious, that there are limitations to exercises within Berlin. However, the Squadron has taken part in 17 exercises so far this year with a lot of help from our friends in 2, 4 and 7 Signal Regiments and 7, 11 and 20 Brigade Signal Squadrons who have invited us to send men to join them on exercises and summer camp. Our contributions have not been large because only a small number of men can be out of Berlin at any one time; but this facility has allowed us to turn over the squadron tradesmen and keep them in touch with BAOR communication technique. We are very grateful.

As well as the exercises in West Germany we do have our Berlin turnouts. A strange pattern has emerged in all our Allied exercises in the reaction to exercise ends. This has usually been the signal in the Corps for an active and efficient performance of return to battacks. In Berlin it now means the start of a party. The two British-American signalling exercises ended with a 'cook out' and crates of beer to wash away the Grunewald forest dust. The British-French-American exercise ended with a superb meal of barbecued whole sheep done in the Algerian style. The French were the hosts for that exercise and all exercise meals tended to be a gastronomic delight. One Corporal thought the food, assisted by the French issue wine, was magnificent until half way through his evening meal; said he, "this is great. What is it?". "Brains", replied an English speaking French soldier. Whereupon the said Corporal stopped eating, turned green and performed indifferently for the last four hours of the exercise. It is our turn to host the next joint exercise and we will have our work cut out racking our brains, for an original end to the exercise.

SPORT

We are proud of our sporting record this year. The winter sports season produced some good results. We carried off four trophies at Basketball in the Brigade league, knock out and Divisional championships and, regrettably, only the runner-up in the BAOR minor unit competition. In the latter we were beaten 71–65 in a very exciting game against the winners. For the record the Squadron has lost only twice in 2 years. On both occasions it has been to the winners of BAOR competitions.

BAOR MINOR UNITS SWIMMING CHAMPIONS
Signalman Sandford receives the championship cup won by 229 Squadron from Brigadier M. H. Sinnet, Chairman BAOR Swimming

The football season finished with our winning the Brigade minor units league with a play off against A Squadron, 4 RTR who had looked strong all season but we ran out comfortable winners at 3–0. We had a little taste of rugby by entering two seven-a-sides for the Berlin open competition, despite having only four declared players; but we were knocked out in the semi-final of the plate competition. Our opponents, Siemensstadt, contained 5 West German internationals. We managed to reach the semi-final proper of the Brigade competitions.

The hockey competition was cancelled, so we retain the cup from last year. In the remaining sport, cross country, we won the Brigade Minor Units trophy.

The transitory period from winter to summer sports was brightened a little by the ten pin bowling team who were just pipped in the league and finished runners-up.

In the summer we ventured into the athletics world with the Morrison Cup (for the first time since 1968), where we could only manage fourth place, but in Berlin we took first place in the Brigade athletics. Commitments prevented us from going forward to the divisional athletics championships.

At water polo we find ourselves in the unfortunate position of being alongside the BAOR champions, the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, who beat us in the Brigade finals. Incidentally we beat 16 Signal Regiment, the BAOR runners-up 8–2 in a friendly.

Swimming has proved our most successful summer sport. We have won the Brigade, Division and BAOR minor units championships. In the latter we broke 3 of the 5 BAOR records and won 4 of the 5 events. Despite these results we were given a very hard fight by 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron who also broke one record.

We now look forward to challenging strongly for the Army championships in Camberley on 13th September.

Signalman Sandford swam well in the individual 100 metres butterfly finishing 1st and 2nd in the 200 metres medley. **Sandford** will now swim in the same events in the army championships.

SOCIAL

We have recently converted our table tennis/billiard room into the Squadron Club room complete with all the fittings. The opening night and morning was enjoyed by all as our bar profits verify.

Last month we decided to emulate the ship's troops and the whole squadron, wives, girl friends, bands and, of course, beer, embarked on a pleasure steamer. We sailed the waters of the Havel, a lake in Berlin, creating much noise and followed by some very amused cruisers who 'pirated' our music. The evening went very well and the nearest thing to a man overboard we had was a signalman with wet feet.

Man at the top

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OFFICERS AND RSM OF 244 SIGNAL SQUADRON, JUNE 1973

Back row (left to right): Captain M. A. Rice, Captain P. J. J. Kington, Lieutenant W. P. Crowley, Captain (TOT) T. McK. Stoddart, Second-Lieutenant A. H. G. Elford, Captain M. C. Wilkinson

Front row (left to right): Captain G. Vigurs, W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. S. Bresloff, Major P. A. Spooner, Major A. G. Harfield, Captain D. G. Halliburton

244 Sig Sqn. R.A.F. Benson

SAGA OF A HAT

ON Friday, 15th June, an air of gloom was seen on faces as the Squadron Commander strolled around the Headquarters in his carpet slippers and braces slung having just remembered this was FFR day. He snarled at the RSM "are my boys unhappy on this our FFR day?". "Tis not the FFR my Lord" replied the Tara, "Tis the day we burn the old and ancient hat", and just as Nero watched Rome burn, so did our Administration Officer, **Major Alan Harfield, B.E.M.,** fiddle on the spot whilst his crowning glory went up in flames.

An Order had appeared on the desks of the Mafia who run the 244th commanding them to be at the Squadron Club to assist in improving the general appearance of the aforesaid administrative gentleman.

Major Harfield is a man of extreme elegance but it is known that when past COs have gazed upon his headress, they have shuddered and shaken with rage. The 'hat' was built by Herby J in July 1959 and over the years has become battered, bent, soiled and indeed very horrible. To celebrate his elevation to the majority, **Major Harfield** decided to make a sacrifice. The CSO, **Colonel Ian Swan,** the Officers and Seniors lined the route, and to the tune of 'Begone Dull Care', **Second-Lieutenant Elford** slow marched with grave face with the hat on a silk cushion. It was placed in a cremation casket in Corps colours, heads were bowed, tears flowed and the OC recited the 'literny' and then lit the mixture. Three hours later the 'hat' was still burning as were the tummies of the supporters who were enjoying a curry and ample ale kindly provided by **Mrs. June Harfield** and **Major Alan;** for which we say thank you both.

Came the climax, **Major Alan** placed upon his head a Caps Field Service, September 1944 pattern with the old Corps badge and departed.

THE ITALIAN JOB

A summers day saw **Captain Pat Kington** and 12 members of the Squadron standing forlornly at IAF Villafranca in Northern Italy, gazing at the area allocated for a camp site. What had been a grass field a few weeks previously was now a display of 2ft high corn. Good start, we thought, as an irate Italian farmer toiled for two hours to clear the area.

However, five hours later, the tented camp for the RAF and Army personnel was fully established with accommodation tents, showers, cook house, transmit and receive sites, and in communication with RAF Benson, again proving that 'Jointery' does work. We were to be in Italy for three weeks.

The 244 element was also responsible for deploying mobile radio detachments to Mantova and Bolzano by road—a hazardous experience competing with would-be Italian Grand Prix drivers. After only two days a Fiat 500 collided with one of the land rovers —England 1, Italy 0.

Sergeant Brian Stowe, Corporals 'Spud' Murphy, 'Topsy' Turvey and **Duggie Hysiak** showed their love of Italian food when travelling to Bolzano on the Autostroda, they came across an overturned sphaghetti vehicle. 3 Bratwurst and 1 Lungwurst later the recce was renewed with vigour.

Because of the 'excellence' of our communications, we were able to spend many hours soaking up the atmosphere, sun and the wine. **Signalmen 'Tee Kay' Kelly** and **'Muff' Steele** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Sinclair** were so highly thought of (they bought so much wine) in the local inn that Mama cried the night before our deportation.

The Squadron Commander, **Major Phil Spooner,** managed to fly over just in time to join **Captain Kington's** birthday celebrations and to depart two days later, sporting a rather fine tan and clutching several pounds of tobacco.

All managed to get to Venice for a day and in addition visits were arranged to the Dolomites, Lake Gorda and Verona. The Lake Gorda area was very expensive and it was lucky that we had an advance of Loa.

The Italian Air Force were excellent hosts and now we only have to pursuade the OC that perhaps next year . . . Summer Camp?

PREGO

AOC's INSPECTION—1973
The AOC, Air Vice Marshal F. S. Hazlewood, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C. inspects the 244 Signal Squadron (AS) Guard of Honour

AOCs INSPECTION—RAF BENSON

The 244th having convinced the RAF that our drill was of a 'different style' to theirs, eased gently out of putting an unarmed contingent into the Station Parade for the AOC.

Instead we had the honour of providing a full Guard-of-Honour which met the AOC, **Air Vice Marshal F. S. Hazlewood, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C.,** on his arrival at RAF Benson.

EXERCISE 'KING COBRA' OR SWEATING IT OUT IN SINGAPORE

After a 32 hour luxury flight in a Hercules, Echo Troop arrived in Singapore deaf, hungry and tired. This did not prevent SAC (now **Lance-Corporal**) **Dick Kilpatrick** leading the troop on a tour of the 'street' only three hours after landing.

The next two days were spent recovering kit from RAF Tengah, loading it ready for transportation into Malaysia and 'acclimatising' at the pool.

Having been briefed in UK that the exercise would be in an area of low scrub or flat ground we found ourselves walking through primary jungle up a very large mountain. Our radio kit was lifted under helicopters of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. **Lance-Corporal Bob Walton** having only two days before completed an exercise in Norway found this climb rather warm.

The radio site having been established on top of the hill, **Captain Grahame Halliburton** returned from Brigade HQ, with the good news that the operators were to pick up their personal equipment and redeploy to the bottom of the hill.

On setting up camp **S.A.C. Kilpatrick** again came into his own. His two years service in a static RAF Comcen in Singapore fitted him for the role of instructor in setting up Basha's in the jungle. Meanwhile at the top of the hill life was hectic. **Sergeant Mark Crowe** became 28 Brigade's undisputed scrabble champion and **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Donald** excelled at catching scorpions. **Signalman 'Miff' Smith** and **'Taff' Taylor** came equal first in imagining the maximum number of 'creepy crawlies' in their beds. **Signalman 'Paddy' O'Donaghue** chased a Malaysian bear while **Signalman 'Geordie' Short** was heard to shout something about elephants when his bed collapsed in the middle of the night. **Sergeant Dave Whiteley** used the whole of the troops supply of sun tan cream on his head.

In a more serious vein the exercise was of great value. From a communications point of view many lessons were learned. Four HF stations had to be established in a very limited area on the top of a jungle covered ridge. The physical problems of erecting antennae to cope with direction and distance requirements presented a challenge. The laying of remote lines in jungle conditions is far from easy. The experience of living in the jungle, which is not the silent place we all anticipated, benefited everyone.

On returning to Singapore we were all heartbroken to learn that we had to remain there for a further two weeks. This time passed rapidly. **Corporal** (now **Sergeant**) **'Paddy' Elliott** was alleged to have entertained the clientele of one of the many night clubs by singing Irish folk songs. **Lance-Corporal 'Rinty' Monohan** made up for his abstinence in drinking and smoking by eating his way round Singapore. Relief was felt by everyone's bank manager when the RAF eventually found a spare Britania for the return journey.

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

OC	**Major L. A. Woods**
Second-in-Command ..	**Captain J. F. Budd**
Administration Officer	**Captain J. A. Baker,** WRAC
OC Comcen	**Captain J. N. Clark**
OC Radio	**Second-Lieutenant P. J. Hryhoruk**
SSM	**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) F. Ward**
F. of S.	**Staff Sergeant G. Hall**
Y. of S.	**Staff Sergeant K. Halliwell**

The Squadron has not featured for some six months and naturally since then a lot has happened. There are a lot of new faces, mainly in the Comcen and Radio Troop and we extend a welcome to them all. We hope they will all have an opportunity to feature in THE WIRE.

SPORT

The Hockey season ended most satisfactorily with the Squadron six-a-side team winning the all island all Services cup for 1972/73. The team included **Sergeant Carnegie, Sergeant Lamb, Sergeant Diamond, Sergeant Quinn, Sergeant Whelan, Signalman Radcliffe, Captain Clark.**

The deep sea sailing got off to a good start but due to other commitments has rather petered out. The WRAC crew members hopes of sun bathing were rather dashed by the angle of the deck, assisted by the helmsman.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Although 'Cyprus Walkabout' has featured in a number of units WIRE notes already our 'got lost—never could map read' WRAC team merit a feature even if it is only for the smiles and pose. Note that even though they are under the biggest signpost on the route that they are still lost! *(We don't believe it—Editor).*

At the moment half the work force of the Squadron are away on a sea canoe course under the shadow of *Salamis*. We hope to feature them next time.

MAP READING CAN BE SO DIFFICULT
(Left to right): Private Hornby (262), Corporal Gooding (R.M.P.) and Staff-Sergeant Kerr (262)

In darts the Squadron 'A' team became Garrison Champions for the 1972/73 season, and although we have no photos, I am sure they would like a mention. They are, or have been, **Signalmen Phil Budden, Alex Hamilton, Corporals Ron Foote, Mick Spinks, Jack Cowen, Ron Coburn, 'Nobby' Clark, Signalmen Doug Melton, Bob Innes** and **Sergeant Tom Thompson.** We don't really know whether the darts, the beer or our ever popular Bitza Club was the attraction.

HOOKED AT LAST

Our wedding photo shows **Corporal 'Harry' Robinson** getting hooked to **Corporal Mary Tustain,** WRAC. **Harry** is, as far as I am concerned, quite well known in the Corps and all those who saw in him that bachelor look will be pleased to know his new status. His wife **Mary** works in the pay office so **Harry's** pay packet will be double checked in future.

Corporal Harry Robinson with bride Corporal Mary Tustain (W.R.A.C.)

581 Gurkha Sig Tp, Church Crookham

581 Gurkha Signal troop must be one of the smallest there is. Gurkha battalions still have a Signals rear link troop and we are the rear link troop for 10th Princes Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles stationed at Church Crookham near Aldershot. The total strength is one Sergeant and nine men, plus myself, **Second-Lieutenant K. K. W. Parsons,** who has been siphoned off as Assistant Adjutant. During the impending move of the battalion from Hong Kong to the UK a letter arrived giving a requirement for a Gurkha Signals stand in the Army Show at Aldershot.

With the arrival of the battalion in the UK a trip to the Royal Signals demonstration team was the first step. This entailed a guided tour and then with much enthusiasm a plan was produced and a finger pointed to our area. "This is your bit. You should be able to get a vehicle in there". The trouble was we didn't want to put a vehicle there. We wanted to dig a bunker—much more interesting.

"You can't go around digging holes where you feel like, besides there are too many roots and not enough time".

"Well we will build an underground bunker upwards and plant trees on top". Simple!

Saturday was spent filling sandbags and on Monday Royal Signals turned up in force, with everything very well organised of course. All prefabricated, just add water and mix—or so it seemed. We enlisted the help of the battalion Assault Pioneer Sergeant who lost no time in altering the plan saying, "You can't build anything else but right angles with sandbags otherwise everything will fall down".

We hadn't been long started when along came the voice of experience, "You can't build caves, the great British public will not go into them".

"Why not"?

"I'm not sure. They are very funny you know".

This meant a quick reversal. One of the walls was pulled down and the bunker left open.

The first 500 sandbags were gone within the first day. The next few days were spent begging, borrowing and filling sandbags. When filled they turned up in front of the stand in a large amorphous pile whose proportions shrank to nothing and grew again at least three times a day. **Lieutenant Mike Stanners,** building a shooting gallery nearby, remarked that we must be breeding them.

Avid readers will remember **Major Kelvin Kent** (March/April WIRE) who was a member of the All British Everest Expedition 1972 . . . Enter **Major Kent** complete with Racal radios, tents, ropes, dummies, instant snow and the inevitable prefabricated Everest. Another 'add water and mix' which when finished was very eye catching.

And so with a few final touches the show commenced. **Signalman Indrabahadur,** poor chap, thought he was going to evaporate when, in the heat of summer he was told to wear the actual anorak worn on Everest.

Many sticky fingers, half a million people and £8,000 pounds later the show ended; and now all that remains is to find a customer for 1000 filled sandbags.

THE FINAL RESULT
(Left): "Underground bunker" complete with trees on top. *(Right)*: Everest scene. *(Centre)*: "The Troop. *(Standing left to right)*: Corporal Pahalman Gurung, Corporal Rankumar (visiting), Signalman Indrabahadur Gurung, 2nd Lieutenant K. K. W. Parsons, Sergeant Kimbahadur Gurung, Signalman Jasbahadur Rai, Signalman Padambahadur Sahi, Corporal Sambahadur Gurung, Signalman Ashok Rai. Not present: Lance-Corporal Reshamlal Gurung, Signalman Nagendra Rai

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THE VOLUNTEERS

31 Sig Regt (V), Hammersmith

ANNUAL CAMP, 1973

ANNUAL Camp took place at Burneston Barracks, Scarborough from the 16th to 30th June in very much the same form as previous years. The first week was devoted to trade training and a satisfying number of men and women obtained a Class III rating or upgraded to Class II. In the second week a short but very sharp exercise was held which thoroughly tested all involved. This was followed by two days clearing up and preparation for the unit equipment inspection which was to follow hard on annual camp and suddenly another camp was over.

A number of visitors came to see us over the middle weekend. The Group Commander, **Brigadier D. H. Baynham, G.M.** and the Deputy Group Commander, **Colonel D. A. B. Crawford, E.R.D.,** saw the Regiment at work on Friday, 22nd June and stayed for some of the weekend activity. The Honorary Colonel, **Colonel B. R. Wood, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.,** attended the Regimental Parade on Saturday, 23rd June and presented Territorial Efficiency Medals to the following:

W.O.2 (A.S.M.) B. R. J. Bentall
Efficiency Medal T & AVR
Corporal D. Bennet Efficiency Medal T & AVR
Corporal W. J. Mackins
Efficiency Medal T & AVR
Sergeant A. H. Pain 2nd Clasp to Efficiency Medal T & AVR
Sergeant A. T. Taylor
1st Clasp to Efficiency Medal AER
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. B. Thurbon
1st Clasp to Efficiency Medal T & AVR

The Mayor of Harrow with a small party honoured us by a visit on the 22nd and 23rd June to see training and meet the members of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Squadron. From our sponsors at SHAPE came the new Commander SSG **Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Jones,** U.S. Army and of course the ubiquitous **Ober Feld Webel Conrad Muller** and **Sergeant First Class Tom Neal** helped again with our data telegraphist training for the fortnight. It was in fact, **Ober Feld Webel Muller's** last military task. He left during the course of the camp to be discharged on the next day after 18 years service.

We were also visited on Thursday, 21st June by **Brigadier E. J. Nolan, WRAC** accompanied by **Lieutenant-Colonel B. I. Forbes-Adam, M.B.E., WRAC.**

We were fortunate to obtain the services of the 34 Signal Regiment (V) Band for our Regimental Parade on Saturday, 22nd June. They also played afterwards at the traditional officer's beer and curry lunch party for the warrant officers and senior NCOs.

All the other traditional social events also took place. At the Officer's dinner night the Commanding Officer, besides welcoming our guests also welcomed **Second-Lieutenant Pauline Ensor** (returning from a brief sojourn in the WRAF), **Captain Jim Curtis** (our new MO), Officer Cadets, **Terry Chapman** and **Celia Sharman-Courtenay** and **Lieutenant Fred Enga** (our new OC LAD) into the Mess. Finally he said farewell and paid tribute to **Major John Hill** who after seventeen years service in the Reserve Army is leaving to work for his firm in South Africa. The Commanding Officer was also able to announce that **Major Hills'** place as OC 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Squadron would be taken by **Captain Peter Harrison** on promotion.

The Sergeants' Mess also held their traditional dinner on 20th June, preceded as always by a visit to the Floral Hall to see the summer variety show. Following the last performance the cast headed by comedian **Charlie Williams** joined the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' for the remainder of the 'evening'.

An innovation this year was a sporting contest between the Officer's and Sergeants' Messes. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' issued the challenge and the Commanding Officer chose the contests—tug-of-war and volley ball. These both proved to be slightly unwise decisions since the Sergeant's Mess tug of war team weighed 145 stone (nearly all permanent staff!!!) and the permanent staff who formed a large part of the volley ball team had clearly all served East of Suez. The results therefore, will not be recorded.

Perhaps the most newsworthy item of the camp however was the training and work carried out by the Line Troop of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Squadron on the North Yorks Moor Railway. The Troop under **Captain Mike Vokes** and **Staff Sergeant Harry Eden** obtained valuable experience overhauling a multi pair plastic cable on the railway. Much of the work was carried out in their own time. Also six men from the Regiment gave up their time off in the middle weekend in order to bury the cable on which the lineman had been working. This project was of great value to both the Regiments because its training value and to the Trust which 'owns' the Railway and is currently establishing it as a viable full time enterprise taking tourists and hikers to otherwise unaccessible parts of the North Yorks Moor.

33 Sig Regt (V), Huyton

SCARBOROUGH IN JUNE

PLEASE don't tempt providence by christening us the 'Lucky 33rd'. But we were at Annual Camp at Scarborough during the first fortnight in June, and enjoyed the best weather that any of us could remember at Scarborough.

While Recruit and Trade training courses were running at Burniston Barracks, the remainder of the regiment trained by Squadrons at Strensall and Catterick training areas. During the first week, the smell of CS gas and the crackle of gunfire became more familiar than generator exhaust fumes and teleprinter clatter. Interspersed with communication training, the squadrons fired their annual range classifications and spent a day at infantry patrol work. During the latter, **Major Ron Nash, RAPC,** put aside his quills and adding machine to return to his old skills and master-mind the pyrotechnics and CS gas with which the patrols were harassed.

An appreciative visitor to the regiment at this time was the District Commander, **Major-General C. W. B. Purdon, C.B.E., M.C.**

We turned to practising our more traditional skills during the second week, when Exercise 'Scarborough Fair' put the regiment through a couple of variations of its communication role.

(Courtesy: Scarborough Evening News)

FAREWELL AFTER 19 YEARS

Lance-Corporal Alan Stewart is seen off—in a private bus!—by OC and friends in HQ Squadron after 19 years service in the TA and TAVR *(see next page)*

MEANWHILE . . .

Less dramatically, but no less diligently, life at Burniston was lived out in the classroom and on the barrack square. We are particularly appreciative of the endeavours of instructors from various regular units, particularly from 227 Signal Squadron. For the recruits, the high point of the camp was their passing-off parade, commanded by **Sergeant Wetherall** of 10 Signal Regiment, and inspected by **Brigadier Baynham,** Commander 11 Signal Group (V). The recruits were a credit to the hard work put in by themselves and their instructors.

Lance-Corporal Alan Stewart had his own individual high point when, during the second week at camp, he completed 19 years of service with the TA and TAVR and took his discharge. HQ Squadron gave him a big send-off, complete with private bus (to Scarborough station, not Liverpool!). His valedictory blessing was delivered with an aplomb more appropriate to a calling other than his own as a Depot Inspector with the Merseyside Passenger Transport Corporation.

Another to leave the regiment shortly after camp was our Training Major, **Major Dickie Blackwood,** who has left the army. The regiment will long benefit from the hard work he put in, particularly in adapting the regimental training school and its syllabi to accommodate recent changes in the trade structure of the Corps. We wish him well in his future civilian career. And we welcome his successor, **Major Terry Ross,** whom we had the pleasure of meeting while we were in camp.

JIMMY ON THE GUIDON

80 Squadron, commanded by **Major Charles Charlesworth,** are now officially 'Cheshire Yeomanry'. On reorganisation, they reformed from elements of Royal Signals and Yeomanry in and around Chester, and their aim has always been to keep the local associations alive. The Cheshire Yeomanry were an L-of-C Signal Regiment during the last war—in 1942 they were converted en masse when there was a desperate shortage of Signals in the Middle East. And so, for 80 Squadron, there is a Jimmy on 'our guidon'.

4 STAR COOK-HOUSE

The British Horse Society asked 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) to provide control and emergency radio communications for their Horse Drawn Carriage Driving Competition at Eaton Hall on 30th June and 1st July. It was agreed that what they really wanted was telephones and the Line Troop duly laid circuits to the check points and obstacle course late on 29th July. The Duke of Westminster's agent laid on breakfast in the Grosvenor Hotel (4 star) for the party, somewhat startling the Head Waiter. The communications were a great success and the linemen have all volunteered for next year. However, we are leaving the obstacle course to the horsemen. The PSO, **Major Charles Metcalfe** (late The Blues) took his rover round with difficulty—in 4-wheel drive and first gear.

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

COOKERY NOOK

THE Regiment entered two teams in the West Midland District TAVR Cookery Competition over the weekend 14th–15th April. One was drawn from the ACC members of the unit and the other from the WRAC. Both teams acquitted themselves well with the ACC just scraping in ahead of the girls to establish, yet again, the basic superiority of the male! The girls will rightly point out that had it not been for their vehicle . . . but that's another story.

Altogether, some 16 teams battled their way through a weekend which was anything but a 'piece of cake'. Saturday was spent on map reading and driving tests, erecting a camp in total darkness and snatching a couple of hours of sleep. A rogue fire extinguisher in the WRAC vehicle made a name for itself by going off and covering everything that couldn't move, and most that could, with a nasty substance. Despite this, both teams were ready for inspection on Sunday morning and for the cooking of Sunday lunch in the field.

The final placings showed the Regiments ACC team in 3rd position and the WRAC in 6th, which, as a first time effort, was very good. Next year will show the cooks of 35 Signals as a force to be reckoned with. By the way, there was only one WRAC team in the competition. The team members were:—

ACC: **Staff Sergeant Derek Partridge, Lance-Corporal Brian Enticott** and **Private Alexander Lappin** driven by **Corporal Ronald Edge,** Royal Signals.

WRAC: **Sergeant Christine Allen, Private Elizabeth Smith** and **Private Theresa Murray** driven by **Signalman Granham Wood,** Royal Signals.

800 YEARS OLD

It is not often that a town celebrates its octo-centenary but Newcastle-under-Lyme has just done so. The town is the home of 58 (Staffordshire) Signal Squadron and naturally, when the celebrations were held, the Squadron went along on Saturday, 2nd June to show off its equipment and skills. Rumour has it that the public showed more interest in the WRAC than in anything else but the day was reckoned to have been a success and was a good example of the close relationship which now exists between the town and its own military unit.

STIRRING IT UP

Private A. M. Loftus with Councillor and Mrs. R. G. Lane, Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle-under-Lyme

ANNUAL CAMP—SCARBOROUGH 1973

Wives and girlfriends find it difficult to understand why their menfolk bother to go away to an Annual Camp where they work so hard that they come home exhausted and need another fortnight to recover. The awful truth is that although the work is hard everyone sets out in addition to cram into just two weeks a whole year's worth of social activity of every sort. So much happens that it is difficult to know what to write about but here are some of the more harmless highlights.

FIEND FOR FITNESS

Firgt, a request from **Major Bob Titterington** who responded to the rumour that our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby,** is a fitness fanatic, by getting up every morning at the crack of dawn and running three circuits of the football pitch. He wishes it to be known that he did this. Nobody was up to see him.

KIDNAPPING RIFE

Second-Lieutenant Sue McCall considered by the CO to be one of his more attractive looking subalterns (**Mrs. Kirkby** please note), was sold back to the Mess after having been kidnapped by person, or persons, not so unknown from the Sergeants' Mess. The ransom money raised by the Officers was about £70 and the recovery of **Subaltern McCall** was effected appropriately enough in the LAD Scammell. Not to be outdone **R.S.M. Harry Birtles** raised an instant further £70 from the WOs and Sergeants' for **Captain Nick Candler** who was on offer by the officers and subsequently converted to **W.O.14 (R.S.M.) Candler.** He was last seen soaked to the skin complaining that his mascara had run. The combined ransom and sale proceeds will be sent to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Accidents at camp were few and there were no major casualties. About the worst was **Signalman Alan Powner** who sprained his ankle badly when a cable drum fell on it. **Major Dereck Eve,** that hero of the little known epic 'Curry and Sympathy', has since been heard to remark that **Signalman Powner** has a weak ankle and is always doing this sort of thing (last camp he fell out of the truck!).

STRANGE AILMENTS

The Sergeants' Mess had its problems when the RSM went down with a mysterious 'Bi-cardi' rash and the MTO, **W.O.1 (the 'Burniston Bubbler') Phil Johnson** was laid out for twelve hours after only two half pints of shandy. The latter was last seen wearing dark glasses and his former sunny personality had given way to dark looks and muttered oaths about nobbling.

RECRUITS' ENTHUSIASM

On the more serious side, the peace and quiet of Burniston Barracks was constantly disturned by the dulcet tones of **W.O.2 Raymond Faulkes** and **Sergeant Niall Murphy** as they drilled the recruits who had been split into two groups to add a competitive flavour to the course. Their fortnight of military training ended with a pass-off parade and inter-squad drill competition. The inspecting officer and judge was **Brigadier Baynham,** Commander 11 Signal Group (Volunteers) who with the assistance of unbiased aides declared Verdun Squad 'trained' by **Sergeant Murphy** the winners by a short head. The enthusiasm shown by the recruits was tremendous and if the standard of these newest members of the Regiment is anything to go by the future looks very bright indeed.

HONORARY COLONEL VISITS

The first week of Camp was spent in Scarborough, with individual trade and military training as the order of the day. The aim was 'something for everyone'. Our Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier The Reverend Charles Nettleship,** spent two days with us. His crowded programme included taking the salute at a Regimental Parade awarding the TEM to **Lance-Corporal Sheila Butler,** WRAC and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Ray Martin,** and The Royal Warrant to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Douglas Newby.** He also helped to prove that on a rainy day you can get 150 Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants' within reach of a beer resupply point in the Burniston Officers' Mess. His share of the ransom money was promised after the following Sunday's Collections.

ARMY ALWAYS WELCOME SAYS MAYOR

The Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough spent an afternoon visiting all training and administrative activities followed by tea with the WOs and Sergeants. They were impressed by the enthusiasm of all those they met and amazed by the diversity of their civilian occupations. The Mayor assured us that the Army will always be welcome in Scarborough.

ORIGINAL CHURCH SERVICE

The Sunday Church Service deserves special mention because of its original approach to the sermon. A congregation of 150 singing hymns to taped music provided by courtesy of Radio Scarborough were startled by an unscripted and certainly unrehearsed playlet directed by our Padre, **'Cecil B. deMille' Lucas** and with an all star cast which included the R.S.M., **'Howard Birtles,** MTO, **'Scot' Johnson,** and Adjutant, **'Burton' Todd.** The message was received loud and clear and subsequent interest in the play and cast of the next production will ensure a full house.

Lieutenant Bob Heath having been saddled with the job of Assistant Adjutant was given a free rein to organise sport for everyone. This he did with great success with team and individual activities ranging from voluntary PT in the gymnasium, 5-a-side football, tug-o-war to crown green bowling. No reasonable game was overlooked.

DISTRICT COMMANDER AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Major-General Majury, GOC West Midland District spent Tuesday, 10th July with us. In 7 hours, with the assistance of a helicopter, he visited every major exercise location and the recruit course at Scarborough. Swooping down from the sky at our field headquarters at Strensall he stepped out of his air taxi to find all available members of the Regiment mustered for the presentation of the B.E.M. to **W.O.2. Harry Sankey**—a fitting setting for an award earned over many years loyal service 'in the field'.

On Wednesday, whilst the exercise continued unabated we were delighted to welcome at our Strensall HQ a number of visitors among whom were the Director of Telecommunications (Army), **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt** and **Mrs. Sherratt,** The Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle-under-Lyme, The Mayor and Mayoress of Shrewsbury, **Colonel B. M. Metcalfe,** Deputy Director, WRAC and representatives from Northern Army Group and the TAVR Associations. The interests of our guests were clearly very diverse but we think that the overall aim of showing and telling them something about the Regiment was well and truly achieved.

SHREWSBURY TALES

Councillor and Mrs. A. H. Edwards, Mayor and Mayoress of Shrewsbury with Captain S. W. Minton-Beddoes, W.O.2 H. Sproston, Staff Sergeant C. J. Buckworth-Herne-Soames and Sergeant G. C. Lewis

WITHOUT DOUBT—A SUCCESSFUL CAMP

The return from exercise signalled the last round of troop, squadron and mess functions, preparations for the return journey and handing back our UK Annual Camp home for another two years. Bang on time the crew of the first vehicle drew their haversack rations from **Sergeant Sheila Edwards** at 07.00 hours on Saturday morning and by 09.30 hours all that remained was the rear party in the final stages of agreeing what we had or had not done to the barracks.

The need to introduce some variety into the UK Camp location is sometimes voiced but there is no doubt that much of the advantage of a Scarborough Camp stems from the fact that the barracks and training facilities are first rate and tailor made for Royal Signal units—quite apart from this, the Regiment seems to enjoy themselves there and this successful camp was no exception.

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

WE have had a change of government!

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D., having completed his tour as Commanding Officer, was recently promoted Colonel and appointed Deputy Commander 12 Group. We are all pleased that his dedicated service to the TA & TAVR has been thus recognised, and would hope that his tenure, as well as being rewarding, may even permit the opportunity to get a third clasp to the T.D.

In his place, we welcome our new 'regular' CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. A. Poole,** hot-foot from Cyprus, and trust that his time with the Volunteers will be a slightly less Grivas experience!

The thumb that plunges the syringe will also be new. **Major J. Schulz** (an Aussie with RNZAMC) has taken over from **Major R. L. MacQueen, T.D.,** our doctor since the reorganisation and latterly, following his ordination, a first reserve so to speak for our padre.

Alongside the inevitable comings and goings, we can of course record some more static statistics. During a visit to 44 (Cinque Ports) Squadron, **Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. A. Poole** presented the Efficiency Medal to **Sergeant Bottle, Lance-Corporal Ellis** (WRAC) and **Signalman Wilkins,** as well as a first clasp to **Staff Sergeant McGregor,** and we echo his congratulations. Not that one would think that 44 Squadron was encouraging long service, judging by the fact that in May **Captain C. D. Gale**—their Second-in-Command—led 27 members, including 4 WRAC, on a tough hill climbing expedition in the Cairngorms for a week. Seemingly more people now understand more fully when an NCO points to his sleeve and asks the time-honoured question.

858/859 Corps Signal Troops, under **Captain P. A. Upton, T.D.,** have already sojourned in Germany for their annual camp, and the Regiment itself is due to find some far off corners of foreign fields for a fortnight in October (hardly height of season—not even in sight of Hessen!), where we shall be tactically deployed the whole time on a Squadron or Troop basis. In fact, British Airways have been hard pressed recently to cater for the almost daily departure of recce groups, who have suddenly discovered business or holiday commitments to be miraculously well placed.

39 Sig Regt (V) London

ANNUAL CAMP 1973

NAPIER Barracks, Folkestone became 'home' to over 60 per cent of the Regiment during June, whilst the remainder enjoyed the more romantic settings of Cyprus, BAOR and Scotland. The communicating aspects of Camp were based on these overseas detachments working back to Scotland during Phase I (during which time the Camp at Folkestone was being prepared) and then swinging their antennas to the South of England during Phase II. The communications were most successful and the hard work and training over the past year by everyone paid-off.

We were fortunate in having glorious weather and the sun-tans at Folkestone almost equalled those of Cyprus. Those who decided to swim were helped with friendly advice from **Staff Sergeant Eddie Maskell,** "In two, three—splash, two, three!". This encouragement was heard in Cyprus and **Major David Smith** and **Captain Gill Dearmer** leapt out of their beds and raced down to the beach in Dhekelia for their early morning dips.

A beauty contest was held at the Camp dance to find contestants for the Miss TAVR 1973 competition. The judges had difficulties but the interviewer enjoyed his task. However the final order was **Private Elaine Ross** 1st, **Private Kathy Mulligan** 2nd and **Lance-Corporal Margaret Edwards** 3rd. The Honorary Colonel's choice is not recorded but is noted for future reference! One contestant, **'Private' Hutchings** was disqualified after it was confirmed that 'she' had been having private lessons from Danny La Rue.

PULCHRITUDE ON PARADE

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Sherrie Grace with her band of new recruits who passed off during camp at Folkestone

On the official 'day off', the Regiment departed on a trip to Calais by various methods from cabin cruiser to hovercraft. It could only be described as a Dunkirk in reverse.

Some mention must also be made of the very high standards that were in evidence at the Recruit Troop's pass-off parade and the very hard work obviously put in by **Lieutenant John Burgess** and his staff in obtaining these standards. During the latter days of their recruit training whilst participating in a simulated platoon attack, casualties became very real. At an attempt to fix bayonets **Signalman Rodrigues** in his enthusiasm to overrun the enemy, tried to mix it with a sturdy old oak tree, only to be jettisoned 10 feet off the ground by the branches and laid on his back—a case of 'the bite being worse than the bark'.

Finally, a Regimental parade was held on the final day and the pass-off was taken by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith White.** Our congratulations are extended to the following who received their medals:—

R.Q.M.S. Ken Richardson	LS and GC
Staff Sergeant Keith Wheatley	TAVR Clasp and Rose
Sergeant 'Jock' Robertson	TAVR Efficiency
Sergeant Ken Chiddington	TAVR Efficiency
Sergeant Joe Salter	TAVR Efficiency
Staff Sergeant Ernie Cast	TAVR Efficiency
Sergeant Ron Sacre	TAVR Efficiency
Corporal Ted Kerry	TAVR Efficiency

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boy you sure need sympathy!

SPORTSMEN ABOUND AT BLANDFORD CAMP

1

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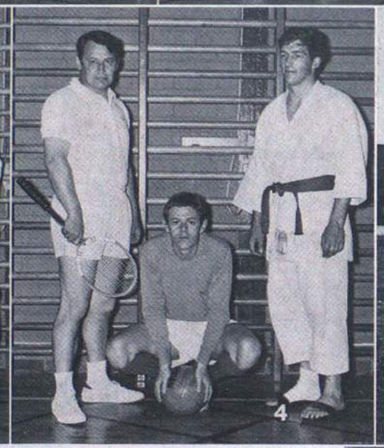
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It is not all work at Blandford Camp—though some may think so. There is still time for a wide range of recreation as these photographs show; and we have had to omit such popular activities as sailing, hockey, tennis and Staff Sergeant Spears' tug-o-war. We apologise for a double appearance of Lance-Corporal Graham Thomas—he really is rather handsome!

1. Shooting—Corporal John Villiers; Fencing (Sabre)—Lance-Corporal Mick Pawlow; Rugby—Corporal Phil Cheesman; Golf—Sergeant John Shepherd
2. Canoeing—Lance-Corporal Mick Pawlow; Sub-Aqua—Lance-Corporal Graham Thomas; Archery—W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bill Greenhill
3. Fencing (Epee)—Lance-Corporal Steven Graham; Cycling—Lance-Corporal 'Jerry' Wells; Cricket—Staff Sergeant Eric Spear; Badminton—Signalman Alan Cook
4. Tennis—Staff Sergeant John Carr; Football—Signalman 'Jock' Boyd; Judo—Sergeant Ray Morgan.
5. Free Fall Parachuting—Lance-Corporal Mike Whitley
6. Squash—Sergeant Keith Addison; Basketball—Signalman Sam Wright; Ski-ing—Lance-Corporal Graham Thomas; Gliding—Sergeant Rex Clark

ROYAL SIGNALS WIN B.A.O.R. INTER-CORPS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
THE VICTORIOUS CORPS TEAM

Left to right: (*Standing*): Captain Jim Lane (non-playing Captain), Major Peter Tidey, Signalman Chris Dennis, Signalman Mark Edge, Major John Heyes, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Barney Barnett, Captain Mike Walker. (*Seated*): Major Ken Bicknell, Captain Douglas Burt (Reserve), Captain Don Reed, Sergeant David Falconer, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Simpson

At R.A.F. Bruggen on 19th and 20th July, Royal Signals won the Benson and Hedges Trophy for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Corps Golf Championship. In the final of this knock-out competition the Corps comfortably beat the R.A.P.C. but it was the semi-final against the R.E.M.E. that produced the greatest tension in this two day endurance test. When the eight pairs of golfers had completed their rounds, a total of 144 holes, the scores were level. All eight pairs were required to continue to the 19th in a 'sudden death' play off. At the end of this hole it was still all square and so on to the 20th they all went. It was not a situation for faint hearts and only when the last pair completed the 20th was victory clinched for the Corps side. An outstanding team performance

SHOOTING

Regular Skill-at-Arms Meeting Bisley 27 June—7 July 1973

REPORT BY MAJOR G. A. S. EXELL
CAPTAIN OF CORPS SHOOTING

AN account of **Corporal Gerry Jaques's** magnificent win in the Army Championship has already appeared in last month's WIRE. This report covers the other aspects of the ARA Meeting.

This year we had a record entry at Bisley with 90 Royal Signals competitors. Many of these were from the Nishan Troop but, nevertheless, this was a very welcome boost for shooting interest within the Corps. 7 major and 2 minor Royal Signals units competed in the Team Championships.

The trophies at Bisley are always difficult to win and every year standards improve. The only 'silver' to our credit this year (apart from **Corporal Jaques**) was in the SMG Match. In this event **Corporal Alan Brooks,** School of Signals, won the cup for the best score in the Preliminary Stages and **Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham** won the cup for the match overall. **To have Royal Signals wins in both the Rifle and SMG Championships in the same year is a tremendous achievement particularly as we have never before won either event.**

Our best achievements in the Individual Rifle matches were as follows:

Match 1 (a)	Roupell	**W.O.2 Eric Smith**	**3rd**
1 (b)	Whitehead	**Lance-Corporal Alan Rowbotham**	**8th**
1 (c)	Association	**Corporal Colin Harris**	**13th**
2	Roberts	**Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham**	**4th**
3	Army 100	**Corporal Gerry Jaques**	**3rd**

Our young soldiers also featured well. **Signalman Don Wallbridge** won the prize for the best young soldier in the Roupell match (placed 17th overall). **Signalman Dave Collins** won the prize for the best young soldier in the Roberts match (placed 64th overall).

63 teams participated in the Major Unit Championship (KRRC Cup) and competition was very fierce. 30 Signal Regiment was our highest placed team in 12th position. Had all the Nishan Team members been eligible to shoot for '30' this result would undoubtedly have been much better. The top Royal Signals unit in each team match was as follows:

Unit Team Rifle Match	16 Signal Regiment	11th
Team Snapshooting Match	30 Signal Regiment	9th
Section Match	30 Signal Regiment	9th
LMG Aggregate	223 Signal Squadron	6th
SMG Team Match	16 Signal Regiment	12th
Falling Plates Match	7 Signal Regiment	3rd
Pistol Team Match	School of Signals	9th
Target Rifle Team Match	School of Signals	7th

223 Signal Squadron did well to get 8th place in the Minor Unit Championship (out of 23 teams).

Our best pair in the LMG/GPMG Match (Corporal Kingham and Corporal Rennoldson) won a LMG XXX Medal. This is the first time a Royal Signals pair has achieved the honour, which is normally an Infantry preserve.

Our representatives in the Army 100 were as follows:

Corporal Gerry Jaques, Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham, W.O.2 Eric Smith, Major Geoff Exell, Major Doug Genders, W.O.2 Tony Cole, Lance-Corporal Ken Ford, Signalman

Dave Collins, Major Mike McCann, Captain Chris Enright, Sergeant Mick Provart.

Both **Major Doug Genders** and **Captain Derek McLean** finished well up the list in qualifying for the Pistol XXX.

The Final Stage of the SMG Match had 45 firers qualifying instead of the 30 firers in previous years. In addition to **Corporals Brooks** and **Kingham, W.O.2 Tony Cole, Corporal Jim Hindle** and **Corporal Spencer** also qualified for the '45' Medal —a notable achievement for the Corps.

The Methuen Team selection was a problem of 'whom do we leave out' rather than 'whom do we put in'. On the day, we had three very good scores and three not up to the firer's usual capability. If any one of these had shot to form we could have once again won the Methuen. However, sadly it was not to be and we had to be satisfied with 3rd place and the consolation of, once again, winning the Woolwich Bowl. Some years ago 3rd place would have given cause for great satisfaction. It is a fair reflection on the Corps shooting standards that 3rd place nowadays is regarded as a comparative failure!

In summary, there is no doubt that we have many individuals in the Corps with considerable shooting talent. The Nishan Team itself has several shots, including young soldiers, who can hold their own in competition at any Service level. The unit team results should have been better but in many events one (or two) firers let down a team. Bisley does not lightly forgive errors and often only a small number of points separate the top dozen teams.

Many shots regard Bisley as the end of their shooting year. However, by the time this is in print Nishan will be upon us and 30 Signal Regiment will be shooting it out against the CENTO countries in Turkey. We hope that a judicious mixture of luck and skill will bring that cup back to the UK in September.

NRA SERVICE WEAPON MEETING
BISLEY 9th-13th JULY, 1973

A team of 6 represented Royal Signals at the NRA Service Weapon Meeting. As at the ARA Meeting the competition for 'the silver' is tremendous. However, this year we had the great satisfaction of winning the Hamilton-Leigh Match. This is a match with good spectator interest. Teams of 4 cover obstacles (including a 5ft wooden wall) on the run down down from 400 to 300yds. There they have to clear the butts of snap targets (removed when hit) a fresh one of which appears every 5 seconds. Our team achieved this by firing a mere 8 rounds, which is a record for the match and must be virtually unbeatable. Our congratulations go to the team which was as follows:

W.O.2 Eric Smith, Corporal Colin Harris, Corporal Gerry Jaques, Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham.

We had a near-miss in the Cheylesmore Falling Plates Match (last won by the Corps in 1963), being knocked out in the final by 2 RGJ.

The Queen Mary is the main individual rifle match at the NRA Meeting. **Corporals Hindle, Jaques** and **Kingham** all qualified for the final stage, **Corporal Jaques** eventually being placed 9th overall in the match.

In the Inter-Service matches Corporal Jaques was selected to shoot for the Army VIII and got top score of 174. This was a richly deserved honour and completed a run of scores fired under Association/Army 100 conditions during which he has scored 165 or better over a series of 10 shoots.

Captain Derek McLean was selected as reserve for the Army Pistol VIII.

Apart from the Methuen fired at the ARA Meeting the NRA Meeting provides the only competitions in which we can enter a Corps Team as opposed to unit teams. Winning the Hamilton-Leigh is therefore an excellent example of what we can achieve when our best shots are put in a team to represent the Corps.

After **Corporal Blowman's** outstanding achievement in the ARA Meeting, the NRA Meeting was inevitably, somewhat of a come-down. Our rifle shots showed signs of strain after a heavy programme since Nishan training started in February, and almost all shot rather below their average. Only **Corporal Jaques** made the Army VIII for the United Services Cup. **Corporal Kingham** shot in the SMG team. The Corps team, however, won the Hamilton Leigh (the team snapshooting competition, involving an obstacle course on the way down to the firing point) and

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achieved reasonable, if not excellent results in all its other matches. The final result surprised us, because the team had already left Camp with their cup before it was announced that we had won the Africa Cup, the inter-Corps Championship of the NRA Meeting, in competition with the Commands of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, as well as our rivals in the Army Major Unit Championship, the 1 WFR, QOH and 10 GR.

In the Target Rifle events, we congratulate **Major John Cox** on winning the Century at 500 yards, in really beastly weather. **Major Genders** made the Queen's Hundred, and finished 'on the board', that is, among the Top Twenty. We were well represented in the Army Short and Long Range Teams in the Inter-Services Matches, with **Colonel Gilbertson, Major Genders** and **Major Cox** in the Short Range Team, joined by **Captain Enright** and **Sergeant Blowman** in the Long Range Team. Thus in the Long Range match, Royal Signals contributed five of the twelve team members, and **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Paddy' Walsh** and **Colonel Tommy Thompson** were two of the three target coaches—a truly splendid effort for the Corps, especially as the Army beat the Navy and the Royal Air Force for the first time in many years. Unfortunately, the Canadians beat us all, but the result was close. **Captain Enright** will long remember the day. On his first appearance for the Army, he scored 49 out of 50 at 900 yards, and finished his shooting career on a really high point, since he leaves the Army in a few weeks time.

Colonel Richard Gilbertson shot for Wales in the National and Mackinnon, and **Douglas Genders** was Adjutant for England in the Mackinnon.

"I SAY—WHOSE FOR TENNIS?"
Captain Ivor Oddie and Lance-Corporal Geoff Ruffer of 21 Signal Regiment certainly are. Together they won the BAOR Arms and Corps doubles, whilst Lance-Corporal Ruffer won the Soldiers' singles together with the Men's Open Doubles, partnered by Major Dewar of HQ BAOR. Lance-Corporal Ruffer was also the runner-up in the Open Singles

Royal Signals (BAOR) Cricket

MAJOR N. MOSS, SECRETARY, REPORTS:—

THE main cricketing event in BAOR at Corps level is the Inter-Corps tournament held this year over the weekend 13th–15th July in the Rheindahlen area. A practice match was held in preparation for this on the preceding weekend at Lubbecke in which a Rest team were soundly beaten by the 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment team. Out of this emerged a well balanced and strong side whose first match in the tournament was against the RAPC. In the event we managed to win this game—but only just. The scores were RAPC 120–8. Royal Signals 134–5 in 30 overs. The main problem here was, despite a good 33 from **Lance-Corporal Benny Grossmith** and 20s from **Corporals 'Gill' Williamson** and **Dave Taylor,** failure to appreciate the rate of scoring required in overs cricket. Before leaving this match **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yeoman** has asked it to be known that he was 5 not out in 2 balls!

Next morning we had to face an Infantry side apparently strong in batting. In the event some fine hostile bowling by **Lieutenant Tom Richardson** (2 for 14 in 6 overs), **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ellcox** (3 for 10) and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bert Taylor** (4 for 10), put the Infanteers out for 59. These runs were knocked off in 13 overs—not without incident for at one stage the Corps had two wickets down with no runs. A good knock of 45 by **Bert Taylor** saw us out of the wood.

After a longish interval occupied by a needle bridge game, the team went out again to attempt to defeat REME in the semi-final. Put in to bat REME lost a wicket by a run out in the first over, thanks to smart fielding by **Second-Lieutenant Ian Griffiths,** and never got going. **Richardson** and **Ellcox** did most of the damage in limiting the score to 42. Each picked up 3 wickets in the allotted 7 overs. These runs were knocked off for the loss of a single wicket to put the Corps in the final once again against RAOC.

Unfortunately the heavens opened on the Sunday afternoon and it was not possible to play the final. It has been re-arranged for Saturday, 1st September at Bracht and should be a very entertaining match.

Exercise Sea Legs

BY LIEUTENANT NIGEL PULLMAN

One officer and 16 soldiers of 12 Mech Brigade Signal Squadron enjoy some exciting sailing as well as warm-hearted hospitality during a trip to Denmark.

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING SOUGHT

EXERCISE 'Sea Legs' was an adventurous training offshore sailing expedition mounted from the British Kiel Yacht Club. The aim was to sail 2 Dan Boats (each of which has a crew of four and no engine) to Copenhagen where we were to meet two new crews who would sail the boats back. **Sergeant 'Tiny' Budworth,** had the task of getting the return leg crews from Osnabruck to Copenhagen, finding the boats there (when they left they didn't know where they were going), and then bringing the first crews home by road.

That was what was planned, and though to those involved it seemed incredible, that is, roughly, what happened.

How did it all start? Well for the past two seasons interest in keel-boat sailing has been steadily growing in the squadron, but the problem has been that with only one skipper in the unit only three soldiers can go away on any one trip. When it was decided that the squadron would not go to Bavaria again for this year's summer camp, and when alternatives were being discussed the author's offer to take three soldiers sailing didn't make a big impression.

Meanwhile memories still lingered of our happy times with the Danish regiment from Copenhagen on last year's Brigade FTX, and in particular of the hospitality offered by their liaison officer, **Major Claes Frost.**

And so the scheme outlined above began to take shape. **Corporal Dave Stanley,** RCT attended a Skipper 35 course at Kiel and when he passed two boats were chartered from BKYC, and an adventurous training grant applied for. Laison continued with the Danish army to enable the southbound crews to drive north by road and stop-over in a barracks on the outskirts of Copenhagen.

LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS—THEN OFF

The inevitable last minute signals flew, long distance telephone calls flashed, and on the morning of the 8th July (the 'morning after' the Officers' Mess Summer Ball), we were on our way. That night **Signalman Willie Campbell** and **Private Doug Barrie,** were, together with their skipper, merrily vomiting into Danish waters and the trip was well under way. **Sergeant 'Paddy' Bovenizer** was on the helm of Merganser and with the help of a fresh breeze in the right direction, we were in Rodby by 2 a.m. Our companions arrived a little while later, having been re-allocated *Rapier,* a Cutlass class of boat rather than a Dan, at the last minute.

THE BOOM DROPPED OFF

At 5 we were awoken to be told to move, and again at 7 for our harbour dues. Eventually we gave up the struggle for sleep and prepared to move on for our second leg to Gedser; and then the first disaster struck. The skipper decided to reef before setting off but when the reefing gear jammed an extra heave from

Doug on the handle and the boom dropped off! Four hours, a bottle of whisky and 150 Danish Kroner later we were on our way.

Rapier and her crew were waiting for us at Gedser having arranged moorings alongside a trot of boats departing at 6 a.m. next morning. As it turned out it was the day for our longest leg (60 miles to Rodvig) so we decided to leave too at that time. We didn't have much alternative. The wind remained co-operative and after a good long day's sail we went ashore. Our first question was to ask if we were where we thought we were—we were.

BRIGHT LIGHTS

Things were going alarmingly well, for well ahead of schedule (it was now Wednesday) we were dodging the jets as they came into Copenhagen airport. Then the wind failed us and those last few miles, within sight of our destination, took an age. We eventually tied up in Langelinie harbour, just next to the famous Little Mermaid. A quick meal and a 'Tabak shower', and we were off in search of the bright lights and Carlsberg. **Signalmen Mick Ledger** and **Alan Williscroft** found them in the Tivoli Gardens—**Lance-Corporal Mick Wilton** and **Signalman Jim Denehy** went elsewhere.

TERRIFYING HYDROFOILS

The next day we were due to meet up with the shore party from Osnabruck, and we decided to sail to one of the yacht marinas just north of the city to do this. Accordingly we set sail, and despite the fact that we were still in the 'safety' of the harbour, we experienced our most terrifying few hours of the whole trip. The wind was light, dropping to calm. The hydrofoil ferries were frequent and anything but calm. We paddled, we prayed (some thought their last) but all to no avail. There always seemed to be a Gigantafoil (and they are) bearing down on us just when we were wallowing with no steerage way at all.

It was an older and wiser group that arrived at Skoveshoved marina that evening (a marina thoroughly recommended incidently). And then came the second miracle of the day (the first being that we got out of Copenhagen harbour alive). **Sergeant 'Tiny' Budworth** found us, and had found our liaison officer, **Lieutenant Ole Funder.** After a suitable celebration, the party now swelled to 18, further investigated Copenhagen by night. Not all though, a splinter group led by **Driver Barry Stephenson** wanted to venture further, and thus took the . . . (the author still trembles at the thought of the word), hydrofoil across to Malmø, Sweden. Anglo–Swedish relations were improved, and some had a good time.

A MEMORABLE DAY

Friday the 13th was the highlight of our time in Denmark and will long be remembered (or at least the early part of it) by those who decided to go 'sightseeing'. It started with a trip to the Hamlet Castle at Kronborg, Helsingor. Our host, **Major Frost,** being the commandant of the military part of the castle was able to give us the full VIP treatment. A Dane with a very English sense of humour, he proved a superb guide and ensured our visit was not to just another boring old castle. The visit was completed when **Major Frost** entertained us all to a delicious traditional Danish lunch, with local beer and schnappes.

On to the inevitable brewery visit where Tuborg were our hosts. This needless to say, set us up for a thoroughly enjoyable evening at the Bakken pleasure gardens (a poor man's Tivoli). The dodgems were the highlight. **Dave Stanley** and his crew however decided to go back to the centre of town: by taxi or rail? No they sailed in to the centre of the city, went ashore, and in the early hours sailed home.

TOPLESS BEACHES

Next morning they were off again, sailing to Sweden, or rather the island of Ven, which we were assured was part of Sweden, and that was the main thing. The other crew, by now including **Lance-Corporal David Duncan, Lance-Corporal Steve Hurst** and **Signalman Pete Clunie** were less ambitious and decided to anchor off a near-by 'topless' beach. A complete failure. The anchor wouldn't hold, we couldn't get close enough in, and there weren't any topless girls there anyway, said **Dave** who was hogging the bino's. "Not so", said **Mick Wilton** whom we met later and had spent the day *on* the same beach.

Boats and crews changed, and after our memorable visit, we bade farewell to **Ole Funder** and set off for home. And what followed was a salty saga of storms and high seas, sickness and a case of 'you name it we had it'. The most unseasonal mid-July weather followed us all the way home, and men like **Signalmen Willy Richardson** and **Steve Herd,** both sailing for the first time were left in no doubt about the excitement of off-shore sailing.

It is a standard question from all novices "can this boat capsize"? "No", is always the skipper's confident reply. But on this occasion even he was worried, and grateful for an efficient self draining cockpit.

NEAR DISASTER

Despite the adverse weather we made good time on the return south-bound leg, and as well as returning to all the ports we'd visited the first week we also had a day in hand to call in at Bagenkop for a night. *Rapier* was first to arrive in this little harbour entering it in a following wind approaching force 7, under the jib alone. As she tacked around looking for a mooring, disaster, the clew came out of the jib, rendering that sail useless, and the boat with no power; "up main", shouted **Dave,** and **Craftsman Chris Edmondson** heaved on the halyard. Oh dear, half way up it jammed. **Steve Hurst** pretended he wasn't there, and how this potentially disastrous situation was resolved is still not clear; but when *Merganser* arrived a few minutes later, there was a big crowd on the quay-side watching to see how we fared—and that's another story.

HAPPY ENDING

In the early hours of Friday morning, just under two weeks since we had left, *Rapier* **and** *Merganser* **tied up at BKYC. During the trip a total of 300 miles had been sailed by 16 soldiers, of whom half had experienced their first time at sea, and incidently their first trip to Copenhagen. All expressed a wish to do it again (sail that is) and four lucky (?) ones were selected for the Corps regatta. But more of that elsewhere, no doubt.**

TECHNICAL FOOTNOTE

Throughout the exercise hourly schedules were kept while at sea, between the two yachts, using A 40 radios. These contacts proved on frequent occasions to be both interesting and useful.

BAOR Hockey Review 1972/73

MAJOR G. C. VERDON, BAOR HOCKEY SECRETARY WRITES:

INTER-DIVISION TOURNAMENT

The Inter-Divisional Tournament took place this year in Herford over the week-end 17th–19th November, 1972. The following Royal Signals players were selected to represent their respective Divisions:

1st Division	
Major Verdon	HQ 1 Division
Staff Sergeant Howes	11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Sergeant Bromidge	11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
2nd Division	
Major Heyes	2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain Vigurs	2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Heyes	2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Lance-Corporal Kirkham	2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Signalman Mitchell	2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Major Moss	4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant Diaper	4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant Hope	12 Mechanised Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Sergeant Bovenizer	12 Mechanised Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
4th Division	
Lance-Corporal Clasper	4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Lance-Corporal Baxter	4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment

(*Continued on page* 438)

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(*Continued from page* 436)

Lance-Corporal Tillman	7th Signal Regiment
Rhine Area	
Major Gregory	HQ BAOR
Staff Sergeant Trent	21st Signal Regiment
Sergeant Luis	21st Signal Regiment
Corporal Hooper	13th Signal Regiment
Signalman Birrel	13th Signal Regiment

INTER-CORPS TOURNAMENT

The Inter-Corps Tournament took place this year at Hameln from 2nd–5th March. Ten teams took part and were divided into two pools. Royal Signals were drawn into Pool B with RAC, RE, Infantry and REME.

On the first day we drew 2 goals all with the RAC in the morning and beat the Infantry 3 goals to 1 in the afternoon. In both these games the side played fast, open and constructive hockey. The next day we met the Sappers and though we were one down at half time recovered to win 2 goals to 1. At this stage we were playing well and had high hopes of winning our Pool and qualifying for the final. Alas this was not to be so as we were beaten 4 goals to 2 by REME on the Sunday. We deserved to lose this match as we created many more scoring chances than REME but failed to convert them to goals. On the Monday we met the Gunners in a play off for third and fourth place. We restructured the team to provide a little more experience against youth and skill. This paid off and after an exciting game with a lot of good hockey by both sides we ran out winners by 2 goals to 1 and thereby qualified for third place in the Tournament.

I was very pleased with the support given to me by the players this year. We tried out a number of new young players who I believe benefited greatly from the experience. I would also like to thank **Lieutenant-Colonel King,** CO 7th Signal Regiment for allowing us to use 7th Signal Regiment for our trial.

The following were selected to represent Royal Signals (BAOR) in the Tournament:

†**Major Verdon,** 1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment; ***Lance-Corporal Ardern,** 1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment; ***Captain Vigurs,** 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment; †**Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Heyes,** 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment; ***Lance-Corporal Kirkham,** 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment; **Captain Wood,** 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment; **Corporal Hayward,** 7th Signal Regiment; ***Lance-Corporal Tillman,** 7th Signal Regiment; ***Signalman Woodall,** 7th Signal Regiment; **Signalman Birrel,** 13th Signal Regiment; **Staff Sergeant Trent,** 21st Signal Regiment; ***Sergeant Luis,** 21st Signal Regiment; ***Lieutenant Bunage,** 24 Missile Regiment, RA; ***Sergeant Raybould,** 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; †**Sergeant Kernahan,** 6 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; ***Sergeant Bromidge,** 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; **Signalman Singh,** 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; **Staff Sergeant Hope,** 12 Mechanised Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; †**Corporal Gregory,** 20 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; and ***Sergeant Leitch,** 639 Signal Troop (94 Location Regiment).

† Reawarded Corps Colours (BAOR) for 1972/73.

* Awarded Corps Colours (BAOR) for 1972/73.

BAOR SQUAD

The following players were selected for the BAOR squad from which the BAOR team will be selected:

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Heyes, 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment; **Sergeant Kernahan,** 6 Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; and **Corporal Gregory,** 20 Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron.

COACHING

A big drive is being made in BAOR to qualify people for the various grades of the Hockey Association Coaching Badges with a view to setting up a coaching system in parallel with the Hockey Secretary and Umpire organisations. The first coaching course, which was taken by **John Codman,** the English HA Coach, was held last summer. Royal Signals personnel in BAOR who have qualified to date are:

Captain Allen—HA Senior Coach, 12 Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; **Major Verdon**—HA Coach, HQ 1 Division; **Sergeant Bromidge**—HQ Preliminary Coach's Certificate, 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron; and **Lance-Corporal Luckett**—HQ Preliminary Coach's Certificate, 13th Signal Regiment.

ADMINISTRATION

As a last cheering note it is encouraging that the BAOR, 1 Division and 2 Division Hockey Secretaries are all Royal Signals. Maybe someone from 4 Division might like to bid for the 4 Division Secretary's post?

Obituary

W.O.2 C. E. 'JACK' YALLOP

Many of his friends will be saddened to hear of the death of W.O.2 C. E. Yallop who passed away at the comparatively early age of 49. His service with the Corps stretched back over twenty five years. He originally entered boys service at the age of 14 leaving India to do so (his father at the time was serving in India with the Royal Norfolk Regiment). His last unit was with 2nd Signal Regiment in Bunde where he was discharged in October 1963.

'Jack' Yallop, as he was popularly known possessed many sterling qualities; he was a very likeable man and this enabled him to build up a very wide circle of friends. He leaves a widow and one daughter, to whom sincere condolences are offered in their sad loss. The address of Mrs. Yallop is: 22 Earlham Green Lane, Norwich, Norfolk, NOR 38H.

Movements

Officers

Major G. Corden	To National Defence College
Major H. A. Cuerden	
Major R. F. Hills	
Major M. J. Pickard	
Lieutenant W. P. Crowley	To RMC of S (28 Degree Course)
Lieutenant M. D. Crowther	
Lieutenant M. S. Fisher	
Lieutenant J. W. Fletcher	
Lieutenant R. R. Holmes	
Lieutenant N. K. P. Hope	
Lieutenant S. G. Hughes	
Lieutenant D. A. Lynam	
Lieutenant T. R. Manders	
Lieutenant P. L. McDougall	
Lieutenant P. Parfitt	
Lieutenant M. F. Podmore	
Lieutenant I. P. J. Robertson	
Lieutenant J. W. Stabler	
Lieutenant N. H. Stewart	
Lieutenant A. B. Wood	
Captain M. McI. Ayrton	To MOD Signals 31
Colonel J. A. Baker	„ Project Management
Major J. J. Bally	„ School of Signals
Lieutenant C. P. P. Barnes	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Colonel D. H. Briggs	„ 4 Signal Group
Major D. T. Burton	„ 24 Airptbl Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Major M. F. Collins	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant M. J. P. Collins	„ 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Major M. F. H. Colman	„ HQ 3 Division
Captain (Tfc) F. Cooper	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. M. Crombie	„ 6 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Major (TOT) P. W. Dale	„ MOD Signals 32
Lieutenant D. J. Elson	„ 45 AYT
Second-Lieutenant S. J. Fathers	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Captain H. L. H. Feber	„ School of Signals
Lieutenant A. R. Gale	„ 10 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant S. D. Galpin	„ 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain R. A. J. Gardner	„ 39 Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain B. G. Green, B.E.M.	„ 2 Cadet Training Team
Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. J. Halford	„ RMC of S
Captain P. A. Hallett	„ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Major M. A. T. Hartnett	„ 3 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) C. Heaps	„ 14 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. D. Heck	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Major D. J. Henning	„ Union Defence Force
Second-Lieutenant N. D. Illman	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. D. Lane	„ 22 Signal Regiment
Captain P. A. Lenthall	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Major F. C. Lettin	„ HQ 2 Signal Group
Second-Lieutenant G. L. Lord	„ 24 Airptbl Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant J. A. MacFarlane	„ RMC of S
Second-Lieutenant P. M. D. Marvin	„ 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Major W. R. Mayne	„ 11 Signal Regiment
Major M. G. Panton	„ HQ UKLF
Captain E. M. Powell	„ 20 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant D. G. Proctor	„ 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Captain G. V. Raynor	„ School of Signals
Major (TOT) A. V. Render	„ 240 Signal Squadron
Major J. W. Roberts	„ AAC Harrogate
Second-Lieutenant I. O. Robertson	„ 30 Signal Regiment
Captain E. Robinson	„ 13 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel M. U. Ryan	„ HQ NORTHAG
Captain G. Schofield	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) E. M. Short	„ 261 Signal Squadron
Captain L. R. Smith	„ 48 Gurkha Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron

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(*Movements continued*)

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A/Captain P. W. Todd, B.E.M.	„	10 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. A. Wannell	„	11 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. Welton	„	AAC Harrogate
Captain G. D. Willis	„	7 Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1 (Y. of S.) R. G. French	To	School of Signals
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. E. P. Cox	„	233 Signal Squadron
A/W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. C. Hawkins	„	School of Signals
W.O.2 (Supvr R) D. E. Cheyne	„	4 Communications Unit
W.O.2 (Supvr R) A. E. Haslam	„	13 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Supvr R) T. B. Neal	„	9 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. J. Thornton	„	SHAPE HQ Command and Support (BE)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) W. G. S. Cochrane	„	10 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) E. C. Harriss	„	27 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 J. H. Foulds	„	33 Signal Regiment (V)
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Staff Sergeant J. H. Parkes	„	19 Airpthl Brigade Signal Squadron
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Staff Sergeant G. W. Walker	„	8 Signal Regiment
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A/Sergeant T. R. Beckett	„	11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. G. Bellamy	„	2 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. V. Boulby	„	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Brand	„	11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant W. A. Didon	„	4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Douglas	„	12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. N. B. Ferguson	„	2 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. H. Grubb	„	School of Signals
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Sergeant S. J. Mason	„	1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. P. D. Roberts	„	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Taylor	„	8 Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant R. C. Tyson	„	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. M. Haston	„	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. J. E. Hilton	„	3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. S. Parsons	„	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Vockings	„	Headquarters Northern Ireland
Sergeant R. L. A. Paterson	„	4 Communications Unit
Sergeant P. Derrick	„	4 Communications Unit
Sergeant R. S. Oldfield	„	4 Communications Unit
A/Sergeant R. R. Stephen	„	4 Communications Unit
A/Sergeant D. Thompson	„	11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron (for attachment to BDLS Canada)
Sergeant A. M. Wade	„	16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Talbot	„	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. M. Allen	„	3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. F. Huet	„	SHAPE HQ Command and Support (BE)
Sergeant B. R. Tranter	„	233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. J. Gallagher	„	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. R. White	„	9 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. Gibbon	„	16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. Stranger	„	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. L. Morrison	„	16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. A. Coltman	„	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Rouget	„	584 Rear Link Detachment (11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron)
Sergeant B. R. Brown	„	14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. H. French	„	11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant P. Royle	„	Seconded Personnel Muscat
Sergeant P. J. Edwards	„	223 Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. D. Green	„	Army Air Corps Centre
Sergeant J. K. Taylor	„	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. Collier	„	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant W. J. Edwards	„	21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. A. Lovell	„	261 Signal Squadron 603 Signal Troop
Sergeant M. J. Mapson	„	7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. Craggs	„	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Baker	„	27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. G. P. Collie	„	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Kingswell	„	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. L. Bacon	„	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron

Promotions

AUGUST

Name	Initials	Rank	Trade	New Sen. Date	Old Sen. Date
REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL					
To W.O.1					
Abbott,	A. E.	A/W.O.1		2 Feb. 73	31 Mar. 70
Wise,	J. H.	A/W.O.1		1 Apr. 73	30 Mar. 70
Gibson,	A.	A/W.O.1		3 May 73	4 Dec. 65
To W.O.2					
Rees,	M. J.	S/Sgt.		1 Apr. 73	1 Apr. 72
Philemon,	J.	S/Sgt.		1 May 73	25 Oct. 70
Worrell,	F. E.	S/Sgt.		2 May 73	20 May 71
Harding,	C.	S/Sgt.		3 May 73	1 Sep. 64
Holder,	D. E.	S/Sgt.		5 May 73	23 Jun. 71
STAFF SERGEANTS' SENIORITY ROLL					
To S/Sgt.					
Boyle,	A. M.	Sgt.	Data Tg	4 Apr. 73	2 Apr. 70
Russell,	K. E.	Sgt.	Data Tg.	5 Apr. 73	20 May 69
Northey,	G. C.	Sgt.	Data Tg	6 Apr. 73	18 Dec. 69
Smith,	M. R.	A/S/Sgt.	Data Tg	7 Apr. 73	31 Mar. 69
Leggett,	S.	Sgt.	Tele Mech.	1 May 73	1 Sep. 70
Boulton-Lear,	R.	Sgt.	R Tg	2 May 73	19 Mar. 63
Towler,	V.	Sgt.	Cbt Pmn	3 May 73	7 Feb. 70
Skinner,	P. J.	Sgt.	R Tg	5 May 73	21 Oct. 69
Gainford,	T. R.	Sgt.	Cbt Pmn	6 May 73	1 Oct. 70
Shearer,	J.	A/S/Sgt.	Cbt Dvr	2 Jun. 73	2 Aug. 71
FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL					
To W.O.1					
Callow,	J. A.	W.O.2		1 Jan. 73	18 Apr. 70
Sugden,	D.	W.O.2		31 Mar. 73	16 Jan. 71
Knox,	J. D.	W.O.2		30 May 73	21 Jul. 69
SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL					
To W.O.2					
Etherton,	D. J.	A/W.O.2		2 Apr. 73	31 Oct. 70
To S/Sgt.					
Byrne,	D. J.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	3 Aug. 71
Kelly,	J.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	30 Oct 69
Mitchell,	A. A.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	2 May 70
Willock,	W. L.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	14 Apr. 67
Sykes,	D.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	5 Aug. 70
Groves,	J. W.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	1 Aug. 71
Sposito,	M. T.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	1 Oct. 70
Honor,	C. T.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	1 Jun. 72
YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL					
To W.O.2					
Hazelgrove,	R.	S/Sgt.		1 May 73	10 Oct. 68
Sharpe,	P.	S/Sgt.		2 May 73	13 Dec. 67
Strickland,	J. A.	S/Sgt.		3 May 73	2 Apr. 70
To S/Sgt.					
Hand,	P.	Sgt.	Data Tg	16 Nov. 72	17 Aug. 70
TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL					
To Sgt.					
Cross,	P. G.	Cpl.		19 Jan. 73	19 May 69
Gladwin,	R. H.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	14 Dec. 68
Cook,	C. W.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	20 Mar. 69
Slade,	J. W.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	14 Aug. 69
Lindsay,	T. S.	Cpl.		7 Mar. 73	1 Jul. 71
Rose,	P.	Cpl.		15 Mar. 73	21 Apr. 68
Lennon,	P.	Cpl.		15 Mar. 73	3 Apr. 69
Hodson,	D.	Cpl.		9 May 73	14 Dec. 68
Webb,	C. C.	Cpl.		9 May 73	19 Jan. 69
Smith,	A. V.	Cpl.		9 May 73	11 Apr. 69
McAreavey,	J.	Cpl.		9 May 73	8 May 69
Lumb,	P. R.	Cpl.		9 May 73	19 May 69
Smith,	M. S.	Cpl.		9 May 73	27 Oct. 70
Walker,	M. D.	Cpl.		14 May 73	9 Dec. 69
Hartley,	F. P.	Cpl.		6 Jun. 73	14 Dec. 68
Davies,	P. J.	Cpl.		13 Jun. 73	10 Aug. 68
Morley,	R.	Cpl.		12 Jul. 73	31 Oct. 70
RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL					
To Sgt.					
Savage,	E. C.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	15 Dec. 68
Millard,	E. R.	Cpl.		6 Feb. 73	3 Apr. 69
Watson,	J.	Cpl.		15 Mar. 73	14 Dec. 67
Millar,	G.	Cpl.		15 Mar. 73	15 Dec. 70
Walton,	R.	Cpl.		19 Apr. 73	13 Apr. 68
RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL					
To Sgt.					
Duncan,	A.	Cpl.		27 Mar. 73	13 Apr. 68
Robinson,	E. T.	Cpl.		11 Apr. 73	17 Dec. 70
Byrne,	L. R.	Cpl.		13 May 73	26 Sep. 69
Catley,	D. W.	Cpl.		14 May 73	13 Apr. 68
Carter,	I. C.	Cpl.		14 May 73	14 Apr. 67
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL					
To S/Sgt.					
Leggett,	S.	Sgt.		1 May 73	1 Sep. 70
DATA TELEGRAPHISTS ROLL					
To S/Sgt.					
Boyle,	A. M.	Sgt.		4 Apr. 73	2 Apr. 70
Russell,	K. E.	Sgt.		5 Apr. 73	20 May 69
Northey,	G. C.	Sgt.		6 Apr. 73	18 Dec. 69
Smith,	M. R.	A/S/Sgt.		7 Apr. 73	31 Mar. 69
To Sgt.					
Brecken,	H. A.	Cpl.		23 Mar. 73	1 Nov. 69
Barratt,	P.	Cpl.		2 Apr. 73	1 Apr. 65
Coltman,	W. A.	Cpl.		4 Apr. 73	16 Nov. 65
O'Shaughnessy	J.	Cpl.		5 Apr. 73	25 Mar. 66
McKay,	D.	A/Sgt.		6 Apr. 73	12 Jul. 66
Jewkes,	C. A.	Cpl.		7 Apr. 73	1 Oct. 66
Sparnon,	G. M.	Cpl.		22 Apr. 73	22 May 67
Cunningham,	A. M.	A/Sgt.		1 Jun. 73	29 Feb. 68
RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL					
To S/Sgt.					
Boulton-Lear,	R.	Sgt.		2 May 73	19 Mar. 63
Skinner,	P. J.	Sgt.		5 May 73	21 Oct. 69
To Sgt.					
Williamson,	T.	Cpl.		26 Mar. 73	1 Jan. 69
McAneny,	B.	Cpl.		1 Apr. 73	1 Feb. 70
Thompson,	J.	Cpl.		2 Apr. 73	27 Feb. 57
Illidge,	T.	Cpl.		3 Apr. 73	1 Apr. 65
Walker,	B.	Cpl.		4 Apr. 73	19 Apr. 65
Christie,	K. M.	Cpl.		5 Apr. 73	6 Nov. 65
Gowling,	M.	Cpl.		6 Apr. 73	1 Sep. 68
Stokes,	J. H.	Cpl.		7 Apr. 73	1 Oct. 68
Graham,	R. M. R.	Cpl.		2 May 73	10 Mar. 69
Brooker,	A. D.	Cpl.		7 May 73	1 Dec. 69
SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL					
To Sgt.					
Smith,	K. B.	Cpl.		25 Apr. 73	30 Jul. 70
Speed,	C. F.	Cpl.		23 May 73	1 Oct. 66
COMBAT DRIVER ROLL					
To S/Sgt.					
Shearer,	J.	A/S/Sgt.		2 Jun. 73	2 Aug. 71
To Sgt.					
Pottinger,	J. B.	A/Sgt.		1 May 73	25 Sep. 64
Piller,	R. F. C.	Cpl.		3 May 73	31 Oct. 67
COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL					
To S/Sgt.					
Towler,	V.	Sgt.		3 May 73	7 Feb. 70
Gainford	T. R.	Sgt.		6 May 73	1 Oct. 70

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	Initials	Trade	Sen. Date	
W.O.1				
Aldous,	R. W.		5 Sep. 72	discharged
W.O.2				
Howie,	B. S.		16 Jul. 64	}
Hall,	E.		25 Jan. 69	
Alexander,	D. T.		21 Jun. 70	} discharged
Simpson,	E. J.		14 Oct. 70	
Burnham,	L.		19 May 71	}
STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL				
Bowman,	D.	Cbt Sig	16 Aug. 64	}
Ireland,	B. D.	Cbt Sig	6 Oct. 66	
Morris,	J. B.	Cbt Sig	22 Mar. 71	} discharged
Bingham,	D.	Cbt Dvr	20 Jul. 71	}
FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL				
W.O.1				
Fordom,	G. W.		17 Aug. 70	}
Morris,	J.		12 Jun. 71	} commissioned
Sharp,	A.		12 Jul. 71	discharged
W.O.2				
David,	J.		17 Jul. 71	}
Paul,	H. J.		19 Jul. 71	} discharged
SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL				
W.O.2				
Elliott,	N. C.		9 Sep. 65	}
Wilson,	I. D.		10 Jan. 69	} discharged
YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL				
W.O.2				
Wright,	G. H.		1 Mar. 65	discharged
TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL				
W.O.2				
Cole,	B. C.		1 Apr. 59	discharged
Sgts.				
Stockham,	G. F.		30 Nov. 55	}
Owen,	D. C.		14 Apr. 70	
Critchlow,	G. E.		12 Aug. 70	} discharged
Desanti,	R.		20 Aug. 70	}
RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL				
Sgt.				
Scott,	D. R.		24 Jan. 68	discharged
RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL				
Sgt.				
Poole,	D. R.		20 Feb. 69	}
Palmer,	J. V.		25 Jun. 70	} discharged
Storer,	R. A.		16 Dec. 70	}
COMBAT DRIVER ROLL				
Sgt.				
Ratcliffe,	J.		1 Dec. 71	discharged

(Further August details in next WIRE*).*

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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).

October-November 1973

wire

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1973 THE QUEEN'S AWARD TO INDUSTRY

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual: Yearly **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

☆

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER ● 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 10**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

The past meets the present! Our cover picture this month shows a founder member of the Corps—**Sergeant John Mudge** (right) and **In-Pensioner Dick Osgood** (1924–45) (left) meeting an Arctic detachment, commanded by **Lieutenant Mike Telfer** (extreme right) of the ACE Mobile Force (Land) Radio Troop, 30 Signal Regiment, during Exercise 'Signal View' at Blandford. Assisting **'Dick'** with his skis is **Signalman Plater,** watched by **Corporals Russell** and **Smith, Lance-Corporal Holmes,** together with **Signalmen Grant** and **Ball.** Although impressed by the stories of Arctic conditions the 'old soldiers', in turn, had a captive audience during their visit to the Corps Museum bringing both pictures and equipment to life.

Army Benevolence in Action 1972/73

What follows summarises the great work being done by the Army Benevolent Fund and why we as a Corps give it our full support.

- Overall the Army Benevolent Fund and Corps and Regimental Associations spent **£788,100** in relief work during the financial year 1972/73. Of this sum **£403,800** came from the Army Benevolent Fund.
- Ex-Soldiers and their dependants in adversity were helped by Corps and Regimental Associations with grants totalling **£470,900** to which the Army Benevolent Fund contributed **£86,400.**
- Grants totalling **£72,700** were made to the National Service Charities such as S.S.A.F.A., Forces Help Society and others to help general welfare, the cost of investigation and assistance in Army casework.
- The Regular Forces Employment Association, who found civilian employment for **5,784** soldiers, was helped with a grant of **£20,900.**
- National Service Charities dealing with the care and retraining of disabled ex-soldiers received **£31,900.**
- Children of ex-Soldiers in need such as orphans, or only having one parent or from broken homes were helped, directly or indirectly, to the extent of **£36,600.**
- Aged ex-Soldiers and their wives or widows were helped by grants totalling **£40,800** while National Charities caring for the aged received **£60,300.**
- Aid was given to the dependants of Soldiers killed in N. Ireland or directly to those discharged because of wounds, to a total of **£23,800** plus **£17,000** to Charities concerned with service relief work in N. Ireland.
- Other serving Soldiers in need were given grants totalling **£7,200.**
- Serving Soldiers approaching the end of their Service were helped with interest free resettlement loans which added up to **£185,800.**

In a recent case, an ex-soldier of the Corps, with 25 years exemplary service, found himself, as a result of grave misfortune, in a major financial crisis involving debts well into four figures. At the age of over 60 there seemed to be absolutely no way by which he could extricate himself from this disastrous position and the future looked very black indeed. Within hours of the Royal Signals Association approaching the Army Benevolent Fund the latter agreed a grant of £450 to which the Association added £300. This will solve his most pressing problems and with careful budgetting the remainder of this formidable millstone should, in due course, be removed from his neck.

Not only is this an excellent example of how the Army Benevolent Fund backs up the Corps but it is also of more than passing interest to note that 10 years ago aid on this scale could not have been contemplated. The advent of the Days Pay Scheme, to which the Corps contributes very generously, has truly brought about a great change in Army benevolence, albeit aid to this extent can only be rarely undertaken.

From our "In" Tray

Command Vehicle High Power Circa 1941 in Mobile Fish and Chip Shop role 1973

Sir,

One of these is currently in daily use at Dhekelia, in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus as a mobile fish and chip shop. It started life in Egypt in 1941 and subsequently came to Cyprus at an unknown date. It still has the original engine, gearbox and transmission but the cooling system and all the wiring has been renewed. The body has been stripped out to make room for the fish fryers, with a water tank on the roof. A modification to the rear of the body is to allow for customers access and a kebab machine. This vehicle is a great credit to the war time manufacturer and to its present owner who has managed to keep it in service for so many years.

Yours sincerely,

L. A. Woods, Major, Royal Signals
Officer Commanding.

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

(A photograph of this vehicle submitted with the above letter was too faded to reproduce—*Editor*).

Professional praise for Corps Band Recording

Mr. R. L. Cartwright of 41 Criffel Avenue, Streatham Hill, London, an ex-Warrant Officer of the Corps, writes to the Editor to say how proud he was to read of the praise given to a Corps Band recording in the current issue of The Gramophone. The recording 'The Spirit of England' includes a Moorside Suite-March by Holst; The Vagabond by Vaughan Williams; Spitfire Prelude and Fugue and Orb and Sceptre March by Walton; New Lamps for Old Suite from The Newcastle Frolic by Vintner and a Children's Overture by Quilter. Michael Burchill is the baritone in the vocals.

The Gramophone critic says: "The lively Newcastle Frolic is based on a Northumbrian tune and is incorporated in the regimental march of the Royal Corps of Signals. The playing of the Corps Band, under its conductor, **Major K. R. R. Boulding,** is clean and crisp and the comparatively light-weight tone achieved makes for pleasant clarity in the recorded sound. **Michael Burchill** is in good voice and is deftly accompanied by the band. A record which I hope will enjoy the sales it deserves". Cat. No. of the recording is GOLF-7003 (price £1·65).

Former Managing Director of Triumphs dies

The death was recently reported of Mr. Edward Turner a leading figure in the motor car and motor cycle industry embracing not only Triumphs but also BSA and Daimler.

Many in the Corps will know him as the personality behind the use of Triumph motor-cycles by the Corps display team. This happy liaison has existed, except for the way years, from the early thirties up to the present day.

About 1959 a rift nearly occurred when the Corps thought they were being asked to pay too much for the use of Triumph motor-cycles taking into account the publicity value that Triumph's were receiving. The then SO-in-C, **Major-General Richard Moberly,** took the matter straight to **Edward Turner** who was unaware of what was happening and a happy solution was quickly arrived at by **Edward Turner's** intervention. Those who knew him will remember him well as a dynamic, forceful but pleasant personality who had a soft spot for the Corps in his heart.

Blue Book — 20th Edition

The Blue Book will be published in January 1974.

Cost is not certain yet but will not exceed 20p (15p last year). Orders should be placed through units but a certain number of spares will be held at Association HQ and will be available on repayment to those who are unable to order through their units.

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

All copy for the December issue of 'The Wire' **MUST** *be in the Editor's hands not later than* **12th November**

Royal Signals Christmas Cards 1973

Corps Christmas Cards, size 4in × 6in landscape (102mm × 152mm) consisting of a cover diestamped with the Corps badge in full colour (5 colours) with an insert printed page 3 with greetings only. Each card tied with Corps ribbon and supplied with matching envelopes.

U.K. prices, including VAT and postal charges	7p per card
Overseas price, including postage by ordinary surface mail	5p per card

(In the event of the need to despatch by air mail this will be an extra charge to the customer).

Extra cost for printing a brief address on greeting page.
Minimum charge, up to 100 cards .. .. £2·00
Additional cards ordered at the same time and in excess of the first 100 cards .. .. .. ·01 per card

Individual orders, accompanied by the correct money, should be sent direct to the Forces Press NAAFI, Crimea Road, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Clothing, Gifts, Etc. to Welfare

Since the beginning of June, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Major and Mrs. G. W. Young, Miss D. Rumble, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stockdale, Mrs. R. A. Welton, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, Captain P. Whitemore, Major P. J. F. White, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Palmer, Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, Mrs. J. St. C. W. Robinson, Major (TOT) J. L. Bayfield, Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. W. Gahan, Mr. A. W. Smith, Captain R. Iliffe, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. G. Rogers, Major J. F. McQuade, The Thrift Shop, 10 Signal Regiment, Brigadier J. L. Akass, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fry, Mr. A. Walsh, The Committee of Adjustment, 13 Signal Regiment, Major-General C. E. Page, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) and Mrs. D. M. Maxted, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow, Mr. J. Young.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during August, 1973:

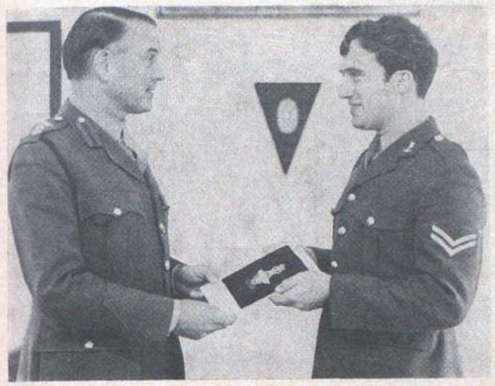
	£ p
Commandant, Army Apprentices College	100·00
C. B. Williams, Esq.	1·50
Various small donations	1·27
	£102·77

Situation Vacant

There is a vacancy for a Maintenance Electrician (Telephones) in SWS Troop 241 Signal Squadron, Shrewsbury Detachment. The ideal applicant would be a Lineman or Cable Jointer who is leaving the Corps and favours an active outdoor employment.

Any one interested in applying for this post should write to: **Captain (T.O.T.) D. Capon,** Royal Signals, Signal Works Service Troop, 241 Signal Squadron, Parsons Barracks, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire TF2 8LS.

Special Mention



S.O.-in-C.'s DRIVER AWARDED ARMY MOTOR CYCLING COLOUR

Corporal Tom Walker, whose normal job is to drive the S.O.-in-C. around the U.K. on his many and varied journeys, was recently presented with his Army Motor Cycling Colour by the Commander 2 Signal Group, Brigadier J. C. Clinch

Corporal Walker, an ex "White Helmet", has already had a most successful year in the Army motor cycling field. As a novice he took the Novices Award in the preliminary rounds of the South East District motor cycling trials; he was fourth in the finals in May 1973. A split petrol tank and resultant loss of valuable time robbed Corporal Walker of a Gold Medal in the Welsh International Two Day Motor Cycle Trials; nevertheless he gained a silver award against 187 other competitors

He is now selected as an Army Team member to ride in the British Vase 'A' Team in the International Six Days Trial. This event is to be held in the United States of America in September 1973. All will wish him good luck and continuing success.

268 miles for old folks!

It was all part of 244 Signal Squadron's annual fete. This year funds raised were to be channelled in the direction of the local old folk. Whereupon four soldiers of the Squadron, **Corporal Lenny Clark, Lance-Corporals David Bell** and **Derek Sunley,** and **Signalman 'Paddy' O'Donoghue** decided to help by doing it the hard way. They took part in a sponsored walk from Lands End to RAF Benson, in Oxfordshire. The distance—268 miles with just over seven days to do it. Their arrival was well timed. They arrived at the fete in late afternoon, marching smartly and looking very fresh. They received a very enthusiastic reception from the crowd and a very personal reception from **Fiona Fullerton** who starred as Alice in the film 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' who opened the fete.

From all points of view the fete was a great success. The amount raised including the walk amounted to just under £300 which was handed over to the Wallingford Old People's Association. The money will be used towards purchasing a mini bus for the old folk.

51° 19′ North/02° 10′ East

Yes—another sailing article but this time one with a difference, because the title describes a birth. No there isn't anything wrong with the spelling—that is exactly where the latest addition to 22 Signal Regiment 'appeared'—i.e. half way between Belgium and Britain. Baby **Kathryn Jay Chambers** was born to **Sandra Chambers,** wife of **Lieutenant John Chambers** at precisely 110843 August '73 aboard the Townsend/Thoresen Ferry *Free Enterprise IV* at the location described in the title. She was 6 weeks early by the way. **Kathryn** weighed just under 5lbs.

Sandra began to realise that **Kathryn** was knocking at the door as it were, in Belgium but she didn't want the baby to be born there and so took a chance boarding the ferry at 6 a.m. hoping to have the baby in England but her plans were all at sea.

One could think that the excitement of having one's baby under

A FREE TICKET FOR LIFE

Born on board the Townsend Thoresen Ferry "Free Enterprise IV" young Kathryn Chambers, here seen with her parents and held by ferry Captain David Matthews. Her middle name is Jay—being born in Cabin "J"

somewhat unusual conditions would be excitement enough but really it was literally only the start.

The newspapers got hold of the story with such grand headlines as 'Kathryn rules the waves' and Townsend Thoresen Ferries were of course over the moon. Little **Kathryn** now has a 'free ticket' for life on any Townsend Thoresen Car Ferry. The family got a free return journey having spent a 'delightful' night at the White Cliffs Hotel—on the firm. The crew made their personal contribution in the form of a giant teddy bear and a golden bracelet.

John Chambers?—he just walks around with a quiet, proud little smile on his lips saying the only man on board who was really worried was the young Second Officer who would have had to deliver **Kathryn** if there hadn't been a doctor on board! Did he breath a sigh of relief when a doctor responded to the call.

STOP PRESS

30th Regiment uphold British Army reputation in International Shooting Tourney

News has just come through that 30 Signal Regiment representing the British Army, managed to secure second place against teams representing the armies of Iran, Turkey, U.S.A. and Pakistan in the annual Nishan competition fired in Turkey. The standard of shooting is high and the U.K. have only once won this competition in 1971 during the nine years it has been held.

The 30 Signal Regiment team consisting of two officers, seven NCO's and 15 young soldiers scored a total of 3,174 points against the winning Turkish team. In the machine gun match 30 Signal Regiment came first having taken first and second places in the individual order of merit.

Altogether a very praiseworthy result and congratulations to 30 Signal Regiment team and those who helped to train it.

Detailed results are as follows:

Overall: Turkey 3,215; U.K. 3,174; U.S.A. 3,165; Iran 3,158 and Pakistan 2,907.

LMG: U.K. 1,378; Turkey 1,355; Iran 1,344; U.S.A. 1,225 and Pakistan 967.

Rifle: U.S.A. 1,684; Turkey 1,618; U.K. 1,573; Iran 1,507 and Pakistan 1,231.

Pistol: U.S.A. 256; Iran 247; Turkey 242; U.K. 222 and Pakistan 209.

Best individual results: LMG: **Lance-Corporal Barlow** (2 Division), **Signalman Clutton** (5 Arptbl Brigade) 307; **Corporal Rennouldson** (7 Signal Regiment), **Craftsman Harding** (30 Signal Regiment) 294.

Best two rifle shots: **Lance-Corporal Rowbotham** (7 Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Watkinson** (22 Signal Regiment).

Best pistol shot: **Captain McLean** (2 Division).

Royal Signals Baltic Regatta 1973

COPENHAGEN AND BACK

THIS year the Royal Signals Yacht Club achieved a memorable first by racing to Copenhagen and back during their annual regatta. The seeds of this event were really sown at the end of the 1972 regatta when the Chairman RSYC (BAOR), **Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Blake,** decreed that in 1973 we would sail to a more distant and romantic goal, such as Copenhagen. Everyone appeared enthusiastic and agreed that Copenhagen was certainly more romantic than Farbourg!

BUMPER ENTRY

Now started an intense six months' of planning and preparations and, despite the fact that for safety reasons each boat would have to have two skippers, the response from Royal Signals units in BAOR to participate was commendable. The entire BKYC fleet of Dan and Cutlass class cruisers was chartered from 21st–29th July together with *Kranich*, a 100 square metre yacht, as Committee Boat. The members of the Committee Boat included our Vice Commodore, **Major General Sawers, Mrs. Sawers,** and **Brigadier** and **Mrs. Macfarlane.**

The Army Apprentices College Harrogate was offered the use of the RSYC yacht *Petasus* for the Regatta and they accepted with enthusiasm. Their crew was **Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Roy Harrison, R.N.R.** (skipper), **S.S.M. Scrutton** and four apprentices **(AT Sergeant Starney, AT Lance-Corporal Arkley, AT Aubrey** and **AT McEwan.)**

PREPARATIONS AT COPENHAGEN

Meanwhile, **Captain Martin Roberts** of 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment had been doing sterling work in Copenhagen ensuring that our stay there would be enjoyable. Throughout his visit he found everyone he contacted enthusiastic and helpful. The Assistant Military Attaché at the British Embassy, **Major Cedric Cooper** was a tower of strength and the Royal Danish Navy were overwhelming with their offers of assistance. As a result of his visit **Captain Roberts** was able to arrange excellent moorings for the fleet at the Royal Danish Naval Base, visits of interest, and last but not least he was able to purchase the silver mermaid which was to be mounted on the cup presented by 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, 'The Copenhagen Trophy' to the unit crewing the first boat to arrive in Copenhagen.

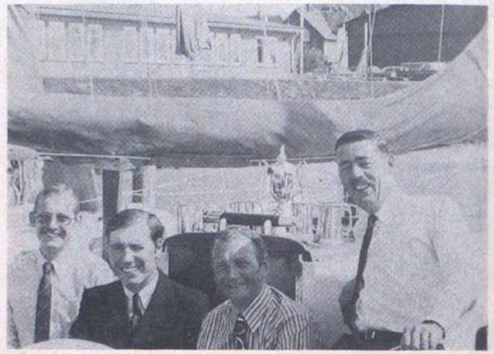
IDEAL CONDITIONS

On the 21st July the crews from ten BAOR Royal Signals units and the representatives of the Army Apprentices College arrived at the British Kiel Yacht Club. The enthusiasm was such and the weather so favourable, that the start of the regatta was brought forward by an hour and at 6 p.m. the entire fleet set sail in a strength four, south westerly wind. The wind strength remained constant throughout the whole passage and apart from choppy seas between Fermanbelt Light and Gedser buoy sailing conditions were ideal. The committee boat tied up in the Naval Base at 8 p.m. on 22nd July and the first boat of the racing fleet arrived but a few hours later. The winning boat was *Goldeneye,* skippered by **Captain Mike Shaw** (1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment) and crewed by **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Le Quesne, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Cudlip** and **Lance-Corporal Gosney;** they had completed the course of 135 miles in 33 hours 11 minutes. Close behind was *Mallard* skippered by **Captain Bill Coxon** of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment in a time of 33 hours 26 minutes. The whole fleet was accounted for within four hours of the arrival of the winning boat.

SHORE CELEBRATIONS

The fact that the fleet had completed the course in such a quick time meant that we all had an extra day in Copenhagen—we should be so lucky—and after a good sleep, all the boats were deserted for the pleasure of the Tivoli Gardens and the other numerous delights of Copenhagen.

On Wednesday evening we were able to repay the hospitality shown to us by our friends in Copenhagen by giving a cocktail party aboard *Kranich* and *Petasus,* these two yachts being dressed overall for the occasion. The Apprentices excelled themselves by running the bar on board *Petasus* and **Lieutenants Thornton**



WINNERS OF THE KIEL-COPENHAGEN LEG AND OVERALL WINNERS

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Gosney, Captain Shaw, W.O.1 (Y.-of-S.) Cudlip, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Le Quesne

and **Steven Lee** did sterling work on the jetty ensuring that the drinks flowed freely and all glasses were kept full. Our guests on this occasion included The Commander of the Royal Danish Naval Base, The Commander of the Zeeland Signals Regiment, The Commodore of the Royal Danish Yacht Club, and members of the British Embassy.

During the party **Mrs. Sawers** (wife of SO-in-C) very kindly presented the Copenhagen Trophy and silver tankards to the skipper and crew of the winning boat.

RETURN VOYAGE

The following day the fleet set sail for Kiel and to everyone's amazement the wind had veered 180° to the North East and it looked as if we were to have another 'soldier's wind' all the way home. This wind again favoured the Dan boats much to the dismay of the Cutlass skippers who still wanted to win the second leg and maybe the overall prize. However, the Cutlass skippers were to have their chance as during the night the wind went round to the west and from Gedser to Fehmanbelt there was a force 6 blow and the Cutlasses were able to show their paces. **Major Brian Adams** in *Kukri,* **Captain Peter Dick** in *Spear* and **Captain Martin Roberts** in *Sabre* broke away from the fleet, together with **W.O.2 Kennington** in *Sword,* and these cutlasses were able to hold their lead all the way to Kiel even though the wind dropped drastically on Saturday.

The winning boat on this leg was *Kukri,* entered by 21 Signal Regiment and skippered by **Major Brian Adams** with **Major Trevor Hendren, Sergeant Coulson** and **Corporal Gray** as crew. There was no doubt that this second leg proved to be more exciting and the skills of the various skippers were more in evidence. The last boat in this leg arrived 9 hours after the winning boat which gives some indication of the spread of the fleet caused by a variation of winds from force 6 westerly to a gentle breeze from all directions.

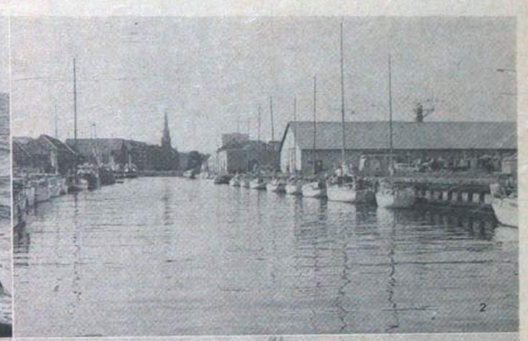
END OF A MEMORABLE OCCASION

On Sunday morning, 29th July, **Mrs. Roper** very kindly presented prizes to the winners of the Copenhagen–Kiel leg and to the winning skipper overall. The former was won by **Major Brian Adams** of 21 Signal Regiment and the latter by **Captain Mike Shaw** of 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

The final event of the Regatta was a luncheon party attended by **Major-General** and **Mrs. Roper, Brigadier** and **Mrs. Macfarlane, Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Blake** and the winning crews. This was a fitting end to what had proved to be a memorable occasion.

Now for 1974 and who knows Oslo may prove to be a more romantic goal than Copenhagen!

Corps Sailors have great outing at B.A.O.R. Baltic Regatta



1. **Crew of the committee boat during the run to Copenhagen. Major General Sawers inspects the evening meal with obvious pleasure.**
2. **The fleet moored at the Naval Base Copenhagen.**
3. **Captain Mike Shaw (1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), skipper of the first boat home in Copenhagen, receives the Copenhagen Cup from Mrs. Sawers.**
4. **Lieutenant-Commander Roy Harrison, S.S.M. Scrutton, and Harrogate Apprentices aboard 'Petasus'.**
5. **W.O.2 Kennington and crew relax at Kiel.**
6. **Major Brian Adams, Major Trevor Hendren, Sergeant Coulson and Corporal Gray of 21 Signal Regiment displaying their trophies after winning the Copenhagen-Kiel leg of the race.**

Postscript to the Royal Signals Baltic Regatta

Lance-Corporal Paul Gosney describes how his Regiment (1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment) won the overall championship.

"I NEVER realised that when I agreed to crew in the regimental 'B' boat that we would collect prizes for racing to Copenhagen and back!

The first race started in Kiel Fiord at 18.25 hours on 31st July. I suppose we were the lucky ones to be in a Dan boat as the wind was South-westerly and ideal for our larger mainsail, but it took a long time for the fleet to thin out. The weather remained fine and calm the whole way up to the approaches to Copenhagen harbour with just the few odd patches of very light winds making helming tricky. We met and battled with the 28 Signal Regiment boat skippered by **Lieutenant-Colonel Carney** and fought to overtake them. Skipper, **Captain Mike** (whose crash is it?) **Shaw** was spot on with his navigation and First Mate **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tony Cudlip** was back to normal when sleeping by auditioning as a snoring foghorn. **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Eric Le Quesne** livened up the race by recording some pops on his cassette radio and 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon' became *Goldeneye's* signature tune.

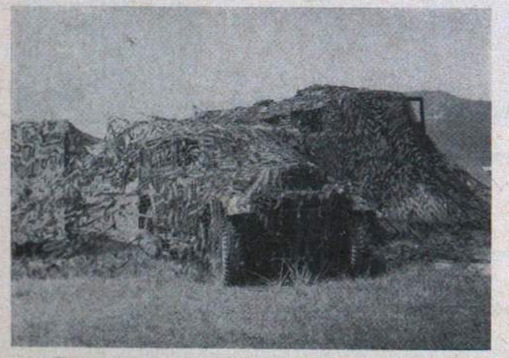
First light on 23rd July found us inching our way in very light airs into the approaches to the finish at the south entrance to Copenhagen harbour. We could see another Dan skippered by **Captain Bill Coxon** and his 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment crew slowly catching us and it would be neck and neck. Luckily we caught a little more breeze and finished just 18 minutes ahead.

We moored up in the Royal Danish Naval Dockyard and spent three pleasant days sightseeing with visits to the Tivoli Gardens, sailing up the coast towards Helsinborg Castle and a trip to the Tuborg brewery. Prizes were presented by **Mrs. Sawers,** wife of the SO-in-C, at a cocktail party in Copenhagen.

11.00 hours Thursday morning saw the fleet racing back to Kiel. Luckily the wind was in the North-west and we were back to the battling with the other Dan boats. After rounding the first mark well in the lead we saw it whittled away by a change of wind to the west and gusting 6 to 7's. It was a hard night's beating into it and the Cutlasses revelled in it. After the hard night we relaxed in better winds only to be becalmed off Rodsy for six hours. Anyhow, when we were sailing again we were back to battling it out with the 2 Division boat. We remained in company with them for the next 60 miles to the finish but honours went to them by one second, can't be much closer than that in 44 hours racing! Lucikly we won the overall championship and we collected another superb tankard and the skipper was awarded the RSYC Telescope—we think he'll need it in his new appointment as Adjutant of 28 Signal Regiment.

Just can't wait for next year's race and Copenhagen is the ideal place to reach as the half-way point!

Do you remember this? — Scene in the New Territories, Hong Kong 1949



IF so you could wear the 40 Divisional Signal Regiment tie. The above illustration shows the RHQ complex, with the CO's staff car and office vehicle at San Wai in operational location during the period of tension on the Chinese–New Territories border in November, 1949.

40 Divisional Signal Regiment was formed at Canterbury in May/June, 1949 and moved to Hong Kong on the Troopship *Empire Ken*. On 13th September, 1949 the regiment disembarked into Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon and within two weeks moved to Cafereria camp, New Territories. After a short life of only two years the regiment amalgamated with Hong Kong Signal Squadron in mid-1951 and became Hong Kong Signal Regiment. Members who served with 40 Divisional Signal Regiment in Hong Kong and the New Territories may now purchase a distinctive regimental tie.

The tie is a dark blue terylene, with a printed motif of the Corps Badge in Silver alternating with the 40 Divisional Bantam Cock in red and gold over a red '40'. Cost per tie is £1·30.

Ties may be obtained from:

PRI, 244 Signal Squadron
RAF Benson
Oxford

Road Safety—9th Signal Regiment show the way

The frustration caused by the congested roads of England must make many motorists long for the open roads of the Continent and places further affeld. However, foreign motoring is not without its hazards.

Motorists of 9 Signal Regiment in Cyprus are faced with narrow, uneven roads and the demonic Middle Eastern attitude to driving. As a result of a number of road accidents, an intensive campaign was started to promote high standards of driving. An unusual feature of this campaign was the sale of seat belts by the PRI. Emphasis was placed on this aspect of road safety because of the high probability of the 'innocent victim' accident. The sale of seat belts at 9 Signal Regiment has now topped the £500 mark.

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1974

Stocks of the 1974 Corps diary are now available for **immediate sale.**

The diary is of similar pattern to the 1973 one which proved very popular.

For those who have not seen it, the diary is based on the modern slim-fold planner style which is so laid out that on opening it a day of the week runs right across 2 pages and a whole month can be seen at a glance across a full double page. The outer cover (6 in. x 3½ in.) is in flexible dark blue vinyl embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an alphabetically laid out address and telephone number insert which can be removed if desired. There are also separate pages giving calendars for 1973, 1974 and 1975, metric conversion tables, world travel information and a London underground map as well as a page for entering personal details and for forward planning of engagements in 1975.

The cost of a diary including postage to any address is 35p.

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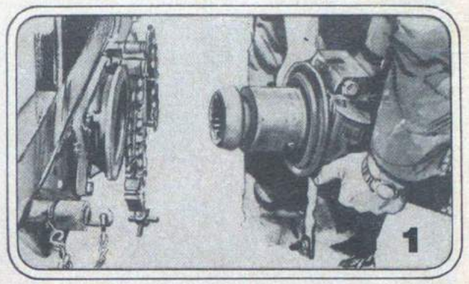
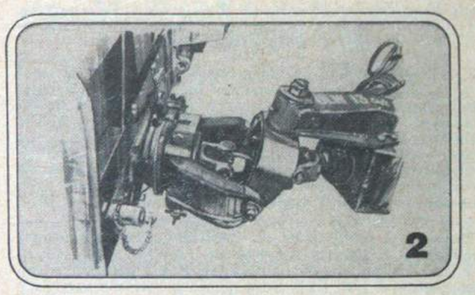


Exceptional performance is given by the addition of a powered-axle trailer. Not only is the combination of 4 x 4 plus 2 x 2 more flexible than a rigid 6 x 6 vehicle, but the increased traction allows



country impassable to a 4 x 4 to be easily traversed. Over heavy going the trailer can push the vehicle. Illustration 1 shows the drive being lined up; illustration 2, the drive fully engaged.

4x4 PLUS 2x2 ADDS NEW DIMENSION TO 1 TONNE LAND ROVER

Fifth Reunion of the Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45

SURVIVORS of the old Hong Kong Signal Company once again travelled from all corners of the country to Blandford Camp, Dorset for The Fifth Re-union which took place on the weekend of 31st August. The Commandant **Captain J. A. Moore** Royal Navy and the officers of the Defence ADP Training Centre kindly placed the facilities of the Mess at our disposal. **The Mess Staff entered into the spirit of our re-union and did us proud in the way of food and service. We owe you all a deep debt of gratitude and thank you very much from us all.**

As in previous years the gathering went with a real swing due to the energy, enthusiasm and organising ability of **Monty Truscott.** He had also traced three more survivors and gathered them into the fold namely, **Bill Butler, Ken Whittenham** and **Alan Hill** who with their ladies joined us for the first time. Rumour had it the **'Brack'** would turn up but once again he disappointed us.

It is estimated that there are but 28 survivors that we cannot trace and any reading this are asked to write to **Monty** at the following address—**Lieutenant-Colonel M. E. E. Truscott,** Defence ADP Training Centre, Blandford Camp, Dorset. **'Flash' Gordon, 'Busty' Vennor, 'Yank' Smith** where are you? Those members that have been contacted and have not attended a reunion, we trust that they can attend the Sixth Reunion.

This year we were without 'The Grand Old Man', **Colonel Eustace Levett, O.B.E.** who died October, 1972 and his presence was sadly missed but we carried on as usual in the way that he would have wished. The new President is **Vic Ient,** the oldest surviving POW in attendance, and he will be a worthy successor. **Vic** suggested that we apply for affiliation to the RSA and it was agreed that we will approach the General Secretary to see if this is possible.

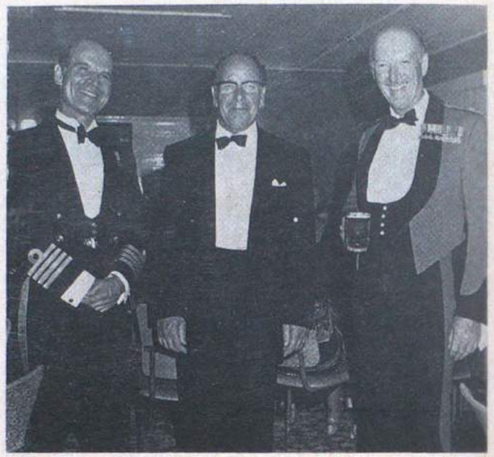
The pattern of the reunion was much the same, commencing with a wonderful buffet as we 'fill in' on the Friday evening. The ante room gradually filled up to exclamations of delight as old comrades met again and soon the well known nicknames were once again in use. A few words picked up here and there brought vividly back to mind events of the past. Lisbon Maru, Shanghai, Narumi, Osaka, Okinawa, Wanchai, Dreamland, China Fleet—how the memories flood in. As the groups formed the spirits of our pals started to move around as their names were mentioned. Those famous words "They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old" are very true. As names are recalled one pictures them as they were, full of youth and vigour whereas we are growing stouter and greyer as the years roll on. Nevertheless we are the lucky few to return from the hell camps. We can forgive but we must never forget.

Monty Truscott and **Harold Bates** visited Hong Kong in August. **Monty** presented to **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow,** CR Signals Hong Kong a bound copy of **Colonel Levett's** War Diary. **Colonel Benbow** in return presented the Hong Kong Signal Company 1939–45 with a photograph album depicting views of old and new Hong Kong. **Monty** and **Harold** told us of the many changes out there in the form of the harbour tunnel, new roads and huge skyscrapers and of pollution on those wonderful beaches! The rest of us hope that **Ernie** will make a charter flight possible one year. What a Reunion that would be!

On Saturday the attendance at the dinner was 38 members, 28 wives, relatives or friends and five guests. We extended a warm welcome to **Major General Sir John** and **Lady Jean Anderson, Captain J. A.** and **Mrs. Moore** and **Brigadier Pat Hobson** the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association. **Sir John,** who was the Signal Officer-in-Chief at the time of our first reunion replied on behalf of the guests. A new toast was proposed and drunk to Royal and Gurkha Signals Hong Kong.

The evening gathered momentum and it was not long before impromptu dancing took place with **'Bing,' Jimmy** and **Frank** leading the way. More tales were told as the tongues loosened or the ladies moved out of earshot and at some early hour in the morning the numbers dwindled until the bar finally closed. I nearly forgot to mention that we also had a Councillor in our presence and I enjoyed dancing with her—I was only kidding **Jean** I do believe in women's lib but everyone must have a master!

Even with the passing years we still keep alive the spirit that kept us going in the dark war years and although our eyes may grow dim there is still that glint as we recall the delights of Hong Kong and Kowloon.



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Monty Truscott (*Centre*) Chairman of the Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45 pictured here with his guests at the Fifth Reunion. *On his left:* Major General Sir John Anderson, K.B.E. Colonel Commandant and *on the right:* Captain J. A. Moore, Royal Navy Commandant of the Defence ADP Training Centre, Blandford Camp

On Sunday morning we listened to a Hong Kong Radio tape of an interview with **Monty** and **Harold** which went out over the air during their visit. They gave their views on life in pre-war Hong Kong, the battle and the awful experiences at the hands of the Japs and they did it very well.

After a good lunch we said our farewells until next year, God willing, and departed our various ways. As the last car left the camp a flock of birds were seen to be hovering over the camp, then turning slowly they flew to the East. Could it be!

Sayanara

Harold Copsey, 2323556

Round the World Sailing Race

BY MAJOR L. D. EDINGER

THE first round the world race for fully crewed ocean racing yachts, sponsored by Whitbreads and organised by the Royal Naval Sailing Association was formally announced at a Press conference in June, 1972.

FAMOUS SAILING PERSONALITIES

The sailing fraternity were naturally aware some considerable time before, that such a race was contemplated, and it was not long before many of the famous single handed sailors were being mentioned as possible contenders in the 27,000 mile race: **Chay Blyth, Leslie Williams, Philip Weld** and **Eric Tabarly** being amongst them.

Although the race will have started by the time this actually goes to Press, it is believed that some 20 entries from seven or eight countries will cross the line on the 8th September at Portsmouth, with six British boats amongst them.

FOUR LEGS

The yachts sail on four legs, the first being one of nearly 7,000 miles to Cape Town followed by a similar one to Sydney, then a long haul of over 8,000 miles to Rio de Janiero via Cape Horn, and finally back to Portsmouth, a mere 5,000 miles; the three intermediate ports being mandatory stopping points. The last leg will be a pursuit race, based on times taken to complete the previous stages, and though the shortest one, it could also be the slowest if the equinoctal gales are up to scratch!

(Continued on page 449)

(Continued from page 448)

"British Soldier" (previously "British Steel") at sea

THE ARMY ENTRY

The official army entry in the race is *British Soldier,* formerly known as *British Steel* and made famous by **Chay Blyth** when he successfully circumnavigated the globe 'the wrong way round'. He has lent it to the army whilst he participates with an all Parachute Regiment crew in his new boat, *Great Britain II.*

Applications to crew in the army entry were called for in a DCI published in early 1972. From well over two hundred applications the committee were faced with the very difficult task of reducing this to a short list of 45, having decided to give the maximum number of people the opportunity of taking part by taking advantage of the rule which permits crews to be changed at the compulsory stopping places.

CORPS WELL REPRESENTED

When the short list was published it included six members of the Corps, three officers and three soldiers, one of whom unfortunately had later to drop out as the result of an injury. Sailing trials were then held during the summer to ensure compatability as much as sailing ability, and a final crew list was produced, three Corps members being included: **Corporal George Marshall** sailing on leg 2 Cape Town to Sydney, and who incidentally has been carrying out the Bosun's duties on the yacht during the summer; **Captain Ashley Truluck** destined to Round the Horn, and myself on the last leg to collect a share of the glamour when we win! **W.O.2 John Rossen,** was nominated as first reserve. Only a few days before the start two members of the first leg crew were prevented from sailing and **John Rossen** was hurriedly nominated to sail and **George Marshall** switched from leg two to leg one. He may even succeed in completing two legs.

'BRITISH SOLDIER'—A FINE BOAT

The Committee have naturally had numerous obstacles to contend with, the greatest being the task of raising some £23,000 to cover the cost of conversion, new sails, a new mast and spinnaker booms, winches and the host of other items associated with such a venture. The response from commercial firms, units and individuals has been most gratifying and is one reason why *British Steel* is now known as *British Soldier*—the result of a generous donation if her name were changed! In fact alterations to the interior, the new mast, six feet higher than the original, an enlarged cockpit, and a new coach roof have altered her appearance so much that few people have had any qualms about such a change.

The refitted interior provides berths for eight, a heads, (toilet to the landlubbers) which can be tilted to allow the man in residence to remain on an even keel even when the boat is hard over (luxury indeed), lockers for crewmen's personal gear, and relocation of the galley and chart table. **Chay Blyth's** Marconi radio remains on board, and a Clansman 320 has been fitted with which we hope to communicate to Royal Signals or Commonwealth signal units en route.

All who have sailed on *British Soldier* have been delighted by the ease with which she may be handled. Sixty feet long and 12ft 9in in the beam she now has a 66ft mast. On the wind she is so well balanced that she has sailed herself for up to two hours without a hand on the wheel. Running downwind her performance has also been impressive with a minimum of effort required on the helm and little sign of the yawing from side to side which so often occurs on that point of sailing.

FUTURE DESPATCHES

We hope by means of the radios to pass daily reports during the race to *The Daily Telegraph.* Until the next despatches from our representatives after their respective journeys to Table Mountain, perhaps Bondi Beach, and Copacabana Beach, please refer therefore, to that distinguished journal!

Thoughts of an R.S.M.s Clerk on promotion to Lance-Corporal

BY LANCE-CORPORAL G. W. SMITH

OUR young soldier, mothers' pride and joy, opens the front door of his quarter. A bleak and miserable morning. He looks resplendent in his No. 2 dress, but alas, his appearance does nothing for the morning elements in Catterick Garrison.

"See you at lunchtime, darling!" exclaims our hero!

"Good luck!" his wife answers—an afterthought?

Our lad winds his way towards the Regimental lines.

"Certa Cito?" he thinks. "There's nothing quick and sure about Shank's pony!".

He approaches the lines—more sullen faces. Is it the weather, or a sign of the times? Picks up the morning newspaper—no cause to cheer.

Does the camp look different today or is it all in the mind?

He enters RHQ and goes directly to his office. One look at the 'in' tray and utter depression sets in.

". . . Better make the coffee before the boss comes in! It'll start the day off in the right footing", he thinks.

The boss arrives. They exchange a glance.

Was it approving or not?—thinks our young man.

The hour was approaching. A tightness gripped our hero's chest. Beads of perspiration flowed freely from the nape of his neck to the small of his back. The boss looms in front of him!

"You'll do!" he states. "You'd better take your place in the queue outside". His place, like his rank is the bottom of the line. He looks at the other interviewers.

"Alright for them", he decides, "they've been through it all before".

The boss comes out, hat on head—officialdom.

"You all know what to do, don't you"—A rhetorical question! "Follow me up the corridor then".

The interviews begin. The line now gets smaller, smaller.

"Next one", states the penultimate interviewer.

Our man looks around and is faced by nothingness.

"I'm on"!

The invisible iron bands around his chest tighten to an unbearable degree. He sweats profoundly. He straightens out his uniform, and adjusts a hat that didn't need adjusting and marches towards the door of the 'top office', trying to remember his basic foot drill and what hand he salutes with. He knocks 'the door' nervously. His throat is parched.

"Come in!" is the answer.

Five minutes later, our hero, reappears in the corridor. Surprising how much he seems to have matured.

His colleagues smile.

"Congratulations and well done" . . . "See you in the mess tonight" . . . "Mine's a pint".

Our youngster, smiling, retraces his steps to his own office.

"Well done!" exclaims the boss, "Now go and get properly dressed!"

Our hero, takes on a different appearance. He casts a none-too-pensive glance out of his office window . . . the sun was actually rising behind the clouds.

Canoe to Capri

The pages of The Wire regularly tell of sporting achievements by our Corps Canoeists. In this article a Corps and Army Canoeist rediscovers the pleasures of the more mundane touring canoe.

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mike Brett, 3 Commando Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, Royal Marines, writes:—

"THE Summer Cruise by our unit on the Grey Funnel Line saw nine members of the Corps on a two month tour of Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Sardinia and Italy.

NAPLES AND 8 DAYS TO SPARE

Post Exercise discussions saw us in Naples in mid June with eight days on our hands and, apart from the necessary duties, nothing to do.

I borrowed from the Dartmouth Training Squadron on board *Intrepid*, on which we were embarked, one of their Klepper Aerius folding canoes; to my mind it looked more like a rowing boat! My partner in the double canoe was to be **Marine Dave Boulton** who had previously been part of my support crew for the Devizes–Westminster canoe race during Easter this year. We were both on duty the night before we started our expedition, so a late start one Monday in June saw **Dave** and myself launching from the stern gate of the dock of *H.M.S. Intrepid*—not the easiest of jobs as our canoe weighed over 200lbs when loaded.

EXTREME POLLUTION

The bay of Naples is said to be one of the most polluted areas in the Mediterranean. Around Naples this was certainly our experience yet only 3 miles from Naples the locals were out on the 'beaches' in force. 'The beaches' consisted of a narrow strip of black sand between the sea and the railway line to Pompeii. The railway embankment was lined with thousands upon thousands of beach huts often three or four tiers high, despite the extreme pollution already remarked on.

It took us seemingly ages to pass Mount Vesuvius, the volcano that covered ancient Pompeii in up to 23ft of volcanic ash, and a place that we were later to visit and explore in detail.

A DISTURBED NIGHT

It soon became apparent that we were going to have difficulty in finding a suitable place to camp for the first night so we decided to head across more toward Sorrento to get away from the waterfront slum areas. We were looking for a fairly deserted beach and we found the perfect compromise. A beach with just two showers and a hut selling beer and pizzas. The water was clean here and as there are no tides in the Med we made our camp with the bottom of the camp beds only 6ft from the sea. During the night a thunderstorm came up and I woke up to find waves crashing at the foot of my bed and the water washing right up under the camp bed. Not wanting to get my feet wet, perhaps it was the beer, I went back to sleep. I found out the following morning that **Dave** had done exactly the same.

CAPRI BOUND

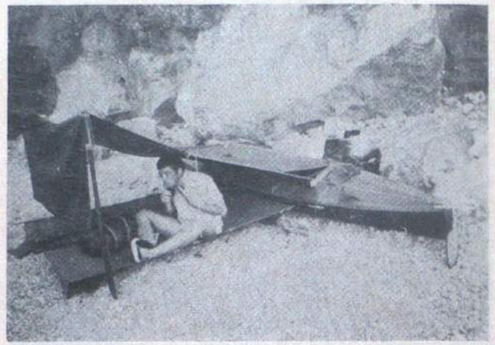
We woke up early in the morning to watch Vesuvius appear in the dawn. The brew kit was dug out of the canoe, coffee, breakfast, and then we got up. Camp was broken in slow time, photos taken and by 07.00 hours we were on our way to Capri. By 11.00 hours we were under the magnificent cliffs of Sorrento when we discovered one major item we had left behind—the Elsan toilet. However we solved that problem.

Most of the time we paddled well out to sea to make the best of the views, however, as we rounded the headland we were close to the shore, and decided to paddle on the inside of a rock to discover a beautiful pool some 100 yards across. Here the water was very warm and clear. There were a number of other visitors so we landed on a rock and, after a long swim, made lunch. (More chicken—don't they made any other type of compo now?).

Capri is just a big rock some 4 miles off the mainland. The main shipping lane from the south into Naples passes through this gap and this led to some 'fun' trying to race an empty oil tanker to have it miss us by only a paddle's length.

A HAPPY MEETING

We found the only quiet beach on Capri at the nearest point to Italy. This was a 15ft by 3ft gap in fallen rocks at the base of a 1200ft cliff. We thought the beach to be deserted but it was here



The only quiet beach on Capri

that we met **Bruno,** a Professor of French at Naples and his mother **Denise.** We wondered how they got there, no boat, a long swim to the nearest other beach and seemingly impossible cliffs. We tried conversing, **Dave** in French and I in German, but **Denise** spoke perfect English! She told us of an old path down the cliff used by the Capri version of the Moonlighters.

Would we like to come up to their house for a meal? We were changed and the boat camouflaged out on the beach in a shot. (No chicken tonight!). We were both fit but **Denise** left us standing going up the cliff. Their house is better described as a villa in one of the most pleasant settings I have ever seen. The meal was fantastic and would we object to drinking beer as water was expensive on Capri!

11 p.m. saw **Dave** and I finding our way down the cliff by torch light—far more dangerous than any canoeing I have ever done. There was not room on this beach to make camp so we slept in the open only to be caught in the first rain on the island for two months. We got soaked but it was warm and it only took a few minutes for the sleeping bags to dry in the early morning sun.

ROUND ISLAND PADDLE

Day three was our round the island paddle. We paddled into every grotto around Capri except the famous Blue grotto; they wouldn't let us take our canoe into the cave unless we paid the equivalent of about £2.

For lunch we tied up to a buoy three hundred yards from shore and swam in with money and cigarettes in a plastic bag. More pizza and a coffee each. We bought a bottle of plain water then swam back to the canoe.

Marina Grande is the main tourist area on Capri and it was here that we met friends from the ship who had come out by hydrofoil. Postcards were sent to people at home whom we knew would turn green with envy. More bottles of plain water, cans of beer and souvenirs were purchased, then we headed back to our camp site of the previous night as we had been unable to find any better site.

TOLD OFF!

We had two days to get back before we were due for duty again but the morning of the fourth day saw winds of force four to five, blowing directly at Naples so we decided to crack off the eighteen mile direct route in the main shipping channel. Six hours later we were to arrive back at the ship, safe and tired but with a wealth of extraordinary experiences, not least the story of the Italian power boat that stopped beside our canoe on the way back to tell us off for something or other almost certainly for breaking some basic safety rules. We couldn't understand what was said so **Dave** said 'Engliseee' to which the power boat driver just said 'Ah, English' and promptly drove off as if being English explained everything.

However in a serious vein we did break some basic safety rules but we were both competent and experienced canoeists who knew every risk we were taking. If you are planning such a trip and cannot list the basic rules that we broke, then plan again.

FOOTNOTE

The current Royal Signals personnel in this Squadron are:

Foreman of Signals ..	**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mike Brett**
Sergeant TE Tech ..	**Sergeant Frank Cashen**
Sgt. Data Teleg/Cy Trained	**Sergeant Jed McLoughlin**
Cpl. „ „ „	**Corporal 'Taffy' Morgan**
Cpl. „ „ „	**Corporal Stan Skidmore**
Cpl. „ „ „	**Corporal Terry Buchanan**
Cpl. „ „ „	**Corporal Barrie Campbell**
Corporal TE Tech ..	**Corporal Bob Nelson**

A Commando Brigade posting is not everyone's idea of a good posting and we are currently short of volunteers. We do have about five to seven months separation (in bits) per year. If you can take that and fancy a 'different' posting why not come and join us after doing a Commando Course! You can do so by applying through normal channels. The Married Quarter situation here is excellent, amd if you joined the Army to travel, this posting is second to none.

Alamein Memorial Chapel

Mention of the appeal to set up this memorial chapel in the village of El Alamein has already been made in THE WIRE and the Association has donated two choir stalls with a Corps shield affixed at the end of each stall.

One who has taken very active steps to assist in this venture is **Major J. S. Birchall,** Vice-president of the Manchester Branch of the Association. Apart from distributing brochures locally he was able to send a number out to South Africa by hand of a friend who was flying out there where they will be handed over to members of the Durban 'Shell Hole' of the Tin Hat Association. To belong to this Association each member must have been on active service not just military service. In this connection it is of interest to note that the South African Signal Service still wear a 'Jimmy' cap badge but, of course, without the royal crown.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

Infantry Attachment in Belfast

REPORT BY A ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICER

SQUEEZED UNDER A FOOTBALL STAND

WHEN I first heard that I was to have the privilege of joining an infantry company in Belfast, my first reaction was to believe that the army had lost all concern for my physical well being. It was certainly not a usual place for a Royal Signals Officer to spend his time. Nevertheless on the following Monday I arrived at the gates of the company location in Andersonstown. I wasn't expecting the Hilton but to see a whole company squashed into the maze of passages under the stands of a football ground was a bit surprising. The overall architectural effect was enhanced by acres of corrugated iron and wire forming a stockade around the perimeter.

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

The area for which the company is responsible consists of three separate housing estates covering about half a square mile. It does not seem to be very much but in practice it is a lot of houses and people for a company to cover. This area is patrolled continuously '25 hours' a day by foot patrols and a mobile Land Rover patrol. This serves a two-fold purpose. Firstly a strong military presence is established in the area which discourages terrorist activities, and secondly the unit gets to know the area and the people. This enables a large store of local information to be built up which is often useful later.

SOLID COMMUNICATIONS

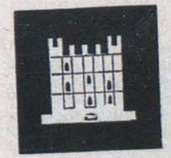
Efficient communications are vital for the effective operation of the Security Forces. The system adopted uses Pye UHF Pocketfones which work through a central rebroadcast unit. This rebroadcast unit is called a talk-through and it is unmanned although Royal Signals are responsible for the siting and maintenance. The radios have three crystal controlled channels for the Battalion net, Company net and the neighbouring Company net. The only other control is a volume control and so they are truly 'soldier proof' in operation. Also they are not susceptible to screening and so are ideal for use in built up areas and even inside houses. During my two week attachment the system was 100% reliable, and it is taken for granted that the communications will work when needed.

Good communications enabled the company to have a very fast reaction time. For example a road block could be put anywhere at very short notice. In addition, checks on cars and people can rapidly be compared with local RUC information, and any suspects detained. This greatly hindered terrorist movement and undoubtedly accounts for the relative peacefulness of the area.

MOMENTS OF EXCITEMENT

Although it was generally agreed that I had arrived during a 'quiet' period, the attachment had a few moments of excitement. A chase down the main street after a suspect car proved that a Land Rover only has a slightly better performance than a loaded taxi. Friday night was 'bovver' night and the local youths took the opportunity to stone the camp. After a show of military strength and a few arrests the crowd of several hundreds dispersed and vanished within about five minutes. The next day we were kept busy with marches which are always accompanied by a small minority of hooligans who cause trouble. The big event during the last week was the mortaring of the neighbouring company location. Luckily the attack was not very successful and only caused slight casualties and damage.

Very quickly the fortnight had passed and my attachment came to an end. I cannot say I was unwilling to return to more comfortable surroundings, but I consider it to have been a most useful experience in which I gained a very valuable insight into the problems of the people of Northern Ireland and the Security Forces.



8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 801

OC	**Major A. P. Fielding,** Royal Signals
Second-in-Command	**Captain R. N. C. Harrison,** Royal Signals
AO	**Captain A. C. Downes,** Royal Anglian
OC 'A' Troop ..	**Lieutenant I. A. Noble,** Royal Signals
OC 'B' Troop ..	**Lieutenant M. J. Walker,** Royal Signals
QM	**Major (Q.M.) C. H. J. Gibbens, M.B.E.,** Light Infantry
RSM	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) K. O. Davis,** Royal Signals
RQMS	**W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. J. Freeston**
YOS	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. A. Wraith**
FOS	**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. J. Wherry**
Chief Clerk ..	**Staff Sergeant (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) S. Hargreaves**

NOTES FROM THAT HIVE OF INDUSTRY— THE ORDERLY ROOM

Taking the maxim 'The wheels of justice grind exceeding small', the wheel has now in fact turned full circle and the dubious honour of preparing these notes has now finally come to rest in that veritable hive of industry, the Orderly Room.

Being the smooth working, cool, efficient place it is, one can easily walk straight past it and indeed many do. However, we have been known to give the odd pencil away, and, providing the weather is kind to us, even answer the occasional question.

APPRENTICE BOYS' MARCHES

The Apprentice Boy's Marches on the 11th August went off comparatively peacefully. Being the first since 1969 a record attendance was expected. We were not disappointed when some 94 bands and an estimated 6,000 marchers thronged the thoroughfares of the Waterside to celebrate the 284th anniversary of the raising of the Siege of Derry in 1689. At the height of the celebrations the scene was reminiscent of Piccadilly Circus in the rush hour as each band strove to outplay its nearest rival. Suffice to say no sleep was had by those hard worked denizens of the orderly room that lunch time.

Seven lucky lads are off to the flesh pots of Cyprus shortly to participate in what can only loosely be described as outdoor activities under the doubtful heading of Exercise 'Hot Splash'. Regular readers will recall that similar outings were made last year. Those left behind wish them well (albeit enviously) and hope they enjoy their break from service in the province. No doubt we will all have our ears bent when they return from those sunny shores.

GOODBYE TO R.S.M.

We have now said goodbye to our RSM, **Dave Loome,** prior to his leaving and by way of celebrating his return to 'Civvy Street' he organised a Squadron cabaret. Some excellent talent was displayed that night as items ranging from folk singing, with audience participation to bagpiping was enjoyed. The high spot of the evening was when our resident Yeoman, **Jack Wraith** became Eamonn Andrews and ran a 'This is Your Life' item on the unsuspecting RSM; some dark secrets were heard that night from his dim past and he was even persuaded to sing.

SKY DIVING CORPORAL

Our omnipotent and ubiquitous ORSQMS, **('Stan the Stencil') Hargreaves** has now mounted a 24 hour armed guard over his felt tipped pens. This step was taken only as a last resort in the light of much soul searching as demand has far outstripped supply. To all budding Picasso's; you have been warned. The only person unperturbed by this shattering blow to morale is the sky diving Orderly Room Corporal, **Corporal** (no more letter bombs please) **Smith.** His perception of colours is the source of much amusement in the Orderly Room. He has been known to complete railway warrants in an assortment of colours ranging from Green to Violet. He does, however, rejoice in the fact he can distinguish black from white.

TRAVELLER'S JOY

That magnificent team of Smith and Marshall, Travel Agents Ltd have been doing excellent work over the past few months. It is their proud boast that they can get anyone, anywhere, any time. They hasten to add that all the other trivia that goes on about them is merely a sideline. We welcome to the fold **Corporal ('Tim') Craven** who has just joined us from the land of 'Duty Free'. Have we got news for you!

'WILLY 'THE POST'

A word for our gallant postman, **Private ('Willy') Smethurst,** RPC. This worthy can be seen twice or even thrice daily, staggering from the general direction of the FPO, his shoulders bowed under the weight of the vast sacks of mail we receive. Some thought is being given to painting a white line on the ground to enable him to return to us after each trip. Rest assured **'Willy',** your efforts have not gone unappreciated.

COMING AND GOING

The Squadron is rapidly approaching the four year stage in its history. Many old faces have left us including the Second-in-Command, **Captain David Burton, M.B.E.** who leaves to command 24 Airptble Brigade Signal Squadron and the RSM **(W.O.1) Dave Loome** who starts afresh in civvy street. Many new faces have arrived to take their places, **Captain Noel Harrison** as Second-in-Command, **Captain Tony Downes,** Royal Anglian, who will be replacing our Administration Officer, **Major Charles Wiley, M.B.E., P.W.O.** (returning to his beloved infantry) and last but not least **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Ken Davis.** To all, both old and new we wish you good fortune in your new employment.

Footnote: As we go to press we learn we have to congratulate **Lieutenant Ian Noble,** OC Alpha Troop on winning the Whistler Trophy for 1973.

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

COMMS Troop, whose sole task is communicating, failed to communicate a secret they had planned for over two months, a wedding and a farewell.

The scene was set in the Squadron Club (The Peake Inn), the guests were wearing white (paper) carnations. Seated as in church they awaited for the bridegroom. **Lieutenant Tony Pennington** their OC was brought in by **Lieutenant Ian Grant** his best man and the new OC. The bride, **Signalman Steve Tracey** (who has since left us for 8 Brigade), arrived on time and the vicar, **Corporal 'Al' Bird,** conducted the ceremony with a differcnce. Instead of a ring, **Lieutenant Pennington** was given a blindfold as the blessing was delivered. The secret was revealed when **Lieutenant Pennington** was asked to kiss the bride. Unbeknown to him the Troop had flown his fiancee, **Second-Lieutenant Sue Ashard,** WRAC, out to Northern Ireland for his farewell party. As the blindfold was removed the only words that were heard were "Oh my God", as **Lieutenant Pennington** saw his fiancee standing next to him.

The surprises had still not finished. As it was a wedding with a difference, the happy couple were asked to cut the cake before the buffet by the Troop Sergeant, **Sergeant Pete Franks,** who produced **Lieutenant Pennington's** own sword, which had been removed from his car that afternoon.

The party went with a swing until it was time for the couple to depart. Again, arranged by **Sergeant Franks,** a surprise was in store. The honeymoon transport was a trailer suitably decorated and illuminated. The troop pushed the happy pair from the club to the Radio Shack, some ½ mile, at great speed.

Farewells were said by all except **Lieutenant Pennington** who was still speechless.

The troop would like to welcome **Signalman Mike Walker** who has joined us from 8 Brigade and wish him a happy tour with us.

WANTED—DATA TGS

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So if life is boring and you need a medal come to 233. Your country needs you and so do we.

ATHLETICS

The athletics season for army units in Northern Ireland is necessarily limited, but following our principle of 'having a go' at every sport, we entered a team in the Army Minor Units Athletics Zone B Championships at Catterick. The team was extremely well looked after by 11 Signal Regiment.

Considering our limited training opportunities we were well satisfied with the results. The team came fourth out of nine entries, **Corporal Bob Turner** won the Discus, **Sergeant 'Mo' Emmott** was second in the Javelin, **Lieutenant Tony Pennington** was second in the 400 metres and **Corporal Derek Collick** was third in the 200 metres.

On their return, the team represented the Army in Northern Ireland in the RUC Sports Meeting. Again results were satisfactory with **Corporal Derek Collick** and **Lieutenant Tony Pennington** winning their events and **Signalman 'Scouse' Evans** taking second place in the open three mile event. The final triumph was a fine win for the 4 × 100 metre relay team consisting of **Lieutenant Tony Pennington, Corporal Les Farrant, Lance-Corporal Jim Hydes** and **Corporal Derek Collick.**

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON ATHLETIC TEAM 1973
THEY REPRESENTED THE ARMY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE R.U.C. SPORTS

Back row (left to right): Corporal Don Robertson, Signalman Martin Ryan, Corporal 'Mick' Palmer, Corporal 'Stretch' Troy, Major Brian Blackwell, W.O.2 'Legs' Leggott, Lieutenant Tony Pennington

Front row (left to right): Corporal Les Farrant, Lance-Corporal 'Sparky' Sparkes, Corporal Derek Collick, Corporal Bob Turner, Lance-Corporal Jim Hydes, Sergeant 'Mo' Emmott

CRICKET

When we heard that **Captain Nick Franks, Sergeant 'Mo' Emmott** and **Corporal Dave Luckett** were joining the Squadron we knew that cricket would be given a great boost and so it proved. With the nucleus of last year's side—the OC, **Major Brian Blackwell,** our skipper, **Corporal John Howells** and **Corporal Alan Grohs** it was obvious that we would have a formidable team. We duly won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cricket Championship defeating APDO (NI) in the final by 72 runs.

Features of the final were a fine half century by **Corporal Alan Grohs** and accurate hostile pace bowling by **Major Brian Blackwell, Captain Nick Franks** and **Sergeant 'Mo' Emmott.**

We were drawn against RPO York, the current Army Champions, in the Army quarter finals and here our lack of constant match practice proved too great a handicap against very experienced and professionally minded opponents. Our batting collapsed against good bowling on a difficult wicket and RPO York were worthy winners by nine wickets.

DESPITE OPERATIONAL DEMANDS TIME IS FOUND TO TRAIN FOR SPORTS—AND WITH SUCCESS

In view of much of the correspondence in recent issues of the WIRE it is interesting to note that in the last twelve months in Northern Ireland, the Squadron has won the following Northern Ireland Championships—autumn soccer league, squash, cross country and cricket. Additionally we were runners-up in the rugby and basketball and represented the Army in Northern Ireland at athletics. All training for all sports is done in the individual's spare time. Our standard of communicating has never been higher with everyone working a minimum of 60 hours per week. Life is exhausting but never dull and no one complains of boredom!

DEPARTURES

Royal Signals: **Captain 'Bob' Peake, B.E.M., W.O.1 (Y. of S.) French, M.B.E., Sergeant Mark Crittenden, L/Sergeant Brian Smith, Sergeant Tony Gumbrill, Corporal 'Stretch' Troy, Corporal 'Ben' Gunn, Corporal Alex Reid, Corporal Dick Morgan, Corporal Pete Walker, Corporal Pete Knisely, Signalman Derek Calderbank, Signalman 'Jock' Paton, Signalman Steve Tracey, Signalman Tom Coyle, Signalman 'Joe' Jennings, Signalman 'Al' Kirton.**

WRAC: **Sergeant Denise Sharman, Corporal Carrie ('Bubbles') Wilson, Lance-Corporal Eve Christie, Lance-Corporal Delia Sanders.**

ARRIVALS

Royal Signals: **Captain 'Paddy' Henry, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Denis Cox, Staff Sergeant Bob Patterson, Sergeant Danny Traynor, Sergeant Brian Tranter, Corporal Dave Bartlett, Corporal Davy Luckett, Corporal Mick Ficke, Corporal John Jones 705, Lance-Corporal 'Jock' McCulloch, Lance-Corporal Jeff Trembeth, Signalman Jim Marshall, Signalman Linton Dawkins, Signalman Dave Hart, Signalman Jim Shiels, Signalman 'Mal' Littlewood, Signalman Mick Walker, Signalman Graham Murray, Signalman Bill Isles, Signalman 'Killer' Gillham.**

WRAC: **Corporal 'Pud' Naylor, Private Sue Paddon, Private Edie Marr.**

3 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn

Congratulations to W.O.1 J. F. Thornton on his recent well deserved Mention in Despatches for service in Northern Ireland.

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ALL LOOKING VERY ALERT AND FIT

The canoeists at the end of the canoeing at Koblenz. *Back row* (*5th from left*): Lance-Corporal Rab Wilkie, (*7th from left*): Bombadier Watty Marrs

83 Army Youth Team start a new trend

CONTRIBUTED BY LIEUTENANT C. J. GELDARD, ROYAL SIGNALS

IN previous issues of THE WIRE I have observed with interest the articles from various Royal Signals Youth Teams dotted throughout England. It is becoming increasingly apparent to me that we, the youth team in the wilds of Scotland are a different breed from our brothers to the south of the border. No we don't paint our bodies blue, nor do we speak a different language, but we do differ in several more conventional ways.

A MULTI-CAPBADGE TEAM

Firstly my team is not all Royal Signals, in fact I am the only member of the Corps in the team. The batting order is as follows: OC, **Lieutenant Chris Geldard,** Royal Signals; **Lance-Sergeant Dave Mathie,** Scots Guards; **Bombadier 'Watty' Marrs,** 19 Regiment RA; **Corporal John Campbell,** The Black Watch; **Lance-Corporal 'Rab' Wilkie,** The Black Watch. This multi-capbadge feature is to be found in all the youth teams in Scotland.

Secondly the team tends to concentrate almost entirely on outdoor adventure type activities. During the summer canoeing, sailing and mountaineering; in the winter skiing at Glenshee and for the evening visits judo, trampoline, film-shows and talks. The team has no instructor in ping pong!

The team is, however, fortunate in that being based on Dundee we have a wealth of areas for outdoor activities at very close range. The team's operational area is in fact fairly large. Besides the City of Dundee our area includes the counties of Angus, Fife, Perthshire, Kinross and Clackmannanshire.

A NEW AND ENTERPRISING VENTURE

This summer the team has completed a new and enterprising venture. After running a static three month camp on the west coast of Scotland last year the team decided to try to add more variety to this years programme. An overseas adventure training exercise was planned. This was an unknown dimention to the staff at the Headquarters as although the Scottish youth teams pride themselves in running busy and active summer camps no team had before contemplated venturing overseas.

The plan was to canoe down the River Mosel in Germany from Bernkastel to Koblenz. In all 16 boys aged between 14 and 19 from the AYT area took part. Much help was required for the provision of transport, stores, food and canoes in Germany. Fortunately 28 Signal Regiment NORTHAG at Krefeld agreed to act as our sponsor unit in BAOR.

A recce was carried out in April by OC 83 AYT and **Lieutenant Phil Sharman,** Royal Signals the Liaison Officer from 28 Signal Regiment. The exercise started on 19th July when the advance party of **Lance-Sergeant Mathie, Bombadier Marrs** and **Corporal Campbell** departed for Germany. They spent the first few days in Krefeld gathering together the necessary stores and equipment. The main party of boys, **Lance-Corporal Wilkie** and **Lieutenant Geldard** left from Dundee on Thursday, 26th July. The outward journey was by coach in UK, boat from Harwich to Bremerhaven and rail to Bernkastel on the Mosel. A long and interesting journey including a force 8 gale in the North Sea and a total travelling time of 55 hours.

The canoeing took a total of ten days. The canoe party moved each day in the double and single seater canoes from camp site to camp site each one preplanned and booked during the recce. The administration party transported the stores and equipment by road to the sites where the canoeists were met. **Bombadier 'Watty' Marrs** and **Lance-Corporal 'Rab' Wilkie** were in charge of the canoeing while the remaining members of the Youth Team and two members of 28 Signal Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Brian Kaily** and **Lance-Corporal Ian Secker** 'on loan' for the exercise performed the tasks of moving camp, restocking food and general camp administration.

INCIDENTS GALORE

During the exercise unexpected interesting incidents were in abundance. On the second night a visit to the local Wein fest at Traben Trarbach was included as part of the boys education. Despite the unfounded rumours of free wine the boys spent a most enjoyable evening. The following evening our only accident occurred. One of the boys succeeded in breaking his nose when a football goal fell on top of him. This caused some initial anxiety but after two days in a local hospital the boy was moved to Wegburg and was discharged in time to return to UK with the rest of the boys at the end of the exercise.

On Friday, 3rd August the Commanding Officer 28 Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Carnie, M.B.E.** visited the boys on the river near Fankel. The Colonel had lunch with the boys and gave them a chance to have a good look at his helicopter. After lunch the Colonel saw the boys depart by canoe then overflew them on his way back to Krefeld.

The following two days were rest days spent at Cochem. In the afternoon of the first day, a football match was arranged against a group of Dutch boys staying on the camp site. Our boys were unfortunately outclassed and soundly defeated 8–0. However, the following day a more successful sports afternoon was spent at Nuremburgring watching the German Grand Prix.

Back to the river the next day the boys had a chance of a little white water canoeing down a sluice at one of the locks. This proved most enjoyable by all concerned even by the two boys who capsized. That evening we had even more drama as two of the

boys were the first to arrive at the scene of a fatal motor accident. They assisted in bringing help and calling the police and acted most responsibly at what was a very gruesome scene.

During the following day with a strong following wind **Bombadier 'Watty' Marrs** decided to show the boys the art of sailing in canoes. The canoes were rafted together and a large polythene sheet was erected on two paddles and used as a sail. The party made great progress claiming to have overtaken speedboats and barges.

The arrival at Koblenz on 8th August marked the end of the canoeing. A total of 81 miles had been covered and a most enjoyable ten days had passed by. The party moved to Krefeld the following day where they were accommodated at 16 Signal Regiment. **Lieutenant John Henderson,** Royal Signals, the new LO from 28 Signal Regiment, helped to arrange visits during the two days in Krefeld.

On Saturday, 11th August the party departed from Krefeld on their way home. The return journey used the same means of travel as for the outward journey and by 23.35 hours on Sunday, 12th August all the boys were back in Dundee.

THANKS TO OUR HELPERS

The exercise has been a great success. The help from 28 Signal Regiment has contributed greatly to this success and through THE WIRE I would like to thank all those who assisted us before and during the exercise, especially **Lance-Corporal Brian Kaily** and **Lance-Corporal Ian Secker** whose help proved invaluable throughout the exercise.

This type of Youth Team expedition although involving considerable organisation is undoubtedly well worthwhile. The boys achieved a valuable aim in completing the canoeing. They also saw something of the soldiers in BAOR and also the opportunities that BAOR soldiering has to offer. I hope other youth teams may also consider this type of venture as I feel sure we can create more interest in the Army and the Corps in this way.

My team is already thinking of a similar type of exercise and we look forward to visiting BAOR again next year.

Variety is the Spice of Life!

A REPORT FROM 70 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

SINCE our last letter to THE WIRE, variety has been the by-word of 70 Army Youth Team. Be it walking, climbing, canoeing, caving, orienteering, squash, PT and keep-fit evenings, film shows, weapon displays, boat races down the River Taff, not to mention the organisation of the annual 'Brecon Beacon's Race' for the Welch Regiment Cup, and the organisation of a summer camp for 50 teenage boys from Belfast, you name it, we've done it! To culminate the whole period, the team was heavily committed with the Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo, with the OC acting as Tattoo Staff Officer (Production) and the Team as his staff.

After a very hectic first eight months of existence, we finally got away to three weeks leave in August. Congratulations are due to **Lieutenant Bob Hussey** who got married in the leave to the former **Miss Louise Treglown,** daughter of **Major Jimmy Treglown** at present with NORTHAG. **Lance-Corporal Hayden Thomas** holidayed in Cyprus and promptly got himself engaged to **Lance-Corporal Heather Ward,** WRAC. Congratulations too, to **Corporal Dave Sully** on his promotion, and commiserations to **Sergeant Barry Doughty** who holidayed in Israel and didn't manage to bring back an Israeli Sergeant! In one foul swoop the team has changed from a predominantly single one, to a predominantly married and engaged one. That must prove something about leave periods!

Now happily back to the mill, we look forward to a busy time this winter with our annual ·22 Shooting Competition amongst our other activities. We will be helping to run next year's 'Children's Week' at Butlins in Barry, and we look forward to seeing other Royal Signals AYT's there.

To Individual Subscribers

THE only way to be certain of receiving your WIRE correctly addressed is to be sure and let us know changes in your address, rank and such-like, as they occur. We try to operate a detective service, but it is fallible!

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News from Regiments

Army Apprentices' College receives Book of Remembrance

A UNIQUE ceremony took place at the College on Sunday, 15th July, when the Leeds Branch of the Royal Signals Association handed into the safe keeping of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, the Branch Book of Remembrance, in which are inscribed the names of all those of Royal Signals who gave their lives in the Second World War.

The actual handing over formed part of a Service of Dedication, conducted by the **Rev. Robin Laird, C.F.,** Chaplain to the College church of St. Alban, Soldier and Martyr. The book was delivered by **L. F. Payne Esq.,** aged 77, who transferred to Royal Signals on the formation of the Corps in 1920. It was received on behalf of the College by **A T Corporal Stephen Hall,** aged 17, and handed by him to the Chaplain, who, after blessing it, placed the book in the handsome wood and glass case especially made by **Squadron Leader (Retd.) Harry Smith, D.F.C.,** a Lecturer in Mathematics at the College.

Mr. L. F. Payne (a founder member of the Corps) hands over the Book of Remembrance to A/T Corporal Stephen Hall in the presence of the Rev. Robin Laird, Chaplain to the College

During the Service, the Commandant, **Colonel N. A. Butler,** gave an address, emphasising to the apprentice members of the congregation the importance and value of the Royal Signals Association and its Old Comrades to the serving members of the Corps. The lesson was read by **Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. D. Davies, T.D.,** President of the Leeds Branch.

The Service was attended by some 80 Old Comrades, with their wives, the members of the Leeds Branch being supported by representatives of Branches in Catterick, Huddersfield, Harrogate, Sheffield, York—and even Dorset, in the person of **Staff Sergeant G. Pickard** of the Army Youth Selection Centre (North). The Standard of each branch was also on parade.

It was a great disappointment that the March Past of Old Comrades, led by the College Bands and commanded by **Major R. O. Edwards,** the Salute being taken by the Commandant, had to be cancelled owing to heavy rain.

After the Service, the Old Comrades and their wives were entertained to luncheon in the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

1 SQUADRON

THE Squadron has proved itself in Regimental Sports throughout the summer by winning the Page Trophy (summer), with our closest rival 3 Squadron. We beat them by *one* whole point. This reflects weeks of hard labour and long hours of calculation to win this competition with the minimum effort required to obtain the maximum effect.

SQUADRON BAR

It was with great joy and volumes of ale that we re-opened the Squadron Bar on 1st August. We had a re-opening dance which was most successful. During the evening we said goodbye formally to **Second-Lieutenant Malcom McKinlay** who has left us for a more etherial post in the RHQ Kremlin and thereafter with 2 Squadron. We also said goodbye to **S.S.M. Foulds** who has left us for Liverpool. We wish him and **Mrs. Foulds** happiness in the new environment.

TEMPUS FUGIT

The Squadron has been extremely busy this month. In fact, so busy that the writer could hardly be found to jot down these notes. The activities include preparations for the forthcoming FTX, the youth festival, which took place on Thursday, 30th August in Caithness Barracks, and was a great success. The wives, having won the basketball feel confident of taking on all-comers now. Other preparations during the month have been for the Anglo-German Weekend to be held early in September.

'A' MATTERS

Our condolences go to **Lance-Corporal Graham Jones** who spent the whole of his month's leave sitting on an airfield hoping for an indulgence flight out to Canada—what can one say—give up—or—better luck next time.

It is with sadness, we have to report that despite the fact we are a 'Maritime Squadron' we still have one or two non-swimmers. They are shortly to receive a course of instruction from the OC's dog (every other form of instruction having failed).

We welcome **Captain Bob Drake** ('OC Charlie'), **Lieutenant Phil Tilson** ('Second-in-Command Charlie'), **Lieutenant George Heaney** (temporarily replacing **Major Tanner** as Second-in-Command of the Regiment but eventually to be Second-in-Command Delta Troop) and finally **Second-Lieutenant Mike Sheehan,** that erudite cartoonist whose work has already featured in this magazine.

3 SQUADRON

SUMMER CAMP—STRENUOUS BUT ENJOYABLE

Having had a glorious leave in July, **Sergeant 'Andy' Evans** rejoined the Squadron on the 4th August to be presented with a wonderfully designed training programme for summer camp drawn up and drafted by our very able Second-in-Command, **Captain Graham Saunders.**

On first looking at the programme **Sergeant Evans** was quickly thinking how he could put his age up by nineteen years as at the age of forty he would be excused such arduous tasks.

Having steadied his breathing and had a sniff of smelling salts his fears were cancelled by "Don't look so worried you're going as an instructor".

After four days of frantic 'cramming' the advance party led by yours truly, 'Mr. Fixit' proceeded to 'G' Camp Reinsahlien to prepare for the main party arriving on Sunday the 10th.

Monday morning the programme was under way at 06.30 with physical training. Physical straining would have been a more appropriate title for some, but by the end of the week the strain would be less as each day was to begin with PT. Breakfast was served daily at 7.30 to give everyone a chance to shower after 'jerks'. The day continued with sections involved in driver training, gas chamber, field craft and weapon training throughout. The programme for the day closed at 18.30 with a debrief involving all permanent staff and section leaders.

On Tuesday, normal training was carried on throughout the morning. Only three sections continued in the afternoon as the others were preparing for exercise 'Surprise Jump'. The aim of 'Surprise Jump', starting at 18.00 hours, was to set up a Platoon HQ, send out two recce patrols, a fighting patrol and to practice the sections in field craft. It was to last until 08.00 hours on Wednesday. The exercise was very successful considering the experience of those taking part, a genuine effort being made by all concerned. They are now much wiser as to some of the problems facing a foot soldier.

On Wednesday afternoon a hard game of football took place between 3 Squadron and the Queen's Own Highlanders. Due to all the PT we won 6–4, or was it because the 'Highlanders' were on exercise? It turned out to be a very entertaining match and a draw would have been in order.

Thursday's programme included helicopter handling for the first time, and as an added incentive students were given short air trips. That night 'Surprise Jump' took place again for the other three sections.

Friday was a normal training day. However, we had the honour of a visit from the GOC, **Major-General E. N. W. Bramall, O.B.E., M.C.** He arrived during the morning's programme and stayed for lunch.

Saturday morning everyone was up with the birds ready to do battle with tarmac, commonly known as a 10 mile bash. Having been dropped 10 miles from camp proved much better than walking the perimeter 10 times. A good effort was made by all and even **'Smoothy Q'** had no difficulty despite his age (he was marshalling in a rover).

Sunday morning arrived too quickly for some, but the thought of going home helped. All stores and equipment were loaded by lunch time and except for a small rear party the camp evacuated by 16.00 hours.

We had glorious weather all week and even those who were apprehensive at first enjoyed themselves. It certainly was a pleasant change from the normal hectic role of the Squadron in Verden, and it is intended that the venture be undertaken again in the not too distant future.

Our thanks go to **Private Dave Evans,** ACC, for the excellent meals throughout the duration of the camp, to **Sergeant Len Duncan** and **Sergeant Mick Reed** for their 'Sterling' work on weapon training.

Congratulations to **S.S.M. Hardwick** on his recent promotion and to **Signalman John Goodwin** and **Val** on their recent marriage.

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

DIVISIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

"THE Poolside at 07.00 every morning from now on". That was the order given by **Captain 'Dick' Thwaites** to all those who thought they might be good enough to get a place in the Regimental Swimming Team. Attendance was high, particularly on Friday mornings (for the uninitiated, this means that swimming even at 07.00 is more popular than the RSM's Parade), and gave good scope for coach **Staff Sergeant Ken Purnell** to select the team for the Divisional and ultimately BAOR Competition. Our greatest problem was to find a fast back-stroke, but a flash of brilliance inspired our coach to tell **Signalman 'Dobbo' Dobson,** freestyle, to go backwards. This worked like a charm, and **'Dobbo'** who had never swum backstroke before, became our fastest man.

We numbered 21 who sallied forth for Berlin one fated day in June. The morning of the competition was deliberately spent quietly at the discretion of **Signalman 'Gary' Quick,** team captain, in preparation for the afternoon ahead. After what seemed a very long morning, the time came at last to take the plunge (if you will forgive the expression). The first race was the 600 metres relay; **Signalmen 'Sean' Kirk** and **'Dobbo' Dobson** built up a substantial lead over all the other teams, but the Coldstream Guards put all their effort into a final spurt, giving us second place to their first.

We made up for this in the 4 × 50m relay, however, and **Messrs. 'Jim' Halliwell, Steve Knight, 'Geordie' Cook** and **Frank Kalling** won comfortably by a good half length.

The backstroke came next, and, between ourselves, we were all a little uncertain of this in view of earlier problems mentioned before. It was quite a relief, therefore, to see that all other units competing had encountered similar problems, and **Corporal 'Nobby' Ford** not only clipped several seconds off his best training times but finished, with the team, some 20 seconds faster than our nearest rivals.

The winning feeling was upon us all, by this time, and **Messrs. 'Sean' Kirk, John Fox, 'Geordie' Cook** and **Steve Thelwell** had little trouble winning the 4 × 50m freestyle relay.

The last event was the medley in which **Signalman 'Dobbo' Dobson** displayed his new found skill in the backstroke, well supported by **Lance-Corporal Jim Halliwell,** and a good performance by **Signalman Gary Quick** in the butterfly followed by **Corporal Dave Courtenay** freestyling ensured our triumph in the Divisional Championship and a place in the BAOR Competition.

The next day was the water polo, again a slight worry because we had never played before. Good coaching, however, by **Staff Sergeants Ken Purcell** and **Dave Northcott** with team captain **Tony Tait** ensured that we were well prepared enough to come second to the Coldstream Guards.

After only six weeks training the team justifiably felt proud of the successes in Berlin, and when we came third in the BAOR finals weeks later. We had to work very hard and a few of us sorely missed our beauty sleep with the early training sessions, but it was worth it, and we are now looking forward to next year.

SUMMER CAMPS

1 SQUADRON CAMP BY STAFF SERGEANT (Y. OF S.) GARTH LETORI ON A THEME BY SIGNALMAN KEVIN WILLIAMS

Exercise 'Lightfoot V' was the somewhat apt title given to this year's Summer Camp, apt because one look at the 'proposed' training programme revealed that we were to attempt BE tests, PFA tests, and a couple of walks 'over the hills and far away' with **Sergeant 'Paddy' Vaughan,** the Squadron's walking representative.

The location chosen by our qualified recce party of **Captain Barry Rowe** and **Staff Sergeant Jack Blackburn** was a small easily defendable island, accessible by a small well guarded bridge, in the Mosel Valley 1km from the town of Treis-Karden.

Any allusion to the fact that our camp site was like a blood island is purely intentional.

With the foregone knowledge it is not surprising that the main party were somewhat apprehensive when they arrived to 'relieve' the advance party.

The Camp Commandant, **Captain Barry Rowe,** aided and abetted by the camp SSM, **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Letori,** cheered everyone by announcing at the first of many parades that the daily routine would start with early morning PT. Full marks to **Staff Sergeant Doug Stewart** and **Sergeant Pete Radley** upon whose broad shoulders the responsibility for the PT fell.

However, it was not all hard work and we managed to find a lot of time for the more enjoyable pastimes such as swimming, led by **Staff Sergeant Dave Northcott** and **Sergeant Dave Mallorie,** canoeing instructed by **Signalman Jerry Keech** and **Captain Dick Thwaites,** and assault boat sorties to the mainland by whoever could escape.

While the rest of us were trying to follow the training programme our OC, **Major Barrie Burke,** ably mislead by MSO Superintendent, **Danny Savic,** became involved in a number of 'liaison' visits with the Bundeswehr. These visits were a great strain on his constitution but they produced an admirable, and we hope lasting, relationship with our counterparts the German army. The first fruits of his work was a day's shooting with German weapons which resulted in official awards being presented to the officers and SNCO's by **Lieutenant-Colonel Steinfeldt** on behalf of the Germany army. I should add that while the Officers and SNCO's were doing their thing the men were taking in the historic sites of Trier under the doubtful supervision of **Corporal Gary Wilkinson.**

A special mention of **Signalman Giles** must be made for his splendid effort in having the fastest time for the summounting of the nearby vineclad hill. I am not sure whether it was the thought of the crate of beer or the fact that the other challengers stopped to eat the grapes that contributed to his success.

Although we attempted to do more 'work' than on previous summer camps all could not have been amiss for as **Lance-Corporal Jack Frost** said, "We all came back connoisseurs of

1 Squadron Officers and Senior N.C.O.s proudly wearing their official German Army Shooting Medals

the local wine". So I am sure that the rest of the Squadron will support me if I say that we had a 'memorable' time, even if some of the memories were dulled by the local wine.

2 SQUADRON CAMP

The entire Squadron left one sunny day in August to hold its summer camp at Ulsen in Holland. Our hosts were the Ulsen police force and a small corps of town officials who together provided excellent liaison for the various activities undertaken during our stay. During the course of the camp, we managed to make a number of trips to different parts of the country including a guided tour of the local steel works, an early morning look at the fishing harbour at work and an introduction to the town of Velsen itself. (The latter tour finished with a lunch and drinks attended by the Mayor, a gesture well appreciated by us all!). Other visits included a day at Holland's Grand Prix racing track when the European Saloon Car Championships took place, a folk market and a flower parade. A surprisingly (?) well attended event was a visit to the Amstel Brewery, and one which ran very much overtime—no one quite understood how it happened.

A large number of sports fixtures took place against as many Dutch teams as possible, with some good results on our side—our modesty forbids us going into them.

It wasn't all sport and culture, I hasten to assure WIRE readers. A dance was held halfway through the camp well attended by both the soldiers and the local populace. Most evenings were free and well spent in a variety of ways. The laws of libel forbid me to elaborate!

CRICKET

The Regimental cricket team, although not as successful as last year, only lost three of their 17 games. They again did well in the BAOR Major Units Competition reaching the semi-final before being sadly beaten by 16 Signal Regiment. The batting successes of this year were **Captain Brian Davenport,** Royal Anglians, who scored nearly 1,000 runs for the season, **Sergeant Pete Radley** who opened the batting and would get into any side on his fielding alone, and **Lieutenant Tom Richardson** who actually managed to get into double figures on a couple of occasions. The most successful bowlers were **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) David Elcox,** the quietest member of the team, and **Lance-Corporal Bennie Grossmith** who, so rumour has it, did manage to remember all his kit, arrive on time and turn a leg break all in one game. We managed to find a wicket keeper eventually out of the ten or so we tried, top scorer being byes in most games except on the occasions that **Lieutenant-Colonel Yeoman** from HQ 1 Br Corps guested for us; he just dropped catches. About eight of the side will be here next year, so possibly the Regiment will again be in with a chance of winning the Major Units Trophy.

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3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

DURING the month of August the Regiment went on leave. The CO's chair was taken over by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. P. Russell,** he found it almost as hot as the one he left behind in Sri Lanka (Ceylon to most of us). The RSM's Chair was taken over by **R.S.M. Rod Mathieson,** and very shortly we will be welcoming **Major Mike Hartnett** into the Second-in-Command's chair. We say farewell to **Colonel D. H. Briggs, Major John Brian** (shortly to be promoted), and **R.S.M. Reg Judge.** We wish them all success and good fortune in their various futures. We hope that **Colonel Briggs** departure from the Mess was not indicative of his prowess at the helm, and that the next time he takes to the high seas his boat is a little better found than *S.S. Nightingale* was that night!

The skipper (Colonel D. H. Briggs) about to take command of S.S. Nightingale

BULFORD GARRISON CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP

The Regiment runs every year a summer camp for the children of Army families in Bulford Garrison and for children whose parents work for the Garrison. The aim of camp is to get the children to enjoy themselves. This year the children were taken to the New Forest for 11 days by **Second-Lieutenant Peter ('Top Cat') Parfitt,** his wife **Edwina** and other volunteers from the Regiment and the Garrison.

The camp was set up in the week prior the children's arrival. The D and E platoon set up the tentage in record time (40 12 × 12 and four 24 × 24 in seven hours).

A mini assault course was built near the camp site consisting of swings, climbing ropes, a scrambling net and a 200ft long aerial ropeway. The ropeway was constructed of new rope and consequently stretched a great deal. It was then decided to stretch the rope between the trees with the aid of a land rover. When the ropes were tuned to middle 'C' they were tied off. The first casualty occurred at this time. The rope was being stretched by passing one end around a low post in the ground and up a track where it was attached to the land rover. One of the cooks, **Private Bob Mayes** was ambling down quietly to see what was going on when the rope now very tight slipped off the post caught him just below the waist and sent him somersaulting 20 feet through the air. Luckily he was shaken but not stirred.

80 children attended the camp of which 24 were charming girls—all about 10 years old. Life was very luxurious for them as they were sleeping four to a tent (12 × 12) and had showers and excellent toilets and washroom facilities set up by our hygiene expert **Sergeant Brian ('Bones') Port,** RAMC.

'Bones' had a marvellous system of telling the weather, the finer details of which are still secret. He used to go for walks in the local woods looking for the lava of a particular species of creepy crawly. If the lava were hatching the weather would be fine for the next 24 hours. He was always correct.

All the stores were controlled by **'Batman',** the Second-in-Command of the camp, one **Staff Sergeant Adlington,** who also had his wife **Jean** with him. These nicknames were given to the helpers by the children and some of them are going to stick for good.

The lighting was set up by **Sergeant ('Sparks') Blackwell** whose wife **Pat** assisted in looking after the younger girls.

The children had many diverse activities to keep them occupied. In camp there were football and baseball matches, hare and hounds races and the assault course. In the evening there were films, bingo, discos and barbecues. Trips were organised to *H.M.S. Victory,* Hurst Castle, Beaulieu Motor Museum and the seaside.

Towards the end of the camp there was a parents' open day when the children had a games competition involving various types of races including a camp competition for boys.

The afternoon was highlighted by a helicopter sweet drop followed by tea for the parents.

All in all the children had a good holiday and those helpers without children were certainly given an ideal chance to make up their minds about starting a family.

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REGIMENTAL ATHLETIC TEAM—8 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Back row (left to right): Signalman Mahoney, Corporal Dillon-White, Signalman McLean, Signalman Jordan, Corporal Bond, Signalman Peacock, Signalman Daniel, Signalman Swift, Signalman Haverson, Sergeant Roscoe

Centre row (left to right): Corporal Townes, Corporal Crabb, Signalman Williams, Signalman Wood, Lance-Corporal Clark, Corporal Jones, Signalman Beecham, Signalman Coid, Sergeant Taylor

Front row (left to right): Signalman Bannon, Signalman Armstrong, Signalman Davey, Signalman Robertson, Lance-Corporal Oliver, Signalman Brisco, Signalman Wareham, Signalman Brooks

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

ATHLETICS

THE primary function of 8 Signal Regiment is in the trade training for the Corps. It is inherent within the function that the trainee strength is a constantly fluctuating and moving entity and therefore team or individual achievements in the field of sport generally deserve greater credit than the results themselves indicate.

In the latter days of July the Regimental Athletics Team competed in the Army Athletic Championships at Aldershot following a decisive victory in the Northern Zone Army UK Championships. At Aldershot the team gave good account finishing in sixth position with a total of 49 points. We were admittedly no match for 21 Signal Regiment who won the championships in magnificent style but the fluctuations of trainee strength and the need to ensure a trained output to field units worked to our certain disadvantage—five members of the winning team in the Northern Championships (26th–27th June 1973) were posted out to field units prior to the Army Championships in late July.

A notable individual achievement at the Army Championships was the winning of the long jump by **Signalman Kenneth Robertson** with a jump of 6·34 metres.

18-years old **Signalman Robertson** is training as a Radio Relay Technician. Born in Falkirk he attended Grangemouth High School where he captained his House Athletic Team. He is a dedicated sportsman who has already achieved the Junior Scottish National Championship in the long jump event, and has been selected to represent the Army Juniors in a match against Wales in September. With a best jump to date of 6·92 metres it is certain that **Robertson** has a great future in the field of Army and national athletics.

Another young soldier who has shown exceptional promise in the field of athletics is **Signalman Stephen Peacock.** 18 years of age—6ft 3in tall and weighing almost 16 stone he has proved his abilities in putting the shot—winning the Northern Zone Army UK Championship and being placed 5th in the Army Championships at Aldershot. He has been selected to represent the Army Juniors against Wales in September. His achievement is the more notable taking into account the fact that his introduction to the shot was in May 1973, at a Squadron Athletics meeting. Training as a Telecommunications Mechanic he is also a very capable rugby player and a first selection for the Regiment XV at second row.

SATISFIED SOLDIERS

Although trade training is our primary function, a considerable effort is made by the Regiment in the high priority field of recruiting. In addition to the two permanent recruiting agencies maintained by the Regiment—the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team and the Regimental Recruiting and Information Team—great emphasis is placed on assisting recruitment through the medium of the 'Satisfied Soldier'. It is opportune in these notes to feature some of the soldiers selected under this scheme, all of whom have now served on attachment to Army Recruiting and Information Offices.

Signalman Alan Whitty

(See details overleaf)

24283391 SIGNALMAN ALAN WHITTY

Alan Whitty enlisted in March 1972 and joined 8 Signal Regiment in September of that year for training as a Telecommunications Mechanic. 21 years of age and hailing from Ilford, Essex, he had previous experience in the telecommunications field with the GPO. He proved to be an excellent trainee easily achieving his trade rating and is now serving with 261 Signal Squadron in Cyprus, a posting which has achieved for him his expressed desire to travel and enables him to follow his favourite pastime of swimming.

24127682 SIGNALMAN CLIVE ALEXANDER

Clive Alexander served with the SAS TAVR for three years before enlisting in the Regular Army in March 1971. Joining 8 Signal Regiment in April, 1972 he was allocated for training as a Telecommunications Mechanic in keeping with his previous civil occupation of telephone engineer. An exceptionally enthusiastic soldier he was selected to serve on attachment to 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment for three weeks during an exercise in Cyprus. His home town is Salisbury and he has a wide variety of interests, including music and parachuting. He is now serving with 21 Signal Regiment.

Signalman Brian McMaster

Signalman Clive Alexander

Signalman Keith Peacock

24294007 SIGNALMAN BRIAN McMASTER

A young, energetic and enthusiastic soldier, **Brian McMaster** enlisted in June, 1972 leaving his civil employment as a Signal and Telecommunications Trainee Technician with British Rail. In keeping with the enthusiasm of Tyneside for football, **Brian** who hails from Newcastle, is a football player of no mean ability and has an active interest in most sports and enjoys fishing. Having successfully passed out as a Telecommunications Mechanic he is scheduled to join 21 Signal Regiment in September.

24294350 SIGNALMAN KEITH PEACOCK

21-years old and hailing from Marske-by-Sea, Redcar, **Keith Peacock** enlisted in June, 1972 and joined 8 Signal Regiment in October, 1972. An electrician by trade in civilian life, he has successfully trained as a Telecommunications Mechanic and shown himself to advantage as a soldier. He is an enthusiastic cross country runner and is thoroughly enjoying army life. Scheduled for posting to 21 Signal Regiment he will be able to continue his cross country running amidst champions.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

2 SQUADRON

FIFTEEN girls bewitched us into print this September, a time normally void of news. Two WRAC CCO Basic Training Courses commenced at 10 Signal Regiment's Training School on 11th May. The 16 starters were rapidly reduced to 15 when, at the end of the first week, one 'completely bewildered' trainee left for reallocation to 'Something less scientific'!

The others perservered with their JMU, tptr, tape relay (horror of horrors!) and mounds of homework and managed to survive a gruelling three months under the eagle eyes of their instructors, **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Ken Glenville, W.O.2 Joan Elsmore, Sergeant 'Spike' Lewin, Corporal Dave Henderson** and **Corporal Dave Kirkwood.**

Their final success story is one for the statisticians—a 100% pass at the first attempt, with gradings of one A, seven B's and seven C's. Both teams of instructors and students are to be congratulated on such a fine achievement.

The 'Best Student' prizes were awarded to **Private Christina Williamson** (CCO Course 1) and **Private Hazel Clark** (CLO Course 2), whilst every student received their long awaited and highly prized 'Jimmy' from the hands of the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Galbraith,** at an official ceremony in the 'Bruno Club' on 10th August. This was followed by a magnificent buffet lunch and some well-earned liquid refreshments.

The course has been widely dispersed by postings to Hong Kong, Cyprus, BAOR and UK. **Private Daphne Bolton** blazed a new trail by being the first member of any WRAC CCO Course to be posted directly from the course to 27 Signal Regiment, Hong Kong, and we wish her and her fellow students good luck and every success in their future career.

3 SQUADRON

The latest visitor to 3 Squadron, Aldershot, this summer was **Officer Cadet Anne Ryan** of the London University Officer Training Corps who spent a two week summer attachment with the Squadron, learning the hard way.

WHO GETS THE CUP OF TEA?
Left to right: Sergeant Pat McNeil, Major Greg Grist and Officer Cadet Ann Ryan

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

A CRY FOR HELP ANSWERED BY THE DEPOT SQUADRON

CHILDRENS Relief International, an organisation for underprivileged children, asked the Army for assistance in running a Summer Camp for some 32 children from Stockton. Instead of a tented camp it was decided that the children should be accommodated at Hooge Lines in the Depot Squadron.

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Mick Palmer's face when told of this was a picture! Not only were there to be children aged 8 to 14 years in the camp, but 14 long haired students, male and female, to look after them!

Having adjusted to the idea, plans were rapidly made and all units in Catterick were 'invited' to entertain the children. An elaborate programme for 10 days was set up and we repaired behind barricades to await their arrival.

Not long after their arrival they assaulted the cookhouse and carried off all they could see. They could certainly eat and had excessive energy. The students, all Cambridge graduates or undergraduates bore the brunt but **Corporal Brian George** volunteered to go out with a group to a small tented camp for a night out and came back looking pale. **Staff Sergeant Alan Baily** showed films in the evening and kept well in the projection box.

The 10 days were quickly over and by and large the children had a good time. The CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** gave them all presents at the final evening which was very popular and **Major Pat Thomas** and the staff at the Depot finally saw them off the premises, grateful that we could once again return to soldiering.

CORPS WEDDING
Lieutenant Chris Donaghy of 11th Signal Regiment was recently married to Carol Pavey, daughter of Major and Mrs. S. G. Pavey of 8th Signal Regiment. Our photo shows the happy bride and groom

LATE NEWS

ARMY ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP

Second-Lieutenant C. E. Birthwhistle, WRAC, of 11th Signal Regiment has won the Women's Individual Championship.

Test and Calibration Engineers –Feltham

EMI Electronics Ltd. require Test and Calibration Engineers for their Systems and Weapons Division, Feltham.

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13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

DISSATISFIED YOUNG SOLDIERS?

IT all started after one of the never-ending screeds from the Second-in-Command. This time the subject had been 'Satisfied Young Soldiers'. After the usual cries and recriminations someone asked "Well, were you satisfied in your young soldiering days?". Going around the room the answers from the assembled company were quite surprising, particularly as to how the various personalities started their service but thought that the grass was greener on the other side of the fence, here are some of the answers:—

—**Major Charles Lewis,** our Second-in-Command, started off as a NS Sapper, trained as a mines and demolitions instructor—now we know why we are always getting rockets!

—**Major Bill Turney**—OC HQ Squadron—he came from an Infantry Regiment of such fame that it has since been disbanded.

—**Captain Bob Taylor,** RAPC—our Paymaster—was once a Despatch Rider in the Corps until transferring.

—**Lieutenant Norman Miller,** Int Corps, as Security Officer wouldn't say much but admitted that he was another renegade who had served for 10 years in Royal Signals until joining the Int Corps and has never looked back since!

—**Major Leslie Webb** volunteered for service in the Royal Signals during the war to escape going down the coal mines (Bevin's 10%) but after 27 years of service in the Corps (of which some ten or so as ERE) was transferred somewhat humorously to the Int Corps—"the Army finally discovered he was intelligent".

—**Captain Colin Smith,** one of our Traffic Officers, having served in the Royal Marines for 12 years became worried that he would have to justify the Commando flash he wore, so he joined Royal Signals—only to discover that we lead a more active life than the Commando's.

There must be a moral in this story somewhere but at the moment it escapes us!

CRICKET

The Regimental cricket team has met with mixed success this season. So far we have played 17 matches, won 4, drawn 8 and lost 5.

We had a slow start to the season with some of our star players away on detachment. Since their return however we have played some fair cricket with **W.O.2 John Goodall, Staff Sergeant Dick Good, Sergeant 'Darkie' Williams** and **Corporals Jimmy Green** and **'Petal' Thorburn** all breaking the half century mark. On the bowling side, **Staff Sergeants Tim Feldon, Dick Good, Corporals 'Petal' Thorburn** and **Malcolm Mudd** and **Signalman Ray Whitehead** have all had their share of the wickets.

ROUNDERS

On 15th August the Regimental team participated in the BAOR Inter Unit Rounders Competition which was held in Rheindahlen. In the competition each of seven teams had to play each other to decide the winners.

The standard of play was high and mention must be made of **Lance-Corporal Corrie Overy,** who after coming off night shift scored several rounders and then fielded at 1st base working well with **Corporal Yvonne Samuel** at backstop and **Corporal Chris Webb** as Bowler, on 2nd Base **Private June Gibson** played alongside **Lance-Corporal 'Pip' Page** on 3rd base whilst in the deep field were **Corporal Maggie Griffith, Corporal Dot Jones** and **Lance-Corporal Gwen Barker** whilst 4th base was ably covered by **Lance-Corporal Brenda Pilkington.** Every member of the team scored rounders during the competition.

During the morning, two matches were played and drawn and then during the afternoon, supported by the WRAC OC, **Captain Jennie Flake** and **Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson,** four more matches were played; of these the first was won but the others all lost, this placed the Regiment overall 5th, the eventual winners being 68 Squadron RCT.

CANOE CLUB

The club has been very active during the last two months under the auspices of **Lieutenant Phil Noble** and **Staff Sergeant Jack Hall** and it is rumoured that they now know every inch of the river Maas from top to bottom!

Lieutenant Phil Noble has had to terminate his demonstration of the slap for support due to his 17 stone and the ever-increasing shortage of paddles.

A word of thanks to our WRAC stalwart **Corporal Jenny Townsend** with her ever ready cups of tea and excellent cooking.

All hands are now to the paddles in preparation for the BAOR Championships, news of which we hope to include in next months WIRE.

ORIENTEERING

In preparation for the Rhine Area Championships to be held at Arsbeck on 4th September we daringly entered a four man team in the final of the Rhine Area League (just for a runabout of course).

Out of our four runners, and to our surprise, we gained two individual placings but unfortunately also had two disqualifications (next time they'll run without boots on).

Our congratulations to **Corporal Chapman, Lance-Corporal Bennett, Signalman Roberts** and **Signalman Whyley** on their training session and we wish them luck in their next run on 4th September.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since we last went to press we have changed RSM's, been visited twice, and enjoyed a full social calendar.

On Friday, 15th June we dined out **R.S.M. S. T. Nelson, M.B.E.,** and a long and enjoyable evening was had by all! To **R.S.M. (now Lieutenant) Nelson** and his wife **Betty,** go our best wishes for the future. We welcome **R.S.M. Maidment** and his wife **Rose,** and hope their stay with XIII is long and enjoyable.

During the month of August we were honoured by visits in quick succession by **Brigadier M. J. H. Walsh, D.S.O.** and **Brigadier J. M. Gow.**

Our social whirl has been equally hectic with everything from fondu nights to being treated to a 'real' barbecue by our Royal Canadian friend **Sergeant 'Andy' Forrest.**

On the sporting front, feverish activity can be seen in preparation for the darts and soccer season.

The darts team with such stalwarts as **Sergeant Ken Pilkington** seem assured of yet another good season. Whilst the soccer team under the new management of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) 'Wally' Lockwood** inform us they will be quite satisfied with a win over Borussia Munchengladbach!

MOVEMENTS

Captain Jim Peck has arrived and taken over the quartermasters' Empire whilst **Captain Allan Alfred** who has been holding the fort so gallantly for the past six months has returned to the MT ready to hand it over in September before he leaves us for Catterick.

Captain Neil Turfitt who, when he wasn't playing hockey for the Regiment, RAMC or BAOR, could be found in the MI Room, has been replaced by a 'Blue Job' and we welcome to our midst **Flight Lieutenant Wakely.**

From the Sergeants' Mess we say goodbye to **Sergeant Pete Royle** who has gone to the SAF, **W.O.2 'Andy' Roberts** to Beaconsfield—you won't be able to gybe there **Andy; W/Sergeant Jane Edwards** to MOD on promotion to Staff Sergeant and we welcome **Sergeant Charlie Speed,** you'll have to be nippy to keep up the pace in 1 Squadron Chuck!

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

HOLIDAY REPORTS FROM MOST CORNERS OF EUROPE

IT has been a long hot summer on the Continent and members of the Regiment have been taking full advantage of this fine weather and the valuable Deutsche Marks in their pockets to visit and relax in virtually every corner of the playgrounds of Europe. They are now slowly returning, fit and bronzed, each with a story of adventure and amusement, of breakdowns, punctures and sunburn.

A DEFLATING EXPERIENCE

Captain Les Waumsley holds the Regimental record for punctures with 13! This record was established quite involuntarily between Rome and Naples and comprises 11 trailer punctures (due to an incorrect tyre), a 'blow out' to his car front tyre at speed, and finally another trailer puncture when one of the locals dropped a load of bottles adjacent to his car outside a camp site entrance. Add this to 3 holes in his air-bed and it all adds up to a rather deflating experience.

SERGEANT BILL VENUS SPEEDED UP

Sergeant Bill Venus headed for Teneriffe, where he met a Spanish bullfighter. They drank wine together. The bullfighter invited **Bill** to fight a bull. He accepted, and reports as follows:

"I was assured that the bull was small and tame, and I was relieved on entering the ring to find that this was essentially correct. However, my host quickly replaced the small bull with his big brother. Big brother charged and exit **Venus** in extreme haste over nearest barrier. I was promptly christened, **'El Bill'**—the fastest bullfighter in Tenerife'. Needless to say I shall be displaying my latent talent in the 100m and high jump next season".

MID-SUMMER SKIING TOO

On a scorching day in early August the following conversation was heard between **Lance-Corporal Dave Plumb** and **Signalman Steve Ryan** whilst they were trenching their way around RAF Wildenrath airfield:

Steve (leaning on pick), "Where are we going for our leave next week then?"

Dave (mopping brow), "We're going skiing".

Steve (falling over pick), "You're joking—there's no . . . skiing in August".

Dave (between swings of pick), "There is where we're going".

And so they went—spending 8 days skiing on the firm snow of the glacier of the Plateau Rosa, at a height of 11,300 feet in the Italian Alps, in the shadow of the famous Matterhorn. **Lance-Corporal Plumb** writes, "I can only describe the ski-ing area and scenery as breathtaking. Miles of snow for all grades of skier, with nine mechanical tows in the area . . . For the keen skier and sun lover, glacier ski-ing is fantastic, not to mention the Italian 'birds' who skied in bikinis".

STOP PRESS

21 Signal Regiment did indeed reverse the shock Orienteering defeat by 16 Signal Regiment in the Rhine Area Championships when they achieved second place to 8th Regiment RCT in the BAOR Championships on 12th September. The Regiment is now intent on similarly reversing this defeat in the Army final.

SPORTS PARADE

The major event during the past month has been the annual six-a-side inter-troop football competition. This is always one of the most hotly contested sub unit competitions of the year, and this year's competition was well up to expectations. A second half goal by **Signalman Gary Askew** clinched the title for 'K' Troop against 'H' Troop—you just can't keep those linemen (and Telemechs) down. Our orienteering team received a shock when they were pushed into second place by 16 Signal Regiment in the Rhine Area Championships, but are intent on reversing the position in the forthcoming BAOR Championships. The Regimental hockey team have made a promising start to the season with a 2–0 win over 13 Signal Regiment, whilst our rugby team won the plate in the BAOR/RAF (G) Double Diamond Competition. Overall, with promising new talent and increased interest in football, badminton, squash and basketball and the defence of BAOR titles in orienteering, cross country and table tennis, it promises to be a most interesting and competitive winter season.

THIRTY/FIFTEEN—16 SIGNAL REGIMENT TO SERVE

The texts of three signals exchanged between this Regiment and 16 Signal Regiment on 7th September illustrate the healthy rivalry between us:

From 21 Signal Regiment—"Congratulations on notable win in BAOR cricket competition. Keep trophy carefully as we will require it next season".

From 16 Signal Regiment—"Congratulations on runners-up Rhine Area Orienteering. Do you have spare large trophy cabinet we can buy".

From 21 Signal Regiment—"Regret no as spare cabinet required for Crooke Shield". (The Crooke Shield is awarded annually by Commander Rhine Area to the unit with the best overall sporting achievements over the full year).

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

PATENSCHAFT CELEBRATIONS

ON Wednesday, 15th August the Regiment celebrated the 'Patenschaft' with 7 Fernmelde Battalion of the Bundeswehr. The main event of the morning was an athletics match in which **Signalman 'Yank' Doughty** won the 200 metres and **Corporal Jimmy Murray** came second in the 100 metres and **Lance-Corporal Roger Frampton** came second in the 1500 metres. Interspersed with the track events were a free fall parachute drop by the Lufthande Brigade and the gyrations of our own Blue Eagles helicopter acrobatic display team. There was also a football match which our hosts won by four goals to two.

In the afternoon there was a shooting match between the officers of the Stadt Police, 7 Fernmelde Battalion, who won the individual championship, and the Regiment, who won the team championship. This match was clinched for us only in the very last shot—fired by **Captain Dick Drew** who succeeded in knocking down a tin can at 25 yards, thereby giving us a win by four points.

EXERCISE 'DABCHICKS FIST'

And in two days **Captain Chubb** made Comcen Sierra and on the third day all hell was let loose. It was open day for families! "They want to see us as we normally are on exercise under battle conditions—has anybody got any ideas?". So we set up, cam'd up and communicated gaily. All went well, so well in fact that even the auto failed successfully. (I didn't forget, **Mick**).

The families were escorted to the Hotel Siesta, compliments of the SQMS and his 'black hand gang', for cold drinks and to be introduced to their husbands/fathers, "Oh I didn't recognise you!". Whilst mum was being shown around, junior was diverted along a carefully signposted game trail to the Bigwood adventure playground run by **Sergeant 'Badger' Paulley** (very apt name), where they could risk life and limb on a home-made mini assault course. We had planned a 'chicken run' through the wild-hog pen but the farmer was worried about his pigs.

Highlight of the day was the trench, grimly defended by **Signalmen Hillam** and **Miller** of 'Dad's Army' fame. It's not every day you see a Subaltern with a pick and shovel in his hands.

To round off the day our guests were invited to lunch in the field and a very nice salad it was too. Now all we have to do is convince them that it's not always like this, we do work—occasionally.

SUMMER CAMP BY THE BALTIC

The 1 Squadron Summer Camp is this year being held at Pelzerhaken near Neustadt in Holstein on the Baltic coast. In April most of the Squadron were located near Neustadt on Exercise 'Eagles Flight', when the Regiment won a 'first' by communicating between the Baltic and the Swiss border (see August-September edition of WIRE). We had such a good time by the Baltic and made so many good friends that it was decided to return in late August for our camp. On Saturday, 25th August we revisited some old friends at the tiny village of Westerrade. We only went there in April because **Captain 'Paddy' Stringer** knew that the brother of a friend of his lived there, and we found everyone in the village to be football mad. This was an opportunity not to be missed, and so it was that on our return in August we helped to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the local team Schwarz-Weiss'.

'PADDY'S CREWS' PLAY HARD

We were amazed to find on arrival at Westerrade that our team was publicised locally as 'Paddy's Crews', and the team certainly lived up to the title. **Corporal Jimmy Murray** and **Signalmen 'Marty' Bunner** and **Dave Rogers** scored goals in the afternoons' league competition, and we finished second to 'Schwarz-Weiss' only on goal average.

ROSY FUTURE

As this article goes to press we eagerly await the next match in which our full Regimental team will play 'Schwarz-Weiss'. For the rest of camp, we plan visits to the local Bundesmarine submarine base and a brewery, and sea trips—besides the normal sun bathing in the excellent weather here.

GOODBYE

We unfortunately must take our leave of three important members of the Regiment. **Captain Brian Robinson** leaves us for 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, **Captain (T.O.T.) Ernie Short** goes to Cyprus, and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Gordon Park** moves on promotion to 33 Signal Regiment (V). All three will be very much missed and we wish them well for the future.

28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

AUGUST is the leave season and most of the Regiment seems to have taken its share in tent or caravan somewhere in the South.

However, those who are still in St. Tonis have not been idle.

SWIMMING/WATER POLO

This year an 'up and coming' swimming team made an all out effort to attain a good placing in the Rhine Area swimming/water polo championships at Rheindahlen on the 5th July. Second place was obtained in the swimming which was a 100% improvement on last year's performance. Our water polo team gave the winners of the water polo championships (16 Signal Regiment) a hard game in the final.

Congratulations to the following for a magnificent effort:

OIC Swimming: **Major Robin Ingram,** SNCO IC Swimming: **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dave Watson,** Coach: **Lance-Corporal 'Col' Booth, Staff Sergeant Williams** (RE), **Sergeants Jack Ayre, Allan Eames** and **Paul Cross, Corporals 'Mo' Vaughan** and **Mick Cook** (RAPC), **Lance-Corporal John Southern, Signalmen John Grogan, 'Otty' Ottosen, 'Fin' Mumford, 'Whit' Whittle, 'Speedy' Gregory, 'Merve' Wright, 'Mick' McGuigan, 'Mac' McLean** and last but not least **'Ricky' Murray** REME).

Next year the holders of the above competition (16 Signal (Regiment) had better watch out for an even harder competition!

EXERCISE 'FRANMOVE'

Sixteen 'I'll try anything' members of 2 Squadron left camp on Sunday, 16th August on an initiative/adventure training exercise organised by **Corporal Mick Reid.**

Given cryptic clues as to their objectives we hope that in 5 days they will have visited places as far apart as Oslo and Rome. For example **Corporals 'Bernie the Bolt' Commins** and **'Geordie' Robson** are to bring proof of having seen the 'Kon-Tiki' somewhere in Norway.

Footnote: RHQ would like to welcome two new arrivals, **Captain Mike Shaw** the incoming adjutant fresh from his recent success at Kiel, and **W.O.2 Cliff Webb** who also fancies a little sailing.

If this trend continues, what with the Commanding Officer always away at the helm we may yet have the makings of an original application for 'change of arm'.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

AUGUST has, in the past, been the proverbial quiet month in the social activities of Blandford Camp. With the School of Signals on their summer break the Regiment tends to find the Camp rather large and empty. However, quite by chance, this year the last two days in August produced a social calendar which would normally be more closely associated with the mad whirl in the final run-up to Christmas.

INTER-SQUADRON ATHLETICS

The first event was our Unit Inter-Squadron Athletics Competition. This took place on the afternoon of 30th August and was turned into a village fete in addition to athletics. There were Wives Club stalls, each Squadron produced two or three games of skill or chance, the Corps Band played beautifully, and there were first-rate refreshment tents for all families attending. The weather was kind to us and the sun, with a slight wind to take some of the heat out of it, provided an ideal setting for our afternoon on the station sports ground. This writer does not fee that either **David Bedford** or, for that matter, **David Jenkins** has any real competition to worry about, but the standard for Inter-Squadron athletics was high, and the battle between 1 Squadron, 3 Squadron and a combined HQ and 2 Squadron was disputed from the first event to the last. Finally, 1 Squadron won by 4 points from 3 Squadron, and thus became Champion Squadron for the year 1973–74. One race which did not count towards the championship was the Chain of Command Race. Five teams were entered for this race and four teams were unfortunately disqualified by the rcferce (our Second-in-Command), the race being won by the RHQ team consisting of our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan MacIntyre, R.S.M. Mick McMahon, Sergeant Keith Addison** and **Signalman Bill Savin.** The other teams were disqualified on technicalities; two because they accidentally knocked over members of the RHQ team during the race which was a relay, and the other two for ungentlemanly behaviour in crossing the finishing line before the RHQ team. The photograph of the apparent frogmen

1 SQUADRON READY FOR CHAIN OF COMMAND RACE
Left to right: Major Glydon, S.S.M. Payne, Sergeant Howe, Corporal Rylance and Sergeant Langford

PUTTING PLENTY OF POWER INTO IT
Signalman Roberts of 1 Squadron putts the shot

needs a little explanation. This was the 1 Squadron team in the Chain of Command Race, not a group from the special beach section Royal Marines. Visitors to the Athletics Meeting included our CSO, **Brigadier Clarkson,** and our Group Commander, **Colonel Sylvester-Bradley,** both of whom tried their skill at the many stalls in company with our local Town Mayor, **Councillor Powis.** As a result of the sterling efforts of our Wives Club and of the Squadrons the Regiment was ultimately able to present a cheque for £115 for local charities to **Councillor Powis,** the profit made by these stalls.

SUMMER ALL RANKS DANCE

On the evening of the 30th, the Regiment continued to enjoy itself with the Summer All-Ranks Dance. This was held in the Junior Ranks Club and the hard work put in by **F. of S. Dave Lanyom** and his dance committee from TM Troop in conjunction with **R.S.M. Mick McMahon** was well rewarded because every man and his wife really enjoyed what was a first class party.

ALDERNEY DAY CELEBRATED

There were no apparent hangovers next morning when the Regimental Parade in honour of Alderney Day was held, at which the Inspecting Officer was the President of the States of Alderney, **Mr. George Baron.** The Corps Band, which provided the inspection music, added just that necessary touch of colour to make the parade look really first rate, and one could see the experience of some of the Royal Signals Queens Guard shining through the ranks. This gave Squadrons the necessary uplift to produce their best. After the Parade, at which the President of Alderney presented the Alderney Swan (The Champion Squadron Trophy) to **Major Chris Glydon,** Commander 1 Squadron, the WO's and Sergeants gave an excellent buffet lunch to our Alderney guests and to the officers and their wives from the Regiment who had been on parade. In the afternoon the Regiment took itself to the Camp cricket ground where the officers soundly thrashed the WO's and Sergeants' at cricket. The final result was computed by the Commanding Officer and it was when we reached the fourth decimal place that we found that the officers run rate was superior to the WO's and Sergeants' run rate. The two match umpires, **Major Bob Martin** our Second-in-Command, and **Yeoman Ted Rawlins,** both renowned for their impartiality, agreed that neither side should try to compete in next year's Gillette Cup.

The final social event on our August calendar was the Alderney Dinner at which the officers of the Regiment entertained our guests from Alderney and were joined by their ladies and their private guests. September promises to be a quieter month, but October, with change-over of Commanding Officer and mounting of several major exercises, looks like bringing the Regiment back to its normal high level of activity.

NISHAN TROOP

As was stated in our last notes, the Nishan Team flew off to Cyprus at the beginning of August, having fired against the American Nishan Team. Training in Cyprus has gone very well. By the time these notes are published the results of Nishan will be out, and we hope that our WIRE notes next month will contain some good photographs and some good results for the team. Whilst in Cyprus the team fired a match against the 1 Royal Anglians and beat them by over 500 points. Had the match been part of the real Nishan competition the score would have placed our team in second place three times out of the past 5 years. Since then the team has gone on from strength to strength, and are now scoring in the low 3,200's—very respectable indeed. During their stay with the team **Brigadier Clarkson,** our CSO, and **Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan MacIntyre,** our CO, contributed large sums of money as a result of offering prizes for improvement in firing. **Colonel Duncan** arrived back in Blandford to tell us that he personally had lost £20 in two days by offering prizes for the first team to break 300 in the machine gun firing, and offering the day after, having given two prizes for that, prizes for the first team scoring 310 in the machine gun pair. The way our gunners are firing—and indeed our riflemen—with **Corporal Gerry Jaques** scoring a 155 on the rifle (nobody has ever scored this high in competition)—I think that our next WIRE notes will contain some really good news. Best of luck, Nishan Team. *(See page 443 for Stop Press Results)*

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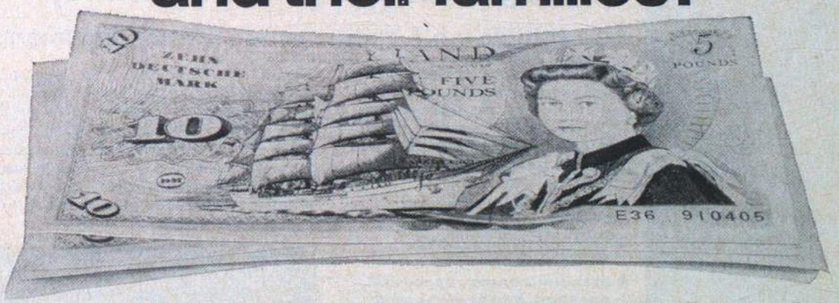

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12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 36

IT is very difficult to write notes this month on the Squadron as we have had so many people away, doing different things that each should have his own report, but the exhortations from the editor last month about brevity have been heeded—we will try to keep this month's news to less than twenty pages.

SUMMER ADVENTURE TRAINING EXERCISE 'SEA LEGS'

Instead of having one exercise this year as Summer Camp we decided to go our own separate ways, doing our own thing.

Thus it was that those with a love of the sea disappeared off to Kiel on the 8th July. The party under the control of **Lieutenant Nigel Pullman** was to sail up to Copenhagen in two yachts, drop the crews and pick up two more, who had motored up to the Danish Capital.

Two days were spent in Copenhagen visiting the local sights but the reports are a little difficult to follow of the second day, "well we then went on to the Tuborg factory . . .". Enough said, I think. The return journey passed off successfully, a few sand-banks here and there but all returned home safely—all that is except **Lieutenant Nigel Pullman** and **Corporal Dave Stanley.** No, there was not a mutiny but those intrepid characters stayed in the Baltic for the Royal Signals regatta.

EXERCISE 'HARD NUT'

The rest of the Squadron went up to the STC Silberhutte for our 5 days adventurous training. The Squadron Second-in-Command, **Captain Leslie Steane** went along as overall boss with **R.S.M. Frank Williams** as his Second-in-Command. We stayed in three camp sites in the Harz with **Captain 'Sandy' Forbes, R.C.T., Second-Lieutenant Craig McColville** and **Officer Cadet Howarth Dingwell** (from London UOT) in charge of one each. I am glad to say that delegation went further than this.

We were split into various groups for pot-holing, climbing, mini-sailing, canoeing, orienteering and trekking under the very capable instructors of the STC. All the groups worked hard at their respective activities but it was reported that one group of trekkers under **Corporal Dave Haslam** were seen bargaining with a taxi driver. They deny this.

Lance Competition

The summer lance competition is nearing a climax with most of the cricket games having been played. At the moment SHQ seem favourites for the cricket—but 'B' Troop are still out in front in the competition having won the swimming event. Everyone is looking forward to the close of the cricket competition and what may be the deciding factor—the drill competition, but the FTX comes first.

FAREWELLS

Farewell to our comms officer, **Captain Nick Mayne** and his wife **Hope** who are off to Blandford. **Nick** assures us that Heineken and whisky sour will be readily available in HQ Mess within a couple of days of his arriving.

In his place we welcome **Captain Gerry Maddren** who has arrived from Shrivenham. He is at the moment relearning how to tie putties and put on webbing but we wish him the best of luck in his new post with us, as we wish **Nick** all the best in Dorset.

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.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 41

SOCCER

ON Wednesday, 8th August a football match between 20 Armoured Brigade and 21 Panzer Brigade took place on Little Wembley. The reason for the match was to further our good relations with the local Bundeswehr and also to give **W.O.1 'Jerry' Thompson** the opportunity to referee his final match in BAOR. A few words about 'Old Father Time' as he is known by referees throughout the world! He has refereed in the Army for 21 years and was the first official from BAOR to be chosen by the Army FA to referee an Army Cup Final. He has been awarded just about every honour the Army FA can give him. **Corporal Mick Morgan** and **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Dobson** represented the Squadron on the Brigade side, both of them playing a very good game. Final score, 20 Armoured Brigade 2, 21 Panzer Brigade 0.

SERGEANTS' MESS SOCCER

The Mess has played two friendly matches so far this season against 1 Royal Horse Artillery and 71 Field Workshops, REME, winning both. The first real test of the season will be our first away match against 11 Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, at Minden on Sunday, 16th September.

VISITS

The Squadron was visited by cadets from Oundle School CCF on Tuesday, 21st August. The party consisted of 2 Officers and 13 Cadets. They were conducted around the Squadron by **Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley,** Royal Signals and shown all the 'Inns and Outs' of how we operate in the field and in barracks.

CC Royal Signals, **Brigadier W. T. McFarlane** paid us a flying visit on Thursday, 30th August to say farewell. He spent part of his short stay having a very quick drink with the Warrant Officer's and senior Non-Commissioned Officers in the Brigade Sergeants' Mess and then had lunch in the Brigade Officers' Mess with the Squadron Commander.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Tom Jenkinson,** RCT on promotion to WO2 and to **Sergeant John Kirkman** on his promotion to Staff Sergeant.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This month we say farewell to **Staff Sergeant Bert Gurr,** RAC, **Sergeant Tony Rains, Sergeant Terry Beckett, Signalman 'Scouse' Henderson,** all Royal Signals and to **Lance-Corporal 'Taffy' Baker,** RCT who has left us on discharge. We wish you all well in your new appointments.

We welcome **Staff Sergeant Terry Spike,** RAC, **Sergeant Ted Appleby, Corporal Brian LeBreton, Signalman 'Pete' Knowles, Signal Jim Latimer, Signalman Garry Walpole,** also **Driver Robert Sutton,** RCT and **Driver David Artyman,** RCT.

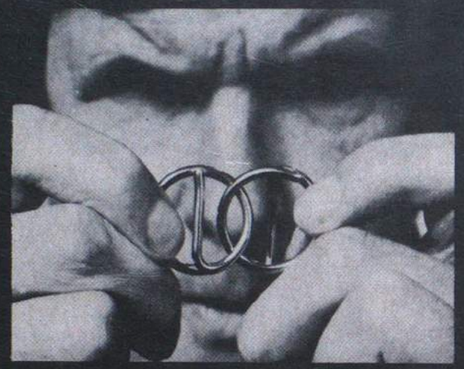
MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Signalman Jim McGowan, Corporal 'Tweedy' Ward,** REME and **Lance-Corporal David Cook** on their recent marriages, also to **Lance-Corporal Mick Stevens** on the birth of his son, **Signalman Geof Daft,** a son, **Driver Roy Troth,** RCT a daughter.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING FILM

At this point in time we are about to be descended upon by **Major Dick Trelawny** and a seven man film team who are making the Royal Signals training film 'The Communicators'—more details in next month's WIRE. The Squadron just might win an Oscar! **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) George Stubbings** has lost his 'tash'—as it dates him! Whatever next!

What can you do about the old problems of House Purchase, School Fees and Service Pensions?



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603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah
B.F.P.O. 65

1974 MODELS

SINCE we last appeared in THE WIRE, over half of the Troop have 'hacked it' and gone home and been replaced by a series of 1974 models who arrived here with skins of the UK regulation colour—fishbelly white. It is amazing how quickly this obscene colour changes to pink, then scarlet, a quick peel, then a deep tan to qualify the owner to sit around movements and sneer at the latest consignment of 'moonies'. Those who have left us are, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Brian Meachin** to RMCS Shrivenham, our duty 'oggin basher' **Sergeant Dick 'Dicklemas' Davies** who is at 3 Division Signal Regiment, **Corporal Alan 'Amendments' Cooper** who is now with 19 Brigade Signal Squadron at Colchester, **Lance-Corporal Pete 'Picasso' Holder** at 6 Brigade Signal Squadron, **Signalmen 'Lofty' Greatbatch** and **'FDS' Fane de Salis** are keeping their tans going with 261 Signal Squadron in Cyprus, and **Signalman 'Shammus' Reid** left here to join either the IRA or 244 Signal Squadron at RAF Benson; having seen him shoot, we hope it was the IRA! Another recent departure from Masirah was the last Station Commander, **Group Captain L. C. Swalwell,** RAF who was invested as an honorary 'Pongo' and presented with a Pongo Power shirt a few days before he left. The 1974 models arrived so far are, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gerry Hunt, Sergeant Dick Sargent, Corporals John Corbett** and **'Mac' McDonald, Signalman Mick 'Bristles' Dickson** and fresh 'from the egg' of 8 Signals we have **Signalmen Mick Denny, 'Jock' McGrandles, 'Fiji' Allen** and **'Lofty' Coster.**

PONGO POWER SPORT

Although we are few in number, our presence is always noticed in any sporting activity that takes place in this sunny paradise! We regularly come second in all our cricket matches but we did give one team a shock when we only lost by 5 runs. (Records please note we require cricketers). In the 5-a-side football league we fared rather better in that we came fourth out of sixteen teams who entered. Our greatest achievement to date happened on Saturday, 25th August when against superior odds we won the Masirah version of 'Its a Knockout' much to the amazement of the RAF element. This was quite a feat since there are only 14 of us and there are roughly 500 RAF types. A good night was had by all on Saturday with some thick heads on Sunday.

THEY WON LOCAL "IT'S A KNOCKOUT" DERBY
Kneeling (left to right): W.O.2 (F.-of-S.) Hunt, Signalman Ryan, Signalman McGrandles, Sergeant Sargent; *Standing*: Sergeant Goatley, Signalman Allan, Signalman Denny, Signalman Paine, Signalman Coster and Pongo for the day Mr. Crawford Fairbrother It is of interest to note that Mr. Fairbrother was for many years British high jump champion, and represented Britain at two Olympic Games. He is just coming to the end of a 12 month tour in the Met office, during which time he has given great help and encouragement to all forms of sport in Masirah

DEPARTURES

At present everybody is looking forward to our next 'Ma Salaam' when we will be saying farewell to two of our four techs. The two that are going are **Sergeant Mick 'Snoopy Worm' Goatley** and **Corporal 'Chris' Purdey. Mick** is off to sunny Cyprus and **'Chris' Purdey** has saved so much money out here that he has decided to call it a day and retire to Civvy Street. We are hoping that both of these gentlemen will delve deeply into their pockets and give us all a good night out.

MARRIAGES

Due to lack of females we are sorry to report that we haven't had any marriages but we congratulate **Corporal Geoff Waters,** whose wife **Jackie** gave birth to a baby girl at Harrogate on 3rd August.

SALALAH

A report from 603 Signal Troop would not be complete without mentioning our small detachment down at the sharp end of RAF Salalah. The detachment is run by **Corporal 'Steve' Bevis** ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Williams, Signalmen Dave Fenton, Dave Cullen,** and **Dave Ryan. Signalman Dave Fenton** has just volunteered for an extra three months onto his nine month tour.

On closing, any Tele Mechanic or TE Technician who is fed up with rain, cold and exercises can volunteer to join us on this island of sun.

POSTSCRIPT—TROOP TIES

We now hold a stock of 603 Signal Troop ties. Any Ex member of the troop who wishes to have one should send us a postal order for £1·10p and we will send it on by return of post.

Report from 555 & 556 Rear Link Detachments, Royal Signals attached to 38 Engineer Regiment

CORPORAL D. J. McCRENDEL WRITES:—

THE above two detachments were recently deployed to provide communications for the Royal Engineers engaged on a Harrier support exercise. 555 detachment left Ripon by road for Hull, where we embarked on the LSL *Sir Bedivere.* The only incident en route was when our K9 driven by **Signalman Bob Fryer** and navigated by **Lance-Corporal Frank McCormick** took the wrong turn as they were leaving Ripon.

The LSL crossing to Antwerp was smooth and uneventful. We then commenced the road trip through Belgium, Holland and across Germany. The C42's were put to good use by **Sergeant Eddie Howell,** now known as **Allan Whicker,** who gave a first class commentary that even included a nudist camp in Holland. The convoy leader **Sergeant Chris Brown-Greaves** of 556 RLD led without hesitation from the rear of the convoy.

We arrived in location twenty minutes before opening up time, but with the aid of a 27ft mast and 16ft rod, established communications on time with Ripon. We maintained communications throughout the exercise, much to the surprise of 32 Field Squadron RE with whom we were located. The traffic volume was steady as the RE Regiments have not up to now had Royal Signals support. We have been assured, however, by the CO of 38 Engineer Regiment that full use will be made of the detachments in future. This will probably cause **Signalman Phil Atkinson,** our ever patient rear operator in Ripon to hand in his resignation. Due to unforeseen circumstances he maintained the Ripon end of the link on his own. Congratulations to **Corporal Paul Howie** of 556 RLD for adding to his detachment by one. We all hope baby and wife are well.

The exercise was a success and enabled us as newly formed units to prove ourselves in the field. We would like to thank the lads of 15 HQ Squadron who helped us throughout and even promoted us to 555 Signal Regiment. Rumour has it that the Second-in-Command 32 Field Squadron is considering changing his 'Cap Badge' for a 'Jimmy'.

The detachment wishes **Signalman Bob Fryer** and **Lance-Corporal Frank McCormick** good luck in their new postings, and welcomes **Signalman Bob Martin** and **Signalman Jim Jobling** who have joined us in time for exercise in October. This time 556 goes in the field and 555 operates from Ripon.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

NIJMEGEN MARCHES, 1973

SELECTED TO REPRESENT TAVR

THE Regiment was pleased to be one of only two TAVR Units in North East District to be selected to compete in the four day marches at Nijmegen this year. As always, there were disappointments for those who had trained long and hard but were not selected. We thank them for their loyal support.

The team was led by **Lieutenant Mark Skipper** from our 87 (Nottingham) Squadron, ably assisted by **W.O.1 Derrick Sivell** from Support Group (Sheffield). A team of 12 marched and a bicycle and tent orderly also accompanied the team. For those who are not familiar with the marches, they consist of four, one day stages of approximately 40 kms (25 miles) each, packs of 10kgms (22lbs) are carried, but no weapons.

Our team arrived in Holland on 15th July and Monday, 16th was spent in final preparations. **Lieutenant Mark Skipper** takes up the story.

OFF BEFORE DAWN

Tuesday, 17th started at an hour most of us envisage only in bad dreams, reveille at 3.00 a.m. Fortunately we were high in the order of marching and we were soon on the road, having been seen off by our own 'Sheffield Newspapers' press photographer and reporter—**Frank Travers.** We were surprised that even at this early hour there were quite a few people out on the streets to witness the teams from many nations setting out. By the time we reached Nijmegen Bridge we were surrounded by quite a crowd of spectators, but we soon left them behind, and marching across the low-lying land to the north of the Waal river our songs made up in volume what they lacked in quality. Some three hours out we came to a large village with big signs inviting us to participate in free sandwiches and milk, so we availed ourselves of this generous hospitality. During this halt, **Corporal Rhys Plant** from 87 Squadron (Nottingham), our combined bicycle and medical orderly, made running repairs to those of the team needing his attention—resulting in some of us eating talc-flavoured sandwiches.

(Photo: Courtesy Sheffield Newspapers Ltd)

IN GOOD HEART

Marching through Oosterhout

(Photo: Courtesy Sheffield Newspapers Ltd)

A FINE EFFORT

The successful 38 Signal Regiment (V) Nijmegen marching team with their team and individual medals

Back row (partly hidden): Signalman Panther, Corporal Russell

Standing: Staff-Sergeant Ward, Corporal Feirn, Corporal Plant, Signalman Slaughter, Corporal Smith, Corporal Warburton

Front row: Corporal Bullough, Signalman Sherit, Lieutenant Skipper, W.O.1 Sivell, Signalman Flood

Front centre: Signalman Marriott (Holding team medal)

SMILE PLEASE

When all our needs had been attended to we set off again, soon to be engulfed in crowds of spectators and fellow marchers who took some considerable time to shake off. At the half-way point we met our photographer and did our best to comply with his desperate shouts of "smile!". A little further on we met the BAOR PRO and his photographer, whose demands for more photographs caused our publicity conscious **Corporals Dave Warburton** and **David Feirn** from Sheffield to zoom up to the front armed with their best 'cheesy' grins.

The remainder of the first day and all the second passed in an uneventful but cheerful slog.

AFTER SHEFFIELD HILLS WERE LITTLE WORRY

Day 3, the 'day of the hills' caused us some anxiety, but **Signalman Bill Panther** our tent orderly from 64 Squadron (Sheffield) started us off in a good relaxed mood by manfully striding alongside us playing his piano accordion as we marched off—much to the bewildered amazement of some of the other teams preparing to set out. We marched for two and a half hours before our first halt (our usual practice) and during this period sang popular songs in unison with the team behind us. At the half-way point we had a rendezvous with the UK military PRO for a short taped interview, and mentioned that we were disappointed that no real hills had materialised as yet. However, soon after we had set off again the hills began, and our Sheffield training stood us in good stead. The only other team to keep up with us was an RMP detachment. With the hilly stretch behind us we slowed, and the last 5 kms was at best a bit of a struggle. However, we completed the day's stage in much the same time as the two previous days, so felt confident of a team medal on the next and last day.

VARIOUS INCIDENTS

Our start on day four was a trifle stiff, and we found the crowds of pedestrians after the first hour, who caused the team to disintegrate for a while, rather disheartening. We persevered and managed to keep together, and felt that our next halt, by a graveyard, was in no way symbolic of our condition. While resting here

(Continued on page 473)

(Continued from page 472)

we were staggered to see a real, live British 'Bobby' cycling majestically along the road. A cheeky greeting shouted by **Signalman 'Andy' Flood** from 64 Squadron (Sheffield) amused us all, including the constable.

As we marched on we caught up with an RAF Officer, hobbling gamely on, having been abandoned by his team. We enticed him to join us, and at long last **Signalman Peter ('Mister') Marriot** from 46 Squadron (Leicester) found someone who knew some songs more suited to his 'high-brow' taste. We pushed on but by the time we reached the final assembly area we were all flagging, and **Staff Sergeant Sid Ward** from 46 Squadron (Leicester) and **Corporal Eric Russell** from Support Group (Sheffield) were both suffering some considerable physical discomfort, but the end was almost in sight.

FINAL MARCH PAST AND RETURN TO UK

After a lightning change into No. 2 dress (shirt sleeve order), we strode off for the march past through the packed streets of Nijmegen. All our fatigue evaporated as the crowds waved and cheered us, and sang stirring British songs. In no time at all we were past the saluting base and soon we were out of the town centre and arrived at the buses which quickly took us back to camp. Medals were collected and proudly toasted in lager beer.

After a fairly quiet evening in town we all retired happily to bed—rumour has it that **W.O.1 Sivell** went to sleep clutching our much coveted team award. All in all it had been a rewarding and worthwhile exercise.

On our journey home we made a visit to the Airborne Cemetery at Arnheim, where those who gave their lives in the Airborne invasion in 1944 are buried.

The team has since been entertained at a reception given by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, **Alderman S. Kenneth Arnold,** in the Sheffield Town Hall.

39 Sig Regt (V) London

HATS OFF TO OUR PERMANENT STAFF

AS one of the few survivors left in 39 Signal Regiment during August, I have decided to write an article on the Permanent Staff of the Regiment—the usual contributor is sunning himself in Spain, and what better opportunity to write about them without their being able to vet the copy out of the Regiment!

Our RSM—**Jack Howker** has been with the Regiment for six months and is just shaking the Regiment down to his way of thinking. He has transformed the Drill Hall into a mini palace in this time, and has very successful camp behind him. The fray begins again for him shortly with Autumn Exercises, the London Semi-final Miss TAVR 1973 and getting his car back on the road. Another fairly recent member of the Regiment is **R.Q.M.S. Ken Richardson.** He joined us earlier this year from Catterick and appears to be enjoying life with the Volunteers. **O.R.Q.M.S. 'Mac' Dunnett** deserved his leave having churned out tons of paper work from his Orderly Room. The permanent staff are convinced that he has shares in a paper mill somewhere.

We also have an organisation claiming to be 'Rent a Slave'. The Managing Director of this Company is **F. of S. John Hill** who with his merry band of **Technicians Bob Graeme, Pete Downie** and **John Green** keeps the Technical side of the Regiment very much up to date. This team is always available for organising dances, decorating drill halls, painting drill halls and drinking beer. Keeping the Training Major on his toes are **Yeoman Pete Simons** and **W.O.2 Jill Trainor.** Keeping a watchful eye on them and the parachutists of the Regiment is **Bob Patterson.** Our military driver **Lance-Corporal Mick Beamson** is to be found most days tearing round London be it in a four tonner, a staff car or even a land rover.

Apart from these stalwarts in London our far flung outposts are commanded by great characters. In Dundee there is wee **'Jock' MacDonald,** in Banbury, **Yeoman Maurice Campbell** and at Tunbridge Wells there are **Sergeant Alec Lackie** and **Corporal Brian Beck**—all doing a tremendous job in looking after the interests of the Regiment.

Next month it will be back to reporting exercises from sunny locations, exciting events in the Regiment but perhaps it is good to know who works with the Regiment from time to time.

National Gliding Championships 1973

REPORT BY STAFF SERGEANT (F. of S.) GEORGE BRINDLE

SELECTED—AND TWO GOOD HELPERS

I WAS fortunate enough to be selected to fly in the National Gliding Championships 1973. The competition also counts as the senior Inter Service competition. As with any sport one of the most important factors is having a good administrative backing. This year I was lucky enough to have **Sergeant Mike Bruce** and **Lance-Corporal Tom Lowry,** both from the School of Signals, to support me. Without them I would probably still be sitting in a turnip field somewhere in the middle of Norfolk.

The competition proper started on the 26th May, but prior to this we were practising hard for a week. I was learning just how well the aircraft flew, checking its performance (and mine!) and making sure I could get the maximum out of both of us, weather permitting.

HF COMES INTO ITS OWN

Mike Bruce and **Tom Lowry** were sorting out the radios that we were going to use. I had decided that in addition to the normal VHF radios, which are perfectly adequate for ground to air communications, that HF would speed up the retrieve process. Communications between a glider sitting in a low flying field in the fens and a car and trailer combination struggling along crowded roads can be difficult and VHF just doesn't work. I borrowed two A13s, using one fixed in the retrieve car, I carried the other in the aircraft. It took very little time to set up the station after landing and contact was quickly made between the crew and myself.

By the time we arrived at Husbands Bosworth on 24th May we had ironed out most of the 'bugs' (all except the 'X' factor in the compo!). Out of the nine days of the competition only four produced suitable flying conditions. It's always the same; the week after the competition the weather is superb, 1973 was no exception!

FIRST DAY—NOT TOO SATISFACTORY

Saturday, 26th May, the first day of the competition produced southerly winds and good visibility but poor thermals (bubbles of hot rising air). After a reasonable start I flew the first leg of the 185km course with little difficulty. At Peterborough I had to photograph the Cathedral, just to prove I had flown round it. It was the first turning point and I had to keep my eyes open as other gliders were swooping in around me to snatch a photograph. The weather unfortunately deteriorated and by 16.00 hours, when I had reached St. Neots, I was just holding my own. I decided to cut my losses and I flew as far as I could and landed at Silver End near Cardington. A quick call on the A13, using the official glider HF frequency, and I was collected, packed up, and returned to Husbands Bosworth by **Mike** and **Tom** who had been following my progress over the VHF radio. I don't think they actually saw me for the whole of the trip until they arrived at Silver End. That day I flew for 4 hours 50 minutes and covered 112·5km (an average speed of 23·3km/hour) not the fastest way to travel but then I don't complain about British Rail either!

For the next five days the weather was poor and although there were attempts to fly, the very few aircraft that did get airborne fell back to earth very rapidly.

INTO THE AIRFIELD BY 10 FEET!

Friday, 1st June was without doubt the best day so far. A north westerly wind bringing excellent visibility and good thermals with cloudbase at 5000ft. It was a straightforward out and return flight of 236km. I completed the course in 5 hours 10 minutes but so did most other competitors and I slipped from 7th to 12th place! My final glide was 10 miles from 2,500ft and I finished by scraping into the airfield at about 10ft! Still it meant that my ground crew didn't have a long drive back.

(Photo: Courtesy Coventry Evening Telegraph)

A FINAL POLISH TO MAKE SURE

Sergeant Mike Bruce and Lance-Corporal Tom Lowry prepare Staff Sergeant George Brindle's KEG for the competition

The third and fourth days brought no real improvement in performance. In fact on Day 4 I covered only 75km in 3 hours 7 minutes, oh well that's life. My final placing was 10th out of 14 having covered 400 miles and taking 17 hours 53 minutes to do it.

The ground crew covered over 700 miles chasing me around the countryside, I think their average speed was a little better than mine.

AN ENJOYABLE WEEK—AND THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED

All in all it was a good week. We enjoyed meeting the other people who fly. There was a vintage glider rally taking place at the same time and some of the old aircraft were most interesting. The German contingent had some superb pre-war aircraft that were still capable of flying.

I learnt a great deal from my first National Competition. I hope my crew enjoyed it although the compo weighed a trifle heavily when we were taking the aircraft to pieces and loading it on the trailer.

I would like to thank all those people who made my participation in the championships possible, The Army Gliding Association for the aircraft, the School of Signals for the loan of equipment and tentage and of course my crew who followed my progress from the relative safety of the open road.

Royal Signals (BAOR) Cricket

MAJOR NOEL MOSS REPORTS:—

READERS will recall from the last edition of THE WIRE that the final of the BAOR Inter-Corps Tournament between Royal Signals and the holders, RAOC, had to be postponed until 1st September due to inclement weather. As a warm up for this important match the Corps side played 2 Division at Lubbecke on the preceding day. This match in fact replaced the planned fixture against the Pioneers team touring from the UK which was cancelled at short notice.

The Corps batted first against 2 Division and lost wickets regularly to be 51–6. At this stage **Second-Lieutenant Ian Griffiths** joined **Lieutenant Tom Richardson** at the wicket and the recovery started. When **Richardson** was out for 20 the score stood 98–7 and it was not until after lunch that another wicket fell, that of **Corporal Mick Kilvington** who had 45 fine runs to his credit. He and **Griffiths,** who went on to score 68 with 12 boundaries, were largely responsible for the side's very respectable total of 208. 2 Division never really settled down and were put out for 107. **Y. of S. Dave Elcox** took the brunt of the bowling and finished with the very creditable figures of 6–55. A win for the Corps by 101 runs.

On the following day the skipper was not altogether popular when he lost the toss and the Corps side found itself with the prospect of a long stint in the field against a formidable RAOC batting line-up. **Tom Richardson** was the first bowler to strike and in his allowed spell of 8 overs finished with 3 good wickets for 16 runs despite his many complaints about the state of the ball. Thanks to this attacking spell and tight bowling by **Kilvington** at the other end the Corps was able to grasp the initiative. Sharp fielding and more fine bowling by **Elcox** and **Corporal Dave Taylor,** who finished with 4–14 in his 8 overs, meant that RAOC were back in the dressing room for 98.

At this stage hopes of an easy victory ran high but this was not to be achieved. The early batsmen were unable to settle and from 17–1 the score slumped to 29–5. Such are the fluctuating fortunes of cricket, however, that a recovery was almost inevitable. **Dave Taylor** stopped the rot with a steady innings of 24 and in the end **Noel Moss** and **Mick Kilvington** were able to knock off the remaining runs with 3 overs remaining. The Corps has had several attempts at winning the Inter-Corps Tournament but this is the first occasion that the shield has entered their possession.

This match rounded off a successful and enjoyable season. As Secretary I would like to thank all who have played for the side for their enthusiasm and keenness. It was particularly good to see good young players in the team for the first time such as Ian Griffiths and Lance-Corporal Peter Knight. Thanks also to Corporal Tom Commons for his willing and highly coloured custody of the score-book.

STOP PRESS

Army Minor Swimming Championships, Sandhurst —5 teams out of 6 from the Corps

The Army Minor Units swimming championships held at Sandhurst on 13th September were dominated by Corps units. The winning team was from 5 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. Runners-up two points behind were 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin). Other Corps units taking part were 11 Signal Regiment, 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and 20 Armed Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron.

Army records were set up by **Lance-Corporal Hardstaff** of 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron in the back stroke events and also by the medley relay team of the same Squadron.

Association News

CARDIFF BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: **Mrs. G. Jones,** School House, Senghenydd, Glamorgan.

We must commence by expressing our most grateful thanks to our Hosts at both Catterick and Blandford Camps for the hospitality and entertainment received and enjoyed. The weather dampened a very small measure of the pleasure but apart from the entertainment provided, it is a great thrill to meet old friends and colleagues on these occasions.

Each year at Catterick we meet **Tommy Trout,** now a resident of Abergele, North Wales. A Life Member of this Branch, **Tommy** sends us an early annual application for accommodation at Catterick. He also makes an annual donation to Branch Funds.

At Blandford, the relatives of the late **Jack Woodyatt** were very pleased and proud to see **Jack's** Medals on display in the Corps Museum. They have asked us to express their sincere thanks for this and for the welcome they received.

Major 'Paddy' Howley heralded our arrival at Blandford by 'tearing us off a strip' for a late arrival, then proceeded to warmly welcome the whole party individually. We were as pleased to see him as we hope he was to see us.

Gerry ('Nick') Carter and **Mollie** motored up from his new home at Plymouth and proudly reintroduced us to his son, **Brian,** now on a Foreman of Signals Course at Blandford. Incidents such as this more than made up for the very distressing weather.

Mrs. Gill Jones, our new Hon. Secretary is to be complimented upon the very efficient and conscientious manner in which she has taken up her duties. **Gill** has already earned and truly needs our fullest support in carrying out this most important task.

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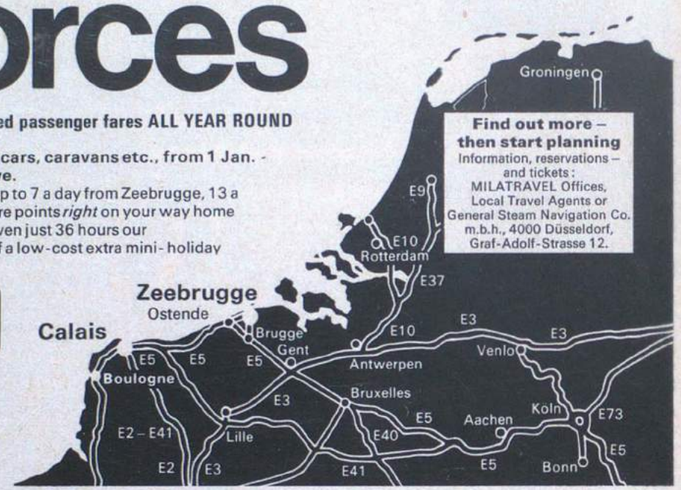
50% reduction on applicable rates for cars, caravans etc., from 1 Jan. - 31 May and 1 Oct. – 31 Dec. 1973 inclusive.

We've lots of sailings to fit your schedule, up to 7 a day from Zeebrugge, 13 a day from Calais (see our timetables). Departure points *right* on your way home And if you've up to 5 whole days to spare or even just 36 hours our carefree Car-Free scheme offers the chance of a low-cost extra mini-holiday



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Obituary

Major (QM) R. M. Richmond

All who knew him will be sad to hear of the death of **Major Ray Richmond** towards the end of August.

Ray joined the Corps in the ranks in 1935 and was commissioned Lieutenant (TMO) in 1963 while serving in India. His service took him to many different countries including India for the second time (1948–55), East Africa (1962) and Cyrenaica (1964). He established a name for himself with Northern Command Signals Works Services during 1955–58 followed by the appointment of QM in 8 Signal Regiment 1959–62. After a spell in BAOR with the 22 Regiment he returned to 8 Signal Regiment from 1965 until 1969 when he finally retired. He later became an RO in the Chester area where he made many new friends.

Ray was a cheerful efficient and loyal officer. His interests in earlier days were with motorcycling and cricket—the latter game being cherished by him all his service. His QM stores were usually notable for an array of cricket bats tended with loving care and pride.

Ray was a true Corps man and he will be missed by all who had the pleasure of serving with him.

His funeral was attended by a number of serving and retired officers as well as representatives of the Chester Branch of the Association and the Royal British Legion. Our deep sympathy goes to his wife (at 140 Pingwall Wall, Irby, Wirrall, Cheshire) as well as his two sons and one daughter.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. Line

It is with great regret that we report the sudden death of **Laurence Duncan Line** whilst out sailing on the 12th August, at the age of 54. **Laurie** joined the Corps in 1939 and was commissioned in 1943. During the war he served in Egypt and Persia and afterwards in FARELF and BAOR mainly with higher formation units. He qualified as a Technical Staff Officer in 1952 and during the latter part of his service was intimately concerned with project Mallard. He carried on a similar line of work with the Procurement Executive MOD after he retired in 1968. **Laurie** was an enthusiastic officer with great energy and strongly held views, the latter sometimes caused difficulty with higher authority. He was particularly keen on sailing at which he was an expert both in dinghies and keelboats. His enthusiasm and expertise in this sport was of great value to the Corps in the encouragement and training he gave whenever he was near any water. Whilst in Singapore he initiated a round the Island dinghy race in one leg which had hitherto been considered impracticable. In the past it had been organized in two stages. This round the Island race has now been established as one of the principal sailing fixtures in Singapore. In addition he initiated a number of other races which successfully put the name of the Corps in the forefront of sailing on the Island. At the end of his tour of duty with 18 Signal Regiment in 1962 he returned to the UK by sailing the 22 ton ketch *Tuarua* with a crew of five from Singapore to Malta. **Laurie's** cheerful personality and enthusiasm will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We extend our deep sympathy to his wife, son, who was serving with the Royal Navy in Hong Kong at the time of his death, and daughter.

Captain (T.O.M.) J. C. Shove, M.B.E.

We are sorry to have to report the recent death of **Captain Jeffrey Shove** elder brother of **Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Shove** of the Corps.

Jeffrey enlisted as a boy in RE Signals in 1920 at Maresfield and served in Egypt, Palestine, and India before the war, returning in 1945; since then he was a Civilian instructor with SEME at Bordon Camp. As a Sergeant he took part in the first trials of radar at Felixstowe in 1937 and during the war was twice mentioned in despatches while serving in Egypt.

Ron and **Jeffrey Shove** between them contributed 65 years of service to the Corps. **Captain Shove** leaves a widow, son and daughter who reside at 83 Oval Gardens, Gosport, Hants. Our deep sympathy goes to them and **Ron** in their sad loss.

Mr. N. J. Leslie

Mr. S. Harrison, Hon. Sec. Manchester Branch writes:

Norman John Leslie died suddenly in Park Hospital, Davyhulme, Manchester, recently, aged 44 years. **Mr. Leslie** served with Royal Signals in Korea, and on return to the UK, saw service with 4 AA Signal Regiment as Line Troop Sergeant. He proved to be a most excellent Senior NCO. On completion of his service with the Corps he joined the Manchester City Police.

Mrs. Leslie also served with the Women's Section, Royal Signals, with 4 AA Signal Regiment. We offer our deepest sympathy to **Mrs. Leslie** and family in their great loss of husband and father.

Major J. N. Kiggins, M.B.E.

His wide circle of friends will be saddened to hear of the death of **Major Jack Higgins** who passed away at the age of 62 at Bielfeld towards the end of August.

Major Higgins joined the Corps in the early thirties and saw service in the Far and Middle East and Germany. He rose from the ranks to Major, eventually retiring in 1964 and immediately joined Telecomms as RO III. He left the Telecomms Group in 1971 and continued working at the Barrack Office, Bielefeld, up to the time of his death.

Many members of the Corps will remember **'Jack' Higgins** for his humour and his unfailing quality for helping others. In fact nothing was too much trouble especially when anyone needed advice or a helping hand.

Great sympathy is expressed to **Major Higgin's** widow, **Else,** whose address is: Bielefeld, Julius-Leber-Strasse 16, West Germany.

Mr. Fred Steel

It is with regret that we report the death of **Mr. Fred Steel** on 28th August, 1973 at the age of 64. He joined the Corps on 27th September, 1927 and served in India from February, 1929 until October, 1933. In December of that year he transferred to the Reserve until mobilised in September, 1939. He was a member of the BEF Dunkirk from 19th September, 1939 until 4th June, 1940. He transferred again to the Reserve in December, 1945 and was finally discharged in February, 1954.

He annually laid the Association wreath at the British Cemetery at Dunkirk and was an active member of the Dunkirk Veterans.

We offer our sincere sympathies to his widow and family, who reside at 29 Sherwood Drive, Marske By The Sea, Redcar, Teesside.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in August	**26**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**42**
Amount spent	**£714·60**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants made	**8**
Amount spent	**£145·00**

One of the Month's Cases

DRIVER, 13 years' service in the Essex Regiment and Royal Signals. Now aged 69, and retired. His daughter died in tragic circumstances last Christmas, and his wife died a few weeks later. The cost of the two funerals exhausted all his savings and caused him to fall behind with his rent and rates. The Essex Regiment and Royal Signals Association each made him a grant of £20 to clear the arrears. His letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

I HAVE just received your most kind and very welcome letter, and the news of the grant, for which I thank you. It has come just in time to help me out of a distressing situation, and I greatly appreciate what everyone has done. I shall never get over my loss, but once again I thank everyone who has helped me.

ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

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 well ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** and set in motion **now** a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan 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. The longer the Plan is in force, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice,** the higher the loan possible and the more financially beneficial the purchase.

Other financial benefits are the diversion of expenditure on quartering charges to your own benefit and the facility given by MOD of reimbursement of certain expenses entailed in house purchase, such as survey fees, legal costs, etc. Ask our advice now in order that your purchase may be **arranged on the most economic basis** possible in line with your circumstances and needs, with the maximum financial advantages to yourself.

SCHOOL FEES

Selected schemes linked with life assurance to raise funds for provision of IMMEDIATE and FUTURE school fees can substantially reduce the cost of educating children. Very early planning can reduce such costs to NIL. If you have a school fees problem write to us now for advice before it becomes insoluble.

FAMILY SECURITY ASSURED

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Movements

Officers

Captain (Q.m.) A. S. R. Alfred	To	11 Signal Regiment
Major K. S. H. Allwright	,,	2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Major R. I. F. Amos	,,	Hull University
Captain R. A. L. Anderson	,,	RMA Sandhurst
Colonel A. P. Baker	,,	CSO 3 Division
Major T. E. D. Baxter	,,	HQ UNIFICYP
2 Lieutenant D. R. Bannister	,,	21 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) J. A. Bevan	,,	School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Brian	,,	SRDE
Major D. E. Burt	,,	7 Signal Regiment
Major P. D. E. Chase	,,	Attd School of Signals
Captain B. Cleaver	,,	224 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant M. R. Cross	,,	1 Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment
Captain L. C. F. Curtis	,,	1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Dally	,,	MOD Signals 35c
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson	,,	HQ Northag
Captain (TOT) P. Gill	,,	610 Signal Troop
Major P. D. E. Gregory	,,	1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. K. Hadden	,,	20 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel B. O. Haw	,,	71 Signal Regiment (V)
Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman	,,	HQ Northag
Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Jarrett	,,	30 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. B. Jones	,,	1 Battalion The Black Watch
Lieutenant D. J. Lawson	,,	2 Battalion The Queens Regiment
Captain S. M. A. Lee	,,	School of Infantry (course)
Brigadier W. T. Macfarlane	,,	MOD (DPR)
Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. MacIntyre	,,	HQ BAOR (SX)
Captain A. R. Martin	,,	School of Signals
Major D. G. Mitchell	,,	Project Wavell 1 (BR) Corps
Captain T. P. Mountford	,,	1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Major E. Pickup	,,	11 Signal Regiment (HS-leave)
Lieutenant-Colonel R. Plant	,,	MOD (Signals 2)
2 Lieutenant T. H. Pope	,,	11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Major W. J. Pritchard	,,	School of Signals
Lieutenant G. P. T. Raku	,,	261 Signal Squadron
Captain (Qm) A. A. J. Reed	,,	21 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant P. J. Reed	,,	8 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) A. V. Render	,,	240 Signal Squadron
Captain J. H. Roberts	,,	5 Airptbl Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron
Major K. Ryding	,,	C in C's Mission to Soviet Forces in Germany
Major A. J. Sammes	,,	7 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. J. Sanders	,,	HQ 8 Infantry Brigade
Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Sherrard-Smith	,,	10 Signal Regiment
Captain J. C. B. Simpson	,,	School of Infantry (course)
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Tanner	,,	8 Signal Regiment
Major W. P. B. Thomas	,,	School of Signals
Captain P. Thompson	,,	Jungle Warfare School
Colonel R. D. Whitehead	,,	HQ Intelligence Centre
Major M. O. Wilson	,,	Project Wavell Fort Halstead

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

W.O.2 P. J. Freeston	To	13 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 A. J. Harris	,,	229 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 E. R. Dodds	,,	11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.2 J. T. Driver	,,	Army Apprentices College Harrogate
W.O.2 G. F. Smith	,,	38 Cadet Training Team
W.O.2 G. T. Farmer	,,	11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
W.O.2 G. P. Park	,,	33 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 G. A. Pfeiffer	,,	2 Division Signal Regiment
A/W.O.2 M. J. Sheridan	,,	14 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 P. A. Thornber	,,	Project Engineering and Planning Staff
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. P. Coley	,,	Project Engineering and Planning Staff
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. V. Bamforth	,,	22 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) L. R. Crowe	,,	4 Signal Group
Staff Sergeant T. A. Hyde	,,	261 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. F. Milton	,,	8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. S. Langley	,,	31 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant P. C. Grattan	,,	604 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant B. E. Pengilly	,,	4 Division Signal Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant G. Hardman	,,	39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Supvr. (R.)) S. J. Chudleigh	,,	13 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. Anderson	,,	35 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant A. J. Carroll	,,	HQ AFSOUTH
Staff Sergeant W. Locker	,,	19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. G. Papandreou	,,	16 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. Wilkinson	,,	12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. G. Judge	,,	Secretariat British Forces Near-East
Sergeant D. Brookes	,,	7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant H. D. Salt	,,	13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant F. D. M. Gordon	,,	242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant I. M. Sayer	,,	Project Engineering and Planning Staff
Sergeant F. Dowie	,,	2 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. E. Hinds	,,	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. P. Poultney	,,	7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Harper	,,	MAT GULF
Sergeant J. C. Jones	,,	37 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant G. R. Back	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant T. G. Heath	,,	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant E. S. Hunter	,,	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. W. Artley	,,	35 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. C. Staples	,,	223 Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. J. Thomas	,,	11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant J. J. Reid-Robertson	,,	34 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant A. J. McArthur	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant B. McAneny	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant L. R. Harvey	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant T. J. Taylor	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant D. Brown	,,	School fo Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant P. C. Bawden	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant G. N. Downey	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant B. Hall	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant D. Lomas	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant W. M. Watson	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant L. N. Downie	,,	11 Signal Regiment Cadre
Sergeant W. J. Thomas	,,	8 Signal Regiment Cadre
A/Sergeant A. C. Munroe	,,	10 Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant W. M. Rattray	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
A/Sergeant D. Bowden	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
A/Sergeant J. T. Cowen	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
A/Sergeant K. P. Straw	,,	School of Signals Y. of S. No 25 Course
Sergeant B. R. Mumford	,,	3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. A. Oliver	,,	1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. Burnett	,,	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Wharton	,,	229 Signal Squadron

Promotions

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*Trade*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
		COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL			
Sgt.					
Smith,	T. G.			21 Feb. 57	discharged
Churchfield,	P.			25 Jul. 65	
		COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL			
Sgt.					
Thompson,	J. A.			1 Sep. 72	discharged
		COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL			
Sgt.					
Evans,	J. M.			14 Jan. 63	discharged
Cross,	J. T.			22 Jan. 64	
Cpl.					
Cavanagh,	M. J. R.			10 Jan. 73	inserted on SGT Roll in error
		INSERTIONS			
		RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL			
Sgt.					
Radford,	M. J.			1 Oct. 71	(Cbt Rmn)
Vivian,	S. A.			4 Dec. 72	(Cbt Rmn)
Whall,	C. D.			2 Sep. 72	(Cbt Rmn)
Lister,	K.			26 Mar. 69	(Cbt Rmn)
		COMBAT SIGNALMAN ROLL			
Sgt.					
Bell,	I. M.			19 Nov. 69	(Clerk)
		REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL			
To W.O.1					
Balch,	T.	A/W.O.1		19 Mar. 73	16 Sept. 70
To W.O.2					
Atkins,	F.	S-Sgt.	Cbt Sig	4 May 73	15 Feb. 70
Foggo,	G. A.	A/W.O.2	Cbt Sig	3 Jun. 73	26 Apr. 71
Feltham,	W. G.	A/W.O.2	Cbt Sig	4 Jun. 73	13 Feb. 70
Watson,	R.	S-Sgt.	R Tg	5 Jun. 73	1 Jun. 71
		STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL			
To S-Sgt.					
Blackburn,	J.	A/S-Sgt.	Data Tg	4 May 73	18 Dec. 67
Spratt,	P. D.	A/S-Sgt.	Data Tg	1 Jun. 73	6 Feb. 70
Davies,	A. D.	Sgt.	Cbt Sig	3 Jun. 73	19 Oct. 68
Ashworth,	J. W.	Sgt.	Cbt Sig	4 Jun. 73	1 Jan. 69
Marshall,	R.	Sgt.	Tel Mech	5 Jun. 73	13 Oct. 70
Cain,	P.	Sgt.	R Tg	6 Jun. 73	1 Apr. 68
Crowe,	P. J.	Sgt.	R Tg	7 Jun. 73	5 Feb. 70
		SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL			
To W.O.2					
Rosson,	J. B.	S-Sgt.		1 Jun. 73	16 Aug. 69
To S-Sgt.					
Wood,	T. W.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	2 Aug. 71

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.1				
Wootten,	D. S. J.	A/W.O.1	6 Apr. 73	17 Feb. 70
To W.O2				
Gallagher,	D.	A/W.O.2	1 Jun. 73	4 May 67
Whydell,	A. J.	S-Sgt.	2 Jun. 73	15 Nov. 69
Robinson,	L.	S-Sgt.	3 Jun. 73	10 Oct. 68

TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL

To Sgt.				
Roles,	L. D.	Cpl.	11 Apr. 73	11 Apr. 69
Foster,	J. A.	Cpl.	9 May 73	20 Mar. 70
Gould,	M.	Cpl.	6 Jun. 73	10 Aug. 68
Woodford,	K. I.	Cpl.	13 Jun. 73	12 Dec. 69
McLaughlan,	T.	Cpl.	13 Jun. 73	25 Jun. 70
Click,	P. R.	Cpl.	29 Jun. 73	20 Feb. 69
Watson,	T. P.	Cpl.	12 Jul. 73	24 Apr. 70

RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL

To Sgt.				
Tankard,	D. M.	Cpl.	8 Jun. 73	25 Apr. 69

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL

To Sgt.				
Parish,	P. C.	Cpl.	27 Mar. 73	16 Dec. 66
Bumby,	D. L.	Cpl.	20 Jun. 73	31 Oct. 70

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL

To S-Sgt.				
Marshall,	R.	Sgt.	5 Jun. 73	13 Oct. 70

DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To S-Sgt.				
Blackburn,	J.	A/S-Sgt.	4 May 73	18 Dec. 67
Spratt,	P. D.	A/S-Sgt.	1 Jun. 73	6 Feb. 70
To Sgt.				
Thomas,	T. H.	Cpl.	30 Apr. 73	30 Sept. 67
Flockton,	F. B.	Cpl.	25 May 73	13 Nov. 67
Cunningham,	A. M.	A/Sgt.	1 Jun. 73	29 Feb. 68
Duggan,	D. P.	Cpl.	2 Jun. 73	1 Aug. 68
Burnham,	W. R. D.	Cpl.	3 Jun. 73	1 Sept. 68
Richardson,	C.	Cpl.	4 Jun. 73	7 Feb. 70
Hand,	D. A.	A/Sgt.	2 Jul. 73	1 Feb. 70

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To S-Sgt.				
Cain,	P.	Sgt.	6 Jun. 73	1 Apr. 68
Crowe,	P. J.	Sgt.	7 Jun. 73	5 Feb. 70
To Sgt.				
Dawe,	T. W.	Cpl.	6 May 73	1 Dec. 69
Watson,	T. R.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 73	1 Oct. 68
Atherton,	P. T.	A/Sgt.	2 Jul. 73	1 Nov. 69
O'Rourke,	W. J.	A/Sgt.	3 Jul. 73	30 Nov. 70
McArthur,	A. J.	A/Sgt.	4 Jul. 73	20 Feb. 70
Bell,	R. J.	A/Sgt.	5 Jul. 73	1 Jan. 71

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To Sgt.				
Emmott,	M. J.	Cpl.	12 May 73	6 Jun. 66
Cox,	N. R.	A/Sgt.	14 May 73	1 Sept. 66
Rigley,	D.	Cpl.	20 Jun. 73	1 Dec. 71
Ward,	B.	A/Sgt.	22 Jun. 73	30 Jul. 70
Rush,	T. M.	Cpl.	24 Jun. 73	1 Oct. 68

COMBAT DRIVER ROLL

To Sgt.				
Kerr,	A. P.	A/Sgt.	1 Jun. 73	31 Jan. 69
Youles,	G. G.	A/Sgt.	2 Jun. 73	23 Jul. 57
Summers,	R.	Cpl.	3 Jun. 73	2 Apr. 62
Higgins,	M. J. D.	Cpl.	4 Jun. 73	8 Nov. 62

COMBAT SIGNALMAN ROLL

To S-Sgt.				
Keenan,	A. E.	Sgt.	1 Aug. 73	5 Nov. 70
To Sgt.				
Churchward,	E. F.	Cpl.	15 Jul. 73	30 Sept. 70
Garnet,	B. H. W.	Cpl.	18 Jul. 73	20 Sept. 64
Scott,	D. I.	Cpl.	20 Jul. 73	3 Oct. 66

DELETIONS

Name	*Initials*		*Sen. Date*
REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL			
W.O.1			
Speight,	C.		11 Aug. 70 Commissioned
Jones,	C. D.		16 Nov. 71 Discharged
FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL			
W.O.1			
Bumphrey,	C. B.		1 Jun. 70 Discharged
Webb,	C. G.		4 Aug. 70 Commissioned
W.O.2			
Timson,	D. R.		15 Apr. 68 Discharged
Pearson,	J. S.		26 Jan. 73 Discharged
YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL			
W.O.2			
Palmer,	K.		27 Oct. 64 Discharged
TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL			
Sgt.			
McDonald,	A.		16 Dec. 70 Discharged
Coverley,	R.		4 Nov. 71 Reverted to Cpl.
RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL			
Sgt.			
Ashton,	K. G.		5 Aug. 73 Discharged

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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.

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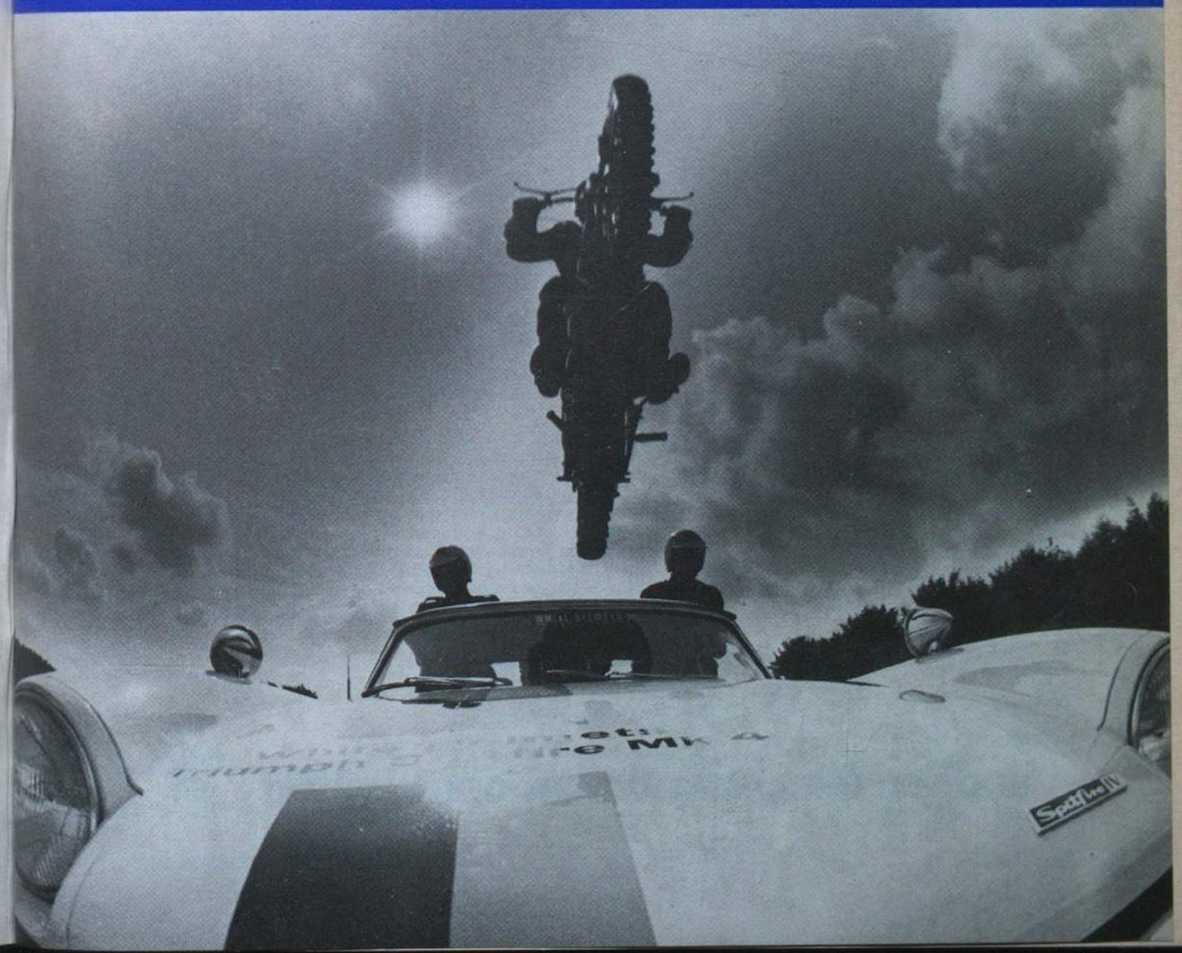
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).

November-December 1973

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Individual: Yearly **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

☆

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ● 1973

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We feature this month an unusual photo of the famous car jump as executed by the Corps Display Team. Taken with a 'fisheye' lens it accentuates the effect of this spectacular feat which invariably draws a loud gasp from the crowd as bike and rider hurtle through the air over a Triumph sports car. The rider in this photo is **Signalman Bill James** whom, it is said, can clear no less than three cars in a line! Presumably this is why the photographer felt safe in what many would think was a somewhat hazardous position.

Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals

From letters and enquiries we receive, it is clear that many only have a rudimentary knowledge of the organisation and functions of Regimental Headquarters. Below is a summary, which may be helpful to many readers. For full details see Corps Memo No. 4, 1969.

WHAT IS IT?

A headquarters formed in 1961 to provide a permanent secretariat for the co-ordination and implementation of Corps domestic or 'regimental' affairs—hence its title. It is an official Army unit operating on a MOD establishment.

WHERE IS IT?

In Cheltenham Terrace, London, SW3; first left, just past the Duke of York's Headquarters in King's Road, Chelsea, five minutes' walk from Sloane Square Underground Station.

WHAT ARE CORPS DOMESTIC AFFAIRS?

All matters of private concern to the Corps, outside the normal military functions of operations, communications, training and administration. These include: Corps funds, subscriptions, publications benevolence, historical records, furtherance of professional and technical interests, museum, pictures and silver, social events, presentations and visits.

HOW IS RHQ ORGANISED?

RHQ (as it is normally referred to within the Corps) consists of three main sections:

Regimental Secretariat—The Regimental Secretary (**Colonel G. D. T. Harris**) and his staff provide the secretariat for various committees, namely the Corps Committee, the Master of Signals Executive Committee, the Corps Finance Committee and the Committee of the Officers' Dinner Club. In addition, he acts as Staff Officer to the Master of Signals and the Representative Colonel Commandant, and forms a link between them and the SO-in-C. He is also responsible for the general co-ordination of the activities of RHQ. He maintains a record of Corps silver and is responsible for the arrangements for the Corps dinner, garden party and officers' reunion. He collates the Corps Newsletter, which is published by the Royal Signals Institution. He publishes the Royal Corps of Signals List, but AGII are responsible for all details in respect of serving officers and WOs'1. He also publishes the Retired List. Finally, he is the Corps Treasurer and is responsible for the day-to-day administration of Corps funds. The Corps Accountant and staff work directly under him.

Royal Signals Association—The General Secretary (**Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson**) and staff of the Royal Signals Association come under the direction of their own Chairman and Central Committee. Activities of the Association include providing an administrative HQ for nearly 50 branches, organising annual reunions, accounting for Association central funds, publishing THE WIRE, as well as being financial agents for the 'White List', 'Retired List' and 'Blue Book'; the sale of Corps goods, such as ties, motor car badges, diaries, etc., and finally the implementation of all Corps benevolent work, including advice on employment and many other personal problems.

(Continued on next page)

Editorial—continued

Royal Signals Institution—The Secretary (**Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Day**) and staff of the Royal Signals Institution come under their own Chairman and Council. The Royal Signals Institution is a learned society whose aim is to foster the professional and technical interests of the Corps. This it does by publishing the Corps Journal, maintaining the Corps Museum and historical records, sponsoring central and local lectures and prize essays, and providing the Secretary of the Corps Historical Committee, which advises on all historical matters. Local centres of the Institution are established in Catterick, Blandford and Germany. The Historical Officer is **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson.**

SERVICE TO THE CORPS

It is particularly stressed that the various elements outlined above operate in close co-operation with each other and together form a single entity—REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS.

The object of R.H.Q. is to SERVE the Corps. Visitors of any rank are always very welcome.

Special Mention

AWARD OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL TO STAFF SERGEANT P. R. APPLETON, ROYAL SIGNALS

The award of the British Empire Medal to Staff Sergeant Appleton was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and was instituted by his previous Commanding Officer at Headquarters AFCENT in Holland for his dedication to duty in his highly technical field of employment

The citation also shows that Staff Sergeant Appleton devoted much of his off duty time to the fostering of good Anglo/Dutch relations resulting in a highly organised Families Association which was the envy of other social clubs/associations in the AFCENT area

The medal was presented to Staff Sergeant Appleton by the Commandant JATE, Brigadier J G Bagnall, O.B.E., M.C. on a parade held recently at Royal Air Force Abingdon

Corporal J. G. Smith — G.O.C.'s Commendation

The O.C. and all ranks of 233 Signal Squadron offer congratulations to Corporal John George Smith, attached to 233 Signal Squadron from 3 Div HQ and and Sig Regt who has been awarded the GOC (Northern Ireland) Commendation for the period 29th March to 31st July.

Have you a humorous anecdote?

Sir,

At a dinner party the other evening the conversation moved around to days in the army and settled on humorous stories involving the wit and ability of sergeants to express themselves as only they can. The pleasure and amusement derived from the session prompted us to attempt to compile a book of such stories.

I would therefore be grateful if, through your columns, I could ask anyone who has any amusing anecdotes illustrating the witty, chauvenistic, sadistic personality of these lovable characters (perhaps not at the time but always after the event), or, better still, details of any successful counter attack by the squad, to forward them to the below address.

If we are successful in collecting a sufficient number to warrant publication a free copy of the book will be given for the best fifty stories. Stories will be collated up to the end of April, 1974.

We will naturally consider stories sent in by sergeants themselves, although we reserve the right to eliminate any 'tongue in cheek' detectable between the lines!

Yours faithfully,

J. S. Hickman

3, Neville Terrace,
London,
S.W.7

P.S. To protect the innocent from retribution the names of the informers will not appear alongside their story in the book.

Royal Signals Appointment and Promotion List

The following appointments have been made by Nos 1, 2, 3 and 5 Selection Boards.

Brigadier Appointments:

W. A. Sykes	Comd 12 Sig Gp (V)	Oct '74
A. A. Dacre	Comd British Gurkhas Nepal	Sep '74

Colonels Appointments:

W. G. Neilson	Comd Army Apprentices College Harrogate	Aug '74
C. O. Bound	Deputy CSO UKLF	May '74
J. S. Agar	AAG AG11	Aug '74
G. W. Gittins	Col GS Signals 31 DSS(A) MOD	May '74

Lieutenant Colonel Appointments:

P. D. Alexander	CO 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt	Aug '74
D. J. Milton	CO 9 Sig Regt (Radio)	Nov '74
R. K. Nice	CO 10 Sig Regt	Sep '74
H. A. Cuerden	CO 11 Sig Regt	Mar '75
T. H. Wheawell	CO 22 Sig Regt	Sep '74
T. A. Byrne	CO 28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)	Sep '74
R. F. Hills	CO 32 Sig Regt (V)	Jul '74
H. R. Williams	CO 37 Sig Regt (V)	Dec '74
P. Revill (V)	CO 38 Sig Regt (V)	May '74

Other Lieutenant Colonel Appointments:

R. Holmes	SOI Signals CANDE SHAPE	Aug '74
G. Corden	SI (Systems) Scohol of Signals	Jul '74
D. D. Ranft	SI (Signals Wing) RSA	Jul '74
J. W. Swindells	SOI (Signals) DSS (Central) MOD	Aug '74
C. S. Galbraith	CSO Scotland	Oct '74
R. Goodwin-Jones	SOI(Trg) School of Signals	Jul '74
C. B. Ward	GSOI Management Services HQ BAOR	Apr '74
J. R. Gibson	GSOI 25 Liaison HQ (German Forces) BAOR	Mar '74

Royal Signals Yacht Club Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting will be held in Room 218 Old War Office Building, Whitehall at 11.00 hrs on 9th January 1974.

Royal Signals Yacht Club Dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club on the evening of 9th January 1974 (same day as AGM).

Details may be obtained from **Major (Retd.) F. P. Stewart,** Room 044 Old War Office Building, Whitehall.

WIRE CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for Wire contributions is the 12th OF THE MONTH preceeding the month of publication. After nearly 50 years of existence we still cannot get all Correspondents to remember this. Let us try and get this right in our second half century!

From our "In" Tray

The Army Diary

The 1974 issue of the Army Diary will contain the first of a series of articles on the history of the Corps and its predecessors. This issue will cover the development, with illustrations, of signalling from the earliest days to 1910.

Apart from this particular interest to members and ex-members of the Corps, the Diary is a beautifully produced page a day desk diary. It contains not only the usual diary information but also articles and details of subjects of military interest including a calendar of ceremonial events, sporting fixtures, athletic records, military anecdotes etc.

It is a publication well worth having and would make a suitable Christmas present for any serving or retired soldier with an interest in the Army.

It can be obtained from:
Method Publishing Company Limited,
Golspie,
Sutherland,
Scotland KW10 6RP.

The cost in UK is £3·25 including postage and packing. Overseas is £2·95 by surface mail. To go by air an extra 22p should be added for BFPOs in Europe and 57p for BFPOs outside Europe.

Blindness following service

St. Dunstan's write:

As the result of an enquiry by St. Dunstan's the Department of Health and Social Security have informed us that there are some 2,000 men from the 1914–18 War and 10,000 from the Second World War and subsequent conflicts, who are in receipt of war disability pensions of up to 50% for loss of an eye or eye damage.

Unfortunately they cannot give us more information and so with the help of local authority Social Service Departments and other Organisations, we are endeavouring to trace as many of these persons as we can. It is possible that a fair number of these pensioners may be members of ex-Service Organisations, and although they may not be registrably blind some of them may be unaware that any deterioration of their remaining vision may entitle them to increased pension and allowances.

If any of your members are known to come within this category, and they would like to contact St. Dunstan's, we will do our best to help them.

Vacancy for Retired Officer Grade 3 Royal Signals Manning and Records

A vacancy for a Retired Officer Grade 3 will occur at Royal Signals Manning and Record Office Reading in June/July 1974. The appointment will be in Division 1 as head of a Section dealing with Postings, Promotion and soldier career management.

The pay of an RO3 is currently (October 1973) £1,841 per annum rising by three annual increments to £2,222 per annum.

Any serving officer, qualified in accordance with DCI (Army) 147 of 1971, or ex-officer interested in filling this appointment should apply to be registered for Retired Officer employment.

Applications from qualified serving officers should be forwarded to MOD (AG11) on the form at Annex B to the DCI. Officers who have already retired should apply direct to:—

Ministry of Defence (CM(S)4f)
Lacon House
Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8RY

indicating, if so desired, a preference for this appointment.

MOD will forward full details of the Retired Officer scheme, including the terms of service, on successful registration of an applicant.

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.

Notes from the Corps Band

ON 1st August the Corps Band visited 242 Squadron whilst carrying out a public engagement at Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh.

A families concert was given in the dining room at HQ Scottish Command, and a boost to the morale of all musicians taking part was felt when the Director of Music, **Major Keith Boulding,** arrived to conduct the Band in the company of a most attractive blonde WRAC officer. **Lieutenant Ann Leach** who had very kindly 'consented' to take part in the programme as a clarinetist, and as out photograph shows, she very soon made her presence felt in more ways than one. She is without doubt the only musician to ever play with the Band that has first removed her shoes, before playing a single note. She was a very competent performer and we feel that a permanent shoe-less blonde female clarinetist would not only maintain morale, but might even increase the annual Band engagement programme. Thank you, **Ann**—please call at Blandford any time to collect your shoes.

The concert was a great success, enhanced by the presence of the Chief Signal Officer Scottish Command, **Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Lloyd,** who, very expertly conducted the Band in a performance of Edward German's Merrie England. The Director of Music commented that it was over ten years since the Band had last been conducted by a Lieutenant-Colonel and that he personally hoped that it would not be too long before it happened again! So do we.

New recruit to Corps Band

Thinking of permanent staff, T.A.V.R.?

A CHALLENGING APPOINTMENT—SEE BELOW IF YOU MEASURE UP TO IT

SUBMITTED BY 38 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V), SHEFFIELD

IT is thought that following (anonymous) job evaluation of the TAVR PSI may be of use to the Officer-in-Charge of the Manning and Records Office when selecting permanent staff for the TAVR.

The incumbent must be a democrat, an autocrat, an acrobat, and a doormat. He must be able to entertain prime ministers, pickpockets, philanthropists, privates, provisional lance-corporals, pirates and police—and be on both sides of the political fence—a radio-op, comcen-op, TG-op, ED, driver and part-time paymaster. (Not to mention clerk).

As he has to settle arguments and fights he must be a qualified boxer, wrestler, weightlifter, waffler, sprinter and peacemaker.

He must always look immaculate when drinking with drivers, skivers, bankers, swankers, commercial travellers and company representatives, even though he has just stopped a beer throwing contest in the OR's bar.

To be successful he must keep the bar full, the ranks full, the tanks full, the stores full, and not himself full. The docs straight,

the fuel straight, the kit straight, someone on the gate, and be prepared to delegate.

He must have volunteers who are clean, honest, quick thinkers and workers, non-drinkers, mathematicians, technicians and at all times to be on the boss's side, the TA side, and stay on the right side of the law.

It is said that the PSI, home wrecks, breaks necks, takes weekly checks, in other words—saturates, confiscates, deteriorates, communicates and propagates.

To sum up—He must be outside, inside, offside, glorified, sanctified, crucified, stupified, certified, cross-eyed, and if he is not the strong silent type there is always suicide.

Readers please note, that such is the adaptability resource of NCO's of the Corps, that the PSI's match up to even the stringent requirements quoted. At any rate there are no recorded cases of self destruction by members of the permanent staff of this Regiment.

100 years of service

Four ex-Signal 'Terriers' with combined service over one hundred years of voluntary service to Royal Signals, have met after more than a quarter of a century apart. The meeting was arranged at the residence of **Captain Ernest Blood** at Milford.

The 'Terriers' present, in addition to **Captain Blood, were Sergeant George Hollow, Sergeant Major Harry Caseley** who has 40 years service in the T.A. and **Signalman Ron Ross** (later to be CQMS with the London Scottish Rifles).

The Territorial Unit to which they all belonged after the 1914-18 war was the Air Defence Formation Signals which later became the 1st Anti-Aircraft Signal Unit.

Promulgation of Soldier Promotions in 'The Wire'

It is planned to publish the 20th Edition of 'The Blue Book' in January 1974.

No further details of promotions for promulgation in 'The Wire' will therefore be submitted until March 1974. The list submitted then will cover promotions authorised in the period up to February 1974 for publication in the April 1974 issue.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in September	**44**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**30**
Amount spent	**£1437·89**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**3**
Amount spent	**£59·00**

One of the Month's Cases

LANCE-CORPORAL, three year's service. Early this year, he was the victim of "muggers" and died of his injuries, leaving a young widow and three little children. The Association made her a grant of £50 for winter clothing for the children, and parcels of clothing have also been sent.

One of the Month's Letters

MAY I just thank you very much for your most generous grant, which indeed has made things much easier for me. Without the help and kindness you have shown me in my hour of need, things would have been desperate. However, my path is much clearer now, and I am most grateful to the old Regiment, The Royal Signals.

Thank You!

Since the beginning of August, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., for Welfare have been gratefully received from the following: Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Captain and Mrs. W. Farmery, Mrs. W. A. Purser, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Mason, Yeoman Warder A. A. Copestake, Colonel and Mrs. D. R. Paterson, Major and Mrs. N. A. Vandyck, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. T. W. Hackworth, Captain M. P. Walker, Brigadier J. L. Akass, Brigadier C. G. Moore, Foreman and Mrs. N. Crowder, Major-General C. E. Page, Major G. Corden, Mrs. D. Napper, Miss Mandy Napper, Mr. W. E. Osborne, Royal Signals Association, Sheffield Branch, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, Major F. Iveson, Major J. L. Bayfield, Mrs. F. W. P. Bradford, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. F. Stevenson, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Welsford, Royal Signals Association, North London Branch, Colonel G. D. T. Harris and Brigadier H. R. Firth.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during September, 1973:

	£ p
Officer Commanding, 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment	80·00
Commandant, Royal Armoured Corps Centre	40·00
Commandant, The Royal School of Artillery	25·00
G. W. Cook Esq.	2·18
Captain B. T. Lord	1·55
W. Hobby Esq.	50
R. S. Pegg Esq.	50
Various small donations	77
	£150·50

The Need is Urgent for—

MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Please send what you can spare to the Welfare Section

A FEW MISGUIDED IDEAS ABOUT SACCONE & SPEED.

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Corps upholds British Army name in International Shooting Tourney

Second place for 30th Regiment in Nishan '73 Small Arms Competition

30th SIGNAL REGIMENT NISHAN 73 GPMG TEAM

Back row: Staff-Sergeant B. Hassell, Corporal J. M. Bardoe, Signalman D. R. Wallbridge, Major G. A. S. Exell (Team Captain), W.O.2 N. E. Dunbavin, S.A.S.C. (Coach), Craftsman S. R. S. Harding (R.E.M.E.), Signalman M. C. Wray, Signalman N. K. McNair

Front row: Signalman G. E. Cook, Signalman J. A. Clutton, Lance-Corporal C. E. Barlow, Corporal B. A. Rennoldson, Signalman K. T. Rumbold, Corporal K. D. Roberts

MAJOR G. A. S. EXELL, TEAM CAPTAIN, REPORTS—

'BUTTERFLIES'—EVEN FOR THE MOST EXPERIENCED

THE culmination of over six months hard work and training for Nishan came on 19th–20th September at Tuzla Ranges near Istanbul, as the 30th Signal Regiment shooting team prepared to take on the best marksmen that the armies of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and USA could provide. This was a nerve-racking experience and probably provided as great a test of shooting ability as any members of the team are ever likely to meet. The firing point on these two days was a lonely place indeed. Unlike normal competitions one man or one gun-pair only from each country shot in each detail. The details were called forward 45 minutes before shooting in order to undergo a searching inspection of clothing, equipment, weapons and documents. The details, when finally marched to the firing point, went off in file with the generous scale of one firing point officer per firer. This preliminary ordeal was not unexpected or unpractised but nevertheless was calculated to produce 'butterflies' in even the most experienced firers' stomachs.

MACHINE GUNNERS DO US PROUD

The light machine gun and pistol matches were fired on the first day. Our GPMG team of five pairs did us proud and not only produced the winning score in the machine gun team match but also took 1st and 2nd places for the individual guns. This was a remarkable feat as none of our team had handled a GPMG before March and had to be trained from scratch. **Lance-Corporal Chris Barlow** and **Signalman John 'Corker' Clutton** were the winning pair with **Corporal Brian 'Geordie' Rennoldson** and **Craftsman Stuart Harding** running a close second. **Corporal Rennoldson** is a well known stalwart of Corps shooting but the others are young soldiers, i.e. with less than three years service. The team score of 1,378 was 23 ahead of Turkey (1,355) with Iran third (1,344).

Our pistol pair of **Major Douggie Genders** and **Captain Derek McLean** were unlucky in that they drew the last detail. They would be the last to make excuses but it should be recorded that the wind (that enemy of pistol shots) increased considerably when they came to shoot and they finished 4th although with a very respectable score under the circumstances and 11 points better than the UK score in 1972.

We ended the first day in the lead three points ahead of Turkey and nine points ahead of Iran, with all to shoot for in the rifle match on the second day.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE RIFLE MATCH

The rifle match was a nail-biting affair which left the overall Competition result in doubt until after the last detail had fired. This is well illustrated by the amazing change of fortunes between the 8th and 11th details during which we dropped from 1st to 4th position and rose again to 2nd. In the rifle match itself we finished 3rd with our top scores being obtained by two young soldiers, **Lance-Corporal Alan Rowbotham** and **Lance-Corporal Phil Watkinson** followed closely by **Corporal Roger 'Dodge' Kingham** and **W.O.2 Eric Smith. Our team selection had resulted in nine young soldiers forming the backbone of the team of 12 rifle shots. Any fears that the occasion would be too much for them were proved groundless and the Corps has every reason to be proud of them.**

RESULT

The result of the Nishan '73 Competition gave us second place overall with the final placings of all countries as follows:

1.	Turkey	3,215
2.	UK	3,174
3.	USA	3,165
4.	Iran	3,158
5.	Pakistan	2,407

This was the first time that Turkey had won the competition. It gave us great satisfaction to finish ahead of the US Team (the Cotton Balers) who beat us in August at Mere as described in a previous WIRE. Also, to beat the Iranian Team which had won the Nishan Competition four times out of the previous five years was a fine achievement. It will be seen how narrow the margins are between success and failure.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

In retrospect the preparation and participation for Nishan '73 provided an experience which is unique in our Corps. All shots, and those who made up the final team in Turkey especially

30th SIGNAL REGIMENT NISHAN 73 RIFLE TEAM

Back row: W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith, Signalman S. C. Pollard, Signalman K. O'Brien, Signalman J. R. Holcombe, Major G. A. S. Exell (Team Captain), W.O.2 R. V. Smith 2nd R.G.J. (Coach), Lance-Corporal C. M. Bushell, Lance-Corporal P. R. Watkinson, Corporal G. L. Jaques

Front row: Sergeant J. Underwood (R.E.M.E.), Lance-Corporal A. Rowbotham, Signalman W. G. Peters, Signalman D. Collins, Corporal R. G. Kingham, Signalman M. P. Godfrey

Absent: Lance-Corporal S. Bushell

to their units after the various selection deadlines, can take a pride in their achievements. It is to be hoped that all members, particularly the young soldiers, will use the experience and knowledge which they have gained to the benefit of shooting generally in the Corps.

The detailed results of the team in order of firing are as follows:

LIGHT MACHINE GUN MATCH

	Score	*Place*
Corporal 'Geordie' Rennoldson **Craftsman Stuart Harding** (REME)	294	2
Signalman John Clutton **Lance-Corporal Chris Barlow**	307	1
Signalman Ken Rumbold **Corporal Des Roberts**	259	13
Signalman Don Wallbridge **Corporal Gerry Bardoe** (REME)	258	14
Signalman George Cook **Staff Sergeant Barry Hassall**	260	11
TEAM TOTAL	1,378	1

Reserve Pair: **Signalman Neil McNair/Signalman Mike Wray**

PISTOL MATCH

Captain Derek McLean	116	7
Major Douggie Genders	106	9
	222	4

Reserve: **Captain Steve Siddall**

RIFLE MATCH

Corporal Gerry Jaques	136	28
Signalman Steve Pollard	134	32
W.O.2 Eric Smith	139	23
Signalman Julian Holcombe	111	44
Signalman Dave Collins	137	27
Signalman 'Paddy' O'Brien	129	35
Lance-Corporal Steve Bushell	125	40
Lance-Corporal Mick Bushell	110	47
Lance-Corporal Alan Rowbotham	143	15
Lance-Corporal Phil Watkinson	142	16
Signalman Mick Godfrey	128	36
Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham	140	21
TEAM TOTAL	1,574	3

Reserve: **Sergeant John Underwood,** REME

Lastly, we give honourable and well-deserved mentions to all those who gave organisational and administrative back-up as part of the Nishan Troop during its long and arduous programme of training and without whom we could not have functioned.

Team Captain, **Major Geoff Exell;** Team Adjutant, **Major George Cowsill;** MO, **Major 'Spike' Buirski** RAMC (V); Interpreter, **Major Peter Mason** RAOC; GPMG Coach, **Q.M.S.I. Pete Dunbavin** SASC; SLR Coach, **W.O.2 Roy Smith** 2 RGJ; Armourer, **Staff Sergeant John Telford** REME; Administration Sergeant, **Sergeant 'Paddy' Garrehy;** Troop Clerk, **Corporal Keith Stafford;** Troop Storeman, **Corporal Bill Wild;** Drivers, **Signalman Stephen Smith, Signalman Les Spence** and **Signalman Fred Whales.**

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NO. 1 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS INTRODUCTORY VISIT TO THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS
(9th to 21st September, 1973)

Back Row (left to right): Second-Lieutenant Bardell, Lieutenant Collins, Lieutenant Cornforth, Second-Lieutenant Crombie, Second-Lieutenant Hadfield, Second-Lieutenant Harrison, Lieutenant Heck, Lieutenant Illman

Front Row (left to right): Second-Lieutenant Kirkup, Second-Lieutenant Lane, Second-Lieutenant Lord, Second-Lieutenant Marvin, Second-Lieutenant Proctor, Second-Lieutenant Robertson, Lieutenant Symonds, Second-Lieutenant Thornton

This is the first course of YOs to undertake the revised system of officer training, consisting of a two week visit to the School immediately after leaving Sandhurst, followed by a period of approximately 30 months at regimental duty which includes a 21 week Communications Qualifying Course at the School

Along the Ridgeway

BY LANCE-CORPORAL M. D. NEWELL

"FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BOLD"—JOHN RIDGEWAY

"Which group or type of people do you have the most sympathy for? I looked at the line of seasick bodies hanging on to English Rose IV's lee rail, then back at John Ridgeway who had asked me the question and realized that I had always been so wound up with my own affairs, that I had never thought about it."

This saga started in the middle of 1972 when I read "A Journey to Ardmore" written by **John Ridgeway, M.B.E.,** the Atlantic Rower. At that point, I had decided that I must meet this adventurer. The easiest way of accomplishing my aim was to apply for a place on one of the adventure courses that **John** runs at his school of adventure situated at Ardmore on the west coast of Northern Scotland. In consequence, I found myself north ward bound in September of this year.

BASIC SELF RELIANCE AND SURVIVAL

The courses are run with the aim of teaching the normal civilized inhabitant of our cities, the basic elements of self reliance and survival. To achieve this, each fortnights' course is split up into a series of specialised activities incorporating mountain walking, sailing, rock climbing, camping, canoeing and survival techniques.

The students spend on average, two days on each type of activity and the fortnight ends with a final expedition of two–three days designed to bring out the newly learned skills. The timetable is so arranged that every person spends at least one day at sea with **John** on his yacht *English Rose IV*.

Thus we come back to the situation presented at the beginning of this article, and to a side of the course that is not immediately visible. The activities of the course produced a mental challenge as well as a physical one. The phrase 'Mind over Matter' is well known to servicemen, but not so to our civilian counterparts. During the long haul up Foinivah (2,980ft.) we all wondered if we had done the right thing by coming on the course. Besides this, the environment of the school is such that the students can do some mental spring cleaning.

John's guide lines are that each individual should be self reliant, positive thinking and be prepared to leave things better than they found them. This eventually led us all to question our own values and discuss them with each other.

When you are facing a heavy swell in a small boat, one's priorities seem to change drastically, and the problems of our civilised world shrink into comparative insignificance.

For those of you who might be interested in attending one of these courses, a brief summary of the course is as follows:

Saturday 1200 hrs pm	Arrive at Ardmore. Swimming Tests and Instruction on Mountain Safety.
Sunday	Continuation of Instruction on Safety, Survival, and Camp Craft.
Monday, Tuesday	Expedition up Foinivan.
Wednesday	Introduction to Rock Climbing.
Thursday, Friday	Dinghy Sailing and the trip on *English Rose IV*.
Saturday	Orienteering and Mountain Search Exercise.
Sunday, Monday	Canoe Camp on Paddy's Isle in Loch Laxford.
Tuesday	Choice Day. Students can pick the activity that they liked best and try it again.
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	Three-day survival camp.
Saturday	Camp disperses.

There are also lectures in the evenings on Marine Biology, Geology, and **John Ridgeway's** expeditions.

Further details of the course can be obtained from The John Ridgeway School of Adventure, Ardmore, by Lairg, Sutherland.

A final thought for those of you who have read this far.

Which group or type of people do YOU have the most sympathy for?

(*Scribes note:* It is regretted that there are NO photographs, although **Lance-Corporal Newell** was ordered to provide. Sadly, his camera was smashed in the mountain assault).

Bound for the Valley of the Assassins

AN IRANIAN ADVENTURE
BY SERGEANT J. B. LAMB
262 SIGNAL SQUADRON, CYPRUS

BACKGROUND

ON the last day of April as I was proceeding on UK leave, I was asked if I wanted to go on a mountain trek in Iran. The answer was yes, little realising what was involved. Back in the squadron in May I pressed for details. The purpose of the trip was two-fold; firstly a ten day trek into and over the Alborz mountains and into the Alamut Valley (Valley of the Assassins) looking at the castles and then a move to Isfahan, the old capital of Iran, known as the 'Beginning of the World', looking at mosques and bazaars.

THE MOVE—AND A LITTLE CUSTOMS TROUBLE

The night of 13th June the party, consisting of **Major Hodge,** RAOC, **Major Willy Carrick,** 2 Gurkhas, **Corporals Leach** and **Hallam,** RAOC, **Lance-Corporal Fuller** and **Musician Davidson** of the Blues and Royals and myself **Sergeant Lamb,** Royal Signals, embussed for an overnight stay at Akrotiri. Transport to Teheran was provided by 10 Squadron RAF in one of their VIP *Argosy's,* taking off at 08.30 on the 14th. We arrived in Teheran at 15.30 local time into a temperature of 95°F which was to prove to be one of the cooler days! We arranged for our equipment (self-contained with tents, compo and bergers packs, etc.) to be transported to customers and it was here we had our first delay. The customs could not understand what compo was and that you can get several menus, and consequently wanted all the tins opened—some 21 ten man packs in all. At this point our liaison officer, an Iranian Major, joined us, but it still took some time to convince customs as to the harmlessness of compo! Nobody was interested in our passports and we proceeded to Teheran.

BARGAINING FOR MULES

We left some kit in the British Embassy and journeyed onto Gachsar by coach—this was to be the starting point of the hike. Gachsar consisted of one hotel, a wayside cafe and a few mud huts. We pitched our tents in the grounds of the hotel and that night **Major Carrieh** sounded out a muleteer. The first attempt at obtaining mules was unsuccessful and so on Saturday morning **Major Carrieh** and **Major Hodge** went out again. At this time we were without the liaison officer as he was obtaining a radio from his unit, but **Major Carrieh** spoke the language and knew the area and we were not entirely floundering in the dark. It took until lunch time to discover that the local we were negotiating with for mules did not own them himself; he was going to hire them and then sub-let to us, keeping his profit. In the afternoon five of us went on our first hike up to the muleteer's huts.

The five miles to the huts was also the first few miles on the route we would be taking so we had an insight into the type of country. This try was successful and the mules would be with us 09.00 on the Sunday. Back at the hotel the liaison officer had arrived back in the company of a sergeant to operate the radio.

Sergeant Lamb with the area to be crossed behind him

The range the muleteers would not cross: Kardeneh-Ye Mau Khan
—see "Mutiny in the ranks" below

HOT DAYS, COLD NIGHTS

Sunday, 17th was to be our first full day of marching and by 10.00 we were on the way with nine of us in the party, plus two muleteers and six miles to go. We hiked approximately nine miles the first day climbing from 6,000 to 8,400 feet. The first day also set the pattern for the rest of the trek. We had to stop every hour to let the mules catch up, and at lunch times for two hours to off-load the mules to give them a break.

We stopped to camp at approximately 16.15 hours and soon experienced the difference in temperature after the sun had gone down. We settled in our Arctic tents, sleeping bags and heavy woollen pullovers, but the muleteers just laid out a blanket.

BLISTERS IN PLENTY

The second day of the hike was to prove the longest distance in any one day—a distance of 19 miles. We had an initial climb to a peak of 9,000 feet, then all the way down to 4,500 feet. It was an early start at 07.30 and by 10.00 when we reached our first village at Garob we were ready for a good break. Here we were entertained by a young teacher doing his national service in the Iranian Education Corps, bringing some form of education to the remote parts of Iran. After our break we entered a steep-sided gorge. In parts the track was only inches wide with a steep drop into the river as a reward for any slips. It was this that decided the mileage for the day because there was nowhere to stop until we had got out of the gorge. Once out, camp was quickly established and the blister bag did a roaring trade.

UP A BIT, DOWN A BIT, UP A BIT

The third days march was 13 miles of easy walking alongside a broad river at the bottom of the valley until we reached Shakran, where we were to start climbing over the Alborz mountains where a climb from 4,500 to 12,000 feet and a horizontal distance of four miles was the target for the fourth day. The maps had been pretty accurate but at this stage the map, with a scale of two and a half miles to the inch was not very forthcoming on routes to take, and there were many re-entrants, escapements and valleys to choose from. After a bit of blundering the track was eventually found and again proved like the other hills, up a bit, down a bit, up a bit more. When we started reaching the heights the stops became more and more frequent as the air became rare We stopped for the day about 400 feet below the peak and protected from the winds.

MUTINY IN THE RANKS

On reaching the peak on 20th June we had a mutiny in the ranks. The muleteers refused to go any further, for there before us was a wide band of snow and ice stretching the whole length of the range at that height. No amount of cajoling would make the muleteers even look for a pass to left or right and so down we went, back to the camping site of the previous night.

MORE SETBACKS

When we started out the next day the plan was to go over a 7,000ft. pass a few miles away, which should be below the snow line. At this the muleteers resigned. They were fed up with mad Englishmen who liked walking up and down hills for the fun of it. There were no mules for hire in this area as the National Bus Company served the valley. So failing to get over the hills into the Alamut Valley we had to cheat and take a bus round. Although the valley was only five miles away it took us 12 hours and three separate buses to get there. We had to come right out of the mountains into the nearest city and then back into the hills again, finally arriving at Shabrak at approximately 22.00 on Friday, 22nd. We just found the nearest flat roofed hut and slept on that.

At Shabrak we had to negotiate for mules again, this was always a long drawn out business as the Iranians appear to love negotiations. This was now our seventh day in the hills and the heat and exertion was beginning to tell. The new plan at this stage was to walk up the Alamut Valley over the Pickuban Mountain, height 9,800 feet, and down the Northern side through the rain forests to the Caspian sea.

THE CASTLE OF HASSAN SABAH

We managed to reach the castle of Hassan Sabah at 15.00 23rd June. It was from this castle that, in 1061, Hassan Sabah started to build his empire with the help of his gang of thugs. It was from their use of the drug hashish that the word assassin came from. Unfortunately our imagination had to be used as all that remained of the castle was a few bricks and an archway. This was situated on a large outcrop up a re-entrant that covered the whole valley. We stayed at the castle for the night and to the end of the valley the next day. It was here that **Corporal Hallam's** left knee packed up. He had had a screw loose for a couple of days. His left knee was a mass of metal plates and screws. After a days rest the party decided to split up, **Major Carrich** was going on over the hills, the rest of us would go back to Shahrak and onto Teheran, to arrive at midnight on the 26th.

VISIT TO ISFAHAN

Next day we began the journey to Isfahan. We spent five days here sightseeing around the mosques and bazaars. The outstanding mosque was the mosque of Shah Abbass who started the old city of Isfahan. This is a unique mosque in that all the patterned work was done on tiles and not made up in a mosaic. Shah Abbass had a premonition that he would die before the mosque was finished and he ordered tiles to speed up the work. He failed. He died before it was finished!

The bazaar at Isfahan

TEHERAN AND THE RETURN TRIP

Monday, 2nd July we were back in Teheran trying to book seats on the Turkish Express to Adona to meet the ferry to Cyprus. Although the train did not leave until Thursday it was already fully booked. So we had to book the buses again. On the Thursday, as we were leaving our bulk kit at the British Embassy, we had news of a Hercules that was being diverted to Teheran so it was a dash to the airport to find spare seats, leaving **Major Carrick** behind shopping. We splite into two parties inse parate taxis to the airport. We were told to report to the BOAC Operations room. **Corporal Leach, Musician Davidson** and myself arrived there, but after an hour there was no sign of the other three. As time for take-off approached we were taken down to the aircraft, by-passing customs and immigration which were in another building. However the other three had gone to the customs and immigration building and because they had no entry stamp on their passports they were not officially in the country and they were certainly not going to leave. Cheating again they had to go round to the BOAC Operations block, wait until the last moment and then out to the aircraft, leaving **Major Carrick** with the problems of sorting out his passport stamp.

I was glad to get back to Cyprus but looking back I think I would have another try if the opportunity came again.

High in the Austrian Alps

CONTRIBUTED BY 3 SQUADRON, 4 DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

PLANNING

WITH an eventual Summer Camp in sight, planning began early in 1973 to send a band of sturdy volunteers to the Stubai range in the Austrian Alps, on the assumption that anything would be better than the Squadron summer camp!

Taking part were **Sergeant Barry Vargas, Lance-Corporal Mick Dunn, Signalman 'Rog' Justice, Signalman 'Taffy' White, Corporal 'Smudge' Smith, Signalman 'Bobo' Tullet, Signalman Mick Woolley, Signalman Len McArdle, Gunner 'Mac' McAndie** and last but not least, since every good expedition must have one, **S.S.M. Ken Stewart.** Surprisingly enough, the numbers and names of the party remained constant from the start, despite the prospect of possible hard work. This merry band was led by **Captain Fergus MacKenzie.**

EARLY PROBLEMS

Our first problem was a complete lack of mountaineering equipment, apart from that held personally by a few members. After much telephoning, it was found that none would be forthcoming from so called Regimental and Brigade Pools, even Bicester informed us that the equipment requested was obsolete. So, the wheels were set in motion to obtain an adventurous training equipment grant to buy the basic essentials to send a dozen men, in safety, to the Austrian Alps.

Fortunately, the response was good and we were able to buy the equipment needed.

While this was going on, formal diplomatic clearance for travelling in Austria had to be obtained, Austria being a neutral country. The difficulty arose of taking obvious military equipment, across the border, so great amusement was had by the party in expertly converting Army green land rovers to Army blue land rovers, much to the CO's amusement when he saw them!

As the party were expected to stay in mountain huts during the expedition, few administrative stores were required, although when we were finally loaded to go, the land rovers faintly resembled removal vans. As usual, the last few weeks were a flurry of activity, collecting kit, and painting the vehicles. A lot of small administrative detail had to be overcome, passports, inoculations, films, etc., however a couple of days to go and we were all ready.

Since the majority of the party had little experience of this sort of activity, a certain amount of training had to be done prior to setting off. This also meant that we should only be able to attempt climbs of limited technical difficulty.

MOVE DOWN AND SOME ANGLO-AUSTRIAN ENTENTE CORDIAL

Since the Squadron was going to have its Summer Camp at Ravensburg, near Lake Constance we were going to make use of this as a jumping off place for our expedition. On the 22nd July, along with the rest of the Squadron transport, our little convoy of newly painted land rovers made its way south.

After what is reported as 'an uneventful journey' they all arrived in one piece that same evening at Ravensburg. The main party moved down on the 23rd, and the following day was spent sorting out kit, fitting crampons and general last minute problems, such as **McArdle** managing to fit his crampons wrongly, much to everyone's amusement.

We set off the next day toward the mountains in high spirits, dampened not at all by the fact that the rain was bucketing down. It had not let up by the time we arrived in Solden that afternoon, the cloud being so low that it hid any views of the mountains all around us. The locals were happy to tell us that it made no change from the previous three weeks but plans were still made to set off the next morning for the huts. Good use was made of our last night in civilisation and there proved to be no absence in the Anglo-Austrian entente cordiale!

A FIRST INSTRUCTIONAL CLIMB

As if in answer to the maidens prayer, the next day was better and we set off towards the Siegerlandhutte, at least being able to see the summits of the minor peaks, which were covered in a blanket of fresh snow. The path proved to be steep from the very start and it was not long before our caravan was spread out. It soon proved that the playboy life led by some of the members did not fit them out for this sort of physical exertion. **Barry Vargas** fighting a losing battle against the weight of his rucksack, managed to catch up with the rest, by cadging a lift from a local farmer, who took pity on him. It was a cold and tired party that reached the Siegerlandhutte five hours later and began thawing themselves out with gallons of scalding coffee.

The next morning, we awoke to snow and low cloud, so, the first party of the morning was spent revising knots and rope technique. by which time the weather improved enough for us to attempt one of the lesser peaks in the neighbourhood—the Schieblehnkogl, 9,700ft., as our first climb. As this was a first ascent or the majority of the party—it was used as our instructional climb.

The first hour, we walked and scrambled over large morraine fields, remains of long vanished glaciers, which had once covered the whole area. Over this difficult terrain, our party again split up, only to come together when we reached our first snow field, where it was necessary to rope up, and this was done in parties of four. The snow was in good condition and despite being steep, made for easier going, and eventually, we reached the south west ridge of the Schieblehnkogl, from where it was an easy scramble to the top. However, a few found that travelling over this alien surface was more difficult than it seemed, and **Mick Woolley** produced amusing interludes when he disappeared under the crust of the snow.

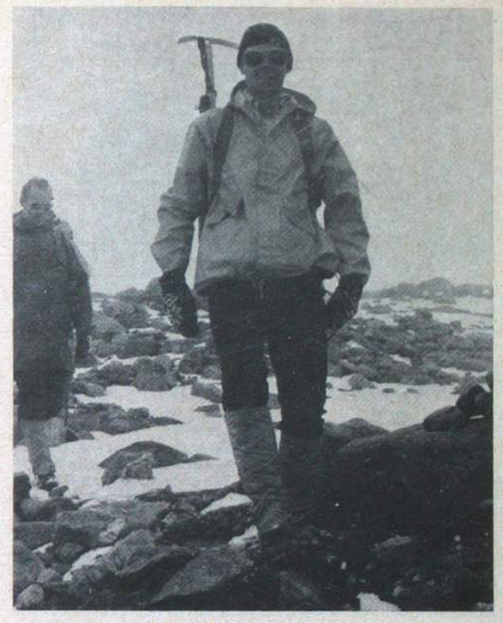
By the time we reached the top, there were some who had discovered, to their dismay, that they did not like heights, and seemed to be more interested in holding onto terra firma than looking at the magnificent view.

We could look down into steep alpine valleys many thousands of feet below. About an hour was spent at the top, but then the weather started to close in, so we had a final look round and set off back to the comfort of the hut, by which time the weather had closed right in—a night for cards and gluhwein.

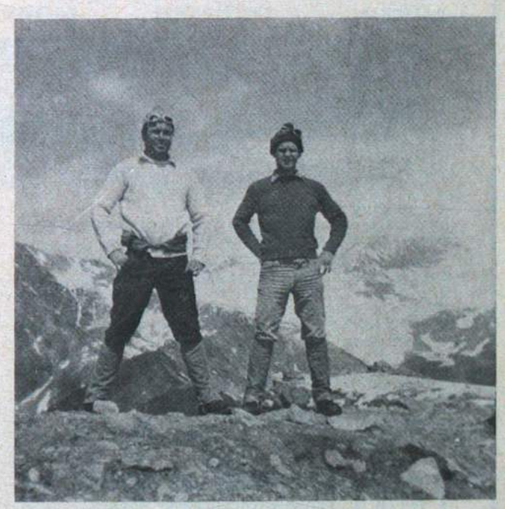
10,000 FEET ACHIEVED

Saturdays target was a peak that stuck up from the ridge behind the hut—the Schwarwandspitze. The obvious route was up the steep northern flank which would give good practice in snow climbing, finishing off with a rock climb of about 100ft. to the summit.

However, a couple of our more blistered and weary members decided that this was not for them so we set off for this peak with a smaller party. We were soon on the snow, and started up the steep snow slope where we encountered some quite deep crevasses as we neared the top, and had to rope up to cross the Bergschrund. The snow was hard and good for cramponing, or cutting steps. The summit rocks were unfortunately covered in ice, and too difficult for our less experienced members, so we had to retreat about 50ft. from the summit. However, we had achieved the magic height of 10,000ft. and since the clouds were again coming down, we felt reasonably pleased with what we had achieved.



AWAY FROM THE SMOG
Lance-Corporal McCardle descending the Sonklarspitze—S.S.M. Stewart in the background



WORTH THE SWEAT
Corporal Smith (*left*) and Signalman Tullett stand on the top of the Schieblehnkogl, 9,700ft on the Austrian/Italian border and look south into Italy

GOOD GOING

S.S.M. Stewart takes a breather on the ascent of the Schieblehnkogl

AN ABORTIVE ATTEMPT

Much to our delight, Sunday dawned bright and clear, and boded well for an attempt on the Sonklarspitze, which promised to be a most interesting climb. By 07.00 hours we were on our way, but we had only been on our way an hour and were reaching an extremely steep gulley, when the cloud came down and the visibility deteriorated to about five yards. This made route finding impossible so after waiting for an hour to see whether the weather would improve we returned to the hut. The weather did not improve again all day and so we nearly wore out our long suffering packs of cards. It was a very disappointing day which had started well, but this sort of thing can so easily happen in the Alps.

HIGHER STILL

Our intended plan for Monday, which was another attempt on the Solklarspitze, if the weather improved, was met by mutinous murmurings by the masses. Therefore, only a party of five set off again, early Monday morning, for the summit of the Solklarspitze. Our party set off with anxious glances at any cloud that came over the horizon, and in an hour and a half fast going, we'd arrived at our previous high point. The extremely steep gully brought us out onto a magnificent snow ridge, a very airy position from which both sides dropped away steeply to the glaciers 1,500ft. below. We roped up and continued along this ridge, until we arrived at an intermediate peak, the Hoheneis, on which we had a short rest to admire the truly breathtaking view. To the north-east we could see the ridge which we were to follow leading up to the snow dome of the Solklarspitze. We set off again and, moving together quickly we reached the summit in 20 minutes and a height of 10,500ft.

That day, it was obviously a popular mountain, as we passed another party as we were going down.

The next day, we packed up, shouldered our packs and set off back to Solden, which we reached mid-afternoon.

The next few hours were spent indulging in the luxury of clean clothing and baths. That evening, we celebrated the completion of our 'wet' expedition with steaks in the local hotel. By 10.00 hours on Wednesday, we, and our hang-overs, were on our way back to Ravensburg and the Squadron.

Retrospect

Despite the weather, the expedition had achieved the aims it set out to accomplish. Adventurous training is a most useful part of the soldiers training and mountaineering, which is for 'real' in all its aspects, promotes both confidence and leadership. Certainly a great sense of achievement was felt by all who went and the results achieved by everyone's hard work made all the effort very worthwhile.

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"THAT SECOND CAREER"

By Douglas Connery (late Staff Sergeant, Royal Signals), Supervisor, Records Management Services, The British Petroleum Company Limited (BP)

ON the completion of my 22 year engagement with the Royal Corps of Signals last October, **Colonel A. A. Dacre, O.B.E.,** Assistant Adjutant General, AG11 asked me to write an account on the problems I had experienced in the transition from a service to a civilian environment.

Having been with BP some nine months and during this period, having achieved a major promotion, I felt this was the opportune moment to put pen to paper and record my experiences.

Since my trade was that of Chief Clerk, my story really applies to those warrant officers and senior NCOs who are employed in an administrative role but, I am sure, could also be of some assistance to those serving in other trades.

Every serviceman, sooner or later, has to face the prospect of terminating his service with the Regular Army and seek a second career. This fact became apparent to me in February, 1970 when I learned that I could not continue in the service beyond the 22 year point.

Three fundamental problems face most soldiers in this situation, they are;

School children's education; finding and setting up home and seeking employment which carries good prospects and security.

They may not appear or occur in this order but, as it happens in my case, they did.

The first decision to be made is where to settle and the above factors must be taken into consideration. There are points for and against settling in the London area. The price of property is enormously high but the employment prospects are excellent. Our choice was the Beaconsfield area where we had considerable local colour and London was within commuting distance.

Education for our two children was the first priority and we were successful in settling them into a modern and progressive school in Beaconsfield. My wife, now accommodated with her mother, was in the ideal place to view the position on the availability of property. After four months searching, her efforts bore fruit and we now live in a cottage, some 60 years old and, after modernisation, is our prized possession.

A word about two financial schemes which are available to all soldiers in the Corps may be useful. The first is known as "Assisted House durchase", details of which are published in Defence Council Instructions (General) which, allows a soldier to have on loan a sum of money from the Regimental Paymaster to secure a deposit on a house and in part, contributes to the payment of the Solicitor's fees. The second scheme is sponsored by the Army Benevolent Fund and is processed through the Royal Signals Association. Again, an application for a loan will receive a sympathetic hearing and is extremely helpful to the individual. Both schemes are subject to the approval of the appropriate authorities and the monies involved deducted from the soldier's Terminal Grant. In recommending both of these schemes, I would also encourage the practice of endeavouring to purchase your property prior to leaving the service; it saves numerous headaches later. (The Army Benevolent Fund like fixed monthly repayments towards their loans to be made during the residue of the applicants service—the remainder to come out of his terminal grant—*Editor*).

Having settled two of the fundamental problems by February, 1972 I had eight months in which to find employment. I had, in 1969, already attended a Second Career Course sponsored by the Royal Army Education Corps and although its duration lasts only for a weekend, I found it most instructive with a particular insight into job interviews and career prospects in Industry. My actual Resettlement training started in June, 1971 and here I met representatives from the Services, Commerce and Industry who studied, in detail, my career and immediately recommended that I be earmarked to attend a Potential Supervisors' Course, organised by the Department of Employment and Productivity.

I cannot emphasise too highly the importance of every warrant officer/senior NCO attending this course if they wish to pursue a second career in industry or commerce. It lasts for six weeks and entry is by selection only. Attendance on the course is recognized by many firms and industries as an important asset, and representatives, together with lecturers, from the Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industries, visit the course and provide the students with much useful information.

However, it is not the lecturers or the organised visits to firms which highlight the advantages of the course, but the 'Job Placing' scheme which is available to every student from which he can receive considerable assistance in securing suitable employment. The following are just some of the methods by which the Placing Officer is able to achieve this;

(a) A brochure containing the biographical details of every student, his career details, interests and desired area of residence, is sent out to 900 employment agencies and other interested parties, prior to the commencement of the course.

(b) Any information received by the Placing Officer from firms is immediately made available to students which he will follow up on request.

(c) Students obtain information regarding jobs from the national press and other sources and each enquiry is investigated on the student's behalf.

(d) Representatives from top firms in Industry and Commerce visit the course, with the expressed purpose of interviewing students as part of their recruiting campaign. I was approached by two firms in this manner, British Petroleum and the British Aircraft Corporation.

It was said, on the course, that if a student had not been successful in obtaining employment before the completion of the course, it was not for the want of trying by the Placing Officer!

Having expressed interest in joining BP, I was interviewed for the position of an Assistant in Records Management Services; accepted on 4th August, signed my contract on 5th October and joined for duty four days later.

Despite, having successfully settled the three fundamental problems at least six weeks before my date of termination with the Army, I had a gnawing apprehension when realizing that here I was, accepted as an employee of the largest Company in the United Kingdom, one of the largest Oil Groups in the world, and my knowledge of the oil industry was nil. It was bad enough when one stands in Moor Lane, looking up at the top of a 395 foot building which constitutes Britannic House, Headquarters of the British Petroleum Company Limited; the sight is literally staggering!

My first appointment in BP was known as "Supervisor", Task Force (not to be confused with the American idiom which described a battle fleet in World War II, searching the Pacific for a 'nip in the air'), but was in fact a team specially formed and charged with the responsibility of designing and implementing new filing systems and registry procedures in the different Departments, in accordance with Head Office policy; a tremendously challenging job which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Now after only eight months, I still feel a stranger, yet the period seems much longer. The adjustment to civilian employment is difficult. The 'pressure' still exists but the pace varies and one learns very quickly that it is better to walk before you can run. Negotiating is and has been very much apparent since my arrival in BP. Fortunately, my dealings with members of the Civil Service at Stanmore, gave me an excellent insight into the techniques of human relations; a vital factor if the serviceman is to succeed in civilian employment. Authority and responsibility are vastly changed and one has to adjust to the idiosyncrasies of working in a different chain of command. I have not experienced any hostile feelings towards the ex-serviceman in BP, but one does hear of such cases elsewhere; such firms are better left alone.

However, thanks to my superiors and colleagues alike, I now enjoy the prospects and security of a second career.

What can BP offer to a serviceman, interested in the field of Records Management? After completing 22 years in the Services, it can offer a further 20 years in the oil industry, where the work is varied and interesting; where the working conditions are excellent; where lunches cost 5p and the food is plentiful; where social sport and club activities are among the best. A career with BP is something not to be missed!

This then is my account of the problems which I had experienced. It is difficult to appreciate them now but they once appeared too numerous to mention. I was fortunate in having so many helpful people, who were only too ready to advise and assist me and this, coupled with an element of luck, contributed much to the success of my Resettlement.

(I am grateful to the Editor of the WIRE for the opportunity of writing this article and hope that it provides useful knowledge for those servicemen leaving in the future).

Many problems will arise but, I trust, will not prove insoluble. It is to be hoped that they have even more success than I had, in making this vital transition from soldier to civilian.

Good Luck!

VIEWS OF 'IX'

With a strength of just over 1,000, 9th Signal Regiment obviously contains many characters. What might not be appreciated is the diversity of cap badges and trades that the Unit holds. Here in a pictorial nutshell are a selection of the people who go together to make 9th Signal Regiment

It is a poor show if an organisation cannot laugh at itself occasionally. Here in Cyprus, the summer heat has rather faded our grins; so we have commissioned our resident cartoonist Lance-Corporal Quinney, Intelligence Corps of 3 Squadron, to inject some mid-summer madness into our lives

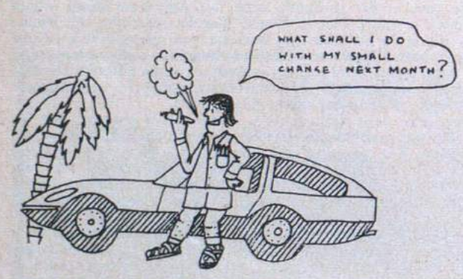
SIG SPARKY BLIMP .... ROYAL SIGNALS

The Regiment is composed mainly of Signallers . . .

. . . many of whom are shift workers and . . .

L/CPL BRAINS I. CORPS

. . . they are ably supported by the Intelligent (sorry Intelligence) Corps . . .



. . . and Civilian Wing who are very much one of us.

PTE MEG O'HERTS W.R.A.K

We have our own beautiful people . . .

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER K. BIFFO .... ROYAL NAVY

. . . who are closely watched by the Senior Service . . .

FLT SGT AL TOMETER .... R.A.F.

. . . however, the dark blue clashes with the ground bound light blue

THE LOCAL WORKMEN IN CYPRUS

The industriousness of the locals embarrasses everyone . . .

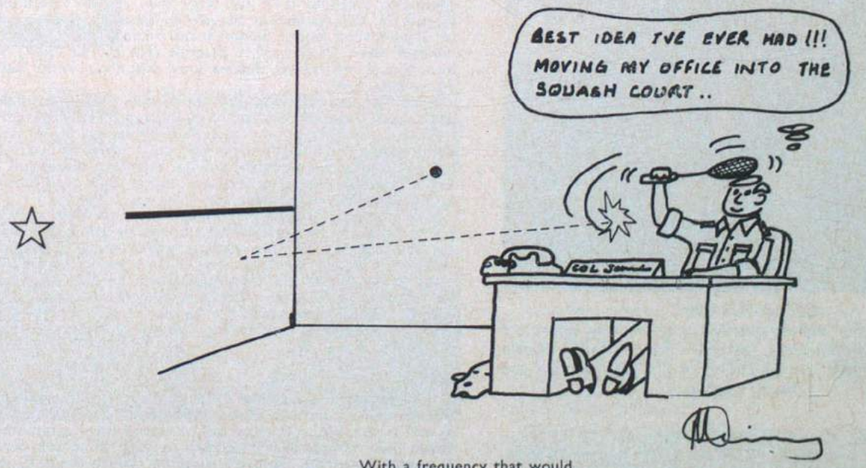
PTE CURLY BRAWN .... R.P.C.

. . . except the Pioneers, who are taking lessons

PTE GREASY CHIPS ..... A.C.C.

The cooks ensure that our stable belts are always fully extended, . . .

. . . despite their efforts, the R.S.M. after much experimentation has at last succeeded in walking on water



With a frequency that would exhaust David Frost, the C.O. commutes between his two offices, and keeps firm control of us all

REPORT FROM ULSTER

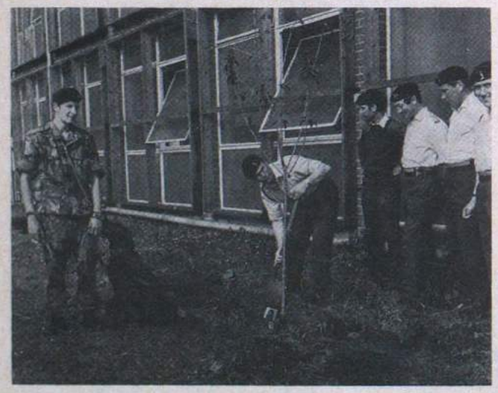
3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

WELL MERITED AWARD

THE most notable event since we last contributed to the WIRE, happened on 18th September when our RSM, **W.O.1 Jim Thornton,** was awarded a Mention in Despatches in the Honours and Award List for Northern Ireland. **W.O.1 Jim Thornton** has been a tower of strength since the squadron was formed in Shoeburyness on 25th October. All members of the unit offer him our warm congratulations.

CHANGES OF COMMAND

As the squadron is now two years old there has been a large change-over in personalities during the last few months. The most notable of these being new Brigade and Squadron Commanders. **Brigadier P. J. Bush, O.B.E.** handed over command of 3 Infantry Brigade to **Brigadier C. S. Wallis-King, O.B.E.** on the 24th August. Five days later after two years as Officer Commanding the unit **Major Keith Ryding** handed over command to **Major Rodney Dorrell.** In September 1971 **Major Keith Ryding** started to form the squadron, the unit was officially formed on the 25th October, 1971 and came to Lurgan four months later. His two years in command have not been without incident and the various headaches associated with forming a unit, moving it to Northern Ireland, and making Kitchen Hill Factory a habitable place to live, work, sleep and play have taken their toll. **Major Keith Ryding,** so rumour has it, did have a good thatch of hair once, he left semi-bald. All concerned thank him for his efforts and wish him and his wife **Sue,** who he met and married in Northern Ireland, a good tour in Berlin. As a parting gift to the Squadron, **Major Ryding** planted a flowering Cherry tree in the dog compound, the only piece of green real estate owned by the unit.



USEFUL FOR SOME

Major Keith Ryding planting a flowering cherry tree before the assembled squadron hierarchy: Lieutenant Peter Richards, Captain Mike Rowbory, Major Rodney Dorrell, R.S.M. Jim Thornton and Barney the dog

CSE SHOW

On Wednesday, 26th September the complete cast of 'Does the Team Think' programme visited the factory to record a show. This is the first time the programme has been recorded outside the BBC studios since the show started some 15 years ago. The team arrived at mid-day and looked remarkably well after their flight from London, **Jimmy Edwards** was the pilot for some 20 minutes. After a couple of quick drinks in the Officers Mess, the jokes come quicker after a little lubrication, the show started. The recording lasted one hour and will be edited before going on the air in late October. The audience feel that the better parts will be edited, but it can safely be reported that **Jimmy Edwards, Ted Ray, Arthur Askey, Cyril Fletcher** and **MacDonald Hobley** were in good form, **Sylvia Simms,** the guest questioner, added a touch of glamour and colour to the proceedings.

After the show the team chatted to the families in the canteen, followed by lunch in the Officers Mess. The team then toured the factory and chatted to members of the squadron at work. After tea in the Sergeants' Mess, I am assured it was a very alcoholic tea, the team departed. The visit made a very welcome change and all members of the squadron are now devote followers of the older generation of real comedians.

SMILES ALL ROUND

Sylvia Simms, Arthur Askey and Ted Ray with the Orderly Room clerks: Corporal Eddie Callaghan, Signalman Terry Johnson and Staff Sergeant Peter Hilton

BOMBS AND BULLETS

We are constantly being reminded that during internal security operations everyone is in the front line. At the beginning of August the IRA decided to disturb the Saturday afternoon peace by firing several mortar bombs at the Factory. Fortunately they 'lobbled' short (local word to describe IRA mortar flight) doing little damage, apart from shaking some dust about in the convent school next door.

Staff Sergeant Brown, RPC the Pioneer platoon commander had a much closer shave when the guard land rover he was driving from the quarters area was ambushed. Only one bullet pierced the makralon armour, hitting the fire extinguishers by Staff's knee before being deflected down into the engine compartment. The fire extinguisher exploding caused more fear to its occupants than the fact that they were under fire.

One evening in August Terrorists bombed the pub near to the married quarters, in the mistaken impression that it was used by our squadron families. The quarters guard attempted to stop the terrorists getaway, but were hampered by women and children being in the line of fire. This emphasises the point that though one attempts to lead as much a normal life as possible here, everybody must be prepared for the unexpected, must be able to think quickly and in extreme cases be able to use their weapons effectively.

WORK

The operational activities still continue apace with Alpha Troop regularly providing communications for special operations as well as maintaining their normal communications commitments. Bravo Troop cleared 50,000 messages through the comcen between July and September. On three occasions though the SDS nearly didn't get through. Most afternoons the SDS has a helicopter available to help cover locations in the Brigade Area. One afternoon the helicopter caught fire over Bessbrook, County Down,

Continued on page 497

Continued from page 496

another time an SDS helicopter found it couldn't fly forwards whilst over Omagh, Tyrone and the last occasion the rotor gearing gave up, again over Bessbrook. We are assured that the fact that **Signalman Warner,** one of the Comcens SDS drivers, was aboard had nothing to do with it.

MT Troop under **W.O.2 Tuppenney** successfully overcame the problems of having a UEI whilst maintaining a 24 hour operational transport service, thanks to the splendid effort of all concerned, the RCT drivers led by **Sergeant Corner** as well as the Combat Drivers. Many thanks as well to **Sergeant Bentley** and his three REME craftsmen.

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hall and M Troop (all six of them) managed to acquit themselves well over UEI whilst continuing to assist the Brigade in all things communicating. For example **Sergeant McGarry** ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal Priday** and **Corporal Byrom** have become quite expert in intercoms, after fitting them into almost every infantry border location in Counties Down, Fermanagh, and Armagh. This involved crawling in and out of sangers, over roofs and generally exposing themselves in locations where any sane angel would fear to tread.

SPORT

Indoor sports flourish in our magnificent gymnasium, Badminton and Squash being the favourites. **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Donovan** organised a very enjoyable tournament which illustrated the general high standard of the participants. **Staff Sergeant Cook,** RAOC, won the squash final narrowly beating **Sergeant Downie** in the final.

Our lack of playing fields continue to plague our hockey and soccer teams, nevertheless despite several resounding defeats our sportsmen are not deterred and have even won a few victories lately.

FAREWELLS

There have been so many changes of faces in Kitchen Hill recently that to name everybody would take up too much space. **Suffice it to say that to all the old original members of the squadron who have left, you have all done a difficult but valuable job, well done.**

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

REMEMBER HIM—PROMOTION TO R.S.M. AND C.-INC.'s COMMENDATION ALL IN ONE DAY

As reported in the July/August "Wire", W.O.1 (R.S.M.) K. O. Davis was awarded the C.inC. R.A.F. Germany's Commendation whilst serving in 21 Signal Regiment. The certificate duly followed him to Londonderry and our photographer shows it being presented to him by C.R. Signals Northern Ireland, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Rigby

LAST TANGO IN CYPRUS

EVERYONE was astonished. The Ministry giving things away with no strings attached—impossible!

But apparently it was true. The forgotten souls on two year tours in Northern Ireland were to be treated to an 'all expenses paid' holiday. They were not even expected to compete for it and their reports over the last few years would not count against them.

The offer? Two weeks in Cyprus—in season—no drill—no weapon training—no guards—no Sergeant Majors.

They asked for volunteers. Demonstrating their trust in the 'Powers That Be', barely enough came forward to fill all the vacancies.

The day arrived; a typically miserable Irish Sunday morning at seven o'clock and everyone was on time; perhaps it was to be a success after all.

The RAF procedures at Aldergrove gave rise to further amazement—no time was wasted and the plane was a VC10 and not the expected Hercules.

Soon we left the coast of Ulster and emerged into sunshine. Great disappointment was felt when no free alcoholic drinks were issued. Great pleasure was felt when the RAF coffee our Brigade exercise instruction had warned us about proved to be non-toxic.

Five hours later we landed at Akrotiri and dressed in our combat kit and sweaters we stumbled into 85°F of summer heat. Perspiring heavily we were packed into a collection of battered coaches driven by wildly enthusiastic Cypriots and aimed at Dhekelia. Accommodated and fed we sought the cheapest drinking establishments.

Next morning we were briefed and warned by a long suffering RMP Major who seemed to have lost all faith in soldiers (very odd!).

Much to our amazement the promises we had been given were to be kept. There were to be no duties, no restrictions and no uniform. Trips were to be arranged for those people who intended spending some time outside the local bars; trips to the best beaches for the sun bathing and swimming set; trips to the ruins for the cultural types; trips to the breweries and more distant bars for the normal ones.

The relaxing process had begun.

On the first evening a board meeting was held in 'The George'; members present were **Corporal 'Barney' Harris, Corporal 'Norrie' Hughes, Signalman Duncan Gray, Private Dave ('Watch my Sunburn') Sey, Private 'Griff' Griffiths** with a supporting cast of thousands.

The meeting was called to order, which it did, and brandy sours, bacardi cokes, whisky and keo beer appeared on the agenda. As the evening progressed it became obvious that a lot of the members would end up as silent partners in an 'under the table' deal. The meeting broke up (along with a few of the tables and glasses) at one in the morning and the company retired to contemplate; some their navels, some the ceiling; and, a few unfortunates, the floor.

Monday morning broke with a squelch and it was reliably reported by irate fishermen (worried about pollution!) that some members of the 8 Brigade team were seen swimming at 06.30. **Corporal Harris** explained that it was a scientific experiment to ascertain if getting soaked on the outside was as pleasant as getting soaked on the inside.

The findings were, however, inconclusive as few of the participants had experienced total immersion in water since baptism and were afraid to repeat the ordeal.

The trips around the island were exciting, but some rather expensive as **Signalman Duncan Gray** found to his cost during an evening in one of Famagusta's 'free expression' centres.

We arrived back safe and well after two marvellous weeks. We offer our thanks to everyone who helped to make the trip a great success, especially to **Captain J. Barrow** 1 DERR who patiently solved all our problems.

The boys have thrown their sunburned shoulders to the wheel to tackle another period of well-earned work. All the boys, that is, except for **Private Dave Sey** who decided to continue his holiday. He has taken up residence in our palatial guard room after having attacked an Infantry battalion single-handed on his first night back. "Never mind **Dave**—'They also wait who stand and serve'—or something like that".

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

EXERCISE 'LAKE'

MORNING START

A DULL overcast morning, with the promise of further Irish sunshine greeted the ten volunteers as they met at the MT garages. A quick check showed that all members had made it and none were still in bed. Who would want to miss a week's hill walking in the Lake District for a few extra hours in bed on a Monday morning? The kit was soon loaded but not before a set of golf clubs had been discovered hidden amongst the equipment. No one really minded, for all except **Sergeant Terry Mumford** were sure there would be no golf course in the Lake district. How wrong they were to be proved.

The sudden appearance on the car park of a white VW belonging to the leader of the party caused mild speculation that **Lieutenant Bob Freeman** was taking his car, to ensure he had a good week's holiday. However, the fact that it needed a push start convinced everyone that he was only going to leave it at a garage on the outskirts of Belfast.

Upon reaching the Larne–Stranraer ferry we did our best to mix in with the holiday travellers, with our orange anoracks, short-back and sides, and our various accents. Perhaps the return journey would see an improvement in our disguise, with a good sun tan and a week's growth of hair.

Docking safely at Stranraer we were soon on our way down to the Lake district and our final destination—Ambleside.

Our long five hour journey was only broken by the odd '. . . ZZZZ . . .' or 'is this another VCP?', as we came across streams of holiday traffic. However, after a few hours the restrictions of Lisburn were soon forgotten.

We arrived in Ambleside to be greeted by dozens of bronzed faces, and to be told that the previous week had been one of hot weather and blue skies. The weather forecast for our week was unsettled, but the forecast proved wrong and we enjoyed the fine weather.

AMBLESIDE HUT

Perhaps at this point I should explain what a group of soldiers from 39 Infantry Brigade were doing in civilian clothes, with the PRI Ford Transit Van, in the middle of the Lake district. **Captain Tony Burtt** our previous Second-in-Command had in his wisdom booked the Army Hut at Ambleside for a week, with a joint aim, that of hill walking, and rest and recuperation, for the hard worked members of the party! The Army hut is situated in the middle of the village of Ambleside and is ideally placed for both mountain walking and climbing in the Lake district. During our week there, such mountains as Great Sandal, Helvellyn and Wethernam were to be climbed, all of which were no more than ten miles from Ambleside.

WARMING UP WALK

With many walks and mountains to be conquered, the party set off on its first so-called 'warming up walk'. Soon the high mountain air and the steep paths began to take their toll, or was it just that some members of the party were unfit?

On the idea that there might be liquid refreshments available at the summit a sudden change of pace was noticed amongst the slower members of the party—**'Clonk' Milfull** and **'Jock' Craig.** On arriving at the top and only finding stagnant ponds, there were many promises that 'no more of these . . . mountains will be climbed again', once more idle promises. The path down-hill gave everyone a new lease of life, and even the rear party were seen to be visibly refreshed at the thought of the worst being over for the day.

FELL-WALKING

Navigation on the mountains proved to be no problem as the paths were well marked and other fell-walkers always numerous. It soon became evident that age matters very little in this popular local pastime. Often we were criticised for coming up the easy way, as **'Grandma'** slowly made her way up the steep path, we were racing down. This proved no encouragement to the drivers of the party who were already bemoaning the temporary loss of their four wheels.

Heading the party on any walk was always **Lance-Corporal Pat Hitchmough,** he would be seen disappearing over the brow of each hill in an effort to be first to the top hoping that there might be some local talent there, while at the other end one could always find **'Jock' Craig** and **'Grouver' Devine,** our stalwarts for bringing up the rear. There was one occasion we thought we might see a change, when both of them volunteered to help two young girls carry their rucksacks, however, upon learning how far the two girls were going, their act of chivalry soon faded.

REST AND RECUPERATION

The couple of days off enabled members of the party to go golfing, swimming and sailing, while a few miles up the road the annual Grasmere sports provided the main attraction.

Here us lesser mortals watched while groups of junior and senior fell guides raced up and down small mountains, covering in a few minutes distances that would have taken us the better part of a couple of hours.

The week soon drew to a close and the aches and pains of the past were forgotten. As the thought of returning to Lisburn became more imminent, even the more desk-bound members of the party, or should I say car-bound members decided they were better off in Ambleside, and would volunteer to come again next year.

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

PERSONALITIES OCTOBER 1973

Officer Commanding ..	**Major B. A. Blackwell**
Second-in-Command ..	**Captain D. Henry**
Technical Officer Telecommunications	**Major R. Taylor**
Traffic Officer	**Captain D. Bees**
OC 'E' Troop	**Captain N. E. Franks**
OC Communications Troop	**Lieutenant I. R. Grant**
OC WRAC Troop ..	**Lieutenant T. A. Howie,** WRAC
Yeoman of Signals ..	**W.O.1 D. E. P. Cox**
Squadron Sergeant Major ..	**W.O.2 D. H. Leggott**
Foreman of Signals ..	**W.O.2 C. M. Smith, B.E.M.**
Foreman of Signals ..	**W.O.2 A. B. Gould**
Supervisor Radio	**W.O.2 D. J. Etherton**

OC FACES THE PRESS

One of the features of life in Northern Ireland is the way in which television and the press rush to seize the sensational aspect of any story concerning the security situation. So when the *New Scientist* published an article claiming that the Army had a 'Squawk Box' which could disperse riots by making an unpleasant pulsating sound, it took a little time for us to realise that they were referring to our American public address kit, the HPS–1. The Squadron had first been issued with this excellent PA kit last year for troop trials and these had proved so successful regarding power output, speech quality and weight that a small number had been purchased for use in the Province.

The kit incorporated a siren which produced a sound familiar to all followers of American television detective series and also a device for producing a pulsating noise which the makers claimed could drown the words of ringleaders haranguing mobs.

However, the sounds did not impress our disco-trained young soldiers who not only endure but enjoy more unpleasant noises in the Shamrock Club three nights per week!

The OC, **Major Brian Blackwell,** as the local expert on the kit, ably assisted by **Signalman Chris Aitken,** demonstrated it to press and television reporters who gathered in droves to witness the latest fiendish device to which the Ulster people were about to be subjected by the Army. As we had expected the result was one great non-event with the reporters rapidly losing interest as the OC calmly demonstrated the kit and explained that one of its chief uses was to provide public address facilities for the local schools when they held their sports days.

PR Branch, HQ Northern Ireland decided that the Squadron's efforts to bring the media down to earth should not go unrewarded. Next day a mock-up of the front page of a national Sunday newspaper was presented to the Squadron with the headline 'Press Turns Deaf Ear to Major's Wail!'.

IT'S JUST A VERY GOOD PA SYSTEM, HONESTLY!
Major Brian Blackwell explains the HPS-I PA kit to press and television reporters

FOUR SWITCHBOARD SWINGERS FROM 233
(*From left to right*): Private Linda (Tuppence) Downing, Private Susan West, Lance-Corporal Sue Dillon (married to Signalman Harry Dillon of Comms Troop), Private Anne Newham

ENSURING A GOOD CIRCUIT
Corporal "Bill' Haley checks the radio relay circuit to Great Britain

AND NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS . . . !

Staff Sergeant Trevor Daws greeting the OC and **S.S.M. W.O.2 Derek Leggott** as they reach the top of Divis Mountain in a torrential rain storm and force 10 gale, "Didn't you know the CLF's visit is cancelled Sir!".

REPORT FROM COMCEN TROOP

Our Star reporter **Lance-Corporal Sally McDougall** WRAC sends us the following report from Comcen Troop;

Readers will by now be well acquainted with the technical side of life at HQ Comcen Lisburn, but few have had the opportunity of meeting the personalities serving here, and taking into consideration the fact that we have more than our fair share, I think it's about time our bashful Comcen crew stepped into the limelight.

Lance-Corporal Chris Smith arrived in Northern Ireland from 10 Signal Regiment in September, she is one of the many WRAC members striken with the love bug, she married **Signalman 'Smudge' Smith** of 39 Brigade in August. Despite the fact that **Chris** is a housewife, she is still a keen sportswoman and spends much of her spare time playing badminton and tennis. Her hobbies include dress designing and collecting furry toys. Being an amiable soul, **Chris** expresses only one dislike and that is getting up with the lark for morning shift. Another girl from 10 Signal Regiment is **Private Stevie Barker,** who joined us November 1972. **Stevie** has also been hit by the love bug, and is to marry **Corporal Chris Hodges,** RMP in March. She enjoys making her own clothes and reads a great deal. Her only dislike she says is that the Irish are such beautiful pastry makers, she has gained an extra few pounds.

Signalman Steve Schofield came to us from 16 Signals in October 1972, accompanied by his wife **'Ike',** an ex-member of the WRAC. **Steve** spends most of his time walking his red setter and attending judo classes, hence he has acquired the nickname **'Karate King'.**

The only thing he dislikes about Northern Ireland is the weather.

Other prominent members of the troop are **Sergeant Ron Hambleton,** the strong man of the Squadron, **Ron** is an asset to the girls serving here as he continually offers to squeeze our waistlines down to a mere 10 inches. He is also notorious for his specially home-made brew. **Corporal John 'Channel-Check' Howells,** a sport fanatic who plays both cricket and football for the Squadron. **Corporal Don 'Juan' Robertson** is finding it hard to concentrate on tapes at the moment, as he is surrounded by so many WRAC operators. The Welsh additions to the Troop are **Corporal 'Taff' Watts** comedian and wit. His contagious effervescence, has helped keep morale high over the past 20 months and **Corporal Idris Jones,** the TRC soprano, whose zany humour makes the long night shifts a pleasure to work. Newcastle's contributions are **Sergeant 'Geordie' Brians,** whose favourite trick is to con his shift into keeping him supplied with tea; apart from this **'Geordie'** is a known practical joker, and **Lance-Corporal Tony 'Geordie' Clark,** who is seldom seen without his cape and cowl, and is noted for his impressions of the purple avenger. From the claymore swinging wilds of Scotland come **Private Helen 'Mad Carrot' McVeigh,** who is renowned for her dreams of tapes pursuing her through steaming jungles, and **Private Bridget 'Thunder Fingers' Dunnion,** who is currently our Teleprinter Queen. Another mad Scot is **Sergeant Jessie Provan,** who is rarely seen on shift, without a pencil protruding from both ears. Yorkshire born **Corporal June 'Hawkeye' Hawkhead,** is now famous for her rain dances performed in an effort to escape weekly parade. Cockney **Private Carole Lansfield,** is an ardent fan of **Rod Stewart,** while **Lance-Corporal 'Bullitt' Baldwin,** is a staunch supporter of Derby FC. **Private Shirley 'Cyclone' Fenn,** is having trouble focussing as her glasses were broken by the mighty voice of **Corporal Idris Jones.** Our dynamic **Private 'Tokyo Rose' Gwynne** has caused us much worry recently, as she seems to attract electric shocks from the equipment, and so, with such a colourful array of characters, how could life in Comcen Northern Ireland ever be dull.

SPORT

The two main sporting events in the last month have featured a strong representation from 'E' Troop. When the Inter-Troop Competitions are held, like Attila the Hun, **Captain Nick Franks** and his warriors from 'E' Troop descend on Lisburn and often carry off the booty! Their latest raid was the six-a-side soccer competition where, despite a spirited challenge from Comcen Troop in the semi-final, they swept all before them to win the soccer trophy. The winning team members were;—**Corporal Derek Collick, Corporal Bob Hales, Corporal 'Baz' Roberts, Corporal Chris Greenhill, Corporal Bruce Ogilvie** and **Corporal 'Stu' Parrish.**

W.O.2 Dave Etherton was quietly busy during the same time preparing the Squadron team for the Northern Ireland Orienteering Championships. From virtually nothing he conjured up a team which came second to the locals, Depot Royal Irish, in the Minor Units final and which will definitely beat them in the next championship meeting in February. Other members of the team were—**Corporal Brian Barker, Corporal Derek Collick, Lance-Corporal 'Biffo' Ward** and **Signalman 'Scouse' Evans.**

DEPARTURES

Corporal Richer, Lance-Corporal Cummings and **Lance-Corporal Kirton.** Our thanks and best wishes go with you and your families.

ARRIVALS

WRAC; **Sergeant Jones, Privates Jackson, McCuish, Elstob, Bolton, Newham, Brotherhood, Morris** and **Deacon.**

Royal Signals: **Corporal Thain, Corporal Fraser, Corporal Barlow, Lance-Corporal Cutler, Lance-Corporal Neil,** 394 **Signalman Carruthers, Signalman Caderius Van Veen** and **Signalman Scott.**

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

(Photo courtesy: Selection-Alix, Luchon

A/T Drum Major Fitzmaurice leads the Pipes and Drums past cheering Luchonnaise citizens

LUCHON RETURN, PLEASE

This year the College Pipe Band gave up part of their Summer leave to visit Luchon. Admittedly it has happened before, when the Band has gone to play at the Fete des Fleurs of Harrogate's twin town in the French Pyrenees.

But this year there were differences. This year there was not the fatherly eye of the late **Major Peter Krell** to superintend the Band's activities (well, some of them); instead there was the eagler optic of **Captain Noel Slater,** RAEC; disappointed contenders for this coveted post are convinced that a prime qualification is a certain shortage of hair.

This year, too, there was 'The Bus'—the College's newly acquired double-decker yellow peril. Useful and convenient it undoubtedly is, but it was never designed to contend with the low French bridges which seemed to lurk round almost every bend. That it returned without losing its upper deck à la James Bond is a tribute to the combined skills of **Captain Slater** (map reader extraordinaire), **Mr. Johnson** (driver) and **Mr. Higgins** (fitter).

The eight hours a day driving limit on the Continent also helped to make the journey to Luchon last four days, but eventually the Band arrived safely, if rather dusty; the latter problem being solved by a dry cleaner's called, not inaptly, 'Dusastre'. The Band was plunged immediately into a hectic whirl of activity; a 40 minute performance before the floodlit main spa gave them a foretaste of the size of crowd, and the reception, they were to attract throughout their stay.

The Festival culminated on the Sunday in the Battle of the Flowers. At 11.30 hours the Band gave a short performance in front of the Town Hall, following which a Royal Signals plaque was presented to the Town Council. At 14.00 hours they formed up as part of a grand procession of bands, floats, majorettes, etc., led by a troop of horsemen. The Fête began at 15.00 hours, and the Band marched and played non-stop for two hours. They were photographed continuously, bombarded with flowers, presented with a banner, and quickly learned a sidestep to accommodate the majorettes.

The Band's final performance was given at half past midnight, but the mood of general euphoria lasted much longer, and the Pipers and Drummers found themselves individually much in demand; Luchon will long remember **A/T Pipe-Major McLeod** marching down the main street at 03.00 hours, followed by a rapt crowd of some 300!

Next day the Band regretfully packed up and left Luchon in good order and to many fond farewells. Now knowing which bridges to avoid, the return journey was accomplished more swiftly—the main delay was at Folkestone, where the Customs Officers seemed more concerned about bombs than other things—and the party returned to College ten days after having set out.

Everyone, of course, wants to go back next year, but we shall have to see. Many contacts were made—rapport between bands is easily established—and Luchon appreciates the pipes immensely. Though Luchon revisited may be ess exhilarating than the first time, there are still many cards to e played—perhaps, next time, Highland Dancing?

Photo: Major R. E. Buckee, R.A.E.C.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. Welton, Royal Signals, Chief Instructor, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

The Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, whose function is to train Technicians and Telegraphists for the Royal Corps of Signals, began the Autumn Term this September with a new Deputy Commandant and Chief Instructor, in the person of **Lieutenant-Colonel Leif Welton,** Royal Signals.

Colonel Welton and his wife, **Rosemary,** have three children.

Tri-lingual in English, Norwegian and German, **Colonel Welton** includes among his hobbies skiing and amateur drama; apart from refurbishing and re-wiring two theatres in Catterick (one the renowned Cary Theatre where he worked hand in hand with **Brigadier Peter Vaigncourt-Strallen**), he has built two theatres of his own; at Nakuru in Kenya and Laarbruch. Of his new appointment, **Colonel Welton** says, "I am delighted to be back in the family atmosphere of a British unit again—especially one in Yorkshire, which I know well and like very much".

HARROGATE RELAY TEAM'S FINE VICTORY

Representing an Army Under–20 team against the Welsh National Under–20 squad at Cwmbran on Saturday, 22nd September, four Harrogate Army Apprentices were successful in the 4 × 100 metres relay.

The team of **Dennis Prince, Stephen Spink, Mark Ypey** and **Steve Hall** returned a time of 44·4 seconds. The Welsh team was led by **Gareth Edwards,** a 19-year-old who recently represented Great Britain in the European Junior Championships in Duisburg. Despite his presence, the Welsh team could not match the slick baton changing and forceful sprinting of the Harrogate runners.

The match resulted in a narrow victory for Wales by 101 points to 84. Although the Harrogate representatives recorded no individual victories, **Steve Hall** was runner-up in three events (200 metres, 400 metres and Long Jump) and **Brian Moore** was 2nd in the 1500 metres. **Steven Slade** tied for 2nd place in the High Jump and **Jim Wakenshaw** ran an excellent 3000 metres against strong opposition in coming third.

In the 4 × 400 metres relay team which was narrowly beaten by the National team, two Harrogate runners, **David Taylor** and **Dick Gunson,** ran splendidly to hold their own on the 2nd and 3rd legs respectively.

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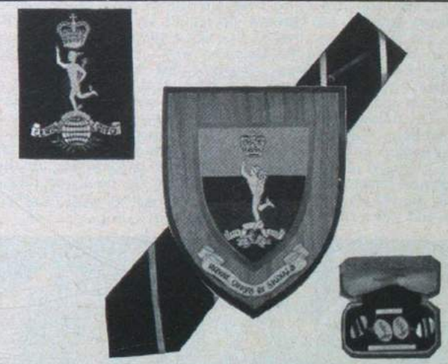

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News from Regiments

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

THE news and views compiled in these notes come to you with the compliments of the Regimental scribe 'somewhere in Germany'—some-one tell me where! That September proved to be a hectic month should soon be apparent starting with:—

THE ANGLO-GERMAN WEEKEND

Preparations and planning for this now traditional event started early in July when Squadrons began to make their side stalls for the Regimental fete (at the weekends), the fete being the main Regimental task although as the planners will tell you we were involved in most of the activities.

Eventually the weekend arrived and celebrations began with an Anglo-German ball to which Officers and their Wives were invited. With good music provided by the dance band, 1 Glosters, and good wine the language barriers decreased to the extent that British and German guests alike really thought they could understand each other! The following morning there was a British and German military band display outside the Rathaus Verden followed after lunch by the Anglo-German fete. With weather reminiscent of a July heat-wave all Verden appeared to have decided to spend the afternoon on Caithness Sports field trying their skill at the stalls. They came in their thousands, German and British, young and old. The stalls were resplendent in coloured flags and bunting, and obviously all attracted attention. The money flowed like water; the wives' club stall with **Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Le Quesne** and many others working at full pace soon ran out of all their huge stocks of food, **Major Ron** (call be **'Percy') Saville** was overcome by the great number of people who wished to guess the weight of his home grown marrows, the Noddy train gallantly driven by **Lance-Corporal Parker** and **Signalman McIlwraith** looked liked a football special at Big Wood and to crown it all the refreshment tent ran out of beer and had to be resupplied from the Officers' Mess, although **R.S.M. Le Quesne** denies all knowledge. The PRI farm was suitably represented by selling portions of spit roasted pig at 50 pfgs a go—the Germans were very evident at this particular attraction. Music, laughter and the chink of money continued all afternoon until at 6 p.m. all the able stall holders closed up and went foot weary and throat sore for a well earned rest. The following afternoon, Sunday, was as warm as ever and the Athletics Match in the stadium was attended again by record crowds—they even ran out of programmes at 2 DM a go. We must thank 21 Signal Regiment for their participation in this match and their marvellous performance on the track and field—thank you. At the final reception everyone agreed that the whole week-end was a resounding success.

HOW MUCH DOES IT WEIGH?
Major Ron (Percy Thrower) Saville takes in the cash—but finds adding a bit difficult

WHAM! BANG!
Signalman Higginbottom (2 Squadron) and Sapper Taylor (3 Squadron) try their skill on the slippery pole at the Regimental Fete

EXERCISE, EXERCISE AND MORE EXERCISE

No sooner had the last bratwurst wrapper and empty plastic mug been cleared from the Sports field than we began preparitg for Exercise 'Red Rat' (7 Brigade FXT), Exercise 'Green Finch' (more later) and Exercise 'Yellow Hammer' (11 Brigade FTX); a three week period of activity in the South of Germany.

EXERCISE 'GREEN FINCH'

During the original planning the main objects of the exercise taking place between the two FTX periods, was to take exercise in the fresh air and have fun; now having fun is a very personal thing and it must be explained that in this case fun consisted of canoeing, trekking, orienteering, climbing, fishing, swimming with films during the evening rest periods!

The first weekend was occupied by a Regimental Escape and Evasion exercise. A challenge issued by the Sergeants' Mess was taken up by the Officers' and Corporals' messes so we also had an element of competition. Much to our relief the Officers' team won the challenge so we can rest on our fitness laurels! The rest of the week, although active was at a more leisurely pace and many soldiers were heard to say that they were enjoying themselves—even to their friends (but don't tell their wives), so we feel the object of the exercise was achieved.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Our sailors continue to add to their successes and we can now report that under the 'captaincy' of **Captain Martin Roberts** the sailors have reached the BAOR Dinghy Sailing semi-finals and sail against 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

The soccer players are beginning to flex their muscles and the Squash players leave their offices earlier each day as we prepare for the winter season.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This month we could fill our allocated space with these details alone so very briefly we say welcome to;

Our Canadian Exchange Officer, **Captain Mike Johnson** and his wife **Julie** (we now know all about the terrible arctic winter!), to **Captain Bob Drake** from Sharjah, **Lieutenant Phillip Tilson** and **Susanne, Lieutenant George Heaney,** afresh from the golf courses of Cambridge, **Captain Tim Mountford** and last but not least **Lieutenants Ken Hatfield** and **Bob Symonds** straight from Sandhurst.

Those leaving us include **Lieutenants David Elson, John Fletcher, Captain Peter Thompson** and his wife **Jenny** who are posted to Singapore (and reminded that it is too far to commute from Australia), **Lieutenant David Lawson** who is joining 2 Queens and will no doubt later visit Belfast, however his wife **Dot** will be staying with us for a while yet, and last but by no means least we say goodbye to **Major Ron Tanner,** his wife **Ann** and his family. No doubt we will see some interesting notes in the Institution Journal in the near future!

MARRIAGE

Captain Martin Roberts has successfully negotiated the rougher seas of sailing and is now in the 'calmer' seas of marriage. He hoisted the 'Blue Peter' on 9th August and with **Hannelore** as crew set sail. We wish him well for the 'voyage' into the unknown.

STOP PRESS

1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment beat 22 Signal Regiment in the final of the BAOR inter-unit dinghy championship.

MADE IT
At a ceremony held recently at 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment at Verden in Germany, Major General E. N. W. Bramall, the Divisional Commander, presented a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant J. Husband

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

THE REGIMENT TAKE TO THE SCREEN (OR PART OF IT, AT LEAST)

WHEN the news was gently broken to the Officers' and Warrant Officers' of the Regiment that they were to attend a TV techniques presentation, initial reaction was contemplative silence. As the implications sank in, however, worried Squadron Commanders monopolised the Adjutant's **(Captain Roger Morgan)** telephones (he has two of which he is very proud) and time in alarmed inquiry and attempted evasive action. Since the Adjutant knew very little more than they and was himself slightly anxious about the fate in store for him, it was a wary crowd that gathered together in the Training Wing early one Friday morning.

In fact, things initially didn't seem too bad, and as **Major Peter Tidman** became launched into his talk, we all relaxed somewhat and started to enjoy it since no audience participation seemed to be called for. The aim of the talk was to demonstrate the pitfalls that might be encountered by servicemen, particularly officers and Warrant Officers, on television interview in, for example, Northern Ireland, and how to deal with the aggressive, hostile interviewer. So, panic over, we comfortably listened to a very good speaker, laughed at amusing film interviews showing the good and the bad interviewee, and when the words had been spoken and the welcome offer of coffee had been made, we all felt we had spent a beneficial and interesting morning.

Trouble was to come, however. A grateful scramble for the coffee urn was beginning as soon as manners could decently allow, when the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis's** voice was heard above the hum—"But we haven't heard our volunteer interviewees!'. Volunteer interviewees? There was a horrified silence as we all took that in—no-one had said anything to *us* about volunteer interviewees when asked to attend the presentation. With one accord we shrank against doors and floors and walls in an effort to become suddenly invisible as the CO asked for six volunteers—"Surely lots of you are keen to be seen on television?". There was no answer to that, in fact no answer at all, and so it fell to the CO and the Adjutant (who was grinning fiendishly at this moment of power) to select the victims—it may be remarked that neither that of the CO nor the Adjutant was among the names read out.

The first named was our Assistant Adjutant ("because she's different from anyone else" as the CO rather ambiguously put it), but because she has the privilege (?) of writing WIRE notes, she can quickly gloss over her performance on the silver screen with a sigh of relief and pass onto MTO **Captain 'Paddy' Cairns** who followed her into the 'studio'.

How *does* an MTO justify Motor Milage Allowance and tax-conceded cars, particularly when being harangued by a loud, eloquent, professional interviewer? That interview ended on a definitely frosty note on both sides, unlike the bonhomie and amiability of **Captain Neil Mackereth** who was next 'on the air', and who refused to be ruffled or to lose his cherubic smile: "No, I wouldn't mind going back to Ireland at all'.

"But have you asked to go back?".

"Oh no, I haven't *asked* to go back . . . why, at times I actually used to have to drive through riots . . .".

"How difficult for you, actually coming into contact with the trouble . . . I suppose you prefer propping up the Officers' Mess Bar chatting up the Grimmies . . .".

"Grimmies, Grimmies? (hastily). No, I don't have anything to do with Grimmies—what is a Grimmy anyway? (relief, passing the buck). Yes, tell me what you mean by a Grimmy . . .?".

And so it went on. **Second-Lieutenant Hugh Hancock** became slightly fraught over the question of Junior Officers' Education, and **S.S.M. Dave Patch** defended the question of bulling and short hair valiantly under strong attack.

(Aggressively) "Do you think the Dutch army are the worse army for having long hair?".

(Quick as a flash) "I don't know, we haven't fought them yet".

Staff Sergeant Ken Thurley was the last to be interviewed, and sat like a rock refusing to admit anything detrimental against the army, and answering anything that could have proven tricky or dangerous with "As for that, I can only speak for myself. For a proper answer I shall have to refer you to my Commanding Officer"—to which there could be no reply and which, I am glad to say, defeated the interviewer time and time again.

And there it ended. Despite the nerve racking moments, we all found the presentation most interesting—also entertaining! As **Captain 'Paddy' Cairns** said afterwards, "it was as if a veil had been lifted", and we could now see what we had to watch out for and expect if ever (dreaded thought) we were placed before the camera and the microphone again.

KOHIMA FETE

By the time this (hopefully) appears in print, winter will be with us with a vengeance and memories of fetes and fairs and summer and all that goes with it will be hazy in the minds of most people. Let me then refresh your memories as you read this sitting on a radiator in some draughty Squadron office somewhere, or perhaps wallowing damply in your bath. Imagine the sports field at Birdwood Barracks on a perfect summer's day, four walls of sideshows and stalls enclosing an area for displays. The weather drew large crowds including, we were glad to see, many Germans, and we are even gladder to report that a sizeable sum was made to send to local charities.

The various displays were dramatic. The band of the 2nd Battalion Royal Anglians entertained us musically and well, and a German band also contributed. A Regimental motor cycle display team demonstrated its skill with a vengeance. The *piece de resistance* was **Major Barrie Burke,** ex-White Helmets and OC 1 Squadron, and leader of the team, riding through a hoop of fire, and he did so very splendly and heroically, especially considering that he emerged on the other side of the hoop singed and smoking, and altogether rather charred.

His burns were in fact rather unpleasant, and even now he is a most interesting sight to be seen around the Regiment, with mummified hands, a pink and peeling face, and sporting a neat

beard and moustache (of necessity, I hasten to add, and to come off as soon as medically possible—to the sorrow of certain ladies I understand).

In addition to these attractions there was a free-fall parachute display, and we saw the German fire engine team in action being very liberal with white foam to the joy of the children present. Our neighbours, 652 Squadron AAC, were kind enough to show one of their helicopters in action.

It was altogether a good day and a successful one, with much hard work contributed by many members of the Regiment.

OLD AND NEW

As all WIRE readers will know, it is not every day that a Regiment acquires a new RSM and loses an old one (in the nicest possible sense), but we have experienced both events, amazingly almost simultaneously with the departure of **W.O.1 Reg Norris** and the arrival of **W.O.1 Tony Pfeiffer. Mr. Norris** was a very well known figure wherever he went who did much for the smooth-running of the Regiment, and he will be missed much by those who knew him. We all wish him and his wife the best of luck in Cyprus—where he is living, apparently, one minute from the golf course (first priority), one-and-a-half minutes from the Sergeants' Mess, and two minutes from work—all mod cons to hand!

R.S.M. Pfeiffer, after only a fortnight in the chair, has made it clear he is a formidable successor to **W.O.1 Norris,** particularly in the matter of physical fitness. He has yet to be beaten by anyone in the Regiment at anything, and his frequent challenge to Adjutant **Captain Roger Morgan** to 'get a bit of a sweat up' with a game of squash has been known to reduce that officer to an afternoon of nail-biting and anxiety at the thought of things to come. Despite his effect on Regimental sportsmen, we wish him welcome, and hope he will be as happy with us as **W.O.1 Norris** (he said) was.

CRICKET

Despite the fact that our leading officer cricketer, **Lieutenant Tom Richardson,** was not present, the Officers' Mess team managed to beat a strong team from the Sergeants' Mess at the traditional Officers' Mess v. Sergeants' Mess Cricket Match. The weather, sad to say, was overcast and rain did stop play for the first half hour. No-one seemed very perturbed, however, and both teams were quite happy to spend the time drinking and watching the rain from the bar. The Sergeants' Mess provided an excellent tea for all and sundry, and a thoroughly good time was had by all.

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 15

EXERCISE 'PARASHOT 73'

1973 saw a record entry of 17 teams for the sixth annual 'Parashot' exercise, which was organised by 1 (BR) Corps and RAPA in the period 3rd-5th September. The Regiment's team of; **Captain (Q.M.) John Turner,** Royal Signals (Patrol leader), **Sergeant Ron Flowers** RMP, **Corporal Dave Sharp,** Royal Signals, **Corporal Steve Whittick,** Royal Signals, was the only team entered by a Royal Signals unit. All of the team had previously served with 16 Parachute Brigade but only **Sergeant Flowers** was a trained free-faller.

The exercise consisted of a parachute descent from 3000ft. and tactical movement of the patrol over 10–12 miles during which it was tasked with; First Aid; Demolition; Ambush; Range practice; Radio procedure; Map reading.

Time and circumstances precluded any high powered training programme for the team, but **Captain Turner** with experience of three previous Parashot exercises under his belt, was able to teach them some useful wrinkles in the short time available. Finishing the drop phase of the competition a somewhat ignominious 16th out of 17, the team set about putting this to rights during the patrol phase. Such was their enthusiasm and vigour that they finished the patrol competition as runners-up to 1 KOSB. A final result of 7th overall was consolation to a proud but weary quartet at the end of a testing exercise.

CANOEING

Your correspondent having taken over canoeing only five weeks ago is glad to report success in varied fields. **Corporal Frank Kelly** has proved his all round ability by finishing class winner and second fastest overall in the Rhine Area white water championships held on the River Erft.

Our thanks go to **Sergeant Lennie Lomas** of 16 Signal Regiment for his efforts in organising the event and both his and **Sergeant Eddie Harper's** assistance over the weekend.

A number of the Regimental canoeists attended a Divisional weekend meet on the River Aller on the 1st and 2nd September. This proved of considerable benefit in preparation for the BAOR Championships held on the same river later in the month.

This years BAOR Championships consisted of a 12 kilometre sprint against the river and a 36 kilometre long distance event, the first 12 kilometres of which was against the river, followed by 24 kilometres downstream, where the river gave little assistance! This year the team entered all four classes K1, K2, 3 and 4 and achieved five firsts, two seconds, a third and a fourth, which we consider to be a very sound all round achievement.

The results were:

K1:	Sprint Winner, **Corporal Frank Kelly;** Long Distance Winner, **Signalman Roy Jarvis**
K2:	Sprint Runners-up, **Staff Sergeant Fred Howley** and **Signalman Roy Jarvis**
Long Distance:	Runners-up, **Staff Sergeant Fred Howley** and **Signalman Roy Jarvis**
Class Three:	Sprint Winner, **Lance-Corporal Stickland**
Class Four:	Sprint Winners and Long Distance Winners, **Signalmen Nigel Dixon** and **John Robertshaw;** Sprint Fourth and Long Distance third, **Signalmen 'Blue' Lennett** and **Care Strefford**

Of particular note were **Frank Kelley's** performance in achieving the fastest time of all classes in the sprint and **Lance-Corporal Stickland's** effort in beating both a physically and numerically strong field in class 3—regrettably he flew to England on the day of the long distance event.

On the teams return to Herford the canoeing officer **(Major Mike Simms-Reeve)** unwisely brought up the subject of training for next year—to be told that it should start again in mid-October to carry on throughout the winter! Oh for a quiet life.

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

FOR the past five years the District Championships have spelt the beinning and end for 8 Signal Regiment Swimming Team. This, of course, was due to the very strong opposition provided by the Apprentice Tradesmen from the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate.

However, thanks to some keen interest from Squadron swimming representatives in the pre-District training and Inter-Squadron competitions, this year the competition held at the Garrison Pool on 17th and 18th July, proved to be one of the closest, most interesting and exciting for some time. As in recent seasons, the Regiment had to be satisfied with second place in the Major Units swimming competition. After a fine and exciting match, the water polo title came to Catterick—the final score being 8 Signal Regiment 7 goals—Army Apprentice College 3. During the same championships **Corporal Neville** of 1 Squadron and **Signalman Hughes** (then with 11 Signal Regiment, now 3 Squadron, 8 Signal Regiment) qualified for positions in their individual events at the finals of the Army swimming union championships.

All finals for swimming, diving and water polo were held at Aldershot or Camberley over the period 10th to 14th September inclusive. The Regiment by virtue of its successes in the North East District (Group 4) stage of the Army competitions which included; Northern Ireland, Scotland and North West District; travelled to Aldershot to take part in the finals of the Army water polo individual championships and the Sir Richard Butler Cup (Free Style Trophy).

The water polo finals took place at the military baths, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, on Monday and Tuesday, i.e. 10th and 11th September. The final had been organised to accommodate six Units in two pools, the first two of each pool to qualify for the semi-finals on the second day.

The Regiment's first match was against 1 Battalion Coldstream Guards resulting in a defeat of 15 goals to 4. This was a hard match and proved to be a good opener. The match in the afternoon of the first day (i.e. 10th September) was against Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington. This match proved to be one of the best in the whole championships, finishing 9 goals all.

On goal average the Regiment qualified for the final day (i.e. Tuesday, 11th September). The Regiment took on the 'Giants'—36 Engineer Regiment, and lost to them by 17 goals. The final game with 3 Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was again a very close match, finishing result being 8–6 to the Fusiliers. Unfortunately, four of the Regiment's goals were disallowed. Nineteen of the goals scored by the Regiment were scored by **Captain John Ient.**

The Individual Championships were held on Wednesday, 12th September, at the Royal Military Academy pool, Camberley. **Corporal Neville** of 1 Squadron, 8 Signal Regiment, qualified for the finals of the following races: 100 yards, 200 yards; and 800 yards freestyle. Although **Corporal Neville** did not take any prizes his performance prompted the Army selectors into naming him for the Army Team, 1973.

Unfortunately, the Regimental Swimming Team were unable to repeat its performance of 1972 in the freestyle relay and lost the Cup to the Depot Guards Brigade.

As a final comment on the year's Army Finals, it was pleasant to see so many Royal Signals individual and team participants. Results showed 8 Signal Regiment gaining 4th place and 16 Signal Regiment 6th of six teams in the Water Polo Championships. 16 Signal Regiment and Army Apprentices College, Harrogate were both represented out of six teams in the Major Unit Team Swimming; 11 Signal Regiment; 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron; 5 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron; 229 Signal Squadron and 19 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, participating out of six teams in the Minor Units Championships.

Add to these the fact that over 50% of the individual entrants came from the Corps which made the Corps representation quite outstanding. Mention should also be made here of **Corporal Wilson's** (HQ Squadron) selection for the Army Water Polo Squad as goalkeeper and **Corporal Neville** (1 Squadron) being selected for the Freestyle team.

8 Signal Regiment Team Members:

Major Ashley Barker	Headquarter Squadron	Water Polo
Captain John Ient	4 Squadron	Water Polo and Freestyle Relay
Lieutenant Cliff Webb	3 Squadron	Water Polo
Sergeant J. Lennon	Headquarter Squadron	Water Polo and Reserve Swimmer
Sergeant Douglas	1 Squadron	Water Polo and Freestyle Relay
Sergeant Clarke	Headquarter Squadron	Water Polo
Sergeant Rouget	3 Squadron	Water Polo
Corporal Wilson	Headquarter Squadron	Water Polo
Corporal Neville	1 Squadron	Water Polo and Individual Swimming
Signalman Abbey	3 Squadron	Water Polo and Freestyle Relay
Signalman Bell	1 Squadron	Water Polo
Signalman Lambrechts	Headquarter Squadron	Water Polo and Freestyle Relay
Signalman Pickersgill	3 Squadron	Water Polo and Freestyle Relay
Signalman Hughes	3 Squadron	Water Polo, Individual and Freestyle Relay

COMING AND GOING

This month (September) we say goodbye to **Major Mike Collins** who over the past two and a half years has held the appointment of Chief Instructor Engineering Wing of the Trade Training School. He is to join 21 Signal Regiment (AS) and will be Commanding 2 Squadron of that Regiment. We wish **Mike** and his wife **Celia** a happy and successful tour in BAOR. In his place we welcome **Major Melvin W. Russell,** US Army Signal Corps.

The 15th August saw the arrival of **Major Russell** and family at Darlington Station on one of the few sunny days which represent summer in Catterick. This was most appropriate as the **Russells** had left America only a few days earlier where the temperature had been in the hundreds (°F). Exactly one month later found **Major Russell** driving the Chief Instructor's (Engineering) desk having been pumped full of the workings of the British Army, The Royal Corps of Signals, the Training Brigade Royal Signals, the Training Evaluation Team and most important of all the Trade Training School, 8 Signal Regiment.

Major Russell has served with the 2 Armoured Division in Texas, AFSOUTH in Naples, as an advisor to the 1 Vietnamese Infantry Division in Hue and on the Staff of the Infantry School

Major Mike Collins hands over to Major Melvin Russell from the U.S.A.

at Fort Benning in Georgia where he was in charge of Audio Visual Instructional Media. He has a degree in Education and Masters degree in Audio Visual Instructional Technology; he is a keen photographer and once acclimatised hopes to be able to find some unfrozen water for water skiing.

We wish him luck with his task of training up to 2,000 Technicians, Telecommunications Mechanics, Combat Linemen and Combat Radiomen each year; and we hope that he and his wife **Kakie,** and children **Liza** and **Brian** enjoy their stay with the Royal Signals in Catterick.

MOTORCYCLING

The Regimental team has been strengthened by the arrival of **Corporal Tommy Walker** who is an Army Team member.

Currently **W.O.2 Tom Fayers** and **Corporal Tommy Walker** are in America as members of the British Army Team competing in the International Six Days Trial.

This month TM Troop said farewell to one of its stalwarts, **Mr. Sam Rothwell. 'Sam'** as he was affectionately known by a

Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) C. V. Impey, Royal Signals, presents Sam Rothwell with a wrist watch on retirement 16 August, 1973

large number of the corps has retired to Scotton village where he can devote more time to his hobbies of fly fishing, canary breeding and gardening.

His life has long revolved around the army, having joined the Irish Guards in 1927. On transfer to the reserve, he worked in Manchester and Liverpool before coming to Catterick Garrison, where he found employment in the Garrison Cinema. He even turned his hand, (with his inherent Irish skill) to building and helped to erect the present GAZA Sandhurst Block.

Recalled to the colours in 1939, and invalided out in 1942 he served for a while with 31 Command Workshops (Telecommunications) before doing the rounds of the Signal Regiments. His boast that he has served with every Signal Training Regiment past and present, with the exception of the old 7 TR must take some beating and it was during this time that he built up his vast knowledge of Royal Signals.

He has spent a considerable amount of his spare time as a Parish Councillor, has worked on many committees and helped many people with his timely advice. All who know him, past and present members of the Corps, will want to join **Lieutenant-Colonel (TOT) C. V. Impey,** Royal Signals, in wishing him a long and happy retirement in Scotton Village.

AN APPRECIATION: MR. H. T. HILL

Harry Hill joined the Civilian instructional staff of Training Brigade in December 1950 after completing 25 years as a serving member of the Corps.

He has served with various Regiments in Catterick and Newark in his Civilian capacity teaching most, if not all, of the subjects incorporated in the Telegraphist trades.

Mr. H. T. Hill

In February 1963 he was promoted to a supervisor grade 1 and took control of all Keyboard and Switchboard training.

In June 1969 **Harry** was formally retired but could not break away from a lifetime spent with the Corps, he relinquished his supervisory post and reverted to Grade 3 to continue in the instructional field. It was at the time that the 'ACETT' system of Keyboard training was in its infancy. He undertook the responsibility of introducing the new system into the training programme, and ran the first of the pilot courses. Much of the success of ACETT must be credited to **Harry Hill's** patience, perseverance and attention to detail. Students trained by him will remember how meticulously their work was checked and analysed.

Harry is a dedicated instructor, an example to his younger colleagues, and a 'history book' as far as Operator training matters are concerned. When he (forcibly) leaves us in June 1974 at the age of 70 years young we will be losing a sound, good and faithful friend.

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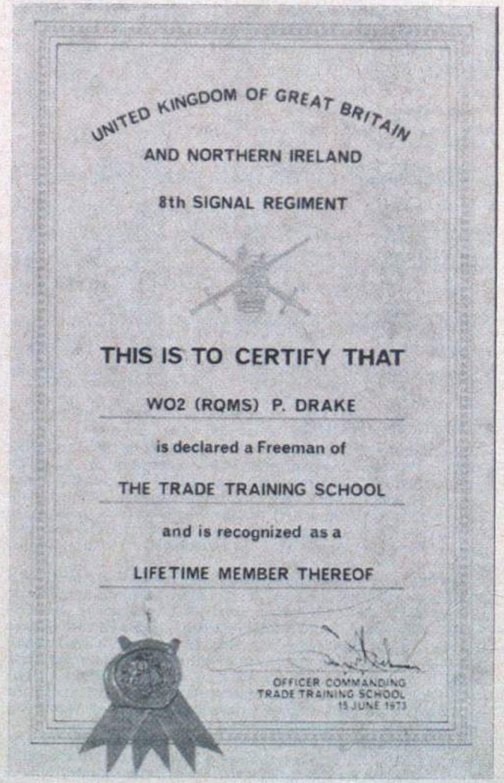
HARD WORK RECOGNIZED

W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. Drake on promotion to W.O.1 and posting to 16 Signal Regiment being presented by Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman, O.C. Trade Training School, with a certificate in recognition of the hard work given and determination shown in acquiring and installing all the varied furnishing and equipments within the school. (See certificate below)



TELECOMMUNICATION MECHANIC

The undernamed students were successful candidates in the June City and Guilds examinations;

	Elementary Telecomms Practice	Line Practice 'A'
Corporal B. E. L. Medway	Distinction	Distinction
Sergeant R. M. D. Collins	Distinction	Distinction
Sergeant C. J. Manning	Credit	Credit
Lance-Corporal W. L. Bennett	Credit	Pass
Corporal D. F. Corser	Pass	Credit
Corporal E. A. Brown	—	Pass
Corporal W. E. Parker	—	Pass
Corporal W. L. Pettie	Pass	—

'A' GRADINGS

Listed below are the names of Basic and Upgrading students awarded 'A' grading's as shown during the period 1st January to date:

Lance-Corporal R. L. Shaw	RRO4B–1
Corporal G. P. Fellows	DMO2US–4
Sergeant J. K. Rodger	LM/TMO7C/–2
Sergeant J. Milne-Day	SR11S/–1
Sergeant M. S. W. Olive	BAO9S/–1
Corporal A. Coates	TEO4U–1
Private Khim Maung Kyaw	RAO2BO–1
Corporal L. J. Kimberley	RAO7B–1
Signalman G. Bryden	CTO8B–4
Signalman G. E. Partridge	TEO8B–1
Sergeant R. K. Minty	BA10S/–1
Private D. Foster	SO12BW–5
Private B. K. Webb	SO12BW–5
Lance-Corporal S. Locke	RAO9B–1
Corporal D. E. Stone	CLO7U–2
Sergeant D. G. Wood	LM1/TMO9C/–2
Corporal A. J. Cerqua	RTO8U–3
Signalman A. R. Lockier	CL12B–2
Corporal I. M. Perry	RAO5U–1
Corporal A. Wintrip	SR14S/–1

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

PASS-OFF PARADES

THE following Pass-Off parades took place from 11 Signal Regiment.

8 TROOP

8 Troop passed-off on 24th August. The inspecting officer was **Colonel P. J. E. Durrant, M.B.E.,** Colonel AQ HQ NE District. The troop commander was **W.O.1 G. Penman.** The prize for the best all round recruit of his intake was awarded to **Signalman Hamilton** who is to be trained as a technician.

The prize for the champion shot was awarded to **Signalman McKay** who is also to be trained as a technician.

3 TROOP

3 Troop passed-off on 21st September. The inspecting officer was **Brigadier H. A. J. Sturge,** BGS (Signals). The troop commander was **W.O.1 A. S. Walton.** The prize for the best all round recruit of his intake was awarded to **Signalman Duncan** who is to be trained as a Radio Telegraphist. The prize for the champion shot was awarded to **Signalman Sloan** who is to be trained as a Combat Radioman.

FAREWELLS

1 Squadron has bid farewell to the following cadre: **Captain Tim Mountford, Lieutenants Bob West** and **Dick Sanders** and **Sergeant Fulton.** We wish them success and happiness in their new postings.

WELCOME

To: **Lieutenant Bob Wannell, Sergeant Beckett** and **Signalman Holdsworth,** all of 1 Squadron.

HOCKEY

The Regiment entered a team for the NE District six-a-side competition which took place on Tuesday, 19th September. We were runners-up in a field of 22 major and minor unit teams, which was a surprise to all concerned!

The team consisted of a pool of eight players from which the team was picked. **Signalmen Alan Reece** and **Ken Hepple** added strength to the side with their recent Army Under–22 experience, and played very well in their debut in unit hockey.

Lieutenant Dick Sanders played in goal for the first time in his life, and saved the day on many occasions. His abilities were put to the test when in both the quarter-finals and the semi-finals, the result was decided on penalty strokes. Needless to say, our sturdy goalkeeper (obviously terrified by the ordeal), saved enough penalties to keep us in the running.

During the last three games the team had started to knit together and we played some excellent hockey. The final went into extra time with the score standing at 2–2, and we finally lost by 5 goals to 4.

We look forward to the remainder of the season hoping for more successes.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The highlight of the present quarter was a cocktail party and disco night held on 22nd September. The Sergeants' Mess, spick and span as ever, awaited the arrival of the first guests, meanwhile behind the scenes the Mess Steward, **Mr. Jack Morris,** ably assisted by **Belsie** his wife and our renegade guardsman **Jim Allen,** concocted a 'Witches' Brew', which was despatched with great gusto by the assembled multitude.

How the evening went, I think can best be summed up by the noise level (non-technician types please note), which towards the end of the evening almost warranted a visit from the Noise Abatement Society.

SWIMMING

As the winning team from the North East District and Northern Ireland Minor Units Swimming Championships 11 Signal Regiment found its way into the Army Finals held at the RMA Sandhurst from the 11th to 14th September. From the six finalists for the Minor Units Cup, five teams were from Royal Signals with the RAC making up the sixth.

The competition in the early stages was close, with very few points difference after the 100 yards freestyle; as the events rolled on the superiority of 5 Airportable Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron and 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) began to tell, and a veritable battle developed for 1st place with the regiment being pushed into 4th place.

Some consolation may be found in the general opinion of competitors and officials alike that the standard of competition was extremely high. Final places were:

1st, 5 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron; 2nd, 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin); 3rd, 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron; 4th, 11 Signal Regiment; 5th, Para Squadron RAC; 6th, 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron.

The regimental team was: **Captain T. Mountford** Royal Signals, **Captain J. O. M. Hackett** WFR, **Lieutenant P. A. Jones** ACC, **Corporal Kirkham** Royal Signals, **Corporal Anslow** Royal Signals, **Lance-Corporal Stevenson** Royal Signals, **Signalman McKay** Royal Signals.

ORIENTEERING

Our stalwart band of orienteers continue to take part in many local civilian events. **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** and **Lieutenant Robin Hill** both competed in the Northern Senior Championships held in the Vale of Pickering on 16th September and both qualified for a bronze award.

Major Bill Mayne, the new OC 2 Squadron, arrived in September just in time to take part as a member of the regimental team in the North Area Army Orienteering Championships. Other team members were **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** and **Lieutenants Robin Hill, Ray Lloyd-Jones** and **Dick Hoyle.**

An exciting and gruelling course, organised and controlled by **Major M. J. P. Howard,** DOPT NE District and **Mr. Peter Winskill,** was won by **Lieutenant Robin Hill,** the Minor Units Championship was won by 11 Signal Regiment and the Women's Services Individual winner was **Second-Lieutenant Cathy Birtwistle,** our Assistant Adjutant.

REGIMENTAL TRAINING WEEKEND

A strange phenomenon occurred in RHQ at the beginning of August. People were seen queing outside the Assistant Adjutant's Office volunteering for duties for the weekend of the 29th–30th September. A rumour had now become definite that a bi-annual cadre training weekend was planned for that weekend.

The next morning started at 06.30 hours with an excellent breakfast provided by **Lieutenant Peter Jones** ACC and his cooks. This day was to be spent at various stands comprising of individual battle ranges, map reading, first aid, NBC and naturally an assault course. A bus system was devised to transport people from one stand to another. It is rumoured that **W.O.1 Bert Irons** is now joining London Transport.

At the debrief it was agreed by all that the weekend had been a tremendous success and that much had been gained. Three of the principles of professional soldiering, physical fitness, weapon handling and self confidence had been truly tested.

As the time drew closer so the morning sick parade lengthened and in fact one week before the event, the Infantry adviser, **Captain Oliver Hackett** WFR, was seen leaving the camp with a suitcase muttering something about Staff Sergeants' Course battle camp and "It's all too difficult".

However, at 09.00 hours on the inevitable 29th, 100 professionals were paraded ready to practice what they preach. Helles Barracks was left in the capable hands of **Captain George Harrison** and **Sergeants Sharp** and **Bonnett** while the convoy headed west to Warcop Training Centre.

Here they were met by the QM and his hard worked advance party formed from CT Troop. After a short period to settle in, everyone assembled in the briefing room to have their characters guided by the Padre. Then followed a briefing on the weekend's activities. The idea was that the cadre should split into two company groups and spend half the night in defensive positions. The enemy was provided by the Northumbrian Volunteers who were only too willing to assist.

By 17.00 hours digging had begun and nature was providing its own very efficient cooling system. As dusk fell recce patrols, with **Corporal John Hodges** looking like a Black and White Minstrel, were formed to determine the enemy strength and position. 'B' Company were lucky enough to have their position glamorised by the presence of the Assistant Adjutant, **Second-Lieutenant Cathy Birtwistle** WRAC who remained steadfast throughout. Command appointments were changed around and then at 23.30 hours the sound of cursing was heard in the dark—the enemy had arrived at 'A' Company. The defenders were convinced that a real enemy would not have been able to pass the first line of defence but it is not certain whether the Northumbrian Volunteers would agree. The enemy never did find 'B' Company but at 00.30 hours the battle scarred troops returned to the 'comforts' of Warcop Camp.

11th Signal Regiment—Cadre Officers, July 1973

11th Signal Regiment—Cadre Dogs, July 1973

13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER saw the majority of the Regiment either going or coming back from their summer leave.

There can be no unit in the Corps so ideally situated as ourselves. From the camp gates one can make Holland in 30 seconds (two minutes if you walk), Belgium in 30 minutes, France in three hours, Luxembourg in five hours, Austria in 8½ hours, and Italy in 11 hours. If these times are slightly out, then we must assume that our source of information in each case was either:

A. Mad and reckless, or
B. Only firing on one cylinder.

In spite of some of the people being away for some of the time (and a few for most of it), the Regiment still maintained its tradition of working hard and playing hard.

ADVENTURE

This years Regimental adventure training and survival exercise has undoubtedly been the most successful ever to be held. In order to cater for everyone who would otherwise have missed out due to their summer 'hols', camp this year lasted some six weeks, with a detachment of some 30–40 persons spending a most enjoyable week at Grobbendonk in Belgium. During this period we managed to carry out a great deal of training which included a night exercise. At the end of the week, we tied a ribbon on the occasion by spending a most enjoyable half day/night in the fair city of Antwerp! The camp helped to blow away our years' collection of cobwebs, and despite the odd cynic, was enjoyed by one and all (you ask 'em).

SAILING

Our up and coming sailing club has been in full swing, with both **Major Bill Turney,** and **Mr. Bill Welsh** passing their capsize drill, albeit unintentional, with flying colours. Not content with his dinghies on the local lake, and the ulcers he's given the Games President and PRI, our Regimental Sailing Officer, **Captain John Francis** 'press ganged' some of his members into trying a spot of the real stuff on the Baltic ("it's tideless" he said).

The Regiment was lucky in obtaining three Baltic Sailing courses. Each course lasts a week, and includes a sail to Denmark. (The cost? Well no need to worry about that me hearty, 'cos if you come to 13 we provide it free; all part of being in the best of Regiments).

The first course commenced on the 13th September, when the first three members set off from Birgelen to carry out an Operator Sail and Water conversion course at the British Yacht Club Kiel. The first three lucky stalwarts were **Sergeant Roger ('Jolly') Manser, Sergeant Bob Watson** and **Corporal Dicky Henderson.** Their separate accounts of the subsequent days afloat are rather conflicting, with each one saying that it was the other two who were seasick and that it was he who had actually saved the day. Truth is that they encountered gale force winds, and were storm bound in the Danish fishing port of Faarborg for two days. Sad to relate that after their money had run out, and with it the Carlsberg, all that remained was to listen to **Corporal Dicky Henderson** relate a series of salt ridden tales. Under subsequent duress he admitted to being a subscriber to Readers' Digest, and was banished to the galley for the remainder of the voyage. Nice one Sergeant!

WINTER SPORTS

With the coming of the winter months, our rugger and soccer officers **Major Bill Nicoll** and **Captain Bob Taylor,** RAPC, are raring to go. With both teams in such good form we really think that this coming season will see us with the giants at the top. One problem is repairing the damage caused to pitches by 'Birgelen Bunnies'.

The Theatre Club is still continuing to meet in secret session, which augers well for this year's panto, although the sales of Amstel will fall when rehearsals finally come to an end. Thats if they've started!

The Regiment of course runs its own ski courses in Bavaria, when quite a few of the Regiment spend a most enjoyable week near the Austrian border. The courses run for a period of some three months and ------; look, if your interested why not write to Records and ask for a posting to 13. Only thing is, you've got to be very very good, with your sights aimed high.

We had hoped to fill you in with the doings. of the Mountaineering Gliding Clubs, but unfortunately the officer concerned is off on a Messing Officers Course followed by a period in Northern Ireland.

Thats' about it, except to get in first, and wish you all a Very Merry Christmas. Cheers'.

FAREWELLS

The evil day must dawn eventually; under protest, not always violent, the following stalwarts have left us:

Captain Alan and **Mrs. Marjorie Alfred** of QM, MTO, Training Wing, Theatre Club, Thrift Shop and Staffordshire Bull Terrier fame, **W.O.2 Dave Cheyne, Staff Sergeant Dick Good, Staff Sergeant Cliff Chapman** and **Sergeant Alec Huet;** to one and all, including families, thank you, bon voyage and good luck in the future.

ARRIVALS

Captain Eric Robinson popped in prior to popping out for a Course in UK he did manage a quick look at the MT. **W.O.2 Graham Widdowson** came just in time to take over for a period at Grobbendonk. **W.O.2 Ted Haslam, Staff Sergeant Dave Wilson, Staff Sergeant Harry Salt, Staff Sergeant Mike Fitzsimmons** and **Sergeant John Hurst** have all arrived—and some dispersed to remote parts—welcome chaps and your families, here is every wish for a happy and successful tour with XIII.

SERGEANTS' MESS

September was a quiet month due to our annual Adventure and Survival Training Exercise and leave. Other than our normal whist and bridge nights we had two functions worthy of mention. The pub night proved so successful that the Committee had to withdraw a portion of buffet to cater for everyone, which leads on to our second function, our PEC **Staff Sergeant ('Muscles') Marchant** is still trying to explain what went into the Chinese Buffet we had at the social night.

We said farewell to our Caterer, **Staff Sergeant Cliff Chapman** this month—a sad loss to us. We wish him and his wife **Peggy** all the best in civilian life.

14 Sig Regt Worcester

THE Regiment sends detachments to many parts of the world throughout the year and the onus of the organisation usually falls back on our Movements Clerk, **Mrs. Glenys Scott,** the wife of a former member of the Regiment. As a result it has become traditional for detachments overseas to send her postcards from wherever they go, and these postcards go onto the Orderly Room notice board. The photograph shows some of them—there are even more on the back of the door on the right which are not shown. Coming up we have detachments going to Korea and also to Kenya so no doubt the postcard list will be added to in the near future. We hope also to be able to give you reports of how the detachments fared.

WORCESTER SHOW

The Worcester Show was one of the many demonstrations that the Regiment sends detachments to, and it was by no means the largest but the couple of photographs show the sort of things that the lads do. We try as much as possible on these demonstrations to make sure that there is a working link, as apart from skills training it is much better for drawing the crowds. As you can see some of the crowds are worth drawing.

There is a great advantage in demonstrations where there are agricultural implements as can be seen in the photograph. The turf was unzipped by a handy agricultural machine and whilst **Corporal Les Rix, Lance-Corporal Phil Griffiths** and **Signalman 'Taff' Morris** laid the coaxial cable, **Corporal 'Brad' Bradley** zipped it up with a Land Rover.

SHE GETS POSTCARDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
Antigua to Zambia—you name it and Mrs. Glenys Scott of 14th Signal Regiment has probably had a postcard from there

NEW TECHNIQUE?
Corporals Bradley and Rix, Lance-Corporals Griffiths and Walker and Signalman Morris lay co-ax in specially unzipped turf

16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

DEPARTURE OF CO

ON the morning of the 3rd September, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Gibson,** the out-going Commanding Officer, handed over the reins to **Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Hackworth** who was immediately seen to mop his brow. The final act after a farewell drink in the WO's and Sergeants' Mess, was enacted along the route to the main gate.

The Commanding Officer was assisted aboard an unrecognizable land rover and towed by several stalwart Staff Sergeants to the main gate. (They cheated, the engine was used for power!). The remainder of the Regiment lined the route to add their farewells and **Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson** left with the sound of three hearty cheers ringing in his ears.

The Regiment wishes **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Gibson** all best wishes in their new home and welcomes **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Hackworth.** We all hope they have a happy and successful tour at Krefeld with 16 Signal Regiment.

FAREWELL TO THE DEPARTING C.O.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson being pulled out of camp by members of the W.O. and Sergeants' Mess

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS—SUMMER REVIEW

We can look back with great satisfaction at our sporting achievements this Summer.

CRICKET

BAOR Champions.
Rhine Area Champions.
Played 19 games. Won 16. Drawn 2. Lost 1.
Corporal Dave Taylor has led a very successful team. He and **Corporal Mike Kilvington** were selected to play for BAOR and they both received their BAOR Cricket Colours.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Winners: Rhine Area. *Runners-up:* BAOR.

The team put in a great deal of hard work and **Corporal 'Chippie' Wood** proved to be a demanding task-master. **Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope** and **Corporal 'Chippie' Wood** were awarded BAOR Swimming Colours and **Lance-Corporal 'Stu' Lockie,** BAOR Water Polo Colours.

ORIENTEERING

We surprised even ourselves by beating 21 Signal Regiment to win the Rhine Area Championship. Our men's team was under the ever watchful eye of **Captain Homfray Vines** who himself came sixth in the BAOR Championships. **Lieutenant Mary Pote** led the girls team, and she herself won the women's individual competition.

TUG-OF-WAR

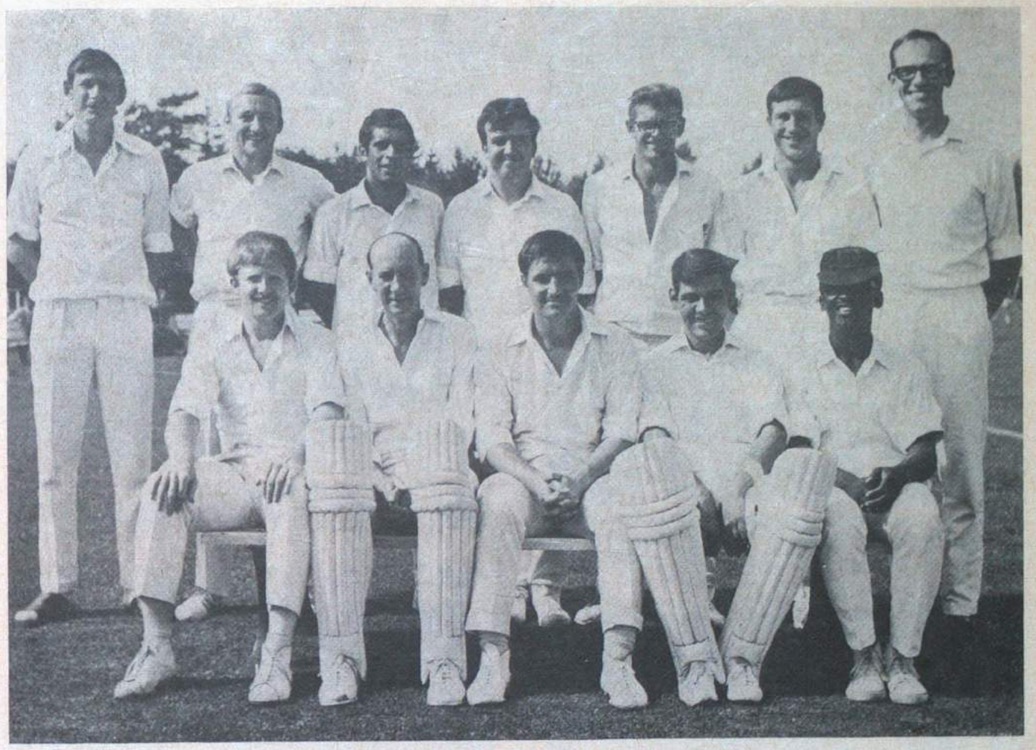
Under the guidance and coaching of **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bob Arnold** our team won the Royal Signals BAOR and Rhine Area Competitions, were third in BAOR and fourth in the Army competition in UK. Most of the team will be here next year and we are hoping for even better things.

ATHLETICS

Runners-up to 21 Signal Regiment in the Rhine Area Championships and fourth in the Morrison Cup.

GOLF

We had high hopes of success on the links this year as we have the current BAOR Champion, **W.O.2 Reg Simpson** and two other BAOR individual quarter-finalists in **W.O.2 ('Barney')**



16th REGIMENT—BAOR MAJOR UNITS CRICKET WINNERS
Back Row: Corporal J. A. Moulson, Signalman P. Morgan, Corporal M. Badwi (R.E.M.E.), Corporal C. L. Allen, Corporal M. G. Kilvington, Sergeant A. Hill, Captain C. W. Collier
Front Row: Lance-Corporal Anderson, W.O.2 F. Waller (R.C.T.), Corporal D. Taylor, Corporal T R Commons, Corporal P. Hosannah
Scorer: Not in photo, Corporal P. Connors

Barnett and **Staff Sergeant Duncan Palmer,** RAPC. The other members of the team were **Captain Sheila Johncey,** WRAC and **Sergeant Joe Gibson.**

In the quarter final of the BAOR inter-unit knock-out competition, the team played 45 Med Regiment RA and lost by one hole. This was a great disappointment but the better team won on the day.

SHOOTING

The 3 Squadron shooting team did well in the Rhine Area Skill at Arms meeting finishing fourth out of 45 teams. We won the Rifle Cup and the Falling Plates outright, finished third in the SMG match and fourth in the LMG match.

SERGEANTS' MESS

On the 24th August the Mess dined out the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson** and a memorable evening was had by all attending, some members having travelled a considerable distance to attend this farewell dinner. The evening was not without its light side however, for when the time came for the CO to leave the Mess, he was chaired from the Mess to the gates of the barracks on a throne of dubious origin where he was met by the city police complete with squad car who had consented to escort him home complete with flashing blue light, sirens and all. The only thing we didn't understand was why they slapped the handcuffs on the Colonel. However we later ascertained that the policeman concerned didn't lose the key and the Colonel did arrive home alright.

We wish the Colonel and his family good luck and every success in the future.

On the 5th September the Mess held the annual 'Freedom Ball' in the Gymnasium which was attended by our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Hackworth** and his lady and the Officers of the Regiment and their ladies and the evening was a first class success in all respects.

On the 17th September the Mess had great pleasure on dining in and welcoming our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Hackworth,** again members travelled from our out-stations far and wide and an excellent dinner and evening was had by all.

Recently we had our bi-annual Mess Darts competition which produced a good response from members and some lively scoring, the eventual winner of the single championships was **Staff Sergeant Bob Duff** and the doubles went to, yes again, **Staff Sergeant Bob Duff** ably partnered by **Sergeant Eddie Harper.**

In addition, Mess improvements continue, the Mess sports teams continue to perform and get better all the time.

Last but by no means least the Mess Members bid farewell to **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bill McIntosh** and **W.O.2 (S.Q.M.S.) Alan Polson,** ACC; both will be sadly missed, not only because they were good members of the Regiment and the Mess, but because of the number of friends they made.

We wish them every success in 'civvie street'.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Club improvements continue and the games room and bar decorations are now complete, the credit for this going to those

club members and caterers who have given up their spare time to see the job through.

The Club recently arranged a trip to the Koln Zoo amusement park for 70 members which was a great success and also a trip to the local Tivoli Breweries which, like the beer afterwards, went down well.

On the 7th September the Club combined with the Four Square Club to hold a JNCO's and Soldiers 'Freedom Ball' which was a great success and was enjoyed by all those who attended it.

Particular credit must go to the Club Committee for this period for being so active and making a success of things.

3 SQUADRON

'Late Clash' was a regimental exercise in which the Squadron moved four times in five days (mostly at night) and for a comcen that doesn't normally move it was a testing time; did someone mention a new broom sweeping clean? It is also rumoured that our new unit Sunray never sleeps and always visits between 01.00 and 04.00 hours.

AMUSING INCIDENTS

Quote JJ "But sir, Commanding Officers never visit relays!".

Who took nearly two hours to travel 20 yards at night to his tent? It was the one and only **Signalman 'Radar' Poole.** He is now on a diet of carrots.

The two intrepid 'S' commandos, **Lieutenant Pat Maloney** and **Staff Sergeant 'Geordie' Gainford,** are now quite expert in obtaining lifts in enemy transport and escorting them unhindered into the defended area having been well and truly fooled by two humble drivers.

A masterpiece in improvisation was the splendid birthday cake baked (manufactured) for **Signalman Tom O'Brien's** twenty-first birthday. Thanks to our superb cooks, **Corporal Pete Taylor** and **Private Ian Blackman.**

It is rumourcd that **S.Q.M.S. Jim Hehir** also has a barrow in Petticoat Lane.

Who tampered with the raiding parties transport and caused **W.O.1s Wootten** and **Drake** to spend a cold miserable night in a layby? Did **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Dave Lowe** have anything to do with this?

Which sentry hid behind a tree on the approach of the Commanding Officer and let him walk unhindered into the area. **Signalman 'Scouse' Whitehurst** own up.

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

KAPE TOUR

IF you were in South-west England late this summer you may have been disappointed to find that your hopes of getting away from the Army were shattered by the 21st Signal Regiment (AS) KAPE Team setting up its display on your hotel doorstep. The team of 14, led by **Captain Leslie Smith,** was let loose on the South West District for three and a half weeks to keep the Army in the Public Eye. They certainly achieved their aim, visiting all areas of the District, and establishing their display wherever a large gathering of the public could be anticipated.

Potential recruits can be found in all walks of life, but the team were a little apprehensive when one particular area was described as follows:

"I tell you it's a right old place—nobody pays their rent there—and if they do the police are round the next day to find out where they got the money from".

At Minehead, a Billy Butlin's official tried to buy the team's teleprinters for the amusement hall. At Shorncliffe the team failed to find their accommodation and spent the night in police cells, whilst entrance to Poole Park was almost thwarted by a dear old lady who insisted that she shouldn't move her deck chair on such a nice day.

The team and vehicles are now back in Germany on exercise. Life in the message centre and C70 vehicle is considerably quieter, and so it needs to be—the lads have got a lot of letter writing to do. Somebody has even to deal with a marriage proposal—some 'KAPE'!

RHINE AREA SKILL AT ARMS

The Regiment's marksmen were well on target at the Rhine Area Skill at Arms Meeting in September. **Lance-Corporal Ken Ford** only narrowly missed winning the individual title, **Sergeant Sid Armstrong** and **Signalman Barrie Powsey** won the LMG pairs competition, the 3 Squadron plate team were only beaten into second place by one plate (or to be precise—a balloon), whilst overall the Regiment shared second place with 28 Signal Regiment.

END OF A SUCCESSFUL TOUR
The 21 Signal Regiment KAPE team about to leave camp at Bristol for Blandford and home after 3 weeks in S.W. District

3 SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT
Back Row (left to right): Signalman Barrie Powsey, Sergeant Mick Guyatt, Sergeant Bill Tuplin, Corporal Keith Ellison, Second-Lieutenant Alan Evans
Front Row (left to right): Sergeant Sid Armstrong, Lance-Corporal Ken Ford, Captain Geoff Tacey, Signalman John Jones, Sergeant Dick Federl

TAVR TRAINING VISIT

Over 200 TAVR soldiers of 81 Signal Squadron (V) are currently training with the Regiment. The speed with which they can adapt themselves to the military life is remarkable, and their 'social stamina' is quite astonishing. They have been divided between the RAF Stations at Wildenrath, Bruggen, Gutersloh and Laarbruch, and at each of these locations are undertaking an important communications installation project.

(Continued on page 513)

(Continued from page 512)

In a few days time they will change out of uniforms, climb into their chartered aircraft and be 'whisked back' to their other lives of bankers, salesmen, builders, accountants, designers, etc., etc., each laden with presents, his maximum 'duty free', and, we hope, pleasant memories of a fortnight with 21 Signal Regiment.

INTER-TROOP CROSS-COUNTRY

The Regiment selected the first day of Autumn for its first cross-country event of the season—the inter-troop competition. It was not, however, a day of 'mellow mists and fruitfulness', but of heavy rain and gales. Despite the exclusion of Regimental runners there were almost 100 participants to brave this weather. The individual winner was **Sergeant Chris Cottam,** closely followed by **Corporal Eric Paul,** with **Signalman Gary Askew** in third place. 'P' Troop were the team champions.

BAOR CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP PROSPECTS

At the time that these notes are published the Regiment's cross-country team will be only a fortnight away from the defence of their BAOR title, the event having been brought forward by two months this year. The defence of this title is going to be most difficult, with precisely half of last years' outstanding team having left the the Regiment. However, we will be very surprised if our strenuous training programme does not develop some good replacements, whilst the top three runners in BAOR of last season **(Sergeant Bill Venus, Sergeant Pete Macmillan** and **Sergeant John Turvey)** will be still wearing those tangerine vests and scarlet shorts.

27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

EXERCISE 'MERCURY'

ROYAL and Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong held their annual competition against the Swiss Army Signal Corps on Saturday, 1st September at Stonecutters Island.

This year, unlike the 1972 competition we fired the SLR as well as the Crossbow. The 1972 event will probably be remembered by ex-members of the Regiment and Gurkha Signals as Exercise 'Crossbow'. At the suggestion of the Swiss it has been renamed Exercise 'Mercury'.

Hong Kong, in most popular fiction is pictured as a tropical paradise where the sun shines every day and the lack of rain causes water shortages. The weeks before 1st September were not quite what most authors picture—it rained every day, all day culminating in CR Signals, **Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Benbow** making a series of calls to the Royal Observatory Hong Kong. The forecast was bright and clear by Crossbow shooting time in the evening.

SSM 1 Squadron, **W.O.2 W. G. Feltham, Sergeant R. A. McEwen** and **Sergeant P. R. Click** with a fatigue party disappeared in a four tonner, loaded with flags, chairs, tables and other items too numerous to mention, to prepare for the fray.

On Saturday morning, OC 1 Squadron, **Major Denis Watson** went to Stonecutters and assisted in the preparation, followed in the afternoon by the competitors who travelled in an LCM of 415 Maritime Troop RCT. Spectators and guests travelled in Naval launches whilst the Deputy Commander British Forces launch was used for VIP's. The majority of the guests were members of the Swiss Community in Hong Kong, led by the Swiss Consul, **Mr. H. Suter.**

The competition was started by the Deputy Commander **Major-General E. J. S. Burnett** firing the Crossbow as our VIP. He started in grand style by scoring nine out of 10 with his first practice shot but was unable to keep it up. Our Crossbow team was provided by 1 Squadron whilst 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron provided the rifle team.

It was 09.30 hours in Switzerland and 17.30 hours in Hong Kong when results were first exchanged. Communications by telex and Satellite were provided by Cable and Wireless Ltd.

As the Swiss crossbow results arrived we realised the quality of the opposition. Two members of their team had bettered and runner-up in the World Championships score by one point.

The final result was an overall win for the Swiss Team, they won the Crossbow easily, but the Rifle Shooting was a much closer match.

I SQUADRON CROSSBOW TEAM
Lance-Corporal G. Harwood, Sergeant R. Huxtable, Sergeant D. Beresford, Sergeant B. Chivers, Lance-Corporal P. Tapsell

PRESENTATION EMMENTHAL CHEESE
Mrs. E. J. S. Burnett, Captain (Q.G.O.) Tanghum Limbu cutting the cheese. In the background Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow, Captain C. J. Walters

Presentations were then made, **Mrs. Burnett,** the wife of the Major-General, Brigade of Gurkhas made the first cut with a Sacrificial Kukri in a huge 180lb. Emmenthal cheese presented by the Swiss Community.

Mrs. Suter, the wife of the Swiss Consul, then presented each member of the Crossbow and Rifle teams with a commemorative medal and penknife, Meanwhile in Switzerland **Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Swindale,** CSO London District, representing the Corps, presented souvenir Kukris to the Rifle team and 27 Signal Regimental plaques to the Crossbow team.

The Swiss Consul then presented to Royal Signals Hong Kong a stained glass replica of the Arms of the town of Bulach—the venue of the competition in Switzerland.

Host officers and guests adjourned to the Lido on Stonecutters Island where drinks and a curry were provided under the supervision of **Captain John Fisher.**

'B' TROOP—EXERCISE FRANMOVE PARTICIPANTS

Standing (left to right): Corporal Mick Reid, Signalman Jerry Hughes, Lance-Corporal Dum-Dum Neish, Signalman Billy Stack, Lance-Corporal Allan Gold, Corporal John Cullen, Second-Lieutenant Mike Anderson, Signalman Mac McGuigan, Signalman Pam Pammenter, Corporal Geordie Robson, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Greatbanks

Kneeling (left to right): Signalman Scouse Dalton, Signalman Bob Kirk, Signalman Tojo Oliver, Signalman Jock Robertson, Signalman Towie Neale, Signalman Bob Page, Corporal Beanie Commins

28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

SEPTEMBER is normally a quiet month with most people trying to take some leave while the weather holds out. However this month has been an extremely busy one for us and we have had 30, action-packed days.

TARE

The Regiment has now accepted the Tare from Bendix, after trials from 2nd–10th September, and we hope to have it fully operational in the near future. The trials were a very exacting time for **Captain Peter Brown** and **Lieutenant Mike Kenyon,** but they both seem to have come through it without too many grey hairs.

TRAINING HALL

NATO finally decided that we could have enough money to build a training hall. What they did not tell us, at first, was that they were paying only for the Hall and that all the preparation before building would have to be done by ourselves. That involved chopping down all the trees and levelling the ground. Now it is a well known fact that the Royal Corps of Signals are not lumberjacks but, when suitably refreshed with beer, we will try anything. 40 Armoured Support Regiment RE kindly volunteered to help us and now the site looks like a desert and is awaiting the building contactors to start work.

AUTUMN FETE

The autumn fete was held on Saturday, 29th September at St. Tonis Stadium and it was a pity it was not a warmer day. However, the weather did hold out for the afternoon and the fete went quite well. An 'It's a Knockout' Competition was held in conjunction with the fete, in which the team from St. Tonis ran out worthy winners. A word of thanks must go to **Captain Peter Brown** and **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tom Brown** for arranging the games, and to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Brian Ellis** and his hardy band of Squadron workers who set out the games.

FRANMOVE

You may have read in the last WIRE notes that 16 members of 'B' Troop went wandering around the countryside on an initiative exercise. Well, they all arrived back safely and a report from one of the teams is included at the end of these notes.

'FRANSURVIVE'

Exercise 'Fransurvive' was an Escape and Evasion Exercise held in the area of Winterberg during September. Participants were mainly 2 Squadron with some members of both HQ Squadron and 1 Squadron also taking part. Small groups of between three

EX FRANSURVIVE

DON'T TELL THE FARMER WHERE THE CHICKENS CAME FROM!

Left to right: Sergeant Graham Crossland, Lance-Corporal Rick Robinson, Signalman Andy Andrews, Signalman Rab Anderson, Corporal Graham March

and 10 people were to be seen for three consecutive nights crossing the never ending hills of the area trying to evade capture by **Captain Gareth Mann** and his platoon of Hunters. No. 2 Platoon Runner, **Signalman Alex Sutherland,** forgot to take his supply of cigarettes (so he tells us) and was suitably supplied with them throughout the exercise by **Second-Lieutenant Mike Anderson** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Greatbanks.**

The latter two now have the inevitable task of trying to recover these cigarettes and have, so far, failed to do so.

Major David Brockhurst found out that someone had stolen an egg from Control HQ and he decided he would give the pilferer a surprise, by taking the label off a tin of lassie (with meaty chunks) and leaving it lying around so that it might be mistaken for Compo. However, the bait was not taken.

SPORTS

The winter sports season is well under way and both the soccer and rugger teams have had very good starts. The soccer team has won their first five games and are through the first round of the Army Cup by beating 3 BAPD (3–0). The rugger team is making good use of their new bar and the hockey team has started with a draw against Rheindahlen Garrison.

EXERCISE 'FRANMOVE'

The following is a precis of the report of how **Signalmen 'Tojo' Oliver** and **'Jock' Robertson** (3rd and 4th from left in front row of picture) tackled their tasks for Exercise 'Franmove'. The exercise was organised by **Corporal Mick Reid** and the report was written by **Signalman 'Tojo' Oliver.**

TASK To go to Copenhagen and get:

a. An entry ticket to the Tivoli Gardens.
b. The autograph of the star attraction at the Tivoli Gardens.

Sunday—We set out at 9 a.m. along with **Signalmen Jerry Hughes** and **Billy Stack** as they were also going to Copenhagen. We caught a train to Duisburg where we split into our pairs to make our way to Copenhagen. A German truck driver then gave us a lift to Bremen where we arrived at about 22.45 and decided it was time for a drink. In the pub we got talking to two girls and one of them said her father was going to Lubeck in the morning and might give us a lift. After a swift phone call we were told he would meet us outside the station in the morning.

Monday—We met the man who was giving us a lift and arrived in Lubeck about lunch time. We made our way to the ferry point, where we managed to get a lift in a container lorry going to Copenhagen. By the time we got there the only thing to do was pitch tent, have something to eat, and go to sleep.

Tuesday—We met up with the other pair whom we had left at Duisburg and, after they had completed their task, we did some sightseeing. We visited the Carlsberg Brewery and then went to the Tivoli Gardens to complete our task. We got the entrance ticket and the autographs of the trapeze artists who were the star attraction that week. After a walk round the Gardens we returned to our tent for the night.

Wednesday—We set out this morning on our return trip. This time it was a lot more difficult and by 2 a.m. on Thursday, we had only reached Nykobing, which is 80km. south of Copenhagen.

Thursday—We made our way back to the ferry where we found a NAAFI milk lorry going to Herford. We reached Herford very tired and the lorry driver 'put us up' for the night on two camp beds in his front room.

Friday—After our much needed rest a friend of the lorry driver gave us a lift to Krefeld and we arrived back in camp at 10.30 a.m., two hours before the final dead line.

Both 'Jock' and I really enjoyed 'Franmove' and we were happy because we saw more of Europe, and met more Europeans than we had thought possible. Roll on the next 'Franmove'—I think we would both volunteer again.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

Because of our large article on NISHAN in this month's WIRE (see page 485), we are holding over our notes. However, we have one event which must be recorded this month. On the 25th of October **Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan MacIntyre** handed over command of the Regiment to **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Jarrett.**

Colonel Duncan and his wife leave many friends behind in Blandford, and all wish them both the very best of luck in his new appointment in BAOR. Unfortunately he will not be able to get the Badger beer that he likes but I am sure that there will be many other compensations in BAOR. We welcome **Lieutenant Colonel** and **Mrs. Mike Jarrett** and we hope and are sure that their tour in the Regiment will be as happy and productive as was the **MacIntyre's.**

News from Squadrons

1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 102

VISIT OF CSO BAOR

OUR notes this month include details of two exercises and the low-down on 'Operation Pigeon'. Firstly, however, mention must be made of a visit to the Squadron by the CSO BAOR, **Major General H. E. Roper** on 19th September. The General was put through a busy programme which included a tour of the Squadron and an Inspection of our operational vehicles with their crews. He was also invited to complete the pistol classification to 'Shoot to Kill' standards with the Squadron OC, **Major Jim Crow.** This he did, having watched an inter-troop 'Bursting Balloon' SMG Competition.

EXERCISE 'PINK FLAMINGO'

Exercise 'Fink Flamingo' (3rd–7th September) was a 7 Signal Regiment exercise that we were allowed to join. Both trunk and radio communications worked fairly smoothly and the fact that comcens Alfa and Bravo were not as busy as normal allowed both our main and SU to be terminated—an unusual and interesting experience.

The only noteworthy drama occurred to our staff office vehicle, taken over by the technicians while their vehicle was VOR, spent most of the exercise on a rigid tow.

Our thanks must go to 7 Signal Regiment who kindly invited all Technicians and Data Telegraphists to go and have the mysteries of TARRIF explained to them.

C.S.O.'s VISIT

The C.S.O. talks to representatives of Q Troop. *Left to right:* Private Burnett, A.C.C., Signalman Davis, Craftsman Cutts, R.E.M.E., Corporal Shepherd, R.A.P.C. and Signalman Simmons. The Q.M., Captain C. C. McCarthy, R.A. escorts the C.S.O.

EXERCISE 'GIANT STRIDE'

Exercise 'Giant Stride' took place in late September. The aim was to provide a secure radio path between 1 Artillery Brigade in Hildesheim and the Missile Regiment in Menden. Considerable work was done by 'A' Troop in converting three of our normal terminal stations into rebros. Several technical faults arose and, at one stage, our radio technicians were scattered to the four points of the compass like chaff in the wind. These problems were overcome and the aim achieved. Our Brigade Commander, **Brigadier D. K. Neville,** used the path to talk to the CO of 50 Missile Regiment. We are not sure whether his comments in comparing the path with the BAOR telephone network were complimentary or not. One particularly good link was achieved from the Suntel to Arnsberger Wald, a distance of 115km. The exercise provided valuable training, particularly for those of our operators who are not normally employed on rebro detachments.

HILDESHEIM PIGEONS

It has been said that Hildesheim lies on three routes. Geography wise—Route 1, Weather wise—the rain route, and sporting wise—the East/West racing pigeon corridor. It is about the latter that we will enlighten our readers. Two of our ERE Gunners namely **Tony Wilson** and **Ian Rothwell** have built and stocked a pigeon loft at their own expense. The story circulating is that after two exercises with us they thought we needed TSB's. On being questioned by the SSM (keeper of the loft!) this has been denied!

After letting their stock out for the first time on a weekend (this is said to be fatal owing to the young birds following the races so to speak). Our two fanciers were down to six TSB's and now know the meaning of 1 loft VOR and sets off the road and also the value of map reading and discipline (your birds will come back 'ere!). We now have a re-stocked loft and would like to hear from any enthusiasts.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Craftsman Clive Ormandy** on obtaining his Army canoe instructors certificate and to **Signalman Alan Butler** and **Signalman Russ Grimmer** on obtaining their proficiency certificates all at BOBC Norway.

FAREWELL

To **Staff Sergeant Alf Walters,** leaving for civvy street after more than 22 years service. We wish him all the best for the future and say . . .

WELCOME

To his replacement, **Staff Sergeant Fred Brudenhall** and family, and hope that their stay here in Hildesheim is a very pleasant one.

6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 106

SQUADRON GOES FARMING

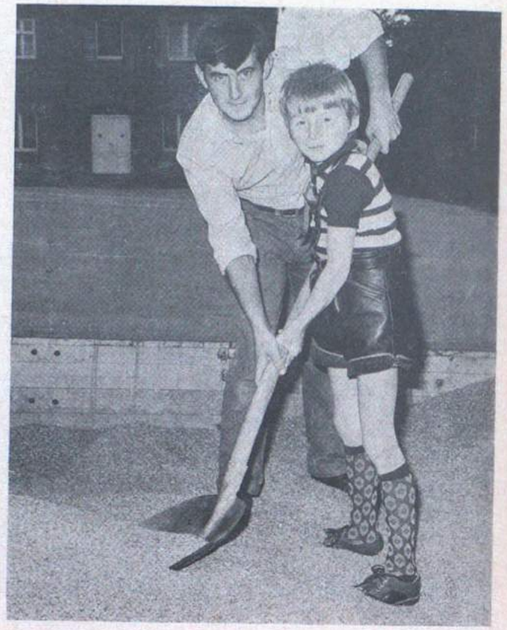
'DANKE' in German means 'Thank You'. Helping the local German farmers during harvest time is the way chosen by some of the soldiers of 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron to thank the local population for their friendliness and hospitality over the year.

The idea was first formed by our OC, **Major Peter Goldney** who thought it would be a good idea to show the local population how we appreciate their hospitality while we are using their barns on Exercise.

There was no lack of volunteers, everyone who was free wanted to have a go, one of whom is pictured on the photograph, **Signalman Steve Bartlett,** Combat Lineman (18). **Steve** keeps up the contacts by visiting the farm at other times and has got to know a lot about the Germany way of life.

In all, eight men volunteered to go farming and all their experiences are too numerous to mention. A normal working day began at 6 a.m. through till 7.30 p.m. Only two of the eight had been farming before, the other six went off not quite knowing what to expect . . . a pleasant three weeks of cabbying a tractor around a few fields and in the milking sheds with a friendly milkmaid was anticipated, but not achieved!

The normal routine was up at 6 a.m., out with the cows by 6.30 quickly followed by a session of 'muck out that barn', 'tote that bale' throughout the day, the only respite being a 30-minute lunch break.



ANGLO-GERMAN GOODWILL

Signalman Steve Bartlett clearly made good friends with the locals Now he is a welcome guest at the German farm where he worked

Although the work was hard, all the lads thoroughly enjoyed it and all agreed that they had had an excellent working holiday.

They found the German farmers and their families extremely hospitable and were treated as one of the family. All now have open invitations to return any time they have free time.

Well done **Signalmen Steve Bartlett, 'Jack' Hannah, Dick Irvine, 'Sandy' Shore, Brian McGill, 'Brum' Griffiths, Roy Roberts** and **Craftsman Tom Hull.**

I might add that these men worked for their food and accommodation only as they would not accept any wages.

TWO WELL-EARNED MEDALS

W.O.1 COLLEY

Congratulations go to **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Dick Colley** on being presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier D. B. Alexander-Sinclair.**

Appropriately, the presentation was made in the Sergeants' Mess of 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, so that only a small distance was required for the on-lookers to travel to the bar.

Between serving in BAOR and the UK, **W.O.1 Colley,** who enlisted in 1955, has seen the bright lights of Aden and Cyprus and, as many will know, is an expert on Organisation and Methods, having had two tours with Works Study Teams and a tour with BEME Methods and Engineering Unit in Rhine Area.

He is keen on rugby and hockey but has now moved on to the more sedate pastimes of sailing and philately.

W.O.1 EDGAR

Every Yorkshireman will be delighted to know that the boundary of his beloved country has now been extended to include darkest Wales. This amazing revelation only came to light when **W.O.1 (S.S.M.) Brian 'Eddie' Edgar,** RAOC, Superintending Clerk of HQ 6 Armoured Brigade requested his last six months service in his native land. perhaps by the time he returns home with his wife **Jo** and the five little **Edgars,** the M63 may have been extended somewhat.

OCCASION FOR A CELEBRATION

Left to right: W.O.1 and Mrs. Colley, Brigadier Alexander-Sinclair, W.O.1 and Mrs. Edgar

As a 'veteran' of eight years in Singapore—how rough can one man have it?—**Eddie** has the unique record of having served for, in one tour, a Commander-in-Chief from each of the three services: **Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton** and **Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett.** Further tours in BAOR, Cyprus (with UNFICYP), the MOD paper factory and Northern Ireland have at last, regretfully, brought this popular Yorkshireman's Army innings to a close.

However he leaves us in the near future with a proud moment and a singular honour. The proud moment came at 12.30 hours on 24th August with the presentation of his 'Long Distance Gong' by **Brigadier David Alexander-Sinclair,** Commander 6 Armoured Brigade and the singular honour of being lunched out of the Brigade Officers Mess on 29th August at the request (sic) of the Brigade Commander.

The whole Brigade HQ staff join in wishing **W.O.1** and **Mrs. Edgar** and all the little **Edgars,** health, wealth and happiness in their new life in the UK.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 41

LIFE in the Squadron during the last two months has varied from a fairly leisurely existance (during the summer leave period!) to a frantic scramble to prepare for various exercises which occur every September.

TRAINING

During the August leave period life was very quiet and there was time to catch up on some aspects of training which we couldn't do during the spring exercise period. This consisted mainly of PT and road runs for Bravo Troop and extra long NAAFI breaks for the rest of the Squadron! We did, however, fit in a useful period of flotation training when we drove FV 432's across the River Weser. It was a successful day during which all drivers in the Squadron had at least two round trips. Rumours that the 'A' Troop vehicles which took part were picked because they needed cleaning are entirely unfounded!

During this period we managed to get all the cooks, bottle washers, sick, lame and lazy (who had avoided summer camp!) to do the '10 mile bash'. Everybody in the Squadron also had a spell in the Gas Chamber, not as punishment for their sins, but to learn how to use Gas Masks. For those of us that forgot to screw in filters it was an uncomfortable experience, but above the muffled coughing there was the occasional munch of someone who had managed to get a biscuit into his mouth without swallowing vast quantities of CS gas!

SPORT

The swimming team deserve congratulations for coming third in the Army Minor Unit Championships at Aldershot. They put in a lot of exhausting training under the leadership of **Corporal Dunnings,** and achieved a worthwhile result—Well done!

Football received a boost in BAOR when **ex-R.S.M. Sargeant** presented his Cup; to be competed for on a 'knockout' basis by Sergeants' Mess teams within 1 BR Corps. Our Sergeants' Mess team were beaten in the final by 3 Royal Anglian, 3–1. During the preceding game **Sergeant 'Geordie' Forster** made a record for Sergeants' Mess Cup Matches by scoring six goals in one match! Congratulations to **Sergeant 'Ricky' Cawley** and his team for a very commendable performance indeed.

Within the Squadron the inter-troop trophy is not quite completed but Bravo Troop have a clear lead at the moment. (Who said OC Bravo Troop was writing these notes?).

EXERCISES

During September the Squadron has been busy preparing for the FTX in October. In addition, however, we have also had two exercises to cope with during this period. We were honoured to be asked to take part in the making of a film about the Corps. The film, called 'The Communicators', involved us spending a week both in barracks and in the field being filmed by a civilian film team from MOD. The stars were **Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) George Stubbings** and **Lance-Corporal Chris Evis,** all of whom became Prima Donnas for the week. The smile vanished from their faces when they had to be filmed in 'flash-back sequences' to their initial training. This meant hair-cuts to make them look younger (and keener?) and, in particular, the Yeoman had to shave off a magnificent moustache! We had the film crew very worried on one occasion when they insisted on us moving our 432's into location as fast as possible; **Signalman Ray Attwood** managed to lift one track a foot from the ground and missed the film crew by inches and **Sergeant Bob Collins** (RMP) by a few millimetres! Neither the film crew nor **Sergeant Collins** have yet forgiven us!

Exercise 'Big Ben' was a joint Canadian, German and British Exercise which was a farewell to **General Benneke Cincent.** The exercise ended in a set-piece battle which was watched by the General, culminating in a parade and march past. For this, special FV 432's of the Squadron were made immaculate for the occasion. Unfortunately all the other units used their exercise vehicles and at least one Colonel (who had omitted to turn his intercom off!) was heard to mutter something about slinging mud all over our nice clean 432's!

48 Gurkha Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 1

SUMMER IN HONG KONG

IT was going to be a 'long hot summer' according to all the pundits. There was also going to be the biggest typhoon of all time. Well now, as November approaches, 'it' has been a long, wet and cloudy summer and the only typhoon, 'Dot', was mini by any standards. However the weather has not curtailed any of our training or sporting facilities. All members took part in, and some even enjoyed, the annual Gurkha Signals Training Camp at Sai Kung. Those who had been in stores or workshops too long, quickly realised the folly of their ways.

THE SPORTING WORLD—1973 OUR YEAR

Avid WIRE readers may recall that in our notes in the July/August 1972 issue we issued a warning to 1 Squadron 27 Signal Regiment about athletic competition.

The warning was not given lightly and 1973 has been our year. In the spring we won the Royal Signals athletics as predicted, and then won the 48 Brigade minor units championship. Recently we have just won the champion squadron cup in the Royal Signals rifle meeting. Here special mention must be made of our LMG pair **'Annapurna'** and **'Everest'. Corporal Lilbahadur Gurung ('Annapurna')** was with **Bonnington** on the South-West face of Annapurna Expedition, and **Signalman Gambahadur Pun ('Everest')** was on the International Everest expedition. **Corporal Lilbahadur** also won the revolver match, having only fired a pistol once before! He has just joined 581 Signal Troop with 10 Gurkha Rifles in the UK.

Being a Gurkha Squadron we do expect to win the shooting, but swimming is a different matter. It is only in recent years that many Gurkhas have learnt to swim and to most of them water is fairly alien. However we are delighted to be able to record that

Royal Signals Hong Kong and 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade minor units swimming champions

Seated (*left to right*): Signalman Lalitbahadur Ale, Lieutenant J. R. Stuart, Major M. L. Jennings (OC), Captain (Q.G.O.) Pritamsing Gurung, Signalman Hembahadur Gurung
Standing (*left to right*): Signalman Prembahadur Ale, Signalman Topbahadur Gurung, Signalman Suresh Gurung, Signalman Keshar Limbu, Captain C. P.Woodhouse (Q.L.R.), 2nd Lieutenant T. P. V. Fletcher, Signalman Chandraparsad Gurung

the Squadron came first in the Royal Signals swimming gala this year with virtually an all Gurkha team. This was an unexpected victory! We then went on to win the 48 Brigade Minor Units Championship and were runners-up in the Hong Kong Land Forces championship. Next year . . .

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

There have been many changes in personalities since our last WIRE notes. **Major Peter Buchanan** has handed command over to **Major Mike Jennings,** and **Captain Leslie Smith** has taken over as Second-in-Command from **Captain Mervyn Lee.** Our MTO, **Major Kit Dark** GTR has been relieved by **Captain Giles Osmond** GTR. We applauded the speed with which our late Y. of S., **W.O.2 Reg Simpson** became the BAOR golf champion after leaving Hong Kong, but then we found his relief **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Andy' Anderson** plays too. Ah well, perhaps we will have a full time Yeoman one day! At least the relief for **W.O.2 John Harvey, W.O.2 George Foggo,** does not play golf—no doubt he has other vices?

DASHERA AND VISIT OF THE COLONEL GURKHA SIGNALS

This year the festival of Dashera had to be a great success as we had the Master of Signals and Colonel, Gurkha Signals, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.** with us. The Colonel's visit will be reported separately, but now suffice to say we were most happy to have him with us and hope he enjoyed his visit. All the celebrations passed off very well, the highlight being a superlative performance by **Corporal Lillbahadur** at Mar, the sacrificial ceremony. After saying good bye to the Colonel, it was quite hard to get back to routine life, but exercises are upon us and we have no choice.

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

WELL DUG IN

"WE may be small but we're well dug in" is the OC's latest Comment of the Month. Well there's no disputing this one, as the following glimpse at some local figures will show:—

SQUADRON OFFICERS AND S.S.M.

OC	**Major Ian Robinson**
Administration Officer ..	**Lieutenant Colin Richardson**
OC Line Troop	**Captain John Reed**
OC Airfield Troop ..	**Captain David Case**
TOT	**Captain Bob Stather**
QM/MTO	**Captain Bill Gahan**
SSM	**W.O.2 Roy Stark**

Yes—only six Officers (no jobs for the boys here).

DIGGING TYPES

60 including many old stalwart civilians and even our Telemechs.

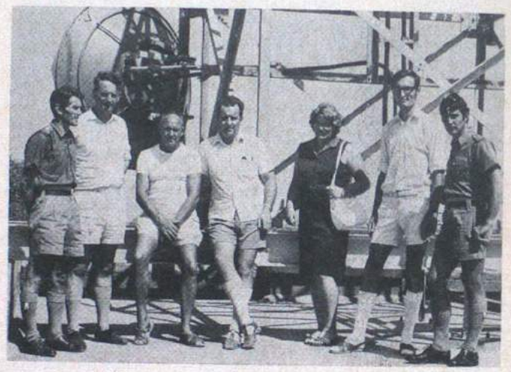
MILES OF CABLE IN T' DECK

2000, and some of that runs through rock (inevitably, on this outcrop). Luckily much of the Maltese rock is like hard yellow chalk and not granite (what odds our picks and shovels then?).

So, no arguments, we are literally up to our ears in Maltese history (Eocene–Pliocene) and likely to stay that way until 1979.

FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN—RADIO RELAY

Installation of the new 7·5 GHz, 300 channel, twin path radio relay is being held to schedule by a hardworking GEC team led by **Roy Hammond.** There have been problems; rat-ridden, inaccessible sites, local attractions (womens' lib. Malta-style 'figuring' somewhere amongst them), autumn storms, chlorinated tea—to name but a few; but firm flanking attacks by **TOT Bob Stather** and **F. of S. Pete Wagstaff** have kept GEC on the rails and have also resulted in this month's picture, 'Dishy Array', taken at the sunny Siggiewi site. Completion date remains set at June 1974 if this weather holds our. Even the sea is still at 80°F which means that swimming is still a pleasantly valid sport.



"DISHY ARRAY" AT SUNNY SIGGIEWI

Left to right: Captain Bob Stather (T.O.T.), Roger Wood (G.E.C. S.Q.A.), Al Heath (Marconi Site Engineer), Mike Swift (G.E.C. Chief Installer), Joan Hawkins (M.O.D. P.E. E.Q.D.), Roy Hammond (G.E.C. Field Contract Controller, Malta), Staff Sergeant Pete Wagstaff (F. of S.)

INTER-SERVICE CHAMPIONS

The Squadron team of swimmers, led by the Maltese national team captain 1973, **Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti,** won the Services water polo league championship and, combined with a couple of gunners, came a close second in the Inter-Service swimming championships. They completed a very successful season by winning the Inter-Services water polo championships and remained undefeated in so doing. This was mainly due to excellent work up front by **Lance-Corporal Eddie Xuereb** and not, as some would have it, because of **W.O.2 Roy Stark's** remarkable exploits as goalkeeper.

The WIRE—

Without it—

You're not With it!

INTER-SERVICE SWIMMING CHAMPIONS—234 SQUADRON, MALTA

Back Row (left to right): Corporal Barry Langmead, Lance-Corporal Eddie Xuereb, Lance-Corporal Joe Mizzi, W.O.2 Roy Stark, O.C., Major Ian Robinson, Captain Dave Case, Corporal Franz Farrugia

Front Row (left to right): Corporal Charlie Mizzi, Corporal Joe Diamond, Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti, Corporal George Zammit, Corporal Jim Masuwale

244 Sig Sqn (AS) R.A.F. Benson

THE RED HAND SQUADRON

IN the July 1963 edition of THE WIRE an article appeared under the title 'The Red Hand of Ulster and ASSU'. Although the full story concerning the use of the Red Hand by ASSU was fully covered in that article, it is felt that many in the corps and their association with 244 Squadron are unaware of the significance of the Red Hand sign.

The present 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) was formed on 1st January, 1969 from 638 (Air Formation) Signal Troop at RAF Tangmere and inherited the 'Red Hand of Ulster' as its unit sign. The previous 244 Signal Squadron (ASSU) had been disbanded during 1968.

244 Squadron is a descendant of No. 1 Close Support Bomber Control. This unit was formed in early 1941 as a result of our unfortunate experience at the hands of the German Army/Air Teams in France prior to Dunkirk. The need was at once apparent for some distinguishing sign to be attached to the unit's vehicles to indicate their ability to provide close air support. The Red Hand of McNeill (or O'Neill) of Ulster was chosen by the first Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. McNeill,** a direct descendant of the original O'Neill, King of Ulster.

Lieutenant-Colonel (later **Major-General) McNeill's** family traces its origin back to the original O'Neill of the 'Bloody Hand'. The story of the red hand, briefly, is that two brothers were contenders for the Kingdom of Ulster and it was agreed that whoever's hand touched the shore first in a boat race between them should be the winner. The O'Neill (McNeill) finding himself losing, cut off his hand and cast it ashore.

At the end of 1941, No. 2 CSBC joined 13 Corps of the 8th Army and, during a recent visit to RAF Benson, **General McNeill** confirmed that on joining the Corps, the BGS queried the use of the Red Hand on vehicles. However it was agreed and official blessing given for the unit to retain the insignia provided their performance justified its retention. It is indicative of the team spirit of the men of that unit that the Red Hand saw service in air support units, under a variety of titles, throughout the Desert campaign, North Africa, Sicily and Italian campaigns. An ASSU took part in the Normandy invasion and its vehicles carried the Red Hand sign. No. 3 ASSU after having taken part in the North West Europe campaign settled in 1945 in Minden and subsequently moved, in 1949 to Hereford. The unit was redesignated 1 ASSU in 1051 and moved first to Lemgo and then to Lippstadt.

1959 saw much reorganization in the Corps and the first 244 Signal Squadron (then suffixed ASSU) was formed. This unit disbanded in 1968 and its members were absorbed by 7 and 22 Signal Regiments.

Through all these changes the Red Hand of the McNeill's has been the chosen symbol of members serving in the air support role, and today 244 Squadron are unique in being virtually the only unit in the British Army permitted to carry a tactical sign, that of the Red Hand of the O'Neill of Ulster.

NEW STYLE BOOKING-IN—BY PARACHUTE

The Turkish sentries at the gate of Anzio Camp near Dhekelia were given a rude awakening one morning by the sight of **Corporal George Shone** arriving by parachute at their Guard Room. Being slightly late for his shift in the Com centre, he directed his free fall descent towards the camp rather than onto the DZ two miles away; identified himself in a smart soldier like fashion and disappeared (shades of batman) leaving behind him two bewildered Turks. When asked why he had landed at the Guard Room instead of on the large main square in front of the Com centre, he replied "I had to book in at the Guard Room".

As one would expect, whenever possible we indulged ourselves in the luxury of relaxing in the sun on Famagusta beach, overcoming with ease our subconscious mind that said You're not on holiday' (such was the atmosphere). However on one such afternoon, all thoughts of relaxing were thrown to the wind when our, take-it-in-your-stride **R.S.M. Steve Bresloff** and unflappable **Sergeant Harry Baynton** answered a plea for help from **Mrs. Colin McLoughlin,** wife of **Yeoman McLoughlin,** 9 Signal Regiment (late of the 244) who had got out of her depth whilst swimming. Fortunately the rescue was successful and apart from being a little shaken **Mrs. McLoughlin** and all were able to enjoy the afternoon.

ANNUAL CAMP—A TESTING TIME FOR ALL

In the early hours of a Saturday quite recently, 244 moved off for Fremington Training Camp in Devon. Each man in his place as designated by our MTO, **Major Alan Harfield,** we moved in a coach and a selection of official transport and cars. Despite the fact that Monday was to be a bank holiday, we survived the traffic bravely and were well settled in come evening. Some officers repeatedly found it difficult to get over the its-the-weekend-so-off-to-London mechanism, but they were soon redirected.

Sunday morning found everyone including the RSM up before breakfast running around the countryside at 07.00. It was unfortunate (to the men's minds)/fortunate to our let's-go-running OC's mind that a hill of fair stature rose directly behind the camp. Certain of the locals were known to have had nightmares with this early morning pounding of boots. This was to continue, but earlier at 06.15 hours, for our first week of Annual Camp.

Then started a tough routine of road run-breakfast-assault course-lectures-lunch-sport, all afternoon followed by wenching and drinking by night culminating in a mini 10 Tors over Dartmoor for two and a half days of the second week. For this the Squadron was divided into 30, five-man teams each led by an officer or a sergeant. There were nine check points each containing some fiendish torture. These varied from **R.Q.M.S. Joe Whalley,** 1,000ft. up a mountain shrouded in mist, equipped with five sets of NBC gear for a 10 minute test, to **Staff Sergeant 'Tam' Macdonald** again on a lonely hill with a heavily packed trailer which needed shoving 200 yards further uphill. Then there was a crippled **Captain Tom Stoddart, M.B.E.,** with all the rudiments of a hand-made stretcher; all it needed was putting together and lugging again up a hill. A crippled **Lieutenant 'Paddy' Crowley** was eventually found sitting on another mountain (he got lost finding it) with a delightful map reading test; it was a shame the fog never lifted off his mountain. Our weapons King, **Sergeant John Williamson** was again at 1000ft. pathetically upset at not being able to put together an LMG, an SMG, an SLR and a 9mm pistol. As soon as each team put the pieces together, he made them take them apart again—a frustrating inhibition.

The sports co-ordinator, **Captain Tom Stoddart** gets full marks for his effort (with his team of **W.O. 'Bed Board' Chambers, Sergeants 'Disco Wreck' Green, 'Sybrositic Nodule' Jones** and **Corporal 'Leaning Tower of Turvey',** although they exceeded things a bit when a hockey pitch appeared overnight on a parade ground/helicopter training area. It was scrubbed off rapidly with the Camp Commandant hopping up and down on the fast disappearing side line.

There were organised sports of every variety laid on for every afternoon of the Camp. The five-a-side hockey competition proved to be very popular especially as it included a fine display of close-quarter combat given by the OC Squadron. Armed only with a hockey stick, he succeeded in crippling the majority of the opposing team within one minute of the bully-off. Congratulations go to HQ Troop for defeating an officers side containing three Corps colours, also for winning the 'Anderson Cup' in the five-a-side soccer competition. Well done 'E' Troop for beating themselves at five-a-side Kung Fu.

After two weeks the Red Hand emblazed vehicles were clear of Devon full of weary, yet very fit men. Reportedly some of them still wake up at 05.45 hours in the morning and leap into running gear, and it is a well known fact that **Staff Sergeant 'Buttons' Young** still dreams of the undulations of a certain Devon golf course.

1973—MODEST PRIDE IN SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

On looking back over 1973 the 244 can feel justly proud of their sporting and athletics record.

At soccer we reached the finals of the Oxford League cup and the South East District cup (the latter for the second year running); we got to the last eight of the minor units cup and the last 12 of the major units cup (it took 8 Signal Regiment four hours to beat us).

At hockey we formed a team from scratch that beat the RAF Benson station side, and we were recently runners-up in the 38 Group six-a-side at RAF Wittering, beating such sides as RAF Benson, RAF Conningsby, the might of the RAF Regiment Depot from Catterick and RAF Odiham. How about that for giant killing?

At athletics we held our own inter-troop competition, won the RAF Benson station competition against five other sides, and went on to win the South East District minor units competition. This earned us the right to appear in the Army finals at Aldershot, alongside our illustrious big sister, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support). There it finished. We were fifth in the Army minor units competition.

At cricket we lost our first match in the minor units cup, but went on to win every other match we played. We now hold the RAF Benson cricket league shield (we already held the knock-out cup).

Earlier in the year we enjoyed the spectacle of red faces under red berets when our blue-bereted para boys were joint winners of the coveted 16 Para Brigade rigging competition trophy.

One man whose name stands out not only for his own personal performances but more for the enthusiasm and ability he has injected into others, is **Lieutenant W. P. ('Paddy') Crowley. 'Paddy'** represented 38 Group RAF at hockey and at athletics (much to the GOC's chagrin, he performed superbly at both against 3 Division). He was personally responsible for forming from scratch both our hockey and athletics teams. He has now left us for Shrivenham. We also say goodbye, good luck and thank you for your efforts to the following members of the Red Hand Gang, **Captains Graeme Halliburton, Mike Rice, Staff Sergeants Moshe Nichols, Ray Georgeson, Sergeants 'Curly' Jones, John Williamson, Phil Green, Corporals Roy Gordon, Dave Thorley, George Shone, 'Nobbie' Clark(s), Rod Mawer, Bill Napier, Mike Rennick, 'Scouse' Thompson, Lance-Corporals Bob Pearce, Ian MacLoughlin, John Budden** and **Tom Hall, Signalmen John Berrington, Sid Harlow** and **Pete Rose.**

259 Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 53

THIS month the Squadron's drivers have sharpened their pencils (which are normally only used for travel claims), given up the attempt to calculate Famagusta and back at the higher rate of MMA—less 17% for exchange loss—and revealed to an astonished world THE TRUTH ABOUT MT TROOP.

MT NOTES

The MT of 259 Signal Squadron is probably one of the smaller MT of the Corps; however our line up is quite a varied one. At Episkopi we have **Corporal Jan Radford** who has just come second in the Cyprus Go Kart Championship for the second year running. **Signalman Ken Hardman** our intrepid motor cyclist recently entered the Laurie Clay Memorial Trial on his road-going Yamaha 250, managing to come 5th, however he has since pranged and has been seen staggering around covered in bandages. Our MTO, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Davis ('Boots')** has been seen recently wearing ammo boots thereby starting a rumour that he is taking up deep sea diving. **Lance-Corporal Pete Bratt** is to be congratulated on his marriage. Up at our Troodos detachment at 6000 feet, **Signalman Cam ('Eyeballs in the Sky') Fleming** now claims to be the highest driver in the Corps, as he is one inch taller than **Signalman Kelly** (261 Signal Squadron).

In the arrivals and departures section we welcome **Corporal Jim Ost, Signalman Dave Whitehead,** both at Dhekelia and **Signalman Andy Wragg** at Episkopi. We say goodbye to **Corporal Les ('Granite Face') Symons** on posting to 21 Signal Regiment as Sergeant and goodbye also to **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' McGivern** on demob.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

This month the deserved winner of the quote of the month competition is undoubtedly the Head Waiter of the Cyprus Hilton in Nicosia. A Squadron dinner and dance was held there on 24th October organised by the Administrative Officer, **Captain N. Williams.** Shortly after an excellent dinner, **Sergeant Ken Preston** for reasons known only to himself decided to go for a swim in the pool, fully clothed and with a waiter to keep him company. The Head Waiter was thus constrained to ask **Captain Williams** to refrain from throwing his waiters in the pool since it was "affecting the table service". The Hilton is nothing, if not conscientious about the standard of service provided for its patrons.

BASKETBALL SUCCESSES

Our Basketball season is now over and we are able to report a most successful conclusion with a hard fought win over 2 Squadron 9 Signal Regiment in the finals of the Cyprus Army Minor Units Knockout Championships.

Wednesday, 14th August saw the giants of the Squadron lining up in the Dhekelia Gymnasium under the eagle eye of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Dave Davis,** our coach and captain. At 1600 hours precisely with the thermometer registering a cool 90°F battle commenced, first blood going to the opposition who quickly gained a two basket lead. Half time saw a close score of 20–19 in our favour. The second half proved a close thing but after 15 minutes the 'Davis Giants' gained a marginal advantage which they held until full-time defeating a well trained, well disciplined opposition by 45 to 39.

Thus the Squadron completed a unique triple victory in Cyprus this year for the win in the Army Minor Units Championships was added to the 1973 RAF Episkopi Knockout Competition and the Inter-Services Unit League, both of which the Squadron team won earlier in the year. Those who helped achieve this most notable success were **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Davis, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Scriven, Sergeant's Back, Barwick, Whelan, Kennard, Corporal's Dunn, Potter, Andrews, Lance-Corporal Waring** and **Signalman Falconer.**

SUITABLE CASES FOR TREATMENT?

If there are a lot of long words in these *Wire Notes,* it may in part be due to the academic influx the Squadron has had. This summer we have entertained (or possibly been entertained by) five undergraduate officers. They are here in the hope that they will be imbued with the crudite and scholarly atmosphere that abounds in the Squadron!

After the initial language difficulties with **Lieutenant John Shepherd,** and getting used to **Lieutenant Nick Mansfield** dropping out of the sky the greatest benefit from this mutual crossflow of information was **Lieutenant Chris Wright** scoring 77 not out in a Squadron cricket match.

After the departure of this terrible trio **Lieutenant Chris Harper** arrived on the scene hotfoot from Cambridge. At Cambridge he is studying Social and Political Sciences. This was too difficult for most of the Squadron and was shortened to Sociology. He has been tasked to find out why we are all so hysterically happy (or just hysterical) in our work. He has produced a five page questionnaire for each of us to complete; next week he will teach us how to fill it in. In the meantime **Signalman 'Mitch' Taylor** is giving 'wryting' and 'speling' lesons in between statistical duties

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

SUMMER TRAINING CAMP

PROBABLY the biggest 'happening' since our last entry has been the Summer Military training camp, run as in the past at Evdhimou. This is a bleak, hot, sometimes wind-swept area of 'bondu' near the Western Sovereign Base Area. It is bounded in the south by an ideal series of coves, frequented by units on training and nude bathers. The latter soon disappear unfortunately.

Rather than a three week 'come as you can' effort, the training was condensed into two, one week groups, with a major administrative effort involving the squadron being run from the field and a large permanent instructor staff run by **Captain James Budd** and **W.O.2 Frank Ward.** Most personnel remained for the full two weeks, spending one week on permanent staff and one week training. Our WRAC and other shift personnel spent only the one week, most of which they spent on fieldcraft and tactics exercises. Regrettably many got lost at night as the new 50:000 maps don't bother about all the 50 metre pimples dotted around this terrain. Watermanship training proved popular, and fun as usual.

The food was good but obviously was not enough for our SSM, **W.O.2 Frank Ward** who was seen rummaging in the dustbins. He was caught by one of our many photographers.

S.S.M. checks dustbins (see notes)

Since each group was of platoon strength, section and platoon tactics were easily organised and one major effort was the setting up of a defensive position at Pissouri. This is a deserted brick built customs post on the beach. Since we were short of transport we asked for *Bulwark* which was moored by 'our' beach, but they only gave us an LCM. The Marines were most interested in our WRAC 'warriors' but saw they were well protected. During the same exercise the Senior Air Staff Officer was sunning himself nearby, and asked concernedly whether we were so short of recruits that 'our' girls had to fight along side us! Well they certainly do here, and they enjoy it. Before a night exercise **Lance-Corporal Heather Ward** was caught off guard sitting on **Second-Lieutenant Peter Hryhoruk's** knee (we are not sure who was caught off guard).

OVERSEAS TRAINING

You may wonder why anyone in Cyprus would wish to go anywhere else. Well, although there is a lot to do here there is only a small area in which to do it. After a while you feel a little cut off from the world and a quick trip to Turkey, Lebanon, Israel or Egypt helps to break the monotony. At the moment we have a second batch of Telegraphists in Kenya and we hope to bring you their hairy stories next time.

SPORT

Meanwhile the rest of us are ending the summer season and sport is starting again. It is hoped to repeat last years' football successes, and we have already begun the Hockey successes. We have won our first league match and came second in the ESBA six-a-sides thanks in the main to losing our two best players to a Royal Signals Cyprus match organised for the same day.

Promotions

Continued from page 528

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.				
Martin-Law,	N. P.	Cpl.	20 Jun. 73	10 May 69
Gardner,	F. W.	Cpl.	20 Jun. 73	28 Nov. 69
McGinnis,	T.	Cpl.	20 Jun. 73	25 Jun. 70
Edwards,	L. W.	Cpl.	20 Jun. 73	16 Sep. 65
Nunn,	S. A.	Cpl.	31 Jul. 73	6 Oct. 71
Watson,	G. N.	Cpl.	8 Aug. 73	17 Dec. 70
Patterson,	T. M.	Cpl.	8 Aug. 73	8 Aug. 69
McKay,	J. K.	Cpl.	8 Aug. 73	20 Apr. 70
Sidney,	R.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 73	14 Dec. 68

DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To Sgt.				
Cox,	N. J. I.	Cpl.	18 Jun. 73	1 Oct. 68
Hand,	D. A.	A/Sgt.	2 Jul. 73	1 Feb. 66
Hamer,	J. W.	A/Sgt.	3 Jul. 73	1 Oct. 68
Tatnall,	W. D. B.	A/Sgt.	16 Jul. 73	29 Feb. 68
Simpson,	A. A.	A/Sgt.	1 Aug. 73	1 Feb. 67
Carter,	G.	A/Sgt.	2 Aug. 73	29 Feb. 68
Robjohn,	B. A.	Cpl.	10 Aug. 73	1 Jan. 69
Marlborough,	R. D.	Cpl.	13 Aug. 73	3 Nov. 69
Baron,	P. R.	Cpl.	14 Aug. 73	1 Jan. 70

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To S Sgt.				
Kirkman,	J. M.	Sgt.	2 Jul. 73	1 Nov. 70
Smith,	J. H.	Sgt.	5 Jul. 73	2 Feb. 72
Grattan,	P. C.	A/S Sgt.	6 Jul. 73	5 Jan. 66
To Sgt.				
Million,	H.	A/Sgt.	1 Sep. 73	30 Jul. 70
Scott,	D. M.	A/Sgt.	6 Jul. 73	1 Jun. 67

(Remainder of November Promotions in next issue)

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THE VOLUNTEERS

39 Sig Regt (V) London

OFFICERS' MESS

THIS Regiment is close affiliated with the Worshipful Company of Skinners, whose emblem, the Lynx we have adopted as our own trademark. Recently the Officers' Mess borrowed the Livery Hall of the Skinners Company and gave a splendid Cocktail Party. The Honorary Colonel, **Colonel the Honourable L. H. L. Cohen** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White,** Royal Signals, greeted well over a hundred guests on behalf of the Regiment. Amongst the official guests were **Brigadier E. J. Nolan** the Director Women's Royal Army Corps and **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.** the Chief Signal Officer of Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces.

Apart from all the drinking which ensures a good cocktail party, guests were able to wander around the Livery Hall and admire the beautiful paintings, the gold and silver plate and the general surroundings themselves. Regrettably the Skinners Company won't swop premises with Worship Street!

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

For the first time this year all the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess attended a Regimental Dinner Night on the 6th of October. Nearly 70 people sat down to dinner, as wives and several official guests were also invited. The RSM, **W.O.1 J. Howker** presided in his own Mess for the first time and managed to keep the assembled company well under control throughout the evening. An excellent time was had by all and everyone expressed a wish for the gap in time to be a little shorter next time. Thanks are due from all the members of the Mess to **W.O.2 D. Ayton** who master-minded the whole occasion.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

ANNUAL CAMP—THE ULSTER SIGNAL REGIMENT

HIGH POWERED VISITORS

ANNUAL Camp is designed to be the highlight in the year of the Volunteers training. This year our Regiment was to be assessed at Camp for its Fitness For Role by the Group Commander and additionally we were to be visited by:

The GOC Northern Ireland, The SO-in-C, The CSO UKLF, The DWRAC, The Colonel GS Training (TAVR), The Chairman of The TAVR Association NI, The TAVR Colonel NI, Our Honorary Colonel, The Deputy Group Commander, The DEME, OC CVHQ Royal Signals.

The Commanding Officer directed that despite the FFR and the numerous important visitors the programme for Camp was to be arranged so that maximum work and play was available throughout the fortnight.

Where do we start? Well we are situated for the most part in Belfast and Camp this year was being held at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough.

EARLY PREPARATIONS

On the 1st of August the Foreman of Signals and his three military permanent staff instructor technicians left Belfast for Liverpool. There they collected from 33 Signal Regiment many radio stations and other equipment and with the help of 33 Regiment transported all these stores to Scarborough. The next day they visited 38 Signal Regiment to collect three D11/R234 stations and generator trailers. The Regiment was not due in Scarborough until the 11th of the month, but this very advanced move was necessary to enable the F. of S. to bring all the equipment up to specification. Our own equipment had been similarly tested prior to the Technicians departure.

The administrative advance party reached Burniston Barracks on the 8th and prepared to take over the camp, made arrangements with all the necessary local businesses, with the Camp Commandant, the vehicle pool and various cells of the Training Brigade in Catterick.

The cooks party left on the 10th and the Regiment boarded the RFA *Sir Galahad* on the evening of Saturday the 11th. The escorts to the Docks being smartly and effectively managed by the RMP stationed in Northern Ireland. It was a thrilling sight to see the Regiment coming alongside the ship in the bright evening sunshine against the backdrop of the impressive Belfast Loch.

The crossing of the Irish Sea was pleasant in all respects and all were comfortable, well fed and refreshed during the voyage. The spirit of Camp was awakening. The WRAC ladies crossed by civilian steamer and met us at Liverpool, Lime Street Station. A special train had been provided by British Rail and except for an hour and a half lost in a siding at Wigan, due to faulty brakes, the journey to Scarborough was completed with all in good heart although slightly hungry. The cooks had been quick off the mark and food was available as soon as we arrived in the barracks.

ARRIVAL

We were there. Now the employment phase of camp began. The CO called his Squadron Commanders together for quick orders and Camp '73 was well and truly under way. On the Monday morning the RSM took the Regimental parade and with the assistance of the Pipes and Drums and a few nicely chosen expletives, the bearing of the Regiment began to grow.

Squadron Commanders quickly took their men away and began getting their own work organised when they double checked who was there and what vehicles and equipment they actually had. In the main their first weeks work consisted of detailed recces of their exercise locations, practice of the radio shots and line up of the speech channels and detailed preparation of all their crews for Exercise 'Count Down'. Of course the Squadron's wanted all the technicians and all the tradesmen under training under their command but this could not be allowed.

VISITORS

The visitors arrived one after the other, they were each given personal briefings, and all without exception took special care to talk to as many members of the Regiment as possible. This personal approach was very successful and all ranks were delighted with the obvious dialogue achieved. A great part of the Regiment was already in the field when most of our VIP's came to Burniston, but the trade training, recruit training the 'in-camp' work in the cookhouse, the pay office, the orderly room, the LAD, the TM workshops and the 'Q' stores were more than sufficient to show just how busy we were.

The Pipes and Drums were popular from the moment the first piping and drumming was heard.

The Officers Mess laid on an excellent informal dinner night on the Tuesday evening—the Chateaubriand being par excellence. On Thursday evening the guest night was a great success, the pipes played before dinner, a good meal with delicious wine of one's own choice. The pipes in the dining room after dinner, with of course some quite national flavoured tunes. Dancing to favourite airs after dinner and an impromptu officers parade around the Camp. The evenings entertainment was highlighted by another of our renowned sketches and good 'folk' song renderings.

The Sergeants' Mess chose to have their dinner night at the Mayfield Hotel in Seamer and many holiday makers stopped off for a while to look at the assembled Mess members in their Mess Kits and No. 1's and to listen to the Pipes playing on the lawns in front of the hotel. The Commanding Officer was a guest at this splendid occasion.

TRAINING SUCCESSES

By this time it was evident that recruit troop was flourishing and a grand team spirit among the recruits and their instructors was most obvious. The weeks intensive trade training had produced eight new technicians almost doubling our strength in this important part of our trade structure. The cooks had been visited by the NE District Catering Advisor whose praise for them was more than encouraging. Eleven data telegraphists were classified at B3 whilst the other trade courses have to continue their training back at Belfast for a while longer.

By late on Friday afternoon all preparations for Exercise 'Count Down' were reported as complete and the vehicles and trailers were loaded and parked awaiting assembly on the square on Sunday afternoon. The crews were all practised and prepared, the technicians were allocated to their locations and all the trainees were briefed on their role during the Exercise. After the CO's final briefing personnel were stood down for 24 hours for rest and recuperation. Following the first weeks very hard work all, without exception, relished the thought of a days whoopee! For such fun making Scarborough is without an equal.

Sunday morning dawned and the Padre held a Communion Service. At 09.10 hours right markers were called for the Honorary Colonel's parade. The Band of 34 Signal Regiment and our own Pipes and Drums provided the music for the inspection and march past. The Regiment were smart and steady and the Honorary Colonel was clearly proud of the Fortieth. The Church Service followed and the Padre's Sermon was nicely balanced to keep our minds on our service to God and to our Queen and Country.

The Sergeants' Mess invited the Officers' to drinks and lunch in an endeavour to undermine the cricketing prowess of the latter. However with the aid of some obscure laws and the onset of rain, the Officers' managed to hold off the RQMS and his team. Fortunately he is leaving us—how else would he live having despatched the CO and the Training Major with the first ball each received from him.

THE BIG EXERCISE

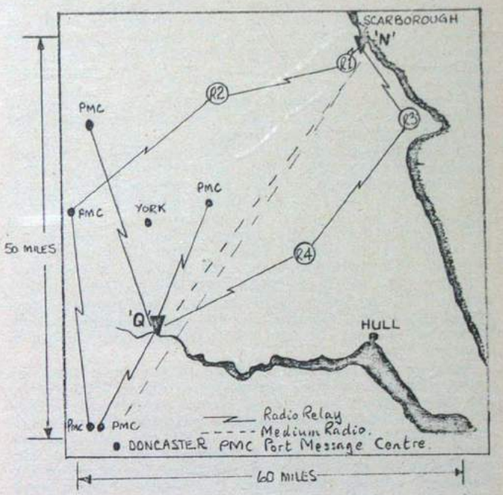
Crews Front for Exercise 'Count Down' was at 07.30 hours on Monday morning. The rain had continued through the night and memories of the brilliant weather during the previous week had gone. The Group Commander and the Colonel saw the packets leave barracks at the scheduled times and the Pipes and Drums played the Regiment off to their war. The farthest locations were nearly 100 miles away and it was to be early afternoon before all parts of the communications were to be finally engineered. The Operation Room opened for business and Syscon and Comcen N at Burniston was prepared to begin the engineering from the nearest relay stations. An outline diagram of the System is included to illustrate the task set (Figure 1). Before Comcen Q was established, a voice and a telegraph circuit were established through three relays to Port Message Centre 12. The D11 ccts between N and Q and N and Brodsworth Quarry opened on time and were passing traffic throughout the three days of the Exercise. A number of problems arose in the radio relay system late on during the first afternoon but all of these were cleared by 01.00 hours on the Tuesday morning and from then on all telegraph channels were heavily loaded with traffic. The telephone circuits were through for the same period of time as the teleprinters.

The Regimental echelon was set up in Burniston Barracks and they coped successfully with the small number of administrative problems which arose. A re-supply of POL and fresh rations was carried out on the Tuesday and all credit is due to the Q and MT cells for its smooth operation.

Late in the afternoon on Tuesday the Brigadier ordered three of the port messages centres to move. This was handled by Signal Operations assisted by the Second-in-Command and the Adjutant. A warning order was issued over the RR System and an SDR run was used to give further details and the executive instructions. No move was allowed before 05.00 hours on the Wednesday and communications were required again by 09.00 hours. The teleprinters were chattering soon after this time and all credit is due to the detachment commanders in accomplishing an aspect of the exercise which is more than our role demands, although of course we can not expect to simply provide a static line of communications all the time, the requirement would inevitably change.

Recruit Troop were used as an enemy infiltration force and all field locations prepared their defences accordingly. The activity at Comcen Q in this respect was feverish and it seemed as though everybody in that location was wired to a telephone. In the event the enemy failed to penetrate their defences although the surrounding woodland and scrub helped more than somewhat. The recruits achieved little success in their attacks but this then was success to the Communicators. Probably this is a result of the very thorough preparation made for our locations in Northern Ireland during Exercise 'Shot Two' last April when this aspect was for real.

EX COUNTDOWN



When the exercise closed at 13.00 hours on the Wednesday it was obvious that the Regiment had proved its fitness for its role and had showed also, that if need be its communications system based on two Comcens, a Radio Relay System, a number of PMC's and some D11 detachments was flexible and could be changed quickly to meet any different demands resulting from a wartime situation.

A JOB WELL DONE

The exercise was designed to be one of traffic handling because that is our job. It is never easy to load the telephone system without the Staff being on the exercise as well but these statistics will show just how effectively the telegraphic information was handled. Communications were provided for 89% of the Exercise time and 3,475 telegraph messages were handled in less than 48 hours.

The Regiment returned to Burniston from the exercise justly pleased with itself. Of course there had been a few problems but more importantly it is interesting to notice how much went well. The MT proved to be reliable, our generator problem was minimal. The C41's and D11's, the multiplex and submultiplex equipment proved the efficiency of the technicians preparation, the frequency assignment was correct although during the Squadron's rehearsals one or two snags caused concern. The resupply and SDR runs were successful. Signal Operations, both Syscons at N and Q and the two Comcens operated effectively. The PMC's and the D11 terminals showed themselves to be useful Comheads. All the relay stations communicated continuously. Above all the Squadron Commanders commanded their men and handled their resources with a professionalism which was a joy to see.

By 20.00 hours the Regiment had gathered again on the cricket field to watch the Royal Signals free fall parachute display team drop from the skies to join us. Their skill and daring was admired by all and the Officers' of the Regiment were delighted to invite them to drinks along with the Sergeants' in the Officers' Mess before the All Ranks dance which was held in the Gymnasium. The dance was enjoyed by all although the group were too loud for some local residents. A slightly earlier finish in the morning than planned was however welcome by some of the more conservative members of the Regiment as well as the Scarborough citizens.

LAST DAYS

On Thursday preparation began for the redeployment to Belfast. Equipment was checked, cleared and loaded into vehicles. Borrowed items were returned to Liverpool and Derby. The recruits course were putting the polishing touches to their drill ready for the 'morrows Pass Off.

In the evening the Commanding Officer gave a cocktail party for his Officers and the Mayor and dignatories of Scarborough on the lawn of the CO's house. This was great PR stuff and our Pipes and Drums completed another resounding success when they played in public at Scalby Mills. It must not go unrecorded just how proud we were of our Regiment, to show this outwardly the recruits with Pipes and Drums marched smartly along the promenade in full gaze of the holidaymakers and drew generous applause.

Thursday evening again saw many of the Regiment enjoying themselves in the 'Two Bs', the Beer Keller, the George and many other excellent establishments.

Friday belonged to the recruits. After lunch the CO addressed the Regiment and reported the achievements at camp. The Regiment then lined the square and alongside parents of recruits who made it to Scarborough for the pass off saw the recruits go through their paces squad by squad. How nice it was when the WRAC recruits marched off to spontaneous and deserved applause for a cheerful and accurate display of drill. They are sure to remember that moment for many a day as will all the spectators.

Friday night was Friday night, what a night! But Saturday came and OC HQ Squadron duly sat in his land rover at the head of the column and led them, he said, to Edinburgh. Luckily he got lost and met the train parties alongside *Sir Galahad* in Liverpool Docks.

Another very pleasant crossing of the Irish Sea was completed and the final memories of Camp 1973 will be the convoy of all our vehicles stretching from the centre of Belfast across the river Lagan and right along the by-pass, near to the shipyard, for nearly two miles. It was early morning, there was a faint hint of mist and the headlights of all the vehicles signalled the spirit of the Regiment coming home after two weeks of hard work and play to remember. It was the end of a years' good training and much progress and above all an outward display of Fortieths' great pride in their Regiment.

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Sport

Royal Signals (BAOR) Autumn Golf Meeting

This meeting was held at the RAF Germany Golf Course, RAF Bruggen on 27th/28th September. It was another enjoyable and successful gathering with a high standard of play which is something we have come to expect from the present collection of Corps golfers in BAOR.

Prominent among the winners was **Staff Sergeant Dave Elcox,** 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment who finished runner-up in the four handicap type competitions. The bandit-in-chief **Lieutenant Chris Speight,** still miraculously preserving that 16 handicap, won two competitions in his own right, then joining forces with **Captain Don Reed** they lifted the Regimental Greensome Trophy for 227 Signals Squadron (AFCENT). **Don Reed** also won the Scratch competition for the second time running, but not before being taken to a sudden death play-off by **W.O.2 'Barney' Barnett** of 16 Signal Regiment.

Major Peter Tidey, HQ BAOR, was also in the money as was **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John Smith** of 21 Signal Regiment who won the 18 hole handicap event with a net 62! The committee forthwith reduced his handicap.

All present shared in **W.O.2 Eddie Duncan's** joy when he holed in one at the 164 yard second hole. He received a special prize for this achievement shortly followed by a special bar bill!

Corps Football

CORPS (3)—RCT (1)

Our football correspondent writes:

The first football event of the season took place at Catterick on the 10th October when the Corps played the RCT. Despite torrential rain for the previous thirty six hours and a heavy ground the match was a lively one. RCT fielded a full strength team but the Corps was considerably under strength owing to Major formation exercises.

From the start the Corps attacked with ferocity and their efforts were rewarded when **Corporal Geoff Ruffer** ended a skillful midfield build up with a solo run that had a touch of pure professionalism in it. At the turn we went in one all RCT scoring in the dying seconds of the first half.

During the second half the Corps maintained their relentless pressure and further goals by **Corporal Ruffer** and **Signalman John Boyd** made the final score 3–1 to the Royal Signals.

Playing for the Corps:

Corporal Warburton, 8 Signal Regiment; **Corporal Dyson,** 8 Signal Regiment (14 Sig Regt on TI course); **Corporal Alves,** 8 Signal Regiment (244 Sig Sqn on UC course); **Corporal Pickersgill,** 8 Signal Regiment (28 Sig Regt on UC course); **Signalman Cardwell,** 216 Para Signal Squadron; **Signalman Boyd,** (8 Signal Regiment); **Sergeant Tierney (Capt.),** 8 Signal Regiment, **Corporal Manders,** 8 Signal Regiment (28 Sig Regt on Y. of S. course), **Lance-Corporal Yates,** 24 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **Signalman Lowery,** 8 Signal Regiment, **Corporal Ruffer,** 8 Signal Regiment (10 Sig Regt on UC course), **Corporal Mitchell,** 240 Signal Squadron.

CORPS (3)—RAOC (2)

A quiet first half with the RAOC having the slight edge over the Corps side, having much more of the play midfield. Both teams looked dangerous on the break though neither keeper was seriously tried. Nelson showed his class as a strong, skilful midfield player, coming close with a very fine shot. **Boyd** and **Yates** with **Ruffer** the 3 front runners made some fine attacking moves only to see them fall down with poor finishing. Towards the end of the first half a misunderstanding between the left side defenders let through **Corporal Donal** the opposing centre half to score a well taken goal. The Corps continued to press but all too frequently were caught by a well operated off side trap.

The Corps Manager, **W.O.2 Walton** and **Coach Sergeant Flockhart** obviously had a few words to say at half time for a different team came out for the second half. Quicker on the ball, they dominated the midfield to take control. Several fine runs ended in **Boyd** putting a cracking shot into the side netting. Then **Yates** was brought down in the penalty area and **Nelson** converted 1–1. With the Corps team now pressing forward a goal had to come. A fine header by **Scoular** to **Yates** saw the latter score through a ruck of players 2–1. Shortly after saw another fine header, this time by **Boyd,** headed off the line by the full back, the loose ball ran to Keegan who made no mistake 3–1.

The RAOC team always looked dangerous on their breaks and a fine run by **Jones** was ended when he was upended in the penalty box and Chalmers made no mistake with the conversion. And so the match ended. 3–2. Just before the final whistle, **Boyd** with some beautiful controlled dribbling, ran through 3 defenders and then saw his shot pushed behind for a corner. A good clean match with good football by both sides.

Corps Hockey

CORPS (0)—THISTLES (1)

Although this was the first match of the season, the Corps played well and with great spirit, to hold a strong Thistles side to a single goal scored late in the game.

Corps Golf

CORPS (9)—IRONSIDES (3)

In spite of three dropping out of the original team, the Corps established a 4–0 lead in the morning foursomes. In the afternoon singles the Corps won five of the eight matches.

HE COLLECTS MEDALS—THE HARD WAY

Strange as it may seem but some soldiers actually enjoy marching so much they do it in their spare time! One member of this rare breed is Corporal Colin Lishman (1 Div Sig Regt) pictured here displaying some of the medals he has collected for 'legging it' over the length and breadth of Germany

Corps prominent in TAVR sporting field

Report by Major Stuart Cottage

THE TAVR Sport Board decided to request certain Brigadiers from the Regular Army to accept the appointment of Chairman to their various sports sections. This is a new venture to get closer liaison and co-operation between the TAVR and the Regular Army.

The first Chairman of TAVR Association football is **Brigadier J. C. Clinch,** Commander 2 Signal Group, UKLF Signals, while the first Chairman of cross-country running is **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.,** Commander, 12 Signal Group (V)

SIGNALS TAVR PERSONALITIES IN THE FOOTBALL WORLD

Major (TOT) Stuart Cottage, T.D., 38 Signal Regiment (V) is the Secretary of TAVR Association Football and Manager of the TAVR Representative Team. He became the first person to take a TAVR Representative Football party on tour when they went to HQ BAOR Rheindahlen 24th–29th April.

In the selected touring party were five members from 38 Signal Regiment (V) and one from 35 Signal Regiment (V), but only the first five actually went on tour.

Unfortunately **Signalman 'Paddy' Betson,** the team captain, whilst playing for leading amateur club Enfield damaged a cartilage a week before the tour.

He is an FA coach, has an English Amateur Cup Winners medal which he won at Wembley and also a European Cup Winners medal from beating Milan in the European Finals.

It is only during the year that he rebadged from REME TAVR to Signals TAVR upon joining 35 Signal Regiment (V). 38 Signal Regiment (V) were represented by:—

SERGEANT ROY WILKINSON (Technician)

Helps with the team administration and is now the attack substitute after playing for many years in the team. He is 39 years old, a fitness fanatic and has recently gained his Crossed Swords as a PTI from the PT School at Aldershot.

CORPORAL MICK SMITH (Data Telegraphist), Right Half

He has experience with Chesterfield FC at football but is a good all-round sportsman. In 1970 he represented the TAVR against Cambridge University at football on a Thursday, and two days later on Saturday represented them against the Regular Army at Aldershot for Cross-Country running.

SIGNALMAN GRAHAM TURNER (Radio Op Linesman), Left Half

He was Rotherham Schoolboy team player who later became apprentice professional with Rotherham United.

CORPORAL TOM ROONEY (Tg Op and PTI), Outside Right

Started his Signals career off in Boys' Service with the Junior Leaders Regiment, 1958 then in Man Service 1961 training at Lincoln and Catterick to become a Tg Op. Posted to Lippstadt BAOR from where he attended a PTI course at Aldershot and was later posted as a PTI to Loughborough. He played for the Corps Representative team 1964–70 but then left the Regular Army and joined 38 Signal Regiment (V) in Nottingham.

SERGEANT BILL GAMBLES (Technician), Defence Substitute

He was a combined Services player whilst a National Serviceman in the Royal Engineers. After National Service he joined the GPO as a telephone engineer and was persuaded life in the Signals would be good for him. For many years he has been a TAVR Representative player but this season which started off badly due to injuries, ended with everything good going his way. He was selected to play for the Sheffield Works Representative team at the same time as the TAVR tour but he decided to go with the TAVR.

FIRST TAVR FOOTBALL TOUR

The Secretary of Association Football BAOR, **Major Andrew Paul,** RAPC, arranged the tour at the Germany end and as the TAVR strength was unknown out there he started the tour off against the strong Royal Signals BAOR Corps team.

Photograph taken during a training session whilst at Annual Camp. *Left to right:* Sergeant Roy Wilkinson, Sergeant Bill Gambles, Signalman Graham Turner, Major (T.O.T.) Stuart Cottage, Corporal Mick Smith and Corporal Tom Rooney

The team managed by **Captain Brian Green** is very liberally sprinkled with BAOR representative players. They provided the TAVR with a good, hard, clean game at Francisca Barracks, Krefeld where the TAVR won 1–0.

Royal Signals regular army therefore helped to make TAVR history by being the first team to play against a TAVR touring side and they were represented by:—

28 *Signal Regiment:* **Corporal Snaith, Corporal Harkin, Lance-Corporal Shaw, Signalman Charles, Corporal Campbell, Sergeant Harvey, Corporal Manders.**

16 *Signal Regiment:* **Signalman R. Burgess, Sergeant Gallagher (Captain), Sergeant Nelson, Signalman Denness.**

4 *Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron:* **Lance-Corporal Adams.**

HQ BAOR: **Corporal Bracey.**

THEY COVERED 268 MILES IN A SPONSORED WALK FOR CHARITY

Photographed with C.S.O. 3rd Division just before departure for Land's End. *Left to right:* Signalman O'Donoghue, Lance-Corporal Bell, Colonel Swan, Corporal Clarke and Lance-Corporal Sunley all of 244 Signal Squadron

BAMA Rally — Reserve Army Driving Championships — UKLF

35 (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING

2nd Best team overall ..	The Standard Triumph Trophy
Winners	The Royal Signals Cup
Winners	The West Midland District Trophy (For the best team entered from West Midland District)

Team: **Captain A. V. Robinson,** 95 Squadron; **Corporal B. W. Mathews,** 95 Squadron; **Sergeant J. Chambers,** HQ Squadron; and **Sergeant D. M. E. Brenni,** 48 Squadron.

Association News

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

106 members and guests sat down to the Annual Dinner of the Leeds and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association, held on Saturday, 29th September at the TA Centre, 49 (West Riding) Signal Squadron TAVR, New Harewood Barracks, Leeds.

Presiding at the Dinner was the Branch President, **Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. D. Davies, T.D.** and the tables were graced by the Regimental silver and candelabra of the old 49 (Yorkshire) Signal Regiment TA, whose identity is now preserved by 49 (WR) Signal Squadron.

Official guests were **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.,** Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, and **Mrs. Price,** and **Mr. David Greenbrook,** Assistant to the General Secretary of the Association, **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson.** Among the personal guests of the Chairman of Leeds Branch, **Major R. O. Edwards,** were **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Gould, O.B.E.,** President of the York Branch, and **Mrs. Gould,** and **Mr.** and **Mrs. Harold Ransom,** brother-in-law and sister of the Chairman, who had travelled from Wellingborough for the occasion. We were also pleased to have with us the Secretary of the Huddersfield Branch and his wife with two other members and their ladies.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by **Major R. O. Edwards,** and that of 'The Guests' by **Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. D. Davies, T.D.** Replying to the latter, **Major-General Price** emphasised the importance of members of the TAVR joining the Royal Signals Association; they, he said, perhaps more than any, have an ear to the ground in matters of welfare, and are thus the best possible source of information to the Central Committee in cases of hardship among members of the Association.

After dinner there was dancing to excellent music for all tastes and ages, as well as Tombola and raffles for various delectable prizes. It was highly significant that the first winning ticket was held by the Branch Chairman's sister, and the second by his brother-in-law! This prize—an enormous and elegant basket of fruit was kindly re-presented for sale to swell Branch funds, and after a spirited auction (or blackmail?) by **Major Bernard Franks,** went to **Mrs. Frances Jackson.** To cap it all, the bottle of whisky presented by the Past President **(Colonel N. R. Bigland, T.D.)** went to **Major-General Price!** There must be a moral for Branch Chairman somewhere!

Between times, the assembled company were entertained by a vivacious song-and-dance act by the up-and-coming 78-years-young cabaret artist **Len Payne,** and some highly complicated dances controlled (?) by **Jim Halliwell.**

It is worthy of note that **General** and **Mrs. Price** stayed until 12.45 a.m. (or 00.45 hours whichever way you look at it)—surely an indication either of enjoyment of a very good evening or of a highly developed sense of duty; your correspondent, for one, would happily bet the former.

In conclusion, all members of the Leeds and District Branch thank **Major Jim Malcolm** and his staff for providing yet again the setting and facilities for a most enjoyable evening and a memorable occasion.

Personal Affairs

Obituary

Colonel G. J. Underwood CBE TD DL

On the 17th October the death, at the age of 76, occurred of Colonel Gerry Underwood of the Old Forge, Shalden, Nr Alton, Hampshire.

A bachelor and in his younger days a great horseman and lover of country pursuits, Gerry was very well known throughout the County of Derbyshire of which he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 1953. He enlisted in his father's regiment, the 4th Hussars in 1916 and was commissioned in 1917. During the First World War he served with his regiment in Ireland, France and Belgium. After the war he joined the Territorial Army, the Derbyshire Yeomanry, and transferred to 46th Divisional Signal Regiment in 1922 which he commanded from 1931 to 1937, when he was promoted to Brevet Colonel.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he raised the second line to 46th Divisional Signal Regiment in a remarkably short time. He achieved this by outstanding leadership and initiative. At the time a leading figure in the steel industry he set up a table and signal office flag on the steps of the town hall at Glossop. Dressed in full dress uniform complete with sword, and assisted by a sergeant from his regiment he persuaded the Mayor to make an appropriate speech, whereupon volunteers immediately started signing up. Later, when difficulties over accommodation arose he managed to persuade his wide circle of friends to provide the necessary tents and by an approach to the Duke of Devonshire obtained a row of one-storey buildings on the Chatsworth Estate near Bakewell. The unit later moved to the south of England to form the nucleus of 11th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment and 4 Corps Signal Regiment which went out to India and Burma with Gerry Underwood as CSO IV Corps, where he was wounded at Imphal. On returning to the UK he served on the signals staff of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force and later became Deputy Chief Signal Officer at Headquarters Northern Command. After the war he returned to his civilian occupation as Sales Manager of Staveley Chemical and Iron Company, but continued his close association with the Territorial Army and the Corps becoming Honorary Colonel of the 21st (North Midland) Corps Signal Regiment (TA) (later 46th (North Midland) Signal Regiment (TA)) and on the reorganization of the reserve forces, 38th Signal Regiment (V). He was for many years Chairman of the Derbyshire Territorial Army and Auxiliary Forces Association and was appointed C.B.E. in 1962. He was President of the Chesterfield branch of the Royal Signals Association and of the Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades Association which he founded. The latter with a sturdy independence was, and still is, separate from the Royal Signals Association but contributes generously to Association funds every year.

Gerry was the epitome of the pre-war Territorial officer devoting much enthusiasm to his part-time military vocation. He was a perfect gentleman, a warm friend and a true lover of the Corps. He had the inestimable quality of inspiring great devotion from all who served with him—equally he gave them his unbounded loyalty.

He will be sadly missed by his very many friends in all walks of life. We offer our deep sympathy to his sister Ileene, and Annie his devoted housekeeper for many years.

W.O.2 J. Brierley

Major J. Telfer writes:

It is with deep regret that I have to announce the sudden death of Jim Brierley at Parkville, Victoria, Australia on the 4th September. Born in 1910 he enlisted into the Corps in 1928—prior to joining 5 British Division in 1939, he served in Egypt and Palestine. After the death of his wife he emigrated to Australia. Jim had many natural talents—a good mixer, he kept in touch with his old Corps friends, even to the extent of making sentimental journey's from Australia to attend Old Comrades Reunions at Catterick in the years 1969 and 1973. Deepest sympathy is extended to his twin sons Keith and Brian now resident in Australia.

Movements

Officers

Captain C. W. Bone	To	9 Signal Regiment
Major A. R. Bushell	,,	School of Signals
Major A. F. Carter	,,	8 Inf Bde HQ and Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Complin	,,	School of Signals
Major D. L. Copeland	,,	16 Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) J. V. Culbert	,,	9 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant H. H. Ham	,,	7 Armd Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
Major J. K. Heyes	,,	32 Signal Regiment (V)
Captain (QM) R. W. Kay	,,	37 Signal Regiment (V)
Major D. F. Malone	,,	22 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant L. G. Poole	,,	16 Signal Regiment
Captain (QM) S. J. Raynor	,,	8 Inf Bde HQ & Signal Squadron
A/Major C. Riley	,,	11 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. M. Rutherford	,,	8th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel I. R. D. Shapter	,,	Staff College
Major S. R. W. Slinger	,,	11 Signal Regiment (HS) (Retiring)
Lieutenant V. T. Smedley	,,	30 Signal Regiment
Major A. C. Stutchbury	,,	260 Signal Squadron
Captain M. P. Walker	,,	HQ Northern Ireland
Major N. A. Walter	,,	MOD DSS (A) Signals 36C
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Westlake	,,	4 Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Major B. I. Weston	,,	HQ 2 Division
Captain D. A. Williams	,,	HQ UKLF, JOCPT
Captain N. O. Williams	,,	2 Div HQ & Signal Regiment

W.Os and Senior N.C.Os

W.O.1 (Supvr. R) A. G. Riddell	To	224 Signal Squadron
W.O.1 (F. of S.) D. Sugden	,,	13 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 F. Wilkinson	,,	7 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 J. A. Scrutton	,,	11 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
W.O.2 S. H. Lee	,,	38 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 F. J. Loveday	,,	71 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 M. Kennington	,,	28 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 W. K. Hammond-Haley	,,	32 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 L. V. Stoneham	,,	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
W.O.2 J. B. Appleby	,,	35 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. T. Llewellyn	,,	Camp Commandant (For HQ DCN)
W.O.2 (Supvr. R) W. J. Clark	,,	13 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 R. E. G. Brown	,,	Royal Signals Manning and Record Office
W.O.2 D. Oliver	,,	14 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 D. Drane	,,	Ministry of Defence Camp Commandant (AD)
W.O.2 J. L. Burgess	,,	HQ 11 Signal Group (V)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) G. E. Yates	,,	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant (Supvr. R) A. G. Baker	,,	13 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Supvr. R) T. S. Jephcote	,,	224 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Supvr. R) P. J. Bannier	,,	226 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. M. Mack	,,	Joint Operating Computer Project Team (WAVBLL)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. J. Cadman	,,	229 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Swaine	,,	28 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Blackburn	,,	55 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant D. Lamont	,,	33 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant D. K. Cheetham	,,	6 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant N. F. A. Lock	,,	7 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. C. Derbyshire	,,	21 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. D. Robinson	,,	1 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. Hargreaves	,,	30 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. J. Schneider	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant D. S. Berry	,,	8 Inf Bde Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. M. Hudson	,,	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant B. L. Bartrum	,,	605 Signal Troop
A/Sergeant A. Catterall	,,	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. H. Tate	,,	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. N. Turner	,,	8 Inf Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant K. C. Gilbert	,,	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant M. Walker	,,	2 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. McCluskie	,,	35 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. G. Clark	,,	Headquarters AFSOUTH
Sergeant J. Nunns	,,	38 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant T. Collard	,,	224 Signal Squadron
Sergeant F. C. Running	,,	242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. L. J. Munday	,,	6 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. Jones	,,	259 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. T. Lennon	,,	7 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. J. Desborough	,,	229 Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. A. Hulme	,,	21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Kinnar	,,	28 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. Smith	,,	11 Armd Bde Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. B. Lamb	,,	Army Air Corps Centre
Sergeant M. S. Goatley	,,	261 Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. A. Hall	,,	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant B. Hives	,,	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sergeant W. A. Coltman	,,	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. E. Turner	,,	5 Airptble Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sergeant C. N. Brumfield	,,	1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Williamson	,,	British Army Training Unit, Suffield
Sergeant J. H. Gleisinger	,,	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant D. D. Fox	,,	1 Division Signal Regiment

Promotions

NOVEMBER

Name	*Initials*	*Rank*	*Trade*	*New Sen. Date*	*Old Sen. Date*
		REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL			
To W.O.1					
Mullord,	T. T. G.	A/W.O.1		2 May 73	6 May 71
Howker,	J.	A/W.O.1		1 Jul 73	26 Aug 70
Wells,	I.	A/W.O.1		2 Jul. 73	7 Jun. 70
Goldsmith,	P.	A/W.O.1		3 Jul. 73	18 Apr. 69
Ladds,	N. E.	A/W.O.1		4 Jul. 73	22 Feb. 69
To W.O.2					
Leggott,	D. H.	A/W.O.2	Cbt Sig	1 Jul. 73	2 Sep. 71
De Lecq Le Montais,	K.	S Sgt.	Cbt Sig	2 Jul. 73	22 Aug. 70
Payne,	D. W.	S Sgt.	Cbt Sig	3 Jul. 73	18 Feb. 71
Lockwood,	C. W.	S Sgt.	R Tg	4 Jul. 73	15 Nov. 71
Bowman,	J. D.	S Sgt.	Cbt Pmn	5 Jul. 73	12 Feb. 70
Ruff,	H.	S Sgt.	Cbt Sig	6 Jul. 73	2 May 70
		STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL			
To S Sgt.					
Griffiths,	K. W.	Sgt.	Cbt Sig	1 Jul. 73	10 Sep. 62
Kirkman,	J. M.	Sgt.	R Tg	2 Jul. 73	1 Nov. 70
Smith,	J. H.	Sgt.	R Tg	5 Jul. 73	2 Feb. 72
Grattan,	P. C.	A/S Sgt.	R Tg	6 Jul. 73	5 Jan. 66
		FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL			
To W.O.2					
Chambers,	E. A. P.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Pittock,	M. V.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Hall,	D. V. F.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Brindle,	G. F.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Charles,	P. M.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Finnighan,	D. J.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Edwards,	R. J. A.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Hammonds,	J. M.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Clifton,	P. C. A.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Field,	C. J.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Goldsworthy,	J.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Crowe,	L. R.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
Tomlinson,	A.	S Sgt.		24 Aug. 73	24 Aug. 67
		SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL			
To W.O.2					
Etherton,	D. J.	S Sgt.		2 Apr. 73	31 Oct. 70
Porter,	R. G.	S Sgt.		1 Jul. 73	31 Oct. 70
To S Sgt.					
Wills,	D.	Sgt.	S Tg	12 May 73	30 Oct 69
Hutton,	J. D.	Sgt.	S Tg.	12 May 73	5 Aug. 70
		YEOMAN OF SIGNAL ROLL			
To W.O.1					
Dodman,	R. A.	A/W.O.1		1 Jun. 73	24 Feb. 68
To W.O.2					
Gallacher,	D.	A/W.O.2		1 Jun. 73	4 May 67
Whydell,	A. J.	S Sgt.		2 Jun. 73	15 Nov. 69
Robinson,	L.	S Sgt.		3 Jun. 73	10 Oct. 68
		CHIEF CLERK ROLL			
To W.O.1					
Mays,	J. G.	A/W.O.1		1 Apr. 73	2 May 70
To W.O.2					
Jeffrey,	L. A.	S Sgt.		2 Apr. 73	4 Feb. 71
Cole,	P. D.	S Sgt.		3 Apr. 73	27 Feb. 70
Hewett,	A. D.	S Sgt.		4 Apr. 73	27 Feb. 70
Tait,	J. C.	S Sgt.		1 Jun. 73	27 Feb. 70
To S Sgt.					
Long,	S. J.	Sgt.		2 Apr. 73	29 Aug. 71
Unwin,	B.	Sgt.		3 Apr. 73	10 Nov. 69
Bowman,	T.	Sgt.		4 Apr. 73	24 Sep. 68
Martin,	J. W. H.	Sgt.		5 Apr. 73	19 Nov. 69
Burdes,	P.	Sgt.		6 Apr. 73	5 Mar. 70
Townsend,	R.	Sgt.		7 Apr. 73	19 Nov. 69
Harrod,	D. G.	Sgt.		15 May 73	1 Jul. 71
Husband,	J. R.	Sgt.		16 May 73	19 Nov. 69
Jones,	A. W.	Sgt.		1 Jun. 73	20 Dec. 69
Wooden,	A. G.	Sgt.		1 Aug. 73	8 Jan. 62
		TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL			
To Sgt.					
Bolger,	D. M.	Cpl.		9 May 73	29 Sep. 69
Garrow,	A. R.	Cpl.		13 Jun. 73	9 May 69
Standing,	M.	Cpl.		25 Jul. 73	12 May 69
Burgess,	V.	Cpl.		1 Aug. 73	14 Apr. 67
Hooley,	A. G.	Cpl.		1 Aug. 73	23 Oct. 69
Kelly,	M. J. J.	Cpl.		8 Aug. 73	1 Jul. 71
Chivers,	D. S.	Cpl.		14 Aug. 73	29 Nov. 68
		RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL			
To S Sgt.					
Selkirk,	B.	Sgt.		1 Jul. 73	27 Feb. 67
To Sgt.					
Myers,	C.	Cpl.		8 Aug. 73	8 Aug. 69
Abbs,	B.	Cpl.		8 Aug. 73	10 Jan. 70
Ellis,	A. M.	Cpl.		8 Aug. 73	27 Apr. 70
Roberts,	B. D.	Cpl.		10 Aug. 73	21 Dec. 67
Southwick,	D.	Cpl.		10 Aug. 73	15 Dec. 70

(Continued on page 521)

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual: Yearly **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly **£1.20;** *monthly* **10p.**
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

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DECEMBER/JANUARY 1973/74

Vol. 27 *(New Series)* **No. 12**

LATE PUBLICATION OF WIRE

It is much regretted that due to circumstances beyond our control this issue of 'The Wire' has been considerably delayed.

The Master of Signals sends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ranks of the Corps, particularly those on emergency duty in Northern Ireland.

OUR COVER PICTURE

We are pleased to feature on our front cover the up and coming Corps freefall parachute team—the Blue Helmets.

The cover photograph was taken at the Rhine Army Parachute competition in September (see article on page 532).

Standing, left to right: **Major Mike Forge** (Team Captain—AA College Harrogate); **Sergeant Bill Ritchie** (Team Instructor—AA College Harrogate); **Captain Nigel Neame** (on loan from Royal Artillery); **Staff Sergeant Ian Haylock** (28 Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal George Cartlidge** (21 Signal Regiment); **Major Ivor Amos** (28 Signal Regiment); **Lieutenant Brian Donegan** (on loan from Royal Australian Regiment); **Sergeant Jim Robins** (28 Signal Regiment); and **Staff Sergeant Bill Elliott** (Judge and CCI of JSPC Netheravon).

Kneeling, left to right: **Signalman Chris Manderson** (10 Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal Mickey Whitley** (School of Signals) and **Corporal Wayne Ardern** (1 Division Signal Regiment).

Once again the months have flown past and suddenly it is Christmas. We would, therefore, wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and all good fortune in 1974.

Looking back over 1973 we believe it was a year noteworthy for a tremendous upsurge in Corps sport—at all levels and in all types of games and activities. There can be little doubt that success at sport usually goes hand in hand with high morale and the ability to do one's job well. We believe this is very true of the Corps as we see it reflected in the pages of THE WIRE during 1973.

On a different note—along with the rest of the Army—the Corps is going through a difficult period for recruiting. We would, therefore, appeal to all our readers, especially those who are retired, to keep their eyes and ears open for young men who might be thinking of a Service life. All who have served in the Corps know well what a full and rewarding life it can offer. Anyone recommending Royal Signals to a potential recruit is not only doing the Corps a good turn but also the young man in question.

Finally we must say a very warm thank you to our numerous contributors—especially those on whose shoulders the mantle of unit scribe has fallen, often unexpectedly out of the blue. Your support has been heart warming—if at times somewhat overwhelming. It has been particularly gratifying to receive a number of contributions from Signalmen and junior NCO's. This is exactly how we want THE WIRE to be—a family magazine to which any member of the family be he Signalman or General, serving or retired, feels he can contribute if he so wishes. So here's to our renewed contacts in 1974.

From our "In" Tray

27 year's after — and they still meet

Sir,

During the second world war, just after Dunkirk, there was formed at Egham, Surrey, the 40 Teleprinter Operating Section, Royal Signals, of which I was one of the original members. This Section was formed from different regiments throughout the British Army and after initial training were posted to 8 Corps at Taunton, Somerset.

After more than a year there, the Section was transferred to 2 Air Formation Signals and eventually went with the 1st Army on the invasion of North Africa, linking up with the 8th Army at Bizerta, Tunisia. Next came Sicily and Italy. Finally in 1946 while stationed in Northern Italy the Section was awaiting demob. Before this happened, one of our members **Ernie Chell** (ex-Corporal) called a meeting, the outcome being that we decided to form a reunion and meet on the third Saturday of October each year—and this we have done each year for the past 27 years.

This could never have been achieved except for the tireless and unceasing efforts of **E. Chell** and his wife who keep in touch with all of us throughout the year. He arranges a rendezvous where we meet, have dinner and drinks and throughout the years there have been reunions in London, Birmingham, Derby and this year at Ashby, Leicestershire.

As you may well imagine during the past 27 years a number of our colleagues have died and some are scattered around the world but always on a 'Reunion day' a number of us meet for 'old times sake'—there were 22 of us there this year.

I wonder if this esprit-de-corps still exists in the Regiments today. A number of us feel that we would like publicly to accord the praise and esteem we feel for **Ernie Chell** for his efforts on our behalf.

Yours faithfully,

James W. Main (ex-Lance-Corporal, 152788 Royal Signals)
67 Kinnaird Drive,
Stenhousemuir,
Larbert,
Stirlingshire.

Egypt Command Signal Section 1932-8

Mr. J. L. Stevens, 13 Margery Road, Hove, Sussex, an ex-SSM of the Corps writes;

"Having reached an age to recount past years, I thought it would be nice to be able to contact any of the old Command Signal Section of Egypt Signals 1932–38. I have a wealth of photos of various activities and personnel of Egypt Signals if anyone is interested in past history. Also anyone of 12 Infantry Brigade Signal Section 4 Brit Division during the 1939/45 war.

"Hoping this will bring together some of my past friends".

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL SECTION 1933

Left to right: Signalman L. Bosher, Signalman G. Marshall, Signalman J. Stevens, Signalman Meek, Signalman 'Ginger' Mitcheson, Signalman Robertson

Major Cecil Crosthwaite, M.B.E., T.D.

MAJOR Cecil Crosthwaite has recently been designated the first Lord Lieutenant of the new County of Cleveland.

Cecil Crosthwaite, who is chairman of the Tees Towing Company, has close connections with the Corps. He was commissioned in the 50 Divisional Signals TA in 1930 and just before the outbreak of war was posted to the 23 Divisional Signals where he raised 2 Squadron and two Anti-Aircraft Signal sections at Middlesborough. Later he was on the Signals Staff at Northern Command and in 1942 was involved as a staff officer in organisation and planning at the Signals Directorate.

After the war he kept up his connections with the Corps finally retiring as a Major in 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V). His brother-in-law, **Brigadier Claude Fairweather,** is the well known Honorary Colonel of the same Regiment. The sons of both **Brigadier Fairweather** and **Major Crosthwaite** did their National Service in the Corps—all in all very much a Corps family.

Cecil Crosthwaite's many Corps friends will, we know, join THE WIRE in congratulating him on his distinguished appointment.

Wanted for Corps Historical Library

The Corps Historical Library at Blandford is lacking a number of old copies of the 'Blue Book'. The missing numbers are all issues pre-the-last war (except 1938) and those issued in 1952, 1954, 1955, 1960 and 1962–67 inclusive.

If anyone has any of these copies which are no longer required the Historical Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson,** RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea SW3 4RH, would greatly appreciate receiving them.

Forerunners of the White Helmets

Sir,

I received the enclosed photographs a few days ago from **Mr. (ex-Sergeant) Chappell.** The photographs are of the first display by Royal Signals in India in 1926 at 'C' Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

Possibly some readers of THE WIRE may even remember this event or even remember earlier similar events. In any case we should be delighted to hear from them, or for that matter from any old Team members.

Readers may be interested to know, that the Team history, is at present under research for being written in the next 18 months. Thus any reminiscences would be very helpful, as would photographs.

Yours faithfully,

J. Blake, Lieutenant

White Helmets,
Royal Signals Display Team,
Catterick Garrison, Yorks.

Unfortunately the photographs are too faint to print and have been returned to the White Helmets for retention in their historical records. Mr. Chappell's address is 28 Highfield Road, Rawley Regis, Warley, Worcestershire.

Incidentally, if any officer or unit has a spare officer's crossbelt it would be most gratefully received by the White Helmets—at present there is a delay of over four months in obtaining a new one—Editor.

Mr. E. A. Mayne, E.R.D.

After 21 years at the head of the Guildford Telephone Area and 42 years in the Post Office, **Mr. Edward Mayne** recently retired.

He will be known to many in the Corps as he served with Royal Signals from 1938 until 1946. He also kept in touch with the Corps through the Aldershot Branch of the Association whose annual dinner he attended on several occasions.

Ex W.O.2 N. W. Cunion

Sir,

It is now 4½ years since I was released amongst an unsuspecting civilian populace.

Since my discharge, Pergamon Press have employed me in the role of Computer Operations Manager.

I have now been fortunate enough to land a 'snip' of a job as Operations Manager for the NAAFI Computer in BAOR, and would like, if possible to notify my many friends amongst your readers, of my new address, which from 14th January, 1974 will be:—

c/o Personnel Manager, HQ NAAFI ES, BFPO 40

Thank you for an excellent magazine. Please find enclosed, one year's subscription, as in future I will not be able to rely on my friends in 244 Signal Squadron for copies.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Cunion

62 High Street,
Chalgrove, Oxon.
Tel.: Stadhampton 520.

Mrs. Kathleen Carpenter

Mrs. Kathleen Carpenter of 74 Moonside Road, East Horne, Bournemouth, Hants wishes to trace old friends of her husband who served with Royal Signals attached to 23rd Hussars in NE Europe in the second world war. He died of wounds sustained in the fighting on 25th November, 1945.

She does not remember the names of the men who served with her husband, but she is particularly anxious to contact an old friend the date of whose birthday occurs on the same date as the anniversary of her husband's death.

Mrs. Carpenter would be very pleased if anyone who knew her husband in the war years would get in touch with her at the address given.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during October, 1973:

	£ p
Officer Commanding, 224 Signal Squadron	30·00
Commandant, Army Apprentices College	20·00
Officer Commanding, 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)	13·30
Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2·00
Hon. Secretary, Dorset Branch, Royal Signals Association	15·00
A. F. Morgan Esq.	5·00
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Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodridge, Royal Signals	63
Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E.	50
B. W. Abraham Esq.	50
Various small donations	25
	£95·23

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Signal Officer-in-Chief visits Canada

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES WEEK,
KINGSTON TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 1973
Major-General J. M. Sawers inspects the Fort Henry Guard at Old Fort Henry during the Closing Retreat Ceremony on Wednesday 29th August 1973

FROM the 28th to 31st August, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** made a goodwill visit to the Communication and Electronics Branch of the Canadian Armed Forces at Kingston, Ontario.

The City of Kingston is celebrating its Tercentenary this year and the Signal Officer-in-Chief was fortunate in being able to participate in 'Canadian Armed Forces Week' for Tercentenary.

The Royal Canadian School of Signals was built at Kingston in 1937. On unification of the Canadian Armed Forces in 1968, the School changed its title to Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics Engineering (CFSCEE). In addition, 1 Canadian Signal Regiment has been based at Kingston since 1960.

Thus Canadian military communications have been an important part of the life of Kingston. As a momento of his visit the Signal Officer-in-Chief presented a Corps plaque and an inscribed copy of *Through to* 1970 to the Mayor of Kingston, **Mayor George Speal.**

To strengthen further the bond between Royal Signals and the Canadian Communications and Electronics Branch, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, on behalf of the Commandant School of Signals, presented a magnificent silver cup to the Commandant CFSCEE, **Colonel M. J. F. Braun.** The cup will be known as the 'Signals Trophy' and will be awarded to the winner of the annual school cross country competition.

An historic part of Kingston is old Fort Henry. A bastion originally constructed in the troubled years of 1812–1814 to protect what then promised to become the capital of Canada.

It was garrisoned by British Infantry of the line until 1891. Today the Fort is fully restored as a museum of the British garrison period of 1867.

The most colourful aspect of restored Fort Henry is the world famed Fort Henry Guard, a precision trained regiment of 'summer soldiers', made up of Canadian university students.

They have appeared twice at the Royal Tournament in London, an unprecedented honour. Representative of the old Imperial garrisons of the Fort, the Guard displays the drill, uniforms and equipment of the Royal Garrison Artillery and British line regiments of 1867—Canada's confederation year. Displays of 19th-century infantry drill, exhibitions by the fife-and-drum corps and artillery salutes with ancient muzzle-loading cannon are a daily feature at Fort Henry.

The guard performs a special 'Retreat' ceremony every Wednesday and Saturday evening during July and August.

This is a spectacle like few others.

The fife and drums corps starts things off with a display of precision marching accompanied by the stirring martial airs of a by-gone era.

The guard's bearded and aproned 'Pioneer' is then presented, followed by the introduction of David II, the fort's mascot and a tradition inherited from the period of the Royal Welch Fusiliers more than a century ago.

Then the show starts to get noisy.

Rifle fire crackles and echoes within the old stone amphitheatre as the full contingent of the fort's infantry resplendent in scarlet and blue go through their manoeuvres.

Variations on the thin red line form and re-form with split-second timing and 19th century finesse.

With the clatter of steel wheels and the bark of commands, the infantry are joined by the artillery corps, and the volume of sound redoubles as the original field pieces blaze and bellow, and white smoke all but envelopes the scene.

A thundering cannonade from the upper parapet's signals the finale, and the entire company, well-exercised and warmly received, withdraws.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief was invited to be the reviewing officer at the final retreat ceremony for 1973.

Blue Helmets' Novices in fine form in Rhine Army Competition

BLUE HELMETS

THREE EX-HARROGATE APPRENTICES WHO DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES
Lance-Corporal Mickey Whitley (now at School of Signals), Lance-Corporal George Cartlidge (now 21 Regiment) and Signalman Chris Manderson (now 10 Regiment)

THE accompanying photographs tell their own story of Royal Signals participation in the Rhine Army Parachute Competition at Bad Lippspringe in September 1973.

But the credit for producing more than 25% of all British military competitors should really go to our novices, who swamped the field. For **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) George Devine** of 28 Signal Regiment broke an ankle during training, and the Corps team thus became ineligible. So we filled the gaps with a couple of visiting officers, and concentrated on our novices.

Individual results were as follows:

OPEN COMPETITION (out of 45)

Sergeant Bill Ritchie	(AA College, Harrogate)	13th
Major Mike Forge	(AA College, Harrogate)	22nd
Major Ivor Amos	(28 Signal Regiment)	27th

NOVICES (out of 25)

Lance-Corporal Mickey Whitley	(School of Signals)	2nd
Signalman Chris Manderson	(10 Signal Regiment)	4th
Staff Sergeant Ian Haylock	(28 Signal Regiment)	8th
Lance-Corporal George Cartlidge	(21 Signal Regiment)	9th
Sergeant Jim Robins	(28 Signal Regiment)	12th
Corporal Wayne Ardern	(1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment)	13th
Signalman Steve Scarll	(1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment)	22nd

The 'pot-luck' Corps team, renamed The Blue Helmets and including a Gunner and an Australian infantryman, entered team accuracy (from 3,200 feet) and team relative (from 8,200 feet) competitions. This all sounds rather casual and blase, but until you have stood in the door of a helicopter one and a half miles above the earth awaiting the judge's signal to make a slick and fast team mass-exit prior to 40 seconds of aerial gymnastics at terminal velocity, the matter is largely beyond description.

Let it just be said that with good organisation, enthusiastic support from the Games Club and a seemingly never-ending trickle of high-grade personalities, Royal Signals involvement in this art has trebled in the last year, and the future looks good.

As one judge replied when asked which military teams would be competing, "Well, the Royal Signals will be here. As usual". No faint praise from a long-standing member of The Parachute Regiment Freefall Team.

PRE-JUMP CHECK OF MAE WESTS
Left to right: Corporal Wayne Ardern, Sergeant Bill Ritchie, Lieutenant Brian Donegan
Sitting: Signalman Chris Manderson

Ex. Sailaway II

AFTER a successful exercise in 1972, it was decided by popular request, that a more ambitious expedition should be attempted this year, so that more members of 37 and 38 Regiments could gain experience of off-shore sailing. Consequently arrangements were made for the charter of the Royal Signals Yacht Club Nicholson 32, *Skywave*, for 15 days in September.

To give the maximum participation it was decided that two cruises of a week each should be undertaken, with a change of crews half way through—except for the Skipper and Mate who would stay for the whole fortnight.

Eventually the crews selected were as follows:

Skipper:	**Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Garratt**	38 Signal Regiment (V)
Mate:	**Major P. Ashlin**	37 Signal Regiment (V)

1st CREW

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) David Shakespeare	38 Signal Regiment
Sergeant Ricky Garrod	38 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant Doug Smith	38 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant Tony Cartwright	38 Signal Regiment

2nd CREW

Sergeant 'Mac' MacGilp	37 Signal Regiment
Sergeant Martin Wallace	37 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Tony McMullen	38 Signal Regiment
Corporal Jeff Hockey	38 Signal Regiment

Messrs. Shakespeare, Garrod and **MacGilp** were veterans of the 1972 trip and had been so bitten by the sailing bug that not only were they keen to come back for more, but had been on a course at the Joint Services Sailing Centre, *HMS Hornet* at Gosport.

The first crew duly arrived at Marchwood to take over the boat on the afternoon of Thursday, 6th September and the task of stowing rations and gear was completed—not before a number of less attractive items from the compo packs had been rejected because of the difficulties of finding space for the mountain of rations which appeared on the dockside.

START OF THE ROUND THE WORLD RACE

The intention was to spend the first day sailing locally and on Saturday to watch the start of the 'Round the World Race' before leaving for Cherbourg. We had arranged to take the Commodore of the Royal Signals Yacht Club and his wife, **Colonel** and **Mrs. Rob Holbrook,** and **Major** and **Mrs. Stuart Reid** as passengers to see the start of the race and to pick them up at Gosport.

We sailed from Marchwood on Friday morning and after a pleasant day's sailing in the Solent shaking down the crew we tied up at the JSSC Gosport for the night. We were very grateful throughout the cruise for the facilities offered by the JSSC which meant that there was no need for us to go all the way to Marchwood to change crews. The staff of JSSC was most helpful in providing any assistance we wanted.

Saturday, 8th September, was a beautiful day, and having embarked, we joined the stream of boats pouring out of Portsmouth Harbour for the start of the Race. The start line from Spit Sand Fort to Southsea Castle was crowded with boats varying in size from a frigate down to sailing dinghies. There were yachts of all sizes, pleasure boats and launches all packed with spectators. Almost lost to sight were the larger boats of the competitors who must have had a nerve-wracking time manoeuvring for the start. The beach at Southsea was a solid mass of people and everyone with any interest in sailing on the whole of the Solent area must have turned out either ashore or afloat.

THE SIGHT OF A LIFETIME

We worked our way through the throng, getting a glimpse of most of the competing boats on the way, to a position south of Spit Sand Fort where we waited for the start. It must be confessed that the author did not have much time to look around, as avoiding collisions in the melee, particularly with the large French contingent who were manoeuvring with their usual panache, was a full time job. However, to be fair, everyone behaved very well and there were no obvious casualties. After the start at 12 noon we had an excellent view of most of the competitors, but were disappointed not to see *British Soldier* except as a suit of sails in the background. We followed them for a time as they beat out towards the Nab Tower on their way down channel. We then anchored off Seaview and enjoyed a most excellent lunch kindly provided by **Mrs. Holbrook** and **Mrs. Reid.** Everyone agreed that we had seen the sight of a lifetime, and had had an unforgettable experience.

SUDDENLY—STREET LIGHTS AHEAD

After putting the passengers ashore, less the remains of the lunch, we weighed anchor at 14.45 and took our departure from Bembridge Ledge buoy for Cherbourg. The first part of the voyage was uneventful making 5–6 knots with a fair breeze. However, about midnight the wind fell light and visibility deteriorated until by the early hours there was a thick fog.

We progressed with caution as out dead reckoning indicated we should be close to France. Even so, the skipper was not a little disconcerted when the lookout shouted that he could see street lights! One set of lights looks much like another and it was some time before the landfall was identified as a small village called Le Brecquet a mile east of Cherbourg. Having found out where we were we motored round into Cherbourg and eventually tied up in the Marina at 07.00. After some breakfast and a tidy up the crew caught up with some sleep and had a look around Cherbourg and lunched off local pate and wine. The next morning the order for the 'duty free' was given in and as soon as it was delivered we left for Alderney to wait for a fair tide to Guernsey. After a beat we anchored in Braye Harbour at 17.30 and a party went ashore for a quick look round. We left at 22.15 intending to go through the Race at Alderney at slack water, but mistimed it and could not clear Alderney against the tide. We therefore went the long way round via the Casquets and hailed the Harbour Master at St. Peter Port at 03.15 after a good sail down. There was not enough water over the bar at that time to get into the Marina so we moored temporarily to a pontoon in the outer harbour. It was not until daylight that we discovered it had been freshly painted! Bright red fenders are very tasteful. We eventually got into a very comfortable berth in the Marina. Incidentally, **ex-Y. of S. Kreckler** is on the Marina staff and all Corps boats will be made especially welcome by him. The day was spent in sightseeing and

an abortive search by the Skipper and others for spares for the fresh water pump which had ceased to pump fresh water (or any other sort). All ranks had an excellent meal ashore in the evening.

A WARSHIP TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

We cleared St. Peter Port at 07.55 and set off home for Gosport. This was dead to windward and we had to sail close hauled. After a fast trip across we sighted land at 17.00, but this turned out to be Portland Bill—a long way west of where we wanted to be. There followed a long night of very tedious, wet and uncomfortable beating against wind and tide and a nasty sea to get back to the east. There were a few moments of excitement when a warship out of Portland came up very fast from astern and passed too close for comfort, and prompt evasive action was necessary.

It would be interesting to know exactly what was shouted from the bridge! We eventually anchored in Christchurch Bay at 03.30 to wait for the tide in Hurst Narrows. After a couple of hours we weighed anchor and got through the Narrows not without some feverish activity when the engine ceased to pull in the overfalls—sails went up in record time! We eventually reached Gosport, very tired, at 11.00 after tacking up the Solent against a strong wind and in a nasty sea. We cleared Customs and cleaned up after the night's tribulations—the hot shower at JSSC was a life saver. The first crew departed, glad to be home, but with the RSM very disappointed that he was unable to catch any mackerel. After his efforts the previous year we were expecting fresh fish every day. He maintains we were always sailing too fast!

SECOND CREW REPORTS

The second crew embarked at 16.00, and the next day was devoted to the recuperation of the skipper and mate and to some minor repairs including a sail and a new water pump.

Again, local sailing was proposed for the first couple of days, so having collected the repaired sail we cleared Portsmouth and had a useful training trip up the Solent to Yarmouth, giving the new hands some practice in steering and local navigation. We tied up alongside the quay in Yarmouth at 22.15, just in time for the mate and **Sergeant Wallace** to nip ashore for a pint. After a quiet night, interrupted at intervals to check moorings as the tide went down, we left Yarmouth for Poole at mid-day the next day. There followed a leisurely days sail in Christchurch bay, and a splendid catch of mackerel. **Corporal Hockey** was the fishing expert and **Sergeant MacGilp** showed hidden talents as a 'processor' (gutting to you). There were ribald and insubordinate mutterings about what was going to be said to the RSM on the subject of fishing, but it is unlikely that they will ever actually be heard by him. We arrived eventually at Poole Quay at 19.00 and tied up outside a number of other boats. Here **Sergeant Wallace** added to his reputation as a cook by producing a delicious supper of the mackerel.

A DISTURBED NIGHT

We had a fairly disturbed night as at 03.00 the Harbour Master, most apologetically, asked us and our neighbours to move as the owner of the inside boat said he was being damaged. We duly moved along the quay only to be told that our new neighbour was shifting at 06.00. After a couple hours in bed we were up again and decided that things were altogether too busy and moved out to an anchorage behind Brownsea Island to wait for the tide through the entrance to Poole to leave for Cherbourg. At mid-day we weighed and headed out to sea. We had been promised strong winds and were therefore well reefed down, but winds became lighter and we soon put up more sail. After a quiet sail we sighted the first light on the French coast at 23.25 and were tied up again in Cherbourg by 02.00. Once again we got the 'duty free' aboard, and the new crew had a look round Cherbourg and we sailed again for Alderney on our way to St. Peter Port, where we anchored at 19.50. It was decided to stay the night and leave for St. Peter Port the next day at noon, when the tide through the race was favourable. Next morning a party went ashore and after a look round and lunch we left at 13.30.

VISIBILITY NIL—AND THE ENGINE STOPS

The weather forecast was not very good, and having received the local forecast at 14.00 which promised SE gales we decided that discretion was the better part of valour and to abandon the Channel Islands and go back to Cherbourg. This we did, but it was a slow business as we were bucking the tide. During the afternoon the promised gale arrived and conditions deteriorated dramatically. We had some protection from the land as we were

SECOND CREW—TWO GALES IN THREE DAYS
Left to right: Sergeant Wallace, Corporal Hockey, F. of S. McMullen, Sergeant MacGilp
Standing: Major Ashlin

well inshore to beat the tide, and the sea never became too rough (although it was wet enough!). The wind, however, got up and visibility deteriorated to nil in the rain squalls. We made slow but steady progress up to windward under engine and reefed mainsail. However, the last two or three miles were dead into the wind so the main was lowered, and we motored in towards the protection of Cherbourg Harbour. Spirits rose and thoughts of supper and a drink were in everyone's mind when, just between the piers of Cherbourg Harbour, the engine stopped. We immediately start to blow off shore, luckily clear of the breakwater, and just under the eyes of the lighthouse. There were a few moments of frantic activity and the sails were up in the shortest time ever!

VERY SMART RESCUE WORK

Once they were hoisted we were able to sail into the harbour without much difficulty. The greatest credit must go to the harbour authorities who must have been warned by the lighthouse that we were in difficulties as a harbour launch was out to us almost before the sails were hoisted. Very smart work indeed. Fortunately we were able to wave them off and no assistance was needed, but their prompt arrival was very reassuring. We discovered that a rope had been blown overboard and had wound itself round the propellor at the crucial moment. With no engine and a gale it would have been foolish to try to get through the narrow entrance to the Marina so a reasonably sheltered anchorage in the harbour was found and we settled down to a somewhat anxious but fairly comfortable night. In spite of the high wind (alleged to have reached Force 10) the anchor held and the morning found us still in the same place. An intrepid **Sergeant MacGilp** volunteered (?) to clear the propellor and a few minutes work with the bread knife soon had the engine in working order. He suffered no ill effects but was given a precautionary tot of rum to ward off the chills. It was a brave effort as the wind was still blowing and the water looking uninviting. By 10.00 we were safely alongside in the Marina. Again there was a short pause for recuperation, and **Corporal Hockey** made fishing history by catching nine large mullet in Cherbourg Harbour. These fish can often be seen nibbling the weed on the hulls of moored yachts, but no one has ever succeeded in catching them (so it was said). However, **Corporal Hockey's** angling skill was more than a match for their French fishy cunning and we had a splendid fish supper, once again thanks to **Sergeant Wallace.**

A CONSIDERABLE BATTERING

The weather forecast was reasonable so we sailed next morning at 10.00 in very light winds and made fair progress. We know now what 'cyclonic variable' means in the weather forecast—winds all over the place. Meantime the barometer was dropping very fast and although the BBC said nothing it was obvious we were in for some more unpleasant weather. By about 20.00 hours it had arrived—gale and thunderstorms from the NE (our destination was dead to windward again!). There was a very unpleasant sea

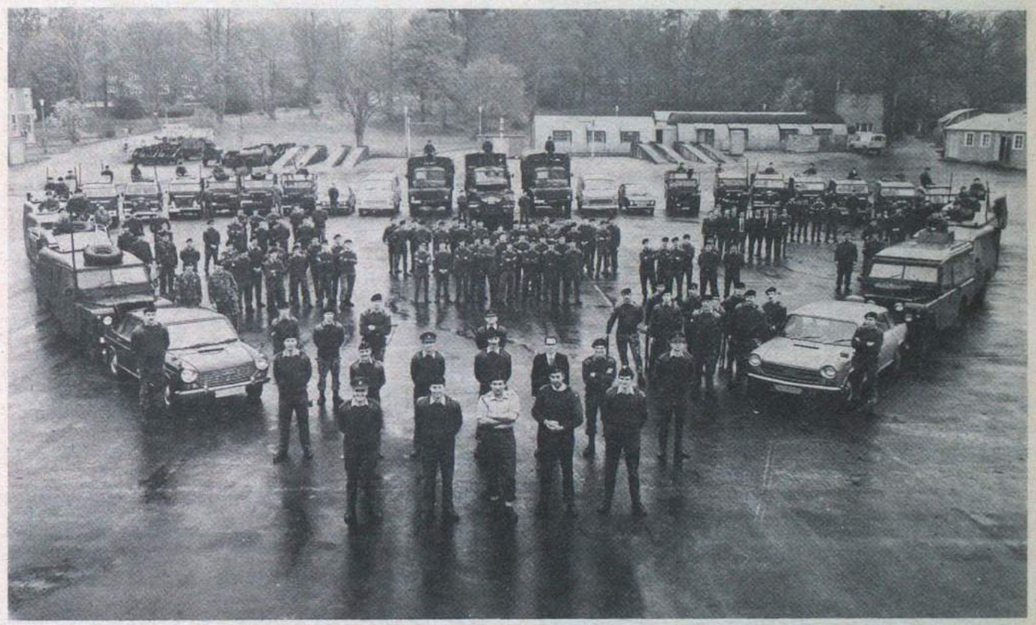
indeed, particularly off the Isle of Wight where we had a considerable battering. Fortunately we knew where we were, St. Catherines Light having been seen just where it should have been.

Visibility was appalling with driving rain, and we were glad to find the Nab Light (again in the right place). During this period the Skipper was given a shock by the watch on deck reporting red lights dead astern. A quick look at the chart showed that there should be no lights of any sort astern nearer than the coast of France, and there was some anxiety before they were identified as helicopters. It was later learnt that they were looking for another yacht which had been reported in difficulties in the area. After a very uncomfortable, wet and nerve wracking few hours we got into the more sheltered waters of Spithead and worked our way up to Portsmouth Harbour. We found that our navigation lights had failed because of a broken connection so we kept a good lookout for other vessels. This did not add to the Skippers peace of mind, but there were no problems. It was a very wet and exhausted crew which eventually tied up alongside the JSSC pontoon at 04.00. After a cup of rum-laced coffee, all crawled thankfully in to sleeping bags of varying degrees of wetness. We cleared customs in the morning and after tidying up the boat, the crew departed and the Skipper was left to hand over to **Colonel Ian Rose,** the next charterer.

TALL TALES—BUT THEY WILL BE BACK AGAIN

I think all the crew left swearing that they would never set foot in a boat again. Even the skipper and mate had had enough for the time being. However, time is a great distorter of views and I expect there will be a few tales, getting taller all the time, of the trials and tribulations of Exercise 'Sailaway II'. Two gales in three days is a bit much, but the trip was a very successful adventure training exercise, and the experience gained will stand everyone in good stead if they decide to go to sea again in the future—as I am sure some will!

REPORT FROM ULSTER



"TIME TO POSE"

A panoramic view of 39 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. Major John Bromley O.C. of the Squadron writes: "The situation here is changing gradually but surely and there has beeen a general decline in the level of violence and some consequent relieving of pressure on Squadron personnel We thought it timely, therefore, to submit a photograph of the 'Belfast Squadron'. The picture is not without significance in that it has been almost impossible for the past four years to gather together a large percentage of the Squadron in one place. Even now it has only been possible to assemble 75% with the assistance of a sister Signal Squadron manning our posts"

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

THE first item on the agenda for the OC's conference was 'Responsibility for WIRE NOTES for the next three months'. No lobbying was required and although the writer was not present at the conference, he learned soon afterwards that SHQ had been given the honour of producing the notes this month. Having accepted the 'request' in the same spirit that it was made, we soon realised that it would save us the trouble of having to chase the other troops/departments to get their contributions in on time (no mean feat).

We could have used the previous acceptable excuse of 'our department is too small to produce worthwhile notes' but this would have been to no avail. We had already been bracketed with 'Technical Wksps' and 'QM's Department'—the other two small departments—for this task. **(And a very nicely written and interesting contribution you have made, too—unknown scribe!—Editor).**

WHO DOES WHAT AND WHY

What is there to say about three small departments. Clerks clerk, storemen store and technicians tech. However, we like to feel that by doing just that in Northern Ireland is a little more rewarding than doing the same thing in some other location.

THE MAD SECTION

Perhaps few people, who watch television or scan the newspapers daily for news of events in Northern Ireland, realise that soldiers who are attached to us for emergency periods of six months actually volunteer to stay with us to complete full tours of two years. It is not just members of the Royal Signals who do this, what you may call 'mad' things, but also members of other corps, such as RCT and RPC, who form part of our integrated squadron.

You may also not realise there are clerks who work in our orderly room, in a nice safe area who volunteer to go out into the wilderness to man VCP's, search quarries for arms and ammunition and even to assist the technicians to rig aerials on buildings located in areas that can be called anything but friendly. I can assure you such clerks do exist.

CONTROL

Endeavouring to keep control of these strange clerks is our Chiefy, **Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones;** he manages to do this in between his badminton and trampolining. He served with the PSO's staff before joining us—we feel it is a pity these two postings were not in the reverse order as he would then have realised the type of end-product that is required to come out of the training 'sausage' machine.

QM's DEPARTMENT

It is pleasing for the writer to report that there exist other 'strange' departments within the Squadron besides his own. At the helm of this particular one is **Captain Grahame 'Groucho' Macdonald**—all he needs is the cigar!

This is the department that sent a soldier away on the 'Satisfied Soldier Scheme' and on his first day back in the unit submitted an application for discharge by purchase. There is no truth in the rumour that the ACIO offered the soldier a job.

Another of these elite members fancying a drink late one evening paid £1·00 entrance fee to his own Squadron Club only to find the bar closed.

However, they also do work in the department and walking into the lush store one could almost imagine oneself being in Cambridge at the Pye factory.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

This, to a 'non-bleep' is where the work is really done and I can already imagine the comments from the bosses of the other troops/departments. On entering the workshops, (it reminds you of the headquarters of 'Spy Trap'), one sees so many pieces of sophisticated equipment it is difficult to realise that here is yet another department of the squadron, although there is still the odd item of friendly equipment (electric iron, toaster, transistor radio, television set) being worked upon.

The patrol in Belfast that runs into a problem expects, at the press of a switch, to inform its Battalion HQ of its troubles and by pressing a similar switch the Battalion Commander can inform Brigade HQ of the same problem. All this in a matter of seconds—it is saying much for our technical workshops that this is happening almost every minute of every day, and this in itself must be a great comfort to the soldier on the streets. It is an extremely complicated system yet our technicians appear to take in their stride the maintenance of the equipment and ensuring that the scheme works smoothly. Of course, the views of a 'bleep' will probably be just the opposite but at least one member of the squadron has been impressed by the cool, calm efficiency of the workshops.

They too have their share of 'madmen'. One moustached Sergeant technician on a six month R & R tour from 30 Signal Regiment enjoyed life so much that he elected to stay with us for a further 18 months—rumour has it that he wanted to save for a new car! The new Foreman, **Mick Groom,** had only been with us for a couple of months when he decided he wanted to set up a 'Ham' club (he had obviously heard that there was some spare money lying around waiting for such a club to be formed), and of course the best one of all was our previous TOT, **Phil Johnson,** who decided that life in the Hebrides would be far easier than trying to organise this special band of technicians.

CONCLUSION OR 'AT THE HELM'

Notes on the 'small groups' would not, of course be complete without mention of the two leaders—the OC and the RSM.

Major John Bromley will shortly be leaving us for the quieter surrounds of Rheindahlen. He tells us he has had a busy and enjoyable tour with us and will be sorry to leave. Once he gets to Rheindahlen, members of the Corps are advised to keep well away from him if they do not wish to find themselves in Northern Ireland—he is a great recruiter for the 39th.

Much has been said and written about RSM's and they are usually quick to retort. **Denis Connell,** however, has to be different—he repays us in song. I have yet to decide whether the requests for encores are from the heart or in sympathy. One could best sum-up our RSM by using the words of a well known football manager—keeps himself fit, good mover and uses his head.

PARADES

To prove to everyone that we have time to enjoy ourselves whilst in Northern Ireland, on the 25th September, we held a squadron parade at which **Corporal 'Paddy' Speers** was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct medal by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier A. C. S. Boswell, O.B.E.**

SQUADRON HQ—THE TRAVEL BUREAU

Did you realise that a married unaccompanied soldier serving a two year tour in Northern Ireland is entitled to visit his family in England 12 times a year at the Army's expense, or that on today's high rates of pay, the soldier can really afford to fly home to see his family 12 times a year and claim from the Army about 60% of the air fare? If you have served in Northern Ireland you will probably know that once a year you can fly to Newcastle free of charge or fly to Exeter for the princely return fare of 91 pence. To ensure that the soldiers (and also the officers, of course) do not miss out on these concessions and also that they are given a service of which any civilian organisation would be justly proud, someone, somewhere has to know the various regulations, to be able to thumb through railway timetables and to have a temperament to deal with a couple of hundred officers and soldiers who seem to be forever queuing up at the barrier in the Orderly Room with such questions as "what time is the last train to Haltwhistle?". Our 'someone' is **Corporal Ken Yarker** and his 'somewhere' is the Orderly Room, although it is believed that his own secret 'somewhere' is 'Yarker's Travel Bureau'. He does a great job and has set up a remarkable liaison with the various airline booking offices in Belfast and I am sure that when he leaves here, the booking clerks are going to miss his casual "thank you very much love" approach on the telephone.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

WHILE some of the Squadron continue to join MOD Tours Limited's outings to Cyprus the rest of us have been putting in both a little work and play.

MILITARY TRAINING COURSE

The first Military Training Course in 8 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron (since the one and only MPC Course in 1971) took place in September. The idea was conceived and carried out by **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Ken Davis** who formed a section of eight men under **Corporal 'Harry' Worth.** The best student was **Signalman Alan Marsden** and there was nothing to the fact that **Corporal Worth** left the week after the course ended! I can assure all Squadron readers that his posting was planned in advance.

AIRBORNE TELEVISION OR HELI-TELE

Sergeant 'Jock' Miller, Corporals Brian 'Ruggles' Johnson and **Archie Hambling** returned in September bringing the long awaited 'Heli-Tele' and **Captain Steve Coltman** the Trials Officer, from the School of Signals. After a frenzy of activity and no help from the Irish weather some excellent colour television

(Continued on page 537)

(Continued from page 536)

pictures of Londonderry were obtained. **Captain Steve Coltman** returned to the School after handing over the equipment to us and since then all has gone well, with successful demonstrations to all who have visited us since its arrival.

NORTHERN IRELAND ORIENTEERING

Through a slight misunderstanding, we were not entered for this competition this year (the letter got lost in the post according to the Orienteering Officer!). However, Alfa Troop went camping for the weekend to provide communications from the competition area to the administration camp 12 miles and one large hill apart. All went well, apart from two people getting lost for an hour, and we congratulate 1 DERR and Depot Kings Division (Royal Irish) for winning the major and minor units respectively.

HIGH CLIMBING SOLDIERS

Since the last introduction of the pocketphone systems in Northern Ireland a large number of masts have sprung up all over the Province. In Londonderry we have seven, one 200ft, one 150ft, and the rest 120ft. Changing the bulbs of the warning lights on these masts means that someone has to climb up and physically remove the blown one and replace it with another, and civilian contractors can't (or won't) always be found! **Staff Sergeant Dave Holland, Corporal Roger ('The Dodger') Smith** (who has since left us), **Signalman Phil Mercer** (who has also left) and **Eddie Cooper,** are the small band of volunteers who undertake this job, most of which has to be done in darkness to avoid the IRA snipers. Any volunteers to replace **Corporal Smith** and **Signalman Mercer?**

POOLS WIN

A shift in the Comcen under **Corporal 'Barney' Harris** report a win on the pools. However, due to a slight miscalculation the win was only in the hundreds and not the hundreds of thousands. The celebrations soon got rid of that!

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

The Squadron held is swimming gala, part of our year long decathlon competition on the 4th of October. The combined team of SHQ/QM and Mike Troop was too strong for everyone else but Bravo Troop gave them a swim for their money finishing only a couple of points behind them despite being disqualified in one race. The outstanding feature of the day was **Sergeant Keith Essam's** tan from Cyprus.

The football team is unbeaten so far this year after four fixtures and looks like being at least as good as last years' team which came second to 39 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron in the Northern Ireland League (Lisburn please note).

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

CORPORAL JOHN AIKMAN

John Aikman of 225 Signal Squadron serving with this squadron on a four month emergency tour was shot and killed in an ambush by terrorist gunmen at Newtownhamilton on 6th November. **John** was on duty when killed. Our sympathy goes to his family in Scotland and to all ranks of 225 Signal Squadron. (See Obituary page 570).

OPENING OF THE PEAKE INN

THE Peake Inn is the Squadron Club and Families' Amenities Centre. It is named after **Captain Bob Peake** who was our Second-in-Command until July. It was built from the shell of an old nissen hut and decorated and furnished by a combination of self-help, scrounging and a loan of money from the PRI.

It is now complete and is already proving an invaluable social focus for the Squadron and our families particularly, because of the restrictions on civilian amenities here.

The laying of a fitted carpet completed Phase I of the plans for the Peake Inn and on Friday, 26th November the Chief of

The Chief of Staff, Brigadier H. E. M. L. Garrett unveiling The 'Peake Inn' Plaque at the opening of the Squadron Club

Staff, Headquarters Northern Ireland, **Brigadier H. E. M. L. Garrett** officially declared the club open by unveiling a suitably inscribed silver plaque.

TELEPHONE VOICE OF LISBURN

After opening the Peake Inn, **Brigadier Garrett** presented the silver trophy to this year's Miss Telephone Voice of Lisburn, **Private Elaine Bolton,** WRAC. She was selected after a very close competition in which our switchboard girls were all judged for their clarity, courtesy, accuracy and speed of delivery. We are proud to say that the standard was very high and **Elaine's** performance in winning is all the more praiseworthy. Despite all the pressures and the occasional brickbat, **Sergeant Linda Jones** and her 'Switchboard Swingers' keep smiling. What we all want to know is—who keeps blowing the fuses?

The Chief of Staff presents Private Elaine Bolton, WRAC with the 'Miss Telephone Voice of Lisburn' trophy

SQUADRON TIE

We are very pleased to announce to all former members of the Squadron that we now possess our own distinctive squadron tie. The tie consists of a single silver crest on a plain green tie. The crest shows a 'Jimmy' figurehead on an Irish harp surmounted by a crown and with the figures '233' underneath.

Any former members of the Squadron who would like a distinctive souvenir of their service in Northern Ireland may obtain a tie by sending a postal order or cheque to the value of £1 made payable to:—PRI, 233 Signal Squadron (NI), BFPO 801.

SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY

The Inter-Troop seven-a-side rugby competition proved a great success with many talented players coming to light. The final was a thrilling end to end struggle between SHQ/MT Troop and Technicians Troop. No quarter was asked or given but at last a gap appeared close to Technicians Troop's line and **Corporal Denis Broadfield** playing in his first ever game of rugby steamed over the line. Unfortunately, however, his team captain, the OC, **Major Brian Blackwell,** had forgotten to tell **Denis** that he needed to ground the ball to score! As **Denis** serenely sailed over the dead ball line and headed off towards Garrison HQ the howls of despair of his team mates were only matched by the howls of laughter of his opponents and the spectators!

Eventually it was Technicians Troop who snatched a try to win and to receive the trophy from **Mrs. Blackwell.** The winning team consisted of **Corporals Dave Thain, Andy Hickling, Dave Brewster, Al Grohs, Arthur Sullivan, John Scully** and **Lance-Corporal 'Adge' Cutler.**

At the celebrations afterwards, the OC deemed that henceforth **Corporal Denis Broadfield** shall be known as **'Touchdown' Broadfield!**

Signals Research and Development Establishment

THE Research and Development Establishments are seldom, if ever mentioned in THE WIRE and we feel here at the Signals Research and Development Establishment (SRDE) that whilst we are small in 'military' personnel it is about time that we informed those unenlightened members of the Corps who have never heard of us, who we are, and what we do.

The SRDE is a Research and Development establishment under the control of the Ministry of Defence (Procurement Executive) and we are part of the Master General of Ordnance's empire. We are situated in a delightful spot, near to the sea, at Christchurch. This blissful state of affairs may not last long as the Government has stated that we should move to join the Royal Radar Establishment (RRE) at Malvern. At present the indications are that there is to be no move before the summer of 1976. When the move takes place we as an establishment will find that our present excellent liaison with the School of Signals at Blandford will become more difficult because of the distances involved.

Our establishment is for seven military officers, three of whom are Grade 2 Staff Officers in REME. The Signals Officers are:

Lieutenant-Colonel John Brian
G.S.O.1(W) and Military Commanding Officer

Major Ed Mulley
G.S.O.2(W)—PTARMIGAN and BRUIN

Major Tony Seward
G.S.O.2(W)—CLANSMAN

Major Desmond Lavender
G.S.O.2(W)—WIDEBAND COMMUNICATIONS

In the same location at Christchurch is Telecommunications Branch REME, and with them are **Major John Higton,** Signals Liaison Officer; **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Terry Brabon;** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Frank Jones.**

We tend to work as part of civilian scientific teams on a specific project, giving military advice where needed. The projects normally involve visits to units and civilian firms both in the United Kingdom and abroad. This year for instance, we have been to BAOR, Brussels, Italy and one visit to Canada. With the sea so near, sailing is the main outside activity and three of us have had our own dinghies, and **Ed Mulley** had a week's sailing in the REME yacht (chartered by Telecommunications Branch) to France and the Channel Islands.

Some of the projects currently being undertaken include: BRUIN development, PTARMIGAN, CLANSMAN, new batteries, generators, optical communications, radio relay, night vision aids and strategic communications systems including satellite communications.

The civilian expertise and experience is extremely wide in all aspects of communications, and although the research and development work now tends to monitor industry, which takes the lead in research and development for new projects, SRDE remains the System Technical Authority.

The above will give you a broad idea of what we do, where we are, and who is here. It is hoped that we will be a regular (three times a year?) contributor to the WIRE, and be able to keep the readers of our magazine up to date on the latest developments and projects—security grading permitting. We will always be pleased to see anyone who wishes to discuss a problem. If we don't know the answer, we will almost certainly be able to find someone who does!

(Thank you for your interesting contribution. We look forward to hearing from you again in due course—Editor).

HQ 3 Sig Group, B.F.P.O. 53

HERE in Cyprus while the summer's heat is cooling into autumn, we are still suffering from that sad restriction upon Englishmen who live in the sun, we are unable to comment daily upon the weather. Bored by the recent deterioration in the level of bomb incidents, our UNFICYP friends are now hurrying south to winter beside the Canal, we only hope they are able at least to send back their ski instructors in the New Year.

RATIONALISATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The current major activity in the Headquarters is a rationalisation of responsibilities for exchanges and lines with the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority. The paternalism of the Treaty of Establishment has led to a highly complex over-lap and under the rationalisation 261 Signal Squadron and 262 Signal Squadron will assume executive control over the line communications in the Sovereign Base Areas.

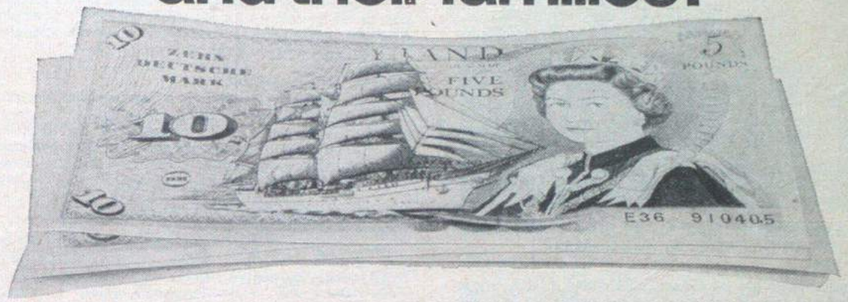
MUCH OUT OF HOURS ACTIVITY

Outside office hours our staff are frantically engaged on a self imposed 'hearts and mind' campaign. **Colonel Colin Bound** when not plotting take over bids of any territories within a few thousand miles, tends an exotic collection of cacti and has trained his fiercesome dog, **Snoopy,** to eat grapes in preference to meat. **Major Eric Fox** runs the RAF Episkopi go-kart club, moving at high speed but keeping to low altitude. **Major David Stubbs** runs three youth clubs in Limassol and has taken up Scuba diving. **Captain Mike Martin** having guided the Army Athletics Team to victory over the RAF, is active on the hockey field and on water skis. **Captain Jim Stockill** is a keen shot and an impresario in the local theatre; **Captain Tony Holmes** has led our HQ Quiz Team to considerable success. **Staff Sergeant 'Slim' Cheetham** is an Army Cyprus water polo player and has put very many hours into running swimming classes for services children; we congratulate him on his recent marriage. **Sergeant Roy Benwell** has taken to the pursuit of golf balls.

Corporal Barry Merrick is wearing himself down to a bag of bones in training for the annual military skills competition; **Lance-Corporal Vivian Fortune,** WRAC has deserted us for a holiday in hospital, we diagnose her condition as gout. **Mr. Allan Bramley,** our draughtsman, is leaving us after three years making notices for the go-kart club, youth clubs, athletics, the theatre and swimming meetings! We welcome his replacement, **Mr. Barry Short.**

Colonel Bound will hand over in March to his successor **Colonel Curl** and he will be followed by all his staff officers departing in the next few months. We are all thus trying to keep interesting pending trays for our successors.

Half fare both ways for the forces and their families!



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PRINS FERRIES

Appointments Vacant

Nigerian Army Signals School

Vacancies will exist shortly for Instructors in the above school which will be responsible for training to the above levels.

Q Courses
Comms Courses
Telecommunications Officers (Short Course)
Foreman of Signals
Yeoman of Signals

Applicants should have had sound training experience at the Officer or Regimental Training Levels and consideration will be given to the possession of a degree or professional qualification in electrical engineering, or the HNC ONC or HND with appropriate experience in teaching or training. Vacancies exist for instructors in radio, carrier, terminal and general communications systems and traffic.
Salaries and allowance will be negotiable and will be more than comparable with similar overseas posts. Appointments will be on contract from 3 to 5 years and interviews will be arranged to suit applicants convenience.

Preliminary details of posts may be obtained from

William Simpson,
Communications Consultants (Nigeria) Limited,
P.O. Box 448,
Apapa,
Nigeria — Reference Gen. 1

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 32

ONCE more the exercise season draws to a close and with only one more exercise in 1973 our attention has turned to PRE, Annual BE Tests, Ski Training, and last but not least Annual Classification on the Range. We are still at the 'Shoot to try and kill' stage but very shortly we hope that we will be able to 'Shoot to Kill'.

News from the Squadrons reflects this activity so we thought that this month we would take the editors advice and pick out a few highlights only.

THE WO's AND SERGEANTS' MESS BIDS FAREWELL TO MAJOR-GENERAL E. N. W. BRAMALL, O.B.E., M.C.

The Sergeants' Mess has, as always, maintained a fairly hectic social calendar and one of the more recent highlights was the Dinner held on Thursday, 11th October to Dine Out the GOC, **Major-General E. N. W. Bramall, O.B.E., M.C.,** and a thoroughly enjoyable evening it proved to be. During the after dinner speeches **R.S.M. Eric Le Quesne** remarked on the General's close relationship with all the soldiers in the unit and ended by presenting the General with a painting from the Mess Members. This was a particular fine still life, in water colour, of a Stilton Cheese, a favourite 'on exercise' dish of the GOC and known throughout the Regiment as the 'Step-Up Stilton'. Painted by **Staff Sergeant Barry Gargan** it was well received and, in his reply, the General made several complimentary remarks about *HIS* Signal Regiment. Several happy hours later the General left the Mess to find the final surprise of the evening. Outside the door stood a very fine rickshaw, cunningly converted from a fire trailer by **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Pete Wilton,** in which the General was to receive a foretaste of his posting to Hong Kong. Pulled by the senior W.O.s he was transported to the Barracks Entrance where his conveyance was halted by **W.O.2 Pete Hardwick** who requested the General to 'Book Out'. The proffered proforma was duly signed, final farewell bid and the GOC departed in the more accustomed luxury of his car. A most successful evening and a great credit to **W.O.1 Tom Morris** and his Committee and to **W.O.2 Jeff Warburton** and his catering staff.

FAREWELL TO THE G.O.C.

Lead by W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Eric Le Quesne, the General departs from the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess. The rickshaw is being pulled by (*left to right*) W.O.s1 Tom Sillett (ACC), George Lane (REME), 'Paddy' Byrne (Royal Signals), Ted Dixon (APTC) and John Gray (RA) —a good example of integration pulling together

HUMOUR IN UNIFORM
FROM 3 SQUADRON

The prize for the best excuse of the month must go to a driver in 3 Squadron performing the duties of runner at Rear HQ and who failed to turn up for his stag: "Well I was already late and I knew I would get it in the neck so I went back to sleep"—he is still nursing a sore neck.

FROM 2 SQUADRON

Sergeant Terry Peacock of 2 Squadron has just returned from a stay in BMH Hanover. He was incarcerated there as a result of a back injury sustained whilst producing a cup of real *British* tea for Alpha 2 Troop's new Canadian Officer, **Captain Mike Johnson. Mike** is spreading the rumour that the tea was so thick and heavy that **Sergeant Peacock** is lucky he only hurt his back.

OVERHEARD IN 1 SQUADRON
FROM 1 SQUADRON

Administration Officer: Yeoman who will write the WIRE notes?
Y. of S.: Why not put the names in a hat.
Administration Officer: Good idea, the Squadron Clerk can witness the draw.
The draw: First name out.
Administration Officer: Well done Yeoman . . . rank has its privileges.

FAREWELL TO MARIANNE: QM (TECHNICIAN) TYPIST: 18th MARCH, 1951 to 30th NOVEMBER, 1973

This month's notes would not be complete if we did not mention **'Frau Marianne Susmarski'.**

Marianne finally comes to the end of her 22½ years service within the QM department of 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment on 30th November.

During this long period of employment, **Marianne** has served as the typist for the Quartermasters of: 7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment, 5 Armoured Division Signal Regiment, and 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

MARIANNE SUSMARSKI—22½ YEARS WITH THE Q.M. DEPARTMENT

She remembers them all!

The list of Quartermasters and RQMS's she remembers is quite impressive as the following shows:—

QUARTERMASTERS
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) L. Teal (Retired)
Major (Q.M.) F. P. Barry (Retired)
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) M. E. E. Truscott (Retired)
Major (Q.M.) G. Bow (Retired)
Major (Q.M.) W. J. Howard (Retired)
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) A. Page, Royal Signals
Major (Q.M.) H. J. Crocker, B.E.M., Royal Signals
Captain (Q.M.) P. McNaughton, Royal Signals

R.Q.M.S.'s
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) R. Davies (Retired)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) J. W. Douthwaite (Now Lieutenant-Colonel (QM)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) E. Marsend (Retired)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) A. J. Judge (Retired)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) W. Jeffries (Retired)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) G. Schofield (Now Captain (QM))
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) F. A. May (Captain QM Retired)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) C. H. Richardson (Now Captain)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) N. Hutson (Retired)
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) E. R. Dodds
W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) C. Harding

The Regiment as a whole, and the QM Department in particular, would like to take this opportunity to give her a *Special Mention* in the WIRE and wish **Marianne** a long and happy retirement.

FURTHER SUCCESS IN SAILING

We are pleased to report that we are now the holders of the BAOR Inter Unit Dinghy Sailing Challenge Cup.

To reach the final we sailed against the following teams:
49 Field Regiment RA, (last year's winners); 32 Engineer Regiment, 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
and in the final we sailed against 22 Signal Regiment and 24 Movement Transport Regiment RCT (three teams in the final).

The sailing team included: **Captain Martin Roberts,** Royal Signals (Captain), **Major Stuart Jardine,** RE, **Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Tanner,** Royal Signals, **Captain Mike Harris,** RE, **Squadron Leader Phil Crawshaw,** RAF, **Sergeant Ken Foskett, Lance-Corporal 'Waf' Waddell, Lance-Corporal Dale Dorricot, Signalman 'Jock' Norrie, Signalman 'Taff' Jones, Signalman 'Blue' Bevan.**

The team list certainly proves we are an integrated Regiment in all senses of the word.

FINAL LIST OF SAILING SUCCESSES 1973

BAOR Inter Unit Dinghy Regatta	Winners
Royal Signals Inter Unit Dinghy Regatta	Winners
Royal Signals Baltic Regatta, Kiel–Copenhagen Cup	Winners

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 46

VISIT OF BRIGADIER C. C. FAIRWEATHER, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

On 12th October, **Brigadier Fairweather** returned to his former Regiment. A distinguished Royal Signals Officer he joined the Corps in the 1920's and Commanded 2 Divisional Signal Regiment from 1941 to 1943; he left the Regiment just before Kohima to become CSO 33 Indian Corps, then became CSO Chindits, and finally finished the war as CSO 34 Indian Corps.

He spent his day practically dancing around the regiment—and no doubt comparing the soldiers and the equipment of 1973 with the people and the things he knew so well 30 years ago. Seldom have we had such an energetic visitor—he met and talked to a great many officers, NCO's and soldiers and climbed into every vehicle which we allowed him near, used all the equipment, told us that we had far too much transport and addressed the regiment en masse. We all heaved a sigh of relief when he told us that we seemed very nearly as good as HIS regiment was in 1943 and laughed when he admitted that he noticed a few technical changes since these days. Having thoroughly stirred up the Regiment in Bunde, **Brigadier 'Fairey'** went off to meet the Divisional staff and visit the Signal Centre in Lubbecke and gave our GOC, **Major-General A. J. Archer, O.B.E.,** and the CO a Military History lesson about the events at Kohima in 1943!

Mrs. Fairweather had lunch with **Mrs. Storie, Mrs. Sparkes, Mrs. Baldwin, Mrs. Webster** and **Mrs. Mansfield;** just a few of the many wives who work voluntarily for the Bunde families with Cubs, Guides and SSAFA etc.; **Mrs. Jolly** represented the Lubbecke wives. Like her husband, **Mrs. Fairweather** declined all offers of a rest period and after lunch, she and **Mrs. Davis** went off to Minden on a shopping spree!

In the evening they were both Guests of Honour at an Autumn Ball given by the combined WO's and Sergeants' Messes of Lubbecke and Bunde.

Brigadier Fairweather points to his name on the board listing C.Os.

Their long day ended at 4 a.m. It was a marvellous visit which was appreciated by the soldiers of today, and we hope we shall see them again before another 30 years are over—it was great fun!

ANGLO GERMAN COCKTAIL PARTY/VISIT OF CORPS BAND

In October the Annual Anglo/German cocktail party took place in Bunde, with over 150 German and English friends present for this occasion. The Corps Band performed the Retreat Ceremony on the Barracks Square before the drinking began, and regaled us with music during the cocktail party itself. **Sergeant George Brace** and the PMC, **Major David Miller** had surpassed themselves in the production of a potent champagne cocktail which succeeded in electrifying or mesmerising those present, depending on their various characters.

And so a good time was had by all. We would like to thank the Corps Band for spending so much time with the Regiment. Not only did they play for a long time in the evening but they gave up their afternoon for a concert at Bunde School. We always enjoy having the Corps Band with us, and we hope it will not be too long before they entertain us again.

LIFE AT THE TOP
'AN EVERYDAY STORY OF MILITARY FOLK' (IN OTHER WORDS, A DAY IN THE LIFE OF RHQ)

IT was 07.45 hours, and the telephone buzzed loudly in the ear of **Signalman Bill Deacon,** 'Duty Clerk' who swore softly, Scottishly, and expressively as he lifted the receiver and mopped his spilt tea simultaneously. Wrong number!

He was replacing the receiver with murder in his heart when a loud crash reverberated through the building, followed by the sound of shattering glass. "I knew it was going to be one of those days when that bed collapsed", muttered **Signalman Deacon** to himself as he tore along the corridor to see what more damage a particularly accident prone cleaner had caused. This time, she had 'tripped over' the CO's working desk and dropped the glass shelf over his wash basin in quick succession, and was standing in the middle of the room wringing her hands and from the signs was either about to burst into tears or have hysterics. **Signalman Deacon,** terrified at the thought of either eventuality, hastened into action to remove the debris—the start of another day in RHQ.

Then the influx began, superintending clerk, **W.O.1 Joe Izzo** was first as he invariably was closely followed by **R.S.M. Tony Pfeiffer,** fresh from a game of squash. The clerks gently drifted in, some bouncing, some rather pale from the previous nights excesses: there was **Corporal Tom Mulligan** looking fresh and sprightly, **Lance-Corporal Alec MacDonald** and **Signalman Chris Gettings** supporting **Signalman 'Killer' McQueen** after a rather hard night, **Corporal Roy Cadeau** and **Signalman 'Bos' Boswell,** glasses twinkling together, and finally **Lance-Corporal Graham Manning** panted in, last again after oversleeping. Meanwhile, as the kettle was being plugged in and the 'crisp butties' being made for breakfast, the Training Wing was assembling—first **Captain Roger Breese** looking rather ashen after receiving a severe rib-kick at rugby the previous day.

Yeoman of Signals, **Ernie Storie,** his rumbustious laugh heralding his arrival, as usual and **Corporal Fred Barron,** punctual as ever. The Pay Office too was slowly gathering together—Q **Bob Wright, Corporal Chris Martin** (rather pale after a night as a DJ), **Corporal Eddie Fullthorpe, Sergeant Peter Round** and **Private 'Sandy' Forsythe,** and last of all the Paymaster, **Captain 'Stan' Stanley.** Oh yes, and we must not forget **Draughtsman Dave Williams** and **Captain Des Thomas** who by virtue of isolated offices are in danger of being forgotten.

Captain Roger Morgan, Adjutant, was one of the last to arrive slightly wan after a good night and accompanied by his dog 'Mr. Brown' who by his bounce was evidently not suffering from the hangover of his master. Second-in-Command, **Major Keith Allwright** arrived shortly afterwards, and from his colour and bearing and his immediate need for fresh air and strong coffee had obviously been to the same party as the Adjutant.

Firm footsteps and a series of 'Good mornings' heralded the arrival of the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis,** and the start of a flurry of activity.

Orders was the order of the early part of the morning and with one accord Adjutant and Second-in-Command winced as the RSM's stentorian tones resounded through the building. The situation was not helped by the arrival of two German artisans to mend the radiators, fondly nicknamed 'Quince' and 'Snout' due to their predilection for raw onions and making loud banging noises with wrenches.

Later: "**Roger!** Where's the establishments file? I need it immediately for a conference with the GOC in Lubbecke".

"Im just getting it, sir. (Aside) **Mr. Izzo** can I have the establishments file straight away, please".

"**Deacon!** Where's the establishment file?"!! "It's with you, Sir. **Sergeant S.S.** took it yesterday".

"**Sergeant S.S.!** Where is it?"!!

"It's with your, Super—or is it in the Training Wing?".

By this time frantic searching was going on. **W.O.1 Izzo** was buried in his filing cabinet urgently shuffling through papers, **Captain Morgan** was turning out the safe, **Signalman Deacon** was rushing from in-tray to in-tray in every office, and the CO was calling, "Where the Hell is it?".

The atmosphere was getting really rather warm by the time **Lance-Corporal Manning** suddenly remembered that he had 'hidden it away safely' and produced it like a rabbit out of a hat. "Humph" said the CO meaningfully, and strode to his car, driver **Lance-Corporal Johnstone,** and Lubbecke.

By the time lunchtime came around things were humming nicely. A prisoner had escaped and was heading for the Border in a stolen BFG car, the Orderly Officer of the day (who shall be nameless out of charity) had forgotten his duty and was given five extras, the Regimental flag had blown away in the strong prevailing wind, and the lines to Lubbecke were out due to a bulldozer uprooting them. However, the waves of nausea were lessening. **'Quince'** and **'Snout'** had departed in much style and noise, and ale and food were in sight. Within two minutes of 12.45 RHQ had been completely vacated bar the duty clerk—today, **Signal Chris Gettings,** who solaced his loneliness with blasts of Tamla Motown and the Jackson Five.

The afternoon saw the resumption of telephone contact with Lubbecke, and the start of the traditional Wednesday sports afternoon. **Captain Des Thomas** appeared looking natty in a royal blue tracksuit and after a few gigs disappeared again in the direction of the sports field. **Captain Roger Breese,** always a sucker for punishment, put his head round the door to announce that he was off for more rugby and blows. **W.O.1 Joe Izzo** had already headed off to Gutersloh and greater glory in the hockey league, **R.S.M. Pfeiffer** was back in the squash court with **Staff Sergeant Ken Purnell,** and **Sergeant Rod Shelton-Smith** therefore was once again holding the fort in the Orderly Room ably supported by **Sergeant Colin Claypole.**

It was a quiet afternoon on the whole.

The escaped prisoner was apprehended walking along the Autobahn and quickly RTU'd, typist **Eileen Letham** saw a mouse and passed out, the radiator burst again necessitating another visit by **'Quince'** and **'Snout'.**

Major Keith Allwright retired from his office on the grounds of ill-health and the CO returned from an inspection of the Officers' Mess with 17 pages of notes for the Adjutant to write up.

Stifling a sigh, **Captain Roger Morgan** cancelled his drinking engagement for the evening, and prepared himself mentally for a long working session.

And so the afternoon slowly grew to a close. And how do we leave this happy fellowship? **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis** disappeared home earlier than usual to prepare for an early Cocktail Party, **Major Keith Allwright** returned to the office for a while and then left muttering something about DOE (or was it the BFG Office?). the Adjutant retired for an hours' horizontal relaxation before the stresses of the coming evening—which left **W.O.1 Izzo,** after the clerks' exodus, finishing off his days' work, accompanied only by **Signalman Chris Gettings,** the Duty Clerk—the end of a typical day in RHQ.

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

ALTHOUGH the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness', or however the poet has it, is now almost over, the past month has not been very fruitful in the matter of unsolicited contributions to WIRE notes. As a result your correspondent has been obliged to consult the Regimental diary for his inspiration. The following entries were thought to be of interest.

Tuesday, 23rd October—Corps Band played at a joint 4 and 7 Signal Regiments Guest night. 76 officers and their guests enjoyed sparkling performance by the Band.

Adjutant ambushed (his story) by subalterns and lost seat of trousers.

Wednesday, 24th October—Unit visited by **Major-General H. E. Roper,** CSO BAOR. Found to be in good order despite sore heads from previous evening.

Monday, 29th October—Wives' Club Fashion Show—problem: to put nine wives (assorted sizes) into 54 dresses in 60 minutes. Postscript: Problem solved—200 ladies from Garrison enjoyed a slick professional show.

Wednesday, 31st October—Unit visited by **Major-General J. M. Gow,** new GOC 4 Division. Still in good order since last Wednesday.

Monday, 5th November—Guy Fawkes Day. Despite high winds and heavy rain fireworks a success—no casualties. Annual REME inspection of vehicles begins. Culmination of five weeks toil and woe in sight.

Friday, 9th November—Vehicle inspection ends. Toil and woe ends. WIRE notes *must* be in post today.

7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

Major-General H. E. Roper, C.S.O., B.A.O.R., presents W.O.2 H. Cole of 7 Signal Regiment with the L.S. and G.C. medal

ALTHOUGH we have had to fulfil our 'normal' exercise commitments through the autumn months we have still managed to maintain our sporting image both inside and outside the Regiment.

RUGBY—PLENTY OF ACTION

Our 1973/74 season is now under way and we are fielding three regular XV's from a flourishing Rugby Club of approximately 100 young up and coming players.

The season started with an invitation to enter a team in the RAF Germany Double Diamond Cup competition late in August. The entries came from most BAOR and RAF Germany units and also from a Dutch Club in Hilversum. The competition was a 15-a-side, 10 minute-each way, knock-out competition, a most enjoyable and novel way to start the season. We were fortunate to run out as the eventual winners, beating the Royal Regiment of Wales, RAF Laarbruck and Hilversum on the way.

In September we sent 25 players on a tour of Dorset and South Wales where we played in five full games and one 7-a-side competition in seven days. In the full matches we beat Wimbourne, 30 Signal Regiment, Swanage and Wareham, Cymbran (Wales) and lost to Rhymney (Wales). Our 'B' side was knocked out in the second round of the Poole 7's by the eventual winners, Wimbourne in a very close match. The 'A' side was beaten in the semi-final, also in a very close match. We met many old friends and made many new ones on this tour and the hospitality was terrific for which we are very grateful. We also learnt a lot about fitness, injuries and not the least, rugby football. Rhymney's style of play greatly impressed us and after the match their coach and leading players were questioned at length (over the usual beverage of course).

Late in October our 1st and 2nd teams visited Berlin for a weekend tour and again much valuable experience was gained, not least of all with Bruno on the military train, and also in Charlottenburg. The 1st team played an Army Select XV losing the first match and winning the second, and the 2nd team lost their first match against a combined Coldstream Guards, Kings Own Scottish Borderers and French team, and beat the stadium team in their second match!

Looking to the future we are touring the Hague in February and will soon be involved in the Army cup in which we are quietly confident that we will do well. (Good luck from all your supporters—Editor).

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

DEDICATED MEN

Not rent-a-mob! Just the Regimental anglers after fishing the Horsley Cup on the Swale at RAF Catterick on 26th September. Note: Lieutenant Jennings did *not* catch 'Butch'. For 30 Signal Regiment would you accept 19½lbs in three hours, all barbel?

NEW SPORT—ANGLING

WHEN first sighted, the motley bunch congregating outside Baghdad Gym each Wednesday lunchtime causes one to wonder whether the local 'navvies' are on strike, rent-a-mob are on an IS exercise or some of the local layabouts are gathering for the weekly trek to the dole queue.

If you get a bit closer, and believe me, when you look closer you wonder if you ought to after all, you hear strange mutterings, mostly accompanied by the waving of arms and the wide spreading of hands.

Some of the 'language' seems to be: '. . . butitgottaway' 'mmaggottserbestmate' 'trotdownanlaybackonit' (painful?) and several other sayings totally incomprehensible.

On asking who they are one is greeted by a stony silence, a sea of incredulous faces and, if you're within reach, a belt in the basket with a rodbag.

The Regimental anglers are preparing to make another concerted attack on the poor unsuspecting fish in some local water. (Although if recent results are anything to go by they're drowning more worms than the great flood!). Judging by the amount of equipment they seem to carry, **Messrs. Sergeant 'Nobby' Clark, Staff Sergeant 'Trev' McCarthy, Sergeant Ian Blair, Lieutenant Henry Jennings** and **Captain Bob Coe** ought to be excused the lift/carry on the PE Tests.

The Society was formally implemented in January this year with the idea of establishing angling as a sport in the Regiment. The membership stands at 25 and several more prospective members are making the right impression. We have no 'club water' of our own (current prices for water rights here is £1·00 per yard per year—on one bank only!) but we have permanent permits on three stretches of the Swale and several other clubs have been most generous with invitations.

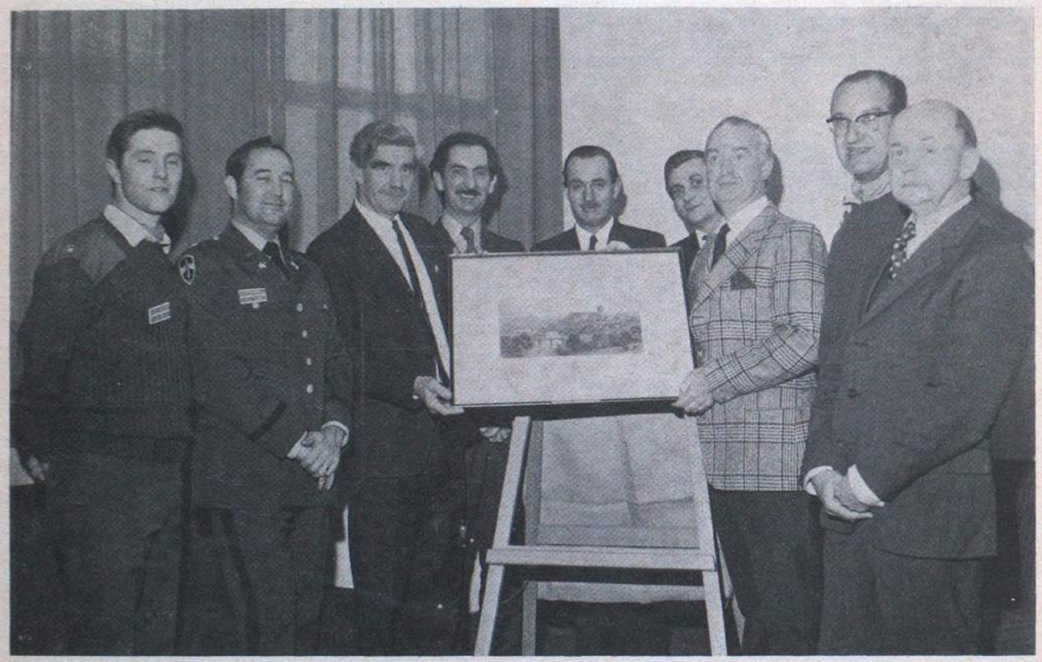
Staff Sergeant 'Jock' Cummings, our Pay Staff Sergeant, beat all comers in the individual match (The Horsley Cup). Many red faces—**'Jock'** is a 'fly' fisherman and fly was banned for that particular match. He used the contents of his sandwiches as bait!

Lance-Corporal Derek Downie and **Staff Sergeant McCarthy** have fished as members of the North Yorks–South Durham Federation Team. **Derek** has taken near to 40lbs in one afternoon from the Ure and **Lieutenant Henry Jennings** took 19¼lbs of barbel from the Swale in just two hours.

We plan a 'supper Nite' (not fish!) for our angling widows this month—they don't know it but it's to soften them up before telling them of our plans for sea fishing when the coarse season closes!

If you are enroute to 8 and keen on angling, bring your kit. Tight lines!

Trade Training School



Presentation to Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman on his departure from the Trade Training School

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. A. W. Hickman, first OC Trade Training School, handed over the keys of the School to **Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Tanner** on 17th October at an appropriate ceremony in the Officers' coffee room.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman first joined 8 Signal Regiment on 16th September, 1969 as a Major, in the appointment of Chief Instructor and Second-in-Command; soon afterwards he was appointed OC Trade Training School designate and started to grapple with the problems of amalgamating the training side of two Regiments into a single organization. This was a complicated operation as 24 Signal Regiment and 8 Signal Regiment had developed differently over the years, and there was little similarity between them. Amalgamation was not only concerned with the development of a common system of management; a mass of detail in connection with the new school building had to be decided. Room and furniture allocation, telephone extension lists, cleaning schedules, and many other similar matters all appeared on the OC TTS designate's desk and above all many thousands of items of equipment had to be transferred to the new building and installed.

It is perhaps sufficient to say that occupation took place on the due date of 7th June, 1971 and that the formal opening was conducted by the Prime Minister on 24th September, 1971. A major facet of the whole achievement was that it was carried out with virtually no interruption to training!

As OC TTS, **Lieutenant-Colonel Hickman** also had the task of instituting all the necessary, basic upgrading and conversion courses necessary for the implementation of the new trade structure of the Corps. This included the new trade of Telecommunications Mechanic. He was also responsible for the introduction of many new training techniques, including closed circuit television, and the general modernisation of training methods and management.

During the handover ceremony he made the first presentation of the staff efficiency award, instituted by him, to **Mr. J. O'Shea** of the TTS Records Office.

All members of the TTS Staff wish **Lieutenant-Colonel Hickman** and his wife **Julie** the best of good fortune in their tour of duty in Germany which has just started.

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10 Sig Regt Hounslow

MISS KENT 1973

Ranging far and wide as usual 'Shiny Ten' managed during October to show the flag way down in Faversham, Kent. Every year during October a big two day carnival is held in Faversham culminating in a torch light parade of carnival floats. This year there were over 100 present; also in the parade were 18 beauty queens from all over Kent each aspiring to the office of Miss Kent 1973.

The vice-chairman of the carnival, and an ex-Corps man, as well as the father of one of our soldiers, **Mr. Fred Alexander,** invited us to attend with our recruiting display.

On the day, Radio Troop under the expert direction of **Sergeant Mel Gowling** soon had their display up. The rattling teleprinters and crackling radio telephones were the centre of a large gaggle of youths for the rest of the day.

The same evening, after a Mayoral sherry party, the massive carnival filed slowly past the Civic Hall. Leading the carnival astride their 'state occasion' motor cycles, **Signalman Danny Chittenden** and **Signalman Fred Alexander** resplendent in 'blues' and obviously happy to be there. The floats were enthusiastically received by the crowds as were all the beauty queens. After the parade there was a carnival ball and the beauty contest designed to choose Miss Kent 1973. One of the four judges was our very own RSM whose calm composure wilted a little on discovering that one of the contestants, Miss Folkestone, was the daughter of **Captain (TOT) Alblas,** OC Tropo Troop, 10 Signal Regiment. The first prize eventually went to Miss Ramsgate and if there were prizes for KAPE then it would only be fair to award it to 'Shiny Ten'.

3 SQUADRON ALDERSHOT—EXPEDITION TO CANADIAN ROCKIES

WIRE notes this month consist of a report on the Exercise 'Rocky Trail', in which two members of our Squadron participated. **Corporal Westmore** and **Lance-Corporal Vickers** both put in a great deal of hard work in preparing for the exercise, but returned feeling that it had all been worthwhile.

A WRAC EXPEDITION TO THE CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS—EXERCISE 'ROCKY TRAIL'

On Thursday, 16th August, **Corporal Andy Westmore** and **Lance-Corporal Jackie Vickers** set off with a party of 10 other intrepid WRAC adventurers for a three week climbing/walking tour of Canada. Judging by the varied selection of clothing they took with them, from tropical to arctic wear, they were obviously anticipating a hi-jacking, but apart from a slight delay at Brize-Norton while the engineers mended the loos on the plane (which flooded an hour after take-off!) the party arrived safely in Ottawa.

The diary which was kept regularly (but illegibly!) by **Corporal Westmore** during the expedition, reads something like this:

Friday	17th	Set off in search of a Mountie: Eventually located at Government Buildings.
Saturday	18th	By coach: Headed West through Sudbury, Sant St. Marie, Thunder Bay.
Sunday	19th	Still heading West: Winnipeg, Suffield. Accommodated overnight with British Army Training Unit, Suffield. (Met by two soldiers and led to a smashing meal, a shower and bed . . . (the escorts departed after they'd eaten!).
Monday	20th	Hot and sunny, so clad in vests and jeans most of the party sallied forth to do 'tick' tests. **Andy Westmore, Jackie Vickers** and **Captain Rowena Patrick** stayed at Batus. As they 'idled away' the time a helicopter 'appeared' from a hanger. Nothing daunted **Andy Westmore,** a fast mover at the best of times, speedily chatted up the engineer and pilot with the result that one at a time the three piled into the helicopter beside a (quote) 'very handsome' W.O.2, for a guided aerial tour of Canada.
Later		Drew rations etc. Drove to Rocky Mountains with a break at Calgary. Camped at Spray Lake.
Tuesday	21st	Eight miles walk along Spray Lake. Drove to Banff Camp site, (Big black bear inspected tents!).
Wednesday	22nd	Day with press and PR photographers, including a visit to Luxton Indian Museum. (See photograph). Established base camp at Mosquito Creek (5,993ft).
Thursday	23rd	Followed trail to Hector Lake, fording Bow River en route. Some swam and inspected a beaver's dam, others sunbathed. (Our energetic duo sun-bathed).
Friday	24th	Trail from Morain Lake to Eiffel Lake and back to base.
Saturday	25th	Climbed Fairview Peak (9,001ft) and Saddle Peak (7,960ft).
Sunday	26th	Followed trail along Bow Lake and Bar Creek below Bow glacier.

Corporal Andy Westmore meets up with a Red Indian—anonymous

Monday	27th	Climbed Mount Eiffel (10,000ft).
Tuesday	28th	Optional day. Walked on Athabaca glacier then travelled on to Jasper sight seeing—and spending more money on more souvenirs.
Wednesday	29th	After devouring some enormous pizza, went to sulphur baths and lazed around in water 103°F. Unfortunately could spend only 20 minutes there—it's supposedly not good for the heart.
Thursday	30th	Visited Twin Falls, had to cross rustic 'wood and rope' suspension bridge on return journey by foot, very dodgy! Went to bed early because of blizzards and snow.
31–3 September		Spent in Vancouver.
4	,,	Travelled to Calgary.
5	,,	Shopping and sightseeing in Calgary.
6	,,	Return flight Brize Norton via Gutersloh.

Altogether four peaks were conquered by members of the party and they travelled almost 3,000 miles across Canada. Quite an adventure!

4 SQUADRON JOTTINGS BY CARPETMAN

On Wednesday, 3rd October, **Brigadier E. J. Nolan,** Hon. ADC Director, Women's Royal Army Corps visited Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces.

Accompanied by **Colonel B. Metcalfe,** DDWRAC UKLF, **Brigadier Nolan** met three girls from 4 Squadron, 10 Signal Regiment in their sitting room. **Lance-Corporal Sue Hamilton, Private Jackie Layton** and **Private Lynn Shaw** chatted to **Brigadier Nolan** for several minutes before she proceeded upstairs to meet **Corporal Rena McGregor** in her room and to look at one or two other rooms.

Having lunched in the Officers' Mess with a large party including the C-in-C and his Deputy, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith,** CO 10 Signal Regiment, **Major R. B. Carroll,** OC 4 Squadron, 10 Signal Regiment, and all WRAC Officers attached to the Headquarters, the Director moved on to visit the Communication Centre.

There **Brigadier Nolan** met **Captain Brian Adcock** the CDSO. Accompanied by him, **Lieutenant-Colonel Galbraith** and **Major Dick Carroll,** the Director toured the Comcen. She spoke to the girls in the rest room where she met **W.O.1 Hilda Griffith,** WRAC, one of the shift supervisors. Her visit took in the telephone exchange where she met the Supervisor, **Mr. Hayes, Sergeant Kathy Ledgard** and **Corporal Janie Mills-Bishop.**

DEPARTURE

Lieutenant Marilyn Hood (nee **White**) finally left the Squadron at the end of October having done virtually every job in it during her two years at Wilton. We wish her much happiness and happy gliding with her husband **Captain Leigh Hood** at present stationed at Catterick. No doubt she will keep in touch with the Corps through him. Her place has been taken by **Captain Katie Meachem** from 3 Squadron.

SPORT

Once again the Squadron has been active on the sporting field. For the Army **Sergeant Beryl Jackson** and **Corporal Babs**

Taylor have been selected for the badminton squad, **Lance-Corporal Jackie Watson** and **Private 'Chico' Dickman** for the hockey squad, **Corporal Taylor** and **Private Sue Godwin** for the athletics squad and **Sergeant Jackson** and **Corporal Taylor** for the netball squad.

In the West Area Womens' individual squash championships at Larkhill on Wednesday, 17th October, **Sergeant Beryl Jackson** played a fine game to come 2nd overall, and in the plate competition we came 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with **Corporal Babs Taylor, Private 'Chico' Dickman** and **Lance-Corporal Jackie Watson** respectively.

We have played two games of Netball this season, a convincing win of 48–2 against Bovington, and again a win of 45–2 against Kineton.

At last 4 Squadron is starting to make a name for itself on the sporting field—largely due to the efforts of our enthusiastic PTI, **Corporal Babs Taylor**—so beware! We are on the scene!

ACE HIGH STATION, COLDBLOW LANE

A station Open Day was held on 'All Saints Day', 1st November. The main purpose of the day being to tell the wives of the station personnel just what their husbands did and why!

The visit commenced with coffee and biscuits, during which time the wife of the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith,** met those present.

A short explanation of the Ace High System was given by Foreman of Signals, **Hugh Woolf.** This was followed by an explanatory tour of the station, whilst the children of the visitors were entertained with cartoon films.

A splendid buffet was provided by **Sergeant Tom Buick,** ACC —to whom our thanks go.

FUND RAISING FOR SSAFA

Courtesy of Slough Evening Mail

Mrs. Jan Galbraith with Lance-Corporals Sue Reeves and Kathy Norman at the SSAFA Toy Fayre

This year, for the first time, 10 Signal Regiment was invited to join the SSAFA (Middlesex County) Appeals Committee. An Autumn Fayre is held annually, usually in Ruislip.

Mrs. Jan Galbraith pointed the regimental skills to toy making and for months signalmen as well as wives and WRAC wielded needles, both knitting and sewing! **Major Greg Grist** set a good example to his WRAC Squadron by making a large snake which had pride of place in his office. In all a total of 520 toys of all kinds were produced as well as cash donations.

R.S.M. Ray Bishop and his team of helpers from Radio Troop manned a most realistic minefield sideshow which provided lots of fun for children and adults alike on the day.

The toy stall raised a total of £176—an extremely good effort from the entire regiment.

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11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

FAREWELL TO OC OFFICERS' WING

AT the end of October **Major O. B. G. ('Baron') Shoubridge** retired from 11 Signal Regiment where he has served as OC Officers' Wing for 11 years.

The **'Baron'** was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals on 30th January, 1936 in the reign of Edward VIII. His personal number was 67074! **'Baron'** spent the first 18 months of his Army career in Catterick. As a young officer he was on the last horse drawn-cable laying 'Q' course. He joined the 18 Infantry Brigade Signal Section in 1938 and saw active service in Palestine and Egypt before the Second World War.

In 1939 he was appointed Fortress Signals Officer in Alexandria at *HMS Nile,* which was followed shortly by his appointment as adjutant of the Western Desert Force Signals. With this unit he saw further active service and travelled widely in the North African desert, eventually reaching Bengazi.

In 1941 he joined the British ExpeditionaryForce in Greece, a rapid evacuation of Greece was followed by an equally rapid evauation of Crete and **'Baron'** arrived back in Alexandria. In Syria he fought against the Vichy French, he was in 13 Corps at Baghdad where the British defeated Raschid Ali, an Iraqi who supported the Nazis. He was with **Montgomery** at Alamein and the Cheshire Yeomanry in Egypt and Palestine.

In 1944 **'Baron'** was posted to India to take part in the Burma Campaign. From Burma he went to Malaya and was in Malaya at the end of the War. In 1945 he returned to the UK after seven years active service abroad.

After the war **'Baron'** served in the UK, Malta, BAOR and Suez. He retired from the Regular Army in 1962 and was appointed RO3 in charge of the Officers' Wing at 11 Signal Regiment.

Major Shoubridge was presented with a golf trolley by the officers' of the Regiment on his retirement.

We wish him a happy and successful retirement, which we understand is to be spent on a golf course in the Channel Isles.

POTENTIAL OFFICER TROOP

The 15th of October saw the start of number 5 potential Officer Course. This was the last course to be known as 'PO' Course and the largest ever recorded with a strength of 15. Ranks on the course ranged from Staff Sergeant to Signalman, who were from units throughout the Corps, including the SAS. From the start the course worked well together finding a common interest in early morning runs and evening circuit training.

The course is aimed at making the student aware of functional leadership and its application at developing his powers of expression, both written and oral. To this end the students are given an intensive programme of command tasks, rigorous field exercises organised and commanded by members of the troop and a series of debates, presentations, appreciations and current affairs.

The course is not all work however, and on Saturday afternoons several students were to be seen turning out for the rugby side and on Sundays five members of the course have been taking part in orienteering events. Also it is rumoured that one member of the course has devoted his weekends to practising for the morning runs.

At the time of writing the course is approaching its final week and it might be appropriate to conclude with a quotation from a student, "It would be inadvisable to come expecting to have an easy time but the rewards are there and one can only benefit from the course".

ARRIVALS

We welcome **Captain (Q.M.) A. S. R. Alfred** and his family to 11 Signal Regiment. He has been posted in as Second-in-Command of Instructional Wing where he will once again instruct and guide the Staff Sergeants' and Detachment Commanders' Courses. He has been involved in running these courses for many years in many different circumstances so he will have much to contribute.

ARMY ORIENTEERING CUP—MINOR UNITS

'By 29 seconds'—11 Signal Regiment won the Army Minor Units Orienteering Championships for 1973.

The story started last year when **Lieutenant Robin Hill** and **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** spent many weekends at civilian badge events. They were joined by **Lieutenants Ray Lloyd-Jones** and **Dick Hoyle.** The real fun and challenge for serious minded orienteers comes in tackling tough forested hilly courses of at least 10 kilometres which take at least 90 minutes to complete. Orienteering at such high standards can be achieved by attending the British Orienteering Federation badge events which are held practically every weekend throughout the UK. By the time the Army Orienteering Championships were due **Lieutenant Robin Hill, Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones, Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** and **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** had earned national silver badges. There was one other enthusiast, **Second-Lieutenant Cathy Birtwistle,** the only WRAC member of 11 Signal Regiment.

It was this team, together with the newly posted in **Major Bill Mayne,** that entered and won the North Area championships on 7th October. The course was ideal and set over a previous civilian championship course in Broxo Forest near Scarborough. The course was listed by the organisers as nine kilometres but there can have been few runners who covered the course in under 15 kilometres. The team won convincingly, beating 145 Light Commando Battery RA who were to come so close in the Army championships. **Lieutenant Robin Hill** was individual winner and **Second-Lieutenant Cathy Birtwistle** was women's individual winner, very fine achievements by both of them. This was rewarded at prize giving by a large collection of silver cups for the Regiment and individual beer mugs.

The following week the team, with **Lieutenant Mike Stanners** replacing **Major Bill Mayne,** met again at Stamford PTA for the Army championships. The team was apprehensive; would the training at civilian events stand them in good stead or what was obviously going to be run across flat wooded country, as opposed to tough forested hill country.

The Army course set on Croxton Common, was flat. There were no gruelling climbs through thick forest and all control points were easy to find. The championships rather took the form of a cross country run using a map instead of markers. The better orienteers found a pack of four or more runners clinging onto them, who were difficult to shrug off.

The final results were very close. Once again **Second-Lieutenant Cathy Birtwistle** won the individual women's championships and collected another fine silver cup. **Lieutenant Robin Hill** started almost last and came in with a superb time which placed him within the first half dozen runners. **Lieutenants Ray Lloyd-Jones** and **Dick Hoyle** returned good times and the three times added together just beat 145 Light Commando Field Battery RA by 29 seconds. The success was complete. 11 Signal Regiment had won the Army minor unit orienteering championships and came home with the cup presented by *Soldier Magazine.*

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE NO. 50 REPORT:

It is hard to believe it is all over, but harder still to believe that we survived. Looking back it is difficult to accept all the ground we covered—both in the classroom and on the Yorkshire Moors. From the word 'Go' the pressure was on, we were all warned about **Captain Alfred's** 'Best Dress Inspection but it was not as bad as we expected. He forgot to inspect the soles of our boots. **Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Hill** has not got over it yet—his hair started to turn white from that inspection.

Sergeant Clive Pritchard showed us the meaning of drill TP's and **Corporals Eric Massam** and **Ian Fraser** gave us a different understanding of the phrase 'Weapon Training'.

Thanks to **Captain 'Olly' Hackett,** WFR and **Lieutenant Andy Whiddett** we survived the night exercise, and though he tried very hard they managed to find **Lance-Corporal Harry Elkan.**

Can't believe it's all over!

Our thanks to all in Instructional Wing.

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PLESSEY

13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

WITH sun-tans fading and the long hot summer only a vague memory, we look back over a period that can at best be described as hectic.

The main event in the overall feverish activity was undoubtedly our long period of Regimental training and survival in Gorbbendonk in Belgium; long to ensure that the maximum numbers attended. Whilst the report below covers the exercise in detail, it is worth explaining that whereas some still call this period summer camp, which suggests a lazy, leisurely summer time jolly, our camp was aptly Exercise 'Hardlying'!

On the sporting scene we have cast aside whites, downed rackets and taken to those sports which call for a revel nearer mother earth and a hot shower afterwards.

Now with much optimism and little hope we look forward to a brief respite before launching into the Christmas Activities.

SPORT IN GENERAL

Our proud boast is that whilst sporting activities are varied, we specialise in none (air support neighbours please note)! However, unlike the proverbial jack, we do manage to master many.

The current success story involves *Soccer*. We now have a Regimental amateur football club under the directorship of **Captain Bob Taylor** and with **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Wally Lockwood** cracking the whip as general manager. The club has four teams, with a ladies and youth team to boot! Their proud record is that none of the teams have been defeated this season.

Although we have completed our summer sports, the all weather fiends may note that swimming and canoeing are still going on. The joint mention of these two sports could be due to **Lieutenant Phil Noble** who is Officer-in-Command of both or that **Staff Sergeant Jack Hall** and his canoeists spend as much if not more time in the water as the swimmers.

Volleyball, netball and rounders are all coming to the fore with WRAC and wives under the strict control of **Staff Sergeant Fran Polley.**

With a renovated court the squash teams are hoping for a successful season. There is surely some link between a new looking court and one of the regiments star players **W.O.2 Nick Ferguson** being the D of E rep. Would you believe that the QM, **Captain Jim Peck,** is Officer-in-Command Squash?

On Saturday, 27th October the swimming pool (when will it close?) was defrosted and invaded by our Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Scouts. The swim was a sponsored one and in aid of a future community centre. Much scraping of bank accounts and issuing of IOU's has since been seen. At 10 pfennigs a length and with many boys and girls completing over 100 lengths the Group Leader **Jane Wells** has suddenly become unpopular.

VISITORS

On 5th October Commander Rhine Area **Brigadier G. E. Bavin** paid a short farewell visit to the Regiment. A quick tour of the lines, 'champers' and smoked salmon certainly ensured that we met the requirement of a short, sharp but fitting farewell.

On 10th October and 17th October it was the girls turn to entertain a visitor to 3 Squadron and then the Regiment in Birgelen. The Director Women's Royal Army Corps, **Brigadier E. J. Nolan,** Hon ADC, accompanied by AD WRAC HQ BAOR, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Bowles,** WRAC spent a short while during the afternoon of 10th October meeting the girls in 3 Squadron. A week later we had the privilege of showing the Regiment, introducing the girls and then entertaining our visitors to lunch on 17th October.

SERGEANTS' MESS

This month has seen the beginnings of the frenzied efforts of the Christmas draw committee to sell their tickets, under the superb direction of **W.O.2 Wally Lockwood.**

At the rate he is going we should be eligible for part shares in the printing press. On Friday 19th we had an excellent dinner much enjoyed by our guests, **Majors A. E. Kilby, W. C. Nicoll** and **W. H. Turney.**

We said our farewells to **W/Sergeant Jean McKenzie** who was finally cornered in the bar to be presented with her farewell gift.

Welcome to the Mess to **W.O.2 Pat Freeston, Staff Sergeants Rod Willars, John Chudleigh** and **Dave Swan,** and **W/Sergeant Joan Dakin.**

DETACHMENT SHOOTING

A stop press item from our boys at Jever. Anglo-German liaison there is of a high standard—so much so that members of the detachment were invited to take part in the local Luftwaffe Regiments' shooting competition. The 'off shift' of the day—**Corporal Jeff Freestone** and **Lance-Corporal 'Cass' Hayes** registered such high scores (which would have placed them 1st and 2nd had they been qualified for placing) that the Commander—**Oberst H. Mayer** decided that they should be presented with the German Air Force bronze shooting lanyard. The final accolade came at the presentation ceremony where our two stalwarts stole the day by their turnout and bearing. **Oberst H. Mayer** was very impressed—he felt that they put the Luftwaffe to shame—well done **Messrs. Freestone** and **Hayes.** We commiserate with **Corporal George Carruthers** who after completing the first part of the competition was urgently recalled to duty. Dare we say it—there was every reason to believe that he may have completed the 'hat trick'.

BRITISH NCO's HEAD GERMAN LUFTWAFFE SHOOTING COMPETITION

Corporal Jeff Freestone is congratulated by Hauptfeldweber Walter Siemers prior to receiving his bronze lanyard from Hauptman Reiner Siniawa

14 Sig Regt Worcester

NEWS OF THE TROOPS—SHARJAH, BRITISH HONDURAS, TURKEY, KENYA AND BAVARIA

Alpha Troop has been to Sharjah for a short liaison visit, while Bravo Troop almost departed for Korea, but their exercise was cancelled at the last minute. Delta Troop soldier on in British Honduras, but smiles are appearing again as the end of another six month tour draws near. Echo Troop spent a very successful time in Turkey on Exercise 'Deep Furrow'; the consolation prize was a trip to Singapore on their return to Worcester. Unfortunately, this was cancelled, but not before the advance party, including the QM, **Captain (Q.M.) Cyril Evis,** had departed! Sierra Troop have been demonstrating the TSC–500 in Blandford and Sandhurst, and took over the Skynet communications from RAF Oakhanger while that station was being repaired. The suntanned members of Tango Troop have returned from Kenya after their seven week stint on Exercise 'Cotham'.

The RSM, **W.O.1 John Wise,** has returned from his adventurous training exercise in the mountains of Bavaria with a party of exhausted soldiers, but they seemed to think it was worth it; even **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bill Yates** who is just about to leave the Corps!

WORCESTER NEWS

One is almost tempted to say, "and now some news of our rear party", but that is not quite fair; Norton Barracks has been a regular hive of activity recently.

Officer and Warrant Officer Training continued during the autumn months, and one particularly successful trip was that organised by the Second-in-Command, **Major Colin Bunce,** to the Berrow's Newspaper Works in Worcester.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WARD SETS THE HEADLINE FOR BERROW'S JOURNAL
In support Major Colin Bunce, Captain John Eastgate and R.S.M. John Wise

Sergeant Tom Fowle, RPC, who leads the Pioneer Section, upset the Adjutant recently when he said that the Regiment was going to the dogs; in fact this is not quite true—our guard dogs should indeed be coming to the Regiment as soon as their kennels are completed. Then just you try to visit Norton Barracks via the back gate!

The Second-in-Command to Guy Fawkes, alias OC Headquarter Squadron, **Major John Botterill,** issued his instructions for the festivities on 5th November, and no doubt a vast amount of old clothes was usefully employed making up 'guys' for the competition. The first prize was not very attractive though—the winner's guy was burnt!

The RSM is a very happy man at the moment, being the proud owner of a shiny new parade ground. He has already demonstrated its capabilities quite sufficiently to most members of the Regiment in preparation for the Remembrance Day Parade. The parade ground also has some rather unmilitary white lines painted on it, and when the RSM is not looking, the hockey team use it very effectively.

EXERCISE 'LONG HOP'
BY THE 'OLD MAN'

Reading the account of this adventurous training exercise in Southern Germany, one realises just how lucky we were to see most of them back in Worcester. However, their account of the trip follows.

First of all thanks are due to a lot of support from 7 Signal Regiment, who collected us from RAF Gutersloh and then gave us transport for the journey to Garmisch-Partenkirchen. After a gentle climb to 4,000ft on the first day to get the lungs working again, the party tackled the Zugspitze. The first and last 2,000ft were completed by cable car, but the bit in the middle . . .! The view was breathtaking, as was the climb, and it was here that **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Young** distinguished himself by descending 300ft in very quick time, after which **Corporal 'The Lad' O'Callaghan** tried to improve the record by going down 400ft at an even faster rate. They breed 'em tough in the Professionals though, and there were no injuries. Another day saw our intrepid expeditionaries descending a mountain, inside the glacier; Mother Nature was truly wonderful, even providing steps and electric lighting for us; the experience was absolutely fantastic, and the rate of descent terrifying with the RSM leading. We can recommend Garmisch-Partenkirchen as a venue for a Summer camp without reservation, and realised how lucky 7 Signal Regiment are to be so much nearer than we are at Worcester. The remainder of the party were **W.O.2 Bill Yates, Corporal 'Nobby' Noble** our driver, and **Lance-Corporal 'The Kid' Toye.**

EXERCISE 'COTHAM'—TANGO TROOP IN KENYA
BY 'JUNGLE DRUM'

Well, we made it overseas at last, despite all the paperwork generated before we left. All the aircraft left on time and, even more incredibly, all the men and equipment arrived at the same place, Nairobi International Airport. Our site was at Nanyuki, about 130 miles North of Nairobi, and we soon had the station working back to Cyprus and the United Kingdom by courtesy of the NATO satellite. Once that hurdle was over we could get on with the important business of sightseeing. **Sergeant Ron Belcher** became very cultural in his travels, taking his crew to game parks and pointing out the local flora and fauna!

After about a week of the exercise the OC, **Captain Phil Whitemore,** and the Foreman, **W.O.1 Roy Morris,** thought it was time for another bath, but this time on the Equator. In fact, they were trying to prove that old tale about the bath water going down the plughole clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, and anti-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. Well, that bit is absolutely true, but what should happen on the Equator itself—does it run away at all? Our staff movie photographer, **Corporal Mick Boorman,** was there, but the experiment ended up with **Sergeant Mick Berry, Sergeant Colin Robinson,** and the Foreman having a bath under the Equator sign, much to the amusement of the locals. **Sergeant Ken Durrant** was there too, but didn't take his clothes off—what was he trying to hide?

Corporals Mick Punter, Charlie Knight and **Hamilton Peters** really excelled themselves one evening; they threw darts in the Southern Hemisphere and walked to the Northern Hemisphere to get them back. In fact this was not a bid for the Guinness Book of Records, but merely a night out in the Silverbeck Hotel on the Equator!

We communicated for 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment while they trained in Kenya; **Corporal 'Fred' Smith** went as far as to communicate personally for their CO in his Rover, and all he wanted was a day away from camp. **Signalman Terry Rampton** climbed most of the way up Mount Kenya with one of the Royal Anglian officers, and others found out that life is not very comfortable at times in the Infantry, when they lived with Recce Platoon for a week.

Anyhow, we proved that it could be done; despite bumpy roads, dust, rain, sun, *and* inquisitive locals, we did communicate and passed some important live traffic, such as the football results hot off the press on Saturday evening. Apart from that we all enjoyed ourselves and can tick off another country on the map.

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16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

1 SQUADRON

DESPITE the claims of the field Squadrons that members of 1 Squadron are doomed to oblivion in the depths of 'The Hole' (otherwise known as Comcen Krefeld) we do manage to survive and see something of the world as was proved by **Privates Linda Esson** and **Jo Chandler** who flew off to sunny Cyprus in September to 262 Signal Squadron for two weeks. Detachments continued with **Signalmen Alan Rigg** and **Harry Courtney** taking off to 10 Signal Regiment Hounslow.

Exercise 'Plain Sailing' coincided with the visit of the Director WRAC **Brigadier E. J. Nolan,** Hon ADC, on Monday, 15th October. The day before the visit 10 stalwarts of 'B' Shift disappeared to 'the sharp end' under the direction of **Sergeant Alec Janaway.** The shifts slipped smoothly into three-way working and if **Brigadier Nolan** noticed unobtrusive changes in her programme, nothing was said and she was able to meet and talk to most of the WRAC.

Sporting-wise, **Signalman Sam McAllister** won the BAOR canoeing singles cup—and outstanding achievement since he started learning only this year. **Sergeant Eddie Harper** was a member of the winning Army Canadian team at the Inter-Services in October. **Sergeant Bob Webb** continues to take an active part in the off-shore sailing club and **Lieutenant Mary Pote,** WRAC returned from the Army orienteering championships in UK having gained 7th place.

The shifts regularly play local German football teams and the CSV Marathon, Krefeld, a German ladies hockey club, includes four WRAC in its team—**Captain Sheila Johncey, Corporal Sharon Joyce** and **Privates Sue Skyrme** and **Mary Pounder,** ably aided by **Mrs. Cheryl Collier** who is also a member of the team. Their fame has spread due to a write-up by a local German newspaper.

Our efforts to win the Stork-Garton Football Trophy weren't crowned with success but we did try. **Corporals Brian Slavin** and **Paul Wray** have the plaster cast/bandages to prove it! 'D' shift under **Sergeant Morris Nelson** got through to the semi-final but were knocked out by 3 Squadron. However, it was a good attempt since the whole team had just finished a night duty.

The WRAC provide three of the adult leaders for the youth club—**Lieutenant Mary Pote, Private Pat Pinkney** and **Private Elain Spence,** under the direction of **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Brian Maltby. Brian** isn't 1 Squadron but insists on being mentioned anyway.

The angling club was revived by **Captain Peter Byers** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Brian Rice, B.E.M.** and is now a flourishing rod benders club.

To close—an extract from an engineering conference Krefeld—RAF Standbridge.

Officer (Krefeld)—Wish to thank the junior service for their co-op during this radio test.
Reply —Here my tester—
The quick Brown Job jumps over the rusty barbed wire . . .

4 SQUADRON

The 'winds of change' have blown quite strongly in Bielefeld recently. At the end of August we said farewell to our OC, **Major W. R. Mayne** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) George Farmer,** both posted to Catterick. In their stead we welcomed **Major R. E. Barber** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Adam Patterson,** who arrived from Northern Ireland and 21 Signal Regiment respectively. Very shortly afterwards we were visited by the new Commanding Officer, 16 Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Hackworth,** and to celebrate the occasion, our Field Troop staged a small radio relay exercise, appropriately named 'All Change'.

Our radio relay personnel have, in fact, borne the brunt of the work (and the weather!) ever since, having been concerned in various Corps, Divisional and Regimental exercises. The worst of the weather was encountered during the Commanding Officer's introductory exercise 'Late Clash' at the end of September, swiftly followed by an even wetter event called 'Autumn Leaves'. We are pleased to report however that their spirits remain undampened, and of course the rain provided a suitable training environment for our two senior combat radiomen, **Corporals Steve Cowton** and **'Waggy' Wagstaffe,** who leave us at the end of October to sample the drizzle in Northern Ireland.

On the social side, our Squadron Club is now a thriving concern, due largely to the acquisition of new 'Disco' equipment, and plans afoot to provide more social activities for Squadron wives, particularly those quartered in districts outside Bielefeld.

In conclusion we feel that we should warn Officer-in-Command Records that reinforcement will shortly be required—the engagement rate (WRAC/Royal Signals) in this unit is now averaging one a week!

THE NEW TELEMARK CANOE CLUB

Formed by **Sergeant Eddie Harper** and **Sergeant 'Lemmie' Lomas** early in the year the canoe club has flourished. With expeditions to Bavaria, The Netherlands, and nearer home the Mosel, both novice canoeists and experienced members have enjoyed a good season.

Records of achievement to date include winning the Rhine Area canoe race and BAOR individual towing class K1 champion **(Signalman Sam McAllister). Sergeant Eddie Harper** gained an ACU Instructors certificate along with **Sergeant 'Lemmie' Lomas** and **Sergeant McMahon** who all attended to BOBC Norway at different times during the summer.

Sergeant Eddie Harper represented the Army in the Inter Services canoe race, and is shortly travelling to Richmond, Yorkshire to represent BAOR in the Army Championships. **Sergeant McMahon** and **Signalman McAllister** will be accompanying him on this occasion.

In October the club bade farewell to **Sergeant Lomas** proudly presenting him with a pot for his sterling efforts during the year and for writing off more borrowed canoes than anyone else! (School of Signals please note).

16 REGIMENT'S NEW TELEMARK CANOE CLUB
Left to right: Signalman McAllister, Private McLean, Signalman Thomas, Sergeant Lomas, Sergeant Harper, Private Crocker, Signalman Barkworth, Signalman Sykes

EXERCISE 'PLAIN SAILING'. A FEW IMPRESSIONS!
. . . FROM 2 SQUADRON

Exercise 'Plain Sailing' was designed to practise the logistic staff of BAOR, and I must say that they carried the whole thing off with panache. Bridges were built and dismantled; hospitals bloomed overnight, hacked off the odd limb, and were gone by first light; refugees trudged in an orderly manner; whole armies of reinforcements moved across the map at the drop of an immediate signal.

Amidst this extravaganza of cool efficiency Signals fumbled with its real problems, and mine was the Commanding Officer. For a start he persists in visiting my oufit when I'm in bed, which must leave the impression that I'm superfluous. Then again, he will drive round the circuit in the wrong direction which confuses the sentries because they don't know how to challenge someone on the inside trying to get out.

This last habit became so annoying that my CP was eventually forced into making up 'Sunray's guide to Comcen X—see it at its best'.

3 SQUADRON

On the lighter side the Exercise started with a bang and a bright light when **S.Q.M.S. Jim Hehir** tripped one of his own flares while setting them out for unwary, uninvited guests. As it turned out we had no unexpected visitors but flares tripped from time to time, each flare accompanied by some semblance of 'stand to'. Most were convinced however, that we were standing to for raiding parties of compo fed rabbits! The SQMS was seen next morning looking for unconscious bunnies who had rendered themselves so, by running into trees when the flares ruined their night vision!

There were two undoubted 'stars' of this Exercise. The first was **Sergeant Tom 'Rip Van' Wilson** who spent so much time in bed that he eventually complained that his bed sores were keeping him awake. The second was the infamous **Signalman J. J. O'Crowley** from 'S' Troop who caused much mirth and some red faces when the CO visited **J.J.'s** Radio Vehicle. Unfortunately **J.J.'s** side of the conversion is unprintable. However we are sure the CO learned something from the visit and judging by the literature that **J.J.** was caught reading he must be attending an exclusive night school. It was 'Danish Standard Operating Procedures for Combat Radiomen in the Field'. Stick to your Radio **J.J.**, we can get spares for that!

Another interesting incident concerned the Echelon who were deployed in Duisburg. First the bad news—A vehicle from Echelon, complete with map reference, carrying rations and mail, managed to reach a spot 10km from our location and couldn't find us, (what camouflage). It returned to Echelon, set out again with new driver and eventually found us at about midnight. Now the good news—In charge of the vehicle was the Regiment's orienteering officer—No names; especially mine, I have problems of my own! Did someone say **R.Q. Crawford?**

Our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Hackworth** is now known as 'Our nocturnal Colonel'. We believe he has not yet seen Comcen Juliet in the field in daylight.

We also entertained for curry lunch **Brigadier J. O. Peck** and a powerful punch was prepared by **Fingers 'Watch the Motion' Wilson.**

Commander 4 Group also came to visit us and eventually found us after some excellent briefing by his own staff!

21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

AIRCRAFT WHICH WE SUPPORT—THE LIGHTNING (FIRST OF A SERIES)

OUR photograph shows a Lightning F Mk.2A of 92 Squadron, RAF from RAF Gutersloh. This aircraft is armed with two Firestreak air to air missiles and two 30mm cannons. Its role is air defence at all altitude levels, and 92 Squadron, together with 19 Squadron, are constantly involved in border security missions in West Germany. The Lightning is capable of supersonic flights, and has a normal sortie duration of a little over an hour.

The airfield communications at their base are provided by 'N' Troop of 3 Squadron commanded by **Captain Ron Marriott.** Located more than 150 miles from its parent SHQ and RHQ, this 40 strong troop is responsible for some 85 miles of UG multi-pair cable, internal wiring to some 600 subscribers and subscriber instruments, keying lines for radio circuits, navigational remote indicator lines and telephones, telebrief systems to aircraft cockpits, Hadley teletalk systems (AD 5800 and AD 2779), keyboard systems for air traffic control and the COC, meteorological telegraph and fascimile circuits, crash alarm circuits, various data links to modems and visual display units, etc. etc. Truly a most responsible task, with the consequence of failure by any member of the troop being perhaps a lost aircraft and a dead pilot! This work is continuous. It is a 365 day exercise each year, involving much weekend and other 'out of normal working hours' work.

VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT

The Regiment was privileged to receive a visit by **Major-General M. S. Hancock, C.B., M.B.E.** during the afternoon of 29th October. The visit coincided with a Station alert at RAF Wildenrath, which enabled **General Hancock** to see part of the Regiment in a war posture, and also to observe a Station scramble of the Harrier Force. **General Hancock** appeared to be particularly interested and intrigued by a demonstration of the rapid repair of multi pair UG cable under nuclear condition (see photo) by 'K' Troop, and by the infantry tasks of our Defence Company.

VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT
Major-General M. S. Hancock, C.B., M.B.E. watches rapid repair of multi pair UG cable under nuclear conditions. Captain Charles Hughes, the airfield troop commander, is caught sleep walking, with Captain Derek McLuckie (Adjutant) equally alert. The soldier? Corporal Wayne Jolly

CROOK SHIELD WINNERS

In 1971, Commander Rhine Area **(Brigadier P. E. Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.A.)** donated a shield to be presented annually to the major unit in Rhine Area with the best all round sporting achievements, in 16 different sports, throughout the year. The first years competition was won by 40 Army Support Regiment RE and in 1972 the Regiment 'tied' as equal winners with 16 Signal Regiment. This year, however, the Regiment has emerged as clear winners from 10 participating units, with a total of 150 points. second are 16 Signal Regiment (134 points) and third, 28 Signal Regiment (124 points). Let it not be said that 21 Signal Regiment is merely a 'good athletic and cross country Regiment'—these two sports are only the 'specialities of the house'.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE CORPS

The Regiment wishes all units (large and small) and all ranks a very happy and prosperous New Year. For the Regiment, 1974 is to start with a visit from the Inspectorate of Establishments on 2nd January! If there is no contribution for the February issue of the WIRE, readers may assume that the writer has been made redundant.

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RACAL
The Electronics Group

27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

1 SQUADRON

Personalities:

OC	**Major D. P. Watson**
Second-in-Command	**Captain D. G. Ellen**
TOT	**Captain J. E. Grigsby**
CDSO	**Captain E. W. G. Hill**
SSM	**W.O.2 W. G. Feltham**
RQMS	**W.O.2 E. J. Banham**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 G. Lile**
F. of S.	**W.O.2 E. C. Harris**

VISIT OF MASTER OF SIGNALS

WE were pleased to see **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** the Master of Signals, in the Colony from 1st–8th October, and he had a busy and eventful week. During his stay he was the guest of the WO's and Sergeants' of the Regiment at a dinner and dance in the Ambassador Hotel in Kowloon. Organised by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Mike Langford** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bill Feltham** the event was successful and the Master thoroughly enjoyed himself.

The Master paid a visit to the Regimental Training Camp at Sai Kung in the New Territories on 9th October and he saw a number of soldiers taking strenuous exercise—a change for most of them from their daily shift work in the Comcen.

On Sunday, 7th October the Master attended a barbeque on nearby Lantao Island. A large number of the Regiment's families were there and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Mrs. Maureen Feltham, wife of our SSM did a sterling job cooking steak, chicken, pork chops and sausages, all of which were avidly devoured by what seemed like the five thousand.

We played soccer against some of the local prison staff and **Captain Ted Hill** proved that he had kicked a ball before, whilst **Captain Cliff Walters** drove the team forward. Honour was satisfied with a two all draw.

The final of the Regimental squash championship will be held on 9th November between **Captain Cliff Walters** and **Corporal Paul Hawkins** whilst the novices final will be between **Corporal Al Sykes** and **Sergeant Tony Horne**—winners will be notified next month.

With the arrival of the colder weather, football, rugby, cricket, hockey and squash are all being played. The football team after an indifferent start have settled down and are beginning to play well, whilst the rugby team have already made their mark.

Arrivals: **Corporal Hunt, Corporal Heppenstall, Corporal Pomroy, Corporal Coffey, Lance-Corporal Brown.**

Departures: **Corporal McDonald, Corporal Brown.**

28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

TARE—LEARN ALL ABOUT IT HERE

With the successful field trial and final acceptance of TARE in September we found ourselves firmly pushed into the world of software, hardware, on-time diagnostics and the remainder of the OK vocabulary, that comes as part of the package deal when receiving a new computer.

During the initial period of learning about our new beast and showing it off to all and sundry, I regret that we have not had the time to put pen to paper to describe our new toy; an omission which the following paragraphs, hopefully, will correct.

TARE (Telegraph Automatic Routing Equipment) was built by the Bendix Corporation of America for NATO. The sub units are commercially available equipments interfaced by Bendix, who devised the software, to complete the installation.

Briefly the installation is arranged in the bodies of two four ton Mercedes vehicles. The maintenance vehicle contains the computer, two disc storage units, various hardware interfaces and the engineering position. The supervisory vehicle is the traffic area and contains a variety of teleprinter positions to control, monitor and assist operations.

TARE is a 32 line automatic routing equipment, which determines the source, destination, security classification and precedence of a message by the examination of format lines one through four. Ideal office crossover time is measured in microseconds.

The twin hearts of the system are a small varian 620 computer in which message processing takes place and a long term disc

T.A.R.E.

W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Mansfield talking to the computer from the Supervisor's vehicle

storage unit which has the capacity to store 3,000 transmitted messages, allowing retrieval of these messages when required.

In the field, the complete installation is manned by a shift of one Yeoman, four data telegraphists and one technician, this compares very favourably with the requirement for 34 data telegraphists to operate the manual tape relay centre.

For the technically minded:—the computer has a word length of 16 bits, core storage for 24 words and an operation cycle of 1·8 microseconds. The software is assembled using a DAS (low level) compiler within a Varian devised Master Operating System (MOS). The disc memory has a capacity of 1·1 Mega-words and a maximum access delay of 50 milliseconds.

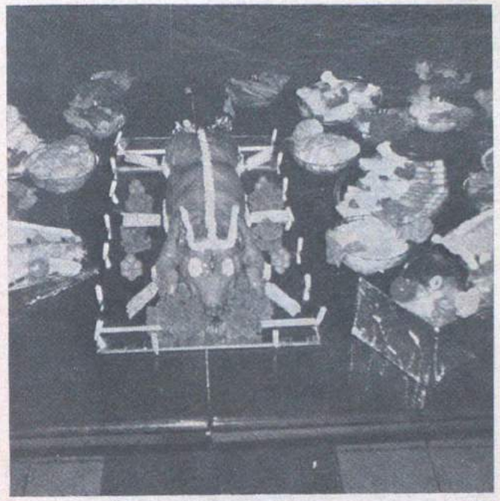
The following summary is included for those considering the purchase of this versatile installation. Equipment is mounted in the centre of two Mercedes four tonners. Power AC mains, 50 cycles. Consumption—Petrol 10 mpg when mobile; AC—six kilowatts when static. Will it fit your garage? merely 24ft × 8ft × 8ft (each). Will it fit your pocket? £250,000 per installation. Before dismissing the idea of a purchase, remember NAAFI now offer a 7½% dividend!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VIP (VERY IMPORTANT PIG) AT 28 (BR) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Oh! the shame and indignity of it all! Things will never be the same again. There was I minding my own business, having a snuffle for a truffle in my favourite patch of wood, when hands were unceremoniously laid upon me, and I was rapidly dragged away and duly despatched with almost indecent haste. Before you could say 'Suckling Pig', I had been shaved, scalded, fully dressed, and delivered to the kitchen of 28 (BR) Signal Regiment. Things would not have been so bad at this stage if the Catering Officer, **Lieutenant Gordon Walker** had realised that being a healthy and strong pig, I would not fit into his normal sized ovens. So here I was, naked as the day I was born, waiting around while the Catering Troop built a special field oven outside the kitchen. Try and imagine if you will the social degradation involved in being cooked outside the back door of the cookhouse! The front door might have been acceptable! In fact I would go so far as to say that I was so relieved to get out of the cold and into the oven that I forgot about my shabby treatment.

Still I should not really complain; after that episode things began to get better. An ACC Staff Sergeant, **Tommy Hodgkinson** spent a lot of time dressing me up with mayonnaise and fairy lights that flashed on and off, and put me on a mirror surrounded by all sorts of goodies. In fact my only moan at this point was the way in which the wire for the fairy lights was connected, it quite made my eyes water.

The next thing I know, I am surrounded by all sorts of people, and there is music blasting through my empty ear sockets. It seems that tonight is the night of the Officers' Mess Autumn Ball, and I am to be the star attraction at the Buffet. Mind you, I must admit I enjoyed having all the people wandering round me, admiring my newly created finery, in fact I was almost proud of



V.I.P. as laid out

the way I looked. However you all know as well as I just what Army Life is like—no gratitude—after I had entertained them all with my good looks for half the evening they had the nerve to pass bits of me around, leaving me stark naked to the bone up to the shoulders.

I do not mind telling you that, although they said the ball had been a success, I for one will not be at the next.

RUGBY

This season has so far been the most fruitful period ever for the ruby team, record so far being played 10, won 8, lost 2, for 212, against 115. However the crowning glory was the semi-final of the Rhine Area Cup against the much fancied 3 BAPD, the result being 9–6 in our favour after an extremely hard fought game. On 14th November we now do battle against our next door neighbours, 16 Signal Regiment for the cup itself. As the two finalists of Rhine Area, both 16 and ourselves go forward into the BAOR quarter-finals, opponents unknown as yet. We hope, given a favourable wind and calm sea (our CO is a sailor so we use all nautical terms in the Regiment now) to cause some major upsets as we strive for the ultimate glory.

FOOTBALL

The 1973/74 season has started most successfully. The first team (Army Cup Finalists last season) are unbeaten after 11 matches having scored 45 goals and conceded only three. We lead the North Rhine Inter Services League after seven games with a goal tally of 31 to 1. Although two of last seasons team have gone, some new blood has arrived and things are shaping well. We are through to the third round of the Army Cup (BAOR Section) having won the previous rounds 3–0 and 5–0. Despite our excellent run we have not as yet been able to play a regular first eleven due to courses/UK leave and injuries, etc. Credit therefore must be given to several second team players who have filled the gaps extremely well. The second team themselves are doing creditably well and are placed in the top half of their league. Having played most of the 'big' RAF stations and with easier games to come they should improve their points tally. It would be unfair at this stage to single out any player for mention, suffice it to say that 28 Signal Regiment look good and promise well for the season.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

HANDOVER AND TAKEOVER OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

AS reported in our last WIRE notes, **Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan MacIntyre** handed over the Regiment on 25th October to **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Jarrett.** In the final run-up to his handover **Colonel Duncan** and his wife **Doreen** had several farewell functions to attend, and from the Regiment's point of view this culminated, as far as **Colonel Duncan** was concerned, in his dining out of the Mess by the officers of the Regiment. As is normal, the Regiment observed all its traditions including loving cup ceremony and also including its tradition of making short speeches after dinner. In his short speech saying farewell on behalf of the officers to the CO, our Second-in-Command, **Major Bob Martin,** highlighted some of the many achievements of the Regiment under our Commanding Officer, and this part of the ceremonies culminated in the presentation of some Wedgewood, which, it is hoped, will both grace the new home of the **MacIntyre's** and revive pleasant memories of their stay with the Regiment. As many of our readers know, the Regimental emblem is the White Swan, and in accordance with another custom the Commanding Officer duly departed the Regiment in a sedan chair fashioned in the shape of a white swan. On reaching the Regimental Headquarters square, the Commanding Officer, much to the relief of those acting as sedan chair carriers, transferred to his staff car whereat the Regiment's officers en masse said, "Bye, bye, **Colonel MacIntyre**"—this is a private Regimental joke which will no doubt be appreciated by the cognoscenti. **Doreen's** departure from the Regiment was marked by the Wives' Club with the presentation to her of an appropriate piece of Wedgewood. I wonder if there was any collusion between the Wives Club secretary and the Mess?

IMMINENT DEPARTURE

Lieutenant-Colonel MacIntyre being escorted to the 'Swan' chair for his departure by Jill Mackay and Dennis Marshall. In the background from left to right, Frank Garrod, Bob Martin, Jack Jenkins and John Ankers

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS FAREWELL TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MacINTYRE

On 12th October the WO's and Sergeants' Mess dined out **Colonel MacIntyre** who has left us for BAOR. A most enjoyable evening it was with the wine and champagne flowing freely on this special occasion. The Colonel was presented with the Silver Jimmy by the members of the Mess, who wish him all the best in his new appointment.

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER
Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Jarrett chats, during his dining in, with Fergus Elliott, our O.C. H.Q. Squadron

DINING IN THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

Our new Commanding Officer, **Colonel Mike Jarrett,** and his wife **Ann,** dined into the Mess together at a Ladies' Dinner Night which was held on 7th November. We were fortunate indeed that the Corps Band had returned from Berlin on 6th November and were therefore able and, as always, very willing to play at one of our dinner nights. As is usual on these occasions the food, music and company were all superb and we are sure that the welcome given to **Colonel Mike** and his wife has firmly established in their minds what they must already have realised, that this is a very happy and forward looking Regiment. There is now a move afoot amongst the ladies to have some sort of march played to celebrate their attendance at dining nights, and I think that this would probably meet with the genuine approval of all the officers, their ladies and their gentlemen. (Readers must work that one out for themselves).

We must record how pleased we were to see **Brigadier Clive Tonry** at one of our Regimental Dining Nights.

THE REGIMENT VISITS THE POLICE DRIVING SCHOOL

On 16th October a party from the Regiment, comprising **S.S.M. Tom Hassett, Sergeant Gordon ('Wheels') Scott, Sergeant Alan Lawrence, Corporal Bruce ('Big F') Forsyth, Corporal Jack ('Dad') Thorne** and **Lance-Corporal Dave Harman,** visited the Police Driving School at Hendon leaving at 07.00 hours in the morning in order to arrive there by 10.45. The travelling time was arranged no doubt to prove that they had not exceeded the speed limit on any portion of their journey to Hendon. Our team had a very interesting and informative day with the Police, and to our surprise the system of driver training used at Hendon was found to be much the same as the military system, with, however, the added advantage that the Police train their men in comfortable vehicles travelling at 110 miles an hour around the outskirts of London. After a superb lunch our team were taken out for a hair-raising ride on the School's skid pan using Triumph 2000's. Despite being carefully briefed on the shortage of vehicles in the Regiment the team did not manage to come back with more vehicles than they set out with. However, they did have a very interesting, informative and satisfying visit.

THE REGIMENT'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Once more the heavy exercise period is with us, and Force Radio Troop is at present enduring the wilds of Denmark on Exercise 'Absalon Express', whilst at the same time the majority of what is left of 1 Squadron plus an element from RHQ are preparing to go off for a month to exercise in much warmer climes. We hope that for the next issue of the WIRE we might be able to produce a colour photograph which will show what unseasonable weather we expect to have in the tropics.

Man at the top

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Appointed Tailors and Outfitters to the Royal Corps of Signals

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

THE usual frantic amount of activity has been going on since our last set of notes. No sooner had the exercise season come to an end before we seemed to be deep in preparation for PRE and FFR. Sport has also been very prominent. However, the Editor is always saying "keep it short" so we will try not to bang on for too long!

'EXERCISE ENDS'

This happy cry took our Brigade Commander, and the rest of us, by surprise on the evening of 4th October, and by lunch time on Friday, 5th October we were all safely back in barracks. This marked the end of exercises for the year, and since a few members of the Squadron had been out for over a month, this was very welcome. Our photo(s) were taken in the last three weeks in the field.

EARLY MORNING AT MAIN COOKER
Left to right: Corporal Ray Moore, Private Thornborough, R.S.M. Ivor Wells (standing in a pot of boiling water?); Sergeant Jack Revera (showing off his clean vest) and Corporal George Nicholson who is about to strike the cameraman with his egg-slice!

THE HAIRIES—AS USUAL WITH NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT POSE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
Left to right: Lance-Corporal Derek Lamb, Signalman Garry Butler, Signalman Dick Dempsey, Corporal John Jarwood, Signalman Joe Malloy, Sergeant Ray Galway, Corporal Fred Malpass, Corporal Vic Ovington

INTER-TROOP CROSS COUNTRY

Rumours that anyone who finished more than 13th in the Inter-Troop Cross Country on Friday, 19th October was likely to get an 'adverse' Confidential this year have nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that the OC, **Major Noel Moss,** finished 13th! This, at least, is the official version!

Seriously though, the event was a great success and was our first step towards an attempt to retain the BAOR Trophy. The individual winner was **Lance-Corporal Gerry Hegarty** and the winning team came from Alpha Troop, led by **Sergeant 'Taff' Moore** and including **Signalman Keith Saunders, Signalman Steve Collins, Signalman 'Paddy' Verdon, Signalman Vince Hills, Lance-Corporal 'Jock' McAvoy, Lance-Corporal Keith Hansford** and **Y. of S. Reg Hazelgrove.** Shortly after this event **Lance-Corporal Hegarty** went off to England to represent BAOR in its annual match with the Army.

BASKETBALL

The basketball season got under way with the Inter-Troop Competition held on Saturday, 20th October. One aim of this competition was to choose a squad from which the Squadron team could be selected; however this took second place to some very keen inter-troop rivalry. The first game resulted in the favourites, TM Troop led by **Corporal 'Jock' Clark,** being given 'the sudden death' by 'A' Troop fresh from their cross-country win on the previous afternoon. Credit must go to TM Troop who during the remainder of the morning played very good basketball and won the plate competition. Upsets, however, were the order of the day and MT Troop, one of the outsiders, narrowly beat the LAD who had been joint favourites with TM Troop. This win took MT Troop through to the finals in which they met a formidable SHQ Troop team containing both the OC and the RSM (how formidable can you get?). However, in a very hard fought match the skill of **Lance-Corporal Nick Harvey** and **Lance-Corporal Alec Duncan** and the determination of **Lance-Corporal Mick Leach** gave MT Troop the edge and it was they who lined up to receive their awards from **Mrs. Irene Elford,** the wife of **Lieutenant Hugh Elford.** The Squadron now has a squad of 12 keen basketball players who under the guidance of **Y. of S. Andy Locke** are determined to add to the trophy cabinet during the coming season.

CANOEING IN NORWAY
CORPORAL JOHN CLINTON WRITES:

I had heard many stories about the British Outward Bound Centre in Norway. These included tales of runs and swims in the ice cold fiords all before breakfast. But as participants had lived to tell the tale I guessed that it could not be all bad. **Lance-Corporal 'Slug' Henry, Lance-Corporal 'Des' Desborough, Signalman 'Ginge' Doyle** and myself were, for the next two weeks from 30th July to 11th August, going to learn basic canoeing skills.

On arrival at Kristiansand after a 24 hour combined rail-coach-ferry journey from barracks, all personnel of the course assembled. A total of 85 included people from all parts of BAOR and UK.

We were taken to the Centre at Isefjaer where we were to live during the course. The same afternoon we split into patrols, introduced to our instructors and issued with: wet suits, life jackets, spray decks, paddles, cookers and first aid kit. Morphia was issued to the patrol leader should any accident occur resulting on severe pain. As it is a dangerous drug it had to be signed for.

The course began, and after early morning runs and swims the first few days were spent on basic skills including capsize drills, turns, deep water rescues, support and drawing strokes. The latter were used respectively to upright the canoe should it tip and to manoeuvre sideways. I found it difficult to canoe in a straight line!

We progressed to a sea trip of one day in which we did a ten mile journey around the many islands in the locality. This gave experience of sea swell and conditions.

Every evening was spent on lectures and films on all aspects of canoeing; several lectures were on 'white water' which is the term used for fast flowing river canoeing, the white water being that which forms as it hits any obstruction. White water canoeing is graded from one to six, one being 'easy', six being 'the absolute limit of difficulty'!

We had to travel 60 miles to find suitable water to practice the

first two grades, as due to the hot summer and no rain the rivers were drying up fast. Three days were spent here working against rough conditions, a lot of time spent unintentionally under water. Then we went back to the quiet sea, refining strokes and rolling the canoe.

A three day self contained sea expedition was the next venture. We travelled during the day stopping over night on islands. It proved to be quite a feat to be able to stay afloat in the heavy swells encountered and the wash from the ferries and ships that passed.

The last few days were used for competitions between patrols and tests on what we had learnt. The course had a 100% pass rate.

SUCCESS STORY—ORIENTEERING
LANCE-CORPORAL JOHN LYNN WRITES:

Little did I realise, when **Lieutenant Elford** held an Inter-Troop Orienteering Competition earlier in the year, that I would end up in the Army Championship. I wasn't particularly interested at that stage, since it was a totally new sport to me. Next came the Brigade meeting in which Mr. Elford entered two teams. Although the Squadron did not do too well, I and the rest of the teams gained some valuable experience.

A short time later, came the 2 Division meeting, in which we had some bad luck and failed to qualify for the BAOR Championship. However, myself and **Guardsman 'Taffy' Gardiner** did well enough to enter the BAOR event as individuals. I think I surprised everyone, myself most of all, when I came second equal! This qualified me for the Army Championship on 10th October in UK.

This event was held on Stamford Training Area, with a field of about 300 competitors, so there was plenty of stiff competition. It was a very cold day, but it did not take long to warm up on the 14kms-plus course. It turned out to be more like a cross-country course, with some very fast times being put up. I finished in 50th place which I was very pleased with, as a finale to my first season's orienteering.

CCV

5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

THE Saxon Horse is back! To announce this event we give you a somewhat lengthy account of the 'Fighting Fifth's' summer activities.

SPORT

To celebrate the rare achievement of having all three infantry battalions under command in UK the Brigadier called for a brigade sports and skill-at-arms meetings in June and as usual it fell to us to do most of the organisation. The sports meeting was as hot and sunny as the skill-at-arms meeting was wet. Nevertheless **F. of S. Barry Jepson** and his technicians kept the PA working throughout and **R.S.M. Norman Ladds** handled the prize-giving like a true impressario. Lady Luck abandoned us at the sports meeting, but returned in the form of **Staff Sergeant Gerry Markwell** for the skill-at-arms competition. Under his guidance we won both the SMG cup and the prize for the best minor unit.

Flushed with success we entered for the South West District Swimming Championships and to our surprise won through to a place in the Army finals at RMA Sandhurst on 13th September. **Captain Brendon Hughes** and his team put swimming before work (in more senses than one) and the result of a lot of dedicated training was victory in the Army finals. **Lance-Corporal George Hardstaff** won the backstroke event in record time and our medley relay team also broke the existing Army record for minor units. A mention too of **Signalman Colin Wilson** who swam in the first event of the day, the 100 yards freestyle, and won it in a time of 4 seconds better than anything he had done in training. 229 Signal Squadron gave us a run for our money, but we just managed to beat them by a touch in the last and decisive race; we look forward to seeing them again next year.

EXERCISE 'DAWN CHORUS'

For the past two years the Brigade seems to have been operating mainly in the Airmobile or heliborne role, but in early July this year we were given the opportunity to train in our Airportable or 'sunshine' role. At last we could justify that curious word in our title.

'Dawn Chorus' took the form of a CPX in Cyprux where 5 Airportable Brigade were operating in the Episkopi area and Joint Forces Headquarters (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment) in Dhekelia. The two were to communicate that awkward distance of just under 70 miles using HF radio. Many weeks were spent preparing; the run-up exercise in the UK only increased distrust in HF radio and the Squadron had last minute problems with weight which made the UEO's job rather harder than it should have been, but **Captain Andy Martin** was determined to get to Cyprus this time, after being left behind in Tidworth in January on the Squadron's last visit to the island.

The exercise itself went remarkably well, no matter what our friends in the 3rd Division Signal Regiment may have to say to the contrary elsewhere in the WIRE! The Squadron arrived at Akrotiri, but since we were to operate without vehicles we moved into the gymnasium of 1 Royal Anglian at Episkopi and stayed there throughout. HF communications worked well so perhaps the 'ether' was a little clearer South of the United Kingdom. That was of course as long as the Brigade Commander did not wish to make a teleprinter conference call. On the first call both belt and braces broke. On the second our 'braces', **Signalman Nick Devon,** working on a C11/RTA/T100 R link was amazed to find the incoming signal interrupted by the words "ere GOC!". As his station was in a rather isolated position he was considerably relieved to see the Brigade Commander pounding across the sand to his rescue.

The exercise play lasted the total of one week and after packing for the return flight in a remarkably short time of one day, the Squadron dispersed for between four to six days rest and recreation, or what is generally known as doing one's own thing in Cyprus. It was a great pleasure to enjoy the fine weather, or what ever else took your fancy, rather than have to sweat in the heat and dust on the exercise.

EXERCISE 'SKY ALARM'

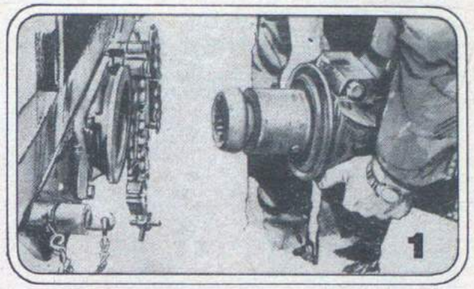
On returning from Cyprus the squadron undertook another exercise involving us both in our airportable and airmobile roles. This was done by preparing for a notional airlift which entailed passing through the Air Mounting Centre at South Cerney and then moving by road to Stanford PTA where we reorganised for a CPX in our role as a heliborne brigade. Some members of Alpha Troop under **Lieutenant Harry Ross** had all the fun when Tactical HQ and the Rebro were flown forward by Wessex, the radios being mounted in modified three-quarter ton GS trailers underslung from the helicopters. This procedure was rehearsed as many times as possible and the exercise just seemed to fly past. This proved to be pretty exhausting work, especially for the rebro crew under **Lance-Corporal Alan Hibberd.** We suspect that this detachment is the smallest and lightest C42 rebro in the Corps.

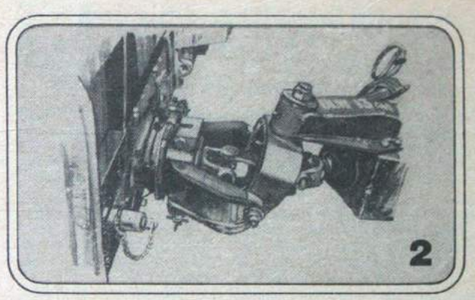
DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

Alpha Troop were sorry to see **Staff Sergeant 'Nick' Nicoll** leave its ranks and welcomed **Staff Sergeant 'Gerry' Markwell** in his place. We also welcome **W.O.2 'Nick' Nicoll** (the same) as our new RQMS replacing **W.O.2 John Kelly.** Also on his way was **Sergeant Bob Douglas** who is now in 12 Mechanical Brigade Signal Squadron and in his place we welcome **Corporal 'Alex' Forbes** from 2 Division. On the Officer scene we saw the departure of one of our old soldiers **Captain (Q.M.) John Webber,** RCT, our MTO, who was replaced in mid-summer by **Captain Peter Everingham,** RCT. Finally our long suffering Second-in-Command **Captain Andrew Martin** has left us to teach at the School of Signals. He is replaced, after the longest handover in history, by **Captain 'Rex' Stephenson** who has decided to inflict 'Antennas and Propogation' on the soldiery of the Squadron, rather than on idle 'Q' Courses at the School of Signals.

POST SCRIPT

These notes are being typed by the courtesy of our new Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Derek Harrod** who replaced **Staff Sergeant John Lyons** to whom we wish all the best in HQ Northag Signals Support Group.





Exceptional performance is given by the addition of a powered-axle trailer. Not only is the combination of 4 x 4 plus 2 x 2 more flexible than a rigid 6 x 6 vehicle, but the increased traction allows country impassable to a 4 x 4 to be easily traversed. Over heavy going the trailer can push the vehicle. Illustration 1 shows the drive being lined up; illustration 2, the drive fully engaged.

4x4 PLUS 2x2 ADDS NEW DIMENSION TO 1 TONNE LAND ROVER

6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 106

FACELIFT FOR ST. SEBASTIAN BARRACKS

DURING the time that the majority of men from 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron were participating in Exercise 'Forefront 73', arrangements were made for civil contractors to paint and generally repair the exterior of the living accommodation on the camp.

Not to be outdone, our two Squadron HQ typists, **Mrs. Lis Smart** and **Mrs. Jacqui Woolcott,** decided that their surroundings could also stand brightening up. Without more ado, they commandeered assorted paints and brushes, borrowed denims from the stores, and under the watchful eye of the Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant John Roberts,** they began.

The first thing to succumb to their busy brushes was the letter rack and counter, followed in rapid succession by the waste-bins, ash-trays, window frames, doors, desks and any unfortunate who happened to stand still for longer than 10 seconds, but even the tolerant and long-suffering Chief Clerk drew the line at a blue and white striped duplicating machine.

Seriously though, both ladies turned out to be quite accomplished decorators, but I hope that this is not the foundation of Women's Lib at St. Sebastian otherwise my next article may well be dictated by my wife!

Lis and Jaqui doing their bit while Chief Clerk Staff Sergeant John Roberts looks on

BAOR CYCLING ASSOCIATION TRAINING WEEKEND REPORT BY LANCE-CORPORAL CLIVE BRITTEN

In the late hours of Friday night and the dawn of Saturday, an assortment of vehicles arrived at the gates of St. Sebastian Barracks Soest. None of them had, the now familiar Unit 'sticker' on the windscreen, for they came from as far away as Hohne in the East and Laarbruch in the West. But all had one thing in common they had with them bicycles, not your sit up and beg type made popular by the QM stores, but touring and racing machines.

Eleven men had said they would gather here to suffer for two days for the sake of sport. It was partly my job (routing of course) to see that they left here aching and happy.

A quick look at a map will show how hard I tried to please. Early Saturday morning, nine men, a few of them not having turned a pedal for a few months because of other committments, rode their bikes from these barracks in a South Easterly direction, catching a quick glimpse of the Mohnesee on the way to Hirsch Burg and then to Meschede. Unfortunately there were some road works in that town which meant a detour along Route 7 for a couple of kilometres to a right turning leading to Remblinghausen and then into Westernbodefeld. By this stage a few were feeling the effort of climbing a hill every couple of miles so it was agreed that we would have lunch at Siedlinghausen, by this time most of the climbing would be completed.

After 45 minutes during which we consumed a number of Bratwurst and chips washed down with a beer per man we headed for home, leaving behind a rather puzzled 'Imbiss' owner and his assistant, whose charm a few riders commented upon. Brilon was the next town of note but no one wished to pause here as we were all looking forward to the faster ride home and tea. Our final objective, the camp dining hall was reached shortly after 17.00 hours and our thanks are given to the cooks who were on duty on this and other occasions when we arrived, starving, after meal times, and were still fed. After the meal and a shower we queued at the NAAFI bar for a pint to quench our thirst while watching the films shown to us by **Lance-Corporal 'Tojo' Awburn.** These had been provided by our secretary **Sergeant 'Wally' Happy.** The first was a report of the 1952 Tour de France. One of our riders was heard to say, "I wasn't born until the following year". By this time our numbers had swollen in time for the second film, which was of the Isle of Man Cycling week in a year few of us could remember. The third was of a Canadian Tour which all of us were glad to be watching and not riding. The photography was terrific to say the least and this film was on loan to us from the Canadian Embassy in Bonn.

Sunday morning being fine meant some more suffering or enjoyment depending upon your point of view. But the pain was not to be as great as on the previous day as we were back in time for a late lunch. The route this time was more of a local one on roads known to many of the readers. Across the Dam at Stockum and up into the Arnsberger Wald to Niedereimer on Route 7, then to Wickede via Neheim Husten. From Wickede to the barracks was almost a direct run, but the road still goes up and down enough to make the ride a hard one.

On reflection I am left with the thought that it was not hard enough. Riders were heard to say they had enjoyed themselves and wanted to do it again. Maybe we are all mad!

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 37

THE past two months has seen the squadron through the Autumn FTX and the annual FFR inspection. On the 5th September the Squadron assembled a mere 44km from Bonn for the Brigade FTX. The exercise lasted until the 21st September with the Brigade exercising in the very difficult and mountainous area of the Sauerland. The Squadron was joined by extra rebroadcast detachments from 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment and 21 Signal Regiment to enable us to communicate with the umpires and 'enemy' in the very difficult terrain. The visitors to the exercise included the CSO BAOR, **Major-General H. E. Roper,** CCR Signals. **Brigadier A. C. Bertwistle** and our Squadron Commander designate, **Major R. F. L. Cook,** Royal Signals.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, Brigadier I. H. Baker, talks to Lieutenant Dick Gittins, O.C. 'Bravo' troop, Sergeant 'Bill' Burley, B.E.M., and Major John Alexander, Squadron Commander. Major Nigel Mogg, the Brigade Major, looks on

PRIZE WINNER

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Keith Gordon receiving the Royal Signals Institution Prize from Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, Brigadier I. H. Baker, M.B.E. on parade during the F.F.R. of 7 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron 25th October 1973

JERBOA CLUB REBORN

In the last four months much work has been put in on rebuilding the inside of the 'Jerboa Club'. The leading light in the design and construction was **Signalman ('Grandad') Lindh,** now posted to Singapore, encouraged by **Sergeant 'Boggie' Marsh** and many willing hands including the squadron wives. One of the earliest functions was the first folk night of Soltau Folk Club, organised by **Sergeant 'Griff' Griffiths** and **Corporal 'Ackie' Atkin,** ACC where the attraction was the **'Ian Campbell'** folk group.

F.F.R.

As soon as the FTX had ended, work started on preparations for the FFR on 25th October. This year the inspection by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier I. H. Baker, M.B.E.** started with a parade on which he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **Captain Mike Richardson,** RCT the MTO, and **Sergeant 'Jeff' Bingham,** 14/20 Hussars, the Sergeants' Mess caterer. Also on the parade the Royal Signals Institute Prize was presented to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Keith Gordon** for his outstanding performance on his Foreman of Signals course. After the parade the Commander made his inspection of the barracks and the morning finished off with a drive past of all vehicles of the Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

FAREWELL

In September the Squadron said farewell to the Adjutant, **Captain John Macgregor,** 14/20 Hussars and we welcome the new Adjutant, **Captain Derek Sullivan,** 4/7 Dragoon Guards.

During October as well as preparing for the FFR the Squadron sent detachments on three exercises to assist other units, and now 'look forward' to going on exercise at the end of November and early December with 1 German Division.

WRAC COMMEMORATIVE COVER

To mark the 25th anniversary of the WRAC a commemorative cover in the series Military Uniforms is being produced. The stamp will be cancelled by a specially designed headstamp bearing a unique BFPO number. A limited number of covers will be signed by the first and present day Directors of WRAC. Covers are 55p (signed) and 30p (unsigned). For details apply to Philatelic Officer, WRAC Centre.

12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 36

"AW, C'mon. I did them two months ago!". This is not just a catchy opener (come to think of it, it's not even a catchy opener) but I was sure it was someone else's turn to record for posterity, the machinations of the 'lady H'.

"No, you are the canoeing officer—get writing!".

It then dawned on me that since the squadron team had recently won the BAOR Canoe Championships, the main items of interest would be that (I was not even there at the time but here goes).

CANOEING—A GREAT EFFORT

The canoe club came up with crazy idea to enter for the BAOR Canoe Championships earlier this month. Crazy? It was in the middle of our annual FTX (maybe not so crazy after all). The team eventually worked out their timings, their routes and how to get the canoes to Celle and they were ready for the off.

All was prepared when the MTO realised he needed the four tonner they were to get.

"You can have a flatbed Bedford", said **Captain Sandy Forbes,** RCT, "no sides or canopy but it is all I have got".

"WOW" they said, then "thanks"!

Two of the team decided to travel by private car, **Corporal Alan Rippon** found some petrol coupons he had forgotten about so once again they were all set.

The rest of the Squadron departed on FTX leaving four sorry-looking soldiers in camp—they did so want to come with us!

Eventually the happy band, under the guidance of **Sergeant Tony Ashton,** REME, arrived at Celle to begin the races. Suffice it to say that training consisted of one-armed movements with heavy steins on the end, and getting into practice for the sleepless nights on FTX.

The races were of two types, 12km sprint (uphill), and 36km long distance, both with various lock portages. The team consisted of **Sergeant Tony Ashton** and **Craftsman Mick Ikin,** REME in one boat and **Signalman Barry McMillan** and **Corporal Alan Rippon** in the other. The two crews came first and third respectively in both races, clinching the overall team prize. The OC, **Major Mike Marples** had to wait until the FTX had finished before suitably filling the cup. But we congratulate the lads on a great effort.

EXERCISES GALORE

The FTX has just finished as has Exercise 'Queen's Crown III' and by all accounts we acquitted ourselves quite favourably. There were many notable quotes from both exercises and of course many memorable occasions but most of them are either unprintable or best forgotten.

. . . like **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Tunmore's** land rover stalling in the water before it got on to the M2 bridge on the Weser.

. . . like the conker battles in Felsen between officers and soldiers.

. . . like the radio which defied all attempts to make it work, then was switched to high power.

. . . like **Craftsman 'Ginge' Winters,** REME, being captured by the jocks and being interrogated in his stocking feet in the mud.

. . like the Second-in-Command, **Captain Leslie Steane** having to be physically restrained from receeing any more villages—"but I want to reach three figures this morning Sir!".

But the mere written word is not sufficient to do justice to two memorable exercises—best ask someone in '12 Clockwork' the full story but remember our motto 'catch us if you can'.

SPORTS GALORE

Now that the exercise season has come to a close, our minds are turning to other things, trade training, sport, vehicle maintenance, sport, education courses, sport, vehicle maintenance, etc., etc.

We have a fine squad from which to choose our rugby teams this year 7 Signals watch out! **Captain Gerry Maddren** and **Corporal Clive Blackburn** have both had BAOR trials lately and we are all expecting great things from a very new, fit squad. With the departure from Quebec Barracks of 1 RRW, we may even manage to make use of the two pitches in operation at the moment.

Hockey is going great guns under the supervision of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) 'Taff' Hope.** The technicians are, at the moment the

back bone of the team with **Sergeants Tony Thomas, 'Paddy' Bovenizer** and **Mick Barnett**—but then, the technicians have always got time on their hands.

Preparations are being made for 'Snow Queen' this year but when we have decided where we are going, who with and last but by no means least, who is the real skiing officer, we may be able to give more news.

Any of our readers who know Quebec Barracks will possibly remember the peaceful expanse of grass between the Officers' Mess and the railway line. This playing field, has in years gone by, provided the route for a pleasant walk by which the officers of the squadron could allow their lunches to digest fully before the rigours of our afternoon's work.

Not now. Lead by the Adjutant, **Captain George Hooton,** ably assisted by **Staff Sergeant Dave Keating,** RAPC and **Corporal Bob Cobb,** that area of green has become something half way between Bikini Atoll and Gold Juno and sword beaches together. Golf practice is the 'in thing' at the moment and unfortunately practice is the operative word—but by now they are all getting the range and bearing correct so certain squadron officers have actually been seen running across the sports' pitch for no apparent reason.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

I started off the epistle with an account of how four of our number succeeded in missing part of the FTX. **Signalman Phil Purnell** managed to get leave over the whole exercise period. How did he manage it? He only went back to UK to get married! We wish **Mrs. Purnell** all the best in her new army life.

We also welcome to 'B' Troop **Sergeant Douglas, Corporals Johnstone** and **Hallett** and **Signalman Bantin.** To 'A' Troop we welcome **Signalmen Jones** and **Ballinger** and **Sergeant Talbot.** We hope they all enjoy there sojourn with the lazy H. Finally we say bon voyage to **Sergeant 'Tiny' Thomas** who has done sterling work in our Cypher Office, dishing our scant lists and coffee with seemingly care less abandon. He is on his way to a peaceful instructing job in 8 Regiment and to him we extend our grateful thanks and best wishes for the future in 'Sunny Catterick'.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 41

OC	**Major D. C. Whitehead**
Second-in-Command	**Captain C. J. Dakin**
Communications Captain	**Captain E. M. Powell**
OC 'A' Troop	**Lieutenant D. K. Hadden**
OC 'B' Troop	**Lieutenant D. Beare**
RSM	**WO1 C. Markie**
RQMS	**W.O.2 R. Wade**
F. of S.	**W.O.2 J. McNaughton**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 W. J. Donnelly**

GENERAL

WITH the end of the FTX we again turn our talents towards PRE preparation and practising for the all important christmas festivities.

EXERCISE 'FOREFRONT'

A slightly different exercise this year, we (with the help of 4 Division Signal Regiment) established a static control headquarters (or weekend resort!) at Sharfoldendorf. The exercise kicked off with a demonstration of each element of the Brigade. It is always a bit difficult to compete with guided weapons, bridge layers etc., however a great deal of interest was shown in the Brigade HQ set-up, in particular our BRUIN equipment which is not normally seen at Battle group level. This raised some interesting questions such as "who provides the telegraph poles between Division and Brigade", this was presumably as a result of our reference to 'trunk' calls.

With the demonstration completed the exercise play commenced with great enthusiasm! Many interesting lessons were learnt during the exercise play, for example, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John McNaughton** and **Sergeant Jimmy Gregory** learnt that you cannot lay D10 cable across the middle of a tank advance. However, it is not true that **Captain Nigel Woods,** (on loan from 4 Division) when told, that G Operations was where we drove the Brigade from, started to look for a steering wheel and gearbox to go with the foot pressel. By this time our Con HQ, driven by **Captain Peter Kent,** ably assisted by **Sergeant Mick Harrison** and **Corporal Steve Wittick,** (all 4 Division), was in full swing despite the ever present fog.

Corporal Dave Horne and crew (4 Division) were trying to prove that their land rover rebro could go anywhere that our 432 rebro's could go. Meanwhile our rebro crews namely **Lance-Corporal Dave Greenwood, Lance-Corporal Martin Brown, Signalmen Jimmy McGowan, 'Paddy' Hyland, 'Lofty' Ludlam** and **Ross Miller** were proving that they could go anywhere, despite the damage! Worthy of special mention is our recce crew, commanded by **Captain Chris Dakin,** and his Second-in-Command, **Staff Sergeant Gordon Blood,** their task is unenviable as complaints of insufficient space for sleeping or antennas or the officers mess are almost inevitable, the sites chosen included a feature known to one and all as 'Whiteheads Folly' after you know who! Although we were stretched at times a successful exercise, our thanks to all those who assisted us.

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

We welcome, **Captain Mike Powell** (Communications Captain), **Lieutenant Derek Hadden** (OC, 'A' Troop), **Sergeant Dennis Parker** and his wife **Margaret, Signalman Terry Johnston,** and **Craftsman Ian White** and hope they enjoy their stay in the unit.

Last week saw the departure, in grand style, of **Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley, Sergeant Jim Gregory** and his wife **Sharon** and **Signalman Mick Dorrell** we wish them luck in their new postings.

PROMOTIONS

It is with great pleasure that we announce the promotion to Sergeant of our 'Squadron character' namely **Percy Hadland.** Known to one and all as **Percy** he has served in the unit for years, lashing out words of wisdom along with home-made cakes in Signal Operations on exercise. We hope he will continue to do the same for some time to come.

244 Sig Sqn (AS) R.A.F.
Benson

WE apologise for the shortness of our notes this month but with the Squadron Commander showing the experts how to win wars at Warminster, the Administration Officer with the majority of the Squadron circumnavigating BAOR, Denmark and Cyprus we can only offer to all our readers the following article.

244 PARA BOYS

No more will we have to beg, borrow or steal parachutists from our neighbours, because we are mass producing our own. **Lance-Corporal 'Rinty' Monahan, Lance-Corporal Paul Gladwin, Signalman Larry ('The Lion') Little** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Knox,** have successfully completed an arduous six weeks. Comprising of three weeks at Aldershot holiday camp, one week in 'Bach Land' pony trekking (minus ponies), and two weeks in Abingdon enjoying all the fun of the fair.

Although written in a lighthearted mood, the course was anything but. To be met with a welcome at 17.45 hours, get your kit on, your going for a five mile run, is anything but lighthearted.

The first two weeks are taken up with preparation, consisting of, road runs, assault courses, battle PT, forced marches, cross country runs and swimming. If you were not fit at the start you were definitely fit at the end.

The third and fourth week was designed to test potential parachutes under pressure both physically and mentally, also individually and as a team.

Having survived Aldershot and the Brecon Beacons the lucky ones go on to Abingdon for the final phase.

It is said on good authority that all aircraft used are perfectly serviceable, but it is surprising what some men will do under pressure.

Stories of the first jump with equipment being the worst are untrue according to **Knox** and **Little.**

(Continued on page 565)

(Continued from page 564)

Stories of **'Rinty' Monahan** copying a few ideas from the APTS and setting them up on Blackpool beach could well be true. Airborne. Airborne. Geronimo!

Best of luck to **Corporal Jim Smiley, Signalman Dave Beattie** and **Signalman Mick Wood** who are attending the next course in mid-November.

THE VOLUNTEERS

11 Signal Group (V)

THE LANG TROPHY

WHEN **Colonel Bill Lang** retired earlier this year as Deputy Commander of 11 Signal Group (Volunteers) he certainly didn't intend his ex-colleagues to be idle after he left and to make sure they had plenty to do he donated a Trophy to be contested by all sub units within the Group.

The first competition for the Lang Trophy took place at Leek Training Camp, Staffordshire, over the weekend 6th–7th October when 13 squadron teams from Lancashire, Cheshire, the Midlands and Home Counties assembled to test their skills in a variety of events.

35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) were given the task of designing, organising and running the competition and duly produced a programme of events that would test both teamwork and individual skills to the standard of a Royal Signals TAVR trained soldier. Each team included a dismounted section of one Officer or Warrant Officer, one Sergeant and six Corporals and below and a mounted section of two drivers. Each team had to have its own transport and be fully equipped to live in the field—which they did.

The individual tests for the eight members of the dismounted section involved only two, three or four men according to the particular test and selection was made by the Directing Staff to ensure that any case of 'horses for courses' was purely coincidental.

Some of the 88 Directing Staff examined the mounted sections in driving skills, vehicle inspections, fault finding, route reconnaissance and a tough night navigation drive. Others were putting members of the dismounted sections through the hoop. Ten separate individual tests proved whether competitors could claim to have the knowledge and skills necessary to survive under battle field conditions and still be capable of carrying out their normal work.

These tests covered not only aspects of general military training but also basic signalling skills. Of the former, one test—detachment field cooking—was viewed with mixed feelings by those on the receiving end.

With the individual tests behind them the dismounted sections set out on three events that placed a premium on endurance as well as skill and teamwork. A night patrol over difficult ground was followed in quick succession by a day march and shoot and, as a finale, the assault course. Little wonder that a medical check was a prerequisite for every competitor before the weekend.

As if the competition itself wasn't difficult enough, the weather took a hand as well and overnight events for both mounted and dismounted sections were contested to the accompaniment of heavy rain and then thick fog. Under such conditions the competition area became downright unfriendly.

As might be expected with teams drawn from such a wide area the rivalry was keen but good humoured. Perhaps this was one of **Colonel Lang's** aims—to foster a spirit of comradeship throughout the Group. Rarely has the area buzzed with so much activity. **It may be difficult for civilian non-Volunteers to understand why Volunteers are prepared to give up their weekends and face the rigours of a challenging competition like the Lang Trophy but talk to the individuals concerned and they will tell you "This is why we joined the TAVR—to get away from our normal jobs and do something different".**

Thanks to the smooth organisation of the backroom boys in the Record Office everyone was kept informed of results as and when they happened through the medium of a huge scoreboard reminiscent of the tote board on a race course. All that was missing was the odds and even those could have been accommodated if required—possibly there was more than a Trophy on the result here and there.

A FINE EFFORT

83 Signal Squadron (Volunteers), overall winners, striding out in the Day March and Shoot event of the Lang Trophy. The team included Lieutenant Richard Ives, Sergeant Tom McCarthy, Corporal Ian Davies, Corporal Chris Frampton, Lance-Corporals Trevor Dodge, Barry Woods, Chris Wright, Signalmen Derek Boyling, Bill Hatton, Pete Trewin

By the end of those events completed on Saturday, 42 Signal Squadron from 33 Signal Regiment held a narrow lead. On Sunday morning they were still there but with a number of teams close on their heels and no team consigned to the wooden spoon. It all depended on the finale provided by the assault course and to heighten the suspense the scores for this event were left until the presentation of Trophy and prizes.

Dead on the programmed time of 12.45 on Sunday, **Brigadier Baynham,** Commander 11 Signal Group (Volunteers) gave the signal for the announcement of final scores. Unfortunately (for them) the overnight leaders had been overtaken by three other teams and the final prize list was as follows:—

Overall winners:	83 Signal Squadron, 31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Overall runners-up:	HQ Squadron, 35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Best team for dismounted events:	83 Signal Squadron 31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Best team for mounted events:	48 Signal Squadron, 35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

Perhaps the epilogue is best expressed in the words of one of the teams: ". . . while we were disappointed with our final position we like to feel the pace we set helped, in some small way, to ensure that the eventual worthy winners knew they had been in a scrap. This new competition has really captured the imagination of the Volunteers involving purposefully far more people within the Squadron than just the Team".

BUTLER AND COOK/HOUSEKEEPER

Major C. M. Sinclair of Dyke House, Escrick, Yorkshire, knows of such an appointment suitable for a senior NCO and wife carrying a joint salary of about £30 a week and a three-bedroomed flat with food, electricity and heating all free. Near York. Further details on application to **Major Sinclair.**

31 Sig Regt (V), Hammersmith

AS will be seen from Headquarters 11 Signal Group (V) notes 83 Signal Squadron were the winners of the first Lang Trophy competition. The following is an account of the 'rigours and traumas' of preparing for and competing in this competition. It is written by the successful team leader **Lieutenant Richard Ives** who in civil life sits quietly at a desk in the MOD two doors up from the SO-in-C.

LANG TROPHY 1973—A TEAM LEADER'S ACCOUNT

If **Colonel 'Bill' Lang** had known what he was letting us all in for he might not have presented the 'Lang Trophy' on giving up his appointment as Deputy Commander of 11 Signal Group (Volunteers) earlier this year. Before presenting tankards to the teams from 31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) at a celebration dance recently, he said that he was thinking more of an inter-squadron darts match rather than the test of military and communications skills—and physical endurance—that the competition turned out to be. However, a dart board would not really have been a worthy battle ground to determine which of the Squadrons of the three regiments (31, 33, 35) in 11 Signal Group should be the winner of this splendid cup for 1973. As it finally evolved, the competition took the form of a series of individual tests and group tests for teams of 10 men, comprising: a dismounted patrol of one Officer, one Sergeant, six Corporal's and below, and two Drivers.

With annual camp out of the way, a team of 'volunteers' from 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V) was selected and started to train for—well what? Since this was to be the first ever Lang Trophy competition, nobody really knew what to expect. There was a rumour in the early days that there would be individual tests for the dismounted patrol, testing knowledge of basic signalling skills, plus weapon handling, NBC defence drills and cooking in the field, and patrol tests including a night recce patrol, a day march and shoot and an assault course. As training proceeded, somewhat erratically with some team members going off on holiday, the competition details began to crystalise. It was even discovered what the drivers were supposed to know. This included vehicle inspection and fault finding (the LAD provided many useful hints here), route planning and night navigation.

Training culminated in a Regimental competition during the weekend of 29th–30th September in the Aldershot training area, and this was very useful preparation for the actual competition the following weekend, at the Leek Weekend Training Centre in Staffordshire. As well as some team members being tested on first aid knowledge (with some very realistic injuries prepared by **Corporal Terry Lee,** RAMC), the 83 (London) Signal Squadron team was presented with a real live casualty. Halfway through the night patrol, **Corporal Ian Davies** suffered a spontaneous and profuse nose-bleed, so the RSM, **W.O.1 John Holland,** who came along as DS, ran off to fetch the ambulance. However, by the time it arrived, the nose-bleed had spontaneously stopped again, so the patrol continued. The final assault course was run under the direction of **Sergeant Jim Davidson** one of our PSI's, and turned out to be a good deal tougher than the actual competition course carrying an ammunition box full of coarse sand. The 83 Squadron team were fastest overall and finished the weekend with the highest total points, winning the Stonham Alert Cup.

With morale high and in good spirits, the 83 Squadron team set off early on Saturday, 6th October for Leek. Having set-up a bivouac camp, the afternoon was spent doing the rounds of the individual tests. The last test involved cooking in the field and, quite by chance, one of the two men picked by the DS for this test was **Signalman Hatton,** a qualified BII Cook!

Then came the evening, the night patrol, the night navigation for the drivers, and the rain—and more rain, and then mist, which seemed more like the inside of a cummulo-nimbus. It was while the team captain was away being briefed on the night patrol that the cullender-like qualities of the bivouacs became apparent, resulting in a few soggy sleeping bags. The night patrols departed at half-hour intervals and the first few teams away had reasonable conditions, the rain having eased off slightly. By the time 83 Squadron set off across the moor North of Leek, having been fortified in the Moor Tavern, the weather was pretty bad. The mist was so thick at times that it was even difficult to see the end of an out-stretched arm. So, with the team captain finding all the bogs and ditches and **Sergeant Tom McCarthy** pulling him out of them again, the patrol proceeded to its objectives, though unfortunately not all of them, having been misdirected by the DS

Corporals Frampton and Davies prepare for the night patrol

at one check point. The two drivers, **Lance-Corporal 'Chas' Wright** and **Lance-Corporal Barry Woods,** had an equally rough time on the night navigation drive. In appalling visibility, few of the teams completed the 70 miles course, and there were some unprintable remarks from the 83 Squadron team when they returned. They had however, done very well as runners-up in this section.

The following morning, after a couple of hours sleep, the day march and shoot took place. The final assault course proved to be a great spectator event, with each of the 13 competing teams going round, with their box of sand, in quick succession. By this time it was clear that 83 Squadron were in the lead, so they were fastest round the course just to prove the point.

The fact that 83 Squadron (team number 13) won the Lang Trophy was particularly appropriate, for **Colonel Lang** formerly commanded 83 Signal Regiment in AER days. The other competing squadrons in the Regiment also did very well, 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron and 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron, coming 3rd and 6th respectively. In retrospect it proved to be a very worthwhile competition and 35 Signal Regiment are to be congratulated on their organisation of it.

34 Sig Regt (V)
Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

IT seems remarkable that at least four issues of the WIRE have passed since we last regaled our ardent fans in the North East with the latest happenings in their local Volunteer Regiment. We apologise for the gap but time has just flown by and we will try to do better in future. These notes will attempt to bring you up to date.

THE 345 CLUB

The annual Regimental Dinner with ex-officers of the Regiment and its predecessor Regiments—collectively known as the 345 Club—was held in mid-July at the 14th Century, Merchant Venturers Hall in York. We owe the privilege of using these magnificent premises to our Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier Claude Fairweather,** who this year is Governor of the Company of Merchant Venturers. It was a truly memorable evening at which no fewer than five ex-CO's and two former Honorary Colonel's took dinner with us. Older readers will be interested to know

that the list included **Colonel R. M. Percival, Colonel W. A. Lee, Colonel W. L. Hey, Colonel N. R. Bigland** and **Colonel R. M. Stewart,** all in the pink of health and still going very strong indeed. The occasion was also used to dine out **R.S.M. Overland** who left the Regiment shortly afterwards on commissioning to join 7 Signal Regiment. He was presented with a sword by our junior subaltern **Second-Lieutenant Peter Forster,** on behalf of the officers. We wish **Lieutenant** and **Mrs. Overland** all the best of luck and thanks for all their hard work and at the same time welcome **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Heath,** their successors.

BEAUTY COMPETITION

In September the Regiment was diverted by an event all too rare for most of us—the North of England TAVR WRAC Beauty Competition. The action took place in the Bradford Armoury Drill Hall, Darlington where each of the many competitors paraded in uniform and then evening wear of their own choice—not, sad to say, in swim suits. Contingents from each of our locations fervently cheered on their own candidates as each went somewhat nervously through her parade routine.

Our photograph shows the winner, **Private Carol Ellis** of the Gateshead detachment of 90 Squadron. **Private Ellis** now goes on to the Miss TAVR 1974 at London. All our hopes and best wishes go with her.

EXERCISE 'FIRST LAUNCH'

Annual Camp in Germany was almost upon us now. Just time to get in a run-up exercise—Exercise 'First Launch', to test out our new terminal and multiplex vehicles and new crypto equipment. Our group Commander, **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.,** paid us a quick visit during this exercise and pronounced himself confident that we would acquit ourselves well in BAOR. We suspect he concealed some reservations—we certainly did—particularly as the CO had only two days previously undergone a hernia operation and no one except he himself was confident he would be at camp (and he was right fortunately!).

BAOR CAMP

Camp consisted of three almost consecutive exercises—'Headwin' and 'Hard Tack', building up to Exercise 'Plain Sailing'. This latter exercise was the first time the Regiment has provided communications for the use of BAOR staff officers.

Even in retrospect it is hardly credible that in less than 48 hours after leaving our Drill Halls we had completed setting up our location camps (the QM, **Captain 'Ginger' Cockroft,** and his advance party having done sterling preparation work beforehand) and virtually established all our circuits. After this it was almost all—plain sailing!

Fortunately it was dry for our first two days but after that it was 'cats and dogs' for at least part of every day—and plenty of mud. Nevertheless morale remained high throughout with everyone feeding on the obviously successful communications—cheap liquor!

Among those who visited us at Camp this year were the CSO, BAOR, **Major-General H. E. Roper** who appeared very satisfied with the way things were going and our Honorary Colonel who was combining a short continental holiday with a visit to ourselves and his wartime Regiment, 2 Signal Regiment at Bunde.

Our final fling was an in-the-field cocktail party on the last evening before most of the Regiment left and 06.00 hours on the return journey to the UK. 12 Signal Group were joint hosts with ourselves for the occasion which was attended by some 60 guests from Rheindahlen and surrounding units who had helped and co-operated with us both before and during camp. We were particularly happy to see among our guests **Major Frank Ellis,** one time adjutant of 50 Signal Regiment, **Captain Keith Rothwell** our previous QM and **Captain Alan Coombes** who left us recently since his job took him first to Northern Ireland and now to Germany.

"THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE I WAS A LAD!"
Sergeant Braven makes tea

"HE NEEDS RATHER THE DIVINE THAN THE PHYSICIAN—MACBETH"
Sergeant Trever (mentioned elsewhere) and Private Ellis (our reigning beauty queen) practice first aid on the unit Chaplain

The move back to the UK again went smoothly except that one vehicle in the last 'pack', due to an untimely puncture, arrived at Europort only in time to wave goodbye to the rest of the road/sea party as the ferry drew away from the quayside and, sadly, **Lance-Corporal Branwell Peverly** of 90 Squadron who suffered a heart attack during the North Sea crossing. We are glad to report that, thanks to prompt and expert first-aid by **Sergeant Mick Trever** the unit medical sergeant, and the subsequent treatment at Hull hospital, **Lance-Corporal Peverly** is now making satisfactory recovery.

We hope to provide more 'war stories' arising from BAOR camp in future editions but include now a few tittilating camera impressions.

WRAC COMMEMORATIVE COVER

To mark the 25th anniversary of the WRAC a commemorative cover in the series Military Uniforms is being produced. The stamp will be cancelled by a specially designed headstamp bearing a unique BFPO number. A limited number of covers will be signed by the first and present day Directors of WRAC. Covers are 55p (signed) and 30p (unsigned). For details apply to Philatelic Officer, WRAC Centre.

Appointments Vacant

Chief Instructor — Nigerian Army Signals School Apapa/Kaduna

A vacancy exists for the above post which is a civilian appointment. The appointment is new and the person selected will be required to set up a new school for officers, probably at Kaduna as well as take over responsibility for the instructional courses now being carried out at the A.1 Technician and B1 operator levels.

The successful candidate will preferably have had experience at field rank in Royal Signals and as an instructor Royal Signals at an officers' school. He will be responsible for devising courses, organising an instructors cadre, recruiting and selecting staff.

The post will be on contract for 4 to 5 years.

The salary and allowance both local and educational will be negotiable and more than comparable with similar overseas posts.

Preliminary details of the post may be obtained from:

William Simpson,
Communications Consultants (Nigeria) Limited,
P.O. Box 448,
Apapa,
Nigeria — Reference C. 1

Interviews will be arranged in the Middle East, Cyprus, Germany, or the United Kingdom to suit the convenience of the applicant.

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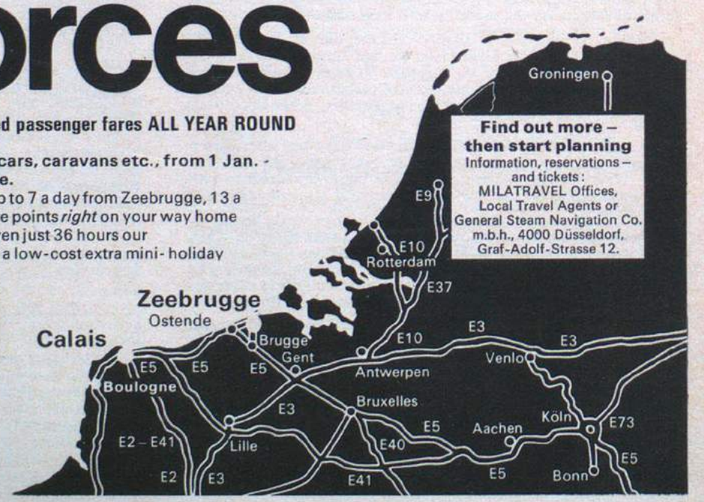


TOWNSEND THORESEN
Car Ferries
Zeebrugge-Dover Calais-Dover

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

REPORTING on Annual Camp is invariably a single sedentary reflection on multiple active realities, and thus often unrecognisable, sometimes inaccurate, and usually quite different from the actual experiences of **Signalman Bloggs.** These paragraphs are unlikely to break from tradition, and yet camp most assuredly did.

GERMANY REVISITED

We returned to Germany for the third time in five years (still nowhere near the record for Scarborough), but instead of beaming in to a cosy Regimental nook, we deployed directly to exercise locations spread across the Rühr, Westphalia, and the Sauerland. Troop Officers became Garrison Commanders at least almost overnight; there were tales of proclamations, investitures, even secession once drawbridges had been raised. Of course, this had taken time. Sea parties had endured the agonies of a transit timetable that computers would have rejected, and on arrival 48 weary hours later were faced with the immediate all-night task of moving-in, setting-up, and establishing communications. To the member of the air party who opined "If you can't beat the system, join it" came the proud reply, "We did both, mate—any questions?". Not that the air party escaped entirely. Some of them had spent 24 hours getting from home to field location, basically a 70 minute flight from Brize Norton to Gutesloh—and that included both attempts to land by the trainee pilot.

A STANDING OVATION?

Originally, RHQ, HQ Squadron, and 44 Squadron had been allocated a wood in which to sojourn for a fortnight, but enterprising recce parties discovered a barracks that offered a more congenial environment. Following eight consecutive days of rain, this move was viewed as astute rather than molly-coddling. Elsewhere, Troopers of 2 RTR, hosts to elements of 54 Squadron, were amazed to find soldiers actually drilling on their square. After ¾ hour, our 'dead-reggy' communicators received a standing ovation for the high standard of entertainment provided. Meanwhile, 54 Squadron WRAC, whose living quarters were in the middle of a Scots Guards camp, reported that their honour was being watched over by a 24-hour armed patrol by Guardsmen. This seemed particularly true when it was noticed that the guard-post desk was daily moving closer to the shower area. An immediate confirmation that the virtue of 45 Squadron WRAC was receiving the same treatment was not entirely reassuring.

600 MESSAGES

It seemed strange at first not to be together as a Regiment (the RSM appeared particularly lost as he viewed 'God's own acre' sans Squadrons), but as circuits came up, and distant voices were recognised, a feeling of togetherness soon returned, albeit at times expressed rather unconventionally. This probably gave rise to the rumour that our Padre had offered up a prayer for 'Essay Trunks One One—that they make a safe landing when coming out of orbit'. Suddenly, after a few location changes, and the speedy re-establishing of the circuits, a night shift in the TRC became involved with some 600 messages, and realised that one or two of the Staff had arrived for the big exercise, from which moment no-one looked back. Telephones rang, teleprinters got red-hot, technicians got red-faced, the Second-in-Command adjusted his watch to Zulu (so as not to miss any more breakfasts), and OC 44 Squadron actually offered to loan somebody a vehicle.

THIS SUNRAY BUSINESS

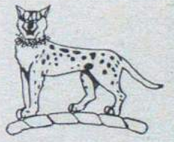
Throughout, OC HQ Squadron had contributed to morale by producing a Regimental Newspaper, complete with cartoons and a colour supplement. Military 'mickey-taking' was cautiously oblique (or as someone remarked "It would have taken even the St. Michael out of Mark's & Spencer"). Can it really be true that a member of the Regiment actually got into, and wandered about, the hub of Staff HQ without his MOD 90—and yet was denied access to the local NAAFI Shop? In order to avoid changing blue lamps for green, and vice versa, is the Adjutant seriously arranging for The Netherlands to be moved? Did a recruit operator actually say that "My Sunray requires his Sunray minor, who is with your Sunray, to bring his sunray lamp to Sunray's location"?.

No, Sir, You start 'Hello Two', not '2LO'

IN APPRECIATION

In more serious vein, the writer wishes to record the tour made by our Honorary Colonel, **Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt., T.D., J.P., D.L.** Suffering from a severe cold, and travelling hundreds of miles in adverse weather conditions to see all our scattered detachments, his dedication was an object lesson and an inspiration to us all.

A different camp? Certainly. A successful camp? Definitely. An enjoyable camp? Which one isn't?



39 Sig Regt (V) London

EXERCISE 'MALCONTENT' BAOR DETACHMENT

OBVIOUS proof that considerable planning forethought goes into these exercises is apparent from the fact that it coincided with the weekend of a local Bierfeste, and though the Detachments in the vicinity of 22 Signal Regiment, commanded by **Captain (TOT) Peter Dawson** and **W.O.2 Brian Higgs** had relatively little success in their communications due to unforeseen local power cuts and experimentation with new equipment, the off-duty time was spent consuming huge quantities of the local brew. The RSM **(W.O.1 Jack Howker)** somehow also managed to persuade the powers that be that a short R and R course would be advantageous and accompanied the detachments. He found his recuperation during the evening at the local fairground. Exactly why it was that he and **Lance-Corporal Sheila Whelan** spent half the evening riding the 'big dipper' nobody knows—possibly he found it his own way of 'reaching the dizzy heights'.

CYPRUS DETACHMENT

The Episkopi detachment commanded by **Major Julian Webster** was also thwarted in their attempt to communicate to UK by local power cuts, though **Lieutenant Pamela Gezzele** found things a little easier from Dhekelia and with the help of her lady-in-waiting **Sergeant Iris Hamilton** passed considerable traffic. Off duty, both Dhekelia detachments, (the second commanded by **Captain Ted Ault**) enjoyed typical Cypriot hospitality and much cokkinnelli and kebab were consumed. During one of these 'feasts' the Foreman of Signals, **W.O.2 John Hill** had his wine 'switched' with a flagon of vinegar and was halfway through his second glass of vinegar before he became suspicious—who says that Foremen have good taste!

UK DETACHMENTS

Others of the Regiment, not clever enough to wangle overseas detachments went to the country—in Scotland and in the South of England. The Signal Officer in Chief, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** visited both locations, and must be thanked for enduring a gruelling travel programme on our behalf. Sorry Sir, about the plane!

AREA FINALS MISS TAVR 1973

A most successful evening was held at Regimental Headquarters when we were both proud and delighted to play host to many TAVR units in the London Area and SE England for the Area Finals of the Miss TAVR 1973 competition.

Altogether 23 charming young ladies—all TAVR members were judged for their beauty both in uniform and civilian clothes. Our impeccable MC, **Major Gladys Drane** introduced the contestants to a 200 strong crowd, whilst one judge from each unit involved set about the most difficult task of selecting two ladies to go forward into the finals.

We were even prouder when the results were announced—members of the Regiment being adjudged first and second. The winner, **Sergeant Valerie Charnock** and the runner-up, **Lance-Corporal Margaret Edwards** now carry out hopes into the finals early next year. Well done, all who participated—particularly due to the fact that the Regiment also had two more girls in the first five selected.

Sergeant Valerie Charnock and Lance-Corporal Margaret Edwards —first and second in the Miss TAVR 1973 London semi-finals—pose with the C.O.—Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Depicting this year the theme, 'London, the Living City' the Regiment were on show to the City of London for the Lord Mayor's Show.

A huge float, commanded by **Captain Roger Hedgecoe** depicted the various aspects and role of the Regiment. It showed a huge map of Europe highlighting some of the interesting areas which we communicate, including Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, Holland, Germany and Norway. The WRAC Section with newly promoted **Sergeant 'Rossie' Higgs** in charge must certainly have brought a rush of blood to many a male operator, so here's hoping recruiting will take an upsurge because of it.

In our next issue, a report on the Fitness for Role Inspection or as they say—'after the Lord Mayor's Show . . .!'.

Obituary

CORPORAL JOHN AIKMAN

John Aikman was fatally wounded by terrorist gunmen at Newtownhamilton, Northern Ireland on 6th November whilst on duty.

John joined the Corps on 22nd March, 1965 aged 17 years. On completion of his basic training at 11 Signal Regiment he went on to 224 Signal Squadron where he qualified in his trade. He saw service in BAOR with 13 Signal Regiment, two tours, 1966 to 1967 and 1969 to 1971, UK with 223 Signal Squadron, 1967 to 1969, Cyprus with 8 Signal Regiment until transferred to the reserve in March 1972. However, civilian life was not for John—he returned to the Corps on 20th February. After refresher training he was posted to 225 Signal Squadron, BAOR in April. On 10th August John arrived in Northern Ireland to serve on a four month emergency tour of duty with 'E' Troop, 233 Signal Squadron with whom he served until his untimely death.

Throughout his career, John has always been well liked and respected by his companions.

Although of small build, his lack of inches in no way deterred him in sport and physical exercises. He showed by his performances in the physical exercise field that inches did not count if the spirit and determination is there.

As a tradesman John was highly efficient and capable, but the life he enjoyed was that of small detachments and field work, where he could use his military abilities rather than trade. He had an instinct for soldiering which showed in his high performance as a Junior NCO.

A man with a keen sense of humour, he was one of those quiet mannered soldiers who made his presence felt in any company by common sense conversation, and humorous remarks. His juniors respected him for his practical performance and personal high standards. His seniors trusted him for his sense of responsibility as an NCO and his initiative and common sense as a man.

John was buried with full military honours at New Battle Cemetery, Dalkeith at 11.00 hours, on Saturday, 10th November.

Our sincere sympathy and condolences go to his bereaved wife, parents and relatives at Newton Grange, Midlothian, Scotland.

JOHN CLEMENTS ('JOCK') OTTON

One of the most enthusiastic and respected members of the Reading Branch, 'Jock' Otton died suddenly on 26th October, whilst on holiday.

'Jock' was born on 6th December, 1910 and enlisted into the Corps on 6th August, 1929. He served a Regular engagement of eight years and was transferred to the Reserve. He was recalled to the Colours just prior to the outbreak of War in 1939 and served until 1945.

He re-enlisted into the Territorial Army on 20th May, 1947 and served for five years.

Throughout his service 'Jock' consistently declined promotion but nevertheless he was held in high esteem by his superiors and colleagues for himself, as a person, and for his undoubted abilities at his trade of Despatch Rider.

During the past two years 'Jock' has wholeheartedly supported the Association and, with the Reading Branch, has been to the Catterick Reunion and to Blandford, where he spent a happy time with the Curator of the Corps Museum.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends from the Corps and on their behalf we extend to Mrs. Otton our deep sympathy in her tragic loss.

MAJOR (TOT) J. POLLARD

Jim Pollard died suddenly on the 5th October at the age of 61. He enlisted in the Corps in 1930 and was commissioned as a TMO in 1942. During the Second World War he saw service in North West Europe. After the war he served 17 years out of 20 overseas, in Middle East, the Sudan, Gold Coast, Far East and Germany. He retired in 1966 and we offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

SIGNALMAN N. BAINES

Newark branch of the Royal Signals Association sadly regret to announce the death of one of their life members in **Ex-Signalman N. Baines** on the 21st October. He served with the Corps from 1944 to 1948. His address: 50, Churchill Drive, Newark, Notts.

ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

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 well ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** and set in motion **now** a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan 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. The longer the Plan is in force, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice,** the higher the loan possible and the more financially beneficial the purchase.

Other financial benefits are the diversion of expenditure on quartering charges to your own benefit and the facility given by MOD of reimbursement of certain expenses entailed in house purchase, such as survey fees, legal costs, etc. Ask our advice now in order that your purchase may be **arranged on the most economic basis** possible in line with your circumstances and needs, with the maximum financial advantages to yourself.

SCHOOL FEES

Selected schemes linked with life assurance to raise funds for provision of IMMEDIATE and FUTURE school fees can substantially reduce the cost of educating children. Very early planning can reduce such costs to NIL. If you have a school fees problem write to us now for advice before it becomes insoluble.

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We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£12.75 monthly** for those liable to tax at 30p in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next birthday **immediate family protection of £37,700** and an anticipated **cash sum of £36,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65. We arrange our **Plans** on an extremely **flexible** basis in order that they **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.** We shall be pleased to prepare for you a balanced Family Life Assurance Plan tailored to your circumstances and needs for your consideration without obligation.

If you would like **to receive a House Purchase Plan** and/or **details** of our **other Plans,** e.g. an all-embracing **Family Life Assurance Plan,** Immediate/Future **School Fees Plan,** pure **Investment Plan,** Capital Investment in **Assurance Bonds,** Selected **Building Society Investments,** Permanent **Health Insurance,** etc., please telephone or **write to:**

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Movements

Officers

Second-Lieutenant A. C. Armstrong .. To 11 Signal Regiment for 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain C. P. P. Barnes .. .. „ Sultans Armed Forces
Major G. D. Birch .. .. „ MOD Signals 37a
Major C. D. A. Blessington .. .. „ HQ UKLF
Major A. H. Boyle .. .. „ MOD (PE) LTP12
Major J. S. B. Brinsford .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Lieutenant A. Brown .. .. „ 34 Signal Regiment (V)
Major K. P. Burke .. .. „ HQ Northern Army Group
Major P. D. E. Chase .. .. „ School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant C. M. Cox .. „ 28 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant T. E. B. Cran .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Major I. J. Crouch .. .. „ HQ S.E. District
Major W. G. Cunningham .. .. „ RCB Westbury
Lieutenant K. H. Dewis .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. G. Dibley .. „ 22 Signal Regiment
Captain N. C. Fairley .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment
Major A. P. Fielding .. .. „ HQ SE District
Major T. W. E. Fortescue-Hitchins .. „ MOD (CDIc)
Captain (TOT) E. M. Frost, M.B.E. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant C. J. Geldard .. .. „ 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment
Lieutenant G. Geldard .. .. .. „ 30 Signal Regiment
Captain K. G. Goulding .. .. „ 40 Signal Regiment (V)
Captain H. J. Grenville-Jones .. „ 3 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E. .. .. „ HQ 1 Signal Group
Major A. W. de V. Hunt .. .. „ HQ BAOR
Captain A. J. Hutt .. .. .. „ 225 Signal Squadron
Captain R. R. Johnson .. .. „ JOCPY HQ (BR) Corps
Lieutenant I. R. Knock .. .. „ AAC Harrogate
Captain P. H. MacCulloch .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) A. D. Martin .. .. „ MOD (Signals 36b)
Lieutenant M. S. Reid .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Captain J. A. Rose .. .. .. „ School of Signals
Captain (TOT) I. J. Rose .. .. „ 240 Signal Squadron
Captain R. J. G. M. Rutherford .. „ HQ 11 Armoured Brigade
Major T. B. Scarff .. .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment
Captain J. C. B. Simpson .. .. „ 259 Signal Squadron
Captain W. J. Spiers .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
A/Captain J. D. Stokoe .. .. „ 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment
A/Captain A. E. Truluck .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Captain D. J. Walden .. .. „ HQ 3 Division
Lieutenant R. J. R. West .. .. „ 2 Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment
Captain R. A. Wright .. .. .. „ HQ (BR) Corps

W.O.'s & Senior N.C.O.'s

W.O.1 J. Maher .. .. .. „ 36 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. F. Potter .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 D. N. Wheeler .. .. .. „ 38 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 D. McKenzie .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 C. E. Homewood .. .. „ 261 Signal Squadron
W.O.2 W. G. Wallace .. .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 R. G. Davies .. .. .. „ 10 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 D. A. Ewer .. .. .. „ HQ Army Dept Radio Service
W.O.2 J. P. McMahon .. .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. Moat .. „ 27 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. J. Hamilton .. .. „ 37 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant F. E. G. Hawkes .. „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant K. C. Purnell .. .. „ Sheffield University Officer Training Corps
Staff Sergeant K. R. Thurley .. .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. Bruce .. „ 21 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. E. R. Catley .. „ 605 Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant H. E. Connor .. .. „ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. J. Hall .. .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant H. A. Huey .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. A. James .. .. „ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. M. James .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Logan .. .. „ Military Advisory Team (Gulf)
Staff Sergeant R. C. Offord .. .. „ 2 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. A. Watson .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Hillman .. .. „ 242 Signal Squadron (Normand Hill)
Sergeant D. R. Bennett .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Smith .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant D. B. Pickup .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant D. A. White .. .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron
Sergeant K. Thompson .. .. .. „ School of Signals
Sergeant J. R. Illingworth .. .. „ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. C. Cooper .. .. „ 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. J. Mooney .. .. „ ACIO Birmingham
Sergeant B. J. Alway .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Bell .. .. .. „ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. F. Calvert .. .. „ 224 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. Isherwood .. .. „ 227 Signal Squadron
Sergeant W. Wilson .. .. „ 28 ANZUK Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. A. Stevens .. .. „ 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. Gregory .. .. „ 15 Cadet Training Team
Sergeant G. W. T. Hunt .. .. „ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. Smart .. .. .. „ 13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Fowler .. .. „ 225 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. J. White .. .. „ 224 Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant D. Watson .. .. „ Central Volunteer HQ & Training Wing
Sergeant J. A. W. Turner .. .. „ 585 Rear Link Detachment

Promotions

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

To Sgt.				
Stephen,	R. R.	A/Sgt.	26 Jun. 73	1 Jan. 69
Carr,	J. D.	Cpl.	28 Jun. 73	30 Jan. 70
Coxon,	R.	Cpl.	4 Jul. 73	30 Jun. 66
Clark,	R. D.	Cpl.	6 Jul. 73	31 Oct. 70
Jarrold,	P. J.	Cpl.	9 Jul. 73	31 Oct. 70
Goddard,	S. F. G.	Cpl.	29 Jul. 73	1 Feb. 67
White,	R. J.	Cpl.	2 Aug. 73	30 Jun. 70
Nex,	A. E.	Cpl.	3 Aug. 73	30 Jun. 70
Fowler,	D.	Cpl.	1 Sep. 73	30 Jun. 70
Anderson,	G.	Cpl.	3 Sep. 73	24 Jul. 72

CLERK ROLL

To Sgt.				
Judge,	M. C.	Cpl.	4 Apr. 73	28 Feb. 66
Eves,	K.	Cpl.	5 Apr. 73	3 Apr. 57
Hughes,	R.	Cpl.	18 Apr. 73	30 Sep. 64
Thomas,	P.	Cpl.	1 Jul. 73	1 Oct. 71
Knell,	J. A. C.	Cpl.	15 Jul. 73	28 Feb. 67
Barstow,	M. J.	Cpl.	1 Aug. 73	30 Nov. 68
Underhill,	R. J.	A/Sgt.	15 Aug. 73	31 Jul. 69

CLERK TECHNICAL (ROYAL SIGNALS) ROLL

To Sgt.				
Robins,	J.	A/Sgt.	16 Apr. 73	30 Sep. 70
Elliot,	J. M. R.	A/Sgt.	13 May 73	31 Oct. 70

COMBAT DRIVER ROLL

To Sgt.				
Barron,	H.	A/Sgt.	1 Jul 73	31 May 63
Boyes,	J.	A/Sgt.	2 Jul. 73	31 Jul. 65

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

Name	*Initials*		*Sen. Date*
W.O.1			
Marchant,	W. L.	Discharged	28 May 70
Jones,	D.	Discharged	11 Dec. 71
S/Sgt.			
Hills,	R.	Discharged	1 Feb. 61

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.1			
Nugent,	E. E.	Discharged	20 May 68
Thompson,	C. A.	Discharged	8 Jul. 71
S/Sgt.			
Jones,	K. G.	Discharged	24 Aug. 67

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL

Sgt.			
Drika,	S.	Reduced to Cpl.	14 Nov. 70

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Sgt.			
Dawe,	T. W.	Discharged	28 Aug. 73

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

Sgt.			
Sharp,	L. W.	Discharged	22 Aug. 73

COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL

Sgt.			
Fraser,	A.	Discharged	27 Mar. 69
Skinner,	T.	Discharged	18 Jul. 63
Robbie,	B.	Discharged	3 Jul. 72

COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

Sgt.			
Lawbuary,	L. U.	Discharged	1 Jan. 63
McIver,	J. R.	Discharged	23 May 62

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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).

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