January-February 1975

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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London WC1X 8RY

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, SW3 4RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY • 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 1**

Our Cover Picture

Our picture shows Corporal Frank Kelly of 8th Signal Regiment shooting Richmond falls during the Army, Inter-Service and Open Wild Water Championships held last November on the River Swale (see article on page 6). Shooting the falls, with its ten foot drop, was voluntary and some 60 canoeists had a go at this breathtaking feat and were awarded "certificates of insanity" for their foolhardiness!

Much credit must go to Lieutenant Martyn Reid and all who assisted him in organising this very successful canoe meeting.

Wire Economy

The cost of publishing THE WIRE continues to mount at an alarming rate. While we would be loathe to increase the price to our subscribers, the time is coming when we may be forced to do this. Contributors of unit notes can help materially by cutting down the length of their contributions. Much is published which is of a comparatively trivial nature—known already within the unit and not of great interest to outside readers. Please concentrate on unit activities of more general interest and be brief. If there is nothing worth writing about don't write at all. Clearly we must try and cut back THE WIRE to a content of something like 28 to 32 pages rather than 40 to 48 pages which is quite common. This would save an appreciable sum—both in printing and postal charges.

General interest articles are always welcome though perhaps certain themes are becoming rather worn. However, there are many interesting stories to be told about communicating in unusual places, apart from other adventures out of the ordinary. Let us have them by all means—do not hold back here.

Corps Benevolence

During 1974 some £12,000 will have been spent by the Royal Signals Association on 400 odd cases. In addition a further £1,050 was spent on 200 special Christmas grants to help our more chronic cases to enjoy a few extras at Christmas. From time to time we are asked how our welfare cases are investigated and assessed. Obviously, there must be a danger that certain applications for assistance are not properly based and that our welfare staff might from time to time have 'the wool pulled over their eyes' by the workshy or layabouts.

Whilst it is not possible to be a hundred per cent certain that every case is necessarily all that it appears to be, nevertheless, the safeguards are such that very few cases, if any, go through which are not deserving of aid.

For a start all cases are initially investigated on the ground by experts from such organisations as SSAFA, the Forces Help Society, the Royal British Legion or by the welfare representatives of our own branches. Provided the investigator is satisfied that a case is genuine, he completes a very comprehensive report form which is standard to all ex-Service welfare organisations. This form gives details of the family, its income and expenditure, the health of the applicant, outstanding debts, period of service in the Corps and such-like, and concludes with a summing up by the investigator with his personal recommendation. Even then there may be various points on which our welfare ladies would like further information and the case is referred back for this purpose. When the welfare staff have a clear picture of all the facts the case is put before our welfare committee. This committee meets every week and is composed of a chairman, found from a panel of senior retired officers, assisted by a serving officer and serving soldier, with our two welfare ladies in attendance in order to give expert advice. It is only after careful consideration by the welfare committee that a grant is finally approved and even then the odd case may be turned down if the facts do not seem to justify assistance from our funds.

This is the machinery in use at present and it will be seen by the time a grant has been made the case has been looked at in detail by a considerable number of people, most of whom are experienced in welfare work and all of whom have common sense. We believe that this system works well and that our welfare funds are properly safeguarded.

New Year's Honours

All will be pleased with awards in the New Year's Honours as follows:—

C.B.E.

Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E.

O.B.E.

Lieutenant Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.

B.E.M.

Sergeant G. T. Bardsley.
Staff Sergeant F. Gadman
Staff Sergeant R. S. Kidd.
Sergeant C. Shields
Staff Sergeant M. G. Springer

Ulster Awards 1st May to 31st July 1974

B.E.M.

Sergeant V. McGarry

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

W.O.2 P. J. Daniel

Introducing Our New Signal Officer-In-Chief

Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.

MANY, of course, will have met Major-General Tony Tighe during their service but for those who have not we publish a photograph and a brief resumé of his army career.

Major-General Tighe was born on 26th February 1923 and was educated at Christ's Hospital. Enlisting in the RAF for Air Crew training in May 1940, he transferred to the Army in 1941 and was commissioned into Royal Signals in February 1943. He served during the War in France, commanding a Brigade Signal Troop, and with 3rd Division in Belgium, Holland and Germany. After the war he served in Palestine and Ceylon. Prior to joining the Staff College, Camberley, in 1955 he was Adjutant of 53rd (Wessex) Divisional Signal Regiment, Territorial Army, and served for three years on the War Office Selection Board.

After Staff College he served as DAA and QMG, HQ 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, during the Emergency in Malaya and was appointed a MBE. He then served on the Staff of the SO-in-C in the War Office, followed by a tour in 1st Signal Regiment as a Squadron Commander and Second-in-Command. In 1960 he attended the Joint Services Staff College.

In 1963 he became Military Assistant to the Commander British Forces Hong Kong. During the confrontation between Malaysia and Indonesia he was for two years Commander Royal Signals 17th Division and the Force Signals Officer in Borneo, being Mentioned in Despatches.

Returning to the UK in 1966 he served in the Ministry of Defence for two years as Assistant Military Secretary and in the Adjutant General's department as AAG AG 11. On promotion to Brigadier in 1970 he was appointed Commander of the Training Brigade Royal Signals. In March 1973, after three years in Catterick, he took up the appointment of Inspector of the Intelligence Corps and Commandant of the Intelligence Centre at Ashford.

General Tighe, whose first wife died in 1971, has two grown up sons, Stewart and Paul. He recently married an American authoress, Princine Calitri.

From our "In" Tray

Corps Motorcycle Trials Association formed

Sir,

Readers of THE WIRE and in particular those who are motorcyclists, may be pleased to know that the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials Association has now formed.

Eight OSSA 250 cc motorcycles have been purchased, four are based at 8th Signal Regiment in Catterick, and four at 21st Signal Regiment in Germany. The first trial entered by the Association was the famous Scott Trial held in Yorkshire. The Trial was televised and our riders featured prominently in the BBC 2 TV GETAWAY programme about the Scott.

The Scott is an extremely difficult seven hour endurance test of man and machine, the 65 mile route runs through swamps, streams, rock strewn gullies and every difficult type of terrain imaginable. To successfully complete the Scott course is a considerable achievement much vaunted in motorcycling circles.

The riders were **Corporal Tommy Walker, Sergeant Ken Hendry** and **S.S.M. Tom Fayers** who won the award for completing the course in the time allowed thus making it a notable 'First' for the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials Association.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Wilson
(Captain, Royal Signals)

8th Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison.

ROYAL SIGNALS MOTORCYCLE TRIALS ASSOCIATION AT THEIR FIRST TRIAL

Left to right: Corporal Tommy Scott and Sergeant Ken Hendry at the start of the Scott Trial

Report from three members of 8th Regiment on the Zaire River expedition

Major Ashly Barker, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) David Pyke and **Sergeant Alan Cobb** are on the expedition in Zaire. **Major Barker** writes: "If ever one needed problems to train the minds of officer cadets or 'Q' course students we have an adequate supply here—everyday a new one! The problems are immense but our own communications are going well. The forward net—to the various teams on the expedition is being worked on the A14s and already they have been in action over hundreds of miles from boats, jungle clearings, mountains and swamps. The schedules have worked well mostly on voice. **F. of S. Pyke** has been busy repairing the headsets as the rubber insulation seems to perish quickly in this climate. He has been equally busy helping with the link to Catterick. It has worked extremely well, on voice a high percentage of the time, and our thanks go out to those at Catterick who meet us on this link twice each day. The TRA 931 and sloping Ve antenna here seem to make an ideal combination. I can assure you that all here on the expedition value this link very highly. Thank you all concerned.

Sergeant Alan Cobb is operating and maintaining our radio link from our Rear Base in Kinshasa to us here in the field. He has made good contact with the Zaire Army Signals in Kinshasa even to the extent of borrowing a Zaire Operator when necessary!

My own job on the expedition is not primarily with communications but on the scientific side—to ensure that the many scientists have support and communications to carry out their projects and get their specimens out safely. Fortunately no one has given me a live gorilla to get back to UK yet!"

Moving to U.S.A.

From the Reverend John McKellar

Sir,

I wonder if you could find space in THE WIRE just to let my friends know that I have been offered a living in Virginia, U.S.A. and that we left England on 1st November. Our new address is now The Rectory, Powhattan, N. Richmond, Virginia.

Yours sincerely,

John McKellar.

MAJOR FRANK PHILP RETIRES

Major Frank Philp of the Corps being presented with an Army Youth Selection (North) plaque from the OC of the AYSC (N), Major H. I. Dessain on the occasion of his retirement after 34 years service. Major Philp's last appointment was Second-in-Command of the AYSC (N) at the AAC, Harrogate. He had previously served as a PSO for the Corps at Catterick and there must be many in the Corps who were selected by Major Philp

Although retiring from the active list, he is not severing his ties completely for he is going to become the ACO at Lincoln, from where, he will doubtless recruit many more members for the Corps and rest of the Army

Fine Silver Statuette presented to the Corps by Racal

ORIGINAL PRESENTATION

IT may be of interest to recall that many years ago, it was realised that the LARKSPUR range of combat net radio equipment lacked a vehicular HF set which could be operated by regimental signallers of all Arms and Services. The C11/R210 was too large, too powerful, too expensive and too complicated to be readily used in, for example, a Ferret scout car. The gap was filled by a new set, the C13, which was developed by BCC in a remarkably short time. To commemorate this development and the massive overseas sales of the C13, **Mr. D. D. Prenn,** Chairman of Control and Communication Group, presented the Corps with a silver model of the set, which is in regular use in the Catterick Mess.

The latest addition to Corps silver

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CORPS AND RACAL

A few years later, BCC became part of a much larger organisation, and as RACAL-BCC was entrusted with the development of the VHF manpack sets, the PRC-350, 351 and 352. These sets are now in production and a variant of the PRC-351, re-packaged as a vehicular set for use in tanks and vehicles has already become a best-seller on the export market, the VRQ-301.

To commemorate the co-operation between Royal Signals and RACAL which led to these more recent successes, the firm have maintained the BCC tradition by commissioning a modern silversmith to design a statuette of a soldier armed and equipped for battle, and carrying the PRC-351.

PRC-351

The PRC-351 is small enough and light enough to be carried by a fighting infantryman, and has a range performance of around 10 kilometres given reasonable attention to siting in open, rolling country. It has 1841 channels at 25 kHz spacing, and the complete station weighs just under 10 kilogrammes.

The model for the statuette was a member of the CLANSMAN Trials Team at the School of Signals, and it is typical of the general approach to the trials that the team member selected is not a Signalman, but a Senior Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Regiment. **S.A.C. Phil Chapman** has been attached to the team for nearly two years.

PRESENTATION AT HEADQUARTER'S MESS

The statuette was formally presented to **Major-General J. M. Sawers,** Signal Officer in Chief, by **Mr. E. T. Harrison, O.B.E.,** Chairman of the RACAL Group of Companies, at a dinner in the Headquarter's Mess on 24th October 1974. He was accompanied by many members of his organisation, including **Mr. O. S. Prenn,** son of **Mr. D. D. Prenn,** and now Deputy Chairman of the RACAL Group. A very large number of officers and civilians attended the dinner, all of whom had been connected with the CLANSMAN project at some time or other.

TWO WHO HELPED IN THE DEVELOPMENT

It is impossible to mention all the names, and to single out one or two for attention inevitably creates problems; but **Colonel D. B. Emley** confessed during the evening that he had been a member of the Planning Wing in the late 1950's when the CLANSMAN requirements were beginning to take shape, and is now the head of the Ministry of Defence Branch which sponsors the sets; and **Colonel Rob Holbrook** has held the MOD (PE) chair of Assistant Director, in the branch responsible for the development of the sets, for the critical period of development and acceptance of most of the sets.

STOP PRESS

We have received the following signal from 14th Signal Regiment:—

"Skynet 2B is go! The TSC 500 Army Mobile two from Tango Troop, 14th Signal Regiment Detachment, RAF Oakhanger was the first UK station to track the new Skynet Satellite launched on 21st November. **Sergeant Ken Barnes** was the proud shift supervisor who acquired Skynet 2B at 1500 hours on Sunday, 8th December 1974. 2 Squadron look forward to many more satellite hours and faraway exercises".

Dates for your Diary

CORPS AND ASSOCIATION EVENTS

19th Apr.	Indian Signals Dinner, Victory Club. London.
3rd May	Association Branch Representatives Meeting at H.Q. 31 (GL) Signal Regiment (V) Hammersmith. London.
14th May	Corps Officers Dinner.
21st June	Corps Officers Tea Party
22nd June	Open Day and 1 Day Reunion Blandford Camp, Dorset.
12/13th July	Catterick Reunion; At Home and Annual General Meeting. (2 weeks later than usual to suit local arrangements).
6th Nov.	Field of Remembrance opens in grounds of Westminster Abbey, at 12.00 hours.
9th Nov.	Remembrance Sunday and Parade at Cenotaph Whitehall.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

31st May	1st Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horseguards Parade. Ticket application to Brigade Major Guards Brigade, H.Q. London District, Horseguards London S.W.1.
7th June	2nd (Dress) Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour. For tickets—apply as above.
14th June	Trooping the Colour. For further information re tickets apply to Brigade Major.
27-29th June	Aldershot Army Display. Royal Signals White Helmets are taking part.
5th July	Military Musical Pageant (Army Benevolent Fund) Wembley Stadium. For further information write to: Army Benevolent Fund, Duke of Yorks Headquarters, Chelsea, London S.W.3.
16th July to 2nd Aug.	Royal Tournament Earls Court. Book through normal agencies. Army items on display not yet known.
25th July to 2nd Aug.	Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo.
22nd Aug. to 13th Sept.	Edinburgh Tattoo.

The Corps Cares For Its Own

NOVEMBER 1974

Number of cases assisted financially in November	**30**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**52**
Amount spent	**£685·71**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**2**
Amount spent	**£31·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, 1948–50, married with 4 children. He suffered a heart attack in 1971, and a long illness followed. The Association helped him in the following years with small grants, and a steady supply of clothing parcels. A letter just received from him is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

FOR the first time in three years I spend Christmas and enter into the New Year as a working man. I am absolutely delighetd to inform you that I have a good job, an achievement of which I am very proud, considering I never thought I would ever live to make it, but with your wonderful help I MADE IT. Thank you all. I am at long last on my own two legs, supporting my wife and children as a man should. Words are inadequate, so please accept my simple and sincere great big Thank You. God bless you all.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during November, 1974:

	£ p
Captain A. M. H. Barrington-Ward, WRAC	37·00
Charles R. Gray, Esq.	100·00
Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, O.B.E.	20·00
F. C. Wilson, Esq.	5·70
A. F. Morgan, Esq.	5·00
T. A. Maughan, Esq.	3·50
E. J. Brooks, Esq.	3·20
Alaxander Grant, Esq.	3·20
H. Liley, Esq.	3·00
Staff Sergeant D. J. le Febvre, TAVR	3·00
G. B. Hollings, Esq.	2·40
Colonel A. J. G. McNair (In memory of Lieutenant-Colonel M. Duke)	2·00
J. L. Power, Esq.	2·00
G. D. Webster, Esq.	1·95
N. Campbell, Esq.	1·65
G. Oldroyd, Esq.	1·20
F. Veness, Esq., M.B.E.	1·20
J. H. A. Potter, Esq.	1·00
J. Milburn, Esq.	95
Captain S. F. Bloom, Royal Signals	85
P. A. Alexander, Esq.	70
G. A. Jenkins, Esq.	70
H. N. Fensome, Esq.	50
Various small donations	1·35
Total	£202·05

Movements

Officers

JANUARY 1975

Captain J. D. Cox	To	Royal Military College of Science
Captain J. H. Fisher	"	
Captain J. E. Neeve	"	
Captain R. T. Westerman	"	
Captain J. H. Lowe	"	
Captain P. J. Pritchard	"	
Captain P. Stanley	"	
Captain M. R. Stephenson	"	
Captain J. D. Ambrose	"	
Captain D. Beare	"	
Captain R. J. Ebdon	"	
Captain J. M. Gittins	"	School of Infantry (JCSC)
Captain R. H. Hoyle	"	
Captain D. J. Jessett	"	
Captain A. T. B. Kimber	"	
Captain N. O. Williams	"	
Lieutenant J. N. Allen	"	21 Signal Regiment
Major J. H. Almonds	"	HQ SAS and SAS Group
Major W. J. Armstrong	"	30 Signal Regiment
Captain A. R. Bailey	"	MOD (ASD 4)
Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barry	"	MOD (P-in-C)
Captain J. W. Birkwood	"	21 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. S. Bresloff	"	261 Signal Squadron
Captain (Tfc) S. A. Brice	"	225 Signal Squadron
Major D. M. A. Burridge	"	28 Signal Regiment
Major A. B. Byng	"	BDS Washington
Major (QM) T. P. Canham	"	HQ BAOR (Signals Brigade)
Second-Lieutenant S. A. Crane	"	28 Signal Regiment
Captain C. J. Dakin	"	HQ Training Brigade
Major J. R. Dawson	"	MOD (Signals 37)
Captain G. R. Elliott	"	27 Signal Regiment
Major (QM) E. J. Ford	"	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Captain N. E. Franks	"	SAF Oman
Lieutenant I. N. Fraser	"	11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Major L. G. Fraser	"	248 Gurkha Signal Squadron
Major D. C. N. Genders	"	11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain C. B. Greig	"	260 Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant A. W. H. Harrison	"	16 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant J. S. A. Henderson	"	537 Signal Troop, 24 MSL Regiment RA
Captain (TOT) A. Holmes	"	1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain L. S. Hood	"	4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major J. N. Ingledon	"	9 Signal Regiment
Major R. J. Lettin	"	MOD (Signals 36a)
Captain (TOT) R. Lund	"	227 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant C. C. McColville	"	The Life Guards
Captain G. E. Mileham, M.B.E.	"	11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Major J. Mills	"	4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant C. V. Nind	"	RAC Centre, Bovington
A/Captain J. T. Noon	"	227 Signal Squadron
Major J. Radford	"	9 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant S. E. T. Sherman	"	3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant L. J. Simpson	"	1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major P. D. Tidey	"	HQ Rheindahlen Garrison
Major A. Tregoning	"	3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
A/Captain R. Vasper	"	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Major E. G. Williams	"	8 Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

JANUARY 1975

W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. A. Walker	To	School of Signals (Cadre)
W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. E. Fison	"	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. McMullen	"	NITAT (NI)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. Baxter	"	16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
W.O.2 J. J. Duke	"	HQ BAOR
W.O.2 J. C. Banks	"	HQ 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 K. R. Clark	"	261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
W.O.2 W. T. Goss	"	260 Signal Squadron (SAM)
W.O.2 F. C. O'Brien	"	226 Signal Squadron (Radio)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) N. N. Anderson	"	11 Signal Regiment (Depot Troop)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. Brunt	"	SHAPE HQ Command and Support BE
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. Hazelgrove	"	633 Signal Troop (Caribbean)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) T. Wilkinson	"	14 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) L. Yates	"	22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Staff Sergeant B. A. Davies	"	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Staff Sergeant G. Hanson	"	HQ 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. I. Knight	"	240 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. P. Peebles	"	55 Signal Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant D. Phillips	"	School of Infantry (Warminster)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. J. A. Beer	"	HQ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) G. A. Letori	"	HQ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) M. Paddison	"	HQ 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. S. Mason	"	9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Staff Sergeant J. Roberts	"	HQ AFNORTH
Staff Sergeant A. W. Jones	"	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Staff Sergeant R. J. Sheldon	"	HQ 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. E. Bradbury	"	27 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. J. Harries	"	248 (G) Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. S. Jones	"	229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
Sergeant A. Hay	"	7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. E. Atchinson	"	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. A. Bell	"	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. Powell	"	16 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. Protheroe	"	14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Cadman	"	HQ 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. P. Gerrard	"	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Elliott	"	524 Rear Link Detachment (Field Regiment)
Sergeant D. G. Longhurst	"	244 Signal Squadron (TAC Air Support)
Sergeant W. Allan	"	583 Rear Link Detachment (Infantry Mechanised Battalion)
Sergeant D. W. Few	"	16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant D. Leach	"	13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. E. Buttery	"	11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop
Sergeant M. D. Farmer	"	11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop
Sergeant C. P. Thatcher	"	11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop
Sergeant D. M. Robertson	"	HQ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Fotheringham	"	11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant B. A. Thomas	"	261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
Sergeant A. J. Millington	"	37 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant I. E. Murray	"	261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
Sergeant B. G. Duffield	"	HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. T. Hancox	"	HQ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Mosley	"	Schools of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant L. J. Croome	"	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant J. R. Dutton	"	262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
Sergeant P. J. Stanley	"	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Shrives	"	13 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. M. Hegan	"	HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. J. Partridge	"	13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant R. M. C. Cook	"	16 Signal Regiment HQ BAOR
Sergeant S. A. Nunn	"	14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. Sadd	"	242 Signal Squadron (Mormond Hill)
Sergeant L. L. Adams	"	259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
Sergeant S. Walley	"	259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
Sergeant M. L. Bevis	"	22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant R. Milnthorpe	"	4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. Hirst	"	1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. S. Gardner	"	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant D. R. Hope	"	16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant F. P. R. Coleman	"	27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. H. B. Smith	"	27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Nicholson	"	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)

Obituary

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Hannah, OBE

Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred James Hannah, affectionately known throughout the Corps as 'Dad' Hannah died on 28th October aged 83. He enlisted as a territorial in 1909 and was called up in 1914. He received a commission in 1915 in the Indian Army. He served throughout the First World War in India and Mesopotamia where he was mentioned in despatches. He was seconded to the Indian Signal Corps in 1921 and transferred to the Corps in 1927. He returned to the UK in 1928 and served in Northern Ireland and with the STC until going back to India in 1934. He was in England with 5th Divisional Signals at the outbreak of the Second World War and after a short period in France was posted out to the Middle East in 1940 where he served with GHQ Signals and was appointed O.B.E. He went back to India again in 1942 and returned to the UK on retirement at the age of 54 at the end of the War having completed a total of 36 years in the Army. 'Dad' Hannah was a kindly man who made and kept friends easily and was always willing to help those who called on him.

C.H.S. writes: "I knew Dad Hannah—as he was affectionaely known—when he was with the DAD Signals, GHQ Middle East in Cairo in 1941. At that time Royal Signals were mainly responsible for organising their own supply of certain signal equipment —especially wireless sets—direct to units in the Western Desert, and it was in no small measure due to 'Dad' Hannah that these vital supplies were maintained. It was his kindly nature that I chiefly remember: 'Dad' Hannah was a father figure in character, as well as by nickname and nothing was too much trouble for him when needs were urgent. Many of the younger officers received helpful and kind advice and guidance from him, at a time when everything was 'go' in Egypt: it is with feelings of gratitude that one remembers all that he did, at a critical time in our fortunes, and when at least three major campaigns were being waged in the Middle East theatre."

RADIO OPERATORS

LEAVING THE SERVICE IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS?

If your trade involves radio operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the composite signals organisation.

On satisfactory completion of a 7 months specialist training course, successful applicants are paid on a scale rising to £3,242 pa; commencing salary according to age—25 years and over £2,478 pa.

During training salary also by age, 25 and over, £1,724 pa with free accommodation.

The future holds good opportunities for established status, service overseas, and promotion.

Training courses commence at intervals throughout the year. Earliest possible application advised.

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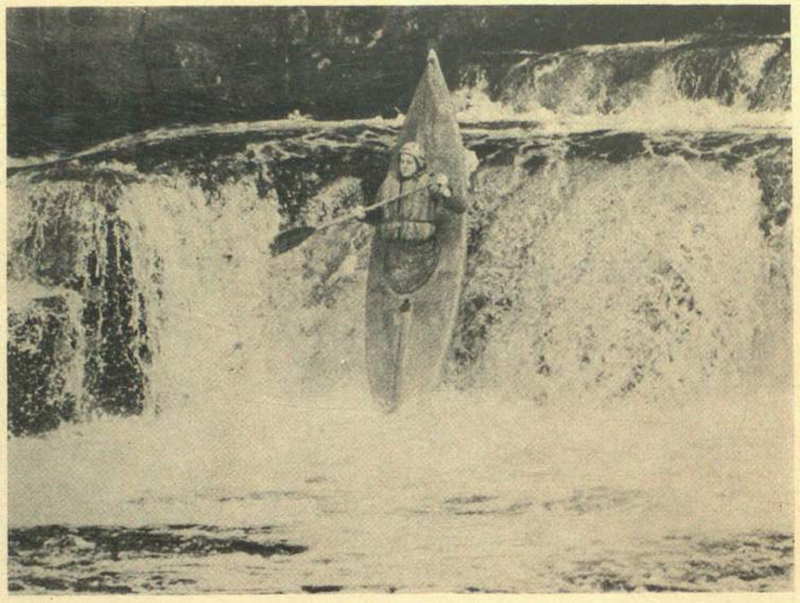
Army Inter-Service and Open Wild Water Championships

Richmond

24 November 1974



OVER THE EDGE . . . .

Signalman Graeme Dawson of 8th Signal Regiment making the first successful descent of Richmond Falls in a C1 canoe since the Competition began six years ago. He was placed 4th overall in the Army C1 Class.

THE COURSE

The Championship course was five miles of almost continuous rapids on the River Swale, England's fastest flowing river. Rain fell throughout the day but the river, notorious for flash floods, remained at half spate providing testing conditions for the less experienced competitors and ideal water for the Championship.

AFTER a disappointing cancellation last year due to the fuel crisis, the Army Inter-Service and Open Wild Water Championship was held at Richmond, North Yorkshire on 24th November.

8th Signal Regiment was asked by the Army Canoe Union to sponsor and organise the event.

The organiser was **Lieutenant Martyn Reid,** the Army Canoe Union wild water secretary; he also doubles as a troop officer in his spare time! A military reception, run by **Sergeant 'Paddy' O'Brien,** was open until 2 a.m. on Saturday, 23rd November to cope with the arrival of competitors from as far afield as the Outer Hebrides and Herford, West Germany.

Saturday morning and a practise run. 3 Squadron swung into action. Under the guidance of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Dave Lunn** assistant organiser, the race control area was erected; meanwhile **Lieutenant Martyn Reid** went along to BBC Radio Cleveland to publicise the event on the air. A clever move as it happened—it rained all day!

THE COMPETITORS

240 competitors took part in the Championship—nearly half were civilians. They included **Nigel Morley** from Cumbria, the 2nd ranking wild water canoeist in the country; **Sergeant Bill White** (36th Signal Regiment), a member of the Great Britain wild water racing team and **Lance-Corporal Bob Storey** of the School of Signals, an Olympic hope for long-distance and sprint canoeing.

BEHIND THE SCENES

All competitors checked in with **Captain Mark Wilson** and his team of hardworking men in the comfort of the heated Regimental recruiting team caravan—luxury no object.

Racing got off to a perfect start thanks to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Walton** and **Sergeant Bob Taylor.** Its only competitors who are not used to punctuality at canoeing events! Safety cover and very professional (of course) start to finish communications were laid on by Schemes Group. 'Nice one, Peter'—**Captain Peter Bonser** and crew, that is! **Corporal 'Alfie' Bass** of Schemes Group quickly found out that boots DMS and combat kit is not the best clothing to wear when attempting a valiant rescue of a capsized competitor's canoe floating off into the 'oloo'.

His first words on return to dry land are unprintable—but he did confirm that combat kit is not waterproof and that the Swale is deeper than it looks! The hardest workers of all (from outward appearances) were the backroom boys of the stats team—**Major Mike Simms-Reeve,** imported from Harrogate for the event, **Captain Peter Williams** and **Captain George Hayes,** of 8th Signal Regiment. And if you're looking for an expert at duplicating in a Force 9 gale send for **Sergeant Ernie Buck!**

The finish judges, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Pat Blakelock** and **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) 'Chippy' Wood,** were kept busy, which is more than can be said for falls assistants **Signalmen Brian Griffiths** and **John McCaffery** who seemed to have a nice line for 'chatting up' selected spectators!

Back at the start **Lance-Corporals Stephen Davies** and **Stephen McKechnie** did not have the time (nor the energy) for such pursuits! The 'paperchase' from reception to start was rather like the annual PT test.

RICHMOND FALLS

Richmond Falls, a spectacular vertical drop of 10 feet provided an opportunity for canoeists to gain a 'Certificate of Insanity'. The certificates were awarded for shooting the falls and thereby entertaining the spectators. 60 canoeists delighted the crowd and many of the unsuccessful took an icy dip into the protective net of the Garrison's frogmen. The idea of obtaining a 'Certificate of Insanity' for shooting the falls certainly caught the imagination of the PR world. Did you see **Corporal Jim Travers** (8th Signal Regiment) on the 9 o'clock news that night? (Yes, BBC national news). "If not, why not?" he asks. **Signalman Graeme Dawson** also managed to 'get a look in'. And, others were on Tyne Tees TV, Yorkshire TV and BBC2 as well! Not to mention the front page of the *Yorkshire Post!*

PRIZEGIVING

Mrs. Diana Hart, wife of **Colonel John Hart,** CO of 8th Signal Regiment, presented the prizes. 3 trophies and 38 prizes were at stake. This year, the Catterick Cup was presented for the first time. It went to **Private Summerbell,** 16 Battalion RAOC for the fastest Army slalom canoe.

Sergeant Bill White of 36th Signal Regiment won the C1 event in a very respectable time. **Signalman Graeme Dawson** (again) was placed 4th and shows considerable promise for the future. **Corporal Jim Travers** and **Corporal Frank Kelly** of 8th Signal Regiment were placed 2nd in the C2 event on their first competitive outing—watch this space! **Lieutenant John Cornforth** (School of Signals), who organised the first wild water race on the River Swale back in 1968, came 3rd in the Army slalom event in a closely fought battle. He missed 2nd place by only 3 seconds. The Army Apprentice College team from Harrogate came 3rd in the Junior Army team event.

FINALE

Major-General Ken Hall, Director of Army Education and President of the Army Canoe Union, in a letter of thanks to 8th Signal Regiment wrote: "The competitors were greatly impressed by the accommodation, the food in barracks and all the arrangements which were made so carefully for their personal comfort . . . I am sure that they would wish to join me in this very sincere expression of our thanks to all those who made the Championships such an outstanding success".

THE END IN SIGHT

Corporal Jim Travers and Corporal Frank Kelly of 8th Signal Regiment paddling into 2nd place in the Open C2 Class. Kelly and Travers were later to make the only attempt of the day, and indeed in the history of the Competition, to shoot Richmond Falls in a double canoe—they capsized a few seconds after successfully shooting the Falls

DETERMINED YOUNG MAN

Apprentice Tradesman Corporal Watson of the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, helping his team along to 3rd position in the Junior Army Team competition

OVER HE GOES

Lieutenant John Cornforth (School of Signals), who organised the first Swale wild water race back in 1968, shoots Richmond Falls with ease

He was placed 3rd overall in a very strong field of competition for the Catterick Cup—presented to the winning Army Slalom canoe

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Safari to a Summit

Lieutenant Nick Mansfield and Charles Le Gallais of the Corps and two other officers from the Royal Military College of Science decide to have a go at climbing Mount Kenya for their summer vacation.

Giant groundsel and lobelia abound—in the background looms the great peak

PREPARATION

AFTER nine months, a lot of paperwork and a tremendous amount of help and encouragement from people inside and outside the College we were off. Off to climb on Mount Kenya.

Whilst students at the Royal Military College of Science spend most of their time studying for an engineering degree they are encouraged to do something 'different' during the summer break. A month of climbing on the most beautiful mountain in Africa is outside the scope of most regimental officers in units and hence the opportunity afforded by the long summer break was too big to be missed.

The expedition was made up of two Signallers, **Lieutenant Nick Mansfield** and **Lieutenant Charlie Le Gallais** (UC) along with **Lieutenant 'Pete' Walker** of the Sappers and **Lieutenant Steve Matthews** of REME. We all had some experience and had done work up training in Wales and Scotland during the previous year which had welded us together as a team. We arrived in Kenya by RAF transport and were met by **Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Mason,** 1 Queens, who soon had us and our mountain of baggage loaded onto a four tonner.

We spent our first night in Africa as guests of the British Army Training Liaison Service Kenya at Kahawa Barracks just outside Nairobi. Thanks to the generosity of the Devon and Dorset Regiment in supplying a vehicle and driver we were able to head up the mountain the next day. Our four tonner had great difficulty in reaching our first camp site because of the high altitude affecting the carburation.

From our camp at 8,500 feet we started, the next day, the painful task of moving our stores and ourselves to 11,500 feet where the mules would meet us the day after. This was no easy task since we were not fully acclimatised and still suffering the effects of the long flight. However, after a lot of puffing and panting we were able to establish our second camp.

Next morning we waited and waited for the mules which eventually arrived at lunchtime, and soon the muleteers were sitting down to what was to become a familiar sight; tea brewed in an open pot over an open fire. After the tea break we loaded the mules, our enormous supply of stout string proving essential, and set off towards the peak in weather rather reminiscent of Snowdonia at its worst; rain, mist and cold. Keeping up with the leader mules proved a great effort and indeed the 'rests' were more for our benefit rather than for the mules or the sprightly muleteers.

Our third camp in MacKinders Valley underneath Shipton's Cave, took us into the unusual high altitude flora; giant groundsel and lobelia abounded as did the very tame hyrax which came very close to scrounge any titbits—even burnt curry! The interminable uphill slog ended at lunchtime on day four when we reached our first base at Kami Hut.

There we met **Chris Bulstrode,** a Naval medical student, who was studying the disease which was to strike one of us later, pulmonary oedema. Along with him was **Phil Snyder** the Assistant Park Warden who welcomed us and wished us success. There were already two parties climbing but their plans meant that we were soon to be alone.

The Kami Hut—plenty of snow around

FIRST ATTEMPTS ON THE PEAK

The weather for the first few days was perfect and we wasted no time while trying to get acclimatised. This was no easy matter for we all suffered bad headaches and frequent bouts of vomiting. By the time we were ready to do some serious climbing we were alone at Kami Hut—engulfed by abysmal weather. Not deterred we made our first attempt on the main peak up the two day north face standard route in what could only be described as a blizzard. Not surprisingly the party of two returned several hours later, turned back by good sense after getting soaked and having a few decidedly hairy moments on the dangerous, loosely snow-covered rocks.

Our second attempt ended at the bivouac site (fast becoming an all too familiar abode for **Second-Lieutenant Charlie Le Gallais**), halfway up underneath the crux pitch, for the same

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

reason as the first. Our third attempt ended in the same place, only this time the early morning sun failed to melt the ice in the all important rocky cracks before the snow and mist came down.

At this point we aborted any attempt on the main peak until the weather settled. We carried out a number of shorter climbs on the smaller subsidiary peaks and glaciers including an attempt with **Phil Snyder** and his Rangers on a new route close to the famous Diamond Couloir. These climbs provided an enormous amount of experience since the number of climbs, grades and conditions is almost endless.

Charles Le Gallais at a bivouac site

A CHANGE OF SEASON

With no dramatic improvement in the weather the time soon arrived for our move from the 'summer' (ha!) side of the mountain to the 'winter' side. (For those who do not know, the mountain is situated on the equator and there is a difference in the season but only of a few degrees in our opinion.) Again we employed mules to carry our food and equipment. Taking advantage of a visiting Ranger patrol **Lieutenant Nick Mansfield** took the shorter route which clings to the side of the mountain, while the main party set off down the longer, more circuitous, route. Soon after setting off **Lieutenant Steve Matthews** started to feel extremely ill and started exhibiting all the classic symptoms of pulmonary oedema—shortness of breath, lethargy, nausea and failing mental capacity.

The decision to take him down was confirmed by **Bill Woodley,** the Park Warden on a tour of inspection, who lent us two of his rangers to help whilst **Lieutenant Charlie Le Gallais** went on up to Top Hut with the mules. **Lieutenant Nick Mansfield** and **Lieutenant Pete Walker** helped **Steve** with a considerable amount of cajoling and 'persuasion' to make it down under his own steam. (It is worth mentioning that the biggest favour you can do for this type of casualty is to keep him moving.)

The casualty en route to hospital, two very dirty officers arrived at a 'plush' safari lodge late at night seeking board and lodging. The proprietor was very reasonable and only demanded that their boots should be removed before entry. Two days later the remaining three of the party were reunited at Top Hut (16,500 feet). From here despite bad weather and frequent snow storms a number of smaller climbs were accomplished. Two more attempts on the main peak by different 'out of season' routes were unsuccessful mainly because ice and fresh snow made conditions extremely dangerous.

An exploration of an entrance to the Lewis Glacier led us some 600 feet into the ice. Here we could see sunlight filtering through ice a hundred feet thick and hear the creaking and groaning of the ice as it moved slowly down the mountain.

THE WAY BACK

The time to start the long carry down soon arrived. Three days, including two on the infamous 'vertical bog', saw us and our kit at the top of the mountain track. Here we were reunited with a nearly recovered **Lieutenant Steve Matthews.** After a brief stop at the equator, where we haggled for gifts, we were en route back to Nairobi, a month to the day since we had left.

With no prospect of an RAF flight back for a couple of weeks we set about seeing as much as we could of Kenya. We made a number of trips to the safari parks including one into the Aberdare

Climbing out of the ice cave. Ice was 100 feet thick here

Salient, closed to the general public but open to us, thanks to the kind hospitality of **Bill Woodley** who allowed us in. Two weeks after leaving the mountain we were on an RAF flight to Gan, as the first stop on our return route, where we spent a couple of relaxing days enjoying the weather and facilities. Soon via Cyprus we were back at Brize Norton.

The expedition was a great success, due to all the help and encouragement we received, both inside and outside the College, for which we are all immensely grateful.

Parliamo Italiano— or the Corps in Italy

VENICE, even in November, is a fascinating city. This was the overwhelming verdict of 37 members of 5 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron who were on Exercise 'Little Tape 8', just 20 miles from there.

WORK AND PLAY

On the 6th November the 'lucky' few moved to RAF Benson, joining members of 38 Group RAF and 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. After a quick burst of pack boxes unpack boxes we flew out to Treviso, an Italian Air Force base and our hosts for the next two weeks. The following evening a party was held to welcome us, by which time our Italian had improved at least 100%, saying things like "Vino" and "Spaghetti" like a native.

Between rest days there was plenty of work to do in the joint force Commcen being operated from the edge of the airfield. And even though far from Salisbury Plain we still managed to attract some notable visitors. From the 13th–15th November **Major-General R. M. Carnegie, O.B.E.,** GOC 3 Division visited us and from the 17th November until our return to UK on the 20th November **Wing Commander Godwin,** OC TCW.

WHAT WAS THAT RESULT?

Several sporting fixtures were arranged between us and the Italians, football being one of them. A joint force team with **Corporal Derek Chandler** as Captain, **Signalman George Hill, Private 'Mac' McHugh** (RPC), **Corporal Tom Smith** (REME) and **Sergeant Jim Todd** (RPC) having his first international as Referee. The result was irrelevant and embarrassing.

The food during the exercise was certainly different and sometimes surprising. When some members of the Squadron asked for fish, in their now immaculate Italian, they had not really wanted octopus.

ENTERTAINING OUR ITALIAN HOSTS

On the evening of the 18th November the communications side of the exercise finished, and after repacking a seemingly never-ending jumble of kit and equipment the following day, we were ready to entertain the Italians who had helped us so much during our stay.

Everyone from the base commander to the bus drivers were then introduced to the delights of McEwens Pale Ale and similar British Exports.

Squadron Basketball team playing their inaugural match at the Italian airbase at Treviso

W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bob Burrows led the choral contribution, singing those songs reserved for such an occasion. Our guests did likewise, I think.

On the 19th a coach was hired and practically eveyone headed to the Alps for a last days' R and R.

A SUCCESS

So we come to the day of recovery back to Benson. Loaded down with duty frees and plastic gondolas we waited and waited, for 3 Hercules aircraft to arrive. Two did, which is a fair average, and in just 2 hours 50 minutes we were back in good old rain sodden Benson, having made lots of new friends and pen pals the exercise must have been a success.

The Corps in the Caribbean

EXERCISE 'GLEAM' FINDS A CORPS PARTY INVOLVED IN AN INTERESTING COMMUNICATION EXERCISE BASED ON SAINT LUCIA ISLAND

REPORT FROM A 30th REGIMENT CORRESPONDENT

IT all started with a glimmer in Blandford—Exercise 'Glimmer'. This was a run-up to Exercise 'Gleam'—a UKCICC joint force communications exercise in the West Indies. Taking part were elements of 14th Signal Regiment, 30th Signal Regiment, 38 Group RAF and the 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

ADVANCE PARTY

The 23rd October saw the advance party on its way to St. Lucia in the Windward Islands headed by **Major David 'The Pipe' Stubbs, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Mick 'Chunky' McMahon** in his new role as Base Administration Officer, **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Henry 'King Edward' Higgins** and his initial contact boys **Lance-Corporal Tony Wilson, Signalman George Best** and **Staff Sergeant Pete 'The Dollar' Wrigley,** RAPC, all of the 30th Signal Regiment and **Captain Ron Abbott** of 14th Signal Regiment.

Twenty four hours later our Force Commander, **Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Jarrett** and more of his merry men set out for the same destination. After a meal in Gander and a 2 hour 'sweat out' in Bermuda they were poured out of the inevitable Hercules after a tactical landing that had left 4 months of rubber on the runway at Hewanorra Airport.

SETTING UP

The next morning after a hasty breakfast, the blistering task of setting up base camp began. What started out as a wilderness on either side of a disused runway at Hewanorra soon developed into a thriving settlement of tentage and barbed wire.

The main elements continued to fly in and after three days of hard graft the base was virtually complete with cookhouse, dining tent, a guardroom/armoury and even a canteen.

The deployment phase was completed when **Sergeant Pat**

Signalman Cornes carrying out daily maintenance as our Combat Powerman

Hodgkinson took his eight man detachment to Beef Island—one of the British Virgin Islands, and the 14th Signal Regiment D13 detachment arrived to take over the rear link. At this stage it is worth mentioning that one of the detachment—namely **Corporal Ted Gough**—was able to meet up once again with some of his in-laws on the isle of Tortola which adjoins Beef. Communicating with HMS *Tartar* also held special interest for **Captain Ron Abbott** who had a brother serving on board as Flag Lieutenant to Senior Naval Officer, West Indies.

COWS ON THE RUNWAY?

Our first unusual (to say the least) incident occurred at 0110 hours on the morning of the fourth day. All WOs and SNCOs were called out after a report that a cow had been seen on or near the active runway during the landing of a Britannia. A Squad of acting cowherds was quickly detailed off for the round-up. To the amazement of all concerned—suddenly—carried by the warm night breeze came the sound of bagpipes. This was a heaven sent opportunity for the Force Commander to get some practice in and also to assist in the search for the cows. In the event the cows had vanished for some reason and the sole bag turned out to be a herd of securely, but illegally tethered ones. The sight of a section of infantry disappearing into the marshland to the skirl of the pipes will be remembered by all for many years to come.

With communication in green all round **Captain Ron Abbott W.O.2 (F. of S.) Len 'The Hammer' Sant** and the worthy men of the 14th set to to produce what must have been a text book layout for a D13 station. A further task undertaken by **Captain Abbott** was that of official guide to many visiting parties, the most important of which included **Air Commodore D. C. H. Simmonds** the exercise controller, **Mr. Laird** the British Government representative, The Speaker of the Island House of Assembly and other notable local dignitaries. After a comprehensive tour of the entire complex they enjoyed a curried lunch superbly laid on by **W.O.2 Harry 'The Duff' Gunther, Sergeant Rec Maundrill** and their hardworking 'dough' boys.

THE LOCAL SCENE

For two days while the Fusiliers were away exercising in the British Virgin Islands and communications were still in 'green', an opportunity to get out and see some of the island, came to as many as could be spared off shift. The capital of St. Lucia namely Castries was visited although the 2 hour journey along an extremely rough and winding road left scant time for sight-seeing. Another very interesting place to visit was the sulphur spring at Soufriere where one could see large pools of hot bubbling dark grey liquid and the gases escaping through crevices in the sulphur crust. A project is in being to attempt to find the centre of the dormant volcano and tap it to convert it as a source of energy. **Sergeant Dave Pugh** helped the scientists improve their communications by designing elevated antennae systems and checking out their equipment in his workshops.

Eventually the time came for the battalion and our detachment to return from Beef. After seeing them on their return and listening to their tales it would seem that our hot and humid climate with innumerable mosquitoes and flit resistant flies was heaven compared with the torrential rain and even larger mosquitoes experienced by the boys of Beef.

Signalman O'Callaghan cable laying

W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Higgins, Apprentice/Technician Townsend, A.A.C. Harrogate, showing C11 station to the St. Lucia police

SPORT

Now that our full complement was in St. Lucia an attempt was made to take to the field of sport. Unfortunately, the only opponents that offered themselves were the nearby Vieux Fort Cricket team which we just managed to beat. Scores:— Locals, 91 for 8 declared—**Mr. Hussey's** XI—92 for 9—**Corporal Shann Hussey** scoring 34 good runs before being caught.

For the scuba fiend no trip to the West Indies is complete without a dive or two. **Major David Stubbs, Sergeant Frank 'Sapphire' Jackson** and **Lance-Corporal 'The Bends' Williams** took the opportunity to play with the fish which ended with **Lance-Corporal Williams** diving to a notable depth of 90 feet. Watch out Cousteau!

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONIES

On Friday evening 8th November the town of Vieux Fort held a service of dedicating of its new Cenotaph to commemorate the dead of both World Wars. **Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Jarrett, Major D. W. Stubbs** and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) M. D. McMahon** were invited as representatives of the British Army and a wreath was laid by **Lieutenant Colonel Jarrett.** Four sentinels, found from the Corps **(Corporal 'Will' Hay),** the Fusiliers, the RAF and the Royal St. Lucia Police guarded the Cenotaph at the position of reverence thus putting the final touches to a moving occasion which will long be remembered on the Island. On the Sunday we observed the two minute silence gathered round the Union Jack. The last post and reveille were blown by an ex-bugler in the Corps of Drums of the Guyana Defence Force and during the silence a lament was very ably played by **A/T Lance-Corporal Bain** of the AAC Harrogate pipe band who was attached to us.

HOME AGAIN

Two weeks had now passed and the exercise was approaching its final stage. Base Daily Orders on Sunday, 10th November showed the finalised RTU flights and at 2310 hours local time the following day the first flight took off with members of both Regiments on board bound for the UK and all the rigours of Salisbury Plain. From then until the 15th the gradual exodus took place, the first in, being the last out.

IN RETROSPECT

Communications worked well throughout. Our latest inventions are—1 sloping bamboo antennae—bamboo in lieu of 27 foot mast due to persistently interested cattle, an SSB experimental solar deflector—This being the white liner of a 12 x 12 tied to the frame and placed over the FFR Landrover. Not tactical but effective in sunny climes.

Illness. There was only one hospital admission namely **Signalman 'The Line' Campbell** who swore blind the reason was lack of sleep. He was surrounded by nurses the whole time and we had trouble getting him back.

The Food. This was good. Considering that the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (and a host of marauding flies) were also being catered for this meant many harrassing hours for the cooks.

FOR SPECIAL MENTION

Although all played their parts well it would be fitting to mention a few for their contributions as follows:— The members of 14th for digging the MT Park. **Sergeants John Brister** and **Mike Reed** for becoming men of bronze. **Sergeants 'Manuel Robert' Tuplin** Base QMS and **'Manuel Ron' King,** Air-portable NCO, for keeping the stores and freight running smoothly. **Lance-Corporals 'Tweedledum' Rocke** and **'Tweedledee' Rumbold** for their able assistance to the SQMS as well as to communications. **Sergeant 'Steaks' Pugh** for organising two Bar-B-Q parties. **Sergeant 'Racasan' Mottram** for his camp spraying capabilities. The long-lasting partnership of **Lance-Corporal Tony Wilson** and **Signalman George Best** for being THROUGH 99·5% of the time. The 0·5% loss was due to a move of their initial contact station into the secure complex. **Signalmen 'The Power' Cornes** and **'The Wheel' Trowbridge** who kept smiling. **Corporal 'The Spanner' Hill,** REME, who kept the wheels turning. **Corporal 'The Pub' Hainsworth** who ensured that the canteen was stocked at all times.

And, last but not least, our three Apprentices **A/T S.S.M. Hickman, A/T Corporal Bain** and **A/T Townsend** who pulled their full weight throughout and were a very welcome addition to the team.

P.S.—We had upwards of 30 enquiries from boys of school-leaving age and student nurses on how they could join the Army. This may be of interest to the recruiting organisation.

Any Takers?

Welbeck College C.C.F. requires assistance in training its Corps of Drums. Any offers of help would be most appreciated and should be made to: The Adjutant,

Welbeck College C.C.F.,
WORKSOP,
Notts S80 3LN.

The Cyprus Scene

GOC NEARELF Major-General H. D. G. Butler seen talking to Sergeant Ascoff when he said farewell to the 'A' Troop detachments of 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment which had come in at the start of the Cyprus Emergency. Lieutenant Shaw, the Troop Commander in attendance

Major Mike Chandler and Lieutenant Shaw look cheerful enough as the 'A' Troop detachments prepare to embark on L.S.L. *Sir Galahad*. Major Mike Chandler of 259 Squadron is now wearing the blue beret of UNFICYP Signals we understand

Report from Force Signal Officer's Branch, HQ UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 567

(WRITTEN FROM THE VIEW OF AN FSO's CLERK)

A PRECISION DROP

SINCE my last notes published in the June/July edition, life in the United Nations in Cyprus has proved to be very hectic. Everyone by now knows that the calm tranquil life in Cyprus was shattered on the 15th July when the coup took place. Naturally the UN Forces were on an increased alert but things seemed to have settled down when on the 20th July we were rudely awakened at 0500 hours by the Turkish airforce bombing Nicosia International Airport. After what seemed hours I managed to poke my head from under my bed to see in amazement the building was still standing. For those who do not know the Sergeants' Mess accommodation is situated only about 50 yards from the airport. After shaking the dust and cobwebs out of my hair I ran to the washrooms for a quick wash and shave. On coming out we were greeted by the marvellous sight of around a dozen transport planes coming in dropping Turkish parachutists into the Turkish enclave in Kyrenia. Though somewhat startled we had to admire the precision flying of the Turkish airforce. If their bombs had been dropped slightly off target the UN camp would have been hit. After the cease fire was signed on the 22nd July we had a quiet period but no one could afford to ease up. On the 14th August hostilities resumed until another cease fire was agreed on 16th August.

The pressure during this period on UN personnel has been very great with long hours over seven days a week. It has meant many people have been sleeping in their offices, when the opportunity arose. Though the situation is still serious the pressures have eased slightly.

THE FUNNY SIDE

During this period there were many amusing moments, though at the time no one was doing much laughing. The biggest joke was that a month previous to the trouble starting I had just had a three month's extension approved so instead of leaving on the 8th August, before the second round started, I'm still here. There was a Danish driver who on turning right saw six armed Turks. He was so enthralled by this he failed to see a pile of stones which he hit. It may have been a coincidence but the Royal Signals SNCOs were the entertainments committee for the Sergeants' Mess during July and the PEC, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Colin Bland** is insisting that no other committee has put on such a first class programme before.

HIGH GRADE COMMUNICATIONS

I must mention that the Royal Signals contribution could not have been better with the highest standard of communications possible being provided for the UN. The praise for this must go to 644 Signal Troop, commanded by **Captain Pullman.** Meanwhile our branch has been somewhat busy co-ordinating all the UN communications on the island. A special mention must be made of two of our Telecommunications Mechanics, **Sergeant 'Robbie' Burnett** and **Corporal Powis** who while out fixing a line broken by shelling were wounded by mortar fire. They are now both out of hospital and none the worse for their experience. It will give them something to talk about for years to come. **Signalman Meuse** during a tour of duty as an observer in a UN Operation situated at the top of a water tower at Camp UNFICYP, was wounded in the tummy. He is now recovering in the UK.

ADDED AMENITIES

During this unsettled period due to the smooth talking of **Major Baxter,** I was fortunate enough to have a civilian typist added to our establishment and we have had an air conditioner installed much to the envy of many people.

Since our last notes we have lost **Signalman 'Mack' McLuckie,** the Force Signal Officer's driver/operator, who returned to 30th Regiment. He was replaced by an RCT driver who we have also lost and now **Major Baxter** is his own driver/operator.

Notes from Trade Training School, Catterick

A NEW APPROACH TO TECHNICAL TRAINING

DURING the past two years a revolution in basic technician training has been taking place in 8th Regiment. It started in July 1973 when a new set of Training Objectives (the documents that lay down just what tradesmen must be capable of doing after training) were promulgated.

A three man team was formed, and tasked to analyse these Training Objectives and to make recommendations on how best to carry out the training involved. The team was led by **Bill Jones,** an ex F. of S., veteran of many years in trade training, and known to many people who have been associated with trade training in the Corps. Team members were **Dennis Tetlow** an ex F. of S. and familiar to many Corps members and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Chris Payne.**

THE TEAM THAT INVESTIGATED NEW TECHNICIAN TRAINING TECHNIQUES

Left to right: Dennis Tetlow and Bill Jones (both ex-Foremen of Signals of many years standing) and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Chris Payne

AN ANALYSIS AND ITS CONCLUSIONS

There is no necessity to cover in detail the methods used to carry out this analysis. Those readers who are interested in learning more about this subject should watch future Royal Signals Institution Journals.

The analysis took two months to complete, after which the team produced the format for the new course together with a number of recommendations and observations as follows:

Where equipment training was concerned no better way could be found than the existing method.

It should be possible to teach a common principles syllabus to all basic technicians regardless of trade.

That by adopting a learning-by-doing method of training, the time taken to teach principles could be considerably reduced.

The recommendations were approved and the team was given the go ahead to design the new principles phase.

There followed an eight month period of intense research and development work, heated debate and sometimes the revision of long held beliefs on the part of the design team.

CLASSLABS

The results are what we now refer to as CLASSLABS, a combination of CLASSroom and LABoratory. These are rooms in which each student has a working position where he sits and carries out a series of carefully chosen tasks, designed to bring him to a natural realisation of the basic laws and axioms that he must know, in order to understand the equipment that he will meet later in the course. To enable him to carry out these tasks each student has his own personal double beam oscilloscope, a multi-range AVO meter, and a circuit board upon which he builds the circuit being studied. In addition, each position has DC and AC supplies and AF and RF signals piped to it from a console controlled by the instructor.

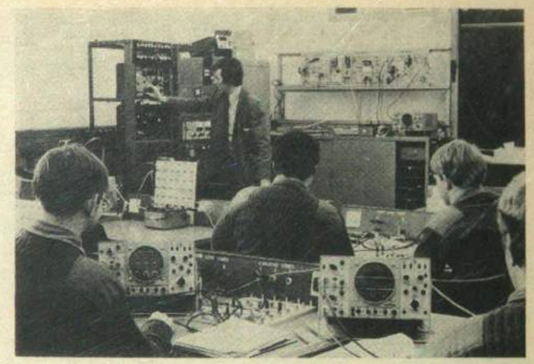
A MINIMUM OF NOTE KEEPING

The design team produced some 800 tasks which take the student from basic DC theory to digital techniques in easy steps. Note-taking is kept to a minimum by the use of partly completed printed sheets and diagrams—these are completed by the student whilst he is carrying out the task, and a new text book has been written, covering the complete requirements of the course in SI units.

It must be emphasized that the CLASSLABS are not laboratories that the student visits occasionally to confirm the odd fact learnt in a conventional classroom, the new embryo technician spends half of *every* day of the common phase of the course actually learning-by-doing in the CLASSLAB.

HANDLING EQUIPMENT STRAIGHTAWAY

The remainder of his time is spent in equipment handling, that is, actually using the equipment that he must eventually maintain and repair. Using this approach, the student is introduced to communicating literally from the first day of the course, and



A TYPICAL 'CLASSLAB'

Potential basic Technicians studying the effects of varying signal inputs to transistor circuits in a 'Classlab'

during this common phase he learns to use ALL terminal, radio and radio relay equipment on general issue to the Corps, and the common phase of the course (principles and equipment handling) lasts for 27 weeks, after which the young technicians are streamed into their particular trade specialisation for a further 11 weeks learning to maintain and repair equipment in the same way as their predecessors who were taught principles under the old system.

By training technicians this way we have reduced the course from about 50 weeks to 40 weeks, which includes a 2 week Junior NCOs drill and duties course, and produces very capable young men with a far wider range of knowledge of equipment and communicating than basic technicians have ever had before—invariably they are keenly interested in their job, well motivated and eager to learn more.

CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE COURSE 777—THE COMMUNICATION OPERATORS CERTIFICATE

Until recently the opportunity to acquire the Communication Operators Certificate was only given to Telegraphists who were undergoing training at the Army Apprentice's College, Harrogate.

Arrangements have now been made with the Institute for this certificate to be made available to all Telegraphists in the Corps.

Initially, the necessary examinations may be taken, by those who wish to enter, during attendance at a Class 2–1 course in the Trade Training School, 8th Regiment.

The Class 1 Trade Test for Radio Telegraphist and Data Telegraphist provides exemption to parts of the final examination, but additional skills tests have to be taken, and a written examination in English will have to be taken by those who do not possess 'O' Level or EPC (Advanced) or an equivalent.

The Certificate has already been recognised by several important civilian employers of Telegraphists and interest is growing.

COURSE 'A' GRADINGS

Listed below are the names of basic and upgrading students awarded 'A' gradings as shown during the period 1st October 1973 to date:

Name	*Course attended*
Private Young, J. M. (WRAC)	SO15BW–5
Corporal Ramsay, C.	RRO7U–1
Corporal Bestford, J.	PCO4BS/2
Corporal Wilding, A. J.	LM2/TMO2C/2
Lance-Corporal Coomber, K. B.	TE13B–1
Lance-Corporal Steed, D. M.	TE13B–1
Signalman Farrow, F. C.	CP22B–4
Sergeant Clarke, R. E. (WRAC)	SOO1UW–5
Corporal Emslie, V. K. (WRAC)	SOO1UW–5
Lance-Corporal Aspinall, J.	LM2/TMO2aC/2
Private Edwards, C. E. (WRAC)	SO16BW–5
Lance-Corporal May, S. A.	CRO8U–2
Corporal Guy, M. A.	RAO7U–1
Lance-Corporal Arnot, D.	CRO9U–2
Lance-Corporal Hiller, C. A.	TE14B–1
Lance-Corporal Smith, D. G.	TE14B–1
Signalman Turner, A.	CP22A–B4
Signalman Wilson, M.	TMO9B–2
Lance-Corporal Hanlon, M. J.	CR10U–2

(Continued overleaf)

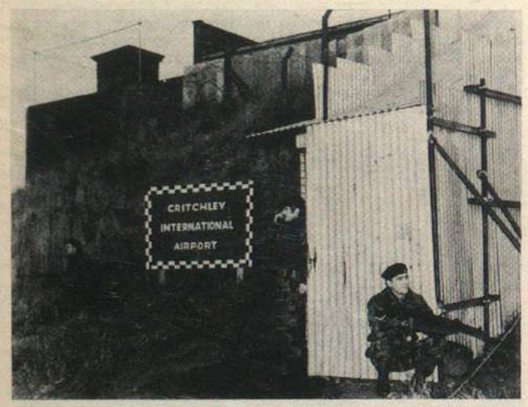
(Continued from page 13)

Corporal Moore, G. W.	LM2/TMO3C/–2	**Signalman Greenwood, W.**	TM11B–2
Corporal Brown, D.	CR11U–2	**Lance-Corporal Stockdale, W. P.**	TE19B–1
Corporal Martin, D.	RRO9U–1	**Corporal Allen, C. L.**	TR16U–3
Lance-Corporal Brockway, M. A.	TE15B–1	**Corporal Cheesman, S. M. W.**	RR12U–1
Signalman Jones, M. L. P.	DT32B–3	**Signalman Myerscough, M. E.**	CP28B–4
Signalman Lwin, Kyi	RAO4BO–1	**Lance-Corporal Shaw, D. C.**	CP15U–4
Sergeant Gunaratna	RAO3UO–1	**Corporal Hemming, C. H.**	RA10U–1
Sergeant Thomas, A. J.	CR13U–2	**Corporal Barnes, D. J.**	RR13U–1
Lance-Corporal Jenkins, J.	RT13U–3	**Corporal James, D. A.**	CR20U–2
Lance-Corporal Nixson, M. T.	TE17B–1	**Corporal Stewart, R.**	CR20U–2

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

WE begin this contribution with a brief account of our mini-airport—Critchley International. It gets its name from a previous Deputy Brigade Commander who, besides having the distinction of having an airport named after him also lent a shortened version of his surname to a popular anti-bomb device now installed Province wide. Our photograph shows the heli-pad securing party ensuring a relatively safe landing for an incoming helicopter.



Photograph by Corporal S. G. Barker, RAOC

OUR VERY OWN AIRPORT!

Left to right: Signalman Dave Sutton, Signalman 'Tich' Liddy, Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Thomas

THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

The 25th of October was the third anniversary of the re-forming of 3 Infantry Brigade. The event was marked by a mini-sports competition in the gymnasium. The Brigade Commander, **Brigadier C. S. Wallis-King, O.B.E.,** presented prizes to the winning teams and allowed himself a relaxing half hour at the all ranks 'Happy Hour' which followed the prize giving.

MAZE PRISON AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

During the first week of November there was more 'bovver' at the Maze Prison and this resulted in the usual additional upheavals of our already turbulent everyday routine. Good humour prevailed, however, and our soldiers 'chalked up' a few more patrols and guards to add to their ever lengthening tally of Northern Ireland stories. Even the DAA and QMG, **Major Mark Scott,** RIR, can chalk one up after he personally led a patrol into Lurgan in pursuit of a wanted terrorist who had been seen in the area.

Amid FFR Inspections (all good reports so far!), VIP visits, presentations, alerts, ranges, adventure training, etc., loud bangs and shots continue to punctuate the long winter nights in the Lurgan area, and indeed, soldiers of the Squadron would be most surprised if they did not. VCPs and IAs are second nature to most by now and quick reaction by **Corporal Dave Scott** and his guard the other night, resulted in the capture of three wanted men by the RUC. Well done lad!

Alpha Troop, led by **Lieutenant Peter Richards,** are our experts when it comes to getting about our section of the Province. In a Brigade area of approximately 4,000 square miles with its 270 miles of border with the Republic of Ireland they certainly own a lot of communications real-estate. Place names like Forkhill, Crossmaglen, Auchnacloy and Keady and the war stories (some real, some just line shooting) associated with these places are part of the everyday conversation in the Troop crewroom. The latest story is the one when two rovers were fired at near Newry and the IRA claimed another victory—the wounding of a nine-year old girl by a bullet intended for Alpha Troop.

Our Pioneer Platoon, led by **Staff Sergeant John Fielder,** RPC, is now one of the largest platoons in the Army (P.S. Don't tell **Roy Mason**) and, we like to think the most outward-looking (pun) when it comes to sangar duties. If any reader would like any information on the siting, erection, concealment and manning of sangars please write to us enclosing a SAE and we will be happy to advise you!

SPORT

A new indoor sport was conceived here in the factory (necessity really is the mother of invention)—but it appears to have died a natural death after the MTO, **W.O.2 Eddie Kellett** and **Sergeant Brian Mumford** discovered that stock car racing requires just a little more room than the confines of this particular factory offer.

Finally we would like to wish all our readers and, in particular, all past members of the Squadron a Happy New Year and hope that 1975 will bring you all that we would wish ourselves.

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

SOCCER—MINOR UNITS LEAGUE WON FOR FOURTH TIME

THE Squadron Soccer Team skippered by **Sergeant Bob Lockwood** has won the Northern Ireland Minor Units League Trophy for the fourth successive time by defeating Kings Depot Royal Irish Rangers 5–4 in the championship play off.

This result reflects the spirit and enthusiasm with which the game is played. There is little time available for team training and it is not unusual for about half the team to turn out immediately after a twelve hour duty. Misconduct on the field is seldom encountered and we pride ourselves in completing over twenty fixtures without a caution or booking. So may it be that the troubles of Ulster have helped to foster a high sense of sportsmanship and a competitive spirit that is too often lacking in sport these days.

'THE CHAMPIONS'—39 BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON LEAGUE WINNING TEAM

Back row: Lance-Corporal 'Droop' Armstrong (Medic), Staff Sergeant George Hardman (Team Manager), Signalman Tommy Taylor, Corporal Tony Townsend, Signalman Dave Whittaker, Corporal 'Rocky' Stone, Signalman Dave Edgecomb, Corporal Phil Monahan, Captain (Q.M.) Joe Adams (Soccer Officer)

Front row: Signalman Tommy Jackson, Corporal 'Pip' Pittaway, Sergeant Bob Lockwood, Signalman 'Budgie' Edge, Driver Colin Lamb

Absent on Duty: Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Dalton, Signalman 'Zap' Appleby

CORPS STALWARTS ON THE BRIGADE STAFF

The Corps has three well known stalwarts on the Brigade Staff and they are Major Norman Muir (S.C.Q. Maint), Major Barry Rowe (P.R.) and Captain 'Gus' Vigurs who is doing a six month stint as watchkeeper—note his new flak jacket. Major Mike Spence (*left*), the Squadron Commander, clearly disclosing something of considerable interest to his audience

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The following have joined the Squadron since 1st November 1974. We welcome them and hope that they will have an enjoyable tour.

Sergeants Liddle, Hamer and **Ulett. Corporal Besant, Lance-Corporals Houghton, Scott** and **Waugh** (RPC), **Signalmen Dunn, Eager, Jervis** and **Private Whiteley** (RAOC). Whilst we were busy saying hello to these, we were also saying farewell to others, **W.O.2 O'Kane** (Para), **Sergeants Hamer** (no relation to the above), **Gardiner, Corporals Cook, Marland, Tate, Lance-Corporals Franklin, Patterson, Signalman Annandale** and **Private Smith** (RPC). The prize for the most farewell parties went to **Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones,** our Chief Clerk for the past two years. At the last count it was four, with eight hours to go before sailing. Comment by by the incoming Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Pete Hinton,** after hearing all the glowing praises sung about Lisburn, the Squadron and the green (wet) countryside, was "Records should ask for volunteers", half joking but after a run out in his car along the Antrim coast, he is now a believer.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire? Why not do so NOW!

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

COMMCEN TROOP

BY far the largest Troop in this 'King-Sized' Squadron yet I find a dearth of literary ability amongst the members; hence the man at the top get the job.

60,000 MESSAGES A MONTH

Rather than bore readers with the usual mundane comings and goings, inspections, visits and the like I feel that some value may be gained from describing life in Communication Centre Lisburn (I hope my trumpet is still of true tone). To cope with an ill-defined traffic load (usually not less than 60,000 messages per month), both Royal Signals and WRAC operators work side by side around the clock. Hours are exceptionally long, additional security guards and picquets are plentiful and leisure time activities are sparse and confined mainly to the camp area. Despite this, morale is high and every member of the Troop has that much sought after quality—'Job Satisfaction'.

COMSTARS AND TEAMWORK

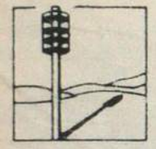
During the past year we have earned 1 Bronze COMSTAR award and are well on the way to a Silver. Added to this, no mishandling of any traffic has been recorded during the past 11 months.

These claims possibly seem rather insignificant until one appreciates the cramped conditions under which we work. Undeniably it is a difficult job and the rewards are not high, however it is to the credit of both our own Corps and the WRAC that the quality of every soldier (yes, including the girls) is of such a tremendously high standard. The secret of course is teamwork! This leads naturally to those other valuable team members of the telephone exchange and system control (Technical Troop). Our telephone service is second to none and the system control boys certainly keep us on the road. Mention must also be made of our two resident Post Office engineers **Ray** and **Jim**; they give sterling service at any time of the day or night.

We are quite rightly proud of ourselves and our achievements which further enhance the reputation of 'Jimmy' in this unfortunate Province.

If you are to be posted to 233 Signal Squadron and fancy a 100+ hour week for an extra 50p (taxable) per day—welcome aboard!

—News from Headquarters—



School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

TRANSMISSION GROUP

TRANSMISSION Group is concerned with the teaching of Radio Relay Systems to all courses passing through the School. Naturally a lot of emphasis is on BRUIN but we are also concerned with future systems, static projects, tropospheric scatter and satellites. We also teach the relevant theory and are constantly trying to simplify the tasks of the communications manager. Officers and Senior NCOs usually pass through our hands towards the end of their course and we feel it makes a suitable climax to their time in the School.

The main courses this term have been 2 TEM, 1 CQ and 35 F. of S.; we hope they remember the lessons of Exercise 'Koala' when there are so many more things to think about in their new units. We have also seen 1 Overseas Communications Course who have now departed and 26 Y. of S. who will be here until the end of the Spring Term 1975.

The Staff take a real interest in the students and are always keen to pick up new ideas and develop them for future instruction or indeed for use throughout the Corps. Sometimes investigations are carried out as 'Student Projects' which are useful training in themselves and which may in addition produce practical results.

The present staff is **Major Ken Ferguson, Captains Alan Jackman, Mike Rice** and **Nick Mayne. W.O.1 (F. of S.) Terry Everett** (who will be commissioned in January), **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Colin Doyle** and **Sergeant Pete Drury,** (both study at Bournemouth College of Technology), **Sergeants Vince Thomas** (soon off to 7th Regiment), **Eden Alibocus** (a member of the Open University), **Steve Gibson, Les Grubb, Sam** and **Geoff Roberts,** (one will have to go!; in fact **Geoff** is off to 16th Regiment in the near future). **Mary Christopher** keeps the place spick and span and copes with our sugar shortage.

We are always glad to help individuals or units as much as possible. We are not too difficult to find, just look for the 'Post Office Tower'—that's ours—and we're not far away.

INSTRUCTIONAL WING

ON the 5th December the SO-in-C, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** spent the day meeting Staff and Students and being briefed on the many facilities of Instructional Wing.

The highlight of the visit took place in the Sergeants' Mess when the SO-in-C presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) R. G. French, M.B.E.** and the medal was christened in the traditional menner.

On the same occasion **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. G. Collins** of No. 35 Foreman of Signals Course received the Royal Signals Institution Prize for Professional Attainment in the form of a cheque, an Illuminated Scroll, and an inscribed Corps History.

Later in the day the SO-in-C presented to **Captain J. D. Heck** the Royal Signals Prize of a cheque and inscribed Corps History for the Best Student of No. 1 Communications Qualifying Course.

The SO-in-C presents the Royal Signals Prize to Captain J. D. Heck of No. 1 CQ Course. In the background, Colonel R. L. Stonham, Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. A. Sumner and Captain J. A. Rose

The L.S.G.C. medal of W.O.1 (Y. of S.) R. G. French, M.B.E. about to be christened by the SO-in-C after the presentation on 5th December 1974. In the background *(left to right)*: Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson, Commandant School of Signals and Colonel R. L. Stonham, Chief Instructor

News from Regiments

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

AS usual this time of the year has been the scene of much activity ranging from preparation for the FFR inspection, held on 19th November, to an Anglo German Cocktail party on the same day. Other events have included a Wives Club fashion show (of which more later), an Officers' Mess Autumn Ball, a Headmaster's visit, an All Ranks dance, the SO-in-C's visit, a Wives Club 'Bring and Buy' sale, the annual RSO's Convention, Regimental Audit Boards and an Officers Study Day.

WIVES CLUB

We often take our wives too much for granted and tend to overlook the fact that high morale among our wives is essential to good overall morale in the unit. The Wives Club plays a vital part in this and we are happy to report that ours is flourishing.

Several months ago we were asked by **Mrs. Sawers,** wife of the Signal-Officer-in-Chief to make a contribution to the SSAFA Christmas Bazaar, at which Royal Signals had been invited to provide a stall. A collection was organised by **Mrs. Mary Miller,** wife of OC 3 Squadron, and the girls set-to with a will. The result was a splendid 661 Deutschmarks. The Commanding Officer decided that this effort deserved a fitting reward and added another DM661 from the proceeds of our Kohima Fete, making the Regimental contribution to SSAFA a handsome £215—plus some items of cosmetics for the stall.

Flushed with this success the wives then turned their energies to a Fashion Show, and this, too, was a great success. The stage management was very professional and a high degree of 'stick-ability' was exhibited by all concerned! **Vivienne Marsden** made the arrangements, wrote the script and rushed around keeping everyone going, the models were organised by **Mary-Rose Frith** and, as always, there were many pairs of willing hands behind the scenes to make the whole thing possible. The models gave no evidence on stage of nerves from which they all claimed to be suffering and the only hitch—dare we admit it—came when the PA failed (run, of course, by a mere male). Anyway, thanks for a super evening to **Mary-Rose Frith, Mary Miller, Anne-Marie Graham, Shirley Waddington, Barbara Beilson, Glenda Biggs, Yvonne McPhail, Janet Baron, Marilyn Offord, Sylvia Pfeiffer, Angie Barlow, Irene Maynard** and **Denise Webster.** There were three other models, but perhaps we had better not mention them—you looked divine Sergeant-Major!

Next our netball team—the 'Bunde Birds'. Monday nights in Bunde see a reversal of traditional roles as husbands settle down to baby-sit and wives rush off clad in track suits for their weekly netball training session. The whole thing started some 18 months ago and has gone from strength to strength; so much so that the Birdwood Birds, coached, umpired and sometimes bullied by **Yvonne McPhail,** run three teams. The first team is undefeated in 13 games against teams such as the Detmold Devils, Bielefeld Bombers and the Wombles of Osnabruck. Their record against the opposite sex is not quite so good as the menfolk of Birdwood led by the RSM **Tony Pfeiffer** beat the Birds by 11–10 in a recent challenge match, which ended with two of the men receiving medical treatment—so much for the weaker sex.

The 30th November sees their first opportunity to win some silver, as a Bunde sponsored netball tournament takes place at Birdwood Barracks, with nine teams competing for a knockout trophy. STOP PRESS: THE BUNDE BIRDS WON BEATING ALL-COMERS.

The 'Bunde Birds' Netball team

SO-IN-C's VISIT

The Regiment was paid a very welcome though fleeting farewell visit by the SO-in-C, **General Max Sawers.** It was nice to see **General Max** in such obviously good form but sad to be saying goodbye. Several officers attended his farewell dinner at Herford on 12th November. This was a splendid occasion which left more than one officer feeling rather the worse for wear the next morning.

ANGLO GERMAN COCKTAIL PARTY

This event was a joint venture between ourselves and 2 Division RCT with whom we share the barracks. The party coincided with the visit of the Corps band and after the band concert in the gymnasium our German guests moved on to the Officers' Mess for cocktails.

The band delighted the audience (German and British alike) with a wonderful display of musical talent and humour. (What other band plays old tin cans on the end of lengths of garden hose?) Despite the language barrier all our guests expressed their enjoyment of the concert, preferring its more informal atmosphere to the previous year's ceremony of playing Retreat. The local paper too was full of praise and can be forgiven for referring to the band as the "Band of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment".

The officers study day held on the 25th November provided a welcome relief from the pressures of the previous weeks when all available officers went to visit 23 Base Workshops REME in Wetter on the Ruhr.

SPORT—HOCKEY

The hockey team are the only team in the Regiment that has a record to compare with those sporting amazons (sorry ladies) the Bunde Birds. This season the team is doing rather better than

last, having played and won 13 matches the main scorers being **Corporal Harry Kirkham** (22) and **Captain Brian Davenport** (17). Despite having lost such stalwarts as **W.O.1 Izzo** and **Signalman 'Willy' Williams** permanently and **Corporals Alan Smallwood** and **Ray Wilson** temporarily (we hope) the team as can be seen by the record is making good progress. It is better balanced this season and our forwards in the shape of **Sergeant Charlie Drake, Captain Brian Davenport, Corporal Harry Kirkham** and **Captain Alistair Clark** are scoring more goals (all except the left winger who shall remain nameless). The defence leans heavily on the expertise of the SSO's department, namely **Major Terry Thornton,** RCT, **W.O.2 John Warren,** Glosters whilst **Sergeant George Cook** and **Staff Sergeant Andy Neilson** play the role of midfield 'destroyers'. **Lance-Corporal Clive Turner** is fairly new to the game and is showing promise and **Major Randall Cross,** RAPC forms an important link role at centre half when his corns permit. Our intention this year, as it was last, is to win the Army Cup competition, the Divisional competition nad the BAOR League competition.

SKIING

Still on the sporting scene, with winter upon us the Regiment is moving into top gear in its main 'industry'—skiing. The stalwarts of the skiing team have been training hard since the end of last season, have already spent some time high in the Italian alps at Cervinia and are at present training in Norway and again in Italy. The Langlauf team captained by **Lieutenant Tom Richardson** and consisting of **Lieutenant Tony Marvin, Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Corporal Doug Elliott, Lance-Corporal Dave Stanton** and **Signalman Graham Watts** are training at Jorstadmoen in Norway, by courtesy of the Norwegian Signal School. Postcards to the unit tell of the luxurious surroundings, enormous quantities of food and perfect skiing conditions. The downhill team, captained by **Captain 'Paddy' Hughes** and consisting of **Corporal Mick Doveton, Lance-Corporal Gordon Townsley, Signalman Bob Giles, Signalman Philip Dobson** and **Signalman Alan Daughty** are training in less luxurious surroundings. They are based in a small pension in Cervinia, at the southern base of the Matterhorn and train at an altitude of 14,000 feet. This are is used by the German and Italian national teams when training early in the season, so we are in good company.

Both teams are training very hard indeed and have no time for the 'apres-ski life' if they are to achieve the very high standards necessary to gain places in the Army Championships which they so narrowly missed last season. We wish them every success in the competitions in mid-January.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE—1 SQUADRON

OC	**Major Jim Brinsford**
Second-in-Command	**Captain Alistair Clark**
OC 'E'	**Lieutenant David Miskin**
OC 'F'	**Lieutenant David Collyer**
SSM	**W.O.2 Frank Atkins**

The main event of note within the Squadron has been the opening of the 'new' Squadron Bar now known as Brandy's Bar. Still in the same rooms, but not with the old fireplace and dividing wall knocked out, it has been tastefully decorated and refurnished at a cost to the Squadron of something like 3,500 DM. However the increased custom since the opening is rapidly earning this money back in bar profit. Thanks are mainly due to **Signalman Dave Morgan** who is our resident 'chippy'. He has been ably assisted by **Sergeants Chas Arundel** and **Alan Duncan** (the ceiling painting expert), **Lance-Corporal Jerry Keech, Signalman 'Brad' Bradshaw** and **Driver John Carr.** Many thanks to all of them from the rest of the Squadron.

Recently the Senior NCOs and officers treated themselves and their wives to a pre FFR 'thrash' in a nearby Gasthaus called the 'Else Terrasse'. **Signalman 'Smudge' Smith** provided the music (at a suitable volume) and the evening was a resounding success.

This season the 1 Squadron football team are fielding a strong team and most challengers are given a hard game. Recently, they have played two German clubs, Dunne F.C. and Hucker Aschen F.C. Both clubs were held to draws 2–2 and 4–4 respectively. Their last game was a victory over 4 Squadron RCT, score 6–2. The star striker is **Signalman Steve Gibson.** Working hard in mid-field are **Signalman Kenny Cooper** and **Lance-Corporal Al Philip** and the defence is strengthened by solid players in the form of **Corporal Ian Fletcher** and **Signalman Tony Henderson.**

Finally, **Y. of S. George Stubbings** was whisked away to Blandford to play basketball for the Corps, cleverly avoiding some of the preliminary inspections and the FFR. Well done **George!**

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

AFTER a silence of almost a year since the February/March issue of 1974, 2 Squadron go into print again . . .

Personalities in the Squadron has seen considerable changes since our last contribution. At the moment the management are as follows:

OC	**Major John Hincks**
Second-in-Command	**Lieutenant Derek Howshall**
OC A1 Troop	**Lieutenant Ian Greig**
OC A2 Troop	**Lieutenant Bob Binham**
OC D Troop	**Second-Lieutenant Bob Turnbull**
SSM	**W.O.2 Roger Harris**
F. of S.	**W.O.2 Brian Livesey, B.E.M.**
Y. of S.	**Staff Sergeant Dave Weston**

ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Regiment **Lieutenant Bob Binham** and his wife **Adrianne** after three years at RMCS Shrivenham and **Lieutenant Ian Greig** and his wife **Lucy** after a tour with 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. Also new to the Regiment is **Second-Lieutenant Bob Turnbull** who joined us straight from RMAS. We also welcome from other Squadrons the following:

Lieutenant Derek Howshall from 3 Squadron, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Brian Livesey, B.E.M.** from 1 Squadron and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dave Weston** from 3 Squadron.

DEPARTURES

We say farewell to:

Captain Alan Wallace, his wife **Sue** and dog **Jason** on an exchange posting to the 1st Canadian Signal Regiment in Ontario.

Lieutenant Howard Van Praag on posting to 11th Signal Regiment.

We wish them good luck in their new appointments.

Temporarily absent are:

Captain Neil Donaldson who has left us to do his JDSC course.

Lieutenant Mike Collins and **Second-Lieutenant 'Wee Gee' Griffiths** who left us for their 'Q' Course at Blandford.

EXERCISES 1974

Once again the Squadron has found itself with detachments scattered to all four points of the compass in one of the busiest years on record.

'Summer Sales' was a 10 day mud bath with Staff MT using quad as a tow rope (it broke!).

'Blue Peter' was a Regimental Exercise on which we practised movement, concealment, detachment, cooking and digging, digging and yet more digging!

'Autumn Handicap' was an RAOC Infantry Skills exercise on which **Second-Lieutenant Bob Turnbull** and his Troop helped out.

'Bold Hunter' saw **Lieutenant Bob Binham** and a select few exercising with the French and Americans.

Our 'Forefront '74', saw the Divisional FTX detachments were scattered everywhere. Among others **Second-Lieutenant Bob Turnbull** and **Sergeant Cliff Dalton-Brockwell** were attached to a Danish Cavalry Regiment with 3 detachments. **Lieutenant Ian Greig** and **Sergeant Stan Davies** were attached to the Royal Engineers and **Lieutenant Bob Binham** and **Staff Sergeant Tom Foody** found themselves assisting the Royal Artillery.

SQUADRON SPORT

FISHING

Under the guidance of **Sergeant Pete Boulby** the Hotrods Angling Club has got off to an excellent start by winning both the BAOR Royal Signals and the BAOR Championships (as reported in detail in the December/January issue of THE WIRE). We extend to them our congratulations and wish them luck in the future. Other members of the Club from the Squadron are:

Corporals Pete Pratt, Ken Robson and **John Cliff, Lance-Corporal 'Butch' Butchers** and **Signalmen Terry Dooley** and **'Pop' Hilton.**

MOTOR SPORTS CLUB HERFORD

Although this is a Garrison Club, it is exceptionally well patronised by members of the Squadron. **Y. of S. Dave Weston, Lance-Corporal Brian Caffrey** and **Corporal Pete Younger** (ably assisted by his wife **Kath**) are all on the Committee, **Mrs. Younger** being the Club's Treasurer. The Club recently held its first Slalom event and Class wins were achieved by the following members of the Squadron:

Sergeant Cliff Dalton-Brockwell, Lance-Bombardier 'Duggy' Darter and **Signalman 'Bluebottle' Jones.**

There were 4 classes in the event, so it was 3 out of the 4 to 2 Squadron!

SOCCER

Several members of the Squadron have represented the Regiment at Soccer. These include:

Corporals 'Sticky' Stickland, John McQuarrie, 'Eddie' Neary, Lance-Corporals Ian Foster, 'Gus' Colville, Lenny Dunford and **Signalman Pete Asher.**

RUGBY

The Regimental Rugby team has got off to a good start but is still as yet unable to topple our old rivals 7th Regiment. Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Williams** on his selection for the Corps squad. Other members of the Squadron included in the Regimental team are:

Lieutenant Bob Binham (Regimental Rugby Officer), **Lieutenant Ian Greig, S.S.M. W.O.2 Roger Harris** and **Lance-Corporal Eric Richmond.**

OTHER SPORTS

Corporal Steve Whittick is a regular member of the Regimental hockey team and **Second-Lieutenant Bob Turnbull** and **Signalman Donny Simpson** are the Squadron's representatives in the orienteering team. **Signalman Dougie Coid** runs for the Regiment in the cross country team and **Sergeant Ted Harris** and **Lance-Corporal 'Butch' Butchers** represent us in the basketball team.

OPERATION BANNER TOURS

We think that it is worthwhile mentioning the people from the Squadron who have been or are about to go on emergency tours to Northern Ireland. **Lance-Corporal Nigel Dixon, Signalman 'Mac' Mcdonald** and **Signalman Nigel Chandler** have already completed their tour and **Signalmen Carl Strefford, Andy Pludek, Dougye McCormack, Jack Stattersfield, 'Mo' Mahomet** and **Steve Barrington** are either there now or are about to go. We wish them the best of luck.

WELL DONE!

Our congratulations to all members of the Squadron who have successfully completed courses in the past few months in particular **Lance-Corporal Keith Davies** who achieved an 'A' grading on a Rodent and Pest Control Course.

THE FUTURE

Christmas is almost upon us and all are busy preparing for the festivities and lest we forget it the annual FFR inspection at the end of January.

From the look of the Squadron diary 1975 will be even busier than this year has been!

REGIMENTAL WIVES CLUB

This month 'Women's Lib' has raised its head in Herford and our Wives Club have asked for several column inches to record their activities over the past year. Being a good natured fellow (with a wife to answer to at home) your regimental editor has granted the ladies the freedom of the press and the following (heavily censored!) notes are from their Treasurer **Mrs. Judi Weston** wife of **Y. of S. Dave Weston.**

"Early in the year we held a hairdressing demonstration and then a NAAFI forum at which we fired questions at a panel of experts from NAAFI. Then in May we entertained all the Wives Clubs in the Herford Garrison when a famous glass blower from Rinteln gave us a most interesting demonstration on how to create tiny glass animals from thin sticks of glass, fascinating.

Our next big event was an outing for our own wives to a large porcelain factory at Furstenburg. A picnic lunch was arranged, we were all out to enjoy ourselves especially as our husbands were given the day off to 'babysit'. Everything went to plan except the weather, it got fed up with raining and sleeting so it hurled 'cats and dogs' at us instead—still we all enjoyed spending our money on the pottery made at the factory.

Last month we put on an extremely successful Halloween dance complete with turnip lanterns on the tables. We spent hours making suitable decorations (childhood re-lived) for the gym.

On 12th November the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Westlake** opened our newest venture, a hairdressing salon. This is conveniently sited next door to our existing and very popular little coffee bar, 'The Pop Inn', which is run by **Mrs. Jackie Richardson,** wife of the RSM. Lets hope that the salon will be as great a success.

On 21st November (what a busy month it was) we held our annual fashion show. This was organised by **Mrs. Joan Powell,** wife of the Second-in-Command. About 250 wives from units in the garrison attended the show, which was held in the gymnasium. All the models were wives from our Club and they put on a first class show despite some initial attacks of 'nerves', when faced with the thought of that 'cat walk'.

Finally we should like to give a special word of thanks to **Mrs. Anne Kent,** wife of the Traffic Officer, for all her invaluable work behind the scenes before every meeting and for all her helpful advice and support.

We now look forward to 1975 and another successful and happy year for our Club."

WIVES CLUB HAIRDRESSING SALON

The Commanding Officer cuts the ribbon and declares the salon open watched by *left to right* Mrs. G. Lindsay, Mrs. S. Pickering and Mrs. Westlake

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2 SQUADRON ON PARADE

Officer Commanding	**Major P. 'Red Leader' Webb**
Second-in-Command	**Captain P. J. 'Noddy' Myatt**
Sergeant Major	**W.O.2 D. 'Mac' McKenzie**
Foreman of Signals	**Staff Sergeant M. E. 'Mick' Gordon**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant P. D. 'Spratters' Spratt**
Hotel Troop:	
Troop Commander	**Captain J. D. 'Sir James' Heck**
Yeoman of Signals	**Staff Sergeant B. T. 'Barry' Burton**
Troop Sergeants	**Sergeant T. J. 'The Beast' Ellison**
	Sergeant W. 'Staff' Walker
Tango Troop:	
Troop Commander	**Second-Lieutenant A. M. 'Henry' Morgan**
Troop Sergeants	**Staff Sergeant D. R. 'Dave' Freeman**
	Sergeant G. 'Grey' Robertson

WITH such a large turnover of the senior members of the Squadron it was thought appropriate to list above the current management.

Since the end of summer camp in August the Squadron has been involved in getting people away on leave and completing individual training. **Corporal Ballentyne** and **Signalman Buntain** have been running driver training courses and the Yeoman of Signals has been refreshing the Data Telegraphists. The Squadron Commander has been taking the officers and the seniors into the hills on Commcen siting TEWT's.

Two most successful Squadron dances have been held at a local gasthof, in early September and early November. Credit must go to the organisers **Sergeant Bob Walkingshaw** and **Corporal Charlie Murray.** Music was provided by our own disco, 'Red Afro', which is the brainchild of **Lance-Corporal Burt Lockhart.**

At the end of October the Squadron travelled north and returned to the area around Kiel and spent a week exercising on its own. This part of Germany is very much flatter than the countryside around Herford and this posed several problems for the radio relay troop. At one location the Commcen sat at a height of two metres metres above sea level with a most splendid view over the Kiel Fjord. Has any other Commcen ever been so low? Rain stayed with the Squadron for the whole exercise and after moving every day everyone was pleased to reach the harbour area and spend a very enjoyable evening improving Anglo-German relations in Surendorf. Our own disco played in the village gasthof and the Squadron took the opportunity to say farewell to Yeoman of Signals **Brian Dulston** and **Sergeant Ray Steen** who have now left on posting. It has been suggested that the Squadron Commander is planning winter warfare training in the same area so that his Anglo-German relations can be firmly cemented.

The Squadron left the Baltic Coast and moved directly into a Regimental exercise taking up the first week in November, and at the time of writing we are back in barracks for a week before taking part in a 1 (BR) Corps staff exercise.

Concurrently with exercising, preparation goes on for the FFR which takes place in early December. Additionally we are to be visited by the SO-in-C and the CSO BAOR.

Life in a Main Corps Commcen Squadron is fairly hectic, with nearly one third of the year spent exercising, with vehicles and technical equipment to maintain and with individual training to be completed. However all members of the Squadron become very expert in their spheres of work and certainly don't have time to be bored.

PAGE TROPHY ORIENTEERING

THE Page Trophy Orienteering Competition was held on the 14th November over a 6 kilometre course on the Bismark Ridge to the north of the barracks. The course was set and controlled by **Lieutenant R. G. L. Hill,** who has just recently returned from competing in the world orienteering championships in Denmark. The course was specifically designed for the competitive orienteer rather than the cross-country runner who could just about use a map and compass. The course, although shorter than last year's, was technically harder and some 25% of the competitors failed to complete it either through missing controls or through exceeding the time limit.

The individual event was won by **Captain P. J. Myatt** of 2 Squadron in 1 hour 13 minutes 18 seconds, with **Second-Lieutenant A. Morgan** also of 2 Squadron second in 1 hour 15 minutes 10 seconds, and **Lance-Corporal Fuller** of 6 Squadron third in 1 hour 17 minutes 10 seconds. The team event was won by 2 Squadron in a total time of 10 hours 9 minutes 2 seconds, with 6 Squadron second in 10 hours 11 minutes 47 seconds, and 5 Squadron third in 10 hours 33 minutes 4 seconds.

FFR INSPECTION

The CCR Signals 1 BR Corps, **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, O.B.E.** carried out the Regiment's FFR Inspection on the 5th December. This year the inspection was designed to allow the Brigadier to tour the Regiment at its normal daily work and meet and talk to members of the Regiment whilst they were involved in their barracks employment. On arrival the Brigadier inspected the Regimental Quarter Guard, provided by 2 Squadron and commanded by **Sergeant T. Ellison,** and then spent the rest of the morning visiting squadrons and departments in South Camp. After lunching in the Officers' Mess and touring North Camp, the Brigadier spent part of the afternoon watching the Page Trophy assault course competition which was easily won by the 2 Squadron team under the leadership and coaching of **Second-Lieutenant A. Morgan** and **Sergeant T. Ellison.** Finally, just before departing, the Brigadier addressed the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCO's in the Regimental Amenities Centre and asked them to pass onto the remainder of the Regiment his congratulations on the high standards maintained and his thanks for the Regiment's support over the past year.

VISIT OF THE GOC 4TH DIVISION

The GOC 4th Division, **Major-General J. M. Gow** visited the Regiment on the 26th November and spent the morning touring a demonstration exercise on the square involving 2, 4 and 5 Squadrons. The Squadrons were deployed with various new pieces of equipment that had just recently arrived in the Regiment, and also all the vehicles were fully crewed so that the General could meet people and talk to them about their role and employment. The General also visited the Sergeants' Mess where he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Staff Sergeant C. T. Coventry** of the Regimental Training School.

Presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by G.O.C. 4th Division, Major-General J. M. Gow, to Staff Sergeant C. T. Coventry

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A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

THE Trade Training School contends with many visits, ranging from school children and cadets to the NATO military committee. There are occasions when these visits bring forth the realisation that in the School we have a wealth of knowledge and experience.

One such visit was that of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** on the 4th October 1974. The SO-in-C presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Hitchcock** and to **Staff Sergeant Jennings.** He also informally met civilian members of the School who had devoted their careers to Royal Signals.

The SO-in-C presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.1 'Taff' Hitchcock . . .

. . . and to Staff Sergeant Roy Jennings

'Taff' Hitchcock joined the Corps in February 1950 on Boys' Service at Harrogate, where as a member of intake 50A he trained and qualified as a Radio Mechanic. He later relinquished this trade in favour of becoming an Operator Keyboard and Cipher, and served in BAOR 1953–55, Singapore 1955–58 (with a short spell of service in Calcutta), UK Boddington 1958–59, Brighton 1959–61, BAOR 1961–65. He then joined No. 9 Yeoman of Signals Course, qualified and has since served in Singapore 1966–68, UK DCN 1968–72 and finally 8th Regiment where he is a member of our quality control department.

Roy Jennings called up in 1955 on 'National Service' trained and qualified as a Radio Technician. After de-mob and a short spell of leave, he re-enlisted in 1958 and served in Catterick as an instructor until 1962. BAOR 1962–63, and then joined a Signal Troop attached to 22 Light Air Defence Regiment RA touring around BAOR, Borneo and Malaya, 1967–73, RMA Sandhurst and presently 8th Regiment. He is also an important member of our quality control department.

The ex-Royal Signals members of the school staff to meet the SO-in-C were:

HQ TTS	*Operating/ Driving Wing*	*Engineering Wing*
Mr. S. P. Halsey	**Mr. S. Knight**	**Mr. S. E. Ashworth**
Mr. F. E. Eden	**Mr. A. Rosbotham**	**Mr. N. Callender**
Mr. E. W. Lerigo	**Mr. R. A. Winfield**	**Mr. A. A. Piper**
Mr. J. O'Shea	**Mr. J. Wright**	
Mr. D. Savins	**Mr. A. F. Moon, B.E.M.**	
	Mr. C. Moore	

and it was here that service to Royal Signals was staggering, a total of 458 years (includes time in uniform and then Mufti), and computes at an average of 30·64 years each. The one who has given most is **Sid Knight** with exactly half a century.

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1 SQUADRON

THERE were three pass-off parades during last month. On the 1st November, 'Wonderful One' Troop stepped forth into the wide world under the guidance of **W.O.1 Mick Hall** and ably assisted by their troop NCO **Corporal Eddie Bell.** The best recruit was **Signalman Karl Rose** and best shot was **Signalman Kevin Ricketts.** The parade was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Jebens,** QLR, Commanding Officer of the Kings Division Depot at Strensall.

2 Troop were let loose on the Corps on the 15th November, led by **Lieutenant Howard Van Praag** and **Sergeant Ray Crook. Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott, M.C.,** Deputy Commander NE District, took the parade. The Brigadier also gave us a demonstration of his culinary ability by stirring the regimental Christmas pudding. Helping in the mixing was **Signalman 'Dinky' Love,** chosen because he was the youngest recruit, and his mother who was here for the parade. Best recruit was **Signalman Mark Lyon** and the troop marksman was **Signalman Mike Brolan.**

On the last day of the month the regiment said its formal farewell to the Commander Training Brigade, **Brigadier E. J. Hellier, O.B.E.** The Brigadier gave up a Saturday morning to take 3 Troop's Pass-Off parade. **Lieutenant Mike Stanners** commanded the troop, acting troop sergeant was **Corporal 'Jock' Cain** and best recruit was **Signalman Ray Spencer.** The troop best shot was **Signalman Richard 'Geordie' Henderson. Brigadier Hellier** left his final mark on the regiment by planting a tree in Helles Barracks—where?—adjacent to the squash courts naturally. The Commander and **Mrs. Hellier's** farewell visit to the regiment was concluded with lunch in the Sergeants' Mess.

FAREWELLS

This month we bid farewell to an illustrious member of the Regiment, 'My Sweet Lord', otherwise known as **Captain George Harrison.** He has served in the Regiment for two years and recently has been Second-in-Command of the Junior Signalman Squadron. We congratulate him on his promotion and wish him luck at Harrogate.

We also say goodbye to our Assistant Adjutant, **Lieutenant Cathy Walters,** WRAC who leaves us after one year in the Regiment to become a full-time civilian and part-time housewife.

LE 'PLUM PUDDING'

This year's honourable and ancient ceremony of 'Le Pud' was undertaken with many supernumeries by **Brigadier Prescott, M.C.,** Deputy Commander North East District the inspecting officer for the Pass-Off Parade of 2 Troop on 15th November. Along with the best laid plans of mice and men, any resemblance of order is reduced to chaos once newspapers and PR photographers get to work. The Brigadier with all the aplomb of a Guards officer took all the requests of the photographers to move his arm a bit, left a bit, look this way, smile please, as though this was an everyday occurrence. Not content with posing with bottles of stout and a massive paddle, the Brigadier undertook to mix the Christmas pudding and almost took away from our ACC staff one of their rituals of the year. We can now safely say that not only will our puddings be the best, they will also have that certain quality of Guards precision.

TEAM WORK!

Le Plum Pudding is stirred by: *left to right:* Signalmen Neil Featherstone, John Brown, Junior Signalman John Richmond; Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott, M.C., Deputy Commander North East District

3 SQUADRON

Well, once again 3 Squadron are fully committed with a double Staff Sergeants Course, a Detachment Commanders Course and also a Leadership Course and all this activity does not leave much time for writing.

First of all let us say 'Welcome' to some new personalities to the Squadron. We would like to say "Hello, and enjoy your stay with us to **Major Stuart Law",** who takes over as Squadron OC and also to **Captain Tony Wharton,** Green Howards, who is our new Infantry advisor, not forgetting **Staff Sergeant Andy 'Kung Fu' Evans** and **Sergeant Dave 'Hang-the-Monkey' Hooks.**

Sadly, we say farewell, but wish lots of luck to **Captain James Budd,** Royal Signals who leaves the frosty wastes of Catterick for Cyprus and to **Captain 'Olly' Hackett,** WFR, who has left for the snowy ski resorts of Northern Ireland. Best wishes to them on their new appointments. Also this month we say cheerio to **Staff Sergeant Allen Bailey** who departs for Hong Kong.

Illness took its toll on the Squadron during November. **W.O.1 Bert Irons** was bedded down for two weeks. It is not true that he was practicing for civvy street by spending two weeks at the local hostelry and 'bookies'.

Corporal Clark-Darby has been pronounced fit after breaking his toe, which happened after winning the Catterick Area 'Come Dancing' contest.

Corporal Balfour has had a bad back and says he has had trouble getting it off his bed.

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CAPTAIN PHIL NOBLE REPORTS ON A WHITE WATER CANOE COURSE WHICH HE RAN:

BY sheer luck our expert canoeist **W.O.2 Roger Nadin** is stationed at Augsburg which is very close to the base camp selected at Garmisch Partenkirchen!

The aim of the course was to teach students the skills required to tackle white water and to prepare them for instructors courses in 1975, and consisted of two weeks gruelling work by both students and instructors alike.

Our base camp was at Zugspitze Camping Platz which is overshadowed by many mountains including the famous Zugspitze itself. On the first day the course gathered around a wet but clean camping table and were given a general briefing by **Roger Nadin,** then all canoes were loaded and all set off down to the lace at Elbsee.

W/Lance-Corporal 'Lin' Smith and **Signalman Kevin Manger** entertained us with their capsizing drills achieved by sheer enthusiasm, however, they assure us it is not one of their favourite past-times. After a couple of hours in the water all members were suffering from shock so it was decided an early

Group preparing to canoe on the Upper Loisac

meal would not go amiss. After the light meal of corndog rolls! ! provided by **Roger's** wife **Chris,** all canoeists made their way back to the lake for more vigorous training. The following day started with **Roger** leaving camp to check the river—two hours later he returned covered in mud and gave all students a short brief on how to dig a Volkswagen bus from thick mud.

The weather was good and gave the canoeists the heart to carry on with their hard course on the river Loisach before the big battle started in the second week when the course moved on to the faster waters of the river Isar. The male students entertained themselves at regular intervals by throwing the female canoeists **W/Lance-Corporal Karen Walsh, W/Lance-Corporal June Gibson** and **W/Lance-Corporal 'Lin' Smith** into the river.

The students had an enjoyable day's trip into Switzerland—a good break before re-commencing the practice of basic skills of white water canoeing and capsizing on the Lower and Upper Ammer and a river expedition to Bad Tölz.

The course was very successful in its aim and the only disappointment was the failure of our amateur fisherman **Sergeant John Davies** to provide us with a trout meal.

P.S.—Anyone finding a size 11 plimsoll in the North Sea should return it to **Captain Phil Noble,** c/o 13th Regiment.

EXERCISE 'FINDTACK'

In an attempt to break away from the inevitable summer camp, this year the personnel of the Regiment have been encouraged to spend 5–7 days doing something quite different from their normal employment. The following report found its way back up the chain of command after 5 members set out to practice the art of survival on their own . . .

PRIVATE VENTURE SURVIVAL '10 DAYS TO PUSH' OR 'FINDTACK'

OBJECT

The object of the exercise was to put into practice what we had been taught on previous Summer Camps. It is easy to see an expert show you how to make a snare or to simulate a fishing line with para cord. The thought of survival to the fullest was a challenge for all 5 of us.

We planned to take bivis, sleeping bags and survival kits for our only comfort, plus a change of clothing which was as it turned out, a necessity. Our survival kits were overflowing with fishing lines made from para cord, flint, shot, knives, first aid kits and a few snares. I must also mention that between the 5 of us only 4 smoked but we took over 1,600 cigarettes with us (another luxury).

FIRST WEEKEND

Arriving on the Friday evening at approximately 2130 hours we met **Herr Manger** the local Police Chief and a personal friend of **Joe Pearson,** who took us to our location. The weather at this point was rain and wind (gale force). **Willy (Herr Manger)** who is 6 foot and 20 stone, spoke to **Joe** and said it was too bad to pitch our bivis and gave him the key to a lake house which we could have for 10 days. We didn't have to debate the offer but readily snatched his hand off. After we had settled in the lake house we discussed our plan of action for Monday morning when our survival venture would start.

We staggered out of bed the next morning and made an open fire. It took about 1 hour for the heat to warm the water for our morning tea. Another point I must mention is that we took compo rations with us just in case. At about 0830 we set off to look at the local area and select our own survival land. The rest of the weekend was spent setting snares, laying out fishing lines, setting up our own camp and generally preparing for Monday when our venture started.

DAY 1—FIRST ATTEMPTS TO SURVIVE

0630—**Brian** is the first to get up and make tea, the rest of us were out by 0700 hours. **Joe** and **Brian** went hunting with bow and arrows while **Dave, Pat** and **Geordie** stayed in the camp area and made fishing lines. When **Joe** and **Brian** returned from hunting after 2 hours empty handed, they found the other three around the fire gutting a fish—just one fish about 8 inches long to feed 5 of us! After a light lunch, **Brian** and **Joe** went hunting again, this time they were more successful. **Joe** had shot 2 rabbits but one which was only shot in the hind quarters managed to scramble to the safety of its hole. The other was hit in the temple but was still alive. **Brian** holding it by the ears gave it the rabbit chop but it didn't work so he used the bowie knife and made sure. We returned to camp and everyone gathered around to watch the rabbit gutted and prepared for dinner. **Joe** slit it down the middle. **Brian** took the innards out and skinned it. At this point **'Geordie'** was turning green and flatly refused to eat any of it. The rabbit was excellent and everyone couldn't wait for the next one to be caught (except **'Geordie'** that is). Our first day was a part success and we all looked forward to the days that followed. The day ended with all 5 of us around the fire singing songs and having a chat before we went to bed.

DAY 2—OUT ALL DAY—BUT NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT

0700—After compo breakfast **Brian** and **Joe** decided to go hunting all day, the rest went fishing and checked all the snares and lines. The weather was not too good but did not put anyone off. **Joe** and **Brian** after 6 hours out hunting not seeing anything at all to shoot at, returned back to camp. One mile from camp a freak storm hit us and within 3 minutes we were soaked to the skin. On arriving at camp the storm stopped and the weather brightened up. The snares and fishing lines were empty, also the fishermen came back empty handed. This was our first setback—a complete day without catching anything even the fungi and wildlife seemed to be scarce. At this point we chatted about the problems of survival. You can see the rabbits and deer plus sometimes the fish but it seems that they are playing games with us. Nobody felt dejected at all, I suppose it was because we could fall back on the compo.

DAY 3—STILL DEFEATED

Another problem, the fire refused to start after a night of rain, it took about 1 hour to get it started. We decided to have breakfast and dinner combined and make a day of the fishing and hunting. **Dave, Brian** and **Joe** went fishing in a boat which we acquired (say no more) but still no lunch after 4 hours. **Pat** and **'Geordie'** went hunting without any luck. This hit us slightly but did not affect the general morale. We debated whether to move location but decided against it for 2 reasons.

We had already caught rabbits and fish in this area, so why not again.

We all picked this area as the best and to move on would defeat the object of the exercise.

While preparing our tea meal 4 German soldiers who were on exercise nearby came and spoke to us. We gave them a hot drink and chatted to them for about 3 hours. Their camp was only 3 kms. at the other side of Schmidt. They left us hurriedly at about 2030 and we thought no more about them and settled down for the evening round the camp fire. At about 2200, which was very dark, we heard voices and footsteps coming towards us. It was the 4 German lads with a crate of beer each and a few bars of chocolate. We all looked at each other and I must admit we all *cheered* at the top of our voices and drank the liquid provided by the Germans. Survival is initiative and we had to use our initiative to drink the beer and not waste it. The night or morning finished at about 0200 and each of us felt marvellous.

Note—We will have to go 'diffy' when we get back to camp because we swapped all our English army clothes for German.

DAY 4—COMPO THE ONLY ANSWER!

1030! As you can imagine we all stayed in bed for an extra couple of hours, feeling slightly ill. **'Geordie'** cooked a huge dinner after we had checked the snares and lines to find them empty again. The weather was very cold and miserable but the morale was still high. After lunch **Brian** went fishing in the boat —no luck again. The rest stayed round the camp area cleaning and resetting snares and lines. During the afternoon **Willy** came to visit us and spent a couple of hours chatting about the best area to hunt and fish. We explained to him that we had tried the areas he mentioned without any luck. His reply was "typical squaddies" and left. After another compo meal we all decided to have an early night and be ready to have an early start the next day and give it everything we have.

DAY 5—WE CALL IT OFF—BUT IT WAS WORTHWHILE

0600—We had a cup of tea and set off to catch everything in sight. **Pat** and **Joe** went hunting while the rest went fishing and fungi collecting. **Pat** and **Joe** were slightly annoyed because the rabbits are now waiting for us and having a little game with themselves. It wasn't much fun for us and it felt that our venture was falling apart as far as survival was concerned. We all agreed that without the compo it would have been an impossible task to the 5 of us and the morale would have been virtually nil.

We also decided to call a halt to the venture and return to camp, the reason being to be able to clean all the equipment with good hot water (lots of it) and to tone down for work on Monday morning. We have really enjoyed ourselves on this 'Private Venture' and I don't think for one moment that any one of us would have changed his mind given the chance. It has been an experience each and everyone of us has enjoyed.

Foot Note: 5 men together for 8 days and not a wrong word spoken. Not bad.

Dramatis personae: **Corporal Joe Pearson,** Royal Signals, **Corporal Pat Massingham,** Royal Signals, **Corporal 'Geordie' Johnson,** RPC, **Lance-Corporal Brian Atkinson,** RPC, **Signalman Dave Smith,** Royal Signals.

(With apologies to all those adventurers of the November/December edition of THE WIRE).

14 Sig Regt Worcester

AN AMBITIOUS AND TESTING EXERCISE—'HIGH POST'

THIS was a complete innovation by HQ 1 Signal Group which took the form of a most ambitious and testing exercise involving 14th and 30th Signal Regiments, 223 Signal Squadron and 51 (Highland) Signal Squadron T&AVR. For the first time ever the two Regiments deployed en masse; quite a traumatic experience for units geared to deploying independent detachments. Our MTO, **Captain Fred 'Go by train' Gardner** produced transport from every conceivable source. A crash course in convoy drills and tactical halts was devised for civilian coach drivers which worked wonders and surprised everyone. By the time they reached South Cerney they were all performing like products of Bordon. The MT section insist that **Fred** had practised this before when he deployed London buses to France in the Great War.

The exercise was the culmination of a year's training in which smaller exercises had practised various aspects of contingency plans. 'High Post' was an amalgam of all these which covered every phase of air mounted exercises, tactical siting, defence, night patrols and communications to overseas and UK based radio stations. An E21 set worked to Belize, D13s established circuits to Malta and Aberdeen, D11s provided a circuit between the two sites at Westdown and Bushfield Camps and C41s linked the exercise area with Blandford.

S.O.P.'s THOROUGHLY TESTED

Observers provided by 30th Signal Regiment and 223 Signal Squadron produced an Orwellian atmosphere as they checked every move and ensured that all SOPs were effective. This was all taken in good part and proved invaluable as a second check on procedures. They also provided small raiding parties and noisy demonstrators which added realism to the exercise. One of these ubiquitous gentlemen, **Captain 'Simmy' Nelson,** added a touch of humour when he approached **S.S.M. Joe Frost** and enquired, "S.S.M., could you lend me a couple of rifles and blank firing attachments?" "Certainly Sir, what do you want them for?" "I've got a couple of men and I want to attack you" replied **Captain Nelson.** The S.S.M. loaned him the arms and a very lively attack ensued. During the course of this a prisoner was taken and to the surprise of everyone **Captain Nelson** insisted that he was not one of the raiders. Questioning revealed that he was a member of 223 Signal Squadron who had decided that the raid was first class sport and he had joined in the fun of his own violation. The Officers' Mess was also deployed, **Sergeant Terry Wood** marshalled his troops, **Mr.** and **Mrs. Les Cox, Mrs. 'Micky' Middleton, Miss Joy Cleaver** and the redoubtable **Mr. Henry Windsor.** As an after thought that the officers might want feeding he included **Sergeant Mick Levy** and **Lance-Corporal Al Stuart** of the ACC. The ladies did a first class job and everyone appreciated their efforts. Especially one of the observers who rounded a corner and was confronted with a line of diaphanous underwear. "Funny soldiers", he thought. He was most disappointed when he discovered the true identity of the owners. **Sergeant Wood** is almost sure that it was not his underwear which was spotted.

JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING HERE AND THERE

Sergeant Wood insists that he was not hinting that it was time the exercise ended when he packed the favourite tipple of **Colonel J. H. Hild** (Exercise Director) before the mess was due to close. He also maintains that he did not arrange for **Colonel Mike Hales** to be locked in his room because the rations had run out. I feel sure that the key for **Sergeant Wood's** cell will be found before he is required to play once more for the Corps Hockey Team.

Security was the watchword and when **Major Tony Edmonds** spotted a very suspicious character showing undue interest in the radio site he stalked him with a skill which would have done credit to James Bond. Skilfully he out-manoeuvred him then swooped for a dramatic arrest. Units may experience some delay in obtaining maps of Salisbury Plain until this particular Ordnance surveyor recovers from the shock of his experience. At Bushfield Camp **Lance-Corporal Hutt** of the T&AVR attached to 30th Signal Regiment arrived at a rather inopportune moment; everyone who knew he was due to arrive was involved in dealing with an attack. He also arrived in his combat cap, which was the dress the enemy were due to wear. He was immediately seized and frog marched to the guardroom, here he was subjected to the third degree. Fortunately someone arrived and vouched for him before the thumb screws were applied.

UNFORTUNATE ENCOUNTER

On the final night each location produced a fighting patrol to raid another location. **Staff Sergeant Russell** who was Second-in-Command of the Bushfield patrol (led by **Captain Stewart Moralee** of 30th Signal Regiment) has elected himself as the 'Mark Spitz' of night patrols. He insists that he swam the last three miles to his objective. (Salisbury Plain was at its wet and windy best for this event.) **Staff Sergeant Steve Fowler,** leading one of the Westdown parties, advanced through a small plantation with his men following, suddenly every shadow seemed to move, figures appeared to emerge from the ground and surround them. A stentorian voice commanded him to lay down his weapons. He declined. The voice then informed him that he was surrounded by police and game keepers. The patrol had inadvertently chosen a route leading through a game bird rearing area, the police and gamekeepers were expecting poachers and had set an ambush for them which **Staff Fowler** and his party had walked into. **Steve's** honest black face eventually convinced them of his good intentions and he was allowed to proceed with the raid. The third patrol, led by **Captain Chris Shuker** of 30th Signal Regiment, with men drawn from the joint Commcen and the Control staff was highly successful. The managed to attach their 'bomb' to a generator inside the defended area.

A SUCCESS

The exercise was judged to be a success and impressed all our visitors who included CSO, UKLF, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., Air Commodore D. C. H. Simmons, C.B.E., A.F.C., M.A.,** RAF, the Chief Instructor of the School of Signals, **Colonel R. L. Stonham** with members of the TEM course and **Colonel J. R. Alford,** Colonel GS (Ops) UKLF. The Regiment is now studying the lessons learned and making plans to ensure that next year's Group exercise is even more successful.

SKYRIDERS!
The Second-in-Command, Major Colin Bunce, arriving by 'chopper' to inspect the defences of Bushfield Camp escorted by Signalmen D. A. Prince and R. A. Jones of 30th Signal Regiment

GOT IT?
Captain Colin Heaps and W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Frost brief Lance-Corporal Hall of 30th Signal Regiment on his duties

FARAWAY PLACES

Following in the steps of Livingstone, Stanley and **Lieutenant-Colonel Blashford Snell** is **Sergeant David Hudson** of this unit. **Dave** is at present satisfying his hunger for adventurous pursuits with the Zaire river expedition. He has volunteered to accompany the party and assist with the communications.

Anyone who happens to be passing Kolwasi, Kabange, Kabalo or Kisangan, should have no trouble recognising **Dave,** he will be the one carrying the 80 foot antenna mast borrowed from the Regiment. Members of the Regiment have a strong suspicion that with a large number of ladies in the party **Dave** has gone along in case one should require the 'kiss of life'. On his return we hope to have a blow by blow account of his exploits.

Another of our senior NCOs giving full rein to his thirst for travel is **Sergeant Bill Littlewood.** He has decided to visit the roof of the world and assist project troop with a number of installations in Nepal. On his return we anticipate copious notes on the wild night life of Dharan, Paklihawa and Katmandu. If all else fails he can swop notes with **Staff Sergeant Ray Heeley** on the effacy of Gurkha rum as a preventive measure for the common cold.

Our other exile avoiding the rigours of the UK winter is **Corporal Ken O'Hara,** at present detached to MAT Gulf. Perhaps a contemporary version of 1,001 Nights will result from his experiences.

Captain Phil Whitemore leads 14th Regiment's contingent on the Remembrance Day March Past

Guard of Honour for the farewell visit of the SO-in-C

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

On the 10th November a contingent from the Regiment under the command of **Captain Phil Whitemore** took part in a Remembrance Sunday Parade. The service was held in Worcester Cathedral which is one of the loveliest Cathedral churches in England. This proved a most impressive and moving setting for this particular service. The Bishop of Worcester conducted the service and preached a very appropriate sermon.

After the service the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales,** in company with other Service representatives and Civic Dignitaries laid wreaths on the memorial to the two World Wars. This ceremony was then followed by a march past of service contingents, old contemptibles and civilian organisations. The large crowd which turned out, in spite of bitterly cold weather, showed that the spirit of remembrance is still extremely strong.

BALDY HOGAN?

Under the expert guidance of **R.S.M. Bill Scott** the Regimental Football team appeared to be all set for a revival when they journeyed to Preston and defeated the Cheshire Regiment by five goals to one in the first round of the Army Cup. Stars of this match were **Corporal Billy Wilkinson** who scored a hat trick and **Corporals Dave Butler** and **'Pinky' Pinkus** who scored the other goals. The elation aroused by this win was given a fillip when they beat 206 Pioneer Company by three goals to two in the semi final of the Minor Units Cup. This game proved to be something of a minor war and three members of the team were badly crocked. Two days later the team played RSME in the second round of the Army Cup. The team was badly unbalanced by the injuries and were defeated by five goals to two. The RSM is now concentrating on succeeding in the Minor Units Cup but he has high hopes for 1975.

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FAREWELL TO THE SO-IN-C

ON Friday, 15th November we said Auf Wiedersehen to the SO-in-C and **Mrs. Sawers.** Having inspected the Guard of Honour the SO-in-C visited the Sergeants' Mess before arriving in the Officers Mess for a buffet lunch attended by all Regimental Officers.

After looking round the Tape Relay Centre he collected **Mrs. Sawers,** who had been entertained by the Kindergaten and had lunched with the wives of the Regiment, to continue on the next stage of his farewell visit to BAOR.

SERGEANTS' MESS

In spite of many comings and goings, the hectic Mess life continues unabated and Mess morale is extremely high. To those WOs and SNCOs who have left the Regiment recently for other Units or Civvy Street, we wish the best of luck for the future.

To those who have just arrived—welcome, we hope you will enjoy your stay.

The Mess decor has been improved upon recently which has brightened the place up, but we look forward to the rebuild in 1975.

Recent events have seen the departure of **W.O.2 Ian McDonald** (false teeth and all)—he was most surprised upon his departure to receive a very large set of dentures (complete with ribbon) amongst other things when he finally left us.

A games evening against the Officers' Mess (at home) coincided with the departure from the Mess of **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Dave Wootten** on commissioning. In addition to the games which resulted in a draw, despite the CO beating the RSM at darts (can you believe that! !) we traditionally 'court martialled' **Dave Wootten** who didn't really stand a chance against the evidence and witnesses produced by the 'prosecutor' **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Jim Phillips** and the 'fixed' defence offered by **W.O.1 John Bartlett.**

It would not be proper to finish without a word of thanks to the PMC **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jim Mancais,** the PEC **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Araniello** and their Committees, for the excellent entertainment and high standards achieved over the last few months which include the Games Evening, the Freedom Barbecue and many other memorable occasions. Well done lads.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

DURING the Autumn our hard-working Regiment normally tends to be relatively free of major exercises but any hopes that we entertained of getting a breather before the winter set in were soon dashed when we examined our diaries—albeit our involvement, this time, was heavily biased on the social side.

WELCOME AND GOODBYE

On the 27th September the Regiment bade a fond farewell to our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Spear** and his wife (dare we say mate) **Anne.** After 2½ years at the helm they had both made many friends—both on land and on water—and it is a tribute to their constitutions that they withstood the round of social farewells, culminating in a ladies Dinner night at the Officers' Mess, with such aplomb. They left to drive, via Korbecke and Spain, to England where **Colonel Ian** joins the Defence Signals Staff at the MOD. They will be missed by their many friends in the Regiment and at the Mohne See Sailing Club.

The following week-end it was our pleasure to welcome our new CO **Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Wheawell** and his wife **Dean.** We sincerely wish them both a happy tour in Lippstadt.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM OF LIPPSTADT

Avid readers of THE WIRE will recall that on the 27th October 1973 a unique ceremony took place in Lippstadt when, for the first time, a British and a German Regiment were jointly granted the Freedom of a German town. To celebrate the first anniversary of the joint citizenships, detachments of the Regiment and of Fernmelde Battalion 7 marched through the town with swords drawn, flags flying and bayonets fixed on the afternoon of 26th October. The parade was led by the Band of 14th/20th Hussars who were forced to compete with the noise and music of the many roundabouts and sideshows for the Stadt was in carnival mood as the parade coincided with Herbstwoche, a week of festivities and merriment. The Burgermeister, **Herr Doktor Wolff** took the salute which coincided unfortunately, with 10 minutes of rain.

In the evening the Band gave a concert on behalf of the Station to the people of Lippstadt in the Stadt Theatre; this was followed by a reception for the Stadt officials and dignitories hosted jointly with the Officers of 27 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery in our Officers' Mess.

Former members of the Regiment will be saddened to learn of the death of **Herr Jakob Koenen** who, as Burgermeister, was instrumental in granting the Freedom of Lippstadt to the Regiment.

W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS' BALL

As part of the anniversary celebrations the W.O.s and Sergeants kindly invited the Officers and their ladies to an anniversary Ball on 1st November. Among the many guests at the Kolpingsaal were representatives from Fernmelde Battalion 7, the Belgian Army and 858/859 Signal Troop from Eastbourne were represented by **Staff Sergeants Avery** and **Bigmore.** It was a magnificent gala evening and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Much credit for the superb organisation is due to **Staff Sergeant 'Cass' Pursell** and his band of willing helpers, **Sergeants Alex Dunbar, Tony Thomas, Pete Dyson, Pete Hyatt** and **Bob Evans** to name but a few.

VISITS

THE SO-IN-C

On the 13th November the Regiment was honoured to receive a farewell visit by the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers.** Following a tour of the Regiment, during which he talked to many soldiers, he had a welcome cup in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess after which he was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess. It was a memorable visit and we wish **General Max** and **Mrs. Sawers** all the best in his next job in semi-civilian life.

THE CORPS BAND

A visit by the Corps Band is always a delight and we were singularly disappointed when we discovered that we were not due a visit this year. Happily with a bit of divine intervention and the willingness of the band to forsake an afternoon off, we were treated to a superb concert in the SKC by the best band in the Army on the 22nd November. Watch out the Scots Dragoon Guards and Amazin' Grace! !

SPORT

Watch out, renewed emphasis is being placed on sport in the Regiment and a number of promising teams are already emerging. Next year we will be a force to be reckoned with.

RUGBY

A team under the able guidance of **Lieutenant John Thornton** is on the horizon and making considerable progress. They won a match against 27 Medium Regiment RA the other day, the first result they achieved—and they were so heartened that they won again, this time beating 8th Regiment RCT by 12 points to 11! **Corporal 'Marty' Cross** is also setting a record of sorts, to date he has been carried off the pitch in every game—injured.

HOCKEY

Captain Brian Chubb and that other Corps player **Signalman George Wilson** are obviously doing the team a power of good. They ably steered the team to a 3–0 win over the Life Guards in the first round of the Army Cup.

CROSS COUNTRY

Major Chris Cross is managing a most successful team.Such is his confidence that the team has been entered in two leagues! Our Adjutant, **Captain Roland Ebdon** supports such stalwarts as **Corporals Roy Smith** and **Bernie Temmen** and **Lance-Corporal John Aldridge** and **Signalman John Usher** from the back. It clearly works as the team came second in the 4th Division Championships. Unfortunately, before the BAOR championships, over half the team move south to Bavaria, to begin langlauf training and therefore we have asked our friends in 7th Regiment to represent us!

Corporal Bernie Temmen receives the 4th Division Cross Country runners-up shield from Major-General J. M. Gow, G.O.C. 4th Division

ORIENTEERING

This season has seen a tremendous upsurge in enthusiasm. The 'A' team leads the 4th Division League and the 'B' team are lying a close third—not bad out of thirteen teams in the league. **Captain Roland Ebdon** also stars in this sport and he is ably supported by **Lieutenant Bob Dibley, Second-Lieutenant Derek Robertson, Sergeant Pete Drew, Corporal Dick Doyle-Davidson** and **Signalman 'Tich' Sanderson.** We wonder if exchange training in Denmark earlier in the year has anything to do with the form?

ARRIVALS

We welcome **Captain John Thewlis** from 16th Regiment, **Lieutenant Alasdair Gordon-Rogers** an SSVC Officer from 32nd (Scottish) Regiment (V): **Second-Lieutenants John Willis** and **Peter Smith** from Sandhurst; **W.O.2 Druggan** from Hong Kong and **W.O.2 MacMillan** from 4 Guards Brigade and wish them a happy tour in Lippstadt.

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

PRINCIPAL PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. Byrne**
Second-in-Command	**Major M. Allen**
Adjutant	**Captain M. P. S. Shaw**
Operations Officer	**Captain D. Bees**
Technical Adjutant	**Captain J. R. Selby**
QM (Technical)	**Major A. V. K. Ward**
QM (Administration)	**Major (Retd.) H. W. Newsham**
RSM	**W.O.1 (RSM) P. J. Harris**
Chief Clerk	**W.O.2 (ORQMS) C. S. Webb**
OC HQ Squadron	**Major F. St. C. Robinson**
OC 1 Squadron	**Major W. P. B. Thomas**
OC 2 Squadron	**Major P. R. Brewis**

EXERCISE 'CANARY CAPER'

WIRE Notes written in the field tend to be about the rotten weather, and how tired and hard-worked everyone is, and what good communications are being provided. In this case although written with snow still on our boots, the Bundeswehr tent stoves soon make everyone happy and life isn't too bad. **Captain Mike Crane** brought his hockey kit and between shifts in the TARE went to help the Corps Hockey Team win the inter-Corps tournament and so won his Corps colours. The Second-in-Command, **Major Mike Allen,** was presented with his Silver German Army Proficiency Medal.

Tropo Troop found out that even if they can anchor down their radio dishes with 4 foot stakes, they are unable to stop their tents blowing away in a Force 8 gale.

Our Mobile HQ were informed that they were not quite in the right place for the staff vehicles so they worked on the move and communications failed. The move—3 feet.

BARRACK ACTIVITIES

A joint Remembrance Service was held with 16th Regiment in a local cattle market (suitably disinfected). The Regiment provided the British detachment at the Commonwealth Remembrance Service at Köln. The Royal Signals Band played at a local Sporthalle to a most enthusiastic crowd of locals and in the evening to an equally noisy Sergeants' Mess.

FAREWELLS

We say farewell to **Major Robin Ingram** and his wife **Cacilia** after over 3½ years in the Regiment, and also to **Captain P. Brown** and his wife **Ivy** posted to 7th Regiment.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **Captain J. R. Selby, Captain D. Bees, Major W. P. B. Thomas, Captain J. H. Cotton, W.O.2 (A.S.M.) E. J. Starkey,** REME, **Sergeant Poole, Sergeant George, Corporal Cook, Signalman Hill** and **Signalman Murray.**

Civilian Instructional Staff at Catterick and Harrogate

Vacancies occur from time to time at the Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, and at the Army apprentice College, Harrogate, for Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3. Selection for appointment is by attendance at a Civil Service Selection Board. These appointments are attractive to Foremen, Yeomen and Class 1 Technicians and Telegraphists who are leaving the Service.

Write to the undermentioned for details:—

At Catterick Garrison

Mr. S. P. Halsey, Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PS.

At Harrogate

Mr. P. Sharp, Army Apprentice College, Pennypot Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

News from Squadrons

1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 102

LANCE-CORPORAL STOCKDALE WRITES OF HIS FIRST IMPRESSIONS ON BEING POSTED

I ARRIVED at my unit in mid-July to find the camp deserted, except for Admin. Staff, and the Squadron in Denmark enjoying themselves on their Summer Camp. Consequently, there was little for me to do except the inevitable sweeping the floor—the garage floor in my case. Things were quiet round camp, as you can imagine.

However, when the Squadron finally arrived back things began to liven up. Considerably so.

I was posted to Bravo Troop where the resident Technicians were introduced to me. They are: **Corporal 'Get in your Cage' Maddison, Corporal 'The Goose' Gorse** (who collects plastic gnomes because they always strike up good conversations) and **Lance-Corporal 'Rafflebooks' Whittaker. 'Rafflebooks'** always blows fuses. Why 'Rafflebooks'? Well, the F. of S. makes him buy rafflebooks every time he blows a fuse—which is quite often when he's working on his FRAa. Then there is **Corporal 'Taff' Powell** who is an expert, like yourselves probably, in the fine art of elbow bending. Also, we have a new Technician, **Corporal Lightfoot,** who has just finished his T1. It's almost finished. There is **Corporal,** now **Sergeant, 'Can I sleep on your floor' Hudson,** and lastly myself. I'm known as **Lance-Corporal 'Robinson' Stockdale** because of my resemblance to Robinson Crusoe after being 'locked' in a TEV for three days on exercise.

Two other characters need mentioning. They are **'Supertech' F. of S. 'Curley' Milne** who controls the vast talent named above and **Troop Sergeant 'Put it on the Roof' Harlow.** The F. of S is so called because of his not so abundant hair, if you see what I mean—a first class guy. The Sergeant is so called because of his antics with a C50 yagi and antenna on top of Celle Barracks.

Anyway, the inevitable soon occurred and we all ended up on exercise. It was a hectic time for the new hands like myself. However, we survived, and a reasonable time was had by one and all—and I learnt something practical about communications.

For the first few months I seemed to be on exercise all the time. In fact, this is not true—it just seems like it because several 'rent-a-det' exercises have extended to normal exercise schedule.

One of the interesting exercises was a 'rent-a-det' with 4 Guards Armoured Brigade which lasted for about 10 days during which time we saw a crack regiment at work. We also watched jets making ground attack runs from the tops of our vehicles (we were not tactical at the time). As well as the jets we saw lots of tanks making their way to the battle. It appeared as if a real humdinger of a battle was going on just over the horizon. While there we also had long conversations with some soldiers from 1st Grenadier Guards. We also mixed with the sappers, but most of the time they were out clearing up the mess left behind by the tanks.

All in all a worthwhile exercise.

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 5

CONTRIBUTED BY SERGEANT G. T. I. RIDDY, NCO I/C RADIO RELAY FORCE HQ

RADIO INTRUDER

THE past month has again proved to be a busy and varied one for the youngest Squadron in the Royal Coprs. The beginning of the month found the majority preparing for the Brigade exercise, code-name Exercise 'Clean Sweep' held 7th–11th November. According to informed sources the work load was lighter than anticipated which meant that apart from the OC's morning training runs along the beach at Mersing a good time was had by all concerned. During the exercise a voice on the Brigade net was heard to say "Hello One, this is McCloud, over." No! this was not TV's Mystery Movie character trying to steal a piece of the action but a young Private from 1 Gordons who had seemingly misplaced himself and his call sign in the ulu with only a radio set for company.

CLEARING A HELI-PAD

November proved a hard time for 'Kay's Commando's" as the Squadron Skill At Arms teams have come to be known with training in full swing for the Brigade meeting early in December. The Second-in-Command, **Captain John Kay,** decided that a change being as good as a rest the prospective team members should spend a day in the Malaya jungle clearing a heli-pad at the Squadron rebro site. A change yes, a rest well . . .? The day scheduled for the operation saw fourteen budding lumberjacks loading their gear, all hand operated I might add, into two Wessex 'choppers' of 103 Squadron RAF. A twenty minute flight found us in a clearing about a mile from the rebro site at Panti East. After a brisk trek along ready made tracks we arrived with our equipment at the designated place and work started almost immediately. The task, to clear a pad 40 metres across to allow a

(Continued on page 29)

(Continued from page 28)

SIMPLE PLEASURE

The look of pleasure on Sergeant Graham Riddy's face is well justified as he has just switched on the rather out-dated Marconi HM 410 and it still works!

THE TECHNICAL TOUCH

Corporal Iain Urquhart looking very pensive as he finds yet another screwdriver adjustment on the Siemans 24/400 Equipment (big brother of the Siemans 12 channel)

Wessex to land at the rebro site. We all worked at a hectic pace felling trees, cutting them up and moving them out of the area until lunchtime. It proved warm work which was not aided by a high sun in the sky and a large bonfire, lit by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jim Bowman** ably assisted by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Nick Lynn,** for disposing of the brush. The afternoon saw an easing off of the pace and when the weather started to close in it was decided to pack up and move back to the pick-up point. The bad weather had also brought the 'choppers' in early for the pick-up so we only had a few minutes to wait. The flight back proved rather bumpy and led to a diversion to RAF Tengah to avoid the electric storm over Terror Camp and the Naval Base. In spite of numerous aches and pains not to mention the blisters it was generally agreed that the day had been both enjoyable and worthwhile although several tired voices were heard to remark "Perhaps we should stick to signalling from now on".

A LICK OF PAINT

There is a strong smell of paint about the Squadron as the building receives a long overdue face-lift. It is opportune that this should precede the visits by **Lieutenant-Colonel Benbow,** CR Signals Hong Kong and in the New Year the SO-in-C. We welcome the opportunity of showing visitors around before thinking too deeply about the defence review! Part of the renovation programme has included the refit of the Squadron training room under the eagle eye of **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) 'Max' Pond** aided by his band of willing helpers. Naturally the cry now about the Squadron is "Get your dirty hands off the walls".

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

VISITORS

THE new Squadron Commander, **Major R. A. H. Hoghton,** seems to have some kind of attraction for Senior Officers. Shortly after his arrival we had two Brigadiers visit us in one week. These were the Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier H. C. Illing, C.B.E., M.C.** and the Commander BAE AFCENT, **Brigadier J. D. Graham, C.B.E.** They both asked searching questions, (we're still not sure what they were searching for but they must have found it because they seemed satisfied), poked around in odd corners and departed none the worse for their experience. Since then we have been visited by the Staff Paymaster Rhine Area, CRAOC Rhine Area and our Senior Royal Signals representative at AFCENT, **Colonel G. L. Davies, O.B.E.** and we are shortly to be visited by **Brigadier Graham** again (LS and GC presentation) and the AAG AG11 **Colonel J. S. Agar.** Needless to say, there are not many No. 1 Dress hats and Sam Browne's left in mothballs at this rate!

SOCIAL—NOT FORGETTING WHEN THE S.S.M. SKIPPED LIKE A BALLET DANCER!

The month of October saw the German Signal Company's Beer Fest come and go—at least, a lot of the Squadron saw it come, not many saw it go. This is an annual event which ex-AFCENTers may remember with a mixture of pleasure and pain but it does raise a lot of money for local children's charities.

Also in October we had the Officers and Warrant Officers' pistol shoot, to which were invited Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCO's of our NATO allies. Heading the list was **Group Captain S. J. Stephens,** Commander RSSG. This occasion gave rise to the rumour that our SSM, **W.O.2 Dave 'Crunch' Parker,** had developed an interest in ballet. According to **Sergeant Tom Charteries,** who was doling out ammunition in a state of semi-hysteria, when **Major K. F. Larsen,** CAF turned his pistol round and looked down the barrel to see why it didn't fire, the SSM executed as neat a pas de deux as has been seen on St. Petersberg Range for many a long day. Needless to say, the SSM is now brushing up on first IA's in Canadian.

November brought the annual event which is the Squadron's speciality, the November 5th fireworks display and bonfire. We were blessed by a fine evening after two months of rain and a crowd of about 600 turned up, got rid of 7,500 sparklers in 30 minutes, ate hamburgers, hot dogs, baked potatoes and swigged coffee, tea, beer and fizz as they watched an excellent firework display organised by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Robin Dodman,** aided

and abetted by **Sergeant Brian Young. W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bert Bowes** and his band of pyromamiacs put the torch to £200 worth of assorted fireworks and a large bonfire and the resulting display was enjoyed by young and old.

SPORT

We are extremely proud of our rugby team who, in their first season, reached the final of the Rhine Area Minor Units Cup. We were beaten in the final by RE Rattigen but were not disgraced. The team, ably captained by **Sergeant Dave Arundel** and coached by **Sergeants Tom Charteries** and **'Bad Back' Callaway,** were going hard at the final whistle despite a deficit of over 60 points. We were outclassed by a team that contained several representative players and were altogether too experienced for us. Nevertheless, the team fought hard and did not give up. If **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Sheen** looked a trifle dazed at the end of it he should be forgiven, its only his third game of rugger—the other two being the quarter and semi-finals.

The football team continues to run an erratic course, win a couple—lose a couple but the spirit is good and **Sergeant 'Brad' Bradbury** recommends playing against the German team for anyone who is in need of their anatomy being re-arranged, the MO, however, has done a pretty fair repair job on his collarbone. At the moment we have a 50% win record but our coach, **Sergeant 'Father' O'Mara,** is driving the team hard to improve our statistics. We are not sure whether this is to improve his maths or to improve the team but time will tell. Our leading goal scorer is **Sergeant Ian Bell** who is also a lynch pin in the basketball and rugby teams. He's a busy lad.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes:—

Sergeant Wally Gourlay and **Mary, Sergeant 'Loopy' Leal, Sergeant Mick Duffin, Corporal Bob Reid** and **Nettie, Lance-Corporal Ron Mutch** and **Carol, Lance-Corporal Jackie Matthews** and **Anne, Lance-Corporal 'Tommo' Tomlinson** and **Signalman John Murdoch** and **Penelope.**

and says farewell to:—

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Gavin Spearpoint and **Angelika, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Watts** and **Gloria, Sergeant Bill Chubb** and **Jan, Sergeant 'Taff' Evans** and **Jane, Sergeant 'Have Gun will Travel' Provart** and **Jean, Sergeant 'Dave the Bar' Smith** and **Margaret, Corporal Jim Bradshaw** and **Cherie** and **Signalman Nick Terry.** We also said farewell to **Corporal 'Sandy' Petrie** who has gone to be a 'Bobby' in civvy street.

We wish them all every success for the future.

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

THAT MAN AGAIN!

WE are as yet undecided but could it be the October weather out here that attracts O I/C Records—**Colonel F. Ramsbottom** who paid a lightning visit (the second inside 12 months) and in the process cheered up a few of our LEP soldiers—Congratulations to those selected for promotion.

VISIT OF CHIEF OF PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICS

Again we had a visit in October this time in the shape of **General Sir Richard Ward** who was met on arrival by the OC **Major T. I. McL. Robinson** accompanied by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Roy Stark**—on receipt of a message that—He is running anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes late the OC and SSM were caught discussing the beauties of the Squadron's bougainvillae when the General's car appeared as if from nowhere—after that all went without a hitch—it was the day of the 'livers in'. First a visit to their accommodation where the General met **Corporal 'Prof' Hopper, Corporal Dave Lee** (ACC), **Signalman Tony Jones** and **Lance-Corporal Ben Cartwright—**'Amazed' was the term used at the plushiness of their one-man rooms 'with all the gear'—sub-standard, indeed! Next port of call was the Central Mess—**Sergeant Ken Swinburne's** abode—Once again a quick chat with some of the lads and lasses. (a combined Army and RN Mess). Here he met **Signalman Tony Bancroft, Signalman Bob Shotton, Lance-Corporal Allan Haines.** Somewhere the topic of nurses came into the subject—but we will leave that one unanswered! After a quick look at the Squadron Amenities Centre—it all happens there—The General said his farewells, commenting on the high standard of the Squadron, and departed by chopper, for his next appointment.

VISIT OF CHIEF OF PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICS
General Sir Richard Ward in deep thought. What was Corporal 'Prof' Hopper's bright question?

GRAND OPENINGS

We announced in a past issue of THE WIRE the forthcoming official opening of the ATC Tower at RAF Luqa which did indeed take place on 24th September. The opening was performed by the **Hon. Dr. A. Buttigieg, B.A., LL.D.,** Deputy Prime Minister.

The photograph shows some of the 'workers' hard at it before it could 'all actually happen'. We still hear the odd tale or two issuing from the directions of Airfield Troop.

On the 25th October we had our second grand opening. This time it was the turn of the St. Angelo Telephone Exchange—officially opened by **Captain J. Kelly, R.N., O.B.E., D.S.C.**

OPENING OF ST. ANGELO EXCHANGE
Left to right: W.O.2 Joe Grech, B.E.M., Major Ian Robinson (O.C.) Captain (TOT) Bob Stather and Captain J. Kelly, R.N.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Signal Squadron recently carried out a project on an 'Up for Sale' ex-RN Mini Bus which we converted into a 'Sparkling New Look' Dog Van for the RSPCA in Malta. Not we might add, without its lighter moments down amongst **Staff Sergeant Joe Devlin's** MT Section—who can weld? Anybody around here handle a paint spray before? How big do you think the largest dog is on the Island? Able assistance came from **Sergeant Bill Martin, Corporal Joe Zammit, Signalman Mario Spiteri,** and many others—eventually the rehabilitated vehicle passed off the assembly line to be officially handed over to the RSPCA by Commander British Forces, Malta. Rumour now has it that the QM's dog is aiming for bigger things. Yes, you have it, she was all part of the PR plan—including TV!

News from Troops

550 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 24

"IT was time the forgotten troop wrote to THE WIRE" was the OC's comments on the arrival of the last month's WIRE.

This Troop, which is attached to 50 Missile Regiment RA has just completed its exercise season and are in the middle of preparing for the annual FFR and under the watchful eyes of our OC **Lieutenant 'Matt' Helm** and **Troop Sergeant John Buckett,** things are beginning to look as they should.

The remainder of the Troop is as follows:—

Corporal 'Mick' Harlow, Corporal 'Vic' Chivers, Corporal 'Paddy' Whelan, Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Reid, Lance-Corporal 'Pete' Martin, Lance-Corporal 'Steve' McKechnie, Signalman 'George' Bates, Signalman 'Dingus' McKee, Signalman 'Tweety Pie' Silvester, Signalman 'Dave' Lambert, Signalman 'Gunky' Whittle, Signalman 'Scouse' Wikeley, Signalman 'Pete' Williams, Signalman 'Spot' Wilson.

EXERCISE 'SPRING HOP'

During the first week in June (Whitsun Break) the Troop travelled down to Punderich on the Mosel for a troop camp.

Corporal 'Paddy' Whelan and **Signalman 'Scouse' Wikeley** went down ahead and found a Winefest going on in the next field to our camp site.

Activities included canoeing, swimming, volley ball, football, hiking and wine drinking. Several German families had speed boats down with them which they put at the troops disposal. There is no truth in the rumour that **Sergeant John Buckett** is going to attempt the world water speed record next year.

The Troop is now looking forward to going down to Oberjoch in January with Headquarter Battery for Exercise 'Keyslope' and Exercise 'Rucksack' to help with the administration for these two ski meetings.

SPORT

The Troop is very active in this field the following represent the Regiment:—

Rugby	**Lieutenant Helm, Lance-Corporal Martin, Signalman Silvester**
Football	**Signalman McKee**
Basketball	**Corporal Chivers**
Swimming	**Lieutenant Helm, Signalman Bates**
Hockey	**Lance-Corporal Reid**

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

During the past year the following have arrived in the Troop: **Sergeant Buckett** from 35th Signal Regiment (V); **Corporal Chivers** from 29th Signal Regiment; **Lance-Corporal Martin** from 11th Signal Regiment; **Signalman Whittle** from 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment; **Signalman Silvester** and **Signalman Lambert** from basic training.

Departures:

Sergeant Vic Shuttleworth to 30th Signal Regiment; **Signalman 'Amp' Appleby** to 39th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron; **Signalman Brooks** to 7th Signal Regiment.

Signalman Williams is due to go to 639 Signal Troop in April next year, **Lance-Corporal Reid** to 7th Signal Regiment and **Signalman Wilson** to 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. We wish them all the best for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate the following on 'biting the dust' and getting married recently:

Signalman Williams to **Miss Maureen Allwood.**
Signalman Bates to **Miss Diana Renac.**

605 Sig Troop, Gan, B.F.P.O. 180

FISHING OR 'OGGIN TROGGIN'

'OGGIN Troggin' or the art of paddling around in the sea armed with a 'Troggin' stick (a long piece of metal with a hook at the end) trying to catch anything from crabs to moray ells, continues to flourish.

To quote the Troop expert **Corporal Dave Collier** "It is the knack of spearing a moray eel before it spears you and you end up like **Signalman Keith Bell** being one of the first members of the Corps to walk on water!"

Dave Collier's latest claim to fame was the capture, on Saturday, 30th November, of a 4 lb. "seven and a half legged octopus". The non-oggin troggers were very lavish in their praise for him, especially after the Saturday night bar-b-cue.

HITTADU DETACHMENT

For the benefit of those members of the Corps who have served on RAF Hittadu the main news from there has been the introduction of fresh water. Tales about the present incumbent 'hermits' adding salt instead of sugar to coffee have been confirmed as true, and tea tasting like tea can be drunk.

CYCLING HAZARDS

In common with most RAF Airfields one of the most widely used forms of transport is the bicycle. Quite recently two members of the Troop have had rather harrowing experiences when cycling along the road on their respective bicycles, the main frame has just collapsed from underneath them. The rest of the Troop are curious if there is a moral to the incident.

ENGLISH WEATHER HITS GAN

The commonly held view of life on Gan is that of a sun drenched tropical paradise. The month of November, however, gave us a touch of near English winter weather. The total rainfall for the month was 10¼ inches with no less than 1·7 inches falling on Thursday, 28th November and wind gusts in the region of 40–42 knots were recorded. During this terrible month (for weather that is) we only managed an average temperature of 85·1° (29·5°C.) and a maximum temperature of 86·9° (30·5°C.) with only 168·5 hours of sunshine. A new sub-aqua sport has been started on the Island—golf.

WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?

The following article is based on a recent publication in the Gan Island Post and is published by permission of The Editor, Gan Island Post:—

"How many people (outside the RAF) actually know where we are? Not our address but our location on the globe? The reason this seemingly irrelevant question is posed is that quite recently one of our members received a wedding invitation from his brother's fiancé; (a nice girl, but dim) would he care to attend their wedding reception, in the UK? Of course he would, all he needed was 4 or 5 days leave off work, and a seat on a VC10! Had his address been Singapore or Hong Kong this situation need never have arisen, because everyone knows where these two places are (even his brother's fiancé), but RAF Gan could, for all she knew be some obscure stores depot in the Midlands and BFPO 180 a Birmingham postcode perhaps?"

A small addition to our address might have helped or may help in future. "INDIAN OCEAN, MIDDLE OF", might do the trick.

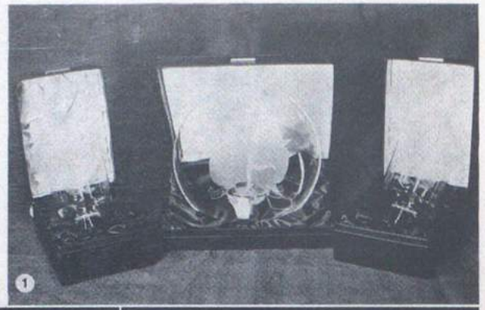
The powers-that-be could help by getting Gan more positively displayed on the map, before some mighty 'tidal wave' sweeps us permanently off it, and like 'Atlantis', we become a legend.

For the benefit of those who have never heard of us, our position is:—Latitude 00° 41′ S—Longitude 73° 10′ E.

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs!
Let's have that Story!

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the move of the Corps from Maresfield to Catterick

1. *Complete set of crystal glass in presentation box*
2. *Chalice with old Corps badge*
3. *Chalice with present Corps badge*
4. *Chalice showing Catterick rose*
5. *10 inch plate*



DETAIL

It was intended to produce a Wedgwood plate to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the move but unfortunately this has not been possible due to production difficulties. Instead, a set of engraved crystal glassware has been designed and produced by Caithness Glass. Photographs of the glassware are shown and the set consists of:

- **A chalice with the old Corps badge**
- **A chalice with the present Corps badge**
- **A plate with the present Corps badge**

Each item also shows the Catterick Rose, and the inscription "Catterick" and "1925–1975". On the chalice the rose and word Catterick appear on the opposite side to the Corps badge.

Each item is to be numbered as part of a limited edition, and where more than one item is purchased in the set, each will carry the same number. Each item comes complete with a lined presentation box.

This is a beautiful set of crystal glass, so why not take this opportunity to obtain something that will not only enhance your home, but bring back happy memories of the Corps? It also makes an ideal presentation set to a mess or other organisation.

Orders should be submitted on the tear-off form below, and sent to the address shown to arrive not later than 1st JUNE 1975. No orders can be accepted after that date.

1925 CATTERICK 1975

ORDER FORM

1. Please reserve for me the following items of the commemorative crystal glass:
   a. Chalice with old Corps badge ..... @ £11·00 + VAT & pp
   b. Chalice with present Corps badge ..... @ £11·00 + VAT & pp
   c. 10 inch plate ..... @ £16·00 + VAT & pp
2. I understand that I need not send any money now, but a bill will be presented to me shortly before the items are due for delivery.
3. I also understand that this order is binding upon me to purchase items reserved.

NAME ..... Signed .....

ADDRESS ..... Send to: Officer Commanding 4 Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment,

..... CATTERICK GARRISON, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS

(Block capitals please)

Sport

Corps Rugby— Report on the current season

THE current season is essentially one of team building for the Corps XV. Many of the stalwarts of the past are no longer available through postings overseas, retirement from the game and leaving the service. This year the Corps selectors have deliberately adopted a policy of selecting teams of younger and less experienced players with a view to establishing a nucleus of players for the next few years. Results have been encouraging and although five of the six games played so far have been lost four of these were by margins of a couple of points. It has been gratifying to see young players aged 18 and 19 showing enthusiasm, dedication and outstanding team spirit. Team selection has been hampered by emergency tours in Northern Ireland and Cyprus and three of our young officer players have been barred from the Corps team because they are playing in the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham 1st XV. There are encouraging signs for the future and, providing all goes well, by next season the Corps XV should be a formidable team playing entertaining and attractive rugby.

Results of games played this season are:

v. RAPC	won	22–0
v. REME	lost	9–42
v. RE	lost	16–17
v. Dorset	lost	13–16
v. RA	lost	0–3
v. RMCS	lost	8–9

ROYAL SIGNALS v. ROYAL ENGINEERS

Played at Gillingham on 8th November 1974. Lost 16–17.

Royal Signals kicked off full of determination and making no secret of their hopes of winning this game and avenging their defeat by the Sappers last year. In a game played in ideal conditions the Corps gave away only penalty kicks for infringements up front. Fortunately the Sappers could not land the goals and Signals always suggested they had more potential. **Steve Peacock** was prominent in the rucks and line outs and the backs began to look dangerous when in possession of the ball.

After twenty minutes **Clive Blackburn** went for the interception and raced forty yards to score a good try. **Ken Clarke** added the conversion and the Corps were ahead by 6 points to nil. At this stage of the game Signals started to show the effects of the long journey from Blandford and the Sappers' constant pressure was beginning to tell. The Signals lead was reduced to 3 points when the Engineers kicked a penalty goal. The first half ended with the Corps defending strongly and the Sappers looking decidedly sharp. Only **Steve Peacock** and **'Blod' Jones** were showing initiative and looking for opportunities to attack the Sappers' line.

The second half started and the Engineers had the steady breeze in their favour. The first thrill came after five minutes play. **Andy Hickling** and **Steve Peacock** started a forwards passing movement. The entire Corps pack joined in and took the ball to within two yards of the line. The Sappers managed to scramble it clear but Signals were very unfortunate not to score. This gave the Sappers renewed momentum and for ten minutes they attacked strongly, dominating both mauls and lineouts and moving the ball out to their wings. Only determined and resolute tackling by the Corps defence saved a score.

Neither side could assert any real mastery but Signals always suggested they had more potential. Their backs were moving well when in possession with **Alan James** and **Ken Clarke** prominent. A good run by **Clarke** wrong footed the Sappers' defence, the ball went to **John Wright** who covered the final fifteen yards to score the try. **Mick Pawlack** converted the try and the Corps increased their lead to 12 points to 3.

Next the Sappers moved into the attack and finished off a good movement with an unconverted try in the left corner. This made the score 12 points to 7 in favour of the Corps.

With this lead the Signals pressure was beginning to tell on the Engineers. They gained full marks for the way they ran and handled the ball. From one good movement the forwards took the ball into the Sappers' 25 and set up a ruck, scrum half **'Taff' Davies** launched an attack left, **Alan James** side stepped the defence, linked with his pack and once again the Corps was extremely unlucky not to score. Eventually the Corps forced a line out on the right 15 yards from the Sappers' line. **Clive Arthur** threw a good ball to **Steve Peacock** who gathered cleanly, forced his way through and passed to **Andy Hickling** on the short side. **Andy** used his enormous strength and power to cross the line and score a well deserved try. The conversion attempt failed but the Corps' lead was increased to 16 points to 7.

In **Peacock** and **Hickling** the Corps has one of the best second rows playing in Army rugby this season. Both players are young and relatively inexperienced but given the right coaching they could make the Army team within two years.

Next it was the Engineers' turn to score. From a ruck well inside the Signals half they were awarded a penalty kick. They ran the ball and scored in the left corner catching the Signals defence unprepared and half asleep. The kick failed but the Signals' lead was reduced to only 5 points. **Alan James** tried hard to launch attacks on the Sappers' line and two long raking kicks into the left corner were particularly noticeable. The Engineers withstood the pressure on their line and gave nothing away.

Almost on time the Sappers' No. 8 broke from a line out just inside the Signals half, linked with his forwards who found backs in support. They split the Signals defence and a twenty yards run by their left wing brought them a try in the left corner. Unfortunately for the Corps their defence had been considerably weakened by an injury to **Ken Clarke** and the Sappers played on this weakness. With practically the last kick of the match the Sappers converted their try to make the final score 17 points to 16 in their favour.

Defeat is no consolation. But for what it is worth the Corps had most of the play, played the better rugby and the larger share of territorial play. Unfortunately they failed to take all the opportunities available to them to score and 'lost' three possible tries. It was a most enjoyable game played in excellent spirit and enjoyed by players and spectators.

Royal Signals XV: **Sergeant Mick Pawlack** (8th Regiment), **Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith** (7th Regiment), **Sergeant Ken Clarke** (School), **Corporal Clive Blackburn** (7th Regiment), **Corporal John Wright** (30th Regiment), **Corporal Alan James** (8th Regiment), **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Davies** 24 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron), **Sergeant Trevor Johnson** (8th Regiment), **Captain Clive Arthur** (8th Regiment), **W.O.2 Bert Schneider** (MOD), **Corporal Andy Hickling** (3rd Regiment), **Signalman Steve Peacock** (8th Regiment), **W.O.2 Alan Dunbar** (30th Regiment), (Captain), **Corporal 'Blod' Jones** (School), **Staff Sergeant Keith Zoing** (7th Regiment).

ROYAL SIGNALS v. RMCS SHRIVENHAM

Played at Shrivenham on 16th November 1974. Lost 8–9.

The Corps XV encountered a very successful Shrivenham XV when they met for this year's annual match. Shrivenham had played ten fixtures and lost only one of them; having defeated other Corps and University sides to arrive at this commendable record. The Corps fielded their best available team and went to Shrivenham determined to win.

As a spectacle the game did not rate high until the last 30 minutes and frequent penalty awards did not help the tempo of the first half of the game which was also punctuated by much scrappy play. It was from one of these penalties awarded against the Corps that RMCS scored their first three points. The Corps players were showing the effects of a bus journey from Blandford and were very slow to settle down to constructive rugby. RMCS dominated the first half and the Corps was fortunate to close the half only 6 points down, Shrivenham having scored a second penalty goal a few minutes before half time.

Major Brian Blackwell explained his dissatisfaction to the Corps players during the interval, told a few fortunes and inspired them to greater things in the second half.

Signals looked a completely different team after the restart and had the lion's share of the attacking against a Shrivenham side who seemed strangely sluggish and disorganised, especially at the back. Eventually Signals got their reward; **Keith Zoing** broke from a ruck with the ball, and passed to **'Taff' Terry** on the left wing. **'Taff'** covered 40 yards with an amazing turn of speed but, unfortunately, was tackled short of the line. More attacking play led to a scrum on the Shrivenham 25 yard line, **Bill McConnell** heeled against the head, the ball was held in the back row and gathered by **Keith Zoing** who forced himself to within 10 yards of the Shrivenham line. From the scrum **Keith Zoing** again took the ball, broke right and handed to **Alan Dunbar** who scored a try on the right of the field. **Garry Maddren** narrowly missed the conversion and the score stood at 6–4 to RMCS.

Signals really got their tails up after this. Showing tremendous fight, they never let up the pressure. **Bill McConnell** hooked exceptionally well and constantly won the ball against the head. **Alan James** gave an excellent demonstration of positional kicking and the Corps pack started to show marked superiority in all phases of the game. Unfortunately the pack gave away another penalty and Shrivenham easily kicked the goal to increase their lead to 9–4.

At this point of the game RMCS relied almost entirely on kicking to initiate their attacks, rarely bringing their three quarters into the game, whereas the Corps was always eager to launch their backs. The RMCS line was under constant pressure and both **Steve Peacock** and **Andy Hickling** were unlucky not to score.

The last fifteen minutes was all Signals and in the closing minutes of the match they scored their second try. **Garry Maddren** again had the misfortune to miss the conversion and the final score was RMCS 9 points, Royal Signals 8 points.

This was a game the Corps should have won. They played the better rugby and had the more constructive ideas. Shrivenham are an exceptionally good side but they came very close to their second defeat of the season.

Royal Signals XV: **Captain Garry Maddren** (RMAS), **Corporal John Wright** (30th Regiment), **Corporal Clive Blackburn** (7th Regiment), **Corporal Gordon Bennett** (School), **Signalman 'Taff' Terry** (7th Regiment), **Corporal Alan Jones** (8th Regiment), **Sergeant Tony Lavery** (School), **Sergeant Trevor Johnson** (8th Regiment), **Corporal Bill McConnell** (8th Regiment), **Corporal Vince Fallon** (7th Regiment), **Signalman Steve Peacock** (8th Regiment), **Corporal Andy Hickling** (3rd Regiment), **W.O.2 Alan Dunbar** (30th Regiment), (Captain), **Staff Sergeant Keith Zoing** (7th Regiment), **Corporal Garry Ewing** (7th Regiment).

Canoeing

From: Lieutenant Colonel R. A. Sumner, Secretary Royal Signals Canoe Club.

SERGEANT **Bill White** of 36 (E) Signal Regiment (V) has been so successful in the recent ranking Wild Water races (TRYWERYN 27th October, EDEN RIVER 17th November, USK 8th December) that he is now certain to be the National Wild Water Racing Champion for 1975. This also means that he will almost certainly be selected to represent the United Kingdom at the World WWR Championships at SKOPJE in June/July 1975.

This achievement reflects the dedication that **Sergeant White** has put into his training and marks his progression into the top ranks of British canoeing during the last three years. We wish him every success in the coming season.

OUTSTANDING CORPS GOLFER

Corporal Chris Carveth of 30th Signal Regiment is shown here with a wide variety of trophies and cups won by him during 1974. Below we give some of the various competitions and matches in which he featured during the year. Perhaps it has happened already but if not it would be very interesting if he and Signalman Chris Dennis of BAOR fame (see November/December Wire) could meet some time to decide who is the champion of the two Chris's!

- South West District Championships at Tidworth G.C. Won with scores of 71–71 = 142.
- Royal Cornwall Challenge Cup—37 pts.—3rd. Qualified in 2nd place for final match play stages with score of 156. Total entry of 121. Won all four matches to reach final which he won convincingly 6 and 5 to become County Amateur Champion.
- Royal Signals Championship Meeting at Catterick. Retained Royal Signals Open Championship Cup, Royal Signals Challenge Cup (H'cap.), Royal Signals Stableford Cup for fifth, fourth and fourth time in succession respectively.
- Represented Cornwall Golf Union v. The Royal Navy. Match won.
- Represented the Corps in Inter Corps Trophy at Tidworth who beat RAEC, ACC and Infantry before losing in the final to REME
- Represented Army against R.A.F. Germany and Army in BAOR Won both matches.
- Represented Cornwall Under 25's v. Devon Under 25's. Match won.
- Devon/Cornwall Courage Invitation Trophy at Launceston. Won with scores of 71–75 = 146.
- Cornish Open Championship at Tehidy Park. This event open to both professionals and amateurs. Runner up in Championship with score of 77–72 = 149. With professional of Tehidy G.C. won Cornish PRO/AM Club Championship.
- Represented Army in Inter Service Championships at Hayling Island. Won both matches against Royal Navy and R.A.F.
- Cornwall Under 25's Championships at Falmouth. Won with scores of 71–75 = 146.
- Represented Army in High Post Foursomes at High Post. Army winners of Higgins Medal and Runners Up in the Tillie Cup.

Corps Football, 1974

REPORT FROM MAJOR P. A. LENTHALL, HON. SEC.

THE 1974 fixtures against 6 other Corps teams were deliberately divided into 3 tours to make it easier for units to provide players.

After the RCT fixture, the Corps Squad assembled for the 1974 Quadrangular Tournament, held by the hosts, REME, at Bordon. The Squad consisted of **Sergeant John Fuller, Sergeant Jim Tierney, Sergeant Pat Gallagher, Corporal Tom Reilly, Corporal Mick Freedman** and **Lance-Corporal John Boyd,** (8th Signal Regiment); **Corporal Geoff Ruffer** (10th Signal Regiment); **Staff Sergeant Pete Smurthwaite** and **Corporal Ron Ramos** (Army Apprentice College, Harrogate); **Signalman Phil Rosslee** (19 Brigade); **Corporal 'Pinky' Pinkus, Corporal Terry German** (602 Signal Troop); **Corporal Terry Burton** (11 Signal Group (V)); **Corporal Billy Adam, Corporal Stan Stanley, Corporal Pete Doherty, Lance-Corporal Larry Cardwell** and **Signalman Bob O'Hara** (216 (Para) Signal Squadron). Under the rigorous training regime of **Corporal Pete Pritchard** of 216 Squadron, the Corps trained hard and defeated 1st Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment 8–1 and 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment 6–1.

CORPS v. ROYAL ENGINEERS

First fixture of the tournament was versus Royal Engineers. The Corps kicked off against a strong wind and soon settled down to play attractive attacking, 'one and two touch,' football. Unfortunately, luck, the essential ingredient, was missing and after a period of 'shot in,' football at the Engineers' goal, we were caught on the hop and the Sappers scored a goal from a long shot. This seemed to awaken the Corps side who attacked furiously for the rest of the game, but a brilliant performance by the Army keeper Smith prevented our scoring, and the match ended 1–0 to Royal Engineers. Indifferent shooting and over-exuberance by our forwards, who kept up the pressure throughout the game, were the factors that decided the match.

CORPS v. ROYAL ARTILLERY

The second match of the tournament was against the Royal Artillery. The Corps formed up in 4–2–4 formation, a pattern decided after much deliberation by Team Manager **W.O.2 Joe Walton** and Coach **Corporal Pete Pritchard.** This placed the emphasis on attacking and scoring. The system hinged on the midfield pair **Sergeant Pat Gallagher** and **Lance-Corporal Larry Cardwell,** both powerful players. From the start the team pushed forward in attack and was rewarded in the 13th minute by a well taken goal from **Corporal Pete Doherty.** The Corps continued to press hard but finished at half-time with the 1–0 lead. After an inspiring pep talk the Corps team ran riot, and goals from **Corporal Pete Doherty, Corporal Geoff Ruffer, Corporal Billy Adam** and **Lance-Corporal Larry Cardwell** gave us a very convincing 5–0 victory.

CORPS v. REME

Buoyed up by this result the Corps team approached the final game, against REME. This team has dominated the Tournament since its inception, and if the Corps could beat them by 2 clear goals the trophy was ours. The first 20 minutes of play saw both teams probing the other's weakness, with much skilfull play from both sides. This settled down to a slower pace and the first half ended with no score. In the second half the Corps continued to press home with every chance but lost the services of mid-fielder **Sergeant Pat Gallagher** with injuries to both ankle and wrist. REME poured on the pressure in the last 20 minutes and seized a loose ball in the Corps defences that caught **Corporal Tom Reilly** completely unsighted. The game continued at a fast pace, but no further goals were scored. In all, it was a very hard and sporting match, during which the Quadrangular trophy eluded the Corps once again.

Ten days later, the third tour of the 1974 season brought the Corps team South to play RAPC and RAOC.

CORPS v. RAPC

The match against RAPC at Worthy Down was played on 12th November on a sloping pitch, with a strong swirling wind opposing the Corps side. This contributed to a long settling in period. RAPC put on strong pressure, which was rewarded when a hopeful shot was carried by the wind into the top left corner of the net. The Corps responded well after the restart, but half time found them still one goal down.

The wind became our ally in the second half and the RAPC goal was constantly under attack. Taking advantage of mistakes by RAPC defenders, **Corporal Geoff Ruffer** ran in, beat a hesitant last man, by-passed the keeper and put the Corps level. RAPC responded with a breakaway attack that brought the best out of the Corps' keeper **Corporal Tom Reilly.** Signals put more pressure on RAPC. **Yeoman Ian Sleightholme** collected a pass from **Corporal 'Doc' Doherty** to score the winning goal. This was a fine performance for a team with 5 new players and

(Continued on page 36)

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(Continued from page 34)

numerous position changes against a hard working team who never gave up.

CORPS v. RAOC

The Corps side then travelled to Bicester, home of the RAOC team. The two sides met on a sodden pitch that produced very trying conditions indeed. A strong cross wind, favouring neither side, contributed to their difficulties. During the first half-hour the game went both ways. The Corps survived a few nasty moments when **Sergeant John Fuller** diverted an otherwise certain shot that had beaten keeper **Corporal Mick Freedman,** guarding the Corps goal for the first time. Later, a good cross by **Lance-Corporal Keith Hibbins** to **Yeoman Ian Sleightholme** did not result in the expected goal. An excellent run by **Lance-Corporal John Boyd** gave the Yeoman a second chance that he made no mistake about, taking the Corps into the lead, but ten minutes later RAOC equalised from a penalty. Later still a sprint by **Corporal Mick Freedman** just saved a runaway situation that looked a certain goal as an RAOC striker broke loose and beat all defenders.

Substituting **Corporal 'Pinky' Pinkus** for **Signalman Mike Hough** and **Corporal Tom Reilly** for **Corporal Mick Freedman** the Corps went into the second half to continue a slogging game in very sticky conditions. Giving as good as it got, the Corps could not achieve a goal, and keeper **Reilly** was tested again and again. One minute before time RAOC put one in the net and a hard fought sporting game ended with the Corps 2–1 down.

The Corps Squad for the two games comprised **Sergeant John Fuller, Sergeant Jim Tierney, Corporal Mick Freedman, Corporal Tom Reilly** and **Lance-Corporal John Boyd** (8th Signal Regiment); **Corporal Geoff Ruffer** and **Signalman Mike Hough** (10th Signal Regiment); **Corporal Billy Adam** and **Signalman Pete 'Doc' Doherty** (216 (Para) Signal Squadron); **Lance-Corporal Chris Hough** (223 Signal Squadron); **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Ian Sleightholme, Corporal Jimmy Neil** and **Lance-Corporal Keith Hibbins** (244 Signal Squadron) and **Corporal 'Pinky' Pinkus** (602 Signal Troop). A welcome change to see two new units supplying players. Well done, 223 and 244 Squadrons. Other Corps units in UK please note.

LATE NEWS

14th Signal Regiment Win 'Ginormous' York and Lancs Cup

14th Signal Regiment have won the West Midland District Minor Units Football cup. They beat the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion by 3–1. The scoring was done by **Corporal Dave Butler** and **Lance-Corporal Billy Wilkinson.** The GOC West Midland District, **Major-General R. W. T. Britten** watched the game and presented the 'Ginormous' York and Lancs Cup to the captain of the winning team **Corporal 'Pinky' Pinkus,** and medals to the team. The CO of 14th Regiment led the vocal support and provided bubbly afterwards.

Association News

Honour Life Membership Presentation to Mr. J. J. Goggin

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Shrewsbury **(Councillor Tom Ryder** and **Mrs. Ryder)** attended a buffet dance to present to **Mr. J. J. Goggin,** Honorary Secretary of the Shrewsbury Branch of the Royal Signals Association, Honour Life Membership Badge of the Association. Approximately 150 past and present members of the Corps with their wives attended. It was a great evening for the Shrewsbury Branch and an even greater evening for **Mr. Goggin.**

Mr. Goggin joined the Corps in 1940 after two years with the Essex Regiment. Following wartime service with 14th Army in India and Burma, he spent some time in Germany before again setting sail for the Far East in 1951 serving with the Commonwealth Division in Korea. In 1955 he came to Shrewsbury as a recruiting sergeant a position he held until 1960 when on completion of 22 years Army service he became a Clerical Officer with 241 Signal Troop.

His active interest with the Royal Signals Association began in 1958 and he was a key figure in the forming of the Shrewsbury Branch. The members unanimously voted him as secretary, a position which he still holds 16 years later.

The Mayor of Shrewsbury presenting Mr. J. J. Goggin with the Honour Life membership badge of the Association. *Right:* Major A. E. Carter, President of the Shrewsbury Branch

Cardiff Branch

Hon. Sec.: **Gill Jones,** School House, Senghenydd, Glamorgan

Saturday, 2nd November 1974 will be another proud and memorable date for the members of this branch. In co-operation with **Lieutenant-Colonel M. Flynn,** Commanding Officer, 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (V), President of the Branch, and with the assistance of all ranks of 53rd (Welsh) Signal Squadron, we staged a Concert in Cardiff City Hall.

Taking part were the **Swansea Male Choir, The Corps Band** and TV, Radio and Cabaret Artiste **Miss Iris Williams.** This great combination provided a feast of music and song that thrilled and delighted all present.

Major Keith Boulding compered and his skill and talent won much admiration and praise. We cannot give sufficient thanks for this wonderful evening.

We were honoured with the presence of **Major-General Price** (Chairman) and **Mrs. Price, Colonel Sir Cennydd Traherne, K.G., T.D., M.A.(Oxon), LL.D., J.P.,** Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, **Lady Traherne, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. G. Bale, O.B.E., T.D.,** honorary vice president of this Branch and **Mr. David Greenbrook** (Assistant to the General Secretary).

Most of the credit for the organisation and planning must go to our worthy Secretary, **Gill Jones.** Her hard work and enterprise is a source of wonder to us and an example to many. **Brian Murby, Gordon Baker, Jim Lister, Mac Lott** and **Frank McFarland, M.M.,** deserve a very special mention for their hard work before, during and after the Concert, in addition to the assistance given by the usual stalwarts of the Branch.

Following the Concert, the Band and Choir 'took over' at the TAVR Centre, rocking its foundations and providing an impromptu but very enjoyable conclusion to a glorious evening.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

See Editorial Page

FJP

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February-March 1975

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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☆

FEBRUARY/MARCH • 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture features some of the marching members of a party totalling 110 from 8th Signal Regiment which traversed the entire length of Hadrian's Wall on a relay basis in ten and three-quarter hours (see article on page 46). Note the Roman soldier who joined the party and took over the Squadron pennant. Back row (left to right): **Lance-Corporal Pete Farley, Signalman Jock Morrison, Lance-Corporal Roger Thompson, Lance-Corporal Bill Pirie, Staff-Sergeant Spud Murphy, Lance-Corporal Fred Vance, Lance-Corporal Brian Mackay, Lance-Corporal Bob Atkinson** and **Signalman David Campbell.** Front row (left to right): **Lance-Corporal Bob Sharp, Signalman Dave Fane de Salis, Lance-Corporal Jim Jenkins, Corporal Ted Hannibal, Lance-Corporal Roy Young** and **Lance-Corporal John Marsden.**

Army Benevolence in Action

(WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO MEET THE REQUEST OF THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND THAT THE FOLLOWING BE PUBLISHED IN THE WIRE—EDITOR)

It is sometimes argued that in today's society those who in adversity stand in need of help of one kind or another are already cared for well enough by the State. In fact it is the case that state assistance is often too little or too late, and that it is frequently encumbered by provisions which are too inflexible to meet the need. A quicker, more responsive and more humane source of help is often needed and this can only be provided through the voluntary efforts of those who are more fortunate. Soldiers, ex-soldiers and their dependants are neither more nor less likely to need such help but when help is needed it is only right and proper that it should be available in the first instance through the Army's own benevolent organization, which is described in the following paragraphs.

It was in the early nineteenth century that a number of Corps and Regiments first created charitable funds of their own, subscribed by themselves and by the inhabitants of the localities in which they recruited, to help those who had served in their ranks who were in need of assistance. This joint concept of self help, and help from the public, is still the basis upon which Army Benevolence operates, for the public cannot be expected to subscribe unless the Army makes a worthy response itself. Later on, at about the turn of the century, a number of national charities to serve Servicemen and ex-Servicemen were established. Notable among these were SSAFA and the Forces Help Society.

Despite this pioneer work no centralised system of Army benevolence existed until the end of the Second World War saw the establishment of the Army Benevolent Fund with capital provided by the Army's share of the rebate accumulated from Service canteens and clubs at home and overseas. The ABF's charter was, and still is, to give financial help to the charitable funds of the Corps and Regiments and also to other charities, such as those already mentioned, which serve the soldier, ex-soldier and his dependants. This injection of money was vital at the time, as the internal resources of the funds and charities concerned were quite inadequate by themselves to provide for the cases of need amongst the millions who had served in the two world wars and their dependants.

Today there are still about a million soldier survivors of the two World Wars. Add to these those now serving and though who have served since 1945 and the total becomes about five million, nearly a tenth of the population. Thankfully a very large percentage of these will never need help, but it is obvious that the load is a very heavy one if realistic support is to be given to those who do.

Few would begrudge help being given to old soldiers, or their dependants, who need it; but it is only natural for the serving soldier to think more about

(Continued overleaf)

the present and recent past. It needs to be remembered that the soldier of today is the old soldier of tomorrow, and both are eligible for help from Army Benevolence whenever and for as long as it is needed—so too are their dependants. No genuine case has ever been turned away; but if this happy state of affairs is to continue the Army must give the lead—and be as generous as possible—in providing the funds. One day perhaps those who contribute now may be grateful for their own 'dividend' from Army Benevolence.

Until 1960 the Army Benevolent Fund ate into its capital in order to fulfil its task. This could obviously not continue so an appeal organization was created with its sights set on raising £350,000 each year—£200,000 from within the Army and the remainder from the public.

From the beginning the appeal to the nation has concentrated on commerce and industry in a series of campaigns throughout the United Kingdom. In addition national fund raising enterprises, mainly in London, have been organised, such as Royal Variety shows, film premieres and military musical pageants at Wembley Stadium. In all these the Fund has received enormous support in all forms from many individuals and institutions, including the Army itself.

The Army set abouts its task of raising its quota with a will, the principal method being the introduction of the 'Day's Pay Scheme', launched in 1965. In this scheme everyone in the Army is asked voluntarily to give a day's pay a year to his own Corps or Regimental Association for benevolent purposes. The traditional generous nature of the British soldier is well illustrated by the fact that some £400,000 each year is available to Corps and Regiments from this source, of which something over £130,000 is passed on to the Army Benevolent Fund. Over all a high percentage of all ranks now contribute to Army Benevolence in this way, although some Regiments and Corps have responded better than others. If the response could be 100 per cent, it would go a very long way towards achieving the annual sum needed.

The Army also raises money in other ways. Districts, Formations, Garrisons and Army Schools are contributing directly to the Army Benevolent Fund the proceeds of Army Days, Displays, Tattoos, Retreats and other events which the public attend. This is a source that could perhaps be more profitable than it is. Tens of thousands of the general public are entertained each year by the Army at the various tattoos, shows etc. held throughout the country, often at no cost. They are enthralled by the skill and precision of what they see and are only too ready to show their appreciation in a practical way. The Army must not be slow in recognizing and encouraging this willingness to give. In a number of notable cases this is already being achieved in magnificent fashion. Last year the Aldershot Military Display raised £10,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund, the Tidworth Tattoo £5,000 and £8,000 came from the German public via the Berlin Tattoo. Units, although primarily concerned with raising money for their own Corps or Regimental Association, are also helping in the same way. Many of them have also implemented the Army Board's wish that 10 per cent of the profit from gaming machines should go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

The Appeal organization is well and truly established. It has set Army benevolence on a sound long term footing. In combination, Corps and Regimental Associations and the Army Benevolent Fund now have the resources to enable them to make a reasonable response to the needs of those serving, the ex-servicemen and their families in times of difficulty.

So far this article has dealt with the history of Army Benevolence and how the funds are raised; but the primary purpose of Army Benevolence is to provide relief. In doing this the Army Benevolent Fund does not deal directly with individual cases. Its role as the Army's Central Charity is to support the benevolent work carried out by Corps and Regimental Associations, and by the national charities which serve the Army, and to act as co-ordinator throughout the whole field of Army Benevolence. There is no need to dwell upon the sums of money spent on the various forms of help provided, beyond making the point that last year this totalled nearly £1 million. It is however important to draw attention to the very many forms of help available to those who may need it.

The most obvious need is to make cash available when some personal disaster occurs. This is done in many cases for both serving soldiers and ex-soldiers wherever they may be located. Each case is different and the story which follows is but one of very many. A corporal and his family were victims of a fire in their home very shortly after he had left the Army. A six-year old daughter died in the flames and the corporal suffered severe burns and lung damage in his rescue attempts. To help them in their tragic circumstances, the Army Benevolent Fund made an immediate grant of £550. There are all too many other tragic stories that could be told.

Army Benevolence also gives vital direct support to the soldier, the ex-soldier and their dependants through the very large contributions made on behalf of all Regiments and Corps to other charities whose function is to help servicemen and women. Two examples are Queen Alexandra's Hospital Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen and the Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows. These and many other similar charities, including SSAFA and the Forces Help Society—some fifty in all—are supported financially by the Army Benevolent Fund so that they may continue their excellent work; but no assistance is given until the charity has been thoroughly investigated to ensure that it is worthy of support and that the need for help exists.

Nor are the problems of employment on discharge overlooked. The Regular Forces Employment Association, which gives such a good service to those seeking a job on discharge, is also supported.

The children of soldiers and ex-soldiers are a particular concern. Holidays are provided in special cases, and help is given with school bills. The children of serving soldiers who are severely handicapped pose a particular problem. Many local authorities provide admirable educational day centres to which such children would normally be sent. The soldier and his family however are often on the move, and may be stationed in remote parts of the United Kingdom, or abroad, where no such facilities exist. To meet the needs of these children the Army Benevolent Fund has made a start by purchasing vacancies in an imaginative and expanding residential organisation called the McIntyre Schools which is particularly well suited and staffed to care for all cases of sub normality in children.

A further way in which Serving Soldiers are helped by the Army Benevolent Fund is by the provision of immediate grants to those discharged prematurely for compassionate or medical reasons, who are likely to be faced with difficulties for which they have had no time to make adequate preparations.

In recent years, of course, cases arising from service in Northern Ireland have figured very largely in the work of Army Benevolence. Financial help has been given to the families and dependants of soldiers killed or discharged because of their wounds. Those soldiers so severely wounded that they have had to be discharged have been given substantial grants to enable them to make a fresh start in civilian life. When compensation through the Courts has been awaited, interest free loans have been made to prevent or alleviate hardship.

Yet a further source of help provided by Army Benevolence is the Serving Soldier Loan Scheme under which interest free resettlement loans are made to serving soldiers on compassionate grounds during the last year of their service, to help them prepare for their return to civilian life.

The foregoing is no more than a brief summary of all that Army Benevolence is able to do. Those who want to know more will find it set out in the Fund's Annual Report and the yearly Information Leaflet, which are available in units.

It can be seen that tremendous progress has been made in the whole field of benevolent work in the Army, but there is still a long way to go if we are to make the Army's standard second to none. Although a total of some £900,000 annually is now available to the Army Benevolent Fund and Corps and Regimental Associations, working together, with which to provide relief, an annual target of £1¼ million is necessary to meet the real needs of today. There is still a large gap to be filled and the value of money is constantly falling. The Appeal to the Nation for support will continue to be pressed with the utmost vigour by the Army Benevolent Fund appeal organisation. It is hoped too that the aim will be achieved of a 100% contribution to the Day's Pay scheme by all serving soldiers, and that the money raised from the public through Army activities will increase, despite the heavy calls on the Army today. The target is clear enough; and if everyone concerned knows and understands the worthiness of the cause and what is needed, the aim must surely be attainable. Happily no one knows what the future holds for him or her; but should misfortune befall you your support for Army Benevolence and the Day's Pay Scheme is your assurance that help will be very quickly at hand, whenever it may be needed, and for however long.

From our "In" Tray

Broader outlook advocated

From Major (Tfc.) J. E. Gill.

Sir,

As a Traffic Officer I read with delight **Major F. C. Lettin's** letter about TAVR Adjutant posts being filled by some of my brethren.

Regrettably, I was NOT surprised to learn that some of the ilk thought it bad news. Too many are blinkered, hidebound and procedurally punch-drunk to welcome challenge and change; too many regard themselves as just 'Traffic Officers' rather than 'Officers' in the wider, proper, sense.

I venture to suggest that the Corps does not need any 'Commissioned Yeomen' but 'Officers' and therefore recommend to the reluctant the late President **Harry S. Truman's** dictum: "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen".

Yours sincerely,
J. E. Gill.

School of Signals,
Blandford Camp, Dorset.

S.S.A.F.A. Christmas Market

From **Mrs. J. M. Sawers.**

Sir,

I wish to thank, through your pages, all those members of the Corps and their wives who so generously contributed gifts and money for the cosmetics and perfumery stall run by the Corps of the S.S.A.F.A. Christmas Market at Chelsea Barracks last November.

I would especially like to thank those who gave up their time collecting those gifts and selling raffle tickets and those who gave me such invaluable help on the day.

I am delighted to say that the sale of gifts at the stall raised £231·53 and donations totalled £450·51, making a total contribution from the Corps of £681·04. The grand total raised by the Christmas Market was £22,000.

Yours sincerely,
Grace Sawers.

'Spott,'
Wych Hill Lane,
Woking, Surrey.

Another Corps first

CORPS SOLDIER GAINS B.A. DEGREE IN OPEN UNIVERSITY

W.O.1 (F. of S.) P. D. WATTON, of the Communications Projects Agency, School of Signals, has acquired a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Open University, and is believed to be the first soldier of Royal Signals to do so.

Foreman Watton started work for the Open University in February 1972. He had a flying start; his HNC with level 3 honours in communications engineering, microwave engineering and computer engineering was allowed to count for two full credits towards the total of eight required for his degree. In three years work, he obtained a full credit in the technology foundation course, followed by half-credits in electromagnetics and electronics, an algorithmic approach to computing, mathematics for science and technology, mechanics and applied calculus, statistics, and instrumentation.

He now goes on to a further year and hopes to convert his pass degree into an honours degree for another Corps first.

Any soldier wishing to follow in his footsteps is advised to consult his unit Education Officer very soon indeed. The Open University is already taking applications for students who want to start in 1976, and some subjects have long waiting lists. You don't have to have 'O' Levels to start.

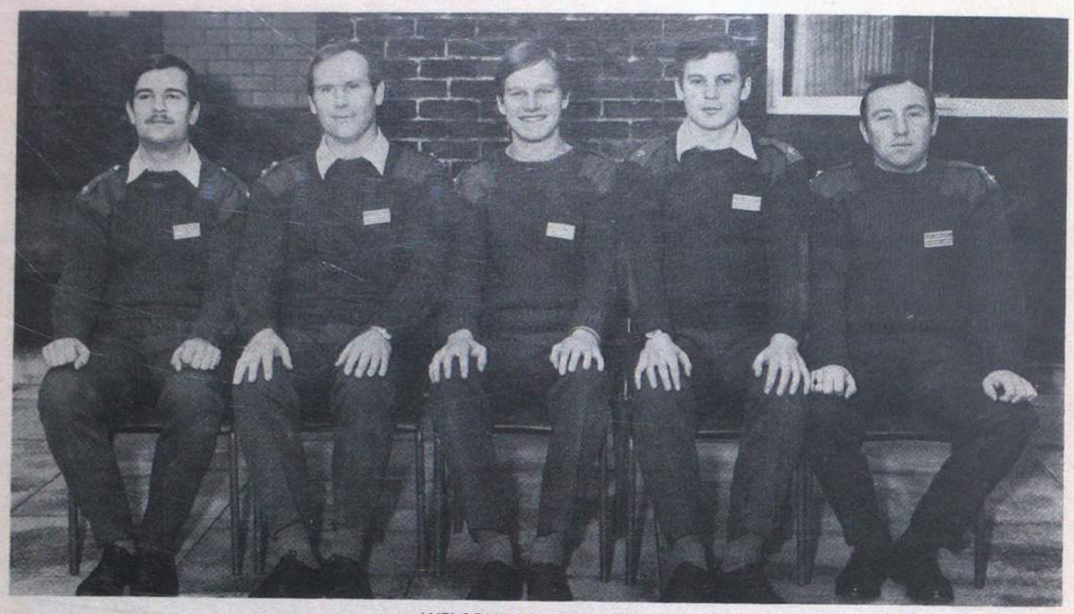
Ex-Signalman issued with new beret

ONE of the more pleasant tasks undertaken by Commander 2 Signal Group was the presentation of a Royal Signals beret to **ex-Signalman Fletcher.**

Angus Fletcher, whose 34 years service terminated in 1951, was very proud of his beret which he retained on discharge wearing it day in and day our until it became rather shabby. His young niece, worried as to what sort of present she could give her uncle on his 75th birthday, hit upon a bright idea; a new beret! It was found impossible to buy one locally and so the niece wrote to "The QM Aldershot" stating her predicament and seeking the issue of a new beret. From HQ South East District the letter filtered down to HQ 2 Signal Group. Arrangements were made for **Mr. Fletcher** and his niece to visit Aldershot, a place he had not seen since 1934. At HQ 2 Signal Group they met **Brigadier Baldwin** and after coffee the beret was presented.

Signalman Fletcher enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1917 transferring to Royal Signals in 1927. He has served in India (1919–1939!) Egypt and the Sudan and would be very pleased to hear from any of his contemporaries. He lives at 62 Scotland Green, Tottenham, London N17.

Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin presents Ex-Signalman Angus Fletcher with a new beret. In the background, Miss Feldwick, Mr. Fletcher's niece



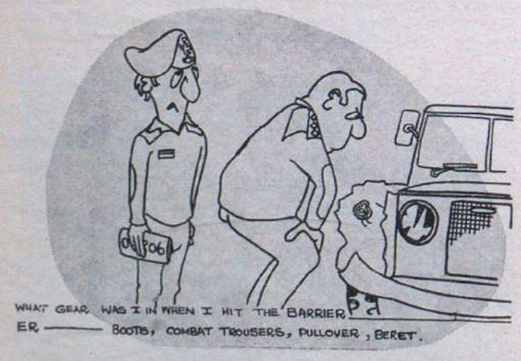
WELCOME TO THE CORPS

No. 5 Royal Signals Officers introductory visit to the School of Signals, 5–17 January 1975.
Left to right: Second Lieutenant Crane, Lieutenant Lowe, Second-Lieutenant Leather, Second-Lieutenant Simpson, Lieutenant Sherman

'Check M'eight'

The above is the title of a book of some 60 odd cartoons drawn by **'Carl'** of 8th Signal Regiment and edited by **'Tank' Nash.** The theme of these amusing cartoons centre on daily happenings in the 8th Regiment and the book should provide light-hearted entertainment to all who have had any connection with the Regiment either on the cadre or on training courses—and indeed to anyone in the Corps who likes to see the military machine amusingly debunked.

Price is 30p plus 5p postage from PRI, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison. We reproduce a specimen cartoon below.



Aldershot Branch Dinner

The annual dinner of the Aldershot Branch will be held at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants on Saturday, 10th May 1975. Assembly 7.15 p.m. for dinner at 8 p.m. All enquiries to **A. V. Ient,** Hon. Sec., 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, or telephone: Aldershot 23658.

Royal Signals Yacht Club, U.K.

The UK group of the Royal Signals Y.C. Dinghy Regatta will be held in Bosuns at *HMS Excellent,* Whale Island, Portsmouth, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 20th and 21st May 1975. There will be a race for retired officers on Wednesday afternoon. Following the regatta on Thursday 22nd May, there will be team racing practice.

The two RSYC yachts *Skywave* and *Quicksilver* are available for charter by units or individuals from 1st April 1975 to 15th October 1975. New charges for both yachts for this season are:

Adventurous Training : £16·00 per day

Private charter : £8·50 per day

Bids from Unit Sailing Officers and individuals should be sent to:

Royal Signals Yacht Club,
c/o **Major M. Y. Miller,**
Procurement Executive,
Ministry of Defence, S.R.D.E.,
Christchurch BH23 4JB.
Tel: Highcliffe 71311, Ext. 427.

Uniform for sale

Royal Signals No. 1 Dress, hat size 7, Royal Signals Mess Kit—jacket, waistcoat and overalls. Tailored according to the following measurements: neck 15 inch, chest 36 inch, waist 31 inch, seat 37 inch, inside leg 29 inch. All items are in very good condition having seen active mess service on only a few celebrated occasions over a period of three years.

If interested phone Bulford Camp 3371, ext. 442 (12 AEC, Larkhill).

Good work by the Corps in Cyprus

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

B.E.M. awarded to **A/W.O.2 (F. of S.) G. Yule,** 644 Signal Troop HQ UNFICYP.

H.M. THE QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

A/Sergeant R. Burnett, 644 Signal Troop HQ UNFICYP.

COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES NEAR EAST PERSONAL COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—CYPRUS EMERGENCY 1974

Major T. E. D. Baxter, Force Signal Officer, HQ UNFICYP.
Staff Sergeant P. J. Hodgson, 259 Squadron.
Corporal G. F. Dyer, 262 Squadron.
Corporal M. J. N. Palmer, 9th Signal Regiment.
Corporal R. Shalliker, 262 Squadron.
Lance-Corporal I. Plater, 644 Signal Troop HQ UNFICYP.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS OF 644 SIGNAL TROOP FROM MAJOR T. E. D. BAXTER THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE SIGNALS OFFICER DURING THE CYPRUS EMERGENCY

"**Lieutenant-General D. Prem Chand, P.V.S.M.** the United Nations Force Commander said that throughout the Emergency in Cyprus in 1974 he was continually reminded of the excellent communications he had been provided with in the United Nations Force and his appreciation was shown on several reports he made to the United Nations Secretary General. Everyone in the Force knew how hard you all worked under fire, denied reinforcement and deprived of all amenities in the full scale circumstances of war and they have expressed their praise to me on many occasions, for your diligence and successes.

I would have liked to personally congratulate and thank you all for the excellent way in which you conducted yourselves during the Cyprus Emergency. I know that many of you were most gallant and did more than could have been expected of you as soldiers, technicians and tradesmen. Alas we are now scattered around the Corps.

You will have learnt by now that some of your team have been given awards by Her Majesty the Queen and by the Commander-in-Chief of the Near East Land Forces. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating them.

May I say, as your Forces Signals Officer, how proud I was of you all and how much I personally appreciated what each of you did to contribute to the success of the United Nations operation at the time and in the most difficult circumstances of modern warfare. You never failed to provide every requirement put to you passing all the tests with flying colours. Thank you for all the personal sacrifices you made and I hope that the experience you have gained will inspire each one of you to a very successful career in the Corps and the Army. WELL DONE 644 Troop".

WIRE ECONOMY

We want your unit notes but avoid undue length by 'padding out' and reporting trivial events in detail. News of individuals and their activities is always welcome.

Obituary

Brigadier F. W. Nicholls, C.B.E.

Brigadier Frederick Williams Nicholls enlisted as a territorial in the Royal Artillery in 1908 and at the outbreak of the First World War he went out to India with the 6th Hampshire Battery RA. After being commissioned into the Indian Army in 1915 he specialized in wireless and served from 1916 to 1924 in Mesopotamia, Iraq and North West Persia with No. 2 Wireless Section, 48th Divisional Signal Company and 4 GHQ Wireless Observation Group. During this period he was mentioned in despatches three times and appointed M.B.E. He transferred to the Corps in 1923 and after a short break in the UK he returned to India in 1925 as GSOIII Intelligence at Army HQ where he established direct wireless communications with the British Embassy in Kabul during the Afghan rebellion of 1928. For his services at this time he was promoted O.B.E. He returned to the UK in 1930 and went out to Palestine where he remained until 1939 having commanded No. 2 Wireless Company and for a short period officiated as CSO Palestine in the rank of colonel. During the Second World War he served on the staff, mainly in intelligence, finishing up as a Director of Signals Special Forces. In this capacity he was responsible for the organization and conduct of communications in the resistance movement throughout Europe. For his work in this field he was promoted C.B.E., awarded the Croix de Guerre avec Palme, and the King Christian Liberty Medal, and was appointed Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, Commander of the Order of Orange Nassau with Swords, and officer of the Legion of Merit.

F. W. Nicholls was a widely experienced officer particularly in wireless communications. He was a good linguist having a working knowledge of Russian, Arabic and French which enabled him to evaluate technical intelligence. He was thoroughly familiar with the Middle East having been a King's Messenger between Teheran and Constantinople from 1918 to 1920 and having crossed the desert eight times between Cairo and Baghdad. He died at his home at Coombe Bisset near Salisbury on 18th December 1974 at the age of 85. We would like to express our deep sympathy to his wife Marjorie.

Major S. D. Allaway, M.M.

Major Sidney David Allaway died of a heart attack on 20th October 1974, he was only 54. He enlisted as a territorial in 1938 in the Royal Engineers and transferred to the Corps in 1939. He was commissioned from the rank of sergeant in 1943. Prior to the war he was employed in the GPO and served for most of the war in Egypt and the Middle East. It was whilst serving as a line maintenance sergeant that he was awarded the M.M. in 1942 for continuous and outstanding devotion to duty in repairing and maintaining lines in the Corps area. After the War he served in a variety of units at home and overseas including Gurka Signals and as an instructor at the School of Signals.

Sidney will be remembered with affection by many friends, in both British and Gurkha Signals. During his eight years service with Gurkha Signals, he was one of the officers who helped to form the emerging regiment. He joined as a Captain in 1953 and after a short spell as Adjutant was appointed as the first OC No. 3 Squadron (British Signals Troops) when the regimental establishment was approved in October 1953. For his untiring efforts in what was a difficult command, covering as it did the southern part of Malaya, Sidney was mentioned in despatches in 1955. He continued to serve as a Squadron Commander until 1958 and then returned in 1960 to complete his service with Gurkha Signals as Regimental Second in Command until 1962. He retired in 1965 to take up employment with the Plessey Company.

Sidney was first and foremost a Regimental Officer, although he held several Signals staff appointments and was Adjutant of 61 HQ Army Signal Regiment (TA) from 1958 to 1960. His main concern was for those who served under him which was always sincere and complete. It was his thought for his subordinates more than anything that earned him the respect and loyalty he enjoyed throughout his service particularly with the Gurkha Signal Regiment. Throughout he was most ably supported by his wife Pat and it is to her and daughtersMadeline, Cynthia and Fiona that our sincere sympathies go.

Major A. J. E. Cheshire

It is with regret that we report the death on 6th December of Major A. J. E. Cheshire at the early age of 50. He enlisted in the Corps in 1942 and was commissioned as a Traffic Officer in 1957. During the next 13 years he spent 10 years overseas in the Middle East, BAOR, Malaysia and Cyprus. He retired to Cheltenham in 1970 and we would like to express our very sincere sympathy to his family in their loss.

Captain G. W. Ogden

Captain Guy William Ogden died at the age of 75 on 3rd December 1975. He was commissioned into the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) in 1919 and transferred to the Corps in 1924, having been seconded in 1921. He spent most of his life in Egypt and the Sudan both whilst serving and after retirement, but between service overseas he was an undergraduate at Cambridge (1926–27), an instructor at the School of Signals (1927–1930) and commanded Aldershot Command Signal Company from 1930 to 1931. He was seconded to the Sudan Defence Force in 1931 and whilst there established an HF network using handspeed morse, which subsequently formed the basis of the existing radio communications in that country. After retiring from the Corps in 1936 he became Assistant Chief Engineer in the Sudan P & T where he developed a comprehensive communications network, with such success that he was promoted Chief Engineer in 1938. During the 1939–45 War he was recalled to active service but continued his work in the Sudan, extending and developing the communications system. After his second retirement in 1945 he joined the Audit Department in the Sudan and in the middle 1950s he left the Government service for one of the cotton syndicates in the Gezira having served the Sudan Government for some 30 years.

Guy had a quiet almost retiring disposition allied to a lively and boyish self confidence. He pursued a steady and progressive course through his domain with an outward calm worthy of the best leaders. He was one of many ex-members of the Corps who have developed communications in fields outside the army as a result of their training and experience within the Corps and have thereby enhanced respect and affection for the Corps amongst those in other countries and fields. Outside his work Guy's main interest was in sailing all types of craft. Although Guy retired as a relatively junior officer he contributed much to communications both inside and outside the Corps. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family on his death.

Major (Q.M.) J. W. T. Snell

The sad news has just been received of the death of Major John Snell late of the Corps. He enlisted in the Corps in 1928 and was commissioned in 1941. During his time with the Corps he served overseas in India, Singapore, Egypt, Kenya as well as home postings at Catterick, Colchester, Devon, Chester and Birmingham. After leaving the Army he took a considerable interest in Civil Defence where he was associated with Major-General C. M. F. White, late of the Corps—who had known him for many years.

Many will have had contacts with him during these various postings and, although since his retirement in 1962 not much has been heard of him, there will certainly be a number of his old friends who will mourn his passing. Our sympathy goes to his wife at 17, Highdown Road, Hove, Sussex as well as to his son and two daughters.

Sergeant R. S. Smith

Mr. Jim Robson, Hon. Sec. of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Branch of the Association writes:

The sudden death of ex-Sergeant R. S. Smith on 20th January came as a sad shock to many of his friends. Sergeant Smith served in the Regular Corps from March 1947 until March 1959. He was an active member of the Branch and never missed a monthly meeting since retiring from the Corps and joining the Branch. He was even at the January 1975 meeting held on the Thursday prior to his death. He leaves a widow, who lives at 1, Clipstone Close, Throckley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 9LU.

W.O.1 James Drugan, M.S.M.

Mr. J. J. Goggin, Hon. Sec. of the Shrewsbury Branch writes:

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of W.O.1 James Drugan, M.S.M. on Sunday, 22nd December 1974. Jimmy was a very well known member of the Corps. He enlisted as a boy in April 1943 and trained at A/T Boys Squadron, Catterick until joining 1st Trade Training Battalion in March 1946. After qualifying at his trade he was posted to War Office Signal Regiment until he obtained a posting to Singapore where he served with AWC Signal Squadron. In April 1955 he was again with War Office Signal Regiment until December 1955 when he was posted to 1 Squadron UK Command Central Signal Regiment where he stayed for 3 years; then he was once again in Singapore in September 1958, this time with the Operating Squadron. From then on with only short breaks in the UK, he served in the following units—18th Regiment, 16th Regiment, 228 Signal Squadron SHAPE, 15th Regiment, Aden and his final posting was to 610 Signal Troop (Equipment) at Donnington from where he settled down on his retirement at Donnington. He was employed by 241 Signal Squadron as a Telecommunication Operator at HQ West Midland District. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife and family on their loss.

Movements

FEBRUARY

Officers

Major B. J. Austin	.. ..	.. To 1 Div HQ and Signal Regiment
Major M. Allen	.. ..	.. ,, HQ Training Brigade
Lieutenant I. R. C. Brown	..	.. ,, 12 Mechanized Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Major G. Barnett	.. ..	.. ,, MOD (MDS 1D)
Major J. E. Barnes	.. ..	.. ,, 229 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant E. C. Cameron	..	.. ,, School of Signals
Captain M. J. C. Cartwright	..	.. ,, Attached HQ 3 Infantry Brigade
Captain (Tfc) J. N. Clark	..	.. ,, 241 Signal Squadron
Major S. Cowan	.. ..	.. ,, MOD (AG Secretariat)
Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Cuerden		.. ,, 11 Signal Regiment
Captain D. W. Dobson	..	.. ,, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Major D. G. Dudley	..	.. ,, 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. M. Emslie	..	.. ,, School of Signals
Major F. R. Fletcher	..	.. ,, Attached MOD (AG11)
Captain (TOT) G. W. Fordom		.. ,, 242 Signal Squadron
Major G. R. Funnell	..	.. ,, 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain G. H. Goodman	..	.. ,, 261 Signal Squadron
Major S. G. McK. Gordon	..	.. ,, 48 Gurkha Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain R. J. Holmes	..	.. ,, 14 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. P. Howshall	..	.. ,, School of Signals
Major D. Hunt	.. ..	.. ,, 1 Artillery Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Lieutenant A. J. Hutt	..	.. ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant P. T. Innocent	..	.. ,, 16/5 The Queen's Royal Lancers
Lieutenant A. M. Jones	..	.. ,, 2 Regiment AAC
Captain F. S. Mackenzie	..	.. ,, HQ 3 Signal Group
Major R. F. Maynard	..	.. ,, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain P. F. Meaning	..	.. ,, 11 Signal Regiment HQ (retiring)
Major J. Mills	..	.. ,, 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment
Major (QM) T. P. O'Connor	..	.. ,, MOD (Signals 36)
Lieutenant R. W. Palmer	..	.. ,, 11 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) J. A. Parkin	..	.. ,, 610 Signal Troop
Captain D. C. Podevin	..	.. ,, 7 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant P. Richards	..	.. ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant T. E. M. Richardson		.. ,, 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Colonel I. M. Rose	.. ..	.. ,, Chemical Defence Estab., Porton
Major T. B. Scarff	..	.. ,, HQ 1 (BR) Corps (Project Wavell)
Major A. R. Seward	..	.. ,, 14 Signal Regiment
Major R. A. C. Siderfin	..	.. ,, 7 Signal Regiment
Captain T. N. Singleton	..	.. ,, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Captain (TOT) T. McK. Stoddart, M.B.E.		,, 261 Signal Squadron
Major J. F. Starr	.. ..	.. ,, RMC of S, Shrivenham
Captain J. R. Stuart	..	.. ,, 30 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant B. J. Styles	..	.. ,, 259 Signal Squadron
Captain C. J. Walters	..	.. ,, School of Signals
Major (Q.M.) R. A. Webb	..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. J. Evans	..	.. ,, Univ. College of Wales, Aberystwyth

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1 R. E. Brodie	.. ..	.. To HQ UKLF
W.O.2 A. D. Hewett	..	.. ,, HQ 1 (BR) Corps
W.O.2 C. S. Mason	..	.. ,, 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
W.O.2 R. Bowes	..	.. ,, 34 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 F. T. Donovan	..	.. ,, Scarborough Signal Training Centre
W.O.2 W. Y. N. Grierson	..	.. ,, Manchester University OTC
W.O.2 H. Simister	..	.. ,, 11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop
W.O.2 M. W. Teague	..	.. ,, 36 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 R. Watson	.. ..	.. ,, 13 Cadet Training Team
W.O.2 (F. of S.) L. R. Crowe	..	.. ,, Communications Project Agency Royal Signals
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. Allen	..	.. ,, HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) W. D. Dyke	..	.. ,, 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. Gallacher	..	.. ,, HQ 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
A/W.O.2 J. N. Gelling	.. ..	.. ,, School of Signals
A/W.O.2 L. Coupe	.. ..	.. ,, 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Staff Sergeant J. G. Chambers		.. ,, 34 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant S. Leggett	..	.. ,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Staff Sergeant P. G. Rossall	..	.. ,, 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Staff Sergeant B. Steele	..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. Wray	..	.. ,, 22 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. T. Young	..	.. ,, 33 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant D. Brookes	.. ..	.. ,, 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant M. R. Vaughan	..	.. ,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant T. Hayden	.. ..	.. ,, HQ 39 Iniantry Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. Sellars	.. ..	.. ,, 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. W. Lockwood	..	.. ,, 11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. F. Reynolds	..	.. ,, HQ 7 Armoured Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. S. Farmer	..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant E. A. Mulvana	..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. M. Raybould	..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant I. G. Cripps	..	.. ,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant R. G. P. Harris	..	.. ,, 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant R. I. Scott	.. ..	.. ,, 10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Dickenson	..	.. ,, 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Board	..	.. ,, HQ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant F. W. Martin	.. ..	.. ,, 11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Pearce	.. ..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Croad-Brangwyn		.. ,, 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant M. T. Nevill	..	.. ,, School of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant D. M. Tankard	..	.. ,, 641 Signal Troop (HQ 2 ATAF)
Sergeant D. Lightfoot	..	.. ,, 37 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant M. W. Moir	..	.. ,, 261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
Sergeant A. V. Smith	..	.. ,, 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
Sergeant D. B. Clarke	..	.. ,, 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant R. B. Marshall	..	.. ,, 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. C. Doane	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant P. Hodgkinson	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant M. Johnson	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant W. Ritchie	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant K. B. Stevens	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant M. A. Thornton	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant B. R. Tranter	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant S. G. Watson	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant R. D. Wright	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
Sergeant K. Rodgers	..	.. ,, 264 Signal Squadron (SAS)
Sergeant D. K. Burst	..	.. ,, HQ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant S. Barnett	..	.. ,, 38 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant T. Williamson	..	.. ,, 537 Rear Link Detachment
Sergeant J. E. Hurel	..	.. ,, 567 Rear Link Detachment
Sergeant E. Birchell	..	.. ,, 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant J. M. Irwin	..	.. ,, HQ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. J. Philbrook	..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant I. T. Rann	..	.. ,, 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant C. Easton	..	.. ,, 11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. S. Johnstone	..	.. ,, SHAPE HQ Command and Support (BE)
Sergeant S. J. Pedley	..	.. ,, 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
A/Sergeant I. A. Bell	..	.. ,, 8 Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant B. M. R. Spence	..	.. ,, SHAPE HQ Command and Support (BE)
A/Sergeant J. Bestford	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
A/Sergeant R. L. Holt	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
A/Sergeant S. J. Walls	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27
A/Sergeant D. M. Wood	..	.. ,, School of Signals Y. of S. Course 27

Did you serve in India during the period September 1939 to 15 August 1947?—Then perhaps you can help

The Indian Corps of Signals are making valiant attempts to write the history of Indian Signals and much has been done by the dedicated work of such personalities as **Brigadier Tony Baretto, Lieutenant-Colonel Jiwan Singh** and **Subedar Majors Ahmed Khan** and **Anthony Muthu.** However, the period mentioned above, although in preliminary draft form, needs much more material to make it a 'live' and interesting document. There must be many retired as well as a certain number of serving members of the Corps who could help with articles, anecdotes, photographs, sketches or diagrams on *anything* to do with Indian Signals during this important period.

If you feel you can help do please write to:

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Dhamija (Retired),
c/o Inspectorate of Signals Trades Training,
Mandla Road,
Jabalpur (M.P.), India.

Anything you can do will be much appreciated.

The Corps cares for its own

Number of cases assisted financially in December 1974.		
Ordinary grants:		34
Christmas grants:		204
		238
Number of parcels sent:		47
Amount spent:	**Ordinary grants:**	£771·10
	Christmas grants:	£1,035·00
		£1,806·10

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

EX-SIGNALMAN, served 1922 to 1928. Now aged 71 and confined to the house owing to chest trouble. The Association has helped him and his wife with clothing parcels during the year, and a special Christmas gift of £5·00 was sent to enable them to get a few extra comforts. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

WE hasten to let you know that we received the card and really magnificent practical Christmas gift safely. How does one, in words on paper, say Thank You? Not so much for the gift itself, but for the kindness and concern that prompted it. Do please convey our very sincere thanks and gratitude to all concerned who made such a wonderful gift possible. Please believe us when I say we were really touched by your kindness.

Thank You!

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

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V), Major P. R. Davies, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Major R. T. M. Sharp, Miss Patterson, Royal Signals Association, Bristol Branch, Major-General R. J. Moberly, Mrs. J. T. Dexter, Colonel E. J. Bardell, Captain P. Whitemore, Captain A. H. Wright, W.O.1 Jepson, W.O.2 W. J. Clark, Mr. J. L. Smith, Mrs. S. F. G. Heath, Major R. A. Ellis, Mrs. B. Riley, Mr. A. W. Smith, Mrs. E. Fladgate, Major and Mrs. S. Law, Captain P. W. Todd, Mr. A. Walsh.

Colonel F. K. Wilson, Mr. W. E. Osborne, Corporal J. S. Bailes, Colonel E. J. Bardell, Major E. G. Williams, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. O'Meara, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Morgan, Mrs. V. E. Haslett, Major-General C. E. Page, Major J. H. W. Roake, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, Major-General M. D. Price, Mrs. D. Purser.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

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A Pensioner's Christmas

Submitted by 4 Div HQ & Sig Regt

☆

Two Corps old timers enjoy a wonderful Christmas in BAOR which included a helicopter flight, a visit to a German tank Regiment and, of course, numerous parties. Their verdict when toasting the Regiment "You're as good as ever we were."

RECEIVING THEIR OBSERVERS WINGS

After a helicopter flight in a Gazelle, Lieutenant-Colonel Shrimpton, the CO of 4th Division AAC, presents our flying pensioners with their observers wings.

BACKGROUND

THE tale begins back in September last year when **R.S.M. Richardson** decided that the Sergeants' Mess were going to invite two Chelsea Pensioners to spend Christmas with the Regiment. Correspondence started to flow between Herford and Chelsea and eventually the two main characters of our story were selected. **Corporal Michael Stamford,** better known as **Mick,** was born in 1898. He joined up in February 1917 and served as an infanteer with the Middlesex and Beds and Herts Regiments in France. After a spell in the reserve he joined the Corps in 1923 and served as a lineman until 1943 mainly in India and UK. **Sergeant Dick Osgood 'Ossie'** to his pals, was born in 1908. He came straight into the Corps in 1924 and served in India as a Wireless Operator. In 1931 he transferred to the Reserve but was recalled to the Colours in August 1939. He had a varied and exciting war, working with the Belgians, evacuated from Dunkirk, to North Africa and then into Italy, finishing up instructing the Italians in operating our wirless equipment. These then were our visitors who stepped off the plane at Gutersloh on 11th December, resplendent in their blue uniform, to be met by the R.S.M.

PAST MEMORIES

Two events on the trip East to Herford are worth mentioning. **Pensioner Mick Stamford** asked the R.S.M. wistfully if we could pop in to see Koln again on the way. He was told that it was in the other direction! Asked when he last visited the city, 1918 was the answer! **Pensioner Dick Osgood** pointed to an advertising board in Gutersloh and said "Now I'll do your translating old mate" to his friend. "You see that bottle of schnapps on the board that says 'ein stonedorfer?' well one of those and you're stone deaf." He was given a German phrase book in the western desert!

LAD CHRISTMAS PARTY

After settling in at the Sergeants' Mess and being introduced to their guides and escorts for their stay, **Sergeants Andy Anderson, Gerry Craggs** and **Dave Chivers,** the two gentlemen sampled the Mess 'cuisine', picked their places at the bar, and were then taken to the Quadrant Club, where they were guests

The Chelsea Pensioners at Lister School, Herford Garrison, visiting the infants who sang for them

at the LAD Christmas Party. The tone for the rest of their stay with the Regiment was set at this party, and their popularity ensured a very full programme with only four, so called quiet days, a blessing to their escorts who were showing signs of wear after the first week.

STILL UP WITH THEIR TRADE

Apart from their very heavy social programme which involved evenings only, the pensioners had a very comprehensive tour of all departments within the Regiment during working hours, **Pensioner Dick Osgood** took 15s from **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dave Weston,** and caused a few raised eyebrows and back paces in the TOT's department when explaining the theory of gas filled neon tubes and principles of street wiring, not forgotten

(Continued on page 45)

(Continued from page 44)

from his days as a lighting engineer. **Pensioner Mick Stamford** very quickly earned a belt and pliers after telling Line Troop of his escapades as a Lineman in India during World War II.

Visits to 4 Division Regiment AAC with a trip in a Gazelle and the presentation of their observers wings by the CO of that Regiment and a visit to 213 Panzer Battalion where they were given a very warm welcome, were highlights of their stay in Herford.

CHRISTMAS TOAST

Pensioner Mick Stamford unfortunately had to go into hospital for three days and so missed the soldiers regimental Christmas Dinner. His opposite number however, formed up as right marker and set the pace for the Divisional HQ and Regimental Officers and SNCOs who were marched to the Cookhouse by **Sergeant Dave Manders** to serve the meal. **Pensioner Dick Osgood** caused the soldiers to 'raise the roof' when he

The Pensioners receiving a souvenir plate from the Commanding Officer of 213 Panzer Battalion to mark their visit to his unit at Augustdorf

'CHEERS'

Pensioner Dick Osgood drinks a toast with two members of the Regiment, Signalman R. F. Taylor (R) and Signalman K. Shaw who hail from his home town of Luton

made his speech, after being given his christmas present by the Commanding Officer, by saying "You're as good as ever we were".

Both pensioners were invited out for dinner on both Christmas Day and Boxing Day by members of the Sergeants' Mess and had a splendid time opening presents for the children of those families involved.

A VISIT ENJOYED BY ALL

It only remains to be said that all members of 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment were delighted to be able to have the two pensioners as guests and thank them for the pleasure and enjoyment they gave to us during their stay. We enjoyed your company.

Incidentally, there are eight Royal Signals Pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea! (Seventeen when we checked quite recently—EDITOR.)

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Our Northern Ireland tours have been heavily used, reaching a peak in the summer at the time of the religious festivities. Again this is an experience many speak of with some emotion and reminiscences over Christmas have given those who have not had this never-to-be forgotten chance, some idea (at length) of what it entails.

EVEN STONEHENGE!

We were able to arrange visits to the wooded hills and smiling villages of central Germany on several occasions and enjoy the hospitality for which some of that country's inhabitants are so justly famous. One of these was a large scale ornithological expedition of two weeks duration. Denmark too has been a popular line. We have however some more select lines: six months in sunny Belize for two (?) four months in fabulous Malawi for four (raincoats) and exciting times in the Appenines in Italy for a round dozen (a gourmets delight).

Tours at home are not forgotten and apart from our regular trips to the country around Stonehenge we have organized tours to the Farnham firs and Swindon valley, the latter of which has to be seen to be believed.

COURTESY AND EFFICIENCY THE KEYNOTE

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HADRIAN'S WALL CONQUERED TWICE

8th Regiment show their mettle!

First a marching party of 110 men divided into teams of 10, each traversing a portion of the wall on a relay basis, covered the 84 miles from one end to the other in just over 16 hours. No sooner was this completed than the challenge was taken up by a relay team of eight NCO's who, running in turn as individuals completed the course in ten and three-quarter hours, two weeks later. Pretty good going all will admit.

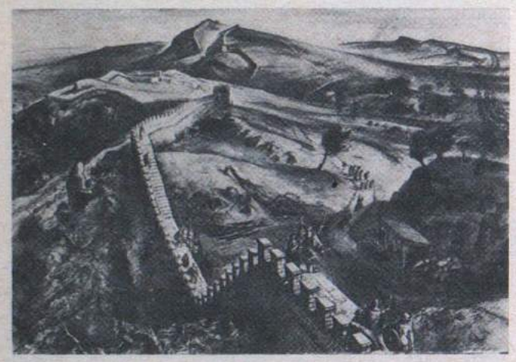
HISTORICAL

This outstanding Roman antiquity originated in the 2nd century. When the Emperor Hadrian visited Britain in AD 122 he was obsessed with the need to secure the boundaries of his empire and he charged his newly appointed Regional Governor, **Aulus Platoruis Nepos,** with the task of constructing a frontier defence system across the neck of Britain—the remains of which today is commonly known as Hadrians Wall.

At first the wall was to be patrolled by frontier guards from the milecastles and turrets spaced at regular intervals, with infantry battalions and cavalry regiments housed in existing forts like Corbridge and Stonegate. But while the wall was being built plans were changed and forts for these troops were built along the line of the wall itself. At the same time the earthwork known as the Vallum was added—a steep flat-bottomed ditch.

Hadrian's Wall extended from Wallsend-on-Tyne to Bowness-on-Solway—a distance of 73 English or 80 Roman miles.

The stone wall was originally intended to be 10 feet thick and 15 feet high to the parapet walk—see reconstruction drawing below.



A reconstruction of the wall

MY GARDEN WALL ISN'T HALF AS LONG OR HALF AS HIGH AS HADRIANS

THE MARCH IS PLANNED

The only stretch of the wall that is preserved and can be walked along is between Swingshields and Brampton—a distance of some 15 miles.

Coincident with the end of the Regimental training season, 2 Squadron decided to get away from it all and set a challenge with hopes for an entry in the Guiness Book of Records by marching along the wall.

A contingent of 110 men from 2 Squadron set out from Wallsend, in relays, to Bowness—a distance of 84 miles, which was completed in 16 hours 7 minutes.

The men were not specially selected, nor had they done any previous training special to this challenge. They were a mixed bunch of young partially trade trained, and older fully trained soldiers—including as our picture on the front cover shows a Roman soldier from the past.

JOURNEY'S END—84 MILES AND 16 HOURS LATER

Leaving Wallsend at midnight Friday, 15th November they marched in teams of ten, throughout the night and following day carrying the Squadron pennant. With the smell of the chippies of Newcastle and the nightclubs behind us, timing seemed to improve! Out in the open country, and then on to the Wall itself by first light—through Carlisle and ending at the little village of Bowness late on Saturday afternoon at 16.07 hours when the Squadron pennant was placed on a grass mound; the last emplacement of the 'founders of the wall'.

Two base camps were set up under the direction of **Staff Sergeant Lumley.** The first ten miles West of Heddon-on-the-Wall and the second just North of Carlisle Airport.

The Squadron completed its weekend with a well deserved drink at a pub called the *Dog and Hound* on the wall.

Well, there was the challenge—We claimed a record! Who could do better?

OUR CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

A tourist out and about the route of the wall on Sunday, 1st December would perhaps have spotted a lone aged figure clad in track suit and determined expression jogging head down against the wind. A question or two would have revealed the weary figure to be one of a team of eight—average age 36½ years—who had picked this day to run from Wallsend to Bowness under the guise of 'The Joggers Club' Christmas outing.

INNOCENTS CAUGHT IN THE NET

The idea was nurtured and brought to fruition by the SMI, **W.O.1 Norman Springall.** Team selection was a simple process of including all those who had been too slow to say "NO" to a seemingly casual question—"We are thinking of doing a run along Hadrian's Wall—do you fancy coming along?" Caught in the net were **Staff Sergeant Ron Marshall, Corporal Peter Havelin, Staff Sergeant Frank Needham, Sergeant Bert Baron, Sergeant 'Des' Ross, Sergeant George Holden** and **Staff Sergeant Peter Rossall.** These together with our two drivers **Signalmen Dove** and **Hall** and, of course, the SMI formed the team.

RENDEZVOUS AT 0400 HOURS

Rather surprisingly we managed to meet at the appointed time 0400 hours, albeit a little short of enthusiasm, and boarded the coach to start our outing. In Newcastle we picked up a representative from Dr. Barnado's Homes who was to be a neutral observer but who in fact, turned out to be a very willing helper, even to the point of removing his tie, donning plimsolls, and guiding our first runner through the trickier parts of Newcastle.

OFF IN THE DARK

At 0540 hours our first runner, **Staff Sergeant Marshall** having completed his warm up exercises, which mainly consisted of waking up, left the coach and bounded away into the dark empty streets of Newcastle. Within a seemingly short space of time he was clear of the town and the next runner was off.

AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

By midday we had reached the one cross country stage. This section was ably tackled by the veteran of the party, 45-years-old **Staff Sergeant Frank Needham** accompanied by **Staff Sergeant Marshall** who had now recovered from his earlier exertions. During this stage the runners were completely out of contact with the coach but, despite some anxiety, they appeared on the skyline in good time to keep us ahead of schedule. Soon after finishing our veteran was observed slinking off to a nearby pub where he replenished his lost body fluid with the first pint and assuaged his aching limbs with the second.

FINAL STAGE

The afternoon passed in a now familiar pattern with the runner battling on against a very high head wind. Carlisle was negotiated without any mishaps and with the light fading rapidly the final stage—seven miles into Bowness—was handed over to **Sergeant George Holden** (surely the original 'Road Runner') for his second run of the day. He lived up to his reputation and covered the distance at a phenomenal pace to finish at 1645 hours—**the total distance had been covered in 10 hours 45 minutes.**

At the conclusion the team agreed unanimously that despite the early start, the high winds and the aching limbs it had been a most satisfying day. Besides, which, thanks to our many generous sponsors a sum in excess of £135 had been raised for Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

P.S.—From a previous edition of THE WIRE it is noted that 11th Signal Regiment took 3 days!

Blandford Station Music and Drama Club present 'Hans the Witch and the Gobbin'

AUDIENCE TOTALS 500 PLUS

ONCE again the Princess Mary Hall was the in-place to be for amateur theatricals. The Drama Section of the Station Music and Drama Club staged 'Hans, The Witch and The Gobbin' as their Autumn production. This was a break from the usual type of play put on at this time of year, the aim being to attract new audiences, particularly the younger set, whilst retaining our regular customers. We think we succeeded, and feel that the 500 plus members of our audience would agree.

This fantasy play had a large case and so gave many club members the opportunity to tread the boards who otherwise would have been backstage. As it turned out many had to do both anyway!

NEW FACES PLEASE

New faces on stage were **Stephanie Brayshaw,** who gave a delightful performance as the Gobbin (see OED for definition); our only regret that we did not see more of her—on stage of course: **Lieutenant Rosemary Hewlett,** who made her debut and finale on the Blandford stage, was the beautiful Princess and very well cast too—sadly her posting to Northern Ireland means that we will not see any more of her. **Carole Hardy,** a dowser extraordinaire, managed to break her water-divining rod at every performance and was left each night with a handful of twigs—still you know what dowsers are. **Captain Andrew Briggs** and **Len Tusler,** were the Morecombe and Wise of the play, though which one has the short, fat hairy legs we never discovered.

OLD HANDS IN USUAL GOOD FORM

The remainder of the cast were well-known to our audiences **Major Richard Sprague** played the King in his first non singing role; at least that was how it was intended but **Richard** persuaded the audience to join him in a rendering of 'Old MacDonald had a Farm'—you know the rest. **Kay Everett** made an excellent Secretary (she will never go wanting for a job!) whilst **Val Tusler** was a convincing swineherd (she will never want that job). Her swine were the mother and daughter team of **Micky** and **Karim Bumby** who successfully 'Hoinked' their way through four performances and numerous rehearsals whilst still retaining their dignities. **Pat Whiteley,** flushed with her successes backstage at make-up and prompt, needed no prompting at all as she flittered hither and yon as the fairest of Witches—the children loved her but what the witches section of equity will have to say we don't know. **Lilian Williams,** playing an uncharacteristic role as a 'goody', gave the part of the Queen of the Forest plenty of lift and strength—she may find it difficult to return to being a 'baddy'. Finally the young handsome hero, who didn't turn into a pumpkin to everybody's disappointment, was **Major Hugh Bonaker**—never at a loss for words though sadly they were only the playwrites. The whole show was produced by **Brian Whitely** who vowed never to produce again!

Strengths behind stage were **Nora Webb** and **Maureen Davies,** who moved scenery and produced smoke and flashes tirelessly and sometimes unwittingly. **Flight Lieutenant Suzanne Jones,** who had nothing to do as prompt except go grey. **Flight Lieutenant Stuart Brayshaw** and **Lance Corporal Martin Hutchinson** who "lit and sounded" at appropriate moments; **Mary Bonaker,** who as make-up took ten years off her husband. **Captain John Hayes** and his team, who ran the bar or say they did for it appeared to run itself, and the Blandford Construction Company who built the set in 3 weeks and took it down in one hour.

Our audience voted the play a success and so we will be back—watch this space.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

HONOURS AND AWARDS

WE were very pleased to be notified that our former Yeoman of Signals, **W.O.2 (Y of S) Phil Daniel** has been awarded a Mention in Despatches. The congratulations of all members of this Squadron go to him for this recognition of the fine work that he did whilst serving here. His message of thanks for our congratulatory signal was appreciated by all concerned.

CHRISTMAS IN ULSTER

We have decided to note the Editor's remarks concerning detailed accounts of Christmas activities. We will just mention that they started on 7th December with an excellent troop party organized by **Captain John Maclean, Staff Sergeant George Hardman** and the boys of Communications Troop, and went on for what seemed like 40 days and 40 nights, well almost!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

During the last year the Squadron has steadily helped two local Homes to make life a little more pleasant and enjoyable for those who live in them. One is an orphanage and the other is for patients suffering from multiple sclerosis. Two special functions were organized in the week before Christmas, a party for the children and a seasonal dinner for the disabled.

The party for the children was well organised and enjoyed by all who attended, including the helpers. The operation order for the party was written early in November by the RSM, **W.O.1 Colin French.** An extract from the order read as follows:

1400–1700 Cow gaily gallops around the Mess. Allowed to rest for 5 minutes in every 30 minutes and have a drink from the trough.

The cow inner was provided by **Sergeant Henry Banks** in the front and **Sergeant Denis Lacy,** RE in the rear. How the rear end of the duo managed to drink from the trough remains a mystery!

The disabled were entertained to their dinner in the Sergeants' Mess and served by the Mess members.

IT'S A HARD LIFE IF YOU'RE A COW!
Sergeant Henry Banks wears the horns whilst Private 'Whiskers' Whisker, RPC, looks for his red cloak

SHOOTING—THE BELL TROPHY

A bi-annual pistol competition is held between the Officers and Warrant Officers of the Squadron for this trophy. It was presented by **Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Bell** in March 1970, when he was Squadron Commander.

The competition this year was won on both occasions by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier Bob Richardson** with scores in the nineties. **Captain David Podevin,** our Squadron Second-in-Command and organizer of the competition, had hoped his name would be engraved on the trophy—but, alas, no. However, as he is leaving soon he has been given another chance by being allowed a postal shoot—have the 9 mm. ready 7 Signals.

CONGRATULATIONS

Corporal and **Mrs. Bob Skene** on the birth of a son.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The following have joined the Squadron since our last notes. We welcome them and hope that they will have an enjoyable tour. **Captain I. N. Carruthers** from MOD. **Corporal Hemingway, Lance-Corporals Murtha** (RAOC), **Mumford, Gowan** and **Hicks. Signalmen Thouless, Stubbs** and **Meldon. Privates Ennis** and **Proctor** (RPC). We said farewell to **W.O.1 Auton** (RAOC), **Corporal Skells, Lance-Corporals Cann** (RCT) and **Gilbert, Signalmen Hewitt-Ward** and **Smethurst, Private Maypother** (RPC).

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

FEATURING COMMS TROOP
READY FOR ANYTHING, ANY TIME ANY PLACE

COMMANDED at present, (when he is not wearing his other hat as the Squadron Second-in-Command), by **Captain Lee Tilson,** and patiently guided by **Staff-Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty** and **Sergeant Dave Meredith,** Comms Troop are seriously thinking of having the signboard outside their lines repainted to read 'The Goodies'. Not, we hasten to add, because they never do anything wrong, but because like the characters in the television series of that name, they are rapidly earning the reputation that they will do . . . '. . . anything, any time, any place!' Take the last few months for example . . .

No sooner had the inmates of the Maze Prison decided to burn down their accommodation, than a detachment from Comms Troop was manning a B70 shot back to Lisburn to carry any additional telephone traffic that might have resulted. In fact the circuit was not required, but was shortly replaced by a C41 link carrying four very busy lines to the HQNI switchboard for the Royal Engineers tasked with the subsequent rebuild.

INFANTRY ROLE

Around the same time, Comms Troop were again deployed at the Maze, this time in an infantry role, helping to contain the situation which resulted from the attempted mass breakout when some of the inmates decided to try and tunnel their way out. It is rumoured that **Lance Corporals Steve Tupling** and **Paul Phoenix** have spent so much time at the Maze lately that they are thinking of applying for parole!

UP A TOWER

Belfast is no stranger to Comms Troop either, and B70 shots were recently established on top of the Grand Central Hotel and Flax Street Mill for a couple of 'one off' jobs. In fact, one of the attractions of serving in Comms Troop is the variety of jobs one gets to do. Today, manning a check point at the Maze, tomorrow siting a radio relay shot from a roof top in central Belfast and the next day sitting (or hanging) in the dark at top of a 200 foot tower in Londonderry! Which is exactly where **Lance-Corporal John Millward** found himself recently whilst assisting in an aerial rigging job in Creggan Camp, where he spent four and a half hours 200 feet up, in the middle of the night, and in extremely severe conditions.

Unfortunately one cannot climb this tower during the day, as the temptation is too much for the residents of the nearby Creggan estate who like to use aerial riggers for target practice!

UP THE MOUNTAIN TOO

During their time in Comms Troop, most people also get the chance of a short holiday at our local mountain top retreat where they watch lots of television, grow lots of hair, save lots of money, and also keep an eye on the odd radio or two. **Corporal 'Ginge' Cowton** has unquestionably spent more time 'up the mountain' than any other member of the Troop but came down to earth somewhat during his Christmas leave, when he went home and got married. Our heartiest congratulations and sincere good wishes to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Cowton,** (there is no truth in the suggestion that a married quarter is now under construction on the summit of Divis Mountain!).

FAREWELL TO A PERSONALITY

Finally, through the pages of THE WIRE, Comms Troop would like to say farewell on behalf of all his many friends, both in this Squadron and throughout the Corps, to **Corporal Jim Wagstaffe,** who is leaving the Army in March after 9 years service. His contribution as a tradesman, a sportsman and a friend will be greatly missed, but we wish **Jim** and his wife every happiness and success in civilian life.

SPORT—ALL SIGNALS HOCKEY FINAL

The Northern Ireland Army hockey cup final (minor units) was played on Tuesday 10th December between 233 Signal Squadron and 39 Inf Bde HQ & Signal Squadron. This game was a credit to both teams who played exceptionally well.

The game got off to a crisp start with 39 Bde scoring first but just before half-time a goal by **Staff-Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty** brought the two teams level again. Half way through the second half a brilliant solo effort by **Lance-Corporal 'Hammy' Hammett** put 233 ahead.

This lead did not discourage 39 Bde, they fought back and just before full-time they scored the equaliser. Full time with the score at 2–2.

Right from the start of extra time 233 took hold of the game by the scruff of the neck scoring a further 3 goals. One by **Corporal Phil Codd** and two by **Sergeant Dave Luckett.**

ARRIVALS

We welcome: **W.O.2 Poole, Sergeant Findlay, Sergeant Edgington, Corporal Hutchison, Corporal Newman, Corporal Vijaynan, Corporal Walker** and **Signalman Turnbull.**

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and bon voyage to:
Sergeant Burst, Sergeant Hague, Corporal Collick, Corporal Cutler, Corporal Hunter, Corporal Walsh, Corporal Webb, Lance-Corporal Higgins, Lance-Corporal Schofield, Lance-Corporal Brittan, Signalman Cross, Signalman Simmons and **Signalman Stork.**

—News from Headquarters—

SITREP from Signals Branch BAOR
B.F.P.O. 40

IT has been some time since this Branch contributed to THE WIRE, so it would not be out of place to begin with a rundown on its personalities: **Major General H. E. Roper,** the CSO, needs little introduction to WIRE readers, his picture appears regularly in unit notes as he makes his tour of BAOR units. The GSO 1 is **Lieutenant-Colonel David Whitehead,** still flushed with success from his starring role in 'Combat Communicators', he continues to have a crafty look at all incoming mail to see if that offer from Hollywood has arrived yet . . . We recently lost **Colonel Duncan MacIntyre** to the School and in his place as GSO1(W) we have **Lieutenant-Colonel**

Terry Eamey who has settled in quickly to his exacting tasks. On the Tels side, the SO2 and SO3 Tels, **Major Cliff Noonan** and **Captain Katie Meachem,** are more effectionately known as SO2 Mountains and SO3 Hills after their climbing exploits. There are two QMs in the SO3 Eqpt chair, a bit of a squeeze, but **Lieutenant Colonel Terry O'Connor** is soon off to the MOD leaving his relief, **Major Terry Canham** in the chair. On the SD side, **Major David Chappell,** the SO2 Coord, who they tell me, has lost ½ inch in height after treading the corridors of JHQ for the last five years, is looking forward to his move to the School later this year. **Major (Retd) Frank Ellis,** the longest serving member of the Branch is still managing officers matters and ensuring that the CSO gets out and about by organising his visits schedule. The Staff Assistant, **W.O.1 Ron Brodie,** off to HQ UKLF very soon, is still marvelling over the new way the medical centre have devised to test ones fitness on PULHEEMS inspections; when asked to fill the customary bottle he found that the handle to the door of the toilet had fallen off and had to climb over the top—filled bottle in hand! Downstairs in the basement resides **Captain Derek Wallis,** the SO3 Comsec—still trying to lose some weight. Last but not least, the resident Live Oak representative is **Major Wally Lombard** who glides about the big house Mon to Fri and about the skies Sat and Sun!

No rundown would be complete without a mention of the workers, the clerical support, of course. The Chief Clerk is **Staff-Sergeant John Davies,** who when not at work at his desk is at work over a map during motor rallies. **Staff-Sergeant Tim Crook** looks after SO3 Comsec, **Tim** is flushed with success over his recent good result on the Staff-Sergeants course. **Sergeant John Waugh** is the SD clerk, recently posted in from Cyprus he now finds himself involved with the postings of half BAOR there (or so it seems). Tels are served by **Sergeant Gerry (Hong Kong please) Moloney** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Houghton** whose happy event due in May 75 has knocked that 3 litre sports car on the head. **Corporal Gerry Wells,** recently arrived from the School is settling in well as Trg Clerk.

Finally, our female support; **Joan Bayman** the CSOs PA who also assists **Mrs. Roper** (the Guide Commissioner) as secretary for the British Guides in Germany, who although always busy will still find time to sling one a two? fingered Guide salute! **Hilda Duncombe** is our hard working typist and our WRAC

clerks are **Lance-Corporal Joanna Wright, Privates Lyn Plant** and **Lesley Smart** who comprise the FAS team and **Lance-Corporal Julie Rolfe, Privates Ollie Steward** and **Maureen Morgan** who assist in the general office.

The past year has been dominated by several topics, on the equipment side, the most interesting to WIRE readers is the introduction of TV for the forces in Germany. Those TV addicts near the Dutch border have been able to view Dutch TV where a considerable proportion of the programmes are in English. Those living further East do not have this facility and it is these people who will get BFG TV first. Ultimately programmes will be relayed direct from UK using a selection of programmes from all channels and in colour. Its an expensive process but will be cheap at any price if it helps to boost morale of servicemen and their families serving in BAOR.

On the SD side, we have continued to do our best to meet all demands from those even larger buildings in Whitehall for soldiers for emergency tours in NI, Cyprus, Timbuctoo, etc. Establishments are written and rewritten with continuing frenzy. Training continues as ever with the recent resounding success of 100% pass rate on the last Yeoman of Signals entrance examination still pounding in our ears . . .

Socially, the old year closed with a very good Christmas party well organised by **Staff-Sergeant John Davies,** and enjoyed by all.

News from Regiments

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

THE QUIET PERIOD

AS this is being written we are just coming to the end of the post exercise quiet period. That time of the year when we can draw breath before the onslaught of the next training season. Of course looking at one's diary it is a little difficult to spot just where that quiet period was and one or two of the newer arrivals were heard to remark, quite openly, that they hadn't even noticed its passing in their rush to get ready for the PRE Inspection, the FFR, the Audits . . . and of course those pre Christmas festivities. For those of us who genuinely didn't spot it, it was in fact between the 4th and 5th of December. The Regiment, with characteristic fortitude and dedication, gave it up to go on Exercise Queen's Crown IV. As a future guide to spotting the quiet period it is a good tip to look, not at one's diary, but at the skiing and leave forcast. At this period our dynamic and rather intrepid fellows all rush off skiing and on leave, thus ensuring that those left behind get maximum opportunity to exercise their talents doing three or four jobs at once.

THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The long round of Christmas festivities passed off pleasantly enough. The only casualty was **Sergeant Longstaff** who was hit on the head by a case hardened mince pie at the conclusion of the traditional serving of the Christmas lunch. At this stage most of the other servers had long since made a tactical withdrawal. As Christmas approached one or two of the older members of the Regiment begun to show their age but all survived to eat their Christmas turkey in the bosom of their family or their 'adopted' family in the case of the single men.

EXERCISE 'SNOW QUEEN'

Yes, that great BAOR winter activity is under way once again—run this year by **Major David Miller,** supported by a bevy of talent from all parts of the Regiment. We are still in our 'luxury' hut at Haag near Bad Oy and it is looking better than ever.

The great Bavarian snow (and ski!—CO) hunt is also on, but despite grave shortages of snow we have always been able to find some and no skiing has been lost as a result. A high standard of instruction has been set by the team led by **Staff Sergeant Terry Mumford** and the mixture of downhill and cross-country skiing has proved popular and challenging.

Our only accident so far did not happen on the ski slopes at all. **Sergeant Kai Graham** slipped outside the front door, did two cartwheels, and broke his leg in two places in landing. So, our great mountaineer who, in 1974 climed four mountains, including the Matterhorn, without a scratch was brought low by a patch of ice at Haag, but knowing his resilience **Kai** will be back on the slopes by the end of January

SHOOTING AND RHQ SQUADRON

At last it has paid off and the hours of air pistol and ·22 practice under the coaching of the Adjutant, **Captain Derek McLean,** have resulted in RHQ winning the Regimental Inter Troop ·22 Competition. (The team comprised **Captain McLean, W.O.1 Jeffery, Sergeant Hulme,** and **Signalman Forward.**) The Adjutant was top scorer but this was not surprising as he runs both the Orderly Officer and the Orderly Sergeants Roster. "Shooting suits my men" says **Captain McLean,** "it's something that they can do lying down." The recent acquisition of a Remington 'Fieldmaster' pump action ·22 rifle has greatly increased the appeal of fun shooting. With this one can shoot at moving targets, tin cans and cardboard men and really get the feel of the old Wild West.

ONE SQUADRON

One Squadron chose the See Schlossen as the venue for their Christmas party and it was a very successful affair certainly for the Squadron Commander **Major Brinsford** who won a nice suitcase appropriately enough as he is shortly off to Lubbecke to take over Headquarter Squadron.

TWO SQUADRON

For Two Squadron this was a period of small exercises with a detachment or two away here, another there. Queen's Crown IV did, however, provide a moment of glory for **Second Lieutenant Miles Stockdale.** Just off the tree out of Sandhurst—Command of the Squadron on Staff Exercise. Quite like something out of a recruiting advertisement—it is rumoured that **Y. of S. Smith** did not let him out of his sight from beginning to end. **Miles'** only worry was whether or not he was entitled to the pay of higher rank.

The Christmas dance was well run and an amusing note was added when **Signalman Barbe** won a hair dryer in the raffle. An invaluable aid for maintaining his Afro-Asian haircut in pristine condition. Was it fixed? I wonder.

THREE SQUADRON

Three Squadron Christmas draw was held in a local Gasthof and proved to be a very successful evening. The Squadron Commander was unfortunately away on 'Snow Queen' again but all those who attended had a first class evening and thanks must go to **Sergeants Biggs** and **Drake** and many others whose organization made the evening an enjoyable and memorable one.

Of our recent arrivals we are getting good value from **Lieutenant Cross** who was promptly promoted Captain and who has just ended a spell giving simultaneous performances as Squadron Commander, Paymaster, Mess House Member and Mess Secretary, just to pay back for the third 'pip'.

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Major A. J. Hervey**
Second-in-Command	**Captain J. R. Smith**
Y. of S.	**W.O.1 (Y. of S.) R. A. Baker**
F. of S.	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. G. Kirkham**
SSM	**W.O.2 J. G. Albon**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant R. N. Rice**
OC 'C1' Troop	**Sergeant P. J. Slavin**
OC 'C2' Troop	**Lieutenant C. H. Moody**
OC 'C3' Troop	**Lieutenant R. M. J. Hussey**

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

IT seems so long since the Squadron last submitted WIRE notes that perhaps the most important change is that we are very definitely "Under New Management". The previous Squadron Commander, **Major Gordon Mills** handed over the Squadron to **Major Tony Hervey** in July, whilst he set off for the quieter, civilian life. Next to go was **Lieutenant Pete White** who had spent the last six months of his tour with the Regiment on detachment over the water. His relief, **Lieutenant Bob Hussey,** arrived in June from Welshest Wales. Around the summer block leave period, the Squadron Second-in-Command, **Captain Chris Wollaston** handed over to his relief, **Captain Richard Smith,** closely followed by **Lieutenant Tim Bryning** who heard the call of the RMCS and hurriedly handed over to **Lieutenant Clive Moody** who arrived from far off Bradford! Just to complete the saga, our parachuting Yeoman of Signals, **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Bill Richards** left us in November for Hong Kong, handing over his duties to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Bob Baker** who joined us hot foot from RHQ, bristling with all the info!

THE DISSOLUTION OF CHARLIE ONE

For a long time the future of Charlie One Troop has hung in the balance due to manning problems created by the Northern Ireland situation. At long last however, the situation had become so intolerable that despite the efforts of the OC and our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Russell,** something had to go, and it was unfortunately, Charlie One Troop. However, previous members of the Troop will be pleased to know that all is not lost, for though it has been reduced in size, Charlie One still exists under the indomitable leadership of **Sergeant Pete Slavin.** We all hope that the time will soon return when we can reform the Troop to full strength.

CYPRUS AND ALL THAT

There are some of us left who can still remember that around summer of this year there was an emergency in Cyprus, though to be honest, things happen so fast around here that one thing often gets merged into another! However the Squadron participated fully in the Cyprus emergency, sending men and equipment to that troubled island in its hour of need, and it was with the greatest of pleasure that we learnt that **Sergeant George Bardsley** had been awarded the BEM in the New Year's Honours List for his services in Cyprus. We all know that it is an honour well deserved.

CHRISTMAS AND ALL THAT

As the season of Goodwill to all men came upon us, the list of Christmas festivities increased. It all started with an Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants Rugby match which turned out to be rather more fun than most of the very amateur players realised it would be. There was an amount of psychological warfare beforehand in the form of ex-commando **Staff Sergeant 'Taff' Buxton** who insisted on assuring the Squadron Officers that there would be "no bovver", whilst gently punching the palm of his left hand with his clenched right fist! In fact the CO later accused **Staff Sergeant Buxton** of biting his left arm! "At least he had good taste" the CO was heard to remark! Is this yet another 1 Squadron first?

KENYA AND ALL THAT

Whilst these notes are being written the whole Squadron is training to an exhaustive training programme devised by **Lieutenant Hussey** and **W.O.1 Baker** to prepare them for our forthcoming trip to Kenya. The Regiment is going as an Infantry Battalion, and so there is much to do, particularly on the physical side, and we are covering some 150 miles over the two weeks' training programme to make sure that we all get really into condition. The culmination of the trip for some half of the Squadron will undoubtedly be the opportunity to climb one of the peaks of Mount Kenya under the guidance of more qualified instructors. For those of you who are sitting on the North German plain we will tell you how we got on in a later edition of the WIRE.

THE WIRE . . .
WITHOUT IT
YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 53

CHRISTMAS AGAIN AND A WRAC GIRL GETS PLASTERED!

CHRISTMAS 1974 was celebrated in true regimental tradition despite all that had happened in Cyprus during the preceeding months. The officers played the sergeants at football (is that what it was). Mess draws came and went with the same old faces picking up the prizes, and Squadron bars re-appeared and eventually managed to close on time and a good time was had by all. These were however a couple of events which were out of the ordinary and which deserve a special mention.

In the very early hours of a wet and windy Sunday morning during December the Army Depot Police guarding the camp entrance could have been forgiven for thinking they were seeing things as a hospital bed containing **Lance-Corporal Lynn Phillips Lewis, WRAC** was pushed out of the gate by that illustrious 9th Signal Regiment institution, the Black Hand Gang. Now it may not so far make sense to our readers around the world so perhaps I had better explain. The Black Hand Gang are a body of soldiers within the Regiment who provide the vital administrative support needed by our technical types. Under their Troop Commander they decided to push the delightful **Miss Phillips-Lewis** from Ayios Nikolaos to BMH Dhekelia. On arrival at the hospital the 'patient in the bed' had her leg put into plaster and then the Black Hand Gang pushed her back to 9th Signal Regiment. The reason for these strange goings on need we explain was to raise money for an orphanage in the UK. And raise money they did to the tune of £265 which **Corporal Burch** recently presented while on UK leave. There is not sufficient space here to describe how it all happened but the following played a vital part and deserve a special mention: **Lieutenant H. Meekings, Staff-Sergeant Les Walker, Staff-Sergeant Dennis Mackin, Sergeant Ron Hails, Corporal Paddy Rush, Signalman Pete Thomas** and **Signalman Geoff Underwood.** Last but not least, very well done all the Black Hand Gang, **Captain Ian Reading** for providing the drinks and **Lieutenant-Colonel Milton** for rescuing the lovely lady from the plaster when it was all over.

MERCURY THEATRE

The other event of note was the Mercury Theatre Group's production of Terence Frisby's highly successful comedy "There's a Girl in My Soup". For three nights during December the Theatre Group once again produced a play of high standard and in the circumstances some well needed entertainment into the bargain. **Staff-Sergeant Jo Joseph** and **Mrs. Margaret Smith** both put in great performances in the respective lead parts. They were well supported by **Signalman Marc Feron, Mrs. Sally Atkinson, Staff-Sergeant Bill Mayling, Mrs. Jean Houghton** and **Sergeant Hugh O'Neil** (who took some time off from winning photographic competitions). The play was produced by **W.O.1 Tom McMahon** who was assisted by **W.O.2 Peter Mountford.** Thank you Mercury Theatre Group—I can't wait for your next production.

MERCURY THEATRE PRODUCTION

Staff-Sergeant J. Joseph and Maggie Smith hard at work in 9th Signal Regiment's December production of "There's a Girl in My Soup"

3 SQUADRON 10th SIGNAL REGIMENT—ALDERSHOT DETACHMENT—AUGUST 1974

Back row, left to right: Privates Torrent, Gregge, Johnston, Longhurst, Lance-Corporals Evans, Stevens, Privates Clark, Leaney, Lance-Corporal Gray

Third row, left to right: Privates Harrison, Smith, Watson, Cumersdale, Reade, Corporal Archer, Privates Britton, Garwood, Orchard, Gregory, Heathcock

Second row, left to right: Privates Kyle, Rea, Jobson, Mason 686, Lance-Corporal Hartley, Privates Gault, Welch, Tyson, Senior, Marshall, Davies, Mason 171, Deacon, Jackson

Front row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Check, Corporal Ingham, Lance-Corporal Mitchell, Sergeant McNeil, W.O.2 Ramsden, "Kajik", Captain Jarman, Major Grist, Lieutenant Stead, Second-Lieutenant Hovell, W.O.2 McKechnie, Lance-Corporals Jones, Williams, Charnock

Absentees—Sergeants Haws, Lane, Corporal Blythe, Lance-Corporals Rice, Bolton, Buntin, Privates Liggett, Carter, Ferrington, Hennah, Stevenson, McDonald, Tyler

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

JUST before Christmas, amid the festivities, the sad news that **Major Charles Robertson** our Second-in-Command was to leave the Regiment for 12 Signal Group came as a surprise. We wish him and his family well in his new appointment and hope that he will not lose contact with his many friends. We welcome two new personalities at Regimental Headquarters: Second-in-Command—**Major T. E. D. Baxter** and Assistant Adjutant—**Second-Lieutenant C. J. Fleming,** WRAC.

1 SQUADRON—WILTON

The showpiece of the Xmas festivities was undoubtedly the Squadron pantomime 'Sinderella', held in the junior ranks canteen on 10th December. A large audience contributed a princely sum of money which has been given to a local charity. The production, by **Sergeant Kath Ledgard,** WRAC, went smoothly and was enjoyed by all who attended. Rehearsals however were a rather different matter! **Corporal Jackie Brown** fell off the stage and sprained her ankle; whilst **Staff Sergeant Colin Hayton's** blouse refused to do up until his balloon pressure was reduced . . . **Staff Sergeant Hayton** deserves special mention as he was the only male brave enough to participate in an otherwise all female production.

GOLD COMSTAR—ARMY COMMCEN MIDDLE WALLOP

On 12th December 1974 at Middle Wallop Airfield, **Major-General R. L. C. Dixon, M.C.,** the Director of Army Aviation, presented a Gold Comstar award to the Staff of the Army Commcen Middle Wallop. The Director congratulated **Mr. J. A. Cutt,** the Commcen Supervisor, and his staff on their magnificent standard of work in winning one of the rare Gold Awards for achieving a monitored 'no error' rate on message transmissions over the six month period from May–October 1974. Unfortunately, one of the Commcens stalwarts, **Mrs. Eve Jackson** was unable to attend the presentation owing to illness.

Mr. Cutt and his staff also received 'congratulations for achieving this award', from **Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin,** Commander 2 Signal Group.

GOLD COMSTAR AWARD

Left to right: Mrs. Anne Millward, Mr. Jack Cutt, Mrs. Helen Hibberd receiving their Certificate from Major-General R. L. C. Dixon M.C. (Director of Army Aviation)

2 SQUADRON

HOUNSLOW RADIO TROOP PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The spirit of Christmas descended on the Bruno Club when 22 pensioners were treated to a Christmas dinner by members of Radio Troop and their wives. The pensioners, from Convent Way and areas surrounding Hounslow, were soon in a party mood, and after their Christmas dinner they joined in the dancing and singing. When they departed for home, all very merry, they were given a parcel of groceries.

THE KILLER GIRLS—POPULAR FEATURE OF SQN. PANTOMIME "SINDERELLA"

Legt to right: Private Frankie Pritchard, Private Mandy Hollingsworth, Private Jean Priestley, Private Jane Spooner, Private Mandy Baker and Private Julia Calvert

TROPO SIGNAL TROOP (SOUTH EAST FRONTIER)

Chief	**Captain (TOT) Denys Alblas**
Medicine Man	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) Bill Cochrane**
Indians	**Sergeants Pete Shepherd, Joe Lovell, Brendan O'Hare, Chris Boys, Alan Reed, Tom Terras, Chris Harris, Andy Gulline. Corporals Sean McHale-Smith, Derrick Thurley** **Lance-Corporal Al Dixon**

Since our last appearance in these pages our Chief, **Denys Alblas** has taken part in a TV film revealing the secrets of our tribal equipment and the signalling techniques we employ in order to assist in the initiation ceremonies of young War Chiefs at Blandford Camp (The Stockade?).

On the home reservation **Alan Reed** after much meditation and council with the Elders took himself a squaw, and just as soon as he collects the required 'bride price' of skins and horses **Tom Terras** will be travelling the same trail.

We have had four additions to the tribe:—**Al Dixon, Chris Boys, Sean McHale-Smith, Derrick Thurley.** These worthy warriors were duly initiated and are now active members of the raiding parties we occasionally send against the local Paleface settlement.

After due ceremony and much 'firewater' we said farewell to **Sergeant Bernie Edwards** and **Corporal Mick Murphy** who both handed in their war feathers to follow more 'subdued' lives in the Tribe of the White Collars. We also said farewell to **Sergeant 'Taff' Clements,** his squaw **Rose** and papoose, who left the sanctuary of the White Cliffs to journey across the Great Lake and erect their Teepee in 13 Signal Regiment.

As we have to keep our Signal Fires permanently alight our sporting achievements are somewhat limited, although most of our braves make use of the excellent facilities offered to us by the Junior Leaders Regiment RE.

Finally as we tend our fires and dance round our new totem (a 4 x 4 War horse with bright yellow snowplough affixed), we send greeting from this draughty outpost to all members of the Corps and wish them happy hunting and a prosperous harvest in the coming year.

3 SQUADRON—ALDERSHOT

The Squadron has had its changes during 1974, including what must be a record of 5 Troop Officers! Our present line-up is:

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

OC	**Major Stan Wood**
Second-in-Command	**Captain Pippa Jarman,** WRAC
Troop Officer	**Second-Lieutenant Simone Hovell,** WRAC
SSM	**W.O.2 Ann Ramsden,** WRAC
Chief Clerk	**Sergeant 'Fran' Vincent,** WRAC

ALDERSHOT COMMCEN AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

Duty Signal Officer	**Captain Anne Stead, M.B.E.,** WRAC
A/Duty Signal Officer	**W.O.2 'Maggie' McKechnie,** WRAC
Supervisors	**Sergeant Eunice Lane** **Sergeant 'Babs' Hawes**

3 Squadron provide the military teleprinter and telephone communications in South East District. We have 53 Commcens and Telephone Exchanges located throughout the 7 counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Kent and Buckinghamshire. The Squadron consists of some 70 WRAC and over 250 civilians, and one lone soldier, **Corporal John Archer,** Royal Signals, the MT NCO. With detachments as far apart as Bicester—Portsmouth—Chatham and Dover, **Corporal Archer** is kept very busy on the transport details. The SHQ Staff alone cover 2,500 miles per month visiting each detachment.

COMSTAR AWARDS

We are pleased to announce that 3 Squadron Commcens have won recently three Comstar awards. Silver Comstars went to Reading **(Mrs. I. M. Skinner)** and Worthy Down **(Mrs. J. E. Steele** and **Mr. J. S. Chalcraft).** Guildford **(Mrs. A. Snape)** achieved a Bronze Comstar.

SPORTING NEWS—SOCCER REPORT BY W.O.2 (S.S.M.) G. J. GRIFFITHS

The regimental soccer team are enjoying a successful season. We are entered in two Leagues: the London District League Division 2 and Hounslow and District League Division 2, a civilian League. In the London District League the team have won all four of their games, and are first in the League. We are also through to the Semi-finals of the London District Challenge Cup having beaten the Kings Troop RHA and RA Depot Woolwich in previous rounds. In the Hounslow District League the team have played 9 games, Won 5, Drawn 2, Lost 2, and we are now lying second in the League.

The team is selected from **Sergeants Roy Walton, Robin Gipson, Pete Stanger, Pete Graham, Corporals Geoff Ruffer, Trevor Walcroft, Roger Parker, 'Jock' Winters, Signalmen 'Brummie' Barber, Dave Collins, Barry Tiller, John Chapman, 'Brummie' Hough, 'Scouse' Favager, 'Mike' Sherwood, 'Jock' Minto, Neil Leyland** and, in times of desperation the author of this article. Somehow we have always managed to overcome the problems posed by our shift system and the wide dispersion of our players. We are keeping our fingers crossed for the future!

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON

1 SQUADRON risked the wrath of the gods for the only Pass-Off Parade in December. Not only did we have two troops on parade, but also we held it on Friday, 13th December. However, in the event, the gods smiled instead and the sun even came out for the first time in weeks. The inspecting officer was our own Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson Pratt,** who, by tradition, takes the last parade of the year. The two troops passing off were 5 Troop and 9 Troop.

The best recruit in 5 Troop was **Signalman Paul Radford** and their best shot was **Signalman Stuart Nicholson. Lieutenant Ewen Cameron** and **Sergeant Colin Wing** were justifiably proud of their troop.

The presence of 9 Troop marks the first Junior Signalman's Troop to pass-off at Catterick for fifteen months. Their guiding angels were **Lieutenant 'Andy' Whiddett, Sergeants Alan Palmer, Bob Rylance** and **Ray Walker.** Best recruit was **Junior Signalman Bernard Hunt** and **Junior Signalman Chris Brew** was troop marksman.

With two troops on parade, it gave our Squadron Commander, **Major Tom Scarff** a chance to draw his sword on his last Pass-Off Parade before handing over to **Major Peter Todd.** During his year as OC 1 Squadron, he has seen over 700 recruits pass through his squadron. We have no doubt that **Tom** and **Eileen** will enjoy their stay in Hildesheim. The new Squadron Commander, **Major Peter Todd** has already demonstrated some of the qualities he requires in the job when he refereed the Varsity Soccer match at Wembley Stadium the day before reporting for duty. The only problem is that the Sergeant Major has to hide the whistle before marching in Squadron orders. Sadly, December sees the departures of three more Squadron stalwarts. **Captains Leigh Hood** and **Graham Elliot** and **Sergeant Alan Palmer** are off to pastures new. We wish them all well in their new postings.

2 SQUADRON

As the Squadron Commander said "One photograph is worth a thousand words", and he also said "Get some names into print". So I had intended to produce a photograph with names and thereby have written at least a three thousand word article, without even putting pen to paper.

These notes are written to assure the far flung units of the Corps that there are in fact some soldiers being trained to fit into their ever increasing vacancies, and covers the final part of an extremely hard term; for the cadre that is, not the junior Signalmen. Think back to your school days, End of term means examinations! Eight troop officers setting examinations for two hundred and thirty junior Signalmen produces hundreds upon hundreds of nearly correct answers.

Major Robotham, the Squadron Commander, asked at the beginning of term that we encourage initiative and competitive spirit. I don't know about initiative but **Captain Rodgers,** the training officer, certainly managed to produce several competitions for the end of term. A cross-country race, an orienteering meeting, a patrol race, an assault course race; all taking place in the last week. Oh! I forgot, a barrack room competition, a squadron review, the Christmas dinner and Junior Signalmen v. Cadre rugby match.

True to fashion, the Yorkshire weather played its part to the hilt. It rained for three days prior to the cross-country and even managed to rain on the actual day itself. The muddy runners from 14 Troop managed to win, I believe most of them have webbed feet anyway. On the day of the patrol race it was bright and clear; if just a little chilly. By the time the final team came in the snow was inches deep and they struggled in looking as one would imagine Scott of the Antarctic's band of men must have looked on arrival at the pole. There are, of course, more sensible troops who prefer the comforts of life.

16 Troop put up a creditable performance outdoors, but inside, in the warm, they excelled and won the barrack room competition. Unfortunately, most of the competitions were 'outdoor' types and so 16 Troop gracefully allowed 14 Troop to become Champion Troop.

On the night before end of term, we had the Christmas dinner, followed by an amazing squadron Review, compered by **Captain Rodgers** and produced by **Captain Barstow,** RAEC. The stars were produced by each troop in turn and perhaps the best turns were the impersonations of notable characters in the Squadron!

3 SQUADRON

Things are all go in the Squadron. To start the Christmas festivities the Wives Club organised a carol singing night on 9th December and toured the Garrison, the proceeds going to charity. To give depth and quality to their performance, **Captain (QM) Alan Alfred** and **Q.M.S.I. Tony 'Lemoned' Davies** volunteered to sing. **Captain Alfred** put such effort into his singing, he got his verses and chorus crossed (painful)—look out Morecambe and Wise, this could be a takeover bid.

This month we say farewell to **Corporals Vic Hoyle** and **Johnny Hodges.** Good luck to you and your families in your new postings.

ORIENTEERING

The Regimental Inter Squadron Score Event Championships were held at Hamsterley Forest on 4th December 1974. The event, organised by **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** and **Lance-Corporal Neville Maw,** was dampened only by a shower of rain at the start. The team event was won by 2 Squadron with a decisive 265 points. Second came 1 Squadron and the first Junior Troop was No. 11 Troop in an overall 3rd place.

Individual results were:

1st	**Lieutenant Malcolm McKinlay**
2nd	**Lieutenant Dick Gittings**
3rd	**Junior Signalman Roger Toye**

The Commanding Officer presented the prizes.

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

CHRISTMAS 1974

HIGHLIGHTS of the Christmas festivities were undoubtedly the entertainment in the Junior Ranks Mess of firstly, a party of 55 aged people from the local community to a typical English Christmas dinner, children from our Primary School sang carols and the whole evening had an excellent write up in the local press. This party was followed a few days later by another for young German children from the surrounding area and again it was voted a huge success. These functions have done much to improve Anglo-German relations in the area and many thanks go to **Captain Mike Dawkins** and his band of helpers who put in so much time and effort.

Strategically placed in between were a couple of All Ranks dances, the sergeants' mess Christmas ball and childrens Christmas party and the Junior Ranks Christmas dinner, oh—and our FFR on 19th December!

A great deal of work by many people particularly our Catering staff headed by **Staff- Sergeant Fred Lima,** but well worth it. An enjoyable Christmas by any standards.

SILVER JUBILEE OF SERVICE WITH THE REGIMENT

Captain John Francis looking remarkably cheerful after 25 years association with 13th Signal Regiment

On 7th January 1950, 22247168 Draft Conducting **Corporal J. D. F. Francis** left the Depot Regiment R Signals Pocklington with draft DGDXA for London and from Liverpool Street Station to Harwich where he boarded the *Empire Parkeston* for the Hook of Holland. At the Hook he finally devoured his Pocklington issued haverbag which consisted of three one-inch sardine sandwiches. The following morning he boarded the 'Blue Train' which arrived that evening at Hamburg. He spent the night of the 8th at a transit camp—a large villa somewhere in Hamburg. On the 9th January he boarded a train (still with his draft but minus his kitbag for Gluckstadt the home of No. 1 Wireless Regiment (redesignated 13 Signal Regiment September 1957). Gluckstadt is a small fishing village in Schleswig Holstein. A 3-tonner took the draft from the station to the barracks—a former German Navy shore establishment. On arrival at the Regiment he was met by the Regimental Sergeant who said "Draft conducting —get them off!" And thus the 9th January 1950 was **Signalman Francis's** first day in 1 Wireless Regiment. Since that day he has held every rank in the Corps from Signalman to W.O.1 whilst serving in No. 1 Wireless Regiment or 13 Signal Regiment.

On 9th January 1975—25 years on—**Captain J. D. F. Francis, M.B.E.** is still with us! He did however manage to serve with 17 Wireless Squadron, 18 Signal Regiment, 224 Signal Squadron, 651 Signal Troop and 9 Signal Regiment as well. We congratulate him on his tenacity and wish him every success.

HASH HOUND HARRIERS

Visits and operational work permitting, the Birgelen Hash Hound Harriers have met reasonably regularly over the last year to work off the effects of good eating, good drinking and a sedentary job. The field is formed exclusively from those who most need the exercise—the Officers' Mess.

The trail, laid with cunning and wile by our Hon. Secretary, **Captain John Roberts** ably assisted by **Captain John Francis,** leads through the pleasant woods around Mercury Barracks sometimes past the Mulkippe, over the railway cutting, through the gravel quarry, into the swamp, and invariably ending at a local hostelry. The field on a good day can be as high as ten, and with the woods echoing to the cries of "On On" and "Checking" the chase is on.

Ignoring the odd looks of the local population as we follow the sawdust trail (obtained from the local undertaker when Heavy Workshops run out), the younger members rush ahead to sort out the false trails. Those with more sense and a few more years, including **Major Leslie Webb,** move at a more leisurely pace and always follow the correct trail, or perhaps find a short cut. We are however all put to shame when **Captain Ruth Henderson** joins the field and there is always a marked increase in the pace.

There was a rumour that we were to have a Hash Thrash at Christmas but our treasurer explained that we had already drunk the club profits after a particularly devious trail laid by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Taylor** and one of our tame Gunners, **Major David O'Connor.**

REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY TEAM 1974/75

The Regimental Team consisting of twelve people is in the midst of its most successful season for many a year. The team finished as runners up in the Rhine Area Championships and seventh in the BAOR Championships, which were then declared null and void after the race. The re-run which is to take place on 6th February, will benefit the team since two of the middle scoring members of the team were missing in December.

In the Rhine Area/RAF (Germany) League, the team is currently half way up the League. In the International league held in Holland and Belgium, the team is currently top.

VISIT BY C IN C BAOR

On 3rd January we were delighted to welcome **General Sir Harry Tuzo** for a morning's visit. He made a comprehensive tour of the Regiment which he had last visited eight years ago. His obvious interest in the particular skills demonstrated to him was a rewarding experience for the numerous individuals with whom he talked. During the course of his tour he had coffee with the leaders of our youth organisation and presented the Chief Scout's Award to **Mark Loud.**

14 Sig Regt Worcester

WELCOME HOME

ON the 18th December **Captain 'Mike' Prymaka, Lieutenant Ted Crampton** and the men of 2 Squadron managed to prise themselves loose from the mud of Oakhanger and return to the Regiment just in time to participate in the Christmas festivities. For the past six months they have been completely involved in the Skynet Project. They must be commended on their timing which got them back in time for the fun but too late for the duties.

PANTOMIME SEASON 1974

This commenced with the wives club Christmas dinner organised by **Mrs. Ella Hales, Mrs. Joan Scott** and the wives club committee. With no husbands present to keep an eye on them all, inhibitions were discarded, hair was let down and a splendid party ensued. **Captain (Q.M.) Cyril Evis** in company with **R.S.M. Bill Scott** appeared as Babes in the Wood ostensibly to assist in running the function. They refuse to reveal what transpired, and all efforts at interrogation only produce enigmatic smiles. The function also served as an opportunity for the wives to say farewell to **Mrs. Rosemary Bunce,** wife of our Second-in-Command. **Rosemary** has been one of the club's stalwarts and has played a leading part in the organisation of all activities. **Major Colin Bunce** leaves the Regiment to join MOD early in 1975. We wish them both good luck.

The Sergeants' Mess living in members Christmas dinner was enlivened by a visit from the demon king, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Murray Foster.** I can only assume that he overdid the smoke and pyrotechnics on his entrance as he was quickly caught up in a very localised deluge. **Alex McCabe,** the Mess Steward, is now investigating the excessive number of soda syphons used on this function. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Chalky' White** seems to have participated in 'New Faces' during the course of the evening, as he got ten for presentation, ten for content and ten for star quality, we anticipate that he will be very heavily booked in 1975.

The Regiment's good fairy, **Major John Botterill,** waved his magic wand and organized a very successful party for the children. In this venture he was very ably assisted by **Major (Rtd.) Ernie Cooper** who ensured that each child got the right present. He also organized a very successful Punch and Judy show. The children were so enthralled with this, that Punch was very nearly lynched before the show was finished.

The Sergeants' Mess Draw produced an innovation, **R.S.M. Bill Scott** and the committee decided that everyone attending should produce a small present for a child. These were all passed on to orphanages or under privileged children and served to make their Christmas a little brighter. The PMC, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Goodman,** doubled as Mother Hubbard and town cryer. He managed to fit 364 people into the soldiers' restaurant for the event and keep them all informed about what was going on. Buttons, who did most of the work, was a Sergeant who has completed 21½ years in the Corps without getting his name in THE WIRE. He wishes to retain this record, so I must content myself with telling you that he has the same christian name as the diminutive Liverpool comedian who is a regular member of the panel on New Faces and has the same surname as Doctor Doolittle. The star prize, an automatic washing machine, was won by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson,** he has now set up his own Chinese laundry and should be well qualified to appear as Widow Twankey in next year's panto.

MY VERY OWN!

Young Karen of Dr. Barnardos, Worcester with her gift from W.O.s and Sergeants Mess Christmas Ball

With the retirement of **Mr. Roy Turner** after 15 years with the Regiment as the guardian of the Regiment's stationery store, our ORQMS, **W.O.2 Dave Oliver** has seized the opportunity of playing Aladdin. Although he has not as yet discovered an old oil lamp, he has managed to find plenty of treasure. **Mrs. Glenys Scott, Mr. Turner's** right hand woman, is now trying to teach her dog, Diamond, to guard the stationery store in order to prevent all our correspondence commencing and finishing with 'Government Property'.

Finally in the best tradition of all good pantomimes, we finished with a betrothal when the R.S.M.'s daughter, **Linda,** celebrated her engagement to **Lance-Corporal Michael Coombes,** REME, now serving with 21st Signal Regiment.

NO HOLE IN ONE

The Regimental golf team led by the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales,** recently spent a very pleasant afternoon on the Lilley Brook Hotel Golf Course, Cheltenham, competing against the Mayor of Gloucester's six. After our team had been treated to an excellent lunch, they took on a very strong team which included the Mayor, **Councillor Freddie King,** and his wife. Our team failed to overcome the effect of the princely repast provided by their opponents and lost all three matches. **Captain (TOT) Don (I've got a dog) Clarke** insists that diplomacy dictated that they did not defeat their opponents. Another view expressed was that **Don** did not play at his best in the hope that the Mayor will stake his chain of office on the return match.

SNOWRUN

In preparation for Exercise 'Clockwork' in Norway, **Staff Sergeant Jerry Jarrett** recently took the detachment to the Land of Song for the winter warfare training. As only **Sergeant 'Taff' Assender,** the teams interpreter, could pronounce Llanfairpwllgwyngll etc. etc., he decided not to go there and settled for Cwmgwdi, (pronounced coomgoody), in the Brecon Beacons. Following the example of his OC, **Captain Ron Abbott,** he selected a wild isolated camp surrounded by miles of green hilly terrain to march over (all officers and senior NCOs of 'A' Troop appear to be closely related to mountain goats).

A team of RAMC experts gave the party a lecture on health and hygiene in arctic conditions. This covered all the horrors of hypothermia and frostbite complete with the usual gore. After being informed that in 30° of frost with a 30 m.p.h. wind blowing, any exposed portion of the body freezes in 30 seconds, everyone resolved that as a preventive measure the rule in Norway must be only half a cup of tea.

The detachment realizing that **Staff Sergeant Jerry Jarrett** had spent most of his army career with the SAS, approached this exercise with some trepidation. Their worst fears were soon realized as they trekked over mountains in freezing mist, howling winds, driving rain and hailstones. I cannot understand why we never feature things like this on recruiting films. All personnel learned the hard way which clothes to wear for maximum protection and comfort. Almost all made the same mistake and wore too much initially. This, coupled with a waterproof anorak, produced hot running water on the way up Pen-y-Fan. A stop for refreshments at the top almost reduced this to ice.

Sergeant Brydon took the trouble to ask a local what Pen-y-Fan meant, he was told "Top of the Hill". His faith in the Welsh poets has now vanished. After a muscle aching, cartilage shattering descent they arrived back at camp only to find that **Staff Sergeant Jarrett** had arranged to round off the day with a 9 km. orienteering competition. **Lance-Corporal Jim Leggate** and **Signalman 'Trev' Walker** were well out in front on this event when their map reading went somewhat awry. By the time they discovered their mistake and returned to camp everyone else was bathed, fed and had managed to assuage some of the aches. Sleep proved to be no problem, **Staff Sergeant Jarrett** appears to have the infalliable cure for insomnia.

When **Captain Ron Abbott** paid the detachment a visit, he was treated to a guided tour of Pen-y-Fan. As he had no webbing **Corporal 'Andy' Guest** generously loaned him some which, it is rumoured was loaded with wet sand to convince him that it was not too easy. **Ron** of course enjoyed it all and promised to organize bigger and better exercises.

A tour of the Brecon night life convinced the troop that it was a most economical area, they found the night but no life. Who ever sited the mountains must have realized that visitors must have a means of exhausting themselves during the day.

Having worked out the LOA for Norway, planned its spending, practiced his limited Norwegian and undergone all the rigors of

INNOCENTS! LITTLE DO THEY KNOW

Staff-Sergeant Jerry Jarrett gives a cheerful detachment their final briefing prior to moving off to Norway on Exercise 'Clockwork' in the snow

'Snowrun', **Sergeant Ian Brydon** was told that he would not be required for 'Clockwork'. He is now consoling himself with Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem, the most appropriate line of which appears to be, "Ours is not to reason why". He also considers the passage which suggests it was not a great military success might also be appropriate.

The detachment under **Captain Ron Abbott** have now departed for the Arctic via Arbroath and we look forward to including notes on a rather frigid area in the Regiment's "Guide to Good Exercise Sites".

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SUMMER (?) CAMP

WE are lucky enough to be given the chance to train outside Germany this year, and the powers that be allocated us two weeks in Italy for military training. The venue was an unoccupied Italian Army "WETC" type camp at Col Fiorito in the foothills of the Appenines. 'Rock Salt' was the name of the exercise, and the training staff thought up a programme that made even the strongest quail. PT at 0600 every morning! Unarmed combat! Bayonet fighting! BE tests, escape and evasion exercises, not to mention orienteering courses, Section attacks and lots more physical things. Still, we thought, the sun will shine and make up for it all. Italy in autumn—blue skies and warm seas. There was much packing of swimming trunks and the NAAFI sold out of Ambre Solaire. People were even known to volunteer to take part.

BACKGROUND

We organised ourselves into a Company consisting of three platoons, each of platoon commander, second-in-command, platoon sergeant and three sections of nine men. Background briefs were put around concerning the infamous terrorist Harpic Ali and his band of desperadoes the Black Talon Gang. The story was we were supposed to be deploying to bring NATO support to the independant state of Foligno, now ravaged by guerrilla warfare. So believable were some of the briefs that OC 3 Squadron was amazed to have one (nameless) soldier form up in front of him asking to be excused as he was too young to die. Unfortunately word came from on high that our story was politically sensitive, and we had to tone it down.

ADVANCE PARTY

Our road convoy drove down to Italy in the last week in September, staying with American, French and Italian units during the four day trip. They now have a goodly stock of stories to tell over a pint. Why, oh why, did **R.S.M. Carr** have to cement Anglo-French relations with bottles of whisky at the end of the dinner night to which we were entertained—particularly when we had to get up at 0500 hours the next day? And who was the SNCO who introduced our allies to the boat race and then fell out? We draw a veil over the whole trip. Suffice it to say we only had one accident during the 1,500 mile journey, and that was ten minutes outside Wildenrath when **Signalman Gary Cronin** tried to write off the OC's land rover at a set of traffic lights. Shades of an RCT convoy—start when the truck behind rams you, stop when you hit the truck in front!

AIR MOVE

The remainder of our 110 strong party were flown to Italy courtesy of the RAF. Those who know 21st Signal Regiment organisation will appreciate the problem we had in getting men, kit and weapons from Gutersloh, Laarbruch, Bruggen, Roetgen and Rheindahlen to Wildenrath to catch the one flight. All was organized however, and well under way when "RAF Air" put back the flight by 24 hours. These things are sent to try us. It really was not our day, as the advance party on the way to Rimini Airfield ran over one of the Carabinieri escort. Amid cried of "Whats blue and red and lies in the gutter" we finally managed to pick up the bemused air party and convey them to their new home.

THE EXERCISE

Winter came early this year. We soon found that long johns and gloves would have been of more use than suntan lotion. In fact the weather was vile. We experienced bitterly cold winds, heavy rain, hail storms, hard frost at night and even snow! "Mediterranean tummy" also struck us so generally everyone was about as happy as the British POW's who had been the original camp inhabitants in 1940. Nevertheless with true British grit we trained on. Up and down hills, over the assault course, section attacks. You name it we did it. In fact everyone worked up such appetites that **Lance-Corporal John Allen's** "20 ways with corned beef" was much appreciated each evening.

RECREATION

Those who were not chained to the loos, or in bed with double pneumonia, managed to see some of the tourist traps of Italy. We went to Rome, we went to Assissi. We did not go swimming, as there is a limit to the amount of suffering a body can take.

By pure chance we had taken to Italy the majority of our soccer squad, so naturally we challenged the locals to a match.

THE SOCCER INTERNATIONAL

The visiting team, complete with supporters, arrived in good time only to find the magnificent ground locked and no sign of the hosts. Shouts of 'Domani' echoes from the more cynical! Eventually three of the home team arrived—the wrong pitch actually, but never mind might just as well play here. Relief; shortly followed by dismay, as two more locals arrive and state quite emphatically that no match will take place unless the Inglesi wish to play against Annifo (history student will, of course, recognise the name Annifo, the mountain village where Hannibal met his match during the Punic Wars). Notwithstanding the undoubted honour of the new challenge, the visitors, being honourable men, decided to meet the original fixture.

The correct ground was not quite as impressive as the wrong one had been, here were rickety posts without nets, no markings or flags, strong evidence of a local right of way across the centre and a mini Lake Constance in one goal mouth.

Undaunted the away team took the field, resplendent in all red strip, the benefit of days of running up and down the local mountains obvious in their fitness. At this point in proceedings one of the many local traditions took place. This was the touchline conference to select the team and to decide the colours that the home team should play in.

At last the home side took the field. The touchline meeting had been something of a failure as there were at least fifteen players, sporting strips of gold, orange or blue.

The referee, using great diplomacy, managed to reduce the home side to about eleven players and blew for the kick off. It must be explained that from this point onwards the home side considered that the referee was the most biased official the visitors could produce. The local methods of enlivening the game by kicking opponents, pulling and pushing and spitting were not allowed to go unpunished therefore a distinct advantage was given to the away team.

From the kick-off the visitors attacked and this resulted in a home defender kicking the attacking forward. Penalty. Now another local tradition could be demonstrated. As the forward runs up to take the penalty the goalkeeper sprints from his line and tries to reach the ball first. On this occasion he failed, so the visitors scored their first goal. As the game progressed the home side turned more and more frequently to tactical discussion, always while the ball was in play and using anything from two to seven players. Inevitably the away teams' goals mounted until shortly after the start of the second half with the score eight to nil the valiant home goalkeeper rugby tackled the away team's inside right, whereupon the referee decided the pitch was unplayable and abandoned the game.

FINALE

Notwithstanding the vile weather, various ailments and much muttering from No. 2 (Whinge) platoon, we finished up the fortnight with an overnight defensive exercise followed by a morning assault on Harpic's camp—which just hapened to be on top of the highest mountain in the district. As **Second-Lieutenant Nigel Moore** and his gallant 3 platoon staggered to the top amidst smoke grenades and thunderflashes they found Harpic in the guise of **R.S.M. Carr** waiting for them. Contrary to the belief of the OC, who had already judiciously disappeared down the other side of the mountain, there was no lynching party. Then back to camp, clean up and wing back to warm BAOR.

Next year we would like to go to France, preferably the South, and in summer. After all, there are all those bottles of Ambre Solaire to use up.

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USUAL HECTIC DECEMBER

FAREWELL 1974 and welcome 1975 . . . as we look back over our shoulder December was possibly the most hectic. First gear was engaged early in November in preparation for our FFR. After visits from the Staff, the CC R Signals, **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, O.B.E.,** carried out his inspection on the 6th of December. Duty well and truly done the following week saw the start of the various squadron, department, troop, mess and children's Christmas parties which this year, were conveniently spread out to enable one to recover sufficiently to attend the next.

LOCAL RELATIONS CEMENTED

Our close ties with the people of Lippstadt continue to flourish despite the many changes of personnel in the station. On the 19th of December the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel T. H. Wheawell** and the Officers entertained the Stadt Officials to drinks in the Officers Mess. Over the years this has become a regular feature and we are sure they now look forward to coming as much as we enjoy having them. Lippstadt itself has seen many changes in the past twelve months and new buildings and housing estates seem to mushroom overnight, not to mention the one way traffic (Einbahnstrasse) systems. Lange Strasse (High Street) has recently been completed as a shopping precinct and one can now safely step out of Woolworths without fear of being knocked down by a passing Mercedes.

EX-CORPS SOLDIERS SETTLE IN LIPPSTADT

It is with this background of this friendly German town that our notes centre on two ex-soldiers of the Regiment who have seen many foreigns parts and have chosen to settle here in Lippstadt:

Pictured overleaf is **ex-Sergeant Harry Whenman** who completed 22 years in the Corps serving in Malta, Boddington, Droitwich, Cyprus and finally four years with 22 Regiment. His hobbies are amateur photography, mountain walking and amateur radio (DJOGU), he is also a member of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. He likes his second career as tractor driver/groundsman with the D O E and enjoys a drink in the Sergeants Mess on Fridays.

Ex-Sergeant Harry Whenman (*right*), and ex-Corporal Bob Heightley both now settled in Lippstadt

On the left is **ex-Corporal Bob Heightley** who also completed 22 years in the Corps serving in Catterick, Egypt, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Berlin and Germany finishing with three years in this regiment. He is employed in the FAMTO Stores and in his spare time collects stamps and plays darts. He too likes to keep contact and enjoys a pint in the Corporals Club at weekends.

OVER THE BARRACKS WALL

Our Padre the **Rev. Paul Rich, C.F.,** looked as if he had put on a bit of weight rather suddenly, it was later discovered that he was wearing two surplices . . . obviously had one surplus!

A certain Major with a scots accent (no names) anxious to combat the energy crisis was foiled in his attempt when he lost his bicycle clips . . . can't understand why, he normally wears the kilt!

Through glazed eyes **Corporal Jock Spiers** looked at the colour television set he had just won in the Corporals Club draw and exclaimed "I wont be able to find the payments on that" . . . all credit to him.

Rave notices for **Captain Paddy Stringer** and **Lieutenant Jim Thornton** for their polished performance of the "Whistling men of Borneo" in a home grown cabaret in the Officers Mess on New Year's eve . . . nice pair of tums!

IT HAPPENED YESTERYEAR

Extracts from our Regimental Scrap Book 1959/60.

17 Sept 1959—**Lieutenant Colonel J. Knowles, M.B.E.,** assumed command vice **Lieutenant Colonel K. A. Nash.**

2nd May 1960—First major exercise in which 22nd Signal Regiment took part—Exercise 'New Harpoon 4'.

31st August 1960—**Major D. Galbraith** joins Regiment and assumes duties of Training Major vice **Major A. Stewart.**

18th Dec. 1960—Christmas party for children of the local orphanage—**Major N. Coslett** deputised for Father Christmas.

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TOPICAL (?) CHRISTMAS SNIPPETS

"IT'S an ill wind" etc.—the winner of the 14-foot caravan in the Sergeants' Mess draw **Sergeant Peter Campbell** has problems, his recently purchased car is too small, so it's another new car. As a member of the Regimental football team maybe he can afford the cost by using the caravan as a mobile dressing room for the team!

Second-Lieutenant Peter Day together with **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Nick Naylor** organised the draw for the all ranks dance and will brief anyone on how to win prizes without buying tickets—leave the tickets in the drum from your previous Squadron party. A pity he left for his 'Q' course on Boxing day, five extras in January, would have helped the Orderly Officer's roster.

After the soldiers' Christmas dinner **Sergeant Geordie Coates** entertained the troops with some witty ditties. Part of one deserves a mention:—

"The next to leave is the RSM
He's off to the land of sheep shearing men
Out in his car he will go for rides
giving the koalas a short back and sides"

(**R.S.M. Peter Harris** emigrates to Australia in the near future.)

It is becoming traditional for the Regiment to host a Christmas party for the local handicapped childrens' home in Krefeld. This year was no exception, when on the 6th December the combined efforts of **Major Jimmy Robinson,** his German speaking SSM, **W.O.2 Syd Brown** and many other helpers, came to fruition. Some 100 children were entertained, and the true spirit of Christmas was seen in the joyful faces of these unfortunate, but ever cheerful, children.

Congratulations also to **Corporal Kenneth Feetham** whose Christmas celebrations were cut short by the premature arrival of **Lee Darren** in the RAF hospital Wegberg on Christmas Day.

VISITS

Sergeant Ivor Gibbons now with 234 Signal Squadron returned to the fold in December to marry **Karen,** daughter of **Sergeant Eddie Eddington. Padre Mallon** officiated at the ceremony and the Sergeants Mess was en fete for the reception. **Sergeant Gibbons** is attending the Staff Sergeants' course for his honeymoon before returning to Malta with **Karen.** We hope **Captain Alfred** treats him gently!

Brigadier H. E. Illing, C.B.E., M.C., Commander Rhine Area paid his farewell visit to the Regiment on the 6th December. A quick tour of the unit ended with drinks in the Sergeants Mess and lunch in the Officers Mess, where the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Terry Byrne** presented him with a Regimental plaque.

FOOTBALL

Those departed members of last years 1st XI football team will be pleased to note that the unit is still holding its own in the Army Cup matches, and hoping to emulate the success of previous years. By beating R Irish 4–0 they are now in the last 8 of the BAOR stage, and play 36 Hy Regiment RA on the 22nd January. Success in this match will place them in the semi-final versus 1 A & SH. They are also positioned 2nd in the Rhine Area league.

TAILPIECE

Because of pressure of work HQ Squadron will be holding their Christmas party on the 10th January. The Squadron brief states the buffet will be "Panackalty, Stottie Cake, Pease Pudding, Crusted Rabbit Pie". Translators required—a clue is that everyone is off to Blaydon races after the supper.

News from Squadrons

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

OC	**Major A. M. Willcox**
2IC	**Captain A. L. W. G. Steane**
Comms	**Captain S. M. A. Lee**
QM	**Major M. Maddocks,** PWO.
Adjutant	**Captain G. R. Hooton,** IG.
OC A Tp	**Lieutenant C. C. McColville**
OC B Tp	**Lieutenant P. B. Neale**
RSM	**W.O.1 R. A. Jones**
RQMS	**W.O.2 M. Springer B.E.M.**

NOT having written any notes for THE WIRE for a few months, the Squadron finds itself in the happy position of not having to search for material to include, for example our sporting achievements!

BOXING

The Squadron fought 6 OFP at Minden on the 19th December in the BAOR final of the minor unit team boxing championships. The contest was very well supported and we had a convincing win by five bouts to two. There was a lot of rivalry in our dressing room before the contest as to who would get the fastest KO. **Driver 'Cas' Porter** looked well in the running when he knocked his opponent out in 37 secs. in the fourth bout. However, the honours fell to **Signalman George Bantin** who in the last bout of the evening floored his opponent in the incredible time of 14½ secs.

We look forward to the Army finals in the UK, fixed for the 24th January against 206 Coy RPC. We hope to report in the next WIRE that the Fighting Twelth have done it again!

MOTOR CYCLE

Our motor cycle team have been winning further honours, now being the BAOR Champions. **Staff Sergeant Webb** (RCT) keeps on saying that the MT Troop would do better on motor bikes, than driving trucks.

CROSS COUNTRY

R.Q.M.S. Max Springer B.E.M. has also gained some cross country cups for us by bringing the team in second, in the Divisional competition and thereby winning the chance to take part in the BAOR final.

The training was fairly tough and **Signalman 'Smiler' Cox** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Slater** led the rest of the team, **Corporal Dennis Parkinson, Corporal Dave Orange, Signalman Steve Haddrell, Driver 'Chalkie' White, Private 'Laddie' Ladley, Sergeant Ray Iddon** and **Captain 'Hoho' Holroyd** in a mini-mutiny when training was scheduled to begin at 06.30 hours each morning. Having quelled this, the RQMS awarded a ten mile run as a bonus for that evening. Are we the first Squadron to have a member of the gilded staff running?

HOCKEY

The hockey team settled some old scores with BMH Iserlohn, when they beat them 5–3 in the quarter-finals of the Divisional army cup match. Rumour has it that the defence section led by **Captain Leslie Steane** and **F. of S. 'Taffy' Hope** are the oldest and most 'solid' of any team in the league.

VISIT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES

In October we entertained the RCDS for three hilarious days. It was, apparently, their only visit to the British Army during their 12 months course and 86 assorted Generals, Brigadiers, Colonels and senior Civil Servants from 19 different countries descended on Osnabruck to find out all about it. The first evening of the visit will always be remembered in the Sergeants' Mess as 'The Night of the Generals'. **R.S.M. Jones** and his Mess members gave their RCDS visitors a tremendous welcome. The folk group played, the NFI beat group produced their cabaret and that well known drag artist of ours **Corporal Jim Parry**—alias **'Olive Drab'** fled from the Mess after his act chased by at least three very senior overseas gentlemen!

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **R.Q.M.S. Max Springer** on the award of the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

WIRE ECONOMY

We want your unit notes but avoid undue length by 'padding out' and reporting trivial events in detail. News of individuals and their activities is always welcome.

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

OC	**Major J. G. McK. McLuckie**
Second-in-Command	**Captain P. R. Dick**
OC 'A' Troop	**Captain P. A. Cooper**
OC 'J' Troop	**Lieutenant G. S. Hand**
Second-in-Command 'A' Troop	**Second-Lieutenant P. R. Pullin**
Admin. Officer	**Captain D. P. Stokes,** RRF
QM	**Captain B. Turner**
MTO	**Captain I. J. Tucker,** RCT
UFO	**Major M. G. Lee,** RPC
RSM	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. W. Lockwood**

REGULAR readers will have noticed our non-appearance in these pages for quite some time—the OC certainly has. In fact it has "all been happening" in Colchester with almost 100 per cent turnover of officers and warrant officers in nine months. Our particular congratulations to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Ted Noon** who has left recently to go to AFCENT on commissioning.

The prospect of a quiet life in Cherry Tree Camp has been dashed, however, by the arrival of our new RSM, **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) 'Wally' Lockwood,** at 33, the youngest RSM in the Corps. To say that the cobwebs have been blown away would only be a massive understatement. Seriously, to the RSM and his wife **Dorothy** a very warm welcome.

Of course, since our return from Cyprus we have had our share of exercises, culminating in Exercise 'Swan Lake IV'—which will be vividly remembered by those who had not secured their tents properly the night the wind reached gale force. Yes, **Corporal Alan Cooper,** you!

FEATURING THE QUARTERMASTER'S STORES TROOP

Not quite an empire, with only twelve souls on the strength, but nevertheless an indispensible part of the unit, whose contribution to sport and to the life of the Squadron is much greater than the size of the troop suggests.

For a start the new QM, **Captain Brian Turner,** had to have two sleeping bags spliced together to contain his 6 feet 6 inches—no that's not his waist measurement. Thank heavens he fits in a 9 x 9 tent, at least. **Sergeant Colin Amey** permanently occupies the Squadron hockey goal—considering HIS girth he is very agile. In his spare time he runs the G1098 account with considerable panache. **Corporal Jerry Rose,** on the other hand, is anything but agile, having broken his ankle whilst the combatant part of the Squadron was at the 'Sharp End' in Cyprus—get well soon!

A NEW FACE

Major Martin Lee, RPC has recently arrived to take up the post (and problems) of the Brigade minor units families officer. His office is in 'Q' Troop, so we know he will be well looked after and kept supplied with endless cups of coffee whether he wants them or not. A tall, upright officer when he first arrived, we now detect a slight stoop, a possible sag of the shoulders and a promise of grey hairs.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Signalman Dave Meakin** and **Signalman Ted Haines,** both now elevated to the rank of Lance-Corporal. Whether **Lance-Corporal Meakin** received his promotion for hard work or for services to Squadron soccer we are not sure; **Lance-Corporal Haines** is the Ration NCO and the troop 'DON JUAN'! Don't ask me what the connection is.

This short look at 'Q' Troop would not be complete without a mention of the RQMS, **W.O.2 Howard Parkes,** who worked extremely hard organizing our brilliantly successful (the OC won a prize) Christmas draw last month. Well done. Now you can get stuck into the accumulated paperwork!

THE OFFICERS' MESS NEW LOO

A the end of the last week before Christmas, after parties, drinks, dances and more drinks, the officers entertained the Sergeants' Mess at tiffin, in the traditional manner.

Under the 'control' of the junior sergeant, **Sergeant Peter Wilson,** and heralded by elements of the band of the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry, the mess members moved, at 180 paces to the minute, to the Officers' Mess. (It must be admitted that only the RSM and **Colour Sergeant Bob Beattie,** Royal Irish Rangers, could keep it up after the first 50 yards.)

During the ensuing and lengthy period of serious drinking, the Commander and Officers of the Brigade HQ and Squadron were presented with a ceremonial and luxurious 'commode', and the wit and repartee that flew can be imagined. In fact, some of the humour really scraped the bottom of the barrel . . .

This fine object now has pride of place in the mess and may be used as a punch bowl when we are not on exercise. . . .

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Modesty forbids that we go into great detail about our recent sporting achievements, but . . .

The soccer team, under the whiplash tongue of the much missed **Yeoman Ted Noon,** won through to the finals of the Eastern District minor units cup with such resounding victories as 7–1, 6–0 and a bye.

The hockey team, captained by **Major Jim McLuckie,** but run, so he insists, by **Sergeant Colin Amey,** was in similar form, and is doing well in the Army minor units cup.

We recently had a Squadron cross country run (in which your reporter was unable to take part, owing to an indisposition). This was ably organised by **Captain Phil Cooper,** and won by **Corporal Brian Lawrence** (Alfa Troop). The runner up was OC Alfa Troop and, surprise, surprise, guess which Troop won the team competition.

We are also doing regular PT sessions under the sadistic eye of **Corporal Bernie Gauntlet,** RPC, our AIPT. With all this, how can we fail our BE tests?

Corporal Brian Lawrence at the 2½ mile point in the Squadron Cross-country run

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 41

CHURCH MILITANT

AFTER an absence of some months we are back—we have been busy but an exercise is an exercise, except one—'Parsons Pleasure 74'—when we 'hosted' 45 Padres from the Chaplain General down, for 4 days. The aim of the exercise was to take the Padres away from their normal duties and put them through the hoop—we did. Lots of map reading, first aid, compass marches and more marches. We were based in a tented camp and forrayed out from there. The climax of the 4 days was an overnight patrol exercise when the Padres had to deal with simulated casualties, a battle run and an assault river crossing, (surprisingly they all went across by boat) harassed throughout by a very enthusiastic enemy provided by Alfa troop. Notable amongst the enemy were **Corporals 'Chippy' Wood** and **Keith Palmer, Signalman Jock McGowan** and best casualty award went to **Corporal (I'm b . . . . y cold) Haynes.** The 4 days were very enjoyable although the OC did mutter half way through something like, "too many shepherds and not enough sheep." We "look forward" to repeating the exercise in 1975 when we are again hosts!

AN UNUSUAL FFR

After 'Parsons Pleasure' we started getting ready for PRE, Tels and our FFR, and, somehow Bravo Troop managed to fit in a horse show. I should perhaps put in here that in all our activities Staff Admin, MT and LAD provided their usual superb backing. However, all the frenzied activity culminated with a rather unusual day in December. It all started in the Bde Comd's office one November day.

Brigade Commander. Roger, I see enough of you in the field to know what the Squadron is like, so for your FFR I would like to see a formal parade and then I will think up one or two other things to keep you occupied.

OC: That's fine Brigadier (sickly smile).

Brigade Commander: (up his sleeve) Ha, Ha.

There followed several weeks of foot, arms and sword drill, all apparently carried out in the dark nights of bleak mid winter until—Hobart Barracks, 11th December 1974. (Very wet, very windy and typical Wetmold).

"The Square is highly polished please mind how you walk, Sir"

At the conclusion of the parade the Brigade Commander handed over a sealed envelope containing details of eleven tasks to be completed during the remainder of the morning to test the chain of command, initiative and ability to respond quickly. "While you organise that OC", said the Commander, "I will give your three youngest soldiers coffee in my office, see you there in 20 minutes". As he is still with us the OC assumes that **Signalmen 'Chocbar' Tiffin, 'Slim' Price** and **Paul Owen,** said all the right things!

We then started on the tasks. These varied from **Sergeant Harvey** trying to contact a friend of the Commander's on his Ham radio to the clerks going over the assault course.

The photographs tell some of the story.

Task Four. The QM is to arrange a display of cap badges and buttons of all units in the Brigade in the entrance to the Sergeants' Mess,

Task Five. A young officer is to give a five minute lecture to the Commander on the history of 20th Armoured Brigade.

Task Six. The Commander's latrine including all necessities (Christmas decorations!) is to be established within walking distance of his caravan.

We leave you to decide what **Corporal Thompson,** the Commander and OC were discussing—see photos overleaf . . . and the outcome!

(Continued on page 61)

Brigade cap badges and buttons on parade

". . . and I know that's correct, Sir. I took it from one of your old Lecture scripts"

Getting down to basics ?

We were unable to get a photograph of **Signalmen Graham, Price, Walpole** and **Tiernan** and **Private Coulson,** who were sent to Amsterdam for 5 days. On reflection and from their report that is probably just as well.

The day ended with a thirst quencher in the Sergeants Mess, where the final task was completed—the commander talking to the BM's wife on the phone, courtesy of Bravo troop whose 'hairies' laid the line.

Christmas and New Year happened!

Finally, as we have not appeared in THE WIRE for sometime the current Squadron batting order might be of interest.

OC	**Major R. W. Garlick,** R Signals
2IC	**Captain E. M. Powell,** R Signals
Comms Capt.	**Captain D. S. Pawlow,** R Signals
OC 'A' Tp	**Lieutenant P. A. R. Rouse,** R Signals.
OC 'B' Tp	**Captain D. K. Hadden,** R Signals
QM	**Major R. B. Napier,** RTR
Admin Offr.	**Captain J. Cummings,** RTR
MTO	**Captain R. D. Tozer,** RCT
RSM	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Markie,** R Signals
RQMS	**W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Worrall**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) O. S. Vannan**

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn,
B.F.P.O. 5

THIS month had promised to be a very quiet affair with little happening apart from the day to day routine work. However, the wall chart rapidly filled up and the month turned out to be fairly hectic.

VISITS

Recently Singapore came under the larger umbrella of Hong Kong and the CR Signals Hong Kong **Lieutenant-Colonel Benbow** visited the Squadron for two days earlier this month to introduce himself and to have a look at where and how we work. Elements of the Squadron deployed tactically to demonstrate our field force role and although we only went about a mile from the barracks everything looked most realistic, (even the size of the flesh loving red ants).

Lieutenant-Colonel Benbow also visited the military telephone exchange and both ends of the radio relay, meeting **Sergeant John Gilbert** at Kranji and **Sergeant Graham Riddy** at the Naval Base. After a lunchtime drink with the Officers and SNCOs the visit was concluded by a 'walk-about' the Squadron lines where everywhere was smelling of fresh paint, the decorators having just finished causing a major upheaval.

Having said farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel Benbow** the **S.S.M., Jim Bowman,** is fervently hoping that the paintwork will stay clean until after the SOinC's visit next month.

SKILL AT ARMS

The Brigade Commander decided that a Brigade Skill at arms competition in the true spirit of 'shoot to kill' would be held this year. The competition was in two main categories, first the infantry battalion rifle platoons and secondly the remainder of the battalions, all other teeth arms and services, the Squadron entered a team in both the SLR and SMG competition. It was known that the competition would be very stiff, particularly from the two battalions, The Gordons and the Kiwis. The competition consisted of a 2½ mile approach run in battle order over various obstacles, the hardest of which proved to be the twelve foot wall and the vertical scrambling net with sloping rope over a stream. After the run the teams were given a compulsory 4 minute rest period where weapons were checked for safety and a welcome drink was allowed (the water had to be carried on the run). The teams then moved forward to the firing point and 'engaged the enemy'. Points were lost for poor shooting, unsafe weapon handling, loss of kit, failing the obstacles and not covering the course in the specified time.

After two months of intensive early morning training the two Squadron teams were picked and consisted of: **Captain John Kay** (SLR Team Leader), **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jim Bowman, Corporals Ken Fowler, Mick Johnson, Chas Charlton, Jake Jacobs, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Nick Lynn** (SMG Team Leader), **Sergeant Colin Bachelor, Signalman Len Ball** and **Lance-Corporal George Fitzgerald.**

Final training included a day up country clearing a new helipad to improve facilities at a rebro site. After the restrictions imposed in BAOR on tree felling, it was strange to be told to chop trees down, particularly an area of approx. 1,000 sq. yds.

On the day nobody in either category could equal our times for the approach run, this, coupled with the excellent team finishing was the subject of considerable favourable comment and envy from other teams. In the SLR, our final position of 7th out of 17 was very good only being narrowly beaten by the armalite equipped infanteers, an object lesson certainly here. In the SMG

SLR TEAM

Left to right Standing: W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jim Bowman, R Signals, Captain John Kay, R Signals, Corporal Ken Fowler, R Signals, Corporal 'Jake' Jacobs, R N.Z. Signals

Left to right Kneeling: Corporal Mick Johnson, R Signals, P.O. Garry Pettis, R N.Z. Navy (P.T. Instructor), Corporal 'Chas' Charlton, R N.Z. Signals

our final position was 4th out of 21, only 3 of the 10 Gordon teams could better us. In summary, whilst not taking away the 'pots' a very good result maintaining the good name of the Corps.

So having wiped the mud off our boots we are now busy swotting up on 'shoot to kill' in readiness for next year. A word of thanks must also go to **Staff-Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Mick Abson** and his staff who were responsible for the admin side of the skill at arms meeting. Rumour has it they they had to cater for so many people that some of his staff had to stay at the Kota Tinggi Hotel.

After the skill at arms meeting we held a most successful draw night with the committee working like beavers to convert the Naafi into a veritable night club.

Also this month we took part in a PS exercise which took up most of the Squadron manpower in manning Police liaison nets.

On one of the quieter days we fitted in a Squadron cross country race in which 95% of the Squadron took part. **Captain John Kay** took the honours with **Sergeant John Wallace** a close second.

Now that we know we are definitely pulling out of Singapore peoples thoughts are turning to postings. **The OC Major Ian Graham has mentioned that this will be the third place he has been to that has closed. AG 11 are asked to consider very carefully his next posting.**

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

(APHRODITE'S OWN)

Officer Commanding	**Major M. E. G. Chandler**
Admin Officer	**Major A. G. Harfield**
Chief Systems Engineer	**Captain J. C. B. Simpson**
SSM	**W.O.2 S. Braithwaite**
OC East Troop	**Captain J. D. Ambrose**
OC Mountain Troop	**Lieutenant T. M. Martin**
OC West Troop	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. Keohane**

THESE, the last notes for 1974 cannot claim to be as eventful as the preceding ones for this year. The general situation out here is now much quieter than it was, and with the Christmas approaching the party season has come round again!

(Continued on facing page)

RADIO OPERATORS

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On satisfactory completion of a 7 months specialist training course, successful applicants are paid on a scale rising to £3,242 pa; commencing salary according to age—25 years and over £2,478 pa.

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Applications only from British born UK residents up to 35 years of age (40 years if exceptionally well qualified) will be considered.

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SUMMER CAMP III

Unfortunately the squadron was unable to obtain helicopters for the third and final autumn camp, so the opportunity was taken to deploy, (and display) our latest acquisition, "RSS Aphrodite". The enemy under **Lieutenant Terry Martin** were due to take their usual thrashing on this exercise, so it was decided to sweeten the pill, and let them spend their final days boating on the Med . . . .

That was the plan, **Master Coxswain Pat Hodgson** (he has just completed a conversion course from Master Signaller) demonstrated that you can't learn everything by adopting a title. "Martins Marauders" suffered a wipe out (surfing not military) on their first expedition. Apart from **Sergeant Ray Folkes** who spent most of his time hanging over the bows looking for rocks, the enemy spent the rest of the exercise bailing out in between short periods of being hunted across Akrotiri peninsula.

On the final day **F. of S. Pat Hodgson** proved that he is truly fated . . . motoring out into the bay to obtain a grandstand view of his compatriots' last fight, on the first calm sea for three days, the engine stopped. To add insult to injury **Lieutenant Iain Brown** swam out to help him paddle the last mile to the shore, and this with an onshore wind.

GENERAL

At present the Squadron Commander **Major Mike Chandler** is in Nicosia acting as Force Signal Officer to HQ UNFICYP. It might be better to say based in Nicosia. His new job entails a great deal of island wide travel, an opportunity he has not been slow to seize.

It was obviously with some trepidation that he entrusted the squadron to the tender mercies of the technocrats. However he has now detached sufficient personnel from the squadron to UNFICYP to reduce it to a Captain's command.

December has seen the return of a large number of the wives evacuated in August. The Squadron has a number of continuity posts on the island, and despite the majority of the squadron being unaccompanied it is always pleasant to see families reunited, especially in time for Christmas.

SALVE VALETE

Some squadron stalwarts have been replaced since our last notes. **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Jim Fison** has gone to 21 Signal Regiment to be replaced by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Bob McKay. W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Cliff Coultish** has left to do work study (a case of set a poacher . . . ?) to be replaced by our permanenent under-S.S.M. **W.O.2 Stan Braithwaite.**

Finally the squadron was sorry to say farewell to the Training Officer, **Lieutenant Iain Brown,** who has gone by way of a lot of leave to that well known 'clockwork' Brigade. Rumour has it that he is now planting mushrooms on the Western Front!

(Oh yes . . . RSS above—Royal Signals Ship of course.)

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

AFFILIATION WITH 8th (US) SIGNAL BATTALION

AN exchange of Scrolls on the 21st December 1974 formalised an affiliation with 260 Signal Squadron (SAM) and 8th (US) Signal Battalion. The affiliation follows various exchange visits between soldiers of both units since the Squadrons summer camp in May in which 8 (US) Signal Battalion took part.

The scrolls were exchanged at a dinner night in the Officer's Club, 8 (US) Infantry Division at Bad Kreuznach on 21st December 1974, at which the Officers of the Squadron were the guests of 8 (US) Signal Battalion.

After the dinner **Lieutenant Colonel Donald J. Callahan,** CO 8 Signal Battalion presented **Major Alan Stutchbury,** the Squadron Commander with an affiliation scroll signed by the C in C US Army Europe, **General Michael S. Davison** and **Major Stutchbury** presented 8 Signal Battalion with a parchment scroll signed by **General Sir Harry Tuzo, G.C.B., O.B.E M.C.,** C in C BAOR. The scrolls are depicted on the attached photograph.

EXCHANGE OF SCROLLS

Left to right: Major Alan Stutchbury OC 260 Signal Squadron (SAM), Brigadier-General Faith, Asst Comd 8th US Inf Div and Lieutenant-Colonel Donald J. Callaghan CO 8th (US) Signal Battalion, with the affiliation Scrolls

Unfortunately this is the last occasion that **Lieutenant-Colonel Callahan** will meet members of the Squadron in his capacity as CO 8 Signal Battalion as he has handed over to **Lieutenant-Colonel Xenos** on posting.

The Squadron wishes Lieutenant Colonel Callahan the very best of luck in his new posting and look forward to continuing the affiliation and to meeting Lieutenant-Colonel Xenos and his Battalion again in 1975.

OP BANNER

26 members of Y Troop have now started Op Banner training in earnest. Before Christmas they were to be seen in fitness training, range work and learning IS drills. They have now formed two sections and are with Q Bty, 5 Hy Regiment RA in Hildesheim prior to training at NITAT and then departing for the streets of Londonderry in March.

During Op Banner leave over Christmas **Signalman Al Ming** increased the Squadron strength by getting married.

SPORT

TWO NOTABLE SUCCESSES

The Squadron have had two notable successes lately having won the 36 Hy AD Regiment Victor Ludorum competition and the 7 Arty Bde triathlon, the latter consisted of a patrol race, cross country and tug of war competitions. We beat 14 teams to win the overall cup as well as winning the Cross Country Cup and gaining fourth place in patrol race.

SOCCER

The Squadron football team is thriving under the eagle eye of manager/occasional goal keeper **Sergeant 'Billy the Cat' Lawrence** who has recently taken over from **Staff Sergeant Jim Allen** at a salary reported to be in excess of that received by **Brian Clough** at Nottingham Forest.

We would like to record our thanks to **Staff-Sergeant Jim Allen** for his hard ground work in getting the team together at the beginning of the season. He has had to hand over his appointment because of the forthcoming Op Banner tour. The team has lost a star player in **Lance-Corporal Tom Perkins** who is also committed to Op Banner as well as **Lance-Corporal Andy Campbell** who is posted to Cyprus. However, there is a good depth of players available. We are top of the Dortmund Garrison football league having won our first three matches convincingly under the captaincy of **Lance-Corporal Paddy Murphy.**

DEPARTURES

We say goodbye to **Second-Lieutenant David Case** on his departure for RCC. At the Officers and SNCOs dinner held to mark his departure he was presented with a suitably inscribed tin of 'compo' to mark his happy memories of eating everyone's rations on exercises. At the same dinner we said goodbye to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tony Morgan** on posting to 14 Signal Regiment and wish him and his family every success in the future. By the time THE WIRE goes to press, we will have said farewell to **Captain David Dobson** and welcomed in his place **Captain Chris Greig.** We also look forward to welcoming our new **S.S.M. W.O.2 W. Goss** on posting from 33rd Signal Regiment (V).

News from Troops

605 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Gan
B.F.P.O. 180

MOVEMENTS

THIS month we welcome **Corporals Graham Hughes** and **Chris Wilkie** from their T1 course and 8 Signal Regiment, as well as **Corporal Roger Stebbing** from 259 Signal Squadron. A farewell, in traditional style was said to **Corporal Brian Hutchison** who left for sunny Catterick and a T1 course.

WEATHER

December 1974 saw all records for rainfall on Gan broken. The total rainfall for the month was 19·2 inches (including 5½ in. in one day). This surpasses the combined totals for October and November which we thought to be very wet anyway, and according to our Met. Office is the equivalent to 6 months total rainfall in London, Brighton and several English South Coast resorts. It need hardly be said that the football and rugby pitches as well as the golf course have been rather inactive this month.

FESTIVE SEASON

The Dhoni race held on the morning of Christmas Eve saw the Troop achieve their best ever result in finishing fourth out of twenty-two starters. Our only accident this time was one broken oar.

During the break an inter-section 'Cock of the Walk' competition was held. This took the form of a general games ladder the games ranging from badminton and five-a-side football to darts and dominoes. The troop managed to finish a very creditable 3rd out of 10 teams competing. The 'sports' in which we excelled were darts, dominoes and skittles and . . . guess what!

Several members of the Station were 'got together' to produce as a pantomime a Gan Island version of Robin Hood. One of our Troop members **Sergeant Pete Smith** 'played' the part of Maid Marion. It has been remarked on that photographs of the cast appear to be in very short supply.

MAULED BY A 'MOGGI'

That well known accident, waiting for a happening, **Signalman Nigel Grant** has done it again. This incident concerns a 'tiger' hunt and an unfriendly cat. Apart from jibes from the Troop he still has a few cuts and abrasions!

UNDERMANNING

We are continually being told by members of the RAF that the size of the Troop is very small for the job we do (will the staff of Balmore House please note?) and that some sections on the island really need some of our knowhow. In a bid to rectify this we recently put 2 of our members up for auction to the RAF. We were very disappointed in the result—the bidding never even reached the reserve price of £10.

READING YOUR FRIEND'S WIRE?

YOU **COULD** *BUY YOUR OWN COPY*

633 Sig Tp, Caribbean
B.F.P.O. 12

THE hurricane season in Belize ends on the 31st October every year, or so the wise men say! However, with thoughts of the 31st of October 1961 when Hurricane 'Hattie' flattened Belize City, the Troop unwound itself from its emergency standby duties and reverted once again to the more mundane tasks of communicating and preparing for the next season.

VISIT OF *HMS ESKIMO* TO BELIZE

In early November the Force was visited by *HMS Eskimo* with **Commodore B. J. Straker, O.B.E.,** Senior Naval Officer West Indies aboard. During the visit we had the pleasure of working with the Royal Navy once again. **Signalman Barney Cox** went aboard *HMS Eskimo* as the 'Army Op' to establish and operate the VHF 'Ship to Shore' link. **Signalman Cox's** only worry was that he wouldn't get off the ship in time to catch his flight back to UK! **'Barney' Cox** was extremely well looked after on board and gained some valuable experience.

SPORT

The only event of note has been the Force volleyball competition, usually one of our stronger team sports. However, on this occasion, both ourselves and our rivals, HQ British Forces Belize, were eliminated early in the day by a very strong and experienced team from 1 Troop, 60 Field Squadron RE who carried off the honours.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to **Sergeant Dave Andrews** (14 Signal Regiment detachment), **Lance-Corporals Terry Naylor** and **Steve Davies.** Also to **Signalmen Pete Bebb, Dave Leggett, Paul McMullen** and **Bill Simpson.** We say Goodbye to **Corporal 'Legs' Bevis** (14 Signal Regiment detachment), **Bill McNamara, 'Barney' Cox** and **John Murray.**

SULTANATE OF OMAN

SIGNALS OFFICERS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill unaccompanied appointments as contract officers with the rank of Captain in the Signals Regiment of the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces, carrying the following staff responsibilities:-

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Corps Clipper Board Folders in Blue Vinyl with 'Jimmy' Crest in gold (each)	£1·10
Corps Stick-on P.V.C. Transfers:	
Large (10″ × 7½″) each	53p
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THE SILLY SEASON

FOR most TAVR units, the two or three months following annual camp in June constitute the 'silly season' when activities slacken, enthusiasm wanes—and the permanent staff disappear on leave. This period ends with frantic bursts of activity in many different quarters, as those concerned realize the proximity of the autumn exercise, Regimental and Group study periods, promotion exams and—inevitably—the annual FFR inspection.

A VOLUNTEER VIEW

This year saw a slightly different approach to the FFR inspection, as for the first time the Regiment was inspected by a Volunteer officer—**Colonel David Part, O.B.E., T.D.,** at present the TAVR Colonel, London District (North), at Headquarters London District. After a short briefing on the role of the Regiment by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Eversfield,** ERD, and a tour of Hammersmith and Harrow TACs, **Colonel Part** visited elements of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Squadron and 83 (London) Squadron deployed tactically in field locations.

Earlier in his service, **Colonel Part** commanded the Royal Yeomanry, and therefore it was no coincidence that his visit to Harrow included a conducted tour of the private museum of Middlesex Yeomanry relics, during which **Captain David Manders** expertly described the collection he has cared for and added to over the years.

REGIMENTAL SOCCER

An inter squadron 5-a-side soccer tournament run on a mini league basis was held during the autumn, and 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Squadron demonstrated their superiority by winning every match, and the trophy. However, congratulations are also due to the HQ Squadron side which included such 'old and bold' players as the Second-in-Command, **Major Jim Greenhill, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Pete Cairns,** the TAVR QM, **Lieutenant Ron Miller** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Don Gunter. S.S.M. Gunter** succeeded in completing one match despite sustaining a broken wrist!

For the second year running the Regimental soccer team were losing finalists in the London District inter unit competition. It was an exciting match in which our opponents, 562 Parachute Squadron RCT, at one time had a 3–0 lead. Tremendous efforts in the second half brought goals from **Signalman Phil Roach** and **W.O.2 Steve Bland,** but at the final whistle we had lost 3–2.

Colonel The Viscount Eden, O.B.E., T.D., the TAVR Colonel, London District (South), presented the cup to the winners, and appropriate finalists trophies to both teams.

SPECIAL MENTION

For the second year in succession, **Private Elizabeth Elliot,** WRAC has undertaken sponsored endurance tests for charity. In 1973 she raised £25 in a non-stop typing marathon. In late 1974 **Elizabeth** completed a 41 miles sponsored walk, and raised £200 (approx.) which she intends to place at the disposal of victims of the Guildford bombings. **Elizabeth** is clearly a determined and generous young woman—well done!

PRESENTATION OF THE TROPHIES FOR THE REGIMENTAL 5-A-SIDE SOCCER COMPETITION BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Left to right: Signalman Brian Lowe, Corporal Derek Gale, Signalman Mickey Havermans, Staff-Sergeant Geoff Northey, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Eversfield, Signalman Phil Roach

BEATEN—BUT ONLY JUST!

The Regimental soccer tean with Lieutenant (Q.M.) Ron Miller (Manager, trainer and chief supporter), and 'Chips' the mascot. Team: *Back row, left to right:* Corporal Mike Cullen, Corporal Colin Waddon, Signalman Mick Havermans Corporal Martin Kaminski, W.O.2 Steve Bland, Signalman Brian Lowe, Sergeant Jim Harfield, Corporal Derek Gale

Front row, left to right: Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller, Signalman Fhil Roach, Staff-Sergeant Geoff Northey (Captain), Corporal Barry Woolgar

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs!

Let's have that Story!

Corps Hockey

Corps 2: Royal Marines 1.

Match played 6th December 1974.

The Corps made heavy weather of defeating a below strength Royal Marine Team. After going 1–0 down early in the game, the Corps eventually gained the ascendancy and scored twice, one a fine individual effort from **Lieutenant Crowley** and the other, a well struck penalty corner.

Corps 1: R.A.F. Support Command 1.

Played 22nd January 1975.

Despite heavy rain, the grass pitch at Blandford was just playable which is a tribute to the ground staff. An enjoyable game played in good spirit under difficult conditions saw the Corps come from behind in the second half. The Corps' tactics proved the more appropriate on the day and after missing several good goal scoring opportunities, **Major Carr-Smith** and **Lieutenant Crowley** eventually managed to find the net.

Corps has very successful Hockey season in BAOR

Report by Major L. J. Pertwee

THE current season 1974/75 seems to be the most successful hockey season for the Corps in BAOR since 1969. After two summer games, a fairly intensive season was started in September and culminated in the Corps winning the inter corps hockey tournament at Paderborn on the 24th November.

RESULTS:

v REME (UK) on 11th May—Won 5–1.
v. dsc Arminia, a local Bielefeld club on 9th June—Won 2–1.
v. Deutsche Hockey Club, Hannover, on 1st September—Won 1–0.
v. Detmold Garrison Select on 15th September—Won 2–1.
v. RE on 29th September—Won 6–1.
v. dsc Arminia on 6th October—Lost 2–3.
v. Munster Garrison on 20th October—Lost 1–2.
v. Infantry on 3rd November—Won 4–0.
v. RE on 16th November—Won 3–2.
v. RA on 17th November—Won 6–0.

The weekend 16th/17th November was a most successful triangular tournament at Hameln. The Sappers were our hosts and we were very well looked after. It was also useful to have this tournament just prior to the inter corps tournament.

The inter corps tournament was held at Paderborn from the 21st–24th November. The squad started off shakily but improved throughout the tournament. The final, though the result was never in doubt, was marred by bad umpiring and the corps not scoring off 14, or was it 17, short corners.

RESULTS were:

21st November v RCT—Won 2–0.
22nd November v. RA—Won 3–1.
22nd November v. Infantry—Won 6–0.
23rd November v. RAPC—Won 4–1.
The final against the REME—Won 2–1.

Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, CCR Signals, 1 (BR) Corps the chairman of BAOR hockey presented colours to all the final squad. These were:

Major Pertwee—7th Signal Regiment, **Major Moss**—4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **Captain Barry**—229 Signal Squadron, **Captain Crane**—28 Signal Regiment, **Captain Chubb**—22 Signal Regiment, **Staff-Sergeant Didon**—4 Guards Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **Sergeant Bromidge**—11 Armoured HQ and Signal Squadron (Re-award), **Sergeant Green**—226 Signal Squadron, **Sergeant Kernohan**—6th Armoured Bigade HQ and Signal Squadron (re-award), **Sergeant Lilley**—260 Signal Squadron, **Corporal Hayward**—7 Signal Regiment, **Corporal Waller**—7 Signal Regiment, **Corporal Tillman**—7 Signal Regiment (re-award), **Corporal Wooff**—260 Signal Squadron, **Corporal Baxter**—4 Division Signal Regiment, **Lance-Corporal Reece**—4 Guards Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **Signalman Wilson**—22 Signal Regiment.

Corps Cricket—Officers XI

Players are required for the annual Corps Officers XI versus Welbeck College Match to be played at Welbeck on 11th June. 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 S. A. Coltman,**
Trials Squadron,
School of Signals,
Blandford Camp.

Tel: Blandford 2581, Ext. 373.

Calling Corps Rugby Enthusiasts!

If you can get there don't miss the keenly contested Royal Signals UK (South) v Royal Signals UK (North) match at Blandford on Saturday 1st March. We understand a number of promising players will be taking part.

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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE'

OUR ROVING CAMERA REPORTS

7th REGIMENT ON PARADE . . .

MAJOR-GENERAL ROPER VISITS
The CSO meets Lance-Corporal John Seymour, guided by Major Richard Gravestock, with Sergeant Remmer, Signalman McLean and Lance-Corporal Collins looking on

. . . AND OFF PARADE

WHATEVER NEXT!
Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Oehlers shows Brigadier Birtwistle (C.C.R. Signals) one of the latest "mod cons". W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Cole and Staff-Sergeant Bowden are a trifle amused

19 AIRPORTABLE SIGNAL SQUADRON HAS ITS MOMENTS

An unusual presentation to the Officers' Mess by the R.S.M.—Major Jim McLuckie (*right*) moves in for closer inspection

LOOKING AT THINGS A DIFFERENT WAY AT 28½BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

DOWN UNDER NUMBER PLATE?
The above photo shows W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jim Bowman and Sergeant Barry Vargas flanking the Squadron Tels Vehicle. There are no prizes for guessing what the country of origin of the vehicle is but the kangaroo catcher and the number plate should give you a clue.

Dates for your Diary

CORPS AND ASSOCIATION EVENTS

19th Apr.	Indian Signals Dinner, Victory Club. London.
3rd May	Association Branch Representatives Meeting at H.Q. 31 (GL) Signal Regiment (V) Hammersmith. London.
14th May	Corps Officers Dinner.
21st June	Corps Officers Tea Party
22nd June	Open Day and 1 Day Reunion Blandford Camp, Dorset.
12/13th July	Catterick Reunion; At Home and Annual General Meeting. (2 weeks later than usual to suit local arrangements).
6th Nov.	Field of Remembrance opens in grounds of Westminster Abbey, at 12.00 hours.
9th Nov.	Remembrance Sunday and Parade at Cenotaph Whitehall.

WIRE ECONOMY

We want your unit notes but avoid undue length by 'padding out' and reporting trivial events in detail. News of individuals and their activities is always welcome.

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March-April 1975

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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The Racal Electronics Group have vacancies for Test Engineers at a number of locations throughout the south of England. Racal companies are located in Berkshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Wiltshire. The Group's products include radio communications systems, electro-acoustic equipment and instrumentation. A large percentage of the Group's production is exported and our growth record and full order books point to a secure and prosperous future.

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Racal Group Services,
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The Electronics Group

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

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☆

MARCH/APRIL • 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We have, for a number of years in the Editorial column, expressed the hope that the Corps would start to make its mark in the world of ski-ing as it has done in a wide variety of other sports. It has been a pleasure in the last few years to see Corps ski-ing steadily coming to the fore and now the culmination has been reached as exemplified by 2 Divisional HQ and Signal Regiment's resounding successes listed below. Posed in our photograph are those who contributed towards these victories.

Back row, left to right : **Signalman Philip Dobson, Lance-Corporal Gordon Townsley, Corporal Nick Doveton, Captain 'Paddy' Hughes, Signalman Bob Giles, Lieutenant Tony Marvin.**

Front row, left to right : **Signalman Dick Pye, Lance-Corporal Dave Stanton, Signalman Graham Watts, Lieutenant Tom Richardson.**

Made it !

2 DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT SKIERS TRIUMPHANT SEASON! THEY WORKED FOR IT AND THEY DESERVE IT

OUR warmest congratulations go to this Regimental Ski Team. Their success now warrants an increment to the establishment of a full time silver cleaner. A full report and pictures will appear in the next WIRE but here for the moment are the detailed results :

COMPETITION SKIING RESULTS 1975

WINNERS

2 Division Ski Meeting—Champion Unit
Army Alpine Combination
BAOR Alpine Combination
Divisional Alpine Combination
BAOR/Army Patrol Race
Army Slalom
BAOR Slalom
BAOR Downhill

RUNNERS UP

The Princess Marina Trophy (Army Championships)
The Canadian Land Forces Trophy (BAOR and Army Nordic Combination)
The Army Nordic Championships
The Divisional Nordic Championship

Wire Economy

We would like to elaborate further on our plea in the January/February WIRE for the size of unit notes to be cut-back as a help towards containing ever escalating printing and postal charges. Fears have been expressed in some quarters—and not without reason—that if this process is carried too far THE WIRE would lose some of its interest to unit subscribers and unit sales might begin to flag thus undoing any good achieved towards the reduction of printing costs. We would, therefore, like to make it amply clear that unit notes are as welcome as ever—particularly news of interesting events and the activities of unit personalities backed up where possible with good photographs. Where we would like to see some cut-back is in the volume of comparatively trivial items that we receive, e.g. general dissertations on the weather, the writer's reaction on being requested to prepare WIRE notes, *detailed* reporting on routine events well known to us all such as exercises, summer camps and inspections, humour only apparent to those in the know, space consuming poetry, minor sport and such-like. If the omission of trivial items can affect a 25% reduction in unit notes that is all that is required. We have been very happy in recent months to receive an increasing number of general interest articles. These are always worthwhile, so please keep them going. Incidentally one or two of our unit scribes have a witty and apt turn of phrase sufficient to merit certain items in their unit notes being written up as general interest articles. Where possible we try to extract such write-ups from unit notes for publication as articles, but it would be better if the scribe himself wrote with this purpose in mind.

—From our "In" Tray—

Her Majesty The Queen to visit Training Brigade

The Training Brigade is marking the 50th Anniversary of the move from Maresfield to Catterick with a number of events during the week 7th-13th July. All will be delighted to hear that Her Majesty The Queen will be visiting the Training Brigade at Catterick on Thursday, 10th July. Her Majesty will unveil commemorative statuary comprising two figures—a 1925 and a 1975 Signalman—at 1200 hours after which Her Majesty will be lunching in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess. In the afternoon Her Majesty will be shown round the Trade Training School before departing at 1500 hours.

The Association is being allotted a limited number of seats in a spectators' stand for the unveiling ceremony. Any member wishing to attend should apply to his Branch Secretary or direct to Association Headquarters (if he does not belong to a Branch).

The M62 Memorial

Sir,

You may be aware that immediately following the M62 disaster in which three of our soldiers were tragically killed a civilian sponsored appeal was launched for monies to erect a permanent memorial to the victims.

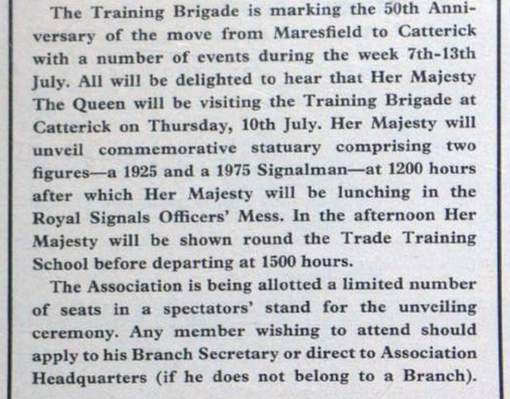
The appeal was successful and on 2nd February 1975 the memorial tablet was formally unveiled at the Hartshead Moor Service Area on the M62.

A photograph of the memorial tablet is below.

Yours,

A. J.Hill
(Major, Royal Signals
for Officer Commanding)

8th Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison.



MEMORIAL TO THOSE KILLED ON M62

249 Signal Squadron (FARELF) 1975 Reunion

The next annual reunion of 249 Signal Squadron (FARELF) is to be held at the School of Signals, Blandford on Friday, 2nd May 1975. Ex-members of the Squadron should write for further details to either:

Officers—**Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Olds,** 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V), TAVR Centre, Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

or

Soldiers—**W.O.1 R. Bowes** (at same address).

Even if you are unable to attend the reunion, please write and tell us your news—and anything you have on other members—so that those who can get to Blandford are given as much news as possible from their former colleagues.

Brigadier F. W. Nicholls, C.B.E.

From: Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. N. W. O. St. J. Nanney-Wynn, D.L.

Sir,

Your otherwise excellent obituary of the late **Brigadier F. W. Nicholls** makes no mention of his successful and popular command of 3rd Divisional Signals in 1939. Faced with a rapidly changing situation, and the call-up and recall of Reservists, he brought the unit from Squadron strength to Divisional Signals, and took us to France in very good heart.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Nanney-Wynn.

Llanfendigaid,
Tywyn,
Merioneth,
Gwyneth,
LL36 9LS.

Farewell to Captain 'Maurice' Stock, MBE

"If there is nothing worth writing about—don't write at all". (Editorial Page—WIRE, January/February 1975.)

Many, of course, will say that the posting of a TOT from a unit is not worth writing about. Normally we would agree but in this case the TOT is **Captain 'Maurice' Stock, M.B.E.** who has served 5 years with this Regiment.

During his stay here, the TOT has given valuable service to us both in the Communications and sporting fields. As Officer-in-Charge Hockey and Cricket he won many trophies for us and his organised sporting trips to Denmark and Brussels will long be remembered.

We would like to thank him for all he has done for us over such a long period and wish him every success in his new appointment in BAOR.

3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

Sir,

On the 12th April 1975, the 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club will be holding their 24th get together at The Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, Chelsea.

Founded in 1951 with the first reunion at Ye Olde Cock Tavern, Fleet Street on the 12th January 1952 the club has continued to flourish, meeting each year to exchange stories about deeds and exploits of the past. Some of our members of those early days have passed on and a warm welcome would be extended to all those ex-members of the Divisional Signals who would like to join the Club. Details of membership could be obtained from **Major D. J. Roberts,** 47, Hanger Ruding, Carpenders Park, Watford, Herts.

(Continued on page 71)

Major-General C. W. Fladgate was our first president, followed by **Major-General R. F. B. Naylor** until his death when we welcomed **Major-General M. D. Price,** our present president.

Reunion weekends have been held with the Regiment in Bulford during the years 1960, 1965, 1968 and 1972 our 21st at which wives and friends were admitted. We now look forward to our 25th Reunion at Bulford at which wives and friends will join us.

Of the original Committee **Major K. N. Smartt, E. E. Bayley** and **Joe Cotterell** remain as the founder members, and it is to them we should be grateful for the continuation of the club.

It was great news to learn that one of our members who attended the first reunion at Ye Olde Cock Tavern, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe** is now the Signal Officer-in-Chief as some of our past members have been. It is hoped that **Major-General Tighe** will be attending this our 24th Reunion.

Yours sincerely,

E. E. Bayley, Hon. Sec.

28 Albert Square,
South Lambeth,
London SW8 1DA.

Fruit Bats and 605 Tp

Sir,

Your correspondent from 605 Troop (that must be correct for where he is he can't possibly be a co-respondent in such a Troop) queried the natal habits of the local fruit bat.

The truth is at hand for I was present at the birth of one. At the time I was confined to the medical centre, not I hasten to add as a result of alcoholic poisoning!

In the garden on a tree, just overlooking the beach, came a squeaking noise and then we saw it. A junior fruit bat entering the world to add his skills to the terrorizing of the 'blue jobs'. The surgeon who was there at the time put down his glass—it must have been serious. He then went over to Mum fruit bat and with the deftness of his trade proceeded to sew her up.

Nor is it the only occasion on which I have been present at post-natal treatment, but I reckon that this bat can be counted as one of a very select few.

It was no surprise that our surgeon after performing the feat single handed required another 'Tiger' beer!

Yours,

A. P. Acott (Sergeant)

HQ, BAOR Signal Troop,
B.F.P.O. 40.

Humorous Signals—Can anyone help?

Sir,

I am compiling a book of humorous telegrams, military signals, short messages etc. which is now at a fairly advanced stage. A lot of Naval signals have been sent in to me but I feel the Army, and for that matter, the Air Force, are rather thinly represented. Would you know of any examples that might be suitable—perhaps out of back numbers of THE WIRE?

Yours

Nicholas Parsons
Editor

Angus and Robertson Ltd.,
2 Fisher Street,
London WC1R 4QA.

A sekret hand-shaik?

Dere Zur,

Way back in 1959 my OC was (then) **Major Roper.** I luked on paig 68 of THE WIRE—and I never knoed that he were left handed! —or that NCO's in 7 Regiment were left handid eyether. Perhaps its a sekret hand shaik.

Yours faithfully,

14124353

Blandford.

(Dang it! Proper rascality our printers be up to like—Editor.)

Sergeant R. Burnett

We were pleased to publish in the January/February WIRE notification of the award of the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct during the Cyprus emergency to **Sergeant R. Burnett** of the Corps. We have now heard that **Sergeant Burnett** commanded a multi-national Signal Troop at United Nations Headquarters On two separate days he went out to lay or repair telephone lines while under air attack. His Commanding Officer reported **"Sergeant Burnett's leadership, bravery and untiring determination were an inspiration to others."**

Success Story?

(Extract from 14 Signal Regiment notes)

WHILE working as a district nurse **Mrs. Pauline Gardner,** wife of our MTO, was visiting an old lady of 80 when the following conversation took place.

"Your husband's in the Army isn't he?" asked the old lady. **Pauline** replied "Yes he's in the Signals." "Oh" said the old lady, "my grandson has joined up and seems to be doing very well, he's just completed 56 days special training at Colchester." **Pauline** managed a suitable reply and escaped in her car.

DEVALUATION

A recent notice on Regimental Part One Orders read: "For sale 1971 Ford Monza £500 or nearest OFFICER".

How to get well known!

(Extract from 28 Signal Regiment Wire Notes)

The Adjutant, **Captain Mike Shaw,** drafted a signal to inform our late CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie,** at the MOD of our latest soccer achievement and left the Chief Clerk, **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) Cliff Webb** to insert the DIG and send it. Somewhere along the line a Yeoman got into the act and 46 addresses of no mean stature including BDS Washington, Chief Defence Staff, Cabinet Office, Commandant General Royal Marines, all the way down to Transport Officer-in-Chief, received a copy. In case **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie** does not know: in the BAOR Quarter Finals we beat 36 Heavy AD Regiment 4–3 in extra time and if we get to Aldershot perhaps he'd like to show the PM the way to the stadium.

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 12 and 13 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 **(Major J. J. Bally),** School of Signals, Blandford (Ext 371). Closing date for entry is 9 May.

The Triangular Match against the RA and RE Yacht Clubs will be held on 26 and 27 June. Team selection will be made during the Royal Signals Regatta.

Iraq Signals, Hinaidi, Baghdad

Ex-Signalman A. H. Gray of Rosslyn House, Church View, Downend, Bristol writes with nostalgia of days gone past:

"It was 48 years ago on 24th January 1927 that I was discharged at Catterick Camp. I was not in the Corps very long as I transferred from the RASC in 1923 leaving Peshawar, NWF to join the Iraq Signals at Hinaidi, Baghdad where I drove a Leyland lorry fitted with solid tyres with brackets to carry the steel poles. My Commanding Officer was **Captain Lockley Turner.**

I would be delighted to hear from any member of the Iraq Signals who was with me at the time".

(Report: Courtesy P.R.O. H.M.S. Ark Royal)

LUCKY SIGNALMAN GETS ROUND THE WORLD

Signalman Kevin Alan Luckham of the Corps is presently on detachment to *HMS Ark Royal* to see how the Naval Communications Department work, compared to the Army

By the time he returns to his unit in mid February he will have visited Puerto Rico, Virgin Gorda, St. Thomas and Mayport USA. During the summer of 1974 he was sent to Cyprus to provide a radio link between Nicosia and RAF Episkopi

He is 20 years old and has spent 4 years in the service. His father was in the Army for 24 years and reached the rank of Captain. He also has two brothers, both in the services. One in Cyprus with the RAF and the other still under training with the Corps

He is a keen sportsman, and has been awarded medals for athletics, football, swimming and shooting. He hopes to return to UK with quite a suntan

In the photograph Luckham is secn operating a 634 portable transceiver (Army A41) looking down onto Ark Royal's flight deck with Buccaneer strike aircraft parked after returning from a sortie

Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot . . . ?

RECENTLY the Youth Leader of Pennypot Youth Club, Harrogate, paid a social visit to the Royal British Legion's Lister House, for aged and disabled Ex-Servicemen, in Ripon. There he was introduced to **Mr. Frank Thompson,** whom he discovered to be a former member of Royal Signals, his Service number being 2320829.

Frank Thompson joined the Corps in 1929, and served in India with 'B' Corps from 1933 to 1938. After Dunkirk, he was posted to Uniacke Barracks in Pennypot Lane on a junior NCOs course.

Arrangements were made for **Mr. Thompson** to revisit Uniacke Barracks—now, of course, the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate—of which he was given a conducted tour by **A/T Lance-Corporal** (now Signalman) **Steve Stalker,** a member of and helper at Pennypot Youth Club.

During his visit, **Frank** was entertained at the civilian restaurant by ex-Corps members **Mr. Dave Tyrie** and **Mr. Eric Sladden** —now Civilian Instructional Officers at the College, and **Mr. Fred Cooper,** Supervisor Instructional Officer. No doubt it will come as a surprise to his colleagues to learn that **Mr. Sladdin** (Service No. 2321121) also served in India, as indeed did **Mr. Tyrie.** Though they never met during their service, **Messrs Sladdin** and **Thompson** joined the Corps at almost the same time.

Frank Thompson has been kept in touch with the Corps by Association Welfare, but his links in future will be even closer, for the members of Pennypot Youth Club have presented him not only with a Corps tie and a College plaque, but also with a subscription for life membership of Royal Signals Association.

The have also undertaken to ensure that he receives his copy of WIRE each month.

(Photo: A/T Ian MacMillan)

YOUNG PEOPLE DO CARE!

Mr. Frank Thompson with Steve Stalker (now a Signalman) and Helen Thomas, following the presentations made to him by Pennypot Youth Club

C. and E. Division, HQ AFCENT B.F.P.O. 28

FAREWELL TO MAJOR CHARLES BUSHELL

CHARLES Bushell left Allied Forces Central Europe on 10 January 1975 to begin a new life, wearing plain clothes in the MOD. He has completed 32 years' service in the Corps and is one of the last of Mhow OCTU SRC officers.

Charles had an interesting and full career in army and rear area communications and in the communications management field. Leaving aside a totally unexplained period with RASC (AD) around 1950 he held a variety of commissions in the Corps including, for a time, that of Cipher Officer. Having served virtually world wide his penultimate appointment with 18 Signal Regiment in Singapore 1969–71 gave him command of and responsibility for closing down the Army Communications Centre at Tanglin. His enormous experience and expertise will be sadly missed in Allied Forces Central Europe but is fortunately not lost to the service as his civilian appointment is that of Head of the Defence Communications Centre, Whitehall.

For his age and build **Charles** can be listed as one of the fittest officers in the Corps. Days before leaving Holland he gave an outstanding display on the squash court soundly defeating a man half his age and size. His services to Corps sport on the Association Football front will also be long remembered.

We wish **Charles** and **Ann** every success in their new life.

SUITABLE BACKGROUND

Chester Branch stalwarts photographed at Blandford for the 1970 celebrations say they can beat the century

Left to right: A. W. Froggatt (22 years service), M. W. E. Charlton (30 years service), W. G. Faircloth (27 years service), P. Haigh (25 years service). We are glad to report all four were present at a recent Chester Branch dinner and are still in great form

First Welbexian to reach rank of Lieutenant-Colonel

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davies of the Corps has made history in connection with Welbeck College being the first Welbexian to achieve the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel since the college was set up. During his service he has achieved several other 'firsts'—being the first Corps officer to be G.S.O. 3 Ops at a Brigade HQ for very many years also Brigade Major of an Armoured Brigade—an appointment which the Corps has not held for a very long period.

We wish him well in his new appointment as G.S.O.I. on the Directing Staff at Camberley.

Obituary

Captain J. P. Edwards

It is with regret that we report the death of Captain Jerome Paul Edwards on 10th January 1975 at the age of 65. He enlisted in the RAMC in 1939 and was commissioned into 55th Divisional Signals in 1942. During the war he served in Ceylon and South East Asia. After the war he spent most of his service with War Office Signals whilst in the UK, from 1946–1951 and 1955–1959. His overseas service was largely with Air Formation Signals in the Middle East and Iraq from 1951–1954 and in BAOR from 1959 —until he retired in 1964.

Jerry was of a quiet steady nature and was an officer who got stuck into a job without fuss. He was a keen amateur radio enthusiast. We would like to express our sincere sympathy to his wife Kathleen and son Jerome.

Captain (QM) J. E. Foley

J. H. E. writes:

On the 18th November 1974 the Corps lost yet another of its faithful and highly respected long serving members. 'Tim' Foley as he was best and most affectionately known, enlisted on 24th April 1919 and served continuously until 1947. Promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 on the 3rd September 1939 he was granted an Emergency Commission as Quartermaster, 30th March 1940.

Apart from his prowess as a first class cricketer and his keen all-round sporting abilities Tim had the distinction of being Mentioned in Despatches, for gallantry and devotion to duty, no less than three times; the first in June 1944 by General Montgomery, next in May 1945 by General Dempsey and finally on the 4th April 1946. It was my proud privilege to have served with and been one of his close and personal friends. He was indeed a true Soldier and Gentleman. All who knew him will mourn his passing and share with me the deepest of sympathies for, and the kindest of wishes to, his wife Barbara, as well as to his other relatives.

Signalman John Duff

It is with regret that we have to report the death on 17th January 1975 of Signalman John Duff.

Signalman Duff joined the Corps from Boys service in April 1962. He served in FARELF, Borneo, UK and BAOR up to August 1971.

He re-enlisted into the Corps in January 1973 and was posted to 16th Signal Regiment.

He was a capable, intelligent and popular young man who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

To his wife and family we offer our most sincere sympathy.

Mr. H. V. Smith

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Harry Verdun Smith on 12th February 1975 at RAF Hospital Wegberg after a short illness. Harry was born at Dowlais, Glamorgan and after leaving School joined Standard Telephones and Cables. In 1936 he moved to the Post Office in Cardiff where he remained until 1946 when he was seconded to the Post and Telegraph Department of the Control Commission, Germany. Initially he was employed on the restoration of the German Public Telephone and Telegraph Network, but later Harry transferred to the Telecommunications Liaison Group, British Army of the Rhine, where he played a major part in developing the permanent telecommunications system for the British Forces in Germany. In 1969 he accepted an appointment with the Ministry of Defence and when the Telecommunications Liaison Group was absorbed into 4 Signal Group he was appointed Chief Telecommunications Officer, in which post he served until his death.

Harry devoted his life to telecommunications and although he never served in Royal Signals he has had a long and fruitful association with the Corps amongst whom he made many friends. He was appointed an associate life member of the Royal Signals Association in 1969 in recognition of his contacts with and services to the Corps.

During his youth Harry was an active supporter of the Civil Service Club in BAOR. He played cricket and soccer for the club and held the appointment of vice president for a number of years. More recently he was a popular and enthusiastic member of the RAF Bruggen Golf Club where he served on the committee as competitions secretary.

The passing of Harry comes as a great shock to all who knew him. He was a kind and generous man who will be sadly missed. We extend to his widow Betty and his children Robert, David and Marion our deepest sympathy at their untimely loss.

R.S.M. (W.O.1) George Baldock

Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Gould, Hon. Sec. of the Indian Signals Association writes:—

It is with the deepest regret that we have to report the passing of one of the Corps' founder members:—R.S.M. (W.O.1) George Baldock, who died suddenly at his home in Garforth, Leeds on the 15th November last at the age of 71. Known to most of the original members of the Corps and the R.E. Signals, George ('Lofty') served the Corps from 1920 to 1945 including service in Mesopotamia and India and was one of the few entitled to wear the "Mespot" and Indian General Service medals plus a well deserved "rootie gong". His service in India through the twenties and part thirties included many incidents on the North West Frontier where he was Mentioned in Despatches during the Waziristan Operations of 1937. He was a keen horseman and a first class hockey goalkeeper, a life member of the Royal Signals Association and a long standing member of the Indian Signals Association. On retiring from the Corps he took service with the War Department Police where he served the crown for a further 22 years attaining the rank of Police Superintendent. His late wife Eleanor who shared most of his years in India with him died in 1973. Our deep sympathy goes to his son Michael and daughters Audrey and Jennifer.

Movements

Officers

MARCH

Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. C. Alexander To 27 Signal Regiment
Captain D. Beare .. .. .. „ Royal Brunei Malay Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. Bell .. .. „ School of Signals
Major E. T. Bolt .. .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment
Captain J. Bowles .. .. .. „ 45 Army Youth Team
Major C. A. Brown .. .. .. „ MOD (AG11)
Major C. R. C. Bunce .. .. .. „ MOD (Stats 10a)
Major A. R. Bushell .. .. .. „ HQ Northern Ireland
Captain J. C. Chambers .. .. „ 12 Mechanised Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Major C. J. Crow .. .. .. „ HQ BAOR (PS1)
Lieutenant A. W. Cudlip .. .. „ 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant A. D. Cumming .. .. „ 26 Army Youth Team
Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Davies .. „ Staff College
Major (QM) S. J. R. Dunlop .. .. „ 259 Signal Squadron
Captain M. J. Dunmall, B.E.M. .. „ 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain R. H. G. Elford .. .. „ Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Lieutenant I. R. Grant .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Major J. M. Hincks .. .. .. „ School of Signals
Captain R. H. Hoyle .. .. .. „ BATUS, Canada
Major D. J. Jolly .. .. .. „ MOD (Signals 36b)
Major D. P. J. Lavender .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Major G. D. Mackay .. .. .. „ ADP Dev Team HQ UKLF
Captain H. A. C. Meekings .. .. „ No. 2 Airborne Forces Liaison Section
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Montague, M.B.E. .. „ RSME Tac School
Captain I. D. Oddie .. .. .. „ BAOR Computer Centre
Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. de N. Rogers „ RAC Centre
Captain R. F. Rutherford .. .. „ 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Lieutenant J. M. Shaw .. .. .. „ 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain (TOT) A. H. Spurgin .. „ 244 Signal Squadron
Major D. J. Strong .. .. .. „ A. Man Study Group UK
Major M. J. P. Vann .. .. .. „ 225 Signal Squadron
Major J. J. Ventham .. .. .. „ BDLS Ottawa
Major P. Webb .. .. „ HQ North West District

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

MARCH

W.O.1 F. R. Lee .. .. .. To SHAPE BAE
W.O.1 (F. of S.) R. L. Tricker .. „ School of Signals
W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. R. Sanders .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
W.O.2 (Supvr(R)) D. J. Etherton .. „ 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
W.O.2 B. Green .. .. .. „ 30 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 G. S. Kennard .. .. .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
W.O.2 A. Scott .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
W.O.2 K. E. Wormall .. .. .. „ 37 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant J. R. Crabtree .. .. „ HQ 19 Airportable Brigade and Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant M. P. Hothersall .. „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. Johnson .. .. „ Royal Brunei Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. B. Wallace .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Staff Sergeant W. While .. .. „ 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) C. W. Payne .. „ 10 Signal Regiment (Demo Team)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. G. H. Campbell .. .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. J. Latham .. „ HQ AF South (BAE)
Sergeant P. J. Russell .. .. .. „ 259 Signal Squadron (RR)
Sergeant V. Thomas .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Cannon .. .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Murray .. .. .. „ 653 Signal Troop (SAGW)
Sergeant J. G. Carnegie .. .. „ 10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. E. B. Weld-Richards .. „ School of Signals
Sergeant A. J. Halliwell .. .. .. „ 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
Sergeant J. K. Nicholls .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant J. R. Atkinson .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant P. W. Biddle .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment (Courses)
Sergeant S. George .. .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant J. E. Dickinson .. .. „ 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant T. Alderton .. .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant P. Rose .. .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant A. G. Hunt .. .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant T. J. McGovern .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant P. W. Reid .. .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant W. Kitching .. .. .. „ HQ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. O. Smith .. .. .. „ HQ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. J. R. F. Callear .. .. „ 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
Sergeant D. M. Arscott .. .. „ HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. E. Marsh .. .. .. „ 40 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant C. A. Harvey .. .. .. „ HQ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant L. A. Dugdale .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant J. Burgess .. .. .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sergeant M. Fitzmaurice .. .. „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. J. Bell .. .. .. „ HQ 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. D. Sykes .. .. .. „ HQ 1 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant E. W. Higginson .. .. „ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. J. Laughlin .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. McGimpsey .. .. „ HQ 3 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant E. Richardson .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant I. Borland .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant C. Butler .. .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant R. W. Coppinger .. .. „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. S. Goatley .. .. „ HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. S. Lindsay .. .. „ 35 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant E. C. Monk .. .. .. „ 21 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. D. Newlands .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. J. Payne .. .. .. „ HQ 2 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. R. Sly .. .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant C. V. Whitelock .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant A. L. Denne .. .. .. „ HQ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Parmley .. .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop
Sergeant D. Fryer .. .. .. „ 241 Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. Ditch .. .. .. „ Central Volunteer HQ Royal Signals
Sergeant R. Jones .. .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment HQ BAOR
Sergeant B. W. Bentley .. .. „ 12 RSME Regiment
Sergeant P. L. Gethin .. .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant R. J. Garrod .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant R. Coxon .. .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant G. W. Downie .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant R. J. Mead .. .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant C. P. Thatcher .. .. „ 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant P. G. Friend .. .. .. „ 223 Signal Squadron (Radio)
A/Sergeant B. Plumbridge .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop

Civilian Maintenance Electrician (Telephones) Posts in Signal Works Troop

3 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment, Aldershot, Hants.

Civilian maintenance electricians (Telephones) are required to fill two vacancies existing within the establishment of Signal Works Troop Aldershot.

Mainly, the duties of the grade involve maintenance of Range Communications, Intercom and Public Address Systems. Ex Combat Linemen, ex Telecommunications mechanics or ex-servicemen with previous experience in this type of work and interested in outdoor working conditions would be ideal candidates for these posts.

Current rate of pay is £30·41 per week for a 40 hour week + £4·40 Cost of Living increase. Applicants must be prepared to work overtime, particularly during the summer months. Three weeks annual leave + 9½ Public/Privilege holidays per year, sick pay and opportunities exist for establishment in the grade after one year's service.

Applications to:

Mr. E. N. Fowler,
Civilian Personnel Officer,
3 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment,
Maida Road, Aldershot, Hants.
Telephone: Aldershot 24431. Ext. 2193.

WIRE ECONOMY

We want your unit notes but avoid undue length by 'padding out' and reporting trivial events in detail. News of individuals and their activities is always welcome.

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT ZAIRE RIVER EXPEDITION MEMBERS AND REAR LINK COMMUNICATION TEAM

Left to right, standing: Captain George Hayes, Sergeant John Blaylock, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Pat Blakelock, Sergeants 'Nobby' Clark, Jim Taylor and Norman Hall

Left to right, seated: Corporal Chris Sunderland, Sergeant Malcolm Lockie, Major Ashley Barker, Sergeant Alan Cobb, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Dave Pyke

8th Regiment handle Zaire River Expedition Communications

HIGH GRADE VOICE LINK PROVIDED

8th Signal Regiment was probably more involved than any other Regiment with the Zaire River Expedition. In the January-February edition of THE WIRE we wrote of the three members of the Regiment taking part in Zaire. **Major Ashley Barker** who was the scientific co-ordinator of the expedition and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) David Pyke** and **Sergeant Alan Cobb** (Radio Technician) who were the two responsible for keeping all the expeditions radios in working order. This included a RACAL TRA 931 and 944 power amplifier in Zaire working back to a D11/R230 on Whinny Hill where the Regiment manned and maintained the rear link communications. **Sergeants Malcolm Lockie** and **John Blaylock** plus **Corporal Chris Sunderland** did most of the operating whilst **Captain George Hayes** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Pat Blakelock** kept their eye on the traffic handling back to the MOD and the Daily Telegraph. The team of technicians on standby were **Sergeants 'Nobby' Clarke, Jim Taylor** and **Norman Hall.**

Apart from the times at which the Zaire Station was on the move the link worked two schedules every day throughout the four months of the expedition. (October 1974–January 1975). Sloping V's were found to be the most successful antennas and the link worked mostly on voice.

A large amount of formal traffic was passed. The total number of messages was over 350 in and 250 out but of these many were reports for the Daily Telegraph which ran up to 700 groups.

This link gave the expedition an excellent service which was greatly appreciated by those in Zaire. Often answers to formal messages passed to the MOD by phone were passed back to Zaire before the end of the same two hour schedule.

For a Regiment whose main aim is training it was good to be able to remind ourselves that we can still communicate successfully on a live circuit.

(We hope to publish a detailed account of the Zaire River expedition in the next issue of THE WIRE.)

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs!

Let's have that Story!

Destination Arctic Circle

CORPORAL F. G. Parry of 4 Division Signal Regiment and his wife in their faithful Ford Escort (called 'Duchess of Burgundy' because of its reddish colour) set off on a long trip North—1,200 miles to the Arctic Circle.

FIRST STOP TRAVEMUNDE

At 1.30 a.m. on 12th July 1974 a Ford Escort estate rolled quietly out of the Enger community, heading in a northerly direction. Its destination was the Arctic Circle. The navigator (my wife) shuffled the maps into their appropriate sequence as the first insignificant 40 kms. whistled away as our car, nicknamed 'The Duchess of Burgundy' sped silently along the traffic free carriageway. The weather, an ingredient usually associated with holidays was good—a balmy night—an excellent start (or so we thought) to our first big adventure. Alas! this was a false alarm for nearing the port of Travemunde, our place for embarking for Sweden, the 'God of Thunder' roared, the heavens mumbled some unrepeatable remarks, and our hopes like the rain were dashed down upon the dry ground. The sun, though we could not see it, brought the inevitable dawn and further dampened our hopes, but as the ferry came in sight they were considerably raised by the impressive size of the ship which was to carry us to Trelleburg.

A FERRY DE LUXE

Prior to continuing with our travels, let me digress for a few moments. Our ferry, *Peter Pan* was like a gigantic Hilton Hotel. Docking of the Duchess in the huge belly of the ferry was exciting within itself. Clambering up the gangway to the main deck we stood and looked in sheer amazement at our luxurious surroundings, the first of which was wall to wall carpeting, (or for the more nautical types, bulkhead to bulkhead) followed swiftly by two outdoor and one indoor swimming pool, a ballroom with orchestra, a disco, gymnasium, sauna baths, massage centre, playrooms for the children, and everywhere qualified staff in constant attendance. A beautiful restaurant was found, also a cafe and the usual bar facilities were available. On the sun deck, weather permitting, one could play all the usual games, equipment supplied of course. Oh! and I nearly forgot, a first class supermarket (tiny but catering for the tourists' every need), and for the more extravagent who catch the evening ferry there is a casino plus cinema shows for the more restful traveller. Moreover for all these luxuries the cost is a ridiculously low DM140 return (£22·40) for two adults plus car and a very pleasant 7 hours travel, at the height of the summer season. A small charge was made because of the oil embargo of DM10 (£1·60) but that was the only extra fee we paid.

GETTING LOST

Now back to our travel tale, the ferry sailed at 0800 hours and arrived in Trelleburg at 1500 hours. Maps orientated we ventured into unknown Sweden. Our first major town was Malmo (the third largest town in Sweden) and here we stopped at the first BP station to pump in the necessary juice to continue. The garage attendant spoke a little English and we were able to get some information on fishing. After leaving the graage we got hopelessly lost and had to ask directions as to how we get out of Malmo. Receiving instructions at a hopelessly fast rate of knots we were none the wiser. On seeing our blank looks our benefactor motioned for us to follow him down various highways and byeways until we were eventually on the correct road. Waving a farewell we settled down to some steady driving and admiring the countryside at the same time. From Malmo we travelled in a north easterly direction and eventually stopped overnight at a Motel just the other side of Kalmar. During this period of travel I developed toothache and needed to visit a dentist. However, this proved to be impossible as all professional people are on holiday in the month of July, so with raging toothache we continued on our journey the following morning.

NORWEGIAN HOSPITALITY

Our first halt of the day was at Uppsala for a well earned rest and a change of drivers and our fingers traced back the route we had come. Malmo, Kristianstad, Karlskrona, Kalmar, Norrkoping and Stockho!m had all passed into oblivion. Distance approximately covered 393 miles, only another 800 miles or so to the Arctic Circle! As the hours passed steadily by, so too did the towns of Gävle, Söderhamn, Sundsvall and Härnösand. Five kilometres outside Kramfors we decided to call a halt and found a quiet hamlet off the beaten track. A small wooden hotel with all modern facilities took our fancy and so we became the first English guests for 4 years. Our hostess, a Norwegian lady, who spoke excellent English, greeted us like long lost relatives. After eating a most welcome hot meal with gallons of coffee, my thoughts drifted towards sleep. But, my wife had different ideas! A walk round the village was her way of winding down before turning in, so reluctantly I followed.

Next morning we took again to the straight roads lined with trees, trees and yet more trees which were to be with us for another 100 miles or more.

So far our opinions of Sweden were considerably mixed, for in places along our 800 mile journey we could have thought that we were in the United Kingdom.

Our next stop was the penultimate town on the Gulf of Bothnia, Luleä. We found this industrial centre rather smelly and forsook our original choice of campsite for the Garrison town of Boden, slightly inland.

LAPLAND

After two nights at Boden and making the usual tourist visits to places of interest, the decision to move was made. Although Swedish was never my best subject at school (nor for that matter Latin or French), with the aid of waving arms and other sign language we identified the direction of Lapland. No sooner was this obstacle overcome, a second bore down upon us. The conversion from Swedish miles into English miles and then into kilometres, was to say the least confusing. We were told that a Swedish mile equalled 5 English miles and that it was three Swedish miles to Jokkmokk which is just inside the Arctic Circle. So heading in a North Westerly direction towards the unknown we found a sign indicating that Jokkmokk was 95 kms., so we came to the conclusion that someone was pulling our legs about Swedish miles. Like all explorers we became lost but after a couple of circular tours we picked up the correct route and continued toward the NNW.

TOUGH GOING

Unlike the Serengetti Plains, animals did not abound in front of our car and a weird sense of isolation crept into our bones. Not one animal or bird ventured across our path and neither were there cars in front of us or behind. The more we progressed the more despondent we became, so to overcome this initial feeling of eeriness, my wife and I broke out into song. Plotting our map with the aid of a compass and the sun we estimated that we were approximately 60 miles from our destination. Our road was just a track but with a difference from the dusty ones associated with

(*Continued on page* 77)

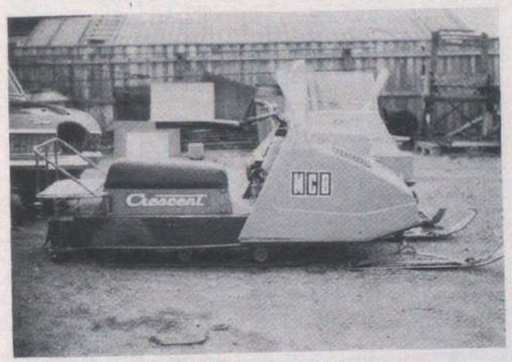
(*Continued from page* 76)

forests. The structure of the track was built up with huge rocks to form the bed and smaller rocks with the same characteristics on top. The method the Swedish roadmen have for rolling them flat, is to permit straight driving by the tourists over them, it saves time and effort and costs nothing! This continued for about 6 kms. and then suddenly we would swop onto the dusty track. So far our journey had not been terribly exciting and feeling rather dismayed we wondered whether we should go on, especially as our surroundings had changed to marshy land, ideally suited for its hosts, delightful little mosquitoes which very soon found their favourite food, i.e. me! Our minds were made up for us by a sign saying that the Arctic Circle was not far ahead.

About 40 kms. from the final point it started to rain, a thunder storm which transformed the track from dry and dusty into a quagmire, very similar to the murram earth found in East Africa. Progress was slowed by the flooded track and in one particular instance we got well and truly stuck and that's when I wished we'd had a vehicle with four wheel drive. The Duchess was now coated in a blanket of mud, looking and moving like a gigantic tortoise. Every spring in her body creaked and groaned as her nose dipped and rose from the largest of waterlogged pot-holes to the smallest, and so we continued for another 25 kms. like a ship of the desert.

ARCTIC CIRCLE AT LAST

Because we were still moving slowly we noticed the desolation of the tundra and occasionally could see the rippling surfaces of lakes. Near Jokkmokk a lake much larger than the Mohnesee



MODERN REINDEER!

Snow mobiles at summer pasturage just inside the Arctic Circle

A RARE SIGHT IN THE FAR NORTH

Another car (going south) crossing the bridge over the river Lulea in northern Sweden

spread north, south and east as far as the eye could see. In addition to this panoramic view, the track we had been travelling on changed into a beautifully tarmaced road and our old faithful began to purr as we sped down to the lake shore line. The rain ceased and a sheer polished surface dazzled our eyes as we strained to see the other side. After refreshing ourselves with sandwiches and coffee and tidying up in general I decided to see if there was any damage to the car—not bad at all only a few minor scratches. Once more we rolled forward with only a few kilometers to reach the boundary of the Arctic Circle and suddenly we found that we were back on our dusty track. As suddenly as this had begun it ended and there before us was the long awaited sign, Arctic Circle, Polar Circle, Polar Kreis. Our ambition achieved, photographs taken and of course a celebration drink, our thoughts drifted towards sleep. The nearest town Jokkmokk brought us back into civilisation once more and instead of camping we found a hotel. Night . . . what's the meaning of the word, when you can sit up in bed at any hour, read a book or even go for a walk, but trying to sleep whilst still daylight takes some adjusting.

Exploring the local vicinity like typical British visitors, we found many oddities, instead of cars parked in garages there were small snow mobiles and the shops displayed all the local handicrafts, most of which were made out of materials many years old. But our main port of call was to purchase an Arctic Circle certificate to prove to our friends that we actually made it!

A Little Bit of Unknown History

BY MAJOR W. E. CORBETT, EX-ROYAL SIGNALS

CAPTURED

IT is reasonable to state that Special Operations Executive (SOE) in World War II could not have functioned without efficient Signal Sections.

Members of these sections knew that their task was of very high security but were rarely in knowledge of the results of their efforts. Since the end of the war it has been possible to correct this by reading books written by ex-members of SOE and others.

In 1944 a British captain and his party were dropped into Lake Como in Northern Italy. They were seen to drop by the enemy and were captured with signal plans and codes complete.

This was in the early days of the Italian capitulation in which SOE took a major part. Strange bodies appeared in the camp. In accordance with normal procedure one passed the time of day with some of them but never talked shop except in the line of duty.

Italian planes were escorted into Algiers bearing those with whom discussions took place.

Came the day when it was decided to enter into direct radio contact with the Italian government and the captured British captain and his radio gear was taken to Rome. Communication was established and time schedules agreed.

Capitulation was a slow procedure and it was decided to send an airborne unit into the vicinity of Rome. The American force was (I believe) the 82nd Airborne Division. The date was chosen and we awaited instructions and confirmation from Rome.

RADIO BLACKOUT

When schedule time approached we were faced by a complete radio blackout over almost the entire Mediterranean area. Five circuits were in operation but all that came through was very heavy static. I checked with British and American friends at Allied Forces Headquarters and they confirmed the blackout. I know that **General Eisenhower** was on the telephone many times but I could only state that we were 100% on the job.

As departure time for the American force approached things became rather hectic and at a late hour one of the FANY operators said "I've got him". Contact was made at signal strength of about R.3 and a message was taken.

It said, in effect, that under no circumstances whatever was the force to be sent as one member of our Italian team had informed the Germans of the plan and that the dropping zone was entirely surrounded.

CAPITULATION

The capitulation took place after further last minute double-crossing at very high level. On the last day quite a large part of the events took place in my office and in my presence.

None of this, of course, was known to the station staff except the girl cipher personnel concerned. I was very proud of the work of my section and various ponderous winks I received from some of the girls made me wonder a little.

The above story has already been told (in part) and one has been able to fit the picture together. It is certain that the Massingham Mission earned its keep by that day's work alone. At no time was I complimented on the efficiency of my section. This may have been due to high security but I can only refer back to my first paragraph without further comment.

We had helped a little in making history.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

One of our British Jedburgh (commandos) operating behind the Italian lines were under particular stress and lost their codes among other things. A long message in letter code was received from them of which we could make no sense. Our Maryland Signal section in Italy were apparently monitoring and snapped over the following group 'TRYARSEWAYSON' and the penny dropped. With no codes they had reversed the message entirely and sent it in clear.

Operationally we got away with it!

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Corps Apprentices on Caribbean Exercise

CONTRIBUTED BY A/T S.S.M. JOHN HICKMAN, A/T LANCE-CORPORAL GEORGE BAIN, A/T KEVIN TOWNSEND OF THE ARMY APPRENTICES' COLLEGE, HARROGATE

DESTINATION ST. LUCIA VIA GANDER

"YOU'RE going on Exercise 'Gleam', lads."

"Exercise 'Gleam', sir?"

"Yes. It's an exercise in the Caribbean sometime in November, but first **S.S.M. Hickman** and **Lance-Corporal Bain** go out on Sabre for 10 days' enjoyment!"

That is the way we first heard of our Caribbean exercise. Well, **Lance-Corporal Bain** and myself did go out on Sabre to enjoy it, whilst **A/T Townsend** roughed it in 'D' Block on the rear link.

Thirty days later we had been kitted, jabbed and obtained passports and new ID cards where necessary. Quarantine was arranged for **Lance-Corporal Bain's** bagpipes. (he was asked to take them together with his regalia.) After a short, sharp briefing from the Yeoman we were all set for the first stage of our journey to 30 Signal Regiment.

I was told that I was i/c 'Chalk'. I thought perhaps 'Chalk' was used by the Ops to write DITS and DAHS on slates, but soon found out that it was the jargon used for a flight.

On Monday morning, 28th October, we were speeding down the M1 towards Blandford. It was one of those typical cold Yorkshire mornings when the Yorkshire brass monkeys writhe on the floor in agony waiting for welders. Oh, for the warm Caribbean!

One night at 30th Signal Regiment collecting the remainder of our kit and we were on our way to RAF Brize Norton. On arrival at Brize Norton I found that I was not in charge of the 'Chalk' but a passenger on a Britannia aircraft with 90 members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

MOSQUITOES FIND US TASTY

Off to the Caribbean at last, our destination St. Lucia, West Indies, via Gander, Newfoundland. The journey took 17 hours before we landed at Hewannora Airport, St. Lucia. St. Lucia, an island less than 30 miles long and 15 miles wide, was the base for Exercise 'Gleam' covering the Caribbean. The exercise Force included contingents from Navy, Army and Air Force. The Royal Signals contingent comprised personnel from 30th and 14th Signal Regiments and, of course, ourselves.

We were met at the airport by the CO of the base camp, the RSM and thousands of mosquitoes. The latter immediately set about making a meal of us. We were taken from the airstrip to the base camp sited about 30 miles from the airstrip. By the time we arrived at the camp we were swimming in sweat, an indication of the temperature at 2130 hours in the Caribbean.

A CHANGE FROM WINTRY HARROGATE

A/T Kevin Townsend finds the Caribbean sunshine a pleasant change

The base camp had a communication compound and an admin compound. The communication compound contained a C11 station working to a naval frigate, a C11 working to Beef Island and a D13 working to Nassau in the Bahamas.

We were given the evening to settle in. The next day we were allotted to our detachments.

I was attached to the Tels Workshop. We did not have many faults buts those that did occur seemed to come whilst I was on shift which gave me a lot of experience.

We were given time off to explore the local terrain, drink lots of liquids and attempt to acquire a 'panic tan'.

OVER TO LANCE-CORPORAL BAIN FOR HIS IMPRESSION OF THE EXERCISE

Having bedded my 'Wee Beasty' (for the uninitiated—bagpipes) I was ready to start operating. I was assigned to a C11 detachment working voice to Beef Island, 400 miles away. Most of the crew were ex-apprentices who made me feel at home and helped me as much as possible. Communications were very good. We had voice communications for 90% of the time.

I had a chance to use my 'Wee Beasty' on a Remembrance Day Parade, but unfortunately when I came to practise, the ants had decided to make a home in my pipes. I swallowed some, which was very painful indeed.

OVER TO A/T TOWNSEND FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS

My first detachment was a C11 SSB, a set I was not familiar with. The only part I recognised was the receiver and teleprinter, but I soon got the hang of the set. Our task was to work *HMS Tartar* using international procedure. I was constantly asking the Yeoman and members of the crew questions which they willingly answered. All the members of the crew were most helpful.

When the C11 SSB station closed, I worked in the comcen on the circuit to Nassau, and finally on the initial control link, a high-speed CW net passing flight information and administrative messages.

In all I gained a vast amount of experience. I was most impressed with the standards of communications. I am most grateful for the patient way my questions were answered, and for the help I received from the crew.

BACK TO S.S.M. HICKMAN

Finally, we all want to thank the Commanding Officer of 30th Signal Regiment for allowing us to take part in the exercise, all members of the exercise for the way we were looked after and members of the College who made it all possible.

THE DHEKELIA ROAD SHOW

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

IT started in June 1974. Shortly after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus a group of musicians in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area at Dhekelia came together to provide entertainment for the greatly overcrowded garrison. Included in their number was **Corporal Stuart 'Rick' Rickard** of 262 Signal Squadron. At this time, entertainment was at premium with everyone being stuck inside the base, and it was during this period that these musicians, calling themselves the 'Dhekelia Road Show' (DRS for short), came into their own. After two shows in Garrison units and one at the Dhekelia Theatre Club, the Garrison Commander, **Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, C.B.E.** suggested that the show should play to the whole Garrison on 'Area 2' sportsfield where a stage was being constructed to accommodate a touring CSE show.

THEIR BIGGEST AUDIENCE

So, on a cool night in September, the DRS played to their biggest public audience. Over 1,200 people came to see the show and it was a great success. As the movement restrictions on the island became relaxed, the DRS moved further afield playing at 9th Signal Regiment at Ayios Nikolaos, at the Astra Cinema, RAF Akrotiri (when an RAF Puma was used to move the show in order to get round the curfew restrictions), a trip to the war-torn International Airport at Nicosia at the invitation of HQ UN, and other shows at units within the Garrison. It was at this time the HQ NEARELF, following a suggestion by HQ Dhekelia Area, decided to offer the show to the Gulf States (following the normal CSE route). The show was readily accepted by RAF Masirah, Sharjah and RAF Salalah, and plans were made.

ENSA DAYS

The original members of the DRS consisted of 6 male and 2 female artistes, but the change from continuity to non-continuity posts in Dhekelia meant that 2 of them, (1 male, 1 female) had already left the island by the time the trip was planned. And so it was that the 6 remaining entertainers left Akrotiri on the 3rd January 1975, on what was reported as "the first tour by serving entertainers since the ENSA days of the second world war".

AN ENTERTAINMENT FIRST!

After their arrival in Masirah and a day's rest, the party was flown to Salalah for the first show. Not only was it the first show of the tour, but it was the first time that any group of entertainers had visited the forward gun positions in Salalah. This show was the warmup to the main show in the camp cinema. After the show, which was very warmly received, the party reluctantly flew back to Masirah.

AND ANOTHER?

It was during the first two days at Masirah that yet another first was achieved. **Corporal Stuart 'Rick' Rickard** became the first person to be promoted for his 'service to music'! It came about because all the other members of the DRS were Sergeants' Mess Members which left **'Rick'** out in the cold somewhat. Anyway, someone took pity on him and suggested that HQ Dhekelia be approached for his promotion to the local rank of Sergeant for the duration of the tour. One signal later, **L/A/ Sergeant Rickard** joined the rest of the party in the Sergeants' Mess—and had to buy the first drinks!

FOUR SHOWS

Due to a problem with internal flights, the DRS could not manage to get to Sharjah, so an extra show was arranged in Masirah, making four altogether. Each performance, in the Crazy Horse Saloon, was an unprecedented success. The audience soon learned that by constant earsplitting applause at the end of each act, they could command two and on one occasion, three encores, thus making the original two hour show something like three hours!

THE DHEKELIA ROAD SHOW AT SALALAH

Corporal Rickard is on the extreme right

603 SIGNAL TROOP GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT

It was an elated party that arrived in Dhekelia after eight days in the sun. But this article would not be complete without saying thank you to all those people involved who made the trip so successful. A special mention must be made to members of 603 Signal Troop (the Pongoes) under the guidance of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Barry Hassall.** They were the stalwarts who visited three out of four shows and gave **Corporal Rickard** a terrific reception: **Corporal 'Rommel' Carter, Signalmen Tom Daly, Tony Gardner, 'Ali' Palmer** and **John 'The Hulk' Baxter**—not to mention **Sergeant Tony Denne** who was Director of Broadcasting of Masiraha 'Radio 65' (so we won't).

THE END OF THE ROAD

As mentioned before, it was the introduction of non-continuity posts which reduced the numbers of the DRS and once again Records have struck. Another two leave in February, notably **Corporal Rickard** to 28th Signal Regiment, so it was decided that an 'End of the Road Show' would be performed. This took place before an invited audience in Dhekelia Garrison on 19th January and at the end the Garrison Commander, **Brigadier Robertson,** was presented with a plaque from RAF Masirah on behalf of all members of Dhekelia Garrison. The Brigadier responded by presenting the only female in the show with a box of chocolates. So the Dhekelia Road Show came to an end and a little bit of Dhekelia died with it, but it was an experience all the members of the Show will remember for the rest of their lives.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

OC	**Major R. Dorrell**
2IC	**Captain G. J. Barrett**
QM	**Major A. S. Duncan,** R.G.J.
Admin Officer	**Lieutenant I. G. Jones,** W.G.
OC 'A' Troop	**Lieutenant P. Richards**
OC 'B' Troop	**Lieutenant C. G. F. Day**
RSM	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. C. Bedwell**
RQMS	**W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) J. C. Banks**
MTO	**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) E. J. Kellett**
YoS	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. McBeath**
FoS	**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. Hall**
Chief Clerk	**Staff Sergeant (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) P. J. E. Hilton**

BACK TO A PEACE TIME ROLE—BUT NOT FOR LONG

THE Squadron is now back to normal operational status after the 'cease fire' which lasted from Christmas until 16th January. Needless to say this time it was fully utilised and in place of the normal 100% stand-to posture, for the first time since its arrival in the Province, the Squadron came close to the sort of existence experienced by most units employed in a peacetime role. Range classifications and weapon training were put into top gear and fitness training in the form of inter-departmental sports competitions were implemented. Alas, as was expected, the 'cease fire' did end and after the announcement we were reminded that is was 'business as usual' when an exceptionally loud bang demolished a pub a few hundred yards down the road. Once again it was back to the patrols, sharp-witted vigilance and sleeping with one ear open at nights.

A CHARWALLAH—BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

As the NAAFI organisation declines to operate in 'Indian country' we now have the distinction of having the services of **Mr. Hahmet Khan** and partners to run the canteen. Now, besides having a continual 'char and wads service' it is to be hoped, if not guaranteed, that some soldiers will benefit from learning a smattering of the Pakistani language as an extra mural hobby.

In the last issue of THE WIRE we briefly mentioned the life and times of Alpha Troop. To keep the record straight it is only fair to say that Bravo Troop, which is led by **Lieutenant Charles Day** (ably abetted by **Staff Sergeant Ted Theis** and **Sergeant Pete Allen**) also get their fair share of adrenaline moving duties along the border on the 'Pony Express' (SDS). The last time your correspondent went on one of their trips; the closer we got to the border the lower he sank down into his seat, and reflecting on the thickness of the metal used in making cars these days, toyed with the idea of asking the LAD to fit armoured plating and periscopes for the welfare of passengers on SDS runs. If you can't fight wear a big hat! As well as SDS, Bravo Troop, of course, can be relied upon to cope with the welter of traffic generated by the staff day after day and week after week. Well done the lads of Bravo Troop!

Finally, our recent arrivals and departures list is as follows:

DEPARTURES

Captain Mike Rowbory, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Frank Donovan, Corporals Jack Ridley, Paul Titman and **Bob Laidman, Lance-Corporal Brian Elliott, Signalmen Dave Cornfield, Dougie Pearson, Vince Butler** and **Colin Cowper.**

ARRIVALS

Captain Jerry Barrett, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) John Banks, Sergeant Graham Jobson, Corporal Bob Harrild, Lance-Corporals Dave Dalton, 'Dec' Turner and **Wyn Walters, Signalmen Dave Allen, 'Kev' Corr** and **'Scouse' Greener.**

Brigadier C. S. Wallis-King, O.B.E. congratulating W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Frank Donovan after presenting him with the LS & GC meda

RECOGNISE ANYBODY?
Sergeant Anderson, RPC and a certain M.P.!

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MINOR UNITS CUP WINNERS—CHAMPAGNE AT 0830!
Left to right: Signalman Dave Whittaker, Signalman Tommy Taylor, Brigadier R. F. Richardson, O.B.E., Corporal 'Pip' Pittaway, Signalman Dave Edgecome, Signalman 'Budgie' Edge, Driver Colin Lamb, Signalman Tommy Jackson, Corporal 'Rocky' Stone, Sergeant Bob Lockwood, Corporal Phil Monahan, Captain Joe Adams, Major Mike Spence, Sergeant 'Jacko' Jackson, Staff Sergeant George Hardman

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

SOCCER—MINOR UNITS CUP WON AGAIN

THIS month we make no apology for inserting a triumphant photograph of the Squadron's team for having won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cup yet again. It was achieved by beating 33 Field Squadron RE in a very exciting game played at Ballykinler. The photograph looks dark because it was taken in the dark—0830 on the morning after! It shows the Brigade Commander presenting the cup to the Team Captain, **Sergeant Bob Lockwood,** having seen it suitably filled—champagne from the Officers' Mess! It was a good day!

Since the photograph was taken the team has gone on to beat the Depot of The King's Division and is now through to the semi-final of the UK Minor Units Cup. If you want to be posted to a good soccer team all you have to do is write to Records!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The following have joined the Squadron in the last month. We hope that they will enjoy their tour in Ulster.

Sergeant Hayden, Signalmen Meldon, Thouless, Stubbs and **Private Earnshaw** (RPC).

During this period we said goodbye to many of the Squadron stalwarts, **Sergeant Lockwood, Corporals Pittaway** and **Townsend** (RAOC), **Lance-Corporals Stemmer** and **Revell, Signalman Jordan** and **Private Wisker,** RPC. Last but not least we said farewell to the Squadron's Second-in-Command, **Captain D. C. Podevin** who departed from Ulster to take up his next appointment in BAOR. He is replaced by **Captain I. N. Carruthers** who is a 4 monther!

—AND ADDITIONS

The Squadron was graced with a brace of fledglings at the end of January, our congratulations for a fine effort go to **Akanisi Cagilaba** and **Christine Clarke** who both presented their husbands, **Corporal Joe Cagilaba** and **Lance-Corporal 'Nobby' Clarke** (RCT), with a daughter.

COMMANDER LAND FORCES NORTHERN IRELAND VISITS
Y. of S. Tony Whydell and Commander Land Forces, Major-General P. J. H. Leng, M.B.E., M.C. deep in discussion in the Commcen during a recent visit to the Squadron

NORTHERN IRELAND MINOR UNITS HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

Back row: Corporal Brian Effard, Signalman John Gray, Sergeant Dave Luckett, Lance-Corporal Barry Cook, Signalman Jim Bray, Sergeant Pete Bovenizer

Front row: Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty, Captain Lee Tilson, Corporal Tony Davies, Major Mike Walker, Lance-Corporal Nick Hammett

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

NEWS IN GENERAL

THE Squadron is preparing itself for something big. Packing cases and equipment litter the Squadron lines, even the OC's office is not immune. More details will be given in the next edition when the 'BARE' facts will be laid before you.

SPORT

HOCKEY

The Squadron hockey team, the Northern Ireland Minor Unit champions are due to journey to the UK soon for the finals. Everyone gets 'stick' in 233.

ORIENTEERING

The unit's team ran away with the Royal Signals Championship held recently.

DARTS

Tech Troop 'A' team have yet to be beaten by any worthy challengers and have decided to disband to keep all the disillusioned happy.

SOCIAL

The Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs held a cheese and wine party on 31st January, everyone who remembered 2nd February, voted it a great success.

HEALTH

The S.S.M., **Bob Vale** has his foot in plaster. Yet another sport casualty, this time whilst scoring a basket. The S.S.M.'s utterances at the scene of the accident have been deleted. He is now up and about on crutches but as yet no one has given him the bird.

NEWS FROM THE ENGINE ROOM—TECH TROOP

A few changes below since our last subscription. **Staff Sergeant Paul Glover** has taken over as No. 2 Greaser with special responsibilities for System Control. He has failed to solve one of the Troop's major problems, loss of hair. **Sergeant Dave Thain** has been steadily losing his hair but just lately it has been falling out at an alarming rate. We have written to various agencies asking them for help but as yet none of their solutions have worked. Anyone with any helpful suggestions should send them to **Sergeant Thain** as soon as possible.

We have lost **Signalman Jeff 'Rigger' Stork** who had been up (and down) most of the masts in Northern Ireland. **Signalman 'Locks' Turnbull** has taken his place and role, having arrived fresh from a Riggers Course at RAF Digby.

Corporal Dave Higgins left us just before Christmas. A lot of girls were heartbroken, the Troop having lost its best ever 'Odd Job' from 3 Division. **Sergeant Mick Rideout** eventually replaced him and is beginning to smile and enjoy life. **Sergeant John Edgington** is another fresh faced new boy, settling in well.

The Troop itself has a multitude of tasks and plenty of work. Boredom is unheard of, rest is occasionally, work often. For those technicians looking for change and varied interesting work this is the place. Caravan holidays can also be arranged in Ulster, the duration depends on the length of tour, the location on whichever Mess you belong to.

Finally, the Foreman, **W.O.2 Bill Kent** undaunted by the obvious dangers of Ulster roads has taken to the bicycle. Alas, after a thorough workshop overhaul carried out by himself, it had to go into workshops and have some £8 worth of repairs. On its second day out, the front tyre had a blow out. The F. of S. is now walking.

NORTHERN IRELAND MINOR UNITS HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

After a convincing victory over the Kings Division, Depot The Royal Irish Rangers we then came up against a very strong 3 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron Team in the semi-final who we finally defeated after two periods of extra time on penalty flicks.

The final was also an all Corps affair when the Squadron met old rivals 39 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. Once again the Squadron found themselves up against very strong opposition, at the end of normal time the score stood at 2–2 but the fitness of our lads proved to be the telling factor for in extra time we scored three goals leaving the opposition in a daze. Goal scorers for the Squadron were as follows: **Corporal Phil Codd** (1), **Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' McGerty** (1), **Lance-Corporal Nick Hammett** (1) and **Sergeant Dave Luckett** (2). A special mention must be given to **Corporal Brian Effard** who played in goal due to regular keeper **Corporal Tony Davies'** absence on duty. This was **Brian's** first ever game in goal and he played our last line of defence admirably. We are now looking forward to our next game which is the quarter-finals of the Army Minor Units Cup. Our opponents on this occasion will be the Junior Leaders Royal Artillery based near Nuneaton.

ARRIVALS

We welcome: **Corporals Bone, Haynes, Fulton** and **Signalman Williamson.**

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and bon voyage to: **Sergeant Tranter, Corporal McMahon, Lance-Corporal Phoenix, Lance-Corporal Ryan, Lance-Corporal Shiels, Signalman Ramsay, Signalman Mansley** and **Signalman Bray.**

News from Regiments

Army Apprentices' College
Harrogate

GRADUATION, CHRISTMAS 1974

GRADUATION Day for the Winter Term 1974 was held on Friday, 13th December, and in spite of the date, all went smoothly and well.

The Reviewing Officer was **Major-General Anthony Farrar-Hockley, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C., B.Litt.,** the Army's Director of Combat Development, and in view of his great reputation, maximum security precautions were taken under the guiding hand and eagle eye of the Adjutant, **Major Freddie Oakes.**

Despite the bitter cold, the parade, commanded by **A/T S.S.M. R. A. W. Livermore,** was a good one and remarkably few succumbed to the climate.

AN ALL-ROUNDER

During the parade, **General Farrar-Hockley** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.1 (F. of S.) John Edgington,** Royal Signals, a former member of the College Staff. **W.O.1 Edgington** is now serving with the Royal School of Artillery, and it was at their especial request that this parade was chosen for the presentation: as his home is in Harrogate, his wife, **Shirley,** and their two children, **Timothy** and **Sarah,** were able to attend. Since enlisting in 1951, **W.O.1 Edgington** has served in North Africa, BAOR and Singapore as well as in UK; a keen cricketer and rugby footballer, he has represented the Corps at fencing and sailing.

After the parade, in the comparative warmth of the College Theatre, the Commandant, **Colonel Gordon Neilson,** outlined some of the highlights—and there had been many—of the term. Travel was quite a feature, with apprentices having visited Austria (climbing with **Major Peter Brown),** Germany (for Exercise 'Parashot' 74), the Solomon Islands and St. Lucia.

THREE CHEERS FOR THE GRADUATES

General Farrar-Hockley, having presented prizes, told his audience that the important question to ask oneself was "What sort of a man or woman am I going to be?" One did not, to have been happy and successful, need to have been Prime Minister of Great Britain—"though if there's a good one among you, let him come forward." He said that there was a tendency now to decry and phase out ceremonies such as that which we were now witnessing, and opined that they were worth nothing only if human beings were worth nothing. In a final nice gesture, **General Farrar-Hockley,** having been given three cheers, led the rest in three cheers for the graduating apprentices.

MAYOR OF HARROGATE COMMENTS

Before presenting the Borough Prizes, the Mayor of Harrogate said that being in loco parentis had its privileges: he was going to exercise one and not make a speech. He did point out, though, that Yorkshire people were reputedly careful with their money. Speaking as a Yorkshireman he thought the £10, to which each of the Borough Prizes had now been increased, a good investment: the Borough got a 700 or 800% return in terms of civil aid, charitable work and such like.

Main prizewinners this term were:

The Master of Signals Award for the best all round Apprentice of the Term: **A/T Sergeant A. F. Crilly.**

The Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award for the outstanding Tradesman of the Term: **A/T N. Turner.**

Director of Army Education Prize for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College: **A/T Corporal G. M. White.**

Prizes Awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to the best Apprentices of the Term in each trade wing:

Technicians	**A/T S.S.M. J. C. Hickman**
	A/T Corporal G. M. White
Telegraphists	**A/T K. Starr**
	A/T D. R. Blundell

Education Prizes for the best academic progress during their time at the College:

Technician	**A/T I. R. Morrell**
Telegraphist	**A/T Sergeant A. F. Crilly**

The Borough of Harrogate Prizes for the best essay on Local Government:

Technician	**A/T Corporal M. P. Jones**
Telegraphist	**A/T Lance-Corporal H. W. Mitchell**
	A/T D. G. Wilson

The Champion Squadron Cup: Rawson Squadron

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

A GOOD SPORTING YEAR

THE Regiment has enjoyed notable successes in various fields of sport.

RUGBY

The Regiment started from scratch at the beginning of the season, and now has an enthusiastic following. The rugby players have trained and played hard, and so far this season have played 20 games, won 8, lost 10 and drawn 2. There are still 12 more fixtures to be played.

In the Divisional Cup we won the semi-final against 1 PWO at home, 9–3 and this was our finest match. We lost in the final to the QDGs and therefore became runners up in the Major Units. Games have not been without incidents or injuries and referees this season seem keener on the rules—or perhaps it's just our XV!

W.O.2 Geoff Warburton suffered a badly broken nose and **Corporal 'Jake' Mateyawa** a cut eye against a local German team. However, the beer was good afterwards. **Corporal Geoff**

1 DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT'S UP AND COMING RUGBY TEAM
RUNNERS UP IN DIVISION MAJOR UNITS

Corporal S. Mateyawa, Major R. J. Christie, RE, Corporal R. P. Gunter, Lance-Corporal R. J. P. Bromet, Staff Sergeant J. H. McGahan, RE, Captain R. P. Jenkins, Second-Lieutenant A. D. Forster, Corporal D. R. Layton
Kneeling: Corporal G. C. Holloway, Corporal R. Porter, Lance-Corporal P. K. Thornton, Sergeant R. Dudding, Captain R. C. Drewe, RAEC, Staff Sergeant R. Marsh, Captain M. W. H. Roberts, Corporal P. R. Weedon

Holloway has been chosen for a BAOR Trial in which we all wish him success. We have managed to obtain a few new players by 'postings in' but need more young players.

Anyone wishing to see North Germany and play rugby please ask for 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment!

Next year we intend to run two XVs and gain the Divisional Cup.

BOXING

Once again the BAOR Boxing Championships this year were held in Berlin and although 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment only had two entries they were both very creditable performances. Our two boxers were **Lance-Corporal Benny Bennett** at middleweight and **Lance-Corporal Jerry Dolan** at welter, both of whom were novices. **Benny** had a bye to his semi-final having already been beaten by a stronger and more experienced boxer. He gave all he had before the referee stopped the bout towards the end of the second round; a very courageous effort by our middleweight.

One of the sensations of the whole competition was young **Jerry Dolan** who had two hard fights on the same day. His first win was a points victory but his second fight took on a different pattern. **Jerry's** opponent was a tough, hard hitting boxer from the Queens Own Highlanders. He gave our welterweight entry more than his share of troubles by dropping him twice in the second round. Not to be discouraged **Jerry Dolan** came out in the 3rd round and quickly planted a series of scoring punches on the 'Highlanders' chin, and forced him to take a count. A repeat of these tactics proved successful and the referee stopped the bout in **Dolan's** favour—a courageous win.

The semi-finals was a different story and **Lance-Corporal Dolan** was drawn against **Sergeant Brian Ewen,** 3 RGJ who was both a boxer of vast experience and a former Army champion. The first two rounds were slow with **Ewen** slightly ahead. The third round was more active with **Dolan** realising he had to score. However, experience took the upper hand (cut) and the referee stepped in to stop the bout with only 29 seconds to go.

Lance-Corporal Jerry Dolan did extremely well to have reached this stage in the Championships and being such a young boxer will undoubtedly appear on the scene again.

PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

Lance-Corporal Jerry Dolan (Welterweight) Semi Finalist—BAOR Boxing Championships 1975

(*Continued on page* 85)

(*Continued from page* 84)

FAREWELL TO W.O.1 (S.C.) J. P. BYRNE

It will be sad to lose our A/Adjutant, 'Super Clerk' and organiser of RHQ

Sean has been a tower of strength and the Regimental hockey and squash teams will be hard put to find a replacement. However, we congratulate him on his forthcoming commission and wish him, his wife Betty and family every success at 36 Signal Regiment (V) in his next appointment as Adjutant

FAREWELL TO SUPER Y. OF S. AND RUDI

This month we say goodbye to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tony Cudlip** who came to the Regiment nearly two and a half years ago His pleasant, easy manner has made him popular with all ranks. He is a noted sailor and was a member of the boat that won the RSYC (BAOR) Sailing Championship for the Regiment in 1973. He has always been willing to pass on his sailing knowledge to young sailors by running courses for them. During the winter he has rendered good service to the Regimental hockey team and to the Northern League as an umpire.

An equally familiar figure in RHQ has been a very tall, very slim, very solemn Afghan Hound called **Rudi** who has accompanied **Tony** to the office every morning. His noble bearing and air of bored superiority led to speculation that he held an executive position on the Training Major's staff—perhaps he did! Anyway there is no truth in the rumour that **Rudi** turned down a posting to UK because of quarantine regulations in force against Yeomen of Signals.

Tony goes back to Blandford for commissioning and then returns to Germany for posting to 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. The many friends he has made in the Regiment wish him, his wife **Sheila,** son **Simon** and **Rudi** the very best for the future.

Left to right: W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tony Cudlip at work with Rudi supervising

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

3 SQUADRON TAKES A BOW

IT is the happy lot of 3 Squadron to provide you with the annals of the events of January 1975. Now before you turn over and pass on to another unit's notes just stop and think what you might miss in our installment!

For those of our readers who do not know who we are and what we do in the establishment of 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment read on and join the enlightened few!

AN IMPORTANT ROLE

We provide the circus of HQ 2 Division—no, the writer does not mean to be cynical. If you can imagine the problems of a circus and its amusing moments well there is a certain similarity with our Squadron.

To be serious the Squadron provides the staff complex and commheads for main and step up HQs of 2 Division. Naturally we have our headaches in trying to fit square holes into round pegs when satisfying the staff and the main requirement to be a member of the Squadron is to have an exceptional sense of humour. The OC, **Major David Miller** is running Exercise 'Snow Queen' this year and our aim is to get over 150 members of the Regiment through the course.

OC 'B' Troop, **Captain 'Paddy' Hughes** is away running the Regimental Ski Team and our congratulations to them all for their considerable success this season. **Second-Lieutenant Bob Kinnaird** the new OC Line Troop was quickly infected with the deadly virus of skivitis that is so prevalent in Birdwood. After a few weeks here he was soon installed as the OC 'Snow Queen' Hut and by all accounts he seemed to have a very good time. His story is amongst our notes. His return to Birdwood was most welcomed by all the rest of the Orderly Officers.

INITIATIVE DID YOU SAY?

That seemed to sum up the expression of Bravo Troop when they heard the wise words of their illustrious Troop Commander, **Lieutenant Frank Williams** who was briefing them on a Squadron exercise especially designed to test their wits. One of our RE drivers, **Sapper George Cox** was tasked to find a certain trout farm. What charm he used we will never know as he ended up in a local fraulein's bedroom admiring her aquarium!

Lance-Corporal 'Pat' Culley and his section did very well and covered the course in two hours when all others took six or more. He had to find some mistletoe and the only sprig around for miles was in the Brigadier's garden in Lubbecke. Perhaps the Brigadier has turned a blind eye to the affair, anyway **Lance-Corporal Culley** is not taking any chances and is keeping well out of the way.

Signalman Derek Bamford was tasked to get a bus ticket from Herford. However he had a wee spot of bother trying to persuade a German bus driver to sell him a ticket although he did not want to go on the bus! Very interesting but stupid, these English! was the driver's comment.

EXERCISE 'SNOW QUEEN' 74/75—SO FAR

This year 3 Squadron is organizing Exercise 'Snow Queen' for the Regiment. Crossed Skis House, the Regimental ski hut is situated in Haag near Oy in Allgau. Although snow conditions

could have been better, there have been plenty of opportunities for good skiing both downhill and touring, using the new German Army skis. On Christmas Day **Lieutenant-Colonel Davis** and family visited the hut, for lunch. Afterwards everyone went skiing on the local slope at Mittleburg. The climax of the day arrived in the evening with a magnificent Christmas banquet, cooked by **Private Gears** (ACC).

Relations with the local people have been excellent and the New Year was celebrated with many parties in the local Gasthofs.

Unfortunately **Sergeant Graham,** one of the skiing instructors and our tame mountaineer, spent the whole of the Christmas period in the German Army Hospital, Kempton. He had broken his leg in two places, having fallen on the ice outside the front door of the ski hut.

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

VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE (ARMY)

THE Under Secretary of State for Defence (Army), **Mr. Robert Brown,** MP visited the Regiment on Thursday, 9th January, at the end of his four-day tour of BAOR. He was accompanied by his private secretary, **Mr. N. H. Evans** and his military assistant, **Captain D. M. Braddell,** Grenadier Guards. In addition, whilst visiting the Regiment and Herford Garrison he was also accompanied by the GOC 4 Division, **Major-General J. M. Gow** and the CCR Signals, **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle,** O.B.E.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

Mr. Robert Brown with Lieutenant M. N. Grieves and Corporal R. J. Harvey

On his arrival at Maresfield Barracks **Mr. Brown** was conducted to RHQ for a briefing on the Regiment by **Brigadier Birtwistle** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Oehlers.** After the briefing **Mr. Brown** was taken on a tour of a commcen, a commhead, and the HQ RAC complex which were all laid out as a demonstration on the regimental square. During the course of the demonstration **Mr. Brown** was able to meet several members of the Regiment who came from his Newcastle constituency, and it may be significant that on this particular day nearly half of 4 Squadron seemed to have acquired a Geordie accent.

READING YOUR FRIEND'S WIRE?
YOU **COULD** *BUY YOUR OWN COPY*

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

SPORT—YOU NAME IT—WE PLAY IT

THERE are no apologies for the contents of this article from 8th Signal Regiment. Here at Catterick, it is our proud claim, that few Regiments can match our achievements in such a wide variety of sports.

Reading through previous editions of THE WIRE it would appear that other Regiments specialize in one sport or another. In 8th Signal Regiment we specialize in them all. The choice is enormous; from archery and athletics through golf and gliding to rugby and riding. You name it, you can do it.

In no particular order of precedence, here are some of our achievements over the past few months:

SOCCER

The first team is now through to the sem-finals of the Army Cup and the quarter-finals of the North East District Cup. Under the iron hand of trainer **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Walton,** the squad is now in intensive training for the next round. The first and second teams rose to the top of their respective divisions in the Yorkshire Services football league. No less than twenty members of the Regiment have been selected for the Corps squad. **Sergeants John Fuller, Pat Gallager, Alan Cunningham, Jim Teirney** and **Dave Osborne; Corporals 'Bass' Warburton, Mick Freedman, 'Tommy' Reilly, 'Buster' Brown, Dave Bracey, Jim Murray, Jimmy Baines** and **Bob Haynes; Lance-Corporals Johnny Boyd,** and **Barry Stephens** and **Signalmen Alan Williams, Alan Howarth, Alan Mann, Nick Welsh** and **Alan Coleman.**

RUGBY

The first XV have now played 17 games, winning 10 with 365 points to their credit, giving only 196 away. Two members are now in the Army team, **Lance-Corporal Bill McConnell** and **Signalman Steve Peacock.** Corps players include, **Captains Jim Blake** and **Clive Arthur, Sergeants 'Trev' Johnson** and **Mick Pawlak; Corporals Alan James** and **Andy Hickling and Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Davies.**

CROSS COUNTRY

Our lonely, long distance runners are currently seventh in the newly formed, 28 strong North East District Wednesday League, and came third in the Army Zone 'B' Championships. Our star of this sport is **Sergeant George Holden,** who will be running in the Army finals as an individual.

HOCKEY

The first team is having tremendous success this season, winning the North East Six-a-Side, and the Northern section of the District league in which they won all six games played. The team is also through to the quarter-finals of the Army Cup. **Sergeant Mick Weaver** and **Corporal Martin Roberts** have represented the Corps and **Corporal Pete Havlin** has also been selected but has been enable to play at date.

DINGHY SAILING

The rough weather which hit the country in September and October helped to eliminate our sailing team when they reached the quarter-finals of the Army team event. **Captains Peter Bonser** and **Colin Smith, Sergeants Graham Jobson** and **Tom Roberts** and **Corporal Chris Calver** were the regular members of the team.

CRICKET

The recent MCC tour of Australia could have used some of the talent of our cricket team, which won the North East District Major Units Cup and reached the semi-finals of the Army Cup only to be defeated by the School of Signals, by just one run. No less than eight of our players have represented the Corps.

BASKETBALL

Again our team won the North East/North West District Major Units competition. The team also plays in a local civilian league and their current position is: played 15, won 12 and lost 3. **Sergeant Chris Bond, Corporals Steve Smedley** and **'Matty' Mathews** have all represented the Corps.

ORIENTEERING

The Orienteering team have also been showing their talent in being runners up in the Army North championships, and winners of the Training Brigade championships. The following have represented the Corps: **Major Mike Macklin, Lieutenants Mike Jeffiris** and **Martyn Reid.**

SMALLBORE SHOOTING

Our team is now well on its way to success in the Army Smallbore winter league. In the North East District championships **Staff Sergeant Reg Parnell** came third overall, with **Lieutenant Derek Rutherford** fourth, **Sergeant Derek Bassford** sixth and **Sergeant Derek Hadland** ninth. They have all been chosen to shoot for the North East District team in the Inter-District competition.

BADMINTON

Yet more success, with the team having won the North East District championships mixed doubles, unit doubles and men's singles. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Pete McLaughlin** has represented both the Army and the Corps, and **Staff Sergeant Dave Wells, Sergeant Jim Conway** and **Corporal Dave Ellis** have all represented the Corps.

SQUASH

Headed by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Colin Smith,** a regular Corps player, the team has succeeded in getting three players into the semi-finals of the North East District Individuals competition. **Foreman Smith** went into the finals of both the open and Soldiers competition. **Sergeant Terry Haffenden** won the Open Plate competition.

The foregoing achievements are not easily attained. A lot of time must be spent in training and planning and much credit is due to the players, managers, coaches and spectators for making it all possible.

Here at 8th Signal Regiment we are proud of them and as you must agree, we have plenty to be proud of!

STOP PRESS

The Soccer team has just gone through into the semi-finals of the North East District cup, beating 15 Field Workshops, REME, six goals to two. The semi-final will be a local Derby match against 11th Signal Regiment.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

2 SQUADRON

JANUARY has been a fairly hectic month for 2 Squadron with most people either suffering from the aftermath of Christmas festivities or a common dose of Hounslow 'flu'.

In spite of the annual January blues several members of the Squadron have found time and energy to distinguish themselves sportswise. **Lance-Corporal Bridget Castle** was selected to play for the Army Women's hockey team against the Metropolitan Police on 14th December 1974 and for the match against Barclays Bank at Aldershot on 1st February 1975. **Private Carol McSherry** was selected for the Army Women's netball team on 18th January 1975.

A team from 2 Squadron won the London District Minor Units basketball shield. Needless to say **Sergeants Dave Clark, Al Carratt, Chris Endean, Lance-Corporal Steve Hall, Signalmen 'Tam' Anderson, Ian Hastings, Bob Marsh** and **'Jock' King** are now hard at it getting into shape for the Army Championship semi-finals which will take place at Colchester.

A couple of new faces have been seen roaming around Squadron offices recently. These belong to **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Alex McArthur** late of 6th Armoured Brigade who is complicating our lives by churning out shift roster upon shift roster with ever increasing zeal and energy.

Captain 'Ennery' Jennings of 8th Signal Regiment has arrived (or at least someone going under that name) and taken over from **Peter Todd** as Second-in-Command and Communications Captain.

Sadly we said goodbye this month to **Major Bill Mawson** our temporary OC Squadron. **Bill** is retiring after 30 years 10 months service, most of which has been spent overseas in India, Africa, Malta and Germany. His tales of the Somaliland Scouts, Sierra Leone and the various riots and uprisings in which he was involved during his career have cheered us on many a dreary winters evening. **Bill** is now hard at work building walls and hanging paper on his resettlement course in Aldershot. We wish him and his charming wife **Anna** and family a happy and prosperous retirement in their Devonshire cottage and hope that he will brighten our lives with an occasional visit.

3 SQUADRON

January was relatively uneventful in 3 Squadron, but it did herald the first rehearsal of the 'Signals on Ice' pantomime at the Richmond Ice Rink.

On Monday, 20th January, as a reward for the hard work every person has put in at the Commcen and Telephone Exchange recently, 'In' night was cancelled and 15 members of 3 Squadron 'hit' the Richmond Ice Rink.

Within seconds we discovered that the best form of defence was attack, **Private Beth Watson** managed to gain 2 falls and 1 submission, while **Private Lin Tyler** grabbed the nearest man and refused to let go for at least 2 circuits of the perimeter!

Corporal 'Mitch' Mitchell set off for the middle of the rink bearing a strong resemblance to Charlie Chaplin and then, suddenly realising where she was, turned in horror, and she and **Private Watson** stumbled clutching each other to the side!

Lance-Corporal 'Mo' Mason obviously got a yen for the speedway stuff, and, much to the amazement of all the other skaters, shot past, wobbling furiously, leaving bodies in her wake.

The evening finished off successfully with a friendly visit to the St. John's Ambulance team, on a stretcher, and fish 'n' chips at Aldershot.

Richmond be warned, the second 'rehearsal' is Monday, 10th February!

OTHER EVENTS

Colonel Hazel Powell, ADWRAC SEDIST was dined out by the Aldershot WRAC Officers at the ASPT Officers' Mess, where each brandy bought for her was accompanied by a posting application . . . **Colonel Powell** takes up her new appointment as Officer-in-Charge AG 16.

Captain 'Pippa' Jarman and **Second-Lieutenant Simone Hovell** went to be educated on the new Joe Pilot Scheme, and has returned with 'Do-it-Yourself' instructions for making nuclear warheads! Beware!

Lance-Corporal Yvonne Hartley married **Private Dick Parker** on Saturday, 11th January and is still valiantly soldiering on despite the new trials of housekeeping.

SPORTS

HOCKEY

After a lapse of a number of years, a newly formed Regimental hockey team, under **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Phil Phillips** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Harry O'Mahoney** made an impact on the Londist scene when the teams reached the final in the District Six-a-Side tournament. The team are still holding their own and are currently second in the District league. The forwards have been scoring prolifically and so far have hit the back of the net 47 times in 9 league games.

The Regimental hockey team consists mainly of Hounslow based 2 Squadron. Four of the players have represented the Corps. They are **Sergeant 'Mick' South,** Ace High Troop, **Signalmen Tony Reynolds, Jimmy Mitchell,** Radio Troop and **Signalman Dave Fry,** London Central Troop. In addition **Tony Reynolds** has been selected for representative games with the Army Under 22 team.

THE WIRE . . .
WITHOUT IT
YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

RHQ

THE Adjutant's chair has been vacated by **Captain Roger Whitehead** on his posting to RMA Sandhurst. The new incumbent is **Captain Carl Conlon** who has moved across from Leadership Troop. We also welcome a new Assistant Adjutant, **Second-Lieutenant Philippa Roberts,** WRAC and wish her a pleasant tour with the Regiment.

VISITORS

The **Rev. J. Russel Pope** visited the Regiment on 17th January 1975. He is Chairman of the Methodist Conference. In this capacity he has administrative responsibilities for more than 30 Methodist Circuits comprising of more than 170 ministers and 460 churches. He met the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** and was then taken to visit 2 Squadron to meet junior signalmen under training.

Television viewers on 14th January will have seen an interview with **Robert Bell** (15), the Richmond schoolboy who ran away to join the French Foreign Legion. After 6 weeks **Robert** left the Legion and returned home. On Friday, 17th January he visited the Regiment accompanied by a battery of TV cameras and reporters of the national and local press. No special effort was required by **Lieutenant P. A. Jones,** ACC and **Staff Sergeant Joe Robinson** to show the high standard of food in the Army today. Comment by **Robert** "It is just as good as my mum cooks". **Robert** intends to join the Army as soon as he is 16 and can leave school.

BETTER THAN THE FOREIGN LEGION

15 year old Robert Bell on his first taste of army food says "This beats the foreign legion"

1 SQUADRON

On the 10th January No. 4 Troop commanded by **W.O.1 E. C. Hunt** and with **Sergeant G. J. Dagless** and **Corporal A. S. Cairns, Corporal A. Jarwood** and **Lance-Corporal P. L. Stephenson** for Troop NCOs 'Passed Off'. The inspecting officer was **Colonel J. O. E. Moriarty,** Assistant Director Army Nursing Services for North East England and Scotland and matron of Catterick Military Hospital.

The best recruit was **Signalman Scott** and the best shot was **Signalman Murfitt.**

2 SQUADRON

The Squadron returned from Christmas leave refreshed and ready to work. There are a great many activities going on, and we are very quickly making a name for ourselves on the sportsfield.

On Saturday, 18th January the Squadron rugby team qualified and went through to the semi-finals of the Junior Army Challenge Cup by beating the Mercian Depot Junior Soldier Company by eight points to nil in a hard fought match which went into extra time. The Mercian Depot defended extremely well, and for a time it looked as though the game would end in a draw. However, the superiority of the 2 Squadron forwards, and some probing runs by **Junior Signalman Birch** in the centre led to the first score by **Junior Signalman Hepplestone** from a set move from a line out.

In the semi-final played on 8th February the Squadron defeated the RAPC Apprentices College by 11 points to 9. We are now waiting to hear who are our opponents in the final. The cross country team took part in the Zone 2 elimination of the Army Junior Inter Unit team championship and did well to be placed second in the minor units event. The team consisted of **Junior/Corporal Edwards, Junior/Lance-Corporals Ireland** and **Livsey, Junior/Signalmen McLean, Martin, McTernan, Gray, Roberts** and **Eley.** This result qualifies the team for the Army finals being held at Shorncliffe on 15th February. **Junior/Corporal Carr,** who could not run in the Zone 2 meeting owing to illness, has been selected to represent the Army Junior cross country team against Wales. We congratulate him and hope that with him running in the finals at Shorncliffe we will have enough talent to secure victory.

(Photo: Courtesy A. J. Glover & Sons, Richmond)

THE FIRST ROYAL SIGNALS TECHNICIANS MILITARY TRAINING COURSE

Back row: Clive Soutar, David O'Connor, Alun Coleman, Fred Smith, Bob Kerwin

Centre row: Duncan MacPherson, Ian Bannigan, Alan Parsons, Mike Harrod, Dave 'Ginger' Biddell, Martyn Keith, Bob 'Doormouse' Kerwin

Front row, seated: Staff Sergeant Paul Greenhalgh, W.O.1 Bert Irons, Captain Alan Alfred, Major Stewart Law, W.O.2 Tony Davies, Staff Sergeant Mick Lavery, Corporal Barry Gibbons

EDUCATIONAL VISIT?

No. 10 Troop continues to flourish under command of **Junior/Corporal Paul Edwards,** ably assisted by **Lieutenant 'Willy' Brewin** and **Sergeant 'Les' Downie.**

On Saturday, 1st February the Troop, containing a strong element of Leeds supporters spear-headed by **Junior/Signalman David Bagshaw,** went to Elland Road to watch Leeds play Coventry. We all managed to crowd onto the terraces and everyone enjoyed the match. We had to prevent **Junior/Signalmen Paul Sixsmith** and **Tom Dooley** from producing their Liverpool and Manchester rosettes for fear that we might end up sharing a hospital ward. But all went well and we returned with the same number we had started with—quite an achievement under the circumstances!

3 SQUADRON

Christmas block leave saw the completion of three good courses. Royal Signals Staff Sergeants courses Nos. 92 and 93 and Royal Signals detachment commanders course No. 76. Course No. 92 was a potential Foreman of Signals course. A cheerful and hard-working gathering who all somehow managed to pass the course and, what is more, to achieve outstanding final results.

(*Continyed on page* 89)

(*Continued from page* 88)

At the end of the course the Sergeants' Mess dinner was a resounding success and course No. 92 displayed their versatility in yet another field. For after-dinner entertainment they laid on an extremely funny presentation which was aptly entitled "Our Instructors". The resultant applause was well deserved and, if nothing else, they must have given their full attention to their instructors to have been able to portray them so superbly. Everyone enjoyed it tremendously, including the subjects of fun, all of whom were easily recognised. It must be said however that a certain officer was heard to comment that he objected to being portrayed by a long haired, pigeon-toed, self abused, Quasimodo-like freak. But this was not fair comment, **Sergeant Alan Eames** is not pigeon-toed.

The Squadron wives club, 'Helles Belles', have also done well over the holiday. They organised an evening of carols and, in the bitterest of weather, sang carols in the garrison. The proceeds of this, together with those made from a Christmas Hamper auction, raised £40 which they presented to the Deaf Children's Association. Well done girls, a magnificent achievement.

COURSES 1975

On 6th January we had the largest number of students to assemble at one time. Two staff sergeants courses, a detachment commanders course and the first of a new course in Royal Signals, the Royal Signals Technicians military training course. These were followed a few days later by a leadership course. At the time of writing they have just completed their respective first week and are in various stages of dis-repair. By the time these notes appear in print all will be over and we trust they will all have had enjoyable and informative courses with successful conclusions.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Many new faces have arrived recently and many old stalwarts have taken their leave. We say goodbye to **Captain James Budd, Sergeants Clive Pritchard** and **Steve Pedley, Corporals Vic Hoyle, John Hodges** and **Jimmy Balfour.** Thank you for all your efforts and support and best wishes for the future. We also say goodbye to **Moira Anderson,** our clerical officer, who is going to Germany on posting with her husband. We welcome **Major Stewart Law, Lieutenants Keith Butler,** RAEC and **Mike Anderson, Sergeants Dave Hooks** and **Joe Bonsor** and **Corporal Peter Antrobus.**

14 Sig Regt Worcester

NEAR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

A D13 Detachment commanded by **Captain Ron Abbott** is now comfortably established in Bodo—a small Norwegian town 50 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The initial signal from Exercise 'Clockwork' conjured up visions of a bleak, desolate, windswept, icebound terrain almost totally obscured by snow blizzards. The Norwegian army provided snow ploughs to clear an area for the station whilst the crew made tracks into the site with Kangor Hammers.

The town was almost totally destroyed in the Second World War and has since been rebuilt. The result is a modern well planned town with wide streets amid spacious squares. It is the educational, administrative and commercial centre for the county of Nordland. Guide books insist that the climate is influenced by the Gulf Stream and even in winter is not too severe. (**Ron** and the author's opinions of what constitutes severe winter conditions appear to be somewhat at variance.)

Prior to the detachment's departure, **Major Flamank** of Commando Forces lectured members of the Regiment on the role of Commando Forces with special reference to 'Clockwork'. **Captain Ron Abbott** and **Staff Sergeant Jerry Jarrett** have muscle-tearing, lung-searing plans for winter warfare and ski training which should leave them with little energy for anything else. The detachment, having seen these plans, have now opened a book with William Hill, on which one will be elected Abominable Snowman.

The crew are billeted in the Norwegian army barracks and are quite comfortable. They have now experimented with such gastronomic delights as raw herrings. A whispering campaign has been launched to convince our NATO allies of the nutritional value of steak and chips. With our detachment's luck (if they succeed) these will probably turn out to be whale steaks.

Whilst writing a rather frigid page in the Regiment's guide to good exercise sites they are also meeting a radio schedule back to the UK.

Our Second-in-Command, **Major Colin Bunce,** has finally managed a liaison visit to one of our overseas exercises at his 13th attempt (a case of unlucky for one). To succeed with a visit to the frozen wastes after all the trips to exotic tropical climes have been cancelled must prove something. Our Second-in-Command designate, **Major Tony Edmonds,** appears to have more luck. He is at present on a recce in Italy for a D13 exercise scheduled for later in 1975. His only complaint is that this recce was arranged at such short notice that he had no opportunity to practice his spaghetti-eating technique.

CLOSE TO MOUNT KENYA

Another D13 detachment, commanded by **Captain 'Sandy' Lovatt,** is communicating for Exercise 'Avast'.

In view of the fact that he was born in Rhodesia, **'Sandy'** feels that he is ideally suited to command this detachment. They are working to Gan where we have established a liaison party.

Our advance party, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson,** having reached Nanyuki, looked like having communication problems when the Hercules carrying the station and crew went sick in Cyprus. **Captain Lovatt** pulled more strings than a one man bell-ringing team and eventually, by devious means, managed to unite Foreman, station and crew in the exercise location in time to meet E hour.

After the Regiment's white hunters have been out there a while with the big game, I feel sure that they will be able to write a sequel to "Running Free"—"Living Terrified" perhaps?

NEARER HOME

Captain Colin Heaps accompanied by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Len Sant** took a D13 detachment to Blandford to take part in Exercise 'Pasha' with 30th Signal Regiment. This proved to be the first sub-aquatic event of the year because the heavens opened as we moved in and the rain continued until we moved out. The sub-merged D13 functioned well and our radio waves managed to float to the surface and dry out on their journey to Gibraltar.

Sergeant Rupert Lund organised the defence and the daily rodeo, so that by the end of the exercise he had become really proficient in rounding up the herd of cows which had a lemming-like aim to scratch themselves on our transmit antenna. **Rupert's** efforts successfully prevented them destroying our masts or themselves. On one occasion **Lance-Corporal Jim Leggate** looked like following in Hitchcock's footsteps and becoming Britain's second matador, as a young bullock followed him with evil intent. An adroit flourish of his combat jacket averted disaster and put the bullock to flight.

Whilst our party revelled in the mud and moisture of Blandford, **Corporal Steve Firth,** with **Lance-Corporals 'Kev' Strange** and **Gerry Rose,** endured unbelievable hardships assisting the naval operators at the other end of our link in Commcen Gibraltar. They report that although the Navy no longer get the tot, their hospitality more than makes up for it. Their visit, although somewhat short, gave them the opportunity of seeing all the many attractions of the Rock.

By the time the exercise ended the Blandford site had been transformed into a sea of glutinous mud. In spite of this **Lance-Corporal Steve Mathieson** with his Rover managed to extract our cabins and platforms in his usual slick fashion. Whilst this was going on the remainder of the crew had a final gambol in the mud. We trust that DOE won't be sending the Regiment a hefty bill for the large amount of real estate we brought back attached to boots and combat kits. The OC detachment and Foreman are now canvassing all known beauticians, with a view to selling them a sea of fine mud ideal for face packs. The efficacy of this commodity is eloquently demonstrated by our detachment of beautiful people.

Notable visitors to the exercise were Commander 1 Signal Group, **Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.,** and GOC South West District, **Major-General G. L. C. Cooper, M.C.** Both appeared to be favourably impressed with all they saw.

WANDERER'S RETURN

After his trip to the top of the world **Sergeant Bill Littlewood** has now returned to the fold. During his stay in Nepal he spent six weeks in Katmandu (the penguins refused to fly). This gave him an opportunity to visit the innumerable temples and places

of interest. Preparations for the coronation were well in hand, the capital was a hive of activity and provided a vivid contrast to similar state occasions in UK. The nomadic Hippy populace has now been drastically reduced and has lost most of its glamour, however, there are still a number living rough in squares and temples.

A visit to Dharan gave him the opportunity to meet our man in Nepal, **Staff Sergeant 'Robbie' Bahadur Robertson, B.E.M.,** of Gurkha Signals. He was also introduced to that gourmet's delight, curried porridge for breakfast. This failed to titillate his palate and he remains a staunch egg and bacon man. By moving on to Paklihawa he managed to complete a survey of the night life of Nepal.

On his trips through Nepal he was most impressed with the rugged grandeur of the scenery in a totally unspoiled landscape. The local populace also won his admiration for the stoical dignity with which they accepted privation and unbelievable hardship as normal. He now has a new appreciation of the quality of Western life. **Bill** found Nepal to be a country of ups and downs, with the ups being invariably in the direction he was going and no regular bus service.

Captain Don 'I've got a dog' Clarke has advised me that one of his greyhounds recently took part in a handicap race, started from scratch, ran as if his tail was on fire, almost overtook the hare and was very narrowly beaten into second place on a photo finish. **Don** received £19 from a £1 stake, purchased another dress shirt and is now available for formal social functions.

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

TWIN CITIES

THE Regiment was again reminded of the close links between the cities of Krefeld and Leicester by the visit of the Lord Mayor of Leicester, **Councillor Mrs. A. Irene Pollard.** Much was packed into three days including the Annual Orphans Party. Each year at Christmas the Regiment gives a party for the Orphans from three local Children's Homes, this year 170 of them sat down to bratwurst and chips followed by the more traditional Christmas games and Father Christmas visit (Thank you **Staff Sergeant John Walker**).

Lieutenant-Colonel Hackworth, The Lord Mayor of Leicester and two of the children at the 16th Signal Regiment party for Krefeld orphans

C-in-C BAOR VISITS

The New Year got off to a good start with a visit by **General Sir Harry Tuzo,** G.C.B., O.B.E., M.C. the C.-inC. BAOR and Comnorthag. His tour of the Regiment included a visit to the BAOR Tape Relay Centre and a display of Field Communications by 2 and 3 Squadrons.

SPORT

Although beaten in the Rhine Area Rugby Cup **Staff Sergeant 'Geordie' Gainford** and **Corporal Paul Baines** have again been selected this year to play for BAOR.

At small bore shooting the inter-squadron competition produced a surprise when a WRAC team from the Commcen led by **Second-Leiutenant Lyn Ralph** thoroughly beat the two field squadrons.

V.I.P. VISIT

C.-in-C. BAOR General Sir Harry Tuzo, G.C.B., O.B.E., M.C. talking to Corporal Ken Counsell and Signalman Peter Fox

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

IDEAL FOR HOLIDAY TOURING

WITH the spell of mild weather thoughts easily turn to summer and holidays. Fortunately we are well placed here in Lippstadt, it is just 12 miles to the nearest Autobahn at Soest. This journey will be even shorter in the near future when the Dortmund/Kassel autobahn is completed and we have our own junction (why not?) some two miles south of Lippstadt.

Once on the autobahn one can motor quite comfortably to Oostende (for UK) in five or six hours. In the opposite direction Berlin is just six hours away. Heading south you could find yourself in the Black Forest, Bavaria, Austria, Switzerland and if you do not get carried away by the scenery, Italy is not impossible, seat permitting, in 24 hours. Another favourite for those who enjoy motorway driving, or wish to collect their new Citroen or Renault direct from the factory, is Paris which is just a mere eight hours drive . . . However don't go dashing off in all directions, just look outside, winter is back.

SKIING

LANGLAUF—ISHGL (AUSTRIA)

On 3rd December the Langlauf team arrived at the 'Snow Queen' hut in Wielenburg owned by the jovial **'Herr Beck'.** The members were picked from the Regimental Cross-Country team. Fitness posed no problems and we plunged into an energetic training programme under the auspices of grade III instructor **Corporal 'Jed' Donald.**

We departed for the 4 Division Championships being held at Ishgl, Austria, on 8th January. The team was: **Second-Lieutenant Willis, Corporal Temmen, Lance-Corporal McGovern** and **Signalmen Usher, Jones, Sanderson** and **Kurthausen.**

Butterflies were plentiful before our first race, the 4 × 10 km. relay. We were delighted when we finished 4th overall! In the 4 × 7·5 km. relay, we dropped to 5th—a position we maintained in the 15 km. race. In the junior and novices 10 km. race, **Signalman 'Tich' Sanderson** skied superbly to take 1st overall—unfortunately **Signalman 'John' Usher,** set to do a good time, was disqualified for going the wrong way; **Second-Lieutenant Willis** managed 4th place. The patrol race did not go well; we dropped a pickhelve. Nevertheless, we left for the Army meeting well satisfied with our performance.

The Army meeting, for us began with a setback, as **Corporal 'Bernie' Temmen** who had earlier damaged a cartilage could not ski. **Signalman 'Tich' Sanderson** (10 km.) and **Signalman**

BRIGHT SUNSHINE—CRISP SNOW

Regimental skiers in good form

Left to right: Corporal Temmen, Lance-Corporal McGovern, Signalman Sanderson, Signalman Kurthausen, Signalman Jones, Signalman Usher, Second-Lieutenant Willis

'John' Usher (4 × 10 km. relay) both performed well. It was in the junior biathlon sprint however that we performed best. **Signalman Sanderson** coming 7th—to gain a NSFGB tankard **Second-Lieutenant Willis,** 18th and **Signalman John Usher,** 20th.

All thoroughly enjoyed it, though at times it was hard work.

FAREWELL TO S.S.M. HOLDER

On the 10th January we said farewell to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Dennis Holder** in the Sergeants' Mess. At this gathering the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Wheawell,** the Second-in-Command, **Major D. Lycett-Gregson** and all the Officers of Headquarters Squadron were present. In a farewell speech the Squadron Commander, **Major R. Acott** thanked the Sergeant Major for all he had done for the Squadron and presented him with a set of crystal glasses and a silver tray suitably inscribed. We all wish **Sergeant Major Holder** and his wife **Matty** good fortune in civilian life.

OVER THE BARRACK WALL

They couldn't believe their eyes, for when their troop commander opened his sleeping bag on a recent exercise, out popped a 'Panda Bear'. He tried desperately to explain its presence, something about "my small son must have", but all he got was puzzled looks and "we understand—Sir" . . . And who was the owner of this cuddly toy, no name dropping but try this anagram, **Captain M O S N M S Y.** When buying a television set in Germany one has to very quickly learn to lip read or take a crash course in German, they even dub John Wayne . . . However this should not be necessary in the near future as it is rumoured that we will be getting our own TV programmes . . . And what's more it's true, say the SKC. Ever heard of a camouflage net being inside out? Well! it's quite true, there is a right and wrong way to drape these things . . . Never seen them inside out but often upside down.

Trying very hard to please, the Officers' Mess cook mixed half a bottle of red wine with half a bottle of white, both left over from lunch, added some water and put it in the fridge. Serving it up for the evening meal, a young subaltern enquired "What exactly is this?"

"Leftover Rosé 1975 . . . Sir" replied the bright lad.

IT HAPPENED YESTERYEAR

Extracts from our Regimental Scrap Book 1961:

18th April 1961	**Major P. H. Flear,** Royal Signals appointed Second-in-Command vice **Major V. C. Valle,** Royal Signals.
10th June 1961	Sergeants' Mess Ball—Farewell 'This is your Life' presentation to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Pavey.**
23rd October 1961	Visit of SO-in-C, **Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, O.B., C.B.E.**
13th December 1961	**Captain T. E. D. Baxter,** Royal Signals assumes the duties of Adjutant vice **Captain J. T. Treglown,** Royal Signals.

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

EXPOSE

THE Regiment is forced now, to admit that it has the unique Mobile Tropospheric Scatter Troop. (Because OC Tropo is responsible for this month's WIRE notes.)

The Troop is 30 strong with 12 seniors divided into two terminals. To fulfill the task, we have RR Techs, TE Techs, Cbt Pmn, Cbt Lmn, Cbt Dvrs and a Clerk Tech. Enough said!

The rest is either too technical or classified so one of our more vociferous members, **Corporal John Southern** has written a few notes to bring back some of the many memories.

From the annual of Tropo. The Troop has again completed a successful year under the guidance of **Captain Nigel Fairley** and **Staff Sergeant 'Art' Brittenden.** It was however not without the odd mishap. The £2,000 star award won a 15ft. tropo dish falling earthward under the careless misdirection of **Corporal John Southern.** HP instalments with a supported plea of insanity have helped to ease the blow.

Congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Roy Brown** on his promotion, L.S. and G.C. and brain removal, ('B' on his Guards Drill Course). Also to **Lance-Corporal Steve Major** on his promotion, despite the fact he was odds on favourite in 'Watch this space' races. **Signalman Dave Petts** is now the favourite; after all the Commander-in-Chief talked to him on his recent visit to the Regiment.

Exercises still form the backbone of the Troop's work load. Admin NCO, **Corporal 'Benny the Ball' Gunn** keeps a fatherly eye on the Northern terminal; he also makes a good powerman and windbreaker. There is also the Pawlak-Walton disco daf which doubles as a line vehicle in the time of war. Also amorous **'Buss' Jordan** whose rugged looks and sensual wink have felled a thousand barmaids. The Southern terminal is under the motherly eye of **Staff Sergeant Roy Brown.** Kanne village has become a second home to many of the Troop. Here **Sergeants 'Sniffer' Francis** and **John Ratcliffe** keep an eye on the boys through the bottom of ever empty Stella Artois glasses. **Lance-Corporal John Goodfellow** and **Signalman Garry Morris** have been awarded honorary citizenship—but not the freedom. **Sergeant 'Mick' Everett** keeps the wheels turning technically, hindered as ever by **Corporal 'Yagger' Knight.** That's seventeen members, the rest are no less famous, but I forgot our longest serving member, **Signalman 'Otty' Ottosen.**

Finally it is with regret we say farewell to the OC, F. of S. and **Corporal 'The Koo' Bushell,** and no farewell faults on the equipment please!

Footnote: Welcome to the new F. of S., **'Laurie' Priestly.** Things will change as he wears pink pyjamas 'on Exercise'.

SOCCER

On 22nd January the Regiment tried losing the BAOR quarter-final to 36 Heavy AD Regiment RA. We were 2–0 down at half time. Shortly after the interval the Gunners increased their lead to 3–0. Late in the game the Regiment substituted **Signalman 'Taffy' Moulds** for **Sergeant 'Paddy' Parkhill. Signalman 'Taffy' Moulds** turned the game alight with a goal, 3 minutes later **Sergeant Pete Campbell** scored and in the 85th minute **Corporal Tommy Hope** equalised. In extra time **Corporal Tommy Hope** scored the winner. With no goals and only 28 minutes to go it was a great victory and the Regiment now meet 1 A and SH in the BAOR Semi-Finals in Osnabruck on 8th February.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

REGIMENT FULLY DEPLOYED

HAVING once again survived the rigours of the Christmas squadron parties, Father Christmas and block leave we are back in harness preparing for our first UEI and exercise of 1975.

We began this year with a bang, on Exercise 'Boreas 3', although only a five day exercise in the local area many of you will know that the Dorset Downs in January, can be a wet and draughty place. However the No. 1 (Spearhead) Squadron under its new Squadron Commander, **Major Warren Armstrong,** elements of No. 2 Squadron in the shape of Linemen and 'Wombles' (EW Troop) and No. 3 AMF (L) Squadron as a shake out before they depart for Norway on Exercise 'Hardfall' took to the field.

This exercise was followed by a full-scale Regimental deployment in the field for the visit of the GOC South West District. He was able to see elements of all four Squadrons at work, had pre-lunch drinks in the WO's and Sergeants' Mess and luncheon in the Officers' Mess before having a look at our newly decorated single soldiers' accommodation.

SKIING IN SCOTLAND, TOO

Our new training officer, **Captain Peter Durrant** has joined 2 Squadron and has the second individual training period this winter well under way to ensure that every soldier in the Regiment will make at least one career advancement this year. For those who are not on the final and third period of individual training and not going to Norway with 3 Squadron we have our adventure training skiing exercise in the Cairngorms, Exercise 'Snowball' running from 8th February until 22nd March. So you see there is little time for doing nothing or even a chance to become bored with the Swan Regiment.

BACK FROM CYPRUS

We have recently heard that **Lance-Corporal Ian Plater** has received a personal commendation from the Commander of the British Forces Near East for distinguished service during the recent Cyprus emergency and we wish to extend our congratulations to him. As you will see from the photograph we are also pleased to have **Signalman Michael Muse** back with us after recovering from a wound received during the recent fighting in Cyprus. Although he did not complete a full tour in Cyprus he along with **Lance-Corporal Ken White, Signalman Christopher Rumney** and **Signalman Nicholas Phillips** were given a special issue of the UN medal.

WOUNDED IN CYPRUS

The Commander I Signal Group, Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E. congratulating Signalman Michael Muse on his Cyprus medal and on his return to the Regiment after recovering from a wound received during the recent fighting during the Cyprus emergency

Finally we wish farewell to **Major Ray Lettin** who leaves us for the Ministry of Defence and also to his wife **Pat.**

We will miss them both and wish them all good fortune. We welcome to the Regiment **Major Warren Armstrong** and **Captain Peter Durrant** to 1 and 2 Squadrons respectively. We hope that they will enjoy their stay with us.

News from Squadrons

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

THESE notes cover the last three months. Most of usual winter activities have taken place and we hope these few highlights will interest all 'Ex-Rats' and all who still aspire to wear the Red Rat!

BATTLE OF SIDI REZEGH COMMEMORATED

On the 21st–22nd of November 1941 there took place in the Western Desert the Battle of Sidi Rezegh.

To commemorate this Battle, in which 7 Armoured Brigade and especially the Headquarters were heavily involved and a memorial service and march past was held at Bournemouth Barracks on Sunday, 24th November 1974.

We were fortunate to have with us as our guest, **Brigadier Davy,** who commanded the Brigade during the Battle. Also visiting was **Captain Rodney Rawson,** who was Squadron Admin Officer in 1944 and 1945. **Brigadier Davy,** during his stay, visited many of the units now in the Brigade, and inspected in detail the Headquarters and the Signal Squadron. Over the weekend he met many of the men and their families, being entertained in the Sergeants' Mess, and attending the Brigade autumn ball. **Brigadier Davy** also formally opened the newly built 'Jerboa School'.

BRIGADIER DAVY INSPECTS THE MEN'S LUNCH TO SEE IF FOOD HAS IMPROVED SINCE HIS DAY!

Left to right: Signalman 'Humf' Humphreys, Major Bob Cook (OC), Brigadier Davy, an unknown aviator, Private 'Pete' West

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

That annual test of fitness and stamina known as Christmas came round again all too quickly. The season is now over, and we are glad to say the unit passed with Flying Colours.

On Christmas eve a 'living-in lads' choir toured the quarters dispensing goodwill in return for glasses of Christmas cheer. The choir was organised by **Lance-Corporal 'Killer' Smith,** who led fourteen angels in white sheets with lanterns in this door to door serenade.

COLOUR TV FOR ORPHANAGE

The Squadron has close ties with, and supports in many ways the local Stubeckshorn Orphanage. Over Christmas it was discovered that they owned only one TV with which to cater for an age range of 1–16 years. Consequently during the Corporals' Mess Draw **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Hart** and **Corporal Ian Duncan** started to collect for a TV for the children. After further donations from the Officers and Sergeants' Messes, over DM1000 was raised, and a colour TV was presented to the children by **Corporal 'Jock' Leighton, Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Hart** and **Lance-Corporal 'Bas' Hamill.**

A KINDLY ACT

Corporal Leighton, Lance-Corporal Hart and Lance-Corporal Hamill with the colour TV they presented to a local German orphanage

SKIING

Once again the Squadron entered the 1 Division Skiing Championships held at Axams in Austria. The downhill team, consisted of **Corporal 'Taff' Winter, Lance-Corporal Bob Pepper** and **Signalmen Godfrey Burris** and **'Fergi' Ferguson,** and whilst winning no honours, they caused a few red faces amongst the major units they managed to beat.

POST CHRISTMAS REALITY

As the Exercise Season stretches ahead with even more changes than normal, an old member of 'A' Troop has given us these words to be the Troop motto:

"We trained hard . . . but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation".

PETRONIUS ARBITER 210 BC,
PETRONIUS MASTERMINDUS ARBITER,
SOLTAU TRAINING AREA 1975.

7 Arty Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 20

ONE would know that a long weekend is just about to begin, the SSM always looks forward to these occasions when he uses his subtle form of bribery, i.e., **"Corporal Bell,** WIRE Notes. If you want a long weekend produce them by lunch time."

The highlight of our Jimmy Club calendar is the December draw and dance and PRI reveals its riches and a spread is laid on for all to enjoy. This year, the 'project' was inspired by **Corporals Chris Bell** and **Jim Freeburn** and a committee of four pressed men, **Corporals Bob Wyse, Dave Hutchison, Lance-Corporal Gordon Scott** and **Gunner Archie Morrison.** We managed to

(*Continued on page* 94)

Overseas Opportunities

Telecommunications Technicians

The CABLE AND WIRELESS worldwide telecommunications Group is expanding its operations and has interesting openings for Lines Communication Technicians and Mechanicians in various overseas locations.

Contracts for two years, or in some cases 18 months, will be offered on attractive financial terms. Other generous conditions will include free return air passages for self and family, rent-free fully furnished accommodation, and extensive paid leave on completion of contract.

If you have operational and maintenance experience in any of the following fields we shall be pleased to hear from you:—

- ☐ Manual and/or Automatic Telex switching systems.
- ☐ Message Handling and/or Data Systems at the 5 and/or 8-Unit Level.
- ☐ Automatic error correcting equipment/ transmission systems.
- ☐ VFT and TDM systems.
- ☐ Servo systems, telemetry and allied applied areas of digital and logic electronics.
- ☐ Maintenance of 5 and/or 8-Unit equipment.

We would expect candidates to be in their 20's and 30's and for the Technicians to be qualified to 3rd Year City and Guilds level (Course 270/271) although ONC/OND would be acceptable if the proven field experience is adequate.

Please write or telephone for an application form to:

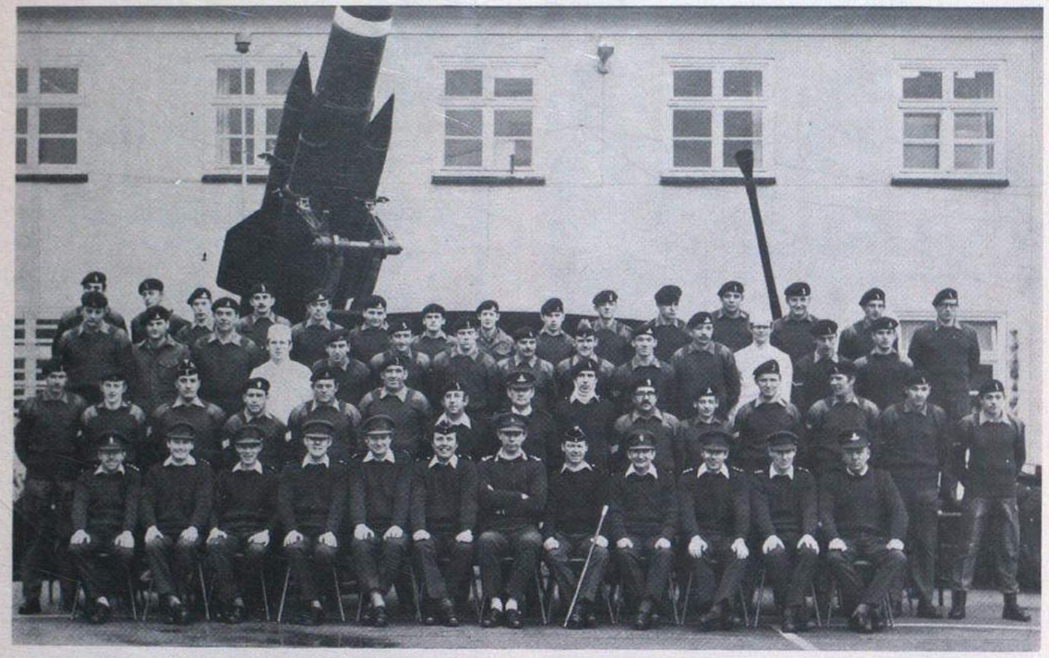
CABLE & WIRELESS
A. Davidson
Dept. A885/340,
Cable and Wireless Limited,
Theobalds Road,
London, WC1X 8RX.
Tel. 01-242 4433 Ext. 211.

(*Continued from page 93*)

sell DM3,500 worth of tickets for the draw and we were very pleased to present the star prize, a three piece suite, to one of our own Squadron, **Sergeant 'Taff' Roberts,** REME.

More recently, we had our administrative visit. This was on 22nd January and **Brigadier G. W. Hutton** the Commander of the Brigade was the visiting officer. All went well, hence our long weekend!

We say farewell to our Second-in-Command, **Captain Mike Marshall,** RA who departs for England only to return later on this year with his new Regiment who commence duty in Dortmund. We wish both he, and his family (which includes three dogs!) every good fortune and look forward to their return to Dortmund. Another departure is **Lance-Bombardier 'Lofty' Lord** who moves to new pastures in Lippstadt. Good luck to him and his family.



SMILE PLEASE—HQ 7 ARTILLERY BRIGADE AND SIGNAL SQUADRON FACE THE CAMERA
Sixth from left, OC Squadron, Major P. A. Treseder, next to him on right, Brigade Commander, Brigadier G. W. Hutton

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

WE INTRODUCE A NEW LIGHTWEIGHT HF SET

IN January it was arranged that we would work an HF radio link from an FAC exercise at Otterburn back to Cherry Tree Camp. **Corporal Keith Anderson** was the FAC 'King' operator, and in Colchester **Lance-Corporal Bob Beebee** of Alpha Troop set up a C11 SSB, complete with the finest dipole that time and copper wire could produce.

Alas, at the time for the first schedule to be kept, you've guessed it—nothing! One of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Watts'** ace technicians was immediately summoned; but meanwhile **Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith** had offered the services of his special equipment, normally used on ACF/CCF nets.

This set was much more compact than the C11 SSB, lighter, much easier to tune and has a special 'flick' facility. Needless to say, perfect communications were established as soon as the set was warmed up.

The name of this excellent piece of equipment? On a small plate on the front may be read **"Wireless Set No. 19 Mk. III" . . .**

"NOT TO WIN BUT TO TAKE PART"

January did not produce the same crop of bumper sports results as had December. The soccer team, with **Captain Ted Noon** as manager for the last time before leaving us for 227 Signal Squadron, took the Depot, Queens Division to extra time in the District Minor Units cup after a goal by **Lance-Corporal Dave Mann.** But the match was eventually lost 4–1.

Our basketball players, under **Sergeant Pete Wilson,** put up a good show in the Eastern District competition, but lack of experience was against them.

On the brighter side, the rugby team, organised by our new Yeoman, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Keith Finch,** beat our arch rivals 19 Ordnance Field Park by 34–8. Recently, however, even they lost; a closely fought match of 'course rugby' with Chelmsford Prison (who only play home matches!) produced a result 14–10 against us.

ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE TROOPS

'Q' Troop are still staggering under the New Year onslaught of OC's inspections, a unit hygiene inspection, PRE and preparations for our FFR. Unfortunately, **Major Jim McLuckie,** the OC Squadron, was so impressed with the 'Q' Troop barrackroom he selected it to be a showpiece on FFR day—the occupants have been told never to let THAT happen again.

A special welcome at this time for reinforcements, in the shape of **Lance-Corporal George Thompson,** RPC and **Signalman Alan May.**

LIKE OLD SOLDIERS—THEY NEVER DIE!
Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith shows Lance-Corporal Bob Beebee how to operate our secret weapon—the No. 19 set

'Alpha' Troop provided almost the entire unit cross country team for the recent Eastern District Championships (just as well they were narrowly pipped for fourth place or we'd never have heard the end of it!). OC 'Alpha' and Team Captain, **Captain Phil Cooper** says they will do much better at the Brigade sports festival in March, after an intensive training programme.

'J' Troop, meanwhile, have been quietly working to enhance the Squadron's reputation by achieving an excellent vehicle inspection report on PRE. Even so, there has been time for **Signalman Steve Chopping** and **Signalman Mick Armstrong** to go up to Aviemore for two weeks skiing. We are with them in spirit. The troop welcomes **Sergeant Roy Cadman, Signalman 'Paddy' Taylor** and **Signalman Graham Davies.** No doubt they'll soon be as nutty as the rest of 'J' Troop.

SHQ Troop have had one outstanding achievement recently. The games team, **Corporal Alan 'Darts' Cooper, Corporal Mick 'Crib' Hoare** and **Signalman Phil 'Boatrace' Rosslee** (admittedly with the help of a few members of 'Q' Troop and the 'D' and 'E' Platoon) beat 'J' and 'M' Troops in the Squadron knockout games competition and now go on to meet either 'Alpha' or LAD/MT Troops in the final.

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 5

VISIT BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF— MAJOR-GENERAL P. A. M. TIGHE, M.B.E.

WE were honoured by a visit from the SO-in-C on the 6th and 7th of January 1975.

He was met at Singapore Paya Lebar international airport by the OC, **Major Ian Graham** and then taken to Commonweath House to meet the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier G. D. J. Russell, O.B.E.** and **Mrs. Russell.**

On the morning of the 7th having visited the Brigade Headquarters the SO-in-C then paid his visit to the Squadron

After a briefing by the OC on the role of the Squadron he then saw various Squadron detachments in a tactical deployment. Despite the rapid transition from UK winter to tropical heat and the problems of 'jet lag' he impressed everybody with his tremendous evergy and interest.

This part of the visit lasted until lunch time, when he then visited the soldiers in the Junior Ranks Club and was presented with a Squadron plaque by **Corporal Jim Lander.** A visit to the Sergeants' Mess followed where he was met by the GSM, **W.O.1 Dennis Connel, M.B.E.,** Royal Signals and had drinks with the SNCO's of the Squadron. He was presented with a pewter tankard by the S.S.M., **Jim Bowman** and was last seen heading towards the Officers' Mess sporting a tankard full of vodka and tonic saying, quote "I hope you don't mind me drinking it on the way".

That evening he dined with all Royal Signals Officers on the Island, all five of them and their wives.

Major I. Graham	—OC 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Captain (QM) D. W. Stanley	—Adjutant 28 Admin Support Unit
Captain (TOT) H. Davies	—TOT 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Captain P. Thompson	—Second-in-Command Jungle Warfare Wing
Captain J. Kay	—Second-in-Command 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Mr. George Smart	—Resident GPO Engineer

For us the visit was a memorable occasion. The SO-inC impressed and delighted us all. He spoke individually with every soldier of the Squadron showing a deep understanding of every man's job. We wish him an enjoyable tour as SO-inC.

VISIT TO ANCHOR BREWERY

A party of 20 from the Squadron visited the Anchor Brewery just to see what happens to all the profits that our Squadron makes for the firm.

Our guide should have been a fine old gentleman who has worked for the brewery for 30 years but due to his being on holiday we had to settle for a gorgeous young lady who was perfection—down to her nail varnish. The visit was short but very interesting. Our guide answered most of our questions such as where she lived, how old she was, where was she going for lunch etc.

But the visit was successfully rounded off with one hour's free beer (Anchor only) in the brewery bar. A good visit rounded off with the afternoon in the city sampling the delights.

Final word from **Sergeant John Wallace** on the visit, "I thought she was really lovely but I wish she didn't eat garlic!"

7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Squadron entered two teams for the 7-a-side football competition held in Terror Barracks on Saturday, 18th January. Two cups were being played for, the Pavilion Cup and the runners-up cup, although both teams failed for a place in the Pavilion Cup, the 'A' team reached the final of the runners-up cup, to be beaten 3–1 by *H.M.S. Warspite* in a hard fought game—a good result for the Squadron.

All of the 'A' team who included **Sergeant Tom Sawyer, F. of S. Nick Lynn, Corporal 'Paddy' Cooper, Signalman Mick Cousins, Corporal Bob McClurg, Sergeant John Gilbert, Corporal Brian Smythe** (REME), **Signalman Colin Wynne** and **Corporal Ian Urquhart** received from **Lieutenant-Colonel Ward** a runners-up plaque.

216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

AS 1974 drew to a close we heaved a sigh of relief and put a final effort into our last exercise of the year.

EXERCISE 'SWAN LAKE' AND CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE G.O.C.

To prove that we can also operate under civilised conditions we went to RAF Fairford, a quaint little outpost somewhere in England. Our task was to run the Control communications for a 3 Division CPX, simulating all manner of things. The exercise setting was Schleswig Holstein, a familiar territory to many, but never as cold or as bleak as Fairford.

W.O.1 (F. of S.) 'Dave' Harvey and his 'PG Tips' crew began laying line and installing equipment a week prior to the arrival of the main body. By the time all was ready he had laid 11 miles of assorted cable (not much by Corps standards, but

considering our particular role, a feat in itself), and prepared 120 circuits, including intercoms, remotes and telephones. We then had to maintain the Exercise Commcen, 20 HF detachments and 21 VHF detachments, as well as the Staff cells.

By the end of the week we had proved that our not often called upon 'static skills' are as good as our normal ones, and we were congratulated on our efforts by the GOC 3 Division.

We must thank those who were attached to us, prior to or during the exercise, for their valiant assistance. They were **Sergeant Alderton** and 6 linemen (lead by **Corporal Marr**) from 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, **Sergeant Snaithe** from 244 Signal Squadron and **Sergeant MacKinlay** and **Signalman Sankey** from 55 Signal Squadron (V).

It is worthwhile noting that, with the exception of the line party which we had solely for the period before the exercise, we ran the entire show with 40 all ranks!

While 'Swan Lake' was going on we had a few radio detachments in Gibraltar, where **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Aitken** managed a short trip to Morocco, to see the sights he said!

Also about this time, **Corporal 'Scouse' McKee** and **Signalman 'Fred' Hutchinson** completed a stint with 'D' (Patrol) Company, 3 Para, where **'Scouse'** distinguished himself as a patrol commander. Praise indeed from the Parachute Regiment to let a Corps man do their job.

END OF THE YEAR

We ended the year with several functions, a party for the 'bairns' run by **Staff Sergeant 'Doug' Baikie,** (Santa Claus courtesy of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) George Devine),** an all ranks dance organised by **Staff Sergeant 'Matt' McBirney,** and very able assistance to the Brigade Sergeants' Mess Christmas draw was given by the Foreman, **Staff Sergeant John Newman** and **Staff Sergeant 'Taff' Duffy.** It was interesting to note that there was a distinct lack of 'guests' in the billets for the annual gunfire ceremony. The younger lads haven't changed, they're just sneakier!

1975—AND ALL THAT

Start the year with a 'bang' someone advocated, how about a road run followed by a two day CPX to brush away the festive cheer? For the future . . .

In February we shall be in Sharjah. In March we hope to visit Malaya. In April and May the ever lovely Salisbury Plain and Cultibraggan in Scotland for our Summer Camp. In July we hope to see Northern Italy for a few weeks and then after leave in August another trip to Norway. There is now an appointment vacant in the Squadron for the job of Travel Agent. The last one retired from overwork, or did he go bankrupt?

COURSES

EPC (A). Staff Sergeants 'Taff' Duffy and **'Matt' McBirney** and **Sergeant Steve Marshall** have managed to almost complete their education and can now read *and* write!

Detachment Commanders. Lance-Corporals 'Ricky' Richards and **'Mick' Brummell** attained B+ passes on Course 75 and were placed second and third respectively. **Lance-Corporal 'Norrie' Clanachan** attained a B pass on Course 76.

Trade. We have 6 men in the pipeline for trade reallocation from Combat Radioman to R Tg. Training Brigade stand by and outside units take note.

All Arms Drill Wing (The Guards Depot). Sergeant 'Dick' Hamilton achieved top student on Course 181 and can now be seen 'bending the knee' at the least opportunity whilst saluting furiously in all directions at once. He is fully expected to recover in due course when his brain is returned from the cobblers!

Heavy Drop Checkers Instructors. Sergeant 'Taff' Roberts and **Corporal Robin Stanley** attained 'B' passes on this highly interesting course. What it was has yet to be revealed, no doubt they will show us soon!

SPORT

SOCCER

Our glorious soccer team were unfortunately knocked out of the Army Minor Units Cup by the Depot RMP, (shame!), but have managed to get through to the last eight in the Army Major Units Cup, by beating 70 AC Workshops REME by 3 goals to 1. The cross country team are lashing themselves into a mediocre frenzy for the SE District and Army Championships.

AWARDS

We have resurrected the Bardie and Dennis Cups which were to be presented each year to the best Squadron Sportsman and the best Course Report, respectively, Corporals and below being eligible.

1974 awards go to:

Bardie Cup. **Lance-Corporal Larry Cardwell** for 12 Army Soccer appearances and 5 for the Corps.

Dennis Cup. **Signalman Bob O'Hara** for achieving an outstanding result on his Clerk Tech III.

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Brummell** on the birth of their first baby boy, **Ian David.**

The axe has finally fallen on **Lance-Corporals 'Taff' Aitken** and **'Scouse' Jones,** and **Signalman Paul Hatchman.** Three more PADS to worry about!

Sergeant Don Newman, RAPC has finally left us to join a costing course at the Depot RAPC Winchester.

Sergeant Ralph Smith leaves us to join a Signal Troop in sunny Gibraltar. A comparative newcomer to the Squadron, he had only been with us for 8½ years!

Corporal 'Scouse' McKee should be galloping around the Brecon Beacons by now, on his SAS selection course. More power to your kneecaps mate, you'll need it.

ARRIVALS

The following have joined us from numerous units throughout the Corps, via No. 1 PTS RAF Abingdon. Welcome to the Airborne.

Lance-Corporals Payet and **Margison, Signalmen Beattie, Woodall, Millar, Vincent** and **Frazer.**

Our new cashier is **Corporal Moss,** RAPC, whose last unit was with the Coldstream Guards in BAOR. He says there is a slight change in the environment.

VACANCIES

Currently there are vacant slots in the following trades and ranks:

Radio Telegraphist	Corporals, Lance-Corporals and Signalmen.
Clerks	Corporal.
Combat Powermen	Lance-Corporal.
Driver	Corporal.

If you are not sure that we can offer you the life of your dreams, why not ask your CO/OC to arrange for you to be attached to us for a short trial period.

216 Parachute Signal Squadron—"an exciting means to a professional end".

COURSES

WISHING to further our military skills and also perform one of our Brigade functions, an exchange of cadres was organized by the Kremlin. We ran a basic radio cadre for 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, while they laid on a basic medical cadre for us. Both courses were of great interest to the students involved and our respective units should benefit as a result.

Shortly after, about 20 of our NCO's attended a Method of Instruction course run by a team from the Army School of Instructional Technology. We must report that all are now proficient in M of I and can hold sway over a vast amount of subjects at the drop of a hat. One of the better lessons was one on 'beer making' by **Lance-Corporal 'Eddie' Newton,** who will shortly be making a bid for a job with Bass Charrington!

KTWIP (KEEP THE WIVES IN THE PICTURE)

We arranged for a viewing of a suitably warlike Airborne film for the Squadron wives/girl friends, in order to show them some of the antics we get up (and down) to. It opened a few eyes, especially those of the newly wed wives.

EXERCISE 'TRUNNION'—SHARJAH BOUND

Stand by Sharjah—here we come! The advance party has left, and the main party is revving up to go. We've been briefed, kitted-out, briefed, inoculated, briefed, vaccinated, briefed, warned, briefed, and we've had a few briefings as well! By the time this goes to print we should be trudging around the Jebels, beating off camel spiders, and dining on our usual haute cuisine

(*Continued on page* 97)

(*Continued from page* 96)

of 24 hour rat packs! We shall be the last British Army unit to use this area for training, along with HQ Company 16 Parachute Brigade, X and Y Vigilant Platoons and detachments from 16 Parachute Provost RMP and 2 Parachute. According to our tame Sheik, **Captain 'Abdullah' Treeby,** it should be a trip to remember!

SOCCER

Unfortunately, we must report that our team lost to COD Bicester in their latest game in the Army Major Units Cup. To quote **Corporal 'Pete' Pritchard,** "our minnows fell to the giants by 2 goals to 1 (in extra time) after giving them a good run for their money".

CROSS COUNTRY

We are glad to congratulate our team, ably led, as always, by the 'Red Flash', **Staff Sergeant 'Dougie' Baikie,** on winning the South East District Minor Units competition by a considerable margin.

MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

Congratulations to **Signalman 'Billy' Haslam** on his marriage. Another one bites the dust!

We have said our usual farewells to **Corporal 'Jack' Ferguson** and **Lance-Corporal 'Mick' Brummell,** who are off to 4 Guards Brigade and 16th Signal Regiment respectively. **'Jack'** has been airborne since 1965, and doesn't know what a No. 2 Dress hat looks like. Surely some kindly SSM will guide him, or perhaps **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Wells** (late of 216) will put him in the picture. Gently, Sir, gently, and treat for shock!

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome **Signalman Burrows** and **Signalman Richards** who have joined us from the airborne factory at RAF Abingdon. Don't worry lads, the scars will heal!

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

LS & GC PRESENTATIONS AND ALL THAT

WE have now had our second visit from **Brigadier J. D. C. Graham, C.B.E.,** Commander BAE AFCENT, who came to present Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Staff Sergeant J. C. 'Big John' Davis,** REME and **Sergeant A. S. 'Spud' Taylor.** The parade was followed by the usual 'Gong-Wetting' ceremony which everybody enjoyed, particularly the ones who didn't have to drive. **'Big John' Davis** maintains that the stories of him having to hold onto the bar with both hands to stay upright are baseless, scurrilous rumours put about by those whose early service activities put them beyond the pale and that the thing which unsteadied him was the size of his half of the bill. Your scribe, who hopes to have his car looked at, refuses to comment!

RUGBY

Having reached the final of the Rhine Area Minor Units competition, our rugby team set their sights higher and had a go at the BAOR Minor Units knockout cup.

Once again they did us proud, reaching the quarter-final where they lost 28–10 to 711 Ordnance Field Park.

This achievement is doubly creditable when you consider that the team officials cannot guarantee a particular player for any game. It all depends on whether the player's international employing officer can release him or not and the team that played in the BAOR quarter-final contained one man, **Corporal 'Sid' Chaplin,** who had never played before in his life.

PARKERS PACKAGE TOURS

The rugby team's return from Scheuen, where the BAOR quarter-final was played, demonstrated the adaptability that is the hallmark of every good SSM for, arriving at Cologne station 40 minutes late from Hannover and finding that both the connecting trains to Aachen had long gone, **W.O.2 Dave 'Crunch' Parker's** eagle eye dropped on an unsuspecting departure board that contained the word Aachen. In a classic demonstration of initiative and leadership he forthwith led the entire rugger team onto the Trans-Continental Express—first class only! Reliable informants assure us that the patrons of the buffet car, particularly a German Pastor, thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Carols—the SSM's linguistic ability being second to none. The team coach, **Sergeant 'Bad Back' Callaway,** spent the journey in the loo and that the team and the train parted company at Aachen none the worse for the experience.

SOCIAL

Christmas came and went with its usual round of parties etc. but this year there was a vast difference in comparison with former years. Due to the introduction of the new Netherlands drinking and driving law, where one drink can get you into trouble, all the husbands sat around glasses of tonic water with a slice of lemon whilst the ladies enjoyed themselves. Those members of the unit who came by coach or taxi made themselves highly unpopular by smug lip smacking and references to 1974 being a good year for Heineken.

In December the officers gathered, with their ladies, in the Officers' Club at Brunssum to say farewell to **Captain (TOT) John Jupe** and **Captain John Birkwood.** The OC, **Major R. A. H. 'Dick' Hoghton,** presented **John Jupe** with a silver bowl and wished him bon voyage on his journey into civil life after 25 years service. **John** is taking up a post as factory manager in a firm of plastic manufacturers (we suspect that they produce artificial ski slopes somewhat similar to the one **John Jupe** designed which won the Design Council Award for 1973). We wish him and **Ann Marie** all the best.

Captain John Birkwood leaves us to take up an appointment as Traffic Officer at Wildenrath. He and **Wendy** take our best wishes with them.

The WO's and Sergeants' Mess has also been busy, dining out **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) 'Bert' Bowes** who leaves us in February for 34th Regiment (V) on promotion to WO1. **'Bert' Bowes** is the longest serving member of the unit, having been here 5 years as S.S.M. and R.Q.M.S. His new job is an MTO appointment and, having obtained a 'B' grading on his MTO's course he now knows why you put petrol in the back and water in the front and what happens chemically when they mix. He and his good lady **Fay,** who has been a stalwart supporter of all things 227 and a leading light in the Wives Club, will be missed.

AROUND AND ABOUT

Congratulations to **Corporal 'Sid' Chaplin** who obtained an 'A' grading on his TI entrance exam.

Major 'Dick' Hoghton has paid his wife's speeding fine.

W.O.1 (F. of S.) 'Mike' Truran has gone on another diet.

Signalman 'Jock' Manderson got married, had a reception, fell on his head and spent his wedding night in hospital concussed. He says that his wife was "a bit upset"!

Our SHQ Typist/Coffee Maker/Commander-in-Chief, **Mrs. Elenor Brownhill,** says she has never had her name in THE WIRE. We apologise for the omission and humbly request that this paragraph will make up for it and result in more coffee and better confidential reports.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes:

Captain Roy Lund and **Joan, Captain Ted Noon, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Ken Thurley, Staff Sergeant Ray Steen** and **Dorothea, Sergeant Peter Lawrence** and **Brenda, Sergeant Jeremy D'Alquen** and **Janet, Sergeant Mike Lumgair** and **Julie, Sergeant Francis Byrne** and **Sandra, Corporal Trevor Foster** and **Susan, Lance-Corporal Keith Coulson** and **Signalman Thomas Barton-Ancliffe.**

And says farewell to:

Sergeant Nick Besant and **Marion, Corporal 'Chalky' White** and **Bernadette, Corporal Malcolm Wright** and **Yvonne, Corporal Stan Wise, Lance-Corporal Pete Mallinson, Signalman Philip Vernon** and **Signalman Robert Marshall.**

We wish them all every success for the future.

The Squadron congratulates the following families on their contribution towards the population explosion:

Corporal John Johnson and **Karen,** a daughter **Emma.**

Corporal 'Wheels' Trolley and **Maureen,** a daughter **Deborah.**

Corporal Geoffrey Kay and **Avril,** a daughter **Michelle.**

Lance-Corporal Brian Thompson and **June,** a son **Lee.**

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35 (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

Opening of the new Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Centre, Rowland Street, Rugby

89 (WARWICKSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS) PERSONALITIES

Officer Commanding	**Major R. G. Titterington, T.D.**
Permanent Staff Officer	**Major J. J. Gerrard, B.E.M., D.S.M.**
OC 'U' Troop	**Captain B. N. T. Foxon**
OC 'B' Troop	**Captain I. A. Cobbold**
Squadron Sergeant Major	Vacant on promotion of **W.O.2 Douglas Newby** to RQMS
Permanent Staff Instructor	**Sergeant J. M. C. Pow**
Permanent Staff Instructor	**Sergeant G. Curran**

FIVE years of cajoling, anxiety and careful planning came to an end at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 25th January 1975, when, preceded by a trumpet fanfare by the band of the Royal Corps of Signals, the Director Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets, **Major-General P. C. Shapland, M.B.E., M.A.,** opened the new TAVR Centre, Rowland Street, Rugby.

Purpose built by the West Midland TAVR Association for the present occupants of the old Drill Hall, 89 (Warwickshire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers), the new Centre incorporates features not found in the old building or indeed any other Centre in the West Midlands and reflects the specialist training that Volunteers in Royal Signals TAVR have to undertake.

Compared with infantry standards the main hall is quite modest but as the requirement is to produce soldiers who can communicate the architects have increased the number of training and lecture rooms. Clearly they were well briefed and have provided much needed stores, garages and administrative accommodation in keeping with the needs of a modern communications unit. Not that military aspects have been neglected. Also incorporated is a miniature rifle range, accommodation for the Rugby Detachment of the Warwickshire Army Cadet Force, and last but not least that essential requirement of any self respecting TAVR Unit—the Officers', Sergeants' and Junior Ranks' Messes.

A MEMORABLE DAY

Welcoming **Major-General Shapland,** the President of the West Midland TAVR Association, **Colonel J. F. MacLean, K.St.J., J.P., H.M.L.** said "it was a memorable day for the Association and a rare occasion these days". Indeed it is, the centre is only the second to be built in the West Midlands since the reorganization of the Reserve Army in 1967 and only one of three built in the whole of the UK this year.

Replying, **General Shapland** paid tribute to all those responsible for the design and construction of the centre and spoke in glowing terms of the Guard of Honour provided by 89 (Warwickshire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) and commanded by OC 'U' Troop, **Captain Brian Foxon.**

No one was more pleased at the result than **Squadron Sergeant Major Douglas Newby,** whose job it was to lick the guard into shape. TAVR units seldom get the opportunity of mounting a Guard of Honour and this was his last parade before taking over as R.Q.M.S. at RHQ in Birmingham.

ALL HANDS TO THE PUMP

With the limited time available for training Volunteers it was a matter of all hands to the pump. Brushing up **Captain Brian Foxon's** sword drill was our much be-medalled PSO at Rugby, **Major Jack Gerrard, B.E.M., D.S.M.,** and also observed putting the final professional touch to a pair of boots owned by **Corporal Hugh Phillips** who many failed to recognise in his 'elegantly' short haircut was **Sergeant (P.S.I.) Gerald Curran.**

Following a brief service of dedication led by the padre, **Captain The Reverend Max Lucas, Major-General Shapland** officially opened the new TAVR Centre and handed the key to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby.**

The ceremony over, **Major Bob Titterington, T.D.,** OC of the Rugby Squadron invited the assembled VIP's and guests who

OPENING OF THE NEW TERRITORIAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE CENTRE AT RUGBY

Major-General Shapland inspects the Guard of Honour.
From left to right: Lance-Corporal Lionel Hudspeth, Signalman Michael Hazelwood, Signalman David Lines, Lance-Corporal John Ward, Lance-Corporal Douglas Rennie, Major-General Shapland, Captain Brian Foxon

included the Mayor of Rugby, **Councillor E. W. Webb** and Member of Parliament for Rugby, **Mr. William Price,** to tour the building and enjoy the splendid buffet tea provided by the Regimental ACC staff under the guidance of our 'chefs par excellence', **Major (Q.M.) Dennis Newton** and **Major (Q.M.) George Harrell.**

The full guest list is too numerous to mention here, but of all the people present, none were more welcome that the families of the men and women Volunteer members of the Squadron. We were delighted to see them and gratefully acknowledge the fact that without their tolerance and understanding, the TAVR as we know it would cease to exist.

Finally our thanks are due to the Corps Band under the direction of **Bandmaster W.O.1 R. M. Donnell** who once again provided that extra polish to an important and historic occasion.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

1974 was a hectic and lively year for 38th Regiment. Success came to our sporting activities—within the Regiment were the winners of the N.E. District Football Competition, and TAVR Runners up, and the winner of the WRAC TAVR Orienteering competition. **Sergeant 'Mick' Smith, Lance-Corporal Graham Turner** and **Signalman Peter Gillott** represented TAVR on the occasion of a representative soccer team touring BAOR, and **Officer-Cadet Gary Dickinson** played in the TAVR Rugby XV.

A very successful Camp, which caused consternation amongst the families of the staff at RAF Lindholme (Dad—is it true the Army's taken over Lindholme?), included many distinguished visitors, both to Squadrons in the field, and at Lindholme. Our thanks to all at RAF Lindholme for making 400 or so 'Brown Jobs' so welcome—we hope it may be the first of many visits!

Since camp, we have settled down to the steady 'plod' of trade training, enlivened (if that is the word) by more active military training 64 Squadron (Sheffield) held an energetic weekend at Proteus Camp with Infantry Training laid on by 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, who proceeded to teach the Squadron how to disappear, more silently, quickly, and then carry out section attacks. It must be said the WRAC took part in this, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The whole Regiment spent a weekend at Warcop Ranges, again with the help of 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, Field Firing, and infantry skills again being the main theme. Along with this a competition for the Inter Squadron shooting cup was held, the winners being 93 Squadron. Although everyone at Warcop was worked very hard and the general conclusion was "When do we do this next?"

CAPTAIN R. J. FLEMING, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS

We were delighted to welcome **Captain Bob Fleming,** Royal Australian Signals, in February 1974—as an attached officer from Australia.

Bob has served with us in Nottingham since February to the present time and has been a very welcome and active member of 87 Squadron. Any task he has been asked to perform has been done willingly and cheerfully and it has been a pleasure having him around on many occasions—both during work and socially. His wife **Geraldine** has joined us on all our social occasions. Their two sons came to the Christmas Party and made the family complete. The boys, **Richard** and **Michael** have a truly 'down under' accent.

Captain Fleming joined us from his parent unit in Australia, 3 Signal Regiment which is part of the Citizen Military Force, the Australian Counterpart of the T & AVR here in UK. In civilian life he is a Lecturer in Physics at Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, and is spending a year's sabbatical leave in the Department of Chemistry, University of Nottingham. We are sorry that **Bob** has to leave us and return to Australia in the middle of February.

Since joining us, **Captain Fleming** has been running the Combat Power Troop and was very much relieved to find that electricity behaves in much the same way in both Northern and Southern hemispheres!

Geraldine and the boys are visiting relations in Ireland before returning to Australia—they are sending **Bob** on ahead to get the house in order!

Our good wishes go with the family and wish them well on their return to Australia. The CO and all ranks thank **Bob** and **Geraldine** for being so much a part of the Regiment during their year with us.

64 SQUADRON TOPS IN THE SPORTING WORLD

64 Squadron are proud of their sporting activities especially their winning of the Queens Challenge Cup—Minor and Sub Unit Section. This cup was presented for the first time ever in 1974 and is presented to the Sub Unit gaining most points overall in the sports/games of the Queens Cup.

Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin, Commander 2 Signal Group visited 38th Regiment during their annual camp and whilst there he also represented the TAVR Sports Board as he presented the cup to 64 Squadron.

The WRAC won the TAVR Orienteering Competition for the North Western, North Eastern and Scottish Districts and went on the represent these Northern Districts in the TAVR WRAC Competition.

Private Julie Millitt was also the Individual Winner in this competition.

The TAVR WRAC Orienteering competition was competed for over the same course as that used by the Army WRAC, and both 64 Squadron and the Belfast OTC did better times than the Army WRAC Winners.

Association Football has been our strong sport over the years as they have been losing finalists five times, semi-finalists twice and quarter-finalists four times. In the TAVR 1974 Fianl they lost 2–1 after extra time to the 1 Lancastrians. **Sergeant 'Mick' Smith** captained the TAVR Representative Team on the tour of BAOR whilst other players were **Corporal Graham Turner,** and **Signalman Peter Gillott** under the Team Managership of **Major (TOT) Stuart Cottage.**

The Squadron have already won the North Eastern TAVR Cup this season and are through to the quarter-final of the TAVR Football Cup where their opponents are 51 Field Park Ordnance RAOC from Glasgow.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

64 SQUADRON WRAC ORIENTEERING TEAM

Standing, left to right: Private Barbara Lonsdale, Private Cath Thorneloe, Major (TOT) Stuart Cottage, Officer/Cadet Patricia Parker, Officer/Cadet Helen Sheard
Front, left to right: Private Christine Marsden, Private Julie Millitt

(Courtesy Sheffield Evening Star)

MEMBERS OF 64 SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM WITH THEIR WELL EARNED CHAMPAGNE AFTER THE NE DISTRICT TAVR CUP WIN

Left to right: Sergeant Roy Wilkinson, Staff Sergeant Derek Dove, Sergeant 'Ricky' Garrod, Sergeant Geoff Barden, Officer/Cadet Gary Dickinson

T.A.V.R. Cavalcade 'Twice a Citizen' at the Guildhall

REPORT FROM 39th SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

A QUIET EVENING SPOILT

ON a quiet evening when OC HQ Squadron was minding his own business . . .

CO: "John, can you lay on a bit of a display for young people from the City in November?"

OC HQ Squadron (obedient to the last): "Of course, Sir!"

A couple of weeks later at a meeting at the Honourable Artillery Company, it had become 'that thing the Signals did at the Albert Hall'. It was to be in front of **H.R.H. The Princess Anne** and the Lord Mayor! **Major John Bedford,** OC HQ Squadron, was beginning to have second thoughts.

8th Signal Regiment did the last one, and a telephone call to **Major Tony Hill** brought the comment "you're b . . . . . mad but we'll help", and they did and so did lots of other people in the Corps for which this Regiment will always be extremely grateful.

THE CONCEPT

We settled for World War I, World War II with **W.O.2 Bob Newman** who had been at Arnhem himself, a TAVR sequence which included Miss TAVR, **Sergeant Valerie Charnock** (of *Daily Telegraph* Colour Supplement fame), and Satcom in the form of a model of TSC500 and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Peter Charles.**

After a whole Sunday of rehearsals we thought we were quite good at it, even though we had also acquired Queen Elizabeth I at Tilbury in a pageant accompanied by courtiers, some of whom when fully dressed would have frightened any ASVU interviewer, and a static recruiting display.

A FEW PROBLEMS HERE AND THERE

Our arrival at the Guildhall for the main rehearsals was in principle an error of judgement, for rapidly we were required again to prove the versatility of the Corps, taking over each disaster as it came from a complete failure of the Guildhall PA, to coping with the bands and to OC HQ Squadron putting out the chairs in rows. The emergency PA which was successfully engineered by the Foreman kept the show in being and **Sergeant Parr's** improvised PJF laced in whilst the commentator, **Lieutenant-Commander Richard Baker** (straight from TV) was speaking, resembled something our grandmothers used to do with a crochet hook. But it worked and worked well. The brunt of the extra work as always fell on the Permanent Staff who responded as always.

ALRIGHT ON THE NIGHT

We depended upon close lighting changes, slide displays and a commentary, all of which were carefully linked to a very fine music tape specially produced for us by the Corps Band. The dress rehearsal was an unqualified disaster, and, jundging from the phraseology of the producer, it was largely due to the failure of the power supplies whilst we were in the arena. However, on the actual evening, the Volunteers proved once more their motto of "It'll be all right on the night". In front of **H.H.R. The Princess Anne** and the Lord Mayor of London, 'Jimmy' came up on the screen the right way up and **Major John Bedford** managed to salute without falling over his sword. The RSM, **W.O.1 Gordon Penman** stood behind the civilian lighting controller with his pace stick poised by a delicate part of his anatomy. It all worked like a charm.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ANNE MEETS QUEEN ELIZABETH
(Sergeant Rosalind Higgs)

PRINCESS MEETS A QUEEN

On leaving **H.R.H. The Princess Anne** was able to speak briefly to **Sergeant Rosalind Higgs** who portrayed Queen Elizabeth I in the Pageant of Military History and to **Sergeant Pauline Quince** who appeared in our own sequence as an ATS Operator. The Commanding Officer is now busy writing DOs, OC HQ Squadron is standing on the scales wondering how he lost a half a stone and **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) 'Wardrobe Mistress' Richardson** is heard muttering "Farthingales WRAC—One . . ."

(Photograph: Courtesy Keystone Press Agency Ltd.)

71st SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) WERE THERE TOO

"Where did you get that hat?"

Left to right: Captains Scholes and Warren, Sergeant Hellrich

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55 Sig Sqn (V), Liverpool

T & AVR Unit needs Ex-Regular Soldiers about to settle in the Liverpool Area.

We can offer you a very full life as our calendar of events will show and perhaps help out a bit with the mortgage into the bargain.

LAND v SEA

During the past year, our sub aqua team has evolved under the able leadership of **Staff Sergeant Harry Millboard Ravenscroft** and most of the team have now qualified in their practical tests.

Lance-Corporal 'Billy' Smith, not wanting to be left out of the web foot brigade nearly succeeded in drowning the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, **Councillor Francis Burke** and the Group Commander, **Brigadier Derek Baynham** in the last years Lord Mayor's Parade. Our orders for this year's parade will not include the word 'float'.

On land we have had a good year making frequent use of the Altcar Training Area and of the ETR ranges at Warcop. **S.S.M. Eddie Hamilton** is shell-shocked, but, remarkably, still in one piece. He has however decided that enough is more than enough and is looking around for a civilian job.

Our annual camp took place on the Stamford Training Area and it is difficult to say if this was on land or sea. Several days continuous rain made conditions interesting but did at least ensure a good earth. Still, anyone can do it in good conditions. We do however look forward to slightly better weather this year in BAOR.

We have had two major changes (no pun intended) to our permanent staff. **Captain Peter Hayler** has left to see if he can make more sense out of a computer and **Major John Dawson** to see if he can make more sense out of MOD. Whilst remaining doubtful about the outcome of both attempts we wish them well and thank them and their wives for their efforts on our behalf.

In their place, we are now breaking in **Captain 'Ernie' Storie** and **Major 'Les' Waumsley.** Welcome both and we hope it won't take too long to get you volunteer orientated.

Cries from the Editor about the shortage of space, preclude any more woffle but don't forget you regulars nearing the end of your service, if you're interested, write or phone us at this address:

55 Signal Squadron (V),
AVR Centre,
Grace Road,
Liverpool L9 2DB.
Telephone: 051-525 4214/5.

Association News

North London Branch

Hon. Sec.: **L. Usher,** Esq., 22 Orchard Avenue, Southgate, N.14

It is many moons since North London submitted WIRE notes but this doesn't mean that we have been inactive. This year we celebrate our twentieth anniversary and throughout those twenty years thanks to a succession of hardworking and conscientious committees and the enthusiasm of the members our overall annual attendance has progressively increased.

In December to round off a year which included several memorable events we held our customary Christmas party which, next to the annual dinner is the biggest event on the branch calendar. Over a hundred members and friends gathered to enjoy an evening of carefree revelry in an atmosphere strongly reminiscent of Signal Messes the world over.

Among the guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Haringey, **Councillor** and **Mrs. F. Knight** in whose borough our meetings take place. The Mayor told us early in the evening that being an ex-Gunner he found the ex-service flavour of the evening very much to his liking and he evidently meant it since he remained with us until the party broke up in the wee small hours.

He also let it be known that his Mayoral Charity is a "Help the Aged" fund whereupon our President, **Colonel Ken Baldwin** suggested that such profit as may accrue from the January meeting should be donated to this cause with the result that in January **Ken** was able to present a cheque for £25. Even as the Mayor was uttering his thanks the amount was swollen to £50 by individual donations, a result which was as pleasing to us as to the Mayor himself.

(Photograph: Courtesy of the Hornsey Journal)

NORTH LONDON BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION IN CHEERFUL MOOD

Seated, left to right: Councillor F. Knight, Mayor of Haringey; Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., D.L., President; Mrs. J. Baxter, Mrs. F. Knight, Mayoress; Mrs. W. Rose, Major W. Rose, Chairman
Standing, left to right: Mr. F. Lucas, Chairman of Socials Committee, Major J. Panting, Vice-President

The branch meets at the TA Centre, Hornsey, N.8 and we are always delighted to welcome members of the Corps or the Association who may be in the vicinity on the second Friday of every month after 8 p.m.

(From personal knowledge we would urge all Corps members, serving or retired, to get in touch with this very lively branch! Editor.)

In Civilian Life

Enjoy Service and Comradeship in THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Your service to Queen and Country needn't stop when you leave the Forces. The British Legion has as much interest in and responsibility for young ex-servicemen and women of today as it has for those of two world wars and looks to them for its leaders of the future.

The Royal British Legion, 49 Pall Mall SW1Y/5JY

Corps Football

CORPS 0 v. SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY 6

Played 15th January at Catterick.

Fielding an entirely new Squad, with the intention of finding new names for the Corps Team, the Corps found the University Team too strong for it. The last ten minutes of the first half saw 4 goals scored. The Corps rallied in the second half, beginning to play good positional football, but could not prevent two further goals before full time.

Team selected from: **Corporal Freedman** (8 Signal Regiment); **Corporal Niel** (244 Signal Squadron); **Corporal Hibbins** (244 Signal Squadron); **Corporal Chew** (244 Signal Squadron); **Corporal Hannard** (14 Signal Regiment); **Signalman Hough** (10 Signal Regiment); **Sergeant Birney** (14 Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal Hough** (223 Signal Squadron); **Corporal Baines** (8 Signal Regiment); **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Sleightholme** (244 Signal Squadron); **Lance-Corporal Malone** (244 Signal Squadron); **Signalman Howarth** (8 Signal Regiment).

CORPS 2 v. HULL UNIVERSITY 2

Played on 5th February at Hull.

The game was played on a cold, almost windless day against a strong, fit, but unpractised University team who always looked dangerous. The Corps team, composed of new blood playing their second Corps fixture together, showed more confidence than previously, but were unable to produce a winning goal. The first goal for the Corps came off a player unknown, the second from **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Sleightholme. Corporal Freedman** showed a more confident approach to keepering.

Team selected from: **Corporal M. Freedman** (8 Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal K. Hibbins** (244 Signal Squadron); **Signalman A. Williams** (8 Signal Regiment); **Corporal B. Brown** (HQ Int Centre Ashford); **Lance-Corporal G. Mannarn** (14 Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal C. Sinnett** (223 Signal Squadron); **Signalman A. Howarth** (8 Signal Regiment); **Lance-Corporal C. Hough** (223 Signal Squadron); **Signalman M. Hough** (10 Signal Regiment); **W.O.2 I. Sleightholme** (244 Signal Squadron); **Lance-Corporal W. Malone** (244 Signal Squadron); **Corporal R. Oliver** (8 Signal Regiment).

STOP PRESS

Two Corps Sporting Successes

CROSS COUNTRY

21st Signal Regiment recently won the Army Cross Country team championship. This is their third win in the last four years. In the minor units event 216 Para Squadron were 2nd with 4 Guards Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron 4th and 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron 5th.

FOOTBALL

8th Signal Regiment have just won the UKLF football final 2–1 against COD Bicester after a replay having drawn 1–1 on the previous day. They now go on to the Army Final where they will meet the winners of the BAOR section still to be played at the time of going to press. Competing in the BAOR final are the 28th Signal Regiment and 3rd Battalion, the Light Infantry, so there are good prospects of an all Signals final at **Aldershot on the 9th April, kick-off 19.30 hours.** The match will be played under floodlights. Make a date in your diary.

8th Signal Regiment have asked us on their behalf **to congratulate COD Bicester for giving them two extremely hard and clean matches both of which were a pleasure to watch.**

Flash—28th Signal Regiment are in the Final.

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Corps Band — Public Appearances 1975

28th–31st March	Bournemouth
29th April–2nd May	Ayr Show
17th May	Chesterfield
20th–22nd May	Lincoln's Inn Field, London
24th May	Birmingham Lord Mayor's Show
25th–31st May	St. James' Park, London
1st–7th June	Eastbourne
14th June	Hillingdon
23rd–29th June	Aldershot Army Display
2nd–5th July	Wembley—Army Benevolent Fund, Pageant
13th–19th July	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London
20th–26th July	Eastbourne
9th–10th August	Corby Highland Gathering
15th–25th August	Jersey
18th–23rd August	Darlington Railway Show
27th August	Gillingham and Shatesbury Show
21st September	Basingstoke Show
9th November	Bristol Remembrance Parade
	Richmond Remembrance Parade

White Helmets: Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team

Date	Engagement	Location
April		
12	Opening Show	Hounslow
15 Apr–6 May	BAOR Tour	BAOR
MAY		
9–16	Glasgow	Glasgow
17	Telford Tattoo	Telford
18	Middlesbrough Show (Concourse d'Elegance)	Middlesbrough
22–28	Belgium	Mons
29–3 June	Edinburgh	Edinburgh
31	Navy Show	Rosythe
JUNE		
5– 7	Royal Cornwall Show	Wadebridge
8	Chester	Chester
14	Laing Gala Day	London
21	Accrington Carnival	Lancashire
22	Barnsley Show	Yorkshire
23–29	Aldershot Army Display	Aldershot
JULY		
4	US Army Harrogate	Harrogate
5	Signal View	Worcester
	Wordsley Gala	Stourbridge
9–10	Catterick 1975	Catterick
11–12	Calne Carnival	Wilts
13	Old Comrades	Catterick
19	Masham Traction Engine Rally	Masham
20	Skegness Show	Skegness
21–22	Kirkby Army Display	Kirkby
24–27	Manchester	Manchester
28–29	Butlins (Ayr)	Scotland
30	Stranraer Agricultural Show	Scotland
AUGUST		
1– 2	Hull Show	Hull
3	Rutland County Show	Rutland
4–9	Colchester Tattoo	Colchester
12–17	Armex	Harrogate
18	Cleveland Show (Eston Playweek)	Cleveland
19–22	Cleethorpes Show	Cleethorpes
23–25	Expo Steam Fair	Peterborough
29–4 Aug.	Motorcycle Show	Earls Court
SEPTEMBER		
6	Norfolk Tattoo	Norfolk
7	Burma Star Day	Waterbeach
8–12	Portsmouth Show	Portsmouth
23–27	Grangemouth Tattoo	Scotland
20 Oct–10 Nov.	Berlin Tattoo	Berlin

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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
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Small (each)	16p
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Motor Car Badges—square plastic	£1·50
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled on Corps Colours)	75p
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April-May 1975

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

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☆

APRIL/MAY • 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We had hoped to produce a colour picture of action ski-ing this month but unfortunately the subject when sent to our experts for processing did not come up to expectations. Instead we reproduce in black and white 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment's team winning the Army Patrol Race earlier this year (see article on page 111). We have given considerable publicity in both this issue and the last one to the Regiment's ski-ing successes for it is indeed a pleasure to see the Corps at last in the forefront of this fine and exhilarating sport.

The Union Jack Services Club

The passing of the Union Jack Club's old premises has come and gone unheralded with the demolition of the original building in July 1972 after 67 years of splendid service. This passing will be mourned by many of the older ex-Servicemen and by a few, with long service, who are still serving. From the site of the old club there are now rising the two tower blocks of the new club building; the taller block, for male members, destined to be 25 storeys high, has now reached the 23rd floor; the smaller block, for families and members of the Women's Services, has reached its planned height of ten floors.

By basing the construction of the new club on two multi-storey towers it has been possible to centralise the accommodation for both the families and members of the Women's Services, together with that of the male members, on one site; this will enable administrative economies to be made since service areas in the form of kitchens, stores, boiler plant, etc., will be shared. The two sides of the club will have separate facilities but will not maintain their separate identities as in the past; the male side of the Union Jack Club and what has been known as the Union Jack Families and Women's Services Club will be combined under the single title of The Union Jack Club when it starts to operate from the new premises.

Despite many difficulties, it is still hoped that the completion date will be mid-1975. The accommodation and facilities of the new Union Jack Club will comprise:

Bedrooms

412 Single male members' bedrooms
55 Families' double bedrooms
5 Single female members' bedrooms with priority for Women's Services
All rooms with wash basins.

Public Rooms

Male—library and writing room, smoking room, television room, billiard room, lounge, bar and sitting area, dining room, extension dining room available for small parties, meetings, etc.
Families and female members—television room, writing room, bar and lounge, dining room and children's playroom.

The intention is still to retain the existing accommodation in the annexe of 218 beds to act as an overspill when the club is full and to provide sleeping accommodation for large organised parties or a place to rest your head when funds are low.

A feature of the new club will be the conference area which although entirely separate from the residential club building will be a corporate part of the Union Jack Club and will provide facilities for large meetings and social functions such as Association Dinners. It has been realised how difficult and costly it is to find a suitable venue for such occasions in London and it was thought that the club had some responsibility to provide for this important need. In this area it is planned to provide a launderette and a sauna bath.

(Continued overleaf)

What everyone will be wishing to know is how much it is going to cost to stay in the new club; with the lapse of time before the club can open its doors, and with so many imponderables still to be solved it would, at this stage, be unwise to hazard a guess. Since 1907 a guiding principle has always been that a room in the Union Jack Club should never cost more than a day's pay of the lowest paid Serviceman; this principle still applies today. At the present time a single room costs £1·98 and the lower rate of pay in the Armed Forces starts at £3·50 per day.

It may be of interest to those who may be leaving the Armed Forces in a year's time to know that there will be a large number of varied forms of employment to be filled in the new club. It has always been the policy to staff the Union Jack Club with ex-Servicemen and that policy will be continued in the future. Anyone interested should make enquiries through the Club Secretary, The Union Jack Club, Exton Street, London SE1 8UJ.

From our "In" Tray

Employment of Traffic Officers

FROM: CAPTAIN J. H. COTTON

Sir,

Further to **Major Eric Gill's** letter on the subject of Traffic Officer in TAVR Adjutants posts. I agree whole heartedly that an officer, no matter what type of commission he holds must be an officer in every sense.

I do not agree with his sweeping and inflammatory statement that "too many are blinkered, hidebound and procedurally punch-drunk to welcome challenge and change".

However I pose the following questions:—

1. Why are Traffic Officers the only QM category officers to be considered for such posts? Why not Quartermasters and Technical Officers Telecommunication also?
2. Why only as Adjutants in TAVR posts and not as Adjutants in regular units?

Is it because there is a surplus of Traffic Officers against traffic posts and it is not quite known what to do with them? Is it considered that as adjutants with the TAVR we will do the least harm or the most good?

I am sure that the reasons for these proposed appointments have been well argued. Any Traffic Officer so appointed will do an excellent job since, with his great experience in a constantly changing environment and his proven dedication, he has already proved his ability and worth.

I hope **Major Eric** can find sufficient time off from his golf to consider these questions and won't be too T'eed off in his new appointment.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Cotton

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

FROM: CAPTAIN (Tfc) A. M. P. HOWIE, B.E.M.

Sir,

As a Traffic Officer on the verge of retirement I hail the views expressed in **Major Frank Lettin's** and **Major Eric Gill's** letters about TAVR Adjutant posts being filled by Traffic Officers. However, I have one reservation. I do not take the view of **Major Eric Gill,** who states, "Too many Traffic Officers are blinkered, hidebound and procedurally punch-drunk". I know of none, either in 2 Signal Group or any of my past associates, who would fit this description. I nod my head in amazement at such strong remarks made by a Senior Traffic Officer about his colleagues.

There are some Traffic posts, such as OC CET, which may well portray the image expressed by **Major Gill.** But this is not the fault of the incumbent, who could be labelled a 'Cryptographic Ledger Keeper'. These posts are no longer worthy of a Traffic Officers talents. Is it not time for such appointments to be civilianised? Perhaps **Eric,** who will soon be in the corridors of power at the Ministry, will use his influence to bring this about.

TAVR Adjutant appointments are just the challenge that many Traffic Officers have been looking for, to prove that they are not just 'Commissioned Yeoman', but 'officers' in the widest sense of that word.

The aspiring Yeoman can look forward to fresh woods and pastures new. There are many rewarding and valuable trophies to be won.

Yours sincerely,

A. M. P. Howie

'Pendennis'
Frimley Road,
Ash Vale,
Surrey GU12 SNN.

FROM: MAJOR (Tfc) G. E. LOUDOUN

Sir,

As a Traffic Officer, I was some little while ago, asked to consider whether or not I felt that the suffix denoting my category was out dated. I replied, as did apparently the majority of Traffic Officers, electing to retain the distinction.

Possibly this, and the fact that I have some misgivings on the move to employ Traffic Officers as TAVR Adjutants makes me "blinkered, hidebound and procedurally punch-drunk" to use **Major Gill's** own recent words. Strange words to utter in an age when computerised systems (not forgetting COMSTAR) demand such strict adherence to procedural accuracy. Did I hear a belch of agreement from our 'punch' drunk AMRAD?

Where does **Major Gill** gain his experience of Traffic Officers I wonder? I know not one who is addicted to packing his golf bag with ACPs.

I agree with him saying that the Corps wants officers—I do not agree with him saying, in as many words, that the Corps does not require Traffic Officers. I am sure, in any case, that our superiors will agree with only perhaps small exception that they are currently well satisfied with the flexibility and calibre of the present Y. of S./Tfc Officers.

As for quoting others' words, I have never felt that this practice was a wise course. There is always a counter quote to be found. A much more famous, revered and sincere American President originated a saying on the theme of 'fooling the people'. I suggest that **Major Gill** may find Lincoln's words more significant than Trueman's veiled reference to his own culinary capabilities.

Yours sincerely,

G. E. Loudoun

HQ 2 Signal Group,
Malta Barracks,
Aldershot.

FROM: MAJOR (Tfc) J. E. GILL

Sir,

Of course my letter was meant to be provocative—I am surprised only by the smallness of the response.

I am pleased **Aubrey Howie** thinks TAVR Adjutant posts will be a good challenge and thus agrees with the views of **Frank Lettin** and myself—'tis the ones who don't agree I worry about.

I am not competent to comment on the first of **John Cotton's** questions but my own answer to his question 2 is "Why not?"—I have been privileged to be the Adjutant of two regular units (*and* the Quartermaster of one!).

Surely 'proven dedication' and 'proved' ability and worth are not enough, past tenses are no good—it is to continue to prove ability and worth, to accept challenge and change, that really matters.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. Gill

School of Signals.

A real Oldtimer

FROM: MR. H. LILEY

Sir,

The unit correspondent of 30 Signal Regiment was in error when he referred to **Major Jack Harding's** 30 years service (December/January WIRE).

I clearly remember watching **Jack** compete in the pole vault (as a Boy) in early 1937. This means that he had at least 38 years service on retirement.

I was surprised to see him as I had previously known him as an outstanding cricketer at Scarborough Boys' High School, where we were contemporaries.

May I also wish him every success in what I am sure will be an active new life.

Yours faithfully,

H. Liley

5353 Mechernich,
Kommern, Erz Str. 6,
W. Germany.

Brought up in the Corps Tradition

Left to right: Major George Young, Major Jack Saul

FROM: MAJOR (Q.M.) G. YOUNG, R.E.

Sir,

I enclose a photograph of **Major Jack Saul** REME and myself taken during a recent parade. We have served together for the past two years and it was quite by chance we found that we were both sons of original Royal Corps of Signals men. Both **Jack Saul** and myself were brought up on a diet of Royal Signals and thought the following bit of human history would be of interest to your readers.

Major Jack Saul REME was born in Kuldana, India in June 1922. He served a five-year apprenticeship as an Artificer RA at the Military College of Science Woolwich. He was stationed in Malta during the 1939/45 war and it was on the Island that he met and married his Wren wife **Margo.** He transferred to REME at inception in October 1942. Later service included Italy, UK, Egypt, BAOR, Kenya and Singapore. He is currently serving in Cyprus attached to the Sappers. He is soon to be posted to command Rheindahlen Workshops REME on his last tour before retirement in June 1977 when he will then have seen more than 40 years service in the Army. His father, **Major (Rtd) Jack Saul** Royal Signals was born in 1897 in Preston, Lancashire. He enlisted in 1914 in the Kings Liverpool Regiment which served as part of the Machine Gun Corps until 1918. He saw four years of almost continuous front line trench warfare during this period which included just a brief visit to England with his 'Blighty' wound. He transferred to the Signals at inception after seeing brief service in the Royal Engineers. He was married in 1919 and posted to Rawalpindi, India where he served with 'B' Corps Signals for seven years. He was later to see a five year tour during the thirties in Rawalpindi and a third, four year wartime tour, after commissioning, in India and Burma. He transferred to the RAOC after the 1939–45 war and served one more overseas tour in Egypt. He retired in 1952 after serving thirty-eight years in the Army. He and his wife **Anne** now reside at "Kuldana", Barnham Road, Eastergate, Sussex where both would welcome news of friends they knew in the Corps.

Major (QM) George Young RE is at present serving in Cyprus and is soon to be posted to BAOR. He was born at Maresfield on 24th December 1923 and enlisted as a Royal Engineer apprentice in 1939. Since being posted to the ranks he has served in various parachute, field and training units and had several tours with the TA. His service has taken him to Europe, Middle East and the Gulf on a number of occasions. His father **Jerry Young** was an original Royal Corps of Signals man. He enlisted into the Lincolns in World War one and then transferred to the Royal Engineers and finally the Royal Signals when they were formed in 1920. He made his name in the Corps as a rough rider and retired initially in February 1937 as the rough riding Sergeant Major. His show jumping exploits on 'Baby' which he rode at many horse shows included the Royal Tournament and the International Horse Show did much to help create the Royal Signal image. He was called to the colours on the outbreak of the Second World War and finally retired in 1945 as a Captain Quartermaster. He now resides with his wife **Vera** at 2 Geneva Gardens, Darlington, Co. Durham where he is to be found on most Saturdays standing in a Royal Signals enclave at Feethams, home ground of Darlington FC.

Both sons are extremely proud of their fathers and we wish them many more years of happy retirement.

I am Sir,

Yours sincerely,

George Young

The late Captain L. C. F. Curtis

FROM: MAJOR F. V. B. PHILP

Sir,

I notice that the sad death of **Captain Leslie Charles Frederic Curtis** on the 16th May last year at the Military Hospital Millbank does not appear to have been published in THE WIRE.

His widow, (who lives in my 'Parish'), has asked me if I could put the 'record straight' as she is still receiving mail from their many service friends who are not aware of **Leslie's** death.

Leslie enlisted into R Signals as a National Serviceman at Catterick on 14th January 1951. Throughout all his life he was a keen supporter of the 'Scout Movement'—even to the time of his death. I am sure he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

I am glad to report that his widow is well settled down considering the sad circumstances. Her address is: 3, Allandale Close, Ermine West, Lincoln.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Philp

Army Careers Information Office
273 High Street,
Lincoln LN2 1JG.

Commemorative Glassware

Please see page 32 January/February WIRE.

All are reminded that the closing date for the purchase of glassware commemorating the move from Maresfield to Catterick 50 years ago, is **1st June 1975.**

Prices:

Chalice with old Corps badge:	£11·00 + V.A.T. and p.p.
Chalice with new Corps badge:	£11·00 + V.A.T. and p.p.
10 inch plate	£16·00 + V.A.T. and p.p.

Apply OC 4 Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison.

Corps Table Mats

We have been informed by the manufacturers that the price of Corps table mats has had to be considerably increased so that with V.A.T. and a small profit for the Association they will work out at:

UK delivery:	£9·50 a set
Overseas delivery:	£8·75 a set

(both inclusive postage and packing).

A small stock of table mats at the new prices has been ordered in order to gauge whether there is still a reasonable demand for these mats. All sets of mats at the old prices have now been sold.

Mention in Despatches N. Ireland

All will wish to congratulate **W.O.2 A. B. Gould** of the Corps, Mentioned in Despatches for gallant and distinguished service in Northern Ireland, during the period 1st August–31st October 1974.

Maresfield recalled

FROM: COLONEL T. W. BOILEAU, O.B.E.

Sir,

I enclose some photos taken recently at the entrance to Maresfield Park.

Would you please consider publishing these in THE WIRE.

As I had entered Maresfield Park on 27th October 1924 as a newly Commissioned Officer in the Royal Corps of Signals I thought I would return, some 50 years later and see what remained.

The first photo, of the entrance, the old Guardroom, shows little change. The second, showing the long drive to the Mansion, is equally familiar.

The third photo, looking across the road, shows the well known Pub the 'Chequers'.

The fourth shows the Post Office with the Tester Family still in possession. (Some 'Old Y.O.s' will remember hiring taxis there for trips to Brighton).

The fifth photo shows Maresfield Church, and the sixth is an attempt to show the recreation ground made famous by the Corps as the training ground for the Corps athletic team, the winners of the Army Championships 1924/25 and led by the then **Major R. F. B. Naylor.** It was the scene, too, for much exciting cricket and hockey.

And so, with memories of athletics, of training on six-horse cable wagons, the great horse 'Baby' and many other things, I drove away from the start of things and many good results that came out of Maresfield 50 years ago.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Boileau

97 Furzecroft,
Furze Hill,
Hove,
E. Sussex BN3 1PE,
(Tel: Brighton 70117).

(Due to pressure on space it has only been possible to reproduce below 4 of the photos submitted—Editor)

The Lodge, Maresfield Park—1924 Guardroom

Post Office and taxi hire agents—Maresfield

Maresfield Church

Opposite the Lodge—the well known Chequers—a popular meeting place

Obituary

Major-General Sir Leslie Nicholls, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.

LESLIE Burtonshaw Nicholls who was born in 1895 died at Scio House on 5th February. During the last five years of his life he was confined to a wheelchair and suffered great pain as a result of a severe stroke, this was particularly frustrating to a man who throughout his life had been full of energy and enthusiasm in all he did.

Nick, as he was affectionately known throughout the Corps, saw active service on the Western Front with the Army Service Corps until in 1917 he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps later the Royal Air Force, as a flying officer observer when he was twice wounded and mentioned in despatches. He joined the Corps in 1922 and became adjutant of 4th Divisional Signals in Colchester, he also saw service in Shanghai and India where he took part in the Waziristan Operations of 1937 and was mentioned in despatches. At the beginning of the Second World War he was commanding 2nd Divisional Signals and served with the unit in the BEF and was appointed O.B.E. and mentioned in despatches. After returning to the UK via Dunkirk and getting the unit back on to a war footing he was promoted to colonel as CSO III Corps in Northern Ireland, shortly afterwards going out with this formation to the Middle East. In 1942 he was promoted brigadier and Deputy CSO Middle East and the following year took over the appointment of SO-in-C in the rank of major general when he was promoted C.B.E. and again mentioned in despatches. A few months later he became CSO Allied Forces Headquarters for the campaigns of North Africa and Italy. Early in 1945 he was appointed Deputy CSO to General Eisenhower for the North West Europe operations for which he was appointed C.B.E., Commander Legion of Merit, Officer Legion d'Honneur and awarded the French Croix de Guerre avec Palme. He had become a personal friend of General Eisenhower and visited him frequently in the United States when he was President and afterwards. His last appointment immediately after the cessation of hostilities was as CSO BAOR. After his retirement Nick joined Cable and Wireless of which he became Managing Director and Chairman. He had many other interests and activities being Chairman and Director of several electronic companies. For six years he was a part-time member of the Central Electricity Board, he was a Fellow of University College London, a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Carmen.

There were no half measures about Nick, one either liked him or one didn't. But all his friendships, which were many, were lasting. He had the ability of engendering intense loyalty from those who served under him chiefly because he himself was loyal to those who served him and whom he served. He put tremendous enthusiasm and energy into all he did, both at work and play.

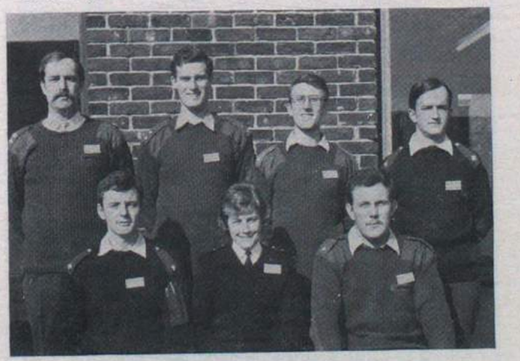
He was an above average sportsman having boxed for the Corps and the Army during the halcyon days of Lieutenant Colonel Harry Spencer. He also played rugger and cricket for the Corps and was no mean horseman, being one of the first officers of the Corps to ride in the International Show at Olympia and won several open jumping and handy hunter competitions. In co-operation with the late Lieutenant Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C., he presented the Cobb-Nicholls Cup to the Corps as a rugby trophy competed for annually by units in the UK before the war.

Nick was equally enthusiastic on the social side and was always a more than hospitable host. He could always be relied on to perform on the piano particularly after a guest night in the Mess and added much gaiety to the proceedings. During his lifetime Nick did much for the Corps and for communications generally. We offer our deep sympathy to his wife Joan and son Nigel.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Hinds

CHARLES Dundonald Hinds died at the age of 75 on 3rd March 1975. He was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich into the Royal Artillery in 1920 and after a period of secondment transferred to the Corps whilst serving with the Iraq Signal Section in 1924 where he remained for the next five years. On returning to the U.K. he was posted to the Depot Battalion and in 1932 to 1st Divisional Signals. In 1935 he went out to India where he served with a variety of field and higher formation units until shortly before the end of the Second World War. He spent two years at Aldershot and was then posted to 18 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the Middle East. His last appointment before retiring in 1950 was with War Office Signals. After retiring he went out to Tanganyka and returned to the U.K. in 1963 where he took up residence in Mayfield before finally settling in Goudhurst in 1965. Charle's main hobby was philately, being a Fellow and Council Member of the Royal Philatelic Society. He married in 1934 and his son is a major in the Corps, to whom we offer our very sincere sympathies.

NO. 3 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS COMMUNICATIONS QUALIFYING COURSE: 26th FEBRUARY–8th AUGUST 1975



Back row, left to right: Lieutenant Armstrong, Lieutenant Cadwallader, Lieutenant Gorford, Second-Lieutenant Marvin
Front row, left to right: Second-Lieutenant Robertson, Captain Johncey, Second-Lieutenant Turnbull

Stop Press

8th Signal Regiment Win Army Football Cup Final

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT 1: 28th SIGNAL REGIMENT 0

"Come on Signals" raised no counter barracking in the nearly unique situation of an all Corps final on the 9th April. Played in fine but cold conditions under floodlights, the game gave rival spectators plenty of excitement. Play favoured 28th Regiment's attacking tactics during most of the game but an inability to finish and rock steady goalkeeping by **Corporal Reilly** of the 8th Regiment brought their efforts to nought. A beautiful long shot by **Lance-Corporal Boyd** of the 8th Regiment caught 28's custodian off balance early in the second-half and 8, rather unexpectedly, perhaps, found themselves in the lead. Despite much pressure 28 were held at bay until the final whistle blew. Congratulations to 8 and sympathy to 28 who have yet to shake off the jinx of getting as far as the final in three occasions without carrying off the cup.

READING YOUR FRIEND'S WIRE?

YOU **COULD** *BUY YOUR OWN COPY*

Movements

APRIL

Officers

Major G. A. Allen .. .. .. To 244 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. P. Andrews .. „ Home Office
Captain R. W. Barry .. .. .. „ 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant W. E. Brewin .. .. „ 244 Signal Squadron
Captain D. J. Buckley .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Captain (TfC) F. P. Byers .. .. „ 240 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant D. R. Case .. .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) N. A. Cox .. .. „ 21 Signal Regiment
Major R. Dransfield .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Major B. A. R. Driskell .. .. .. „ HQ BAOR (Signals Branch)
Major J. McD. Edgar .. .. .. „ HQ 4 Division (A/Q)
Lieutenant D. J. Elson .. .. .. „ 259 Signal Squadron
Captain N. C. Fairley .. .. .. „ 639 Signal Troop
Captain G. R. Funnell .. .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. Hall .. .. „ HQ Training Brigade
Major (QM) A. G. Harfield, B.E.M. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Captain P. D. Hayler .. .. .. „ School of Signals
Captain A. Helm .. .. „ 225 Signal Squadron
Major A. J. Hill .. .. „ 234 Signal Squadron
Major B. C. Hodgson .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Captain D. P. Hughes .. .. .. „ Army Apprentices College
Major (QM) T. W. Jackson .. .. „ Scarborough Signal Training Centre
Major M. W. L. Jennings .. .. „ Intelligence Centre
Captain J. H. Lawrence .. .. „ School of Signals
Captain (TfC) A. Leitch .. .. „ 30 Signal Regiment
Colonel J. A. J. Massey, M.B.E. .. „ MOD (AD of S Ops)
Captain C. D. Melhuish .. .. „ 21 Signal Regiment
Captain G. E. Morrill .. .. .. „ APSG Sutton Coldfield
Captain P. J. Myatt .. .. .. „ 244 Signal Squadron
Captain S. S. Paul .. .. .. „ 39 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt .. „ UK Delegation to LIVE OAK
Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E. .. „ HQ UKLF
Captain I. D. Reading .. .. .. „ 10 Signal Regiment
Major P. H. Ridlington .. .. „ HQ British Gurkhas Nepal
Captain E. H. Sambell .. .. „ 13 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant P. M. Sharman .. .. „ Regimental Depot RAOC
Captain (TfC) R. E. Smithard .. „ School of Signals
Captain J. A. Speakes .. .. „ 229 Signal Squadron
Captain A. L. W. G. Steane .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) J. P. Steeples .. .. „ 234 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant M. K. Stretch .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. A. Sumner .. „ HQ Radio Group BAOR
Major J. M. Sweetman .. .. .. „ HQ BAOR (Signals Branch)
Lieutenant G. P. Watchus .. .. „ 50 Msl Regt RA Signal Troop
Lieutenant J. N. Wedgbury .. .. „ 2/2 Gurkha Rifles
Captain A. D. Whiddett .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment
Major H. S. Wilson .. .. .. „ 261 Signal Squadron
Major K. G. Wright .. .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Captain J. C. Young .. .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.2 J. W. L. Frost .. .. .. To 14 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 A. J. Schneider .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
W.O.2. S. Braithwaite .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
W.O.2. G. A. Foggo .. .. .. „ 30 Signal Regiment
W.O.2. A. J. Harris .. .. .. „ 40 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 D. L. McCluskey .. .. „ HQ 1st Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 D. Oliver .. .. „ 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
A.W.O.2 (Suvpr. R) R. W. Wells .. „ 224 Signal Squadron (Radio Trg)
Staff Sergeant B. T. Dearman .. .. „ 40 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant L. Wilkinson .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Staff Sergeant A. B. Mullins .. .. „ Royal Signals Manning and Records
Staff Sergeant C. S. Gledhill .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. Moxon .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. G. A. Brittenden .. .. .. „ 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. B. Clarke .. „ 641 Signal Troop (HQ ATAF)
Staff Sergeant P. Clarke .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Jolly .. .. „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. J. Squire .. .. „ Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
Sergeant S. E. Graham .. .. „ 28 Signal Regiment INCR
Sergeant K. G. Preston .. .. „ School of Signals
Sergeant D. R. Henderson .. .. „ 244 Signal Squadron (TAC AIR SUPP)
Sergeant C. H. Hemming .. .. „ Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Sergeant J. Lowdon .. .. .. „ HQ 3 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. P. Hewitt .. .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant J. Murtagh .. .. .. „ HQ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. McGinnis .. .. .. „ 259 Signal Squacron (RR)
Sergeant R. J. Ellis .. .. .. „ 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant C. G. Harris .. .. .. „ 40 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. R. Pennington .. .. „ 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
Sergeant R. C. Bracegirdle .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant W. Fenwick .. .. .. „ HQ 11 Armoured Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Fisher .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant S. K. Rushton .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant R. H. Gladwin .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant K. W. G. Purkiss .. .. „ HQ 7 Armoured Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. P. Watson .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. J. Williams .. .. To HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. D. Funnell .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant G. T. Edwards .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment HQ BAOR
Sergeant J. Lavery .. .. .. „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. W. Bayley .. .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. F. Spencer .. .. „ 605 Signal Troop (GAN)
Sergeant A. J. Bartlett .. .. „ 29 Engineering Brigade Signal Troop (V)
Sergeant M. E. Turner .. .. „ 632 Signal Troop (Hebrides)
Sergeant M. D. Buchan .. .. „ Central Volunteer HQ Royal Signals
Sergeant A. Lackie .. .. .. „ HQ 11 Armoured Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. M. Powles .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. B. Falconer .. .. „ HQ 12 Mech Brigade and Signal Squadron INCR
Sergeant R. Smith .. .. .. „ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant H. Forsyth .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant W. Wild .. .. .. „ HQ 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. M. Cunningham .. „ 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant E. Gunn .. .. .. „ 632 Signal Troop (Hebrides)
Sergeant A. W. Seales .. .. „ 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
Sergeant A. Rains .. .. .. „ 84 Army Youth Team
Sergeant J. Sharpe .. .. .. „ 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant G. R. White .. .. „ 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant D. G. Friend .. .. „ Central Volunteer HQ R Signals
Sergeant B. J. Doughty .. .. „ 570 Rear Link Detachment Air-portable Infantry Battalion
Sergeant C. P. Trayler .. .. „ 545 Rear Link Detachment Lt Ad Regiment
Sergeant D. R. Eastwood .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant R. H. Smith .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant W. E. T. Bowles .. .. „ 224 Signal Squadron (Radio Training)
Sergeant F. Jackson .. .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (Depot Troop)
A/Sergeant J. Bird .. .. .. „ 224 Signal Squadron (Radio Training)
A/Sergeant J. A. Patterson .. .. „ 530 Rear Link Detachment Medium Regiment
A/Sergeant A. Heaps .. .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio).

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2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment in great Ski-ing form

Two Army events won as well as Runners-up in Princess Marina Army Unit Championship Cup

THE background to 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment's fight for the coveted Princess Marina Cup is probably best described first hand by two team members (see below). The team finished the championship as runners-up to 2 Division Regiment RCT, but in doing so they won a number of memorable 'firsts' for Royal Signals. Their major achievements were:

Winners of 2 Division Unit Championships,
Winners of The Stanis Memorial Trophy,
Champion BAOR Alpine Team,
Champion Army Alpine Team,
Winners of The Army Patrol Race,
Runners-up in The Princess Marina Cup.

SELECTED FOR THE REGIMENTAL TEAM

REPORT BY SIGNALMAN DICK PYE, RADIO TELEGRAPHIST, AGE 21

IN THE TEAM

Having been told I would not quite make the team for 1975 I was getting ready to spend Christmas in barracks in Bünde, when suddenly in the middle of October I found I was back in. So from then on the first two hours of every morning were spent running or in the gymnasium (and sometimes both) and lunch times were spent shooting.

TRAINING IN NORWAY

On the 10th November we left camp for Norway and the snow in our bright blue Landrover. We travelled by boat from Kiel to Oslo—thank God for sea-sickness tablets!

Our training base was the Norwegian School of Signals not far from Lillehamuner. The snow was fantastic, accommodation was good and the food was very interesting. The on-snow training was just as gruelling as the dry training and even with the temperature at —10°C. on a warm day I still sweated buckets.

One day, finding myself alone I stopped and watched part of the Norwegian girls team training . . . beautiful! All that muscle! However my excuse of watching their technique did not impress our Norwegian trainer, **Sergeant Oen Stuge.**

It was a sad day when we left Norway for Germany as we had made a lot of friends—not only at the Nurses' Home.

RACING IN BAVARIA

On the 8th January the 2 Divisional meeting started at Oberjoch where we had welcome support from our CO and his wife, **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Davis** and from members of the Regiment on 'Snow Queen' not far away. After a prize-giving celebration never to be forgotten, I somehow recovered in time for the Army meeting for which we were joined by **Lance-Corporal Douglas Elliott**—our Regimental member of the British national biathlon team. The fight for the champion unit trophy, the Princess Marina Cup, was on. Our biathlon relay team, **Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Lance-Corporal Douglas Elliott** and **Lieutenant Tony Marvin** were unlucky enough to finish second and then be disqualified. I had my first go at biathlon in the 10km. Sprint and I think I hit some of my balloons. **Lance-Corporal Dave Stanton** was our hero when he came 3rd in the 30km. race which was only open to non-biathletes.

WE WIN THE ARMY PATROL RACE

The high note of the meeting was the winning of the Army patrol race by our team of **Lieutenant Tom Richardson, Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Lance-Corporal Douglas Elliott** and **Signalman Graham Watts.** To the rest of us in the team, and a large contingent from 'Snow Queen', it was a tremendously exciting race.

Then it was all over and even before getting back to camp I am looking forward to next season. We would like to wish **Corporal Douglas Elliott** good luck in the world championships this year and good luck also to **Signalman Graham Watts** in his trial for the British junior team.

AT SPEED
Signalman Bob Giles of 2 Division Signal Regiment racing in the British National Ski Championships in France, January 1975

SKIING WITH THE ARMY CHAMPIONS

REPORT BY SIGNALMAN PHILIP DOBSON COMBAT RADIOMAN, AGE 21

STARTING OFF—I GET HOOKED

When I first joined the Army I used to hang out in an old leather jacket and ride a powerful motor bike. I was in the motor cycle team for our Kohima fete which celebrated the 2 Division's most famous action in the 1939–45 War. Then I went on Exercise 'Snow Queen' and I found something as exciting as motorcycling —ski-ing.

I soon caught on to the idea of hammering down mountains on wooden planks, so I was invited to go on a second 'Snow Queen' course. It was there that I met **Captain Hughes**—Captain of the Regimental Alpine ski team. He said that I should sell my bike, get some skis and have a trial month with the team—and that is what I did.

SUMMER TRAINING ON AN ITALIAN GLACIER

We set off from camp on 27th August to Bavaria for a week's mountain climbing to get us acclimatised for high altitude ski-ing on the Italian glaciers. Next stop was Cervinia in Italy. The other members of our team were **Corporal Nick Doveton** and **Signalman Bob Giles. Lance-Corporal Gordon Townsley** did not come as he was on his BI course in Catterick.

Reproduced by permission of Mayfair magazine

"Who the hell sited the slalom course here in the first place?!"

To get to the ski slopes we had to take 3 cable cars and then drag lifts. We skied on Plateau Rosa which was at a height of 11,000 feet.

WINTER TRAINING IN ITALY

Apart from the Autumn exercises, we spent most of October doing fitness training. We were joined by **Signalman Alan Daughtrey** making our training squad up to 6 men. On 4th November we left again for Italy and this time we had an Italian trainer. He was Mattelo, the director of the Ski School in Cervinia.

The snow was not bad, but there was often too much wind which tended to blow the snow away and expose rocks. Mattelo gave us some exciting training—including jumping over a shed as preparation for downhill. **Bob Giles** did a spectacular 20 foot leap and landed on his face, **Nick Doveton** tried a backward somersault but did not quite make it and landed on his backside with skis in the air.

We were all sad to leave Cervinia when the time came. We had a quick 5 days leave in England and then met up in Bavaria for the racing. The 'A' Team went to Val D'Isere to compete in the British Alpine Ski Championships. **Alan Daughtrey** and myself stayed in Oberjoch.

THE RACES

At last the time had come for the first race of the 2 Division Ski Meeting. I had a start number of 134 and came 35th. By the time we were on to the downhill in Oberjoch I had a start number of 31 and came 7th—which is not bad for one year of ski-ing. The team did well and won the Alpine combination and the Divisional championship.

Next stop was Alpbach in Austria. The snow was scarce, but good on the upper slopes. Again the team did well and won the BAOR Alpine combination. I had a bad fall just before one race and had to retire before the start, but after a day's rest I was back on skis again.

A HAT TRICK OF WINS

Next were the Army races in Ischel. I managed 20th place in the giant slalom, but fell in the slalom and downhill. I was running as an individual and not part of the team. The team did well and won the Army championship making it a hat trick of 2 Division, BAOR and Army championships. After Ischel it was back to camp and back to work. Ski-ing was over for this season.

First impressions of Northern Ireland

By LIEUTENANT R. A. HEWLETT, WRAC

QUALMS ON BEING POSTED

WHEN I first learned of my posting to 233 Signal Squadron I didn't know quite what to think. From the news media I had visions of myself dodging flying bottles and stones, hearing gunshots and explosions all about me, and leading a very hair-raising life. Tall stories did nothing to calm my wild imaginings and it was with great trepidation that I set sail for Northern Ireland.

My mind was working overtime that night on the boat. What if a terrorist burst into my room, or the cook slipped something into my dinner? I couldn't enjoy my breakfast either, spending the time casting suspicious glances about the room. Could it be the steward? Or was it the little man peering out from behind his *Times*? Or perhaps both! Certainly I was wary of everybody with an Irish accent.

Having plucked up the courage to drive on to the Quay in Belfast the first problem was how to fit a passenger escort into my loaded Mini. That solved, and having noticed with strange surprise the first armed soldier, I led a small convoy of the oddest assortment of civilian looking vehicles back to Lisburn.

VIVID CONTRASTS

There was a certain unreality about the whole thing. It was a very quiet and peaceful early morning, and might have been any other British city awakening to a new day, with just a few people scurrying about their business. But all of a sudden there was a glimpse of a shattered and burnt out car, a barricade, a pile of rubble where a house had been, boarded up windows, and an Army patrol creeping from doorway to doorway, ever vigilant. The contrast was so vivid between the normalities of life and the evidence of violence that it was difficult to grasp the reality of it.

DISCOVERY

A few days later, travelling by road up to the Divis Mountain radio relay site, and wearing a flak jacket for the first time, one thing caught my attention. It was when one of the escorts got out to inspect a cattle grid in the road for terrorist devices. It came as a very startling realisation that somebody might actually want to kill, not just someone else, but ME!

Another important discovery came while helping to search women on a check point in Belfast. Despite the squalour that I found, many of them being grey with dirt, and ignorant of their smell, the great majority of them were friendly, talkative and grateful for the protection that our work afforded them. Only very few were silent, sullen or downright abusive.

GLAD TO HAVE COME

So it is that since arriving in Northern Ireland my fanciful ideas, amusing to look back on, have given way to a more down-to-earth outlook based on my own experiences. Life here is certainly interesting, with that extra element of danger and excitement to make it all the more so. I am certainly very glad that I have come to Northern Ireland.

Zaire River Expedition

BY SERGEANT D. HUDSON, 14 SIGNAL REGIMENT

LUMUMBASHI BOUND

MY appetite for travel and adventure having been whetted by a visit to Guadalcanal in the British Solomon Islands, the request for volunteers for the Zaire River Expedition was just what I was waiting for. I broke all records in speed writing in an effort to ensure that my request for a place should be the first to arrive.

In a very short space of time I was interviewed, accepted and commenced assisting **Captain Richard Scaife** and the other communicators to assemble and pack the communications equipment. Our aim was to ensure that we had all the kit necessary to prevent the expedition emulating Livingstone and losing touch with UK. A bout of frantic activity was followed by a period of heart searching as we pondered whether we could possibly have forgotten anything.

A liberal helping of champagne on the flight out ensured that we arrived in Lumumbashi with jungle drums beating incessantly behind our temples but feeling in great spirit and ready to tackle anything.

THROUGH TO 8 SIGNAL REGIMENT

After a move of 200 Km westward to Kolwesi we demonstrated the art of improvisation and set the tone for the trip by erecting our 80 foot antenna outside the luxurious Impala Hotel. We then moved in and prepared to rough it. After thoroughly reconnoitring the bars, dining room and swimming pool we decided to justify our trip and establish comms. A high quality voice circuit was soon produced with 8 Signal Regiment 6,000 miles away. This was maintained with 98 per cent success throughout the expedition. The set used for this circuit was the Racal Syncal 30 with a 100 watt amplifier. All operators involved now have the utmost respect for this equipment.

FUN WITH THE LOCAL TRAINS

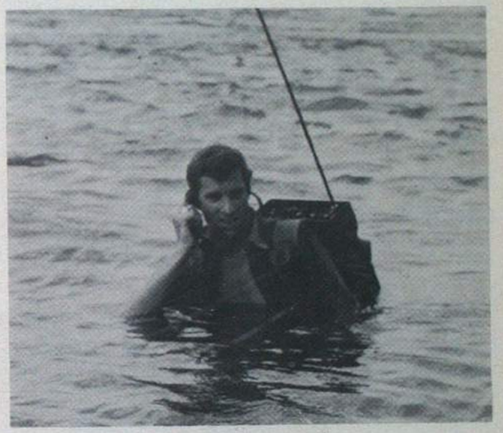
The next move took us to Kongola a five day interminable epic of a slower than slow train shuffling backwards and forwards. **Captain Scaife** instructed me to open up for the 0600 hours schedule to the boats during this journey. He arranged for the train to stop at this time for half an hour, British Rail was never like this. On the first morning I was outside the train with **Sergeant (F. of S.) Dave Pyke** handing me the antenna through the window when to his amazement and my dismay the train commenced to move. Frantically I hurled the antenna through the window then gave my imitation of a demented punka wallah as I tore down the track after the train dressed only in flip flops and shorts. Fortunately trains in Zaire make the average snail look like a cheetah and I overtook it before my breath gave out. In Kongola the 80 foot mast was erected once more and the link with UK was re-established. After a short stay another train journey brought us to Kindu and gave us another opportunity to erect the 80 foot mast, now named the White Man's Burden. Comms were again successful and more news was fed to the outside world.

ROUGH GOING

After a spell in Kindu I was attached to the engineer section as their radio operator. This gave me an excellent opportunity of comparing the respective merits of road and rail travel in darkest Africa. The section drove from Kindu to Kisangani, a distance of 500 miles, in 2 days. This was over some of the most spine shattering, liver shaking roads in the world. The impression I got was of a vehicle with square wheels running along a ram-shackle conveyor belt which was suffering with hiccups. For at least a day after this trip everyone shook as if affected by palsy. During the journey the party built two bridges and cleared a large truck from the track.

My stay in Kisangani was prolonged to the end of the expedition by sickness amongst other members of the Signals team. It was with some relief that I said farewell to the engineers as they left for another trip over similar roads to pick up **Dr. Freddie Rodger,** the specialist in tropical eye diseases, from Kanganga.

Sergeant Dave Hudson, author of the article, shows off a souvenir of the Zaire River expedition



"COME ON IN . . ."

There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that the recent Zaire river expedition finished literally on foot. However Captain Richard Skaife did test out in a practical sense Racal-Mobilcal's claim that their radio equipment is fully waterproof—We are glad to say he completed the mission as did the equipment

STANLEY FALLS DISAPPOINT

Life now became more leisurely as I involved myself with comms back to UK from our base at Kisangani. The entomologists with the party were also working from this base, searching for interesting specimens in the Yangambe rain forest. I successfully avoided being preserved for posterity in alcohol by giving these gentlemen a wide berth. The Stanley Falls are also close to Kisangani and having visions of something akin to Victoria or Niagara I made a trip to them armed with a plethora of photographic equipment to record this wondrous spectacle. To my chagrin it proved to be no more spectacular than the lower falls at Aysgarth. During our stay in Kisangani the Signals party were kept busy by producing radio comms to the forward base at Kinshasa 1,200 miles away using a Collins 130, 100 watt transceiver, the naturalists hunting the otter shrew and okapi at Ituri Forest 200 miles away, our entomologists at Yangambe 74 miles away and the party studying river blindness at Kanaga 500 miles away. The circuits were all voice and the set used for the latter three was the A14, excellent results being produced in all cases.

On the 12th of December we saw the main party off to complete the final stage of the river passage from Kinshasa to Banana. During the whole of the trip the nearest I managed to get to being involved with the river party was at the start of the expedition at Red Gorge. After seeing all the energy expended on manhandling boats and stores around this obstacle I was rather pleased that I was a non sailing member after all.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATED

On New Year's Eve the whole party re-assembled for a traditional New Year's celebration. With the work successfully completed all inhibitions were cast aside and a wild lively party ensued. Next day the jungle drums were again frantically pounding in everyones head.

The party then remained in Kisangani until the 15th of January when we moved by steamer down the Zaire River to Kinshasa. This was a very pleasant trip which took five days. We finally left Zaire by air on the 26th of January after a very successful expedition.

GOOD PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND VERY ENJOYABLE

Overall I found the expedition to be a most rewarding experience. It gave me the opportunity to see some very rugged impressive country, the majority of which was covered by dense jungle. I also gained some very useful experience in living and operating in this type of terrain. I enjoyed immensely meeting all the varied and interesting people involved in the various facets of the project. It also gave me the opportunity to meet a great collection of communicators in Captain Richard Scaife, Corporal 'Clack' Hammer, Signalman Bob Poorley, Sergeant Allan Cobb and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Dave Pyke; these of course did the majority of the work for which I claimed credit. Finally I would like to thank the party in 8 Signal Regiment whose untiring efforts ensured success.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during January, 1975:

	£
Officer Commanding, 2 Div HQ & Signal Regiment	75·00
Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2·00
The Treasurer, All Saints Church, Blandford, Dorset	22·50
Mrs. L. Allen (In memory of Captain R. D. Allen, M.B.E.)	30·00
The Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry Lodge No. 3013	16·10
Colonel D. S. Clarke	2·75
Lieutenant Colonel R. J. N. Solly	2·00
J. K. N. Billett, Esq.	1·75
Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Whatman, M.B.E.	1·50
Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., D.L.	1·25
Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., T.D.	1·20
N. C. Adams, Esq.	1·00
Major J. F. Everard	1·00
Captain, J. C. Double,	·75
Colonel J. F. Longfield	·50
J. Pollock, Esq.	·50
Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E. D.L.	·60
Various small donations	2·66
L. C. Hall, Esq.	5·00
	£168·06

The following donations were gratefully received during February, 1975:

	£
Officer Commanding, 224 Signal Squadron	36·00
Officer Commanding, 49 (West Riding) Signal Squadron (V)	1·05
Hon. Secretary, Scarborough Branch, Royal Signals Association	5·00
From a former Royal Signals officer personal number 281308	200·00
Treasurer, Blandford Carnival Committee	25·00
D. I. Green, Esq.	20·00
W. E. Robinson, Esq.	4·31
F. E. Foulds, Esq.	2·90
The Earl Kitchener	2·00
Brigadier D. St. J. Hoystead, O.B.E.	2·00
H. R. Fuerst, Esq.	1·00
M. E. Holdsworth, Esq.	1·00
F. A. A. Randall, Esq.	·75
Various small donations	·60
	£301·60

THE LATE MR. H. V. SMITH
CHIEF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, HQ 4 SIGNAL GROUP, BAOR

At the wish of his family donations in memory of the late **Harry Smith** have been sent to the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund. As many donors have asked that they remain anonymous a list is not being published. The total sum donated was £145·64—a striking tribute to the esteem and affection in which **Harry Smith** was held by those who knew him.

Three button check suit in fawn. £66.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

ARRIVALS

We welcome: **W.O.2 Slater, W.O.2 Harrison; Sergeant Vaughan; Corporals Wright, Moore; Lance-Corporals Milner, Pound, Vance,** and **Signalmen Cullingworth, Hudson** and **Morris.**

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and bon voyage to: **W.O.2 Etherton; Sergeant Friend; Lance-Corporals Berrington, Peters, Phoenix, Wright** and **Signalmen Aitken** and **Kraweckyj.**

(See also article on page 112.)

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

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Major A. F. Carter,** Royal Signals
2IC	**Captain R. L. Windmill,** Royal Signals
Admin Officer	**Captain (Q.M.) A. C. Downes,** Royal Anglian.
QM	**Captain (Q.M.) S. J. Raynor,** Royal Signals.
OC Comms Tp	**Lieutenant L. Fox,** Royal Signals.
2IC 'C' Tp	**Lieutenant J. B. M. MacLeod,** Royal Signals.
RSM	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. Sinnett**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. J. Tunmore.**
F. of S.	**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) I. Forbes.**
RQMS	**W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) J. F. Milton.**
Chief Clerk	**Staff Sergeant (ORSQMS) D. S. Berry.**

OUR FAMILIES

It's a man's life in the Army for women of the Londonderry Squadron. In fact all you wives whose husbands may be posted to 8 Infantry Brigade do not be put off by the pictures below. Our wives are very feminine and life in Londonderry is not the misery of blood and bullets that the media would have you believe —far from it—schooling for youngsters is the best in UK, there is no waiting for married quarters, there are lovely beaches and countryside and the climate is best described as soft! !—Join up now.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This has been a fairly heavy month for personnel changes. We say "Hello and welcome" to:

Major and **Mrs. C. C. Katon,** REME, **Major** and **Mrs. P. D. D. J. Andrews,** DWR, **Major** and **Mrs. R. H. Graham,** Queens, **Sergeant Carty** (RPC), **Corporal R. Hill, Corporal G. Kearsey, Corporal M. Callaghan** (RCT), **Lance-Corporal J. Parker, Lance-Corporal N. Robertson** (RCT), **Signalman G. Andrews, Signalman D. Morgan, Private K. Robinson** and **Private H. Soutar** (RPC).

We say "Goodbye, thank you and good luck" to:

Major and **Mrs. S. A. T. Baxter,** REME, **Sergeant Browne** (RPC), **Corporal** and **Mrs. Freeman** (RPC), **Corporal** and **Mrs. Craven, Corporal** and **Mrs. O'Rahilly** (RCT).

MARRIAGES

We are very pleased to announce the marriage of **Corporal Percy Richardson** to **Miss Margaret Woods** and **Private Taylor** (RPC) to **Miss Shiela Ledger.** We give both couples our heartiest congratulations and wish them both every success and happiness for the future.

SHOPPING PARTY OF SQUADRON WIVES ON THE START LINE FOR SPRING SALES OFFENSIVE

Mrs. Gill Baxter (wife of Major Baxter, REME), Mrs. Kathleen Gair (wife of Sergeant Steve Gair, TE Technician, Royal Signals), Mrs. Anita Taylor (wife of Sergeant Dave Taylor, ACC), Mrs. Sylvia Walker (wife of Sergeant Paul Walker, D Tg., Royal Signals), Mrs. Debbie Carter (wife of Major Andrew Carter, Officer Commanding)

TINIES ON A PRE-PATROL BRIEFING

Left to right: Jane Walker, Wendy Walker, Ian Gair, Wayne Gair, Kristine Baxter, Ian Taylor, Mrs. Debbie Carter

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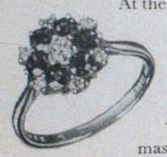

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VISIT ON 9th OCTOBER, 1974

Visit to the School by the new Director, Royal Armoured Corps, Major-General J. G. R. Allen. Lieutenant-Colonel Ted Andrews, M.B.E., introduces some of his Staff
Left to right: R.Q.M.S. Dehdashty (D.E.E.) Royal Signals, Staff Sergeant Wally Watkins, Royal Signals and S.Q.M.C. Jack Preece, Blues and Royals

RAC Signal School
Bovington Camp
Wareham

CO	**Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. de N. Rogers,** Royal Signals
2IC	**Major M. R. Goodwin,** 3 R.T.R.
RSMI	**W.O.1 C. A. Barratt,** 3 R.T.R.
RQMS	**W.O.2 R. S. Dehdashty,** Royal Signals
Radio Training	**Staff Sergeant G. C. Watkins,** Royal Signals
Chief Clerk	**Mr. R. A. Smye**

HAVING attempted for the first time to appear in the WIRE magazine, and succeeded, we are trying again and hope this time to put the RAC Signal School firmly on the map. After all this is where it all happens!

Let us take a look and see what has happened here since our last notes.

On 9th October 1974 the new Director Royal Armoured Corps **Major General J. C. R. Allen** visited the School.

20th December 1974 was a big day here. Yes, after a few drinks and a buffet at 1200 hours, the School broke up for block leave, not to return until 6th January. Those who still remember **R.Q.M.S. Dehdashty 'Dee'** will guess where he went. Right first time—yes Herford. He naturally visited all his old friends in and out of 4 Division. Nice to have met you all again, chaps.

A Regimental School dinner with wives was held on 7th February. The occasion was two-fold. Firstly to get all the families together, and secondly to say farewell to our Commanding Officer, his Second-in-Command and their wives—**Lieutenant-Colonel Ted** and **Jackie Andrews** and **Major Logan** and **Julia Hunter.** Sorry to see you go. We would, however, like to wish **Lieutenant-Colonel Ted** and **Jackie** the best of luck in their new posting. I believe he is going to be a Liaison Officer to the SO-in-C with the telecommunications Branch in the Home Office (or something), while **Major Logan** and **Julia Hunter** go to the Army Apprentice College Chepstow. I am sure he will have more time for gardening then he has had here. However, good sources inform me that he had quite a lot of time here.

We would like to welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Rogers** and his family to the School in March and hope their stay with us will be an enjoyable one.

I was serious when I said *"This is where it all happens"*. On 19th February the Signal School was invaded by the Iranians (genuine-Bedouine). The delegation comprised of 1 Brigadier and 6 Colonels. They were met by **Lieutenant-Colonel Ted Andrews, M.B.E.** R Signals who showed them round the School, with special emphasis on training aids. Let us hope they put in their large order soon. No visit is complete without a surprise and what better than an introduction to a British/Iranian R.Q.M.S., which I might add soon gave the visit a more cheerful tone.

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

A RECENT brief survey of back numbers of THE WIRE revealed to the regimental Editor that there was a distinct lack of sporting news from Herford. True we had news of 2 Squadron's activities and even a paragraph on the angling Hotrods but otherwise the sporting light has been well and truly hidden under its bushel. One comment that did catch the Editor's eye in passing was 2 Squadron's remark in the January edition that "From the look of the Squadron diary 1975 will be even busier than this year (1974) has been". Don't despair 2 Squadron, you are not alone, but your crystal ball was right, 1975 is much busier than 1974—already!

NEW FACES

Before embarking on Sports Report we must record some changes amongst the management. We have recently said farewell to **Major Colin Brown** and his wife **Heather** who have left 3 Squadron for the delights of Bushey and AG 11(O)! We welcome **Major John Mills** and his wife **Lynn** as the new incumbents in that parish. Not to be outdone 2 Squadron have also got themselves a new squadron commander. **Major John Hincks** has left us for the School of Signals and we welcome **Major David Dudley** and his wife **Fran** to their second tour in the Regiment. **Captains Colin Cruickshank** and **Fergus Mackenzie** and their families have left us for 226 Signal Squadron and an emergency tour in Cyprus respectively. **Captains 'Andy' Gale** and **Leigh Hood** have arrived to fill the gaps and we welcome them and their families to Herford.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS REPORT

RUGBY

The regimental team has had a good season and reached the BAOR final which was played against 3 BAPD at Sennelager on 5th February. The Ordnance team were however just too fit and strong and won by 46–nil, a score which did not really reflect the tremendous 'never say die' effort put in by our side. In the Divisional final against our old enemies 7th Signal Regiment we fared a little better on points with a final score of 36–6 against us, but will have to wait until next season to beat them!

FINAL OF BAOR RUGBY

The Commander I (BR) Corps, General Sir Jack Harman, presents the runners up Shield to Captain Eric Mercer, Intelligence Corps, the team captain, watched by Lieutenant Ian Griffiths

TENSE MOMENT IN BAOR RUGBY SHIELD FINAL

Lieutenant Ian Griffiths scrum half of 4 Division Signal Regiment gets the ball away from a line out

SQUASH

Despite losing **Major David Phipps** our very strong Gunner No. 2 the team has done very well and won the Divisional Final against 4 Regiment Army Air Corps in a very exciting match which could easily have gone the other way. We now go forward to the BAOR Semi-final in which we are drawn against HQ Rheindahlen Garrison—a hard team to beat.

BASKETBALL

As in 1974 we have reached the BAOR final pool and are hoping for better luck on the 13th March(!) than last year when we were beaten in the pool by teams we had ourselves beaten in the earlier rounds.

BOXING

The recent revival of interest in boxing in the Army was reflected in the Division by a novices competition in which our team, excellently trained and organised by **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Brian Dulston,** met 1 RHA on the 17th February. The Gunners won by 5 bouts to 2 but the audience of 700 plus enjoyed a first rate match. **Lance-Corporal Tom Williams,** RCT and **Second-Lieutenant Max Little** (the only officer boxing) won their bouts. **Craftsman 'Spud' Bradbury** was unlucky to lose his featherweight bout but was awarded the Best Loser's Trophy for his efforts.

SOCCER

The regimental soccer team management of the Adjutant, **Captain Mike Patterson** and Assistant Adjutant, **W.O.1 Roy Adamson** has recently been further strengthened by the arrival of **Sergeant 'Don Revie' Flockhart** as coach and business is booming. So watch out any other unit with eyes on the 1975/76 Army Cup title!

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

FOR THE RECORD
2 SQUADRON, 7th SIGNAL REGIMENT

HOCKEY

DURING the 1974–5 season, the Regiment has now both a 1st XI and a 2nd XI. However, due to the many exercises and other commitments the 2nd XI has been able to complete only a relatively small number of fixtures. Both teams were entered for the 4 Division League this year and the 1st XI for the BAOR Army Cup Knockout competition.

Due to postings in and out of the Regiment, leave and courses, the 1st XI has necessarily been composed of a large pool of players, often 'poaching' from the 2nd XI. Run by **Captain Mike Wallis** and **Second-Lieutenant Adrian Morgan**, the 1st XI has been represented by **Major 'Jim' Pertwee, Second-Lieutenant Adrian Morgan, W.O.2 Eddie Davies, W.O.2 Scott, W.O.2 Colin Bland, Staff Sergeant 'Mac' Macdonald, Sergeant Ivor Nobles, Sergeant 'Mel' Foster, Corporal 'Paddy' Goslyn, Lance-Corporal 'Sandy' Macdonald, Corporal 'Don' Holmes, Corporal 'Ginge' Hayward, Lance-Corporal 'Tilly' Tillman, Corporal 'Tich' Long, Signalman Andy Garlick, Signalman Diamond** and several others who have rendered invaluable service in times of dire need.

A special mention for **Staff Sergeant 'Harry' Hemstock** who despite many trials and tribulations displayed the patience of a saint in piecing together the 2nd XI.

1st XI Results:

P	*W*	*D*	*L*	*F*	*A*
30	23	0	7	102	45

In the Army Cup Semi-Final at 4 Division stage we won our match with 22 Signal Regiment by 2 goals to nil, putting us into the 4 Division Final v 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. Our next round of the Army Cup was against the Queens Own Highlanders, an excellent game which they finally won 3–2. We were robbed.

ORIENTEERING

With the approach of the 4 Division Championships the Regiment has once again taken an interest in the woodland sport of orienteering. Recently two teams were raised for a 1 Division league event on the Buckeburger Ridge, in which **Lieutenant Robin Hill, Lieutenant Mark Grieves** and **Captain Richard Farrimond** were placed 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively out of 70 starters thereby winning by a convincing margin. Also the Regiment has just sponsored a 4 Division League event on the local Bismarck Ridge and on this occasion managed to raise three teams. Unfortunately the 'A' team, which was again winning easily, was disqualified and it was left to the 'B' team to represent the Regiment in third place overall out of 28 teams. Should the Regimental 'A' team manage to keep up its present form it should offer a serious challenge to established orienteering teams in BAOR.

2 SQUADRON

The Regiment is undergoing a fairly rapid changeover of officers and of course 2 Squadron is doing its bit to help out. We bid farewell to **Major Paul** and **Mrs. Loni Webb** after twenty-eight months with the Squadron and we welcome **Major David Podevin** and his wife and hope they too will enjoy themselves here. Also leaving the Squadron is **Captain Peter Myatt,** who is going to join the 'Red Hand Gang' at RAF Benson. As it is unlikely that the whole Squadron is ever likely to be together again we thought it appropriate to have a couple of photographs taken for the Squadron scrapbook—(See above).

KILO TROOP, 5 SQUADRON

(Special report from one of the far flung outposts of the Corps . . . Darkest West Herford

Here in the concrete jungle, a small select band of handpicked (at random) heroes, thrown together strive to do the impossible. (For 'impossible' read communicate.) Life for these unsung heroes is a long hard slog against almost impossible odds. (NAAFI break, Sports afternoons, mornings-after-the-night-before etc.)

I am of course, referring to the men (?) of Kilo 'Army', the secret weapon of BAOR.

This closely intergrated C.R.S. (Confusion reigns supreme) team, using the most modern methods of communication:

"Hello"
"What?"
"Can you hear me?"
"Nope"
"O.K. Wait, I'll change my TX!"

—i.e. Radio relay, are the envy of the rest of the Corps.

Proficiency at C50's, C70's and C41's notwithstanding, very high qualifications are required to become a member of this fantastic fighting team.

Black belt in ORIGAMI, 'A' pass in 'Herf' shifting, Full party membershop of 'Schimf in vain', Kilo Troop Hypocritical party, to name just three!

Two members who hold these rare and treasured qualifications are due to leave us soon, to take up well deserved appointments in the civil service.

Corporal Chris 'Days to do' Tout is leaving us for Civvy Street (M.I.5 Taunton) and **Corpiral Roy Pledger 'They built the camp round me!'** posted to Larkhill (M.I.695.3 reversed).

The basis of the MT section is formed by **Corporal Eddie 1045 it! Hobday, Corporal 'Jacko the Genny' Jackson, Lance-Corporal Noel 'But I've just fixed it!' Pickersgill** and **Signalman Gary 'Lemoned again' Lee,** who ensure that all of the vehicles and generators are off the road most of the time, and that some of them are off the road all of the time!

Those wagons that stay on the road long enough to go on exercise are soon put out of action by people like **Corporal Les Grabowski** ('**Tilt**' to his friends) and **Corporal Tommy Slater,** the two specialists in placing wagons in ditches at 45° angles!

The few remaining vehicles that manage against all odds to reach the first location are operated (for want of a better word) by such stalwarts as:

Corporal Scottis 'Big Thick' Handibode, Corporal Davey Gilchrist, Lance-Corporal Trev 'Luigi' Cartledge, Corporal Don 'The Gob' Holmes, Signalman Simon 'Tapeless One' Garisch, Lance-Corporal Charlie 'Big Ears' George, Signalman 'Badger' Acton and **Signalman 'Duke' Dukemin,** to name but a lot! **Corporal Barry 'Baz' Young** and **'Scouse' Smith** also ran.

These highly trained lesser crested needle weingers are backed up by a team of technicians second to several.

Corporals Ian 'Mac' McNoughton and **Steve 'Araldite' Cheeseman** are two who should do the work but won't, and **Lance-Corporals 'Og' Roberts** and **Brian 'The FOS' Power** are two who would do the work, but can't .

To end with, a scene that took place 'somewhere in Germany' recently . . .

"Up" (Hiss of compressed air).
"Up" (40ft pneumatic slides into the ether).
"Down".
"What for?"
"You didn't put the coax on!'

AND A HAPPY WINTEX TO YOU.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

1 SQUADRON

FOR this contribution the squadron star must have been in the right quarter, as we have nothing but success to report. Two Northern Ireland GSM's have been presented. **Corporal Joan Baldwin** received hers during the farewell visit of **Colonel Betty Metcalf, M.B.E.,** DDWRAC, whilst **Corporal Brian Murkin** was given his by **Colonel A. T. Scott, O.B.E.,** our new deputy CSO here at HQ UKLF. The next day **Corporal Murkin** decided to leave the rather wet English winter and departed for an unaccompanied tour in Cyprus.

"CONGRATULATIONS"
Colonel A. T. Scott, O.B.E., congratulates Corporal Brian Murkin after the presentation of the G.S.M. for service in Northern Ireland

Perhaps the most satisfying news came when we heard that **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) John Morrison** had been selected for promotion to W.O.1. He is due to leave us for 8 Signal Regiment early in July.

Our WRAC having negotiated the pantomime season have turned their attention to sport and adventure training with notable success. We provided the bulk of the players for the HQ UKLF teams, which won the WRAC inter unit hockey championships and were runners up in the inter unit netball. The hockey success was in no small measure due to the goalkeeping of **Private Pauline Rimmer** whilst **Lance-Corporal Diane Gardner** played a leading part in the latter team.

On a more individual note **Private Margaret Robson** played for England in an international handball tournament at Ashford, Kent against teams from France, Germany and Luxembourg. **Second-Lieutenant Cherry Hume-Lewis** is at present enjoying the sun at Gan as a member of an Army Sub-aqua diving expedition, and we will get her to substantiate this in our next contribution. Finally, **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dave Pentland** went on a ski-ing jaunt in Scotland with a party from 30 Signal Regiment and much to our surprise has returned with two good legs.

3 SQUADRON

"Spring is (definitely!) the time for love" in 3 Squadron this year, with three marriages and 8 "marriages-pending" to our credit so far.

Corporal Yvonne Hartley set the trend by marrying **Lance-Corporal Parker** on Saturday 11th January, and in her wake followed (or are following):

Lance-Corporal Pat Haslam (nee **Jones**), **Lance-Corporal Maggie Lynch** (nee **Gray**), **Private Denise Davies** (nee **Ashworth**), **Lance-Corporal Pat Rice** (future **Mrs. Baker**), **Private Irene Dunion** (future **Mrs. Stammers**), **Private Jean Caufield** (future **Mrs. Ansett**), **Private Olwyn Longhurst** (future **Mrs. Rippingale**), **Private Linda Heselwood** (future **Mrs. Snelson**), **Private Myra Jobson** (future **Mrs. Johnstone**), **Private Elizabeth Watson** (future **Mrs. Horsfall**), **Private Yvonne Garwood** (future **Mrs. ? ? ?**).

The lucky Regiments and Corps who will be benefiting from these marriages are: RA, RE, R Signals, Parachute Regiment, Welsh Guards, RMP, ACC.

NOW YOU SEE HER—NOW YOU DON'T
or
DON'T BLINK—YOU MIGHT MISS HER

'Her' is, or was our new Troop Officer, **Second-Lieutenant Judy Middleton,** who was welcomed to the Squadron at 0830 hrs. on Monday 24th February and taken to meet her new OC in 10 Company WRAC down the corridor at 0831 hrs!

Due to a CASIVAC from FARELF the WRAC had to reshuffle rather quickly, with the result that 10 Company WRAC 'lost' a platoon officer, suddenly leaving a vacancy, and **Second-Lieutenant Judy Middleton** was immediately posted to 10 Company to fill it! Is hers a record tour?

VISIT—LADY WILSON

Lady Wilson, the wife of **Lieutenant-General Sir James Wilson, K.B.E., M.C.,** GOC SE District, visited the Commcen and Telephone Exchange on Thursday 20th February. She spent a lot of time talking to the operators, and showed a great interest in both their social activities and their work.

Due to shortage of staff, **Lady Wilson** spoke to the girls during operating, which gave added interest despite perhaps rather interrupted conversations!

TABLE TENNIS CHAMPION

On Friday 7th February **Second-Lieutenant Simone Hovell** brought honour to the Squadron by winning the SE District individual table tennis championships. She will be representing the SE District (West) Team on 20th/21st March in the Army inter zone championships as No. 1 singles player.

LIEUTENANT STOVER

On Thursday 27th February **Lieutenant 'Vicki' Stover,** United States Army, made an unexpected visit to Aldershot en route for SHAPE. Everyone enjoyed looking after her and showing her around the RCT Training Centre, Commcen and Telephone Exchange.

In the evening she volunteered to join a group of girls from the Barracks for a ski-ing session at the Stainforth dry ski slope ('Gee—no snow!') and found out the hard way that snow is a lot softer to fall on!

On Friday 28th **Lieutenant Stover** met a US Army colleague at the WRAC Centre and had a look at WRAC basic training. (The Second-in-Command has already arranged to be introduced to the American PX as soon as they're both in Europe!).

SPORTS REPORT

LATEST SOCCER NEWS FROM W.O.2. (S.S.M.) G. J. GRIFFITHS

The regimental soccer team are still moving on successfully, on Saturday 1st March in the Hounslow Jubilee Cup quarter-final they beat Bison FC 4 goals to 2. The regiment's goals were scored by **Sergeant Ray Walton** 3, **Signalman 'Brummie' Barber** 1. In the London District Challenge Cup semi-final the team beat the RMSM Kneller Hall, after being 2 goals down at half-time. After the start of the second half, the regimental team applied the pressure and scored 7 goals the scorers were **Sergeant Ray Walton** 4, **Corporal Geoff Ruffer, Signalman 'Brummie' Barber** and **Neil Leyland** one goal each, **Neil Leyland's** goal was from the penalty spot. We are looking forward to the final on the 24th March—our opponents are yet to be decided.

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

FAREWELL TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PRATT

THIS month we say farewell to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** and **Mrs. Pratt. Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt** has seen many changes and been responsible for many improvements during his two and a half years in command of the regiment. The Junior Signalman Squadron disbanded in July 1973 and reformed in September 1974, the new Training Theatre was built and became operational from October, Leadership Courses were started in the regiment in January 1974 and the landscaping of the barracks has continuously been improved upon under his direction. It is of course impossible to list here all of **Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt's** achievements but his insistance on a high standard of leadership, physical fitness and weapon handling from the cadre of the regiment has no doubt resulted in the high standard of trained recruits in the Corps today. We wish them both well for the future.

RUGBY—PRESIDENTS XV—11th SIGNAL REGIMENT

As president of Corps rugby **Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt** fielded a strong side for his final game in Catterick. Although rather out-classed by the opposition, the Regiment never lost heart and a try by **Lance-Corporal Harry Elkan** brought the final score to a win for the Presidents XV by 40 points to 4. Throughout his tour Lieutenant Colonel Pratt has many a time turned out for the Regimental team and he will be a great loss to the rugby officer when he finds he has only 14 players half an hour before kick off. It is with regret that we have also said farewell to **Lieutenant P. A. Jones** ACC. The regiment have lost a popular officer who has had a hand in a number of excellent innovations in the Regimental catering, which have been appreciated by the customers of the professionals pantry and on occasion has been instrumental in getting free advertising time on TV.

WELCOME

We welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. H. A. Cuerden** to the regiment and wish them happiness and success during their stay in Catterick.

A UNIQUE DINNER NIGHT IN THE CORPS

On Thursday 29th February the officers, warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers of the regiment assembled in the officers mess to dine out the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt.** After an excellent meal the Commanding Officer presented a decanter to the officers mess and a painting to the sergeants mess. For all those who attended it was indeed a memorable evening and as far as we can ascertain the first time in the Corps that a combined dinner night has been held in our officers mess.

1 SQUADRON

6 Troop passed-off on 7th February. The inspecting officer was **Brigadier R. A. King,** Commander of the Training Brigade Royal Signals. This was the first visit of **Brigadier King** to inspect a pass off parade since he became Commander of the Training Brigade in November. The troop Commander was **W.O.1 Howker** (assisted by **Corporal Mountcastle)** as troop sergeant. The prize for the best all round recruit went to **Signal-S. D. Brunsdon** and **Signalman T. J. Prince** won the prize for the best shot.

1 Troop passed off on 21st February. The parade was commanded by **W.O.1 M. G. E. Hall,** the troop commander, and he was assisted by **Sergeant T. H. Sharp.** The inspecting officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. A. Ridley** of Headquarters, Training Brigade Royal Signals. The inspecting officer was escorted onto the parade by four motor cycles and cyclists of the White Helmets Display Team. **Lieutenant-Colonel Ridley** used to command the White Helmets and he was the first officer to take them on tour abroad. The best recruit prize was won by **Signalman P. A. Archibald** and the prize for the best shot went to **Signalman W. McNohar.**

We wish to congratulate **W.O.1 Hall** for winning the North East District Squash Championships. He won both the soldiers event and the open event.

We said farewell to **Lieutenant E. C. Cameron** who was the troop commander of 5 Troop. He has gone to Blandford.

2 SQUADRON

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

OC	**Major W. H. D. N. Robotham**
2IC/Trg Off	**Captain F. D. Rogers**
SSM	**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) R. Briant**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) J. C. M. Young.**

The Squadron is now in the final phase of training for the large intake of September 1974, which will culminate in a six day Battle Camp at Otterburn from 10–16th March where the boys will carry out the following: fieldcraft, shooting, NBC, first aid and internal security practices—section in attack and defence close quarter and individual battle shooting, 21mm sub calibre shoot, night firing with and without illumination, night observation and identifying sounds at night, 2 man weapon pits and living in the field including water discipline, purification, disposal of human waste, construction of field latrines and a first aid and NBC exercise, and just for a break each troop will do a 24 hour adventure training exercise in the northern area of Otterburn. The boys will spend 1 week in Camp and this will be followed by adventure training over the Easter period at Scarborough.

The Junior Signalmen were given the honour of producing the quarter guard for the SO in C's visit to Catterick and the following are practising hard under the watchful eye of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Briant.**

Junior Corporals Dodd, Carr and **Jones; Junior Lance-Corporal Livesey; Junior Signalmen Frampton, Crawford, Watts, Dove, Cunningham, McCutcheon, Paskell, Eley, Sixsmith, Lockwood** and **Kelford.**

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

The Duke of Edinburghs Award Scheme has been started for the boys with the following taking part for their Silver Award: **Junior Signalmen Cawkwell, Finn, Henley, Campbrll, Cox, Redfern, Garrett, Crooks, Parnell, Dooley, Horton, Voros, Lockwood, Rodie, Croxford** and **Gale.**

On the search for the Gold Award are: **Junior Signalmen Carpenter, Toye** and **Morrison.**

The main theme is on the expedition side but not losing sight of the rest of the award scheme. All is done under the watchful eyes of **Sergeant G. Turner** and **Corporal G. Hardstaff,** not forgetting the excellent accommodation provided by the Garrison Dales Club. The practice map reading and compass work has been taking place around Catterick and Swaledale areas with the latest assault on Peny Ghent (2,272). The weather being most kind, affording us with great views of the North Yorkshire Dales.

There are plans of greater objectives on the planning board once the problem of equipment has been resolved. **ANY OFFERS?**

SPORT

The following boys were awarded Squadron Colours by **Brigadier R. A. King** Commander Training Brigade Royal Signals on Tuesday 11th February:

Basketball: **Junior Corporals Gormley** and **Jones; Junior Signalmen Bennett** and **Morris.**

Football: **Junior Lance-Corporal Knight; Junior Signalmen Corr, Frampton** and **Davis.**

Rugby: **Junior Lance-Corporals James** and **Morrissey.**

Cross Country: **Junior Corporal Carr.**

RUGBY

The Squadron has qualified to meet the Junior Soldiers Company the Welsh Depot in the Army Junior Minor Units Rugby Cup to be played at Catterick on Wednesday, 26th March, we have high hopes!

CROSS COUNTRY

The climax of a great cross country season was winning the Army junior minor units event held at Shorncliffe and finishing second over all in the event which combined major and minor units, only the Army Apprentice College Chepstow could better us. There were 10 competing units including three Army Apprentice Colleges. Finally the Squadron finished 4th over all in the North East District league which included teams from the Civil Service, Police, AAC Harrogate, 8th Signal Regiment and many other adult teams.

The team that represented the Squadron in the Army Youths final together with their individual positions was as follows: **Junior Corporal Carr** 2nd, **Junior Lance-Corporal Ireland** 14th, **Junior Signalman Martin** 17th, **Junior Lance-Corporal Livesey** 20th, **Junior Corporal Edwards** 28th, **Junior Signalman Gray** 61st*, **Junior Signalman McLean** 73rd, **Junior Signalman Brammer** 74th, *Reserves:* **Junior Signalmen McTernan** and **Eley.**

*First six to count.

3 SQUADRON

As usual 3 Squadron is at full throttle with courses. At present we have running, two staff sergeants courses, one detachment commanders course and a technicians military training course.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

We say hello to **Sergeant Bob Lockwood, Corporals Mick Wilson, John Glass, Mick Kerr** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Antrobus.** Welcome to 3 Squadron. We hope you have a happy and successful tour with us.

Recently we said cheerio to **Sergeant Steve Pedley** who has gone to pastures new in BAOR. Good luck **Steve** to you and your wife **Carol** in your new posting.

Another new arrival, this time in the form of a baby boy to **Sergeant Mick Kenning** and his wife **Margaret.** Congratulations from all the Squadron.

The Squadron M of I team recently went to Scarborough to give a presentation to 34 Signal Regiment (V). The day was a complete success but one member still needs to practise his trombone playing. The members of the team are becoming such good actors that we are considering opening up an "Old Vic" in Catterick.

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ANGLO DUTCH SPORTS

ON 25th February, 13 Signal Regiment played host for an Anglo/Dutch sporting and social event. Our guests were the Dutch Army Technical Training Centre from Roermond. Football, shinty and volleyball were played with the Dutch side winning all three games.

REPORT FROM 3 SQUADRON (BERLIN)

INFINITE DELIGHTS

Being somewhat divorced from our parent Regiment in Birgelen (if you can say that of the 400 odd miles separating us) some of you might think that we are slightly lacking in the social graces that accompany Regimental life—that is those of you who have never been to Berlin and sampled some of this city's infinite delights.

ANGLO-DUTCH GET TOGETHER

Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor presents Lieutenant-Colonel De Vries with a plaque after an Anglo/Dutch sporting and social day

3 Squadron is even luckier than most units stationed here. As well as living under two roofs as it were and availing ourselves of the best that both Berlin Infantry Brigade and RAF Gatow have to offer, we occupy our very own hill at Teufelsberg (apart from the odd few RAF and American 'guests') and command an excellent view of the city and the surrounding Grunewald. Unfortunately we don't get to see too much of it when working but as some consolation we even have a ski lift up the hill should the weather prove too much for our cars.

SOCIAL LIFE HECTIC

Our social life can sometimes get a bit hectic as well, with all the living in lads tucked out of harms way at RAF Gatow and the 'pads' liberally scattered throughout the Brigade area. However the mention of the magic words 'party' or 'social' usually seems to make all the logistic problems disappear and somehow we all get together—a fact many of our members still counting the cost after our usual frantic Christmas can guarantee.

Needless to say however, since Christmas social life has gone into a slight decline (it takes us longer than most to recover) but it should be due for its annual spring upsurge very shortly.

INDOOR GAMES—WE EXCEL

It got off to a good start a couple of weeks ago when 229 Signal Squadron foolishly issued us a challenge to a games night at their club, consisting of darts, dominoes, crib etc.—all the signs of a 'mis-spent youth' in fact. Little did they know that these types of games are our forte in life—especially when ample supplies of the right kind of nourishment are on hand, and under the inspired leadership of our Captain and organiser, **Corporal John Sands,** we duly despatched them to their predestined fate of runners-up.

OUTDOOR SPORT INHIBITED BY LACK OF MANPOWER

Outside on the big pitches it is unfortunately a different story. Our rapidly dwindling resources of manpower, together with the problems inherent in shift work, make it virtually impossible for us to field a consistent team for any game requiring more than five people. But we persevere still, and despite both the rugby and football teams bearing the fearsome responsibility of holding up every other team in their respective leagues we treat every game the same and try not to let the heady nature of our position in life curtail our pleasure.

Don't runaway with the idea that we are born losers though, as our Badminton team, ably led by our hope for the Berlin singles title—**Staff Sergeant 'Blue O' Salt,** is doing very well for itself, holding down third position in a League which includes all the major as well as minor units. Even our ladies are doing their own thing and very respectably at that, having won their last two games of netball.

But pride of honour goes to our table tennis team, which in its very first year of inception has won its way through to the semi-finals of the 2 Division knockout championships. We wish all good luck to Captain, **Sergeant Clive Dawkin** and his team.

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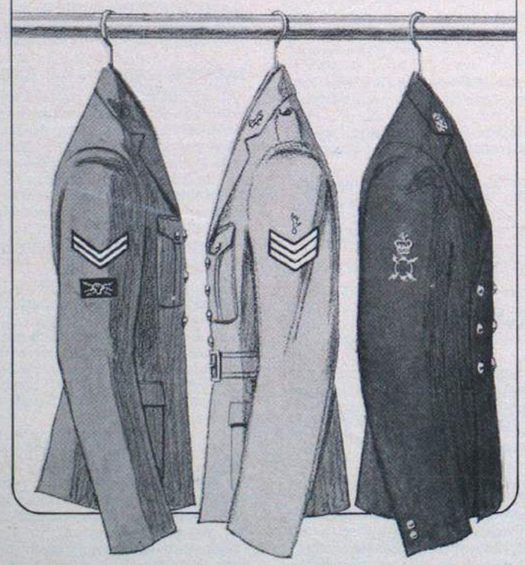

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ELEPHANTS ARE SELDOM LOST

THE ubiquitous D13 rear link radio detachment, this time under the command of **Captain Sandy 'Bwana' Lovatt,** has recently completed a safari in Kenya with 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. This has produced a five star page in the Regiment's guide to 'Good Exercise Sites' and **Wilbur Smith** has been put to shame by the eloquent reports produced by the detachment on the great dark continent.

Captain Lovatt, Sergeants 'Tich' Woodford and **Pete Rogers,** with other members of the detachment took part in jungle training on the slopes of Mount Kenya with members of the SAS. The altitude of 7,000 feet coupled with thick undergrowth, bamboo and giant nettles made for hard going. However, as our team has prepared by watching Tarzan on Tiswas every Saturday morning for a month prior to departure, they coped adequately. The area supported a proliferation of wild game which included elephant, buffalo, rhino, leopard and antelope. **Captain Lovatt** and **Sergeant Rogers** managed to come face to face with a rhino (distance is comparative, and exactidues detract from the story) which looked somewhat nonplussed. It paused, obviously tried to ascertain whether they were male or female, then, deciding only another anthropoid could be interested, went on his way snorting in disgust. On another occasion **Sergeant 'Tich' Woodford** decided that buffalo take right of way over diminutive TE techs in narrow tunnels through bamboo. Fortunately, the buffalo turned off and we can record yet another case of a tech successfully avoiding bull. The detachment admit that they found no elephants during their safari. This is not surprising, for as everyone knows, "Elephants are very large and intelligent animals and are seldom lost".

Corporal Terry Whittaker also went along on this expedition and his five-year old daughter **Michelle** recently informed me that her daddy had gone to shoot lions, pterodactyls, dinosaurus and little girls in Kenya. I was somewhat surprised about the little girls so I asked "Why would he shoot little girls?" "Because they are sometimes very naughty", she replied seriously.

Two of our more energetic members, **Lance-Corporal Keith Howlett** and **Lance-Corporal Tony Hodgson,** climbed to the summit of Mount Kenya. This, they report, was an exhilarating experience in spite of fatigue and minor bouts of altitude sickness. The remainder accepted their opinion but made no effort to emulate their feat.

Others took part in an escape and evasion exercise around Archers Post, 4,000 feet lower down the mountain and in more open terrain. **Captain Lovatt** insists that temperatures were in the hundreds during the day and in the eighties by night. He also tells me that in this area one finds elephants and lions behind every bush. I can only assume that the bushes are enormous and that the Longleat Lions have been working overtime.

The detachment witch doctor **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson,** assisted by **Sergeant Duncan Game,** charmed good communications out of the station whilst the remainder of the detachment were out doing more mundane things. **Sergeant Game's** interest in communications stemmed largely from reports he was given that the jungle was teeming with hunters seeking big game.

We are confident that the epic feats of Lovatt's Lion Hunters will soon replace Daktari on TV.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY—NO MASSACRE

A host of golden daffodils acquired by **Mrs. Joan Scott,** wife of the R.S.M., a plethora of cupids, liberally interspersed with arrow pierced hearts and a conglomeration of Valentine Cards ranging from amatory or sentimental to satirical, transformed the NAAFI Club into a romantic venue for the wives' club Valentine Dance.

Mrs. Ella Hales, wife of the CO, in conjunction with her committee, had spared no effort and shown considerable ingenuity in raising funds and organising the event.

A very hirsute group, with amplifiers tuned to Birmingham, provided a loud and lively band of pop which kept all feet tapping. I must assume that **R.S.M. Bill Scott** had been placed under massive sedation as he managed to endure the whole evening without wincing at the band's hair styles. From the word 'go' the floor was packed as the ladies and their escorts gyrated like dervishes with St. Vitus Dance—Regimental PT is never like this.

Commander 1 Signal Group, **Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.** and his wife attended the function and showed a complete mastery of contemporary dance techniques. Both the commander and his wife appeared to have an enjoyable evening and were impressed with the energy displayed by everyone.

A talented display as MC by **Mrs. Aileen Assender** kept the event moving and ensured maximum participation in some lively spot dances. One spot prize was a very feminine garter in white lace and red hearts provided by the CO's wife. She stipulated that the winner must have the prize fitted on the dance floor. The ladies of the committee proved that you cannot trust anyone by arranging (quite fortuitously?) for the CO and his wife to win.

A mini draw was run by **Mrs. Celia Coates, Mrs. Lorraine Hall** and **Mrs. Sue Mills.** These three ladies showed all the business acumen of Paul Getty with just a dash of Dick Turpin as they replenished the somewhat depleted wives' club funds. We look forward to reporting many more functions of this nature in the future.

JUST REWARD

After **Staff Sergeant Steve Fowler** had been involved in a prolonged bout of arduous work, the QM **Captain Cyril 'Sign 'Ere' Evis,** decided to organise a holiday for him. With his usual surfeit of philanthropy the QM arranged a months trip to 633 Signal Troop in sunny Belize. To ensure that boredom did not mar the tour, arrangements were made for him to reorganise the troop's stores and system of accounting. This kept him occupied for eight hours daily. Rewriting ledgers filled in three or four hours more, leaving twelve hours each day for pleasure.

With his flair for organising an itinerary **Staff Sergeant Fowler** almost managed to fit in two 'key trips' to the islands off Belize. The trips were arranged by **Corporal Tony Measures** who showed a genius for adding a piquant flavour to the proceedings with his twists on transport. On the first trip the boat was inadvertently double booked. This was discovered at the eleventh hour when all the food and drink had been provided. The art of improvisation which epitomises all that is best in the British soldier produced an alfresco picnic on the verandah which proved to be a great success.

In an effort to eradicate all memories of this trip **Corporal Tony Measures** immediately made plans for a bigger and better trip, which went like clockwork until the party were returning to camp by bus. Then the jinx struck once more. The bus broke down alongside the most malodorous stretch of the Belize River, whereupon the party were immediately assailed by a swarm of discriminating carnivorous mosquitoes. They ignored all lesser mortals and concentrated on devouring **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Allan Falconer** and obviously enjoyed the sweet flesh of our most highly qualified technician because, as **Staff Sergeant Fowler** left Belize, **F. of S. Falconer** was sporting a fine collection of strawberry coloured bumps. (Secretary's note: I am told that the foreman has managed to retain one area of unblemished skin as he was wearing a hat.) **Corporal Tony Measures's** tours business has now gone into voluntary liquidation.

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LONG SERVICE

On 12th March our Paymaster, **Captain Gordon Edwards** completed his tenth continuous year of service with the Regiment. **Gordon,** who rivals the services offered by the Reisebüro and Commerzbank combined, joined us in 1965 (or should I say we have joined him!) He served previously with Royal Signals in Cyprus with 9 Signal Regiment and will, by now, be well known to many members of the Corps not just as a paymaster but as a leading member of the Services Caravan Club in Germany.

SKIING

A party of fifteen from the Regiment has recently completed 2 weeks of ski and radio training in Bavaria as guests of the US Special Forces at Bad Tolz. Weather conditions were not ideal but all members did plenty of skiing—including a day on the Zugspitze, Germany's highest peak. "Cultural" activities included a visit to the Munich Hofbrauhaus, ice skating at Garmisch and a trip to the Neuschwanstein Castles.

16th SIGNAL REGIMENT SERGEANTS' MESS FOOTBALL TEAM
BAOR CHAMPIONS AND WINNERS RHINE AREA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Back row, left to right: W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. Meredith (Manager), Sergeant A. Darwin, Sergeant P. Death (R.A.P.C.), Sergeant A. Williams (R.A.M.C.), Sergeant D. M. Nixon, Staff Sergeant (S.S.I.) J. Nicholas (A.P.T.C.), Sergeant S. Steele

Front row, left to right: Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. Lister, Sergeant R. Foote, Staff Sergeant D. Palmer (R.A.P.C.), Sergeant G. Bartliff (Captain), W.O.2 (Y. of S.) W. Couperthwaite, W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. Phillips

Not on photo: Sergeant T. Wilson, Sergeant S. Watson and Staff Sergeant J. Bonnett

GOLD COMSTAR

ON 24th February the CSO BAOR **Major General H Roper** visited the Regiment to present the Gold Comstar Award to Army Commcen Krefeld. This is the first time that a "Gold" has been won by an Army staffed Commcen in Germany, and also a first for the WRAC who man the Commcen under the supervision of **Corporal Jim Wells.** The Gold Award (no errors in 6 months traffic) complements the Bronze and Silver already held by the Commcen.

NO ERRORS IN 6 MONTHS!

Corporal Jim Wells receiving the Gold Comstar award from CSO, BAOR, Major-General Roper. Major Jimmy Golding—OC 1 Squadron—looks on

SERGEANTS' MESS FOOTBALL

The turnover of Mess Members continues to be large; we wish all Mess Members who have left us, either on posting or to 'Civvie Street' the best of luck and to those newly arrived or promoted, welcome, we know you will enjoy yourselves.

The Mess Football Team have had a very successful season and have won the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess Football League. In the BAOR Championship they will be defending the title they won last year in this year's final in early April.

SERGEANTS MESS DARTS

The Mess Darts Team made up of stalwarts **Sergeant Gordon Craggs** (Captain), **Mr. George Lettin, Sergeant Grant Nicoll, Staff Sergeant Derek Le Carpentier, Sergeant Colin Gibbon, Sergeant 'Taff' Cleverdon** (REME), **Sergeant Archie Moore, Sergeant Tony Williams** (RAMC), **Sergeant Pete Cole, W.O.2 Ron Thurgood** (RCT) are also having a very successful season so far and are well up in the top few of the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess Darts League.

BOXING NEWS

In Berlin **Signalman 'Dusty' Miller** was runner-up to the BAOR Individual Bantamweight title, losing only in the final to **Bombadier McGonigle** of 94 Locating Regiment, and **Signalman 'Lester' Piggott** got through to the Semi-Final of the BAOR Individual Light Heavyweight title only to lose to **Sergeant Annis** of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

Whilst some of our boxers were participating in Berlin, others were taking part in the RAF Laarbruch individual novices competition with mixed success.

Signalman Browning lost his fight to **SAC Mandal** in the Light Welterweight competition, **Lance-Corporal Webb** lost on points to **SAC Whittingham** in the Middleweight competition. However we did have two other boxers who won their competitions outright, **Signalman 'Mac' McPhilbin** won the Welterweight competition against **SAC Popplewell,** the referee stopping the fight in round two in **McPhilbin's** favour and **Signalman 'Rigor' Skortis** won the Bantamweight competition beating **SAC Goodyear** on points over three rounds.

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TWO Army titles are better than one and that means that once more, we are the Army Athletics and Cross Country Champions.

CROSS COUNTRY

The BAOR Championships were held at Sennelager on 6th February, over a very fast course. At the halfway marker when **Sergeant 'Uncle Bill' Venus** appeared in the lead, followed by **Sergeant Donovan** 1 Division PCCU, we all though that perhaps **Uncle Bill** had set too fast a pace. However, at the finish it was still **Sergeant Venus** followed by **Signalman Phil Madden** and **Sergeant Donovan** in third place. The rest of the team did their job and with some excellent performances we won the cup, with 2 R Irish in second place.

Pirbright was again the venue for the Army championships and after our defeat by 3 PARA last year, we were determined to get our Silver back! The Army Championship proved a hard contest and on the first circuit, 7 RHA were well packed and looking too good. This challenge was accepted by our team and it was a delight to see those tangerine vests at the finish, to give us a win by 44 points. **Sergeant Venus** finished fifth, **Signalman Madden** finished tenth and retained his Army junior individual title and the team were all home in 51 places. The cup is back home once again!

MORE SPORT

Our BAOR Table Tennis champions are also doing great things again this year. **Sergeant Barry Woon, Corporal 'Taff' Kiddle** and **Private 'Taff' Le Lievre** retained their Rhine Area title and now defend their BAOR title in April.

We now have a new Regimental Sport in the form of a Motor Cycle trials team. Our first success came in the Berlin Brigade trial. The 'A' Team of **R.Q.M.S. Ken Atherley, Sergeant Vic Jinks** and **Signalman Mick Haverson** won by a very convincing margin, with **Haverson** the trial winner. With this result more interest was shown within the Regiment and the 'B' Team was formed. In the Rhine Area Championships, held on a wet day at Hubblerath, the 'A' team won both the Championship and the Open Competition. **Signalman Haverson** again being the star but with the other two members of the team not very far behind. At this stage, the Team's successes enabled the Regiment to get four of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials Association civilian bikes. After some delay, four white and green 'Ossa's' arrived. These have proved to be very light but powerful machines capable of all the 'A' Team has asked of them. Full use of these machines will be made in the year's civilian trials. Thoughts of success now turned to the last competition, the BAOR Championships held at Munster. Both teams entered for this event, the 'A' team confident of a win. This was not to be for despite being in the lead at the time, disaster struck on the night map reading. **Signalman Haverson** had to drop out when his oil pump failed and despite working all night he was unable to return to competitive riding next morning. The 'B' team of **Lieutenant Sharpe, Sergeant Rogers** and **Signalman Mott** faired little better with **Lieutenant Sharpe** having a burst tyre in the map reading. The next day his gear box ceased functioning thus leaving him stranded in a sea of mud for 4 hours. To end on a bright note **W.O.2 Atherley** and **Sergeant Jinks** did keep up the winning streak by taking 1st and 2nd Class awards.

Our football team under the able management of **R.S.M. Carr** reached the final of the Rhine Area but were beaten 2–0 by 28 Signal Regiment, which is no disgrace. Finally, on the sporting scene, we have retained the Crook shield for the best all round sports performance in Rhine Area. So you see athletics and cross country are just two sports we really do better than most!

FOOTNOTE

Oh yes—our daily work is also doing well! The Harrier Force achieved a Class 1 on the annual SHAPE tactical evaluation.

TROPHY HUNTERS—REGIMENTAL MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS TEAM

Sergeant Vic Jinks, Signalman Mick Haverson, R.Q.M.S. Ken Atherley

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CARNIVAL TIME AGAIN

THE eleventh day of the eleventh month at 1100 hrs. is the official start of the carnival season in this part of Germany. This culminates in early February with the festivities of 'Old Wives Night' followed by 'Rosen Montag' and various other jollifications, the whole coming to an end on Ash Wednesday. If these notes therefore appear to be a little more unhinged than normal, it may be that these events have something to do with it.

Not to be outdone our local town of St. Tonis held its carnival on Sunday 9th February, with 'Laughter is good for you' as its theme. Under the able guidance of **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tom Brown** a float was organised for the carnival procession with children from the Regiment dressed as Wombles dispensing sweets to the enthusiastic crowds with largesse. The following day the Regimental Noddy Train (not to be confused with 2 Squadron convoys on exercise) carried the Kinder Prinz and Prinzessen in the Krefeld town Carnival procession. The train drivers, **Craftsman Ricke Murray** and **Craftsman John Eynon** were suitably garbed in pseudo British-Rail fashion of bowler hats and boiler suits for the occasion. It is understood that the tall individual at the back waving a flag was not the Adjutant —RHQ can confirm this.

The **R.S.M., W.O.1 Peter Harris** is currently away on his pre-release butchers course prior to emigrating 'down under'. Look out Australia, and lock up your sheep!

A newcomer to the Regiment may hear a strange secure speech system in use (i.e. Are you a FRANSAIL? etc.). To give new arrivals an inkling of how this language works herewith a few examples:

FRANFIST	— Regimental Military Training Camp
FRANSUD	— Mountain Trekking
FRANDANGLE	— The Northern Army Group insignia worn by Sergeants and above.
FRANTIC	— The author of these Notes.

The Regiment's football team has continued its success story this season. For the sixth year in succession we have won the

Rhine Area Cup, bearing 21 Signal Regiment 2–0 in the final. The team now go forward to the final of the BAOR Cup, having beaten 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 3–2 in a dramatic replay. If they win this Cup they will create a new record by being the first team to play for the Army Cup three times in succession. **Sergeant Jack Snaith, Corporal Roy Pickersgill** and **Corporal Tony Hope** already possess two losers medals, and hope this time to come away with a winners medal each. We wish the whole team luck on 12th March.

(LATE NEWS. The Regiment won the BAOR final 5–1 against 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry and meet 8th Signal Regiment in an all Signals final at Aldershot on 9th April—Editor)

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

TAKING TO THE FIELD

THINGS seem to have gone quiet all of a sudden in barracks; the Regiment has once again taken to the field. Headquarter Squadron, 1 (Spearhead) Squadron and elements of 2 (Training) Squadron are away on Exercise 'Boreas 4'. Although not far away, the wilds of Salisbury Plain can be daunting on a dark foggy March night, especially with a live enemy with evil intent looking for you.

Other members of the Regiment are away learning to ski in the snows of Scotland on Exercise 'Snowball' and from the daily sitreps received in Blandford they seem to be getting their share of 'fresh air', as high winds and snowstorms have been about.

3 (AMFL) Squadron have departed with their Snocats, woolly vests and other warm kit to the wastes of the Arctic snows in Norway. They no doubt will also be learning to ski as well as learning to survive in a strange and hostile environment. I'm told that a snowhole can be quite comfortable to sleep in as long as you've not forgotten your bedside slippers and sleeping bag.

GOC VISITS

The visit to the Regiment by the GOC South West District went well in spite of the very wet weather. The GOC saw elements of all four squadrons deployed in the Field. Our photograph shows **Major General G. L. C. Cooper, M.C.** talking to **Lance-Corporal Ian Plater,** a member of 3 (AMFL) Squadron, who received a GOC's Commendation for his work during the recent Cyprus emergency.

GOOD WORK IN CYPRUS EMERGENCY

The G.O.C. South West District, Major-General G. L. C. Cooper, M.C. congratulating Lance-Corporal Ian Plater on his G.O.C.'s Commendation for his work in Cyprus. The Group Commander, Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E., accompanied the G.O.C. during his visit

FAREWELL

This month we say farewell to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Mike McMahon** who departs on commissioning. We will miss him and wish him and his family all good fortune for the future. We welcome **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Brian Green** to the Regiment and hope that he and his family have an enjoyable tour with us.

We hope to give you a report and photographs from 3 (AMFL) Squadron's exercise in Norway in the next notes.

News from Squadrons

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

EVERYONE knows that our Squadron does all the usual boring BAOR things like exercises, going skiing, visiting Hamburg, playing sport and having the occasional party. This last month has been no exception!

SPORTSMEN DOING WELL

We ran Exercise 'Mastermind 2' for 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, and then had our own Squadron exercise 'Brass Hat'. Our sportsmen have also been doing reasonably well; at basketball we reached the semi-finals of the Divisional Minor Units competition; and our football team, ably supported by **Mrs. Marcia Smith,** wife of **Corporal Tony Smith,** and her rosette-bearing, banner waving supporters are through to the Divisional final. Our Sub Aqua Club continues to break the ice in Luneberg, but more of their exploits later in the year.

SELF HELP MAKES LIVELY COMMUNITY

However in Soltau, unlike other Brigade squadrons in BAOR, we run our own Station and have to provide all our own amenities, and it on these efforts that our notes for this month are centred.

To provide a focus for our families we have established a thriving community centre in the old school. Upstairs one finds **Staff Sergeant Dave Gwinnell,** our estate warden. As his previous job was Troop Sergeant of 'A' Troop he is particularly suitable for the task, and many are the families he has satisfied in the course of his duties. Downstairs is the thrift shop, run by **Dave's** wife **Cathy.** In the hall the Wives' Club run coffee mornings twice a week and have recently started a "bring and buy" stall for home-made goods varying from toys to jam, cakes and clothing. Other activities in the centre include the library, a hairdresser and a kindergarten.

In the evenings the hall is much in demand. On Mondays, the Brownie pack meets under the gaze of Brown Owl, **Mrs. Viv Gordon** (wife of our **Foreman Keith Gordon**), and assisted by **Mrs. Norma Brown** (wife of **Corporal Frank Brown**). Another flourishing outfit is the Cub pack run by **Mrs. Lesley Letford,** her husband **Jock,** together with **Lance-Corporal John Holehan.** They meet on Tuesdays. **Corporal Tony Smith** (we have 5 Corporals and 2 other Smiths in the camp) leads the Scout troop which is run in conjunction with 22 Field Regiment RA in Munsterlager.

Under PRI sponsorship, films are shown about once a week in our Squadron Club, the 'JERBOA'. Here **Signalman Jock Rankin** and **Signalman Dennis Allison,** our barmen, help in running these events, collecting the loot, and avoiding the darts being thrown at **Corporal Terry Houghton.** He is running, for the second year, a most successful darts league between all the troops and departments. Then there is **Corporal Les Troughton** and the self-elected Jerboa committee who organise such events as Valentine dances, barbecues (in winter?), and just parties when no one else can think of a good reason.

To stimulate the intellectuals in station, evening classes are running in basic German, thanks to the RAEC loaning us **Frau Dando. Yeomen Dick Palmer** and **Dave Snowdon** are

engrossed teaching prospective typists to type in our new training wing, and rumour has it that Maths classes are starting soon.

There are two further features we are endeavouring to build up in a modest way. Firstly we aim to re-vitalise our unit dark room and Photographic Club, where **Corporal Bill Hathaway** (who produced the pictures for this article) and **Signalmen Jock Philemon** and **Dave Thorogood** are often seen working on their masterpieces. In the last two months they have produced photos for three articles in the local German Press.

Secondly we are expanding the Jerboa press to do our own printing and possibly to accept outside orders. **Lance-Corporal Tony Thwaite** is leader of the press-gang.

By the time these are going concerns our unflagging leader, **Major Bob Cook,** will undoubtedly have thought of more things for us to do; so **Captain Rory Rutherford** (who arrived through the door as these notes were being typed) will no doubt add his contribution to the welfare of all in Soltau as he takes over PRI from **Captain James Sweetman.** We have finally had enough of his bounding around, so we are dispatching him to Signals Branch at HQ BAOR to add a spot of tone from "up the sharp end". (OC.s Note: I wish HQ BAOR the best of luck with him!).

Before closing this account of the social life of Soltau we must record the departure of **'Boggy' Marsh** who came here five and a half years ago as a batchelor Lance-Corporal. Since then he has been promoted to Sergeant, got married and started a family, as well as being one of the mainstays of the unit football team. We wish him, his wife and child well in their next tour in Northern Ireland.

Also fallen by the wayside (or posted to better things), to name but a few, are **Sergeant Don Brooks** and his wife who "did" the the NAAFI accounts, **Signalmen Les Renwick,** and **Pete Thompson** (chief ski breaker—3 pairs in one season!).

Among our new arrivals are **Sergeant 'Ginge' Reynolds** (who came from 'T' Troop of 14 Signal Regiment via a two year holiday in Cyprus), **Sergeant 'Tony' Hancox** and **Signalman Ron 'the Speedy' Coleman.**

Finally our commercial: Our PRI does have for sale 7 Brigade ties, now going at only DM 14. We dispatch to anywhere in the world!

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

MILITARY SKILLS '75

SINCE 1974 HQ 11 Armoured Brigade have run an annual two day military skills competition for the Brigade units less battalions and armoured units. This year eight teams entered and as in 1974 the Squadron came first, but this time with a most convincing lead of over two hundred points. The competition tests all military skills, from weapon training and shooting to first aid, map reading and platoon tactics. The team comprising **Lieutenant David Proctor** (Leader), **Sergeant Callear** (Second-in-Command), **Corporal 'Taff' Williams, Lance-Corporal 'Joe 90' Johnson, Lance-Corporal Howe, Lance-Corporal Hawkwood, Lance-Corporal Kerruish,** REME, **Lance-Corporal Henriques** RCT, **Signalman Kemp, Private Armstrong** ACC, **Lance-Corporal Loughton, Signalman Doan, Signalman Anglesea** (Reserve), trained for a fortnight. They were given lectures, demonstrations, an abundance of practical work and above all concentrated physical fitness training.

(Owing to pressure on space with regret—an erudite 17 verse poem on the Military skill winners by **Corporal Williams** has had to be held over—Editor.)

BRIGADE MILITARY SKILLS TEAM

This year convincing winners

19 Airptbl Bde HQ
and Sig Sqn
Colchester

FIT FOR ROLE?—YES!

OUR monthly letter to THE WIRE would not be complete without a mention of our recent FFR day. Since the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier J. M. Glover, M.B.E.,** sees a great deal of the Squadron in the field, it was decided to have a formal parade, followed by an informal walk-round inspection of the unit, with some typical NBC, first aid and range training laid on in the afternoon.

The training was no problem—but under **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Wally Lockwood** (who proved he is not only the youngest R.S.M. in the Corps but also the most energetic) we sweated, officers included, until everyone knew the parade backwards—which was the only way the R.S.M. didn't have us drilling!

On the day, everyone really enjoyed the parade; after all, it isn't often a Brigade Signal Squadron has one. **Brigadier Glover** appeared pleased with our efforts, and particularly impressed by our unit photographer **Corporal Ron Hudson,** whose photographs of the parade were printed by the time the Brigadier finished his walk-round at the Sergeants Mess, at about mid-day.

We were rewarded by an excellent report, which the OC, **Major Jim McLuckie,** having been away for a few days, had not seen until calling in on CSO 3 Division, **Colonel A. P. Baker,** where he was offered the CSOs copy!

'F.F.R.' CAN BE FUN

Two of our attached personnel, obviously enjoying F.F.R. Day! Driver Ernie Varley (R.C.T.), (*left*) and Craftsman Joe Kelly (R.E.M.E.)

GOING BACK A FEW YEARS

A historical photograph of particular interest to 19 Aptbl Signal Squadron. The photograph is of 'F' Troop, Junior Leaders Regiment, Newton Abbot, in 1960.

Third from the right on the front row is one of the Sergeant instructors—now their Q.M., Captain Brian Turner. Second from the left is his boy troop sergeant—now their R.S.M., W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Wally Lockwood—Also of interest is the Squadron Commander then Major, now Brigadier, T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS—THE NERVE CENTRE

Looking through past editions of THE WIRE it has become increasingly evident that every department has been 'mentioned in despatches' except that sturdy force—the Orderly Room. (Could this be because getting them to produce notes is a bit like obtaining blood from a stone?—unit ed.).

We understand, from a very reliable rumour, that the Brigade Commander was sufficiently baffled on FFR day, by the eccentricities of our office systems to believe that we still manage to maintain an efficient service for those with enough confidence to do business with us!

NEW FACES

The change of faces in the Squadron has affected us as much as anyone, with the Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant John Locker,** departing from Civvy Street—his relief is **Staff Sergeant Dave Bell,** whom we welcome, together with **Signalman Colin Swift,** freshly arrived from 7th Regiment. **Colin** has made his name already—will he pass his BE tests at the 4th try? See the next exciting instalment . . .

NEWS FROM THE FRONT—Q TROOP

No sooner had the Quartermaster and his little troop finished worrying about the FFR than they were faced with the problem of our move to Goojerat Barracks, lock, stock and barrel. Fortunately they have two Colour Sergeants: **Colour Sergeant Bob Beattie,** RIR, who has to find all the bits and pieces of Cherry Tree Camp, and has four weeks left in the Army in which to do it; and **Colour Sergeant George Dowdall,** R Anglian, who has to take on the new barracks.

Departures from the troop include **Corporal George Tiddeman** ACC, who successfully completed a pre-release Prison Officers course and then decided to work for British Rail (there *must* be a joke there somewhere!).

House Buying: Strangely, the **Q.M., Captain Brian Turner,** the **R.Q.M.S., W.O.2 Howard Parkes** and also **Sergeant Colin Amey,** have bought houses in this area recently—do they know something we don't?

Postcript: **Lance Corporal Dave Meakin,** when asked to produce his tin of foot and body powder on an airportability kit-check, came up with a tin of "Rupert the Bear" talc. His nickname has been suitably amended.

JUMBO BATTERY

After being told how good they were on FFR day by the OC, the lads of 'J' Troop were glad to return to the usual routine—and the next exercise is not so far away . . .

It has been a time of change in 'J' Troop, with the departure of both troop sergeants—**Sergeant Andy Searles** has gone to Berlin (even further from his native Barbados) and **Sergeant Eric Gunn** is taking a two-year fishing holiday with 632 Signal Troop, in Benbecula. We welcome **Sergeant Roy Cadman,** and **Staff Sergeant Jim Crabtree** to fill their shoes.

In all, the Troop has had four men posted to 229 Signal Squadron, Berlin, this year—perhaps Royal Signals Manning and Records have some inscrutable purposes in mind . . .

Apart from those already mentioned, our best wishes to **Corporal John McAllister** on leaving the Army, and to **Signalman 'Gofer' Marriott,** on posting to Cyprus. Our particular congratulations to **Signalman 'Plug' Jackson** on his marriage to **Christine**—another good man gone.

The Troop OC, **Lieutenant Hand,** is still trying to live down having come from Cambridge University (very down to earth troop, this)—spending much of his time at the Court's Martial Centre, and the rest editing WIRE notes (oops!).

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 5

Contributed by Sergeant W. L. Pettie

ALL SORTS OF POSSIBILITIES

THEY talk about the best laid plans of mice and men and that is what happened to our contribution last month. We did intend this to be a revolutionary entry of news very hard to compete with, but it seems to have fallen into the old pattern. Being in Singapore, The Land of The Mystic East, The Land of Opportunity gives one's imagination chance to run riot.

The Squadron is stationed at Terror Barracks, Singapore, on the Northern coast of the Island. Can you imagine the things that can be said of the name alone? Reams of paper would flow to the printers with headings such as 'The Medical Centre of Terror', 'The Playing Fields of Terror', 'The Terrorised Signal Squadron'. (Sorry, **Major Graham**).

(*Continued on page* 129)

(*Continued from page* 128)

Try to picture **Lance-Corporal Alan Parry** dashing off to repair a fault riding in a tri-shaw (a three wheeled bicycle taxi) with the poor old driver's legs going like the clappers because it's a priority A circuit that is out.

Although these ideas have been shelved for the moment keep your eyes open for some very unusual items from this Squadron.

UNITED KINGDOM TELEPHONE EXECUTIVE (UKTELSEX)

Our main topic this month is about a department called UKTELSEX which came into being on 1st July 1974 on the break up of the ANZUK Forces in Singapore. I can't call it a Section really because it only comprises one officer, **Captain (TOT) Harry Davies, Sergeant Bill Pettie,** Tele Mech., three locally employed civilian accountants, **Mrs. Ng, Mr. Yow,** and **Mr. Wong** and our typist, **Mrs. Gray** from New Zealand. Also incorporated into this department is a Line Troop of approximately 60 civilians headed by the OC Line Troop, **Mr. George Smart,** seconded from the British Post Office.

You may well ask what the name UKTELSEX stands for. Within the Squadron we have had many and varied comments, the most common being sex on the telephone. Actually the name was originally given to the UK MTS after a top brass meeting of the ANZUK Forces. It is strongly believed that it came from **Wing Commander Bell,** Chief Staff Officer Coms. of the Australian Forces who dearly wished to leave behind a memento of his stay in Singapore but it has never been proved.

We will now reveal one of the most closely guarded secrets in Singapore. UKTELSEX stands for United Kingdom Telephone Executive.

A little bit of information for our interested readers (for those not interested, read on). There are some funnies coming later. We are responsible for the following:

—A 1,500 line British Post Office type exchange in the Naval Basin,

—A 1,300 line British Post Office type exchange in Nee Soon,

—A PABX 3 x 100 line exchange at the UK Military Hospital at Changi.

The number of working extensions on these exchanges is in the region of 1,800 to 2,000.

As the Singapore Telephone Board cannot provide telephone services for some forty local civilian firms within the Naval Basin the UK MTS has to provide lines for them. On looking through some of our old files the following rather interesting application for a telephone caught the eye of **Captain Davies.** For obvious reasons name and addresses have been with-held.

"Request for a Telephone for our Worksite.

Dear Sir,

May we be kindly granted the pleasure of drawing to your esteemed attention that owing to the pressure of works (mainly from the Authorities as far as the house-keeping services are concerned at this stage and now is anticipated in the foreseeable future should our luck continue as it is now), it would be much appreciated if you will be so good enough as to direct our request for a telephone for our existing worksite as the present facilities are very tight and manifestly insufficient for purpose of liaison and receiving instructions of works from your Command and other Establishments, where our contracts cover now.

We, therefore, hereby humbly and accordingly apply for the provision of the said telephone under such terms and conditions as are applicable, and will pay for.

Your prompt and sympathetic consideration will be a great relief to us insofar as our present pressure of works are concerned in the area.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,"

One last item of news from UKTELSEX. As I mentioned, the department was only founded in July last and since then we have lost two typists due to the imminent arrival of the patter of tiny feet. **Captain Davies** and **Sergeant Pettie** strongly deny all knowledge or responsibility due to the fact that they are the senior citizens of the Squadron and anyway they are far too busy for such frivolity.

During the month of February the Squadron was on exercise 'Ace High' over on the Malaysian Peninsula from the 10th to the 13th of the month. The only item that springs to mind at the moment is the picture of **Signalman Colin 'Scouse' Wynne** trudging through the jungle for two hours looking for the char wallah that **Corporal Jim Simpson** said he had bought the very refreshing, cold bottle of coke he was drinking from, **'Scouse'** returned bitterly complaining that the char wallah was nowhere to be found which was not really surgrising as **Jim** had brought that coke all the way from Singapore.

FAREWELLS

This month we said bon voyage to **Lance-Corporal Ron Hirst** and his wife **Denise. Ron** got one of those once in a lifetime postings to Civvy Street.

ADDITIONS TO THE SQUADRON

We welcome **Signalman Ian 'Wedge' Stewart,** Radio Teleg., who joins us as the replacement for **Corporal Brian Mosley** who left us in January. **Ian** is already making a name for himself within the Squadron by doing the last mile of the P.E. Test in 6 mins 30 secs. Well done, keep up the good work and you'll be an old man by the time you reach thirty.

'FATHER' ADDITIONS TO THE SQUADRON

Congratulations to **Signalman Brian Bates** and his wife **Jenny** on the birth of their first child, a son, born on 19th February.

Congratulations also to **Corporal Alan Breeze** and his wife **Wilma,** on the birth of their third child, a son, also born on 19th February.

S.Q.M.S. Mick Abson also thought it was a very good day as his birthday also fell on the 19th February.

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

OCCASION OUT OF THE ORDINARY!

Major E. Janssen, Netherlands Army alias Prince Gene I inspects the Barrack Guard

CARNIVAL—THE "ROYAL" GUARD

CARNIVAL in Holland this year was held in the first week in February and all the usual parades and festivities were held and enjoyed by young and old of all nationalities.

Each year, a secret ballot is held to select the Carnival Prince and to be selected is an extremely high honour. This year the honour fell to **Major E. Janssen** of the Netherlands Army, the Chief Ops officer of Maastricht Garrison.

One of his first acts as Prince Gene I (his carnival title) was to make an official visit to Tapijn Kazerne and the Squadron were asked, at 3 days notice, to provide a Barrack Guard for the occasion.

After the usual "WHAT!" and "Never in **ALL** my 14 days service", **S.S.M. Dave 'Crunch' Parker** rapidly selected and trained a Barracks Guard of "1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal and 6 soldiers" (Manual of Ceremonial paragraph 617). The members of the Guard were: **Sergeant 'Geordie' Taylor, Corporal 'Wheels' Trolley, Lance-Corporal Baugh, Lance-Corporal 'Pete' Cosson, Lance-Corporal 'Roy' Gratton, Signalman 'Let's do another Quarter Guard' Clayton, Signalman 'Bob' Richardson** and **Signalman 'Jock' Campbell.** With only two days training behind them, the Guard produced a faultless programme. So much so that they were applauded by the German, American and Dutch officers and soldiers as they marched off parade. This applause produced no noticeable improvement in the temperature level of the **S.S.M.** and **Sergeant Taylor.**

After a tour of the camp, led by **Corporal Jim 'Bagpipes' Verner** playing his bagpipes, Prince Gene I held a Carnival reception in the Mess Hall where various wine bottles were broached and numerous presentations were made. Two of the people honoured were **Corporal 'Jim' Verner** and **Corporal 'Wheels' Trolley** who were both presented with medals and made "Knights of the Order of the Angel". Both NCO's are trying to live this down with a singular lack of success.

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

SECOND TOUR—OPERATION 'BANNER'

THE Squadron is providing a troop for Northern Ireland. This is the second tour in two years for the Squadron both in an Infantry role. 'Y' Troop have provided the manpower which consists of 3 SNCO's, 9 JNCO's and 12 Signalmen all of whom are to be attached to 5 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery.

Training started on 3rd January and our new Infanteer Section Commanders **Sergeant Duncan Innes** and **Corporal 'Stropper' Thomas** have demonstrated their previous experience in the same role and **Corporal Mick Eady** has earned his section the nickname 'Heavy Mob' due to his handling of rioters during training.

Records Office please note! **Corporal Tony Lunney** and **Lance-Corporal Alf Thornley** want a shorthand typist course in order to cope with the high speed writing required by the operations staff!

Naturally all 24 men were apprehensive prior to their departure and the remainder of the Squadron wish them luck and a safe return. We look forward to receiving photographs and write ups of their experiences for future publication—**Staff Sergeant Jim Allen** please note.

US ARMY EXERCISE 'SWINGER'—BRITISH EQUIPMENT 'SLOTS IN'

The 8 (US) Signal Battalion invited the Squadron to participate in their 'Exercise Swinger' by providing HF Comms using our D11's working a link from Main HQ to Alternate (our Step Up). On arrival in location the detachment were pleased to find that the American WAAC's (their abbreviation) were also on exercise, a practice that delighted the 'Brits' and the hope that the WRAC might follow suit.

The communication set up was found to be similar to that of the British Army and the D11's slotted into the American system with no trouble, the only real difference was that on HF, printers were preferred to voice.

Corporal Bruce Cooke found that the live enemy were no different in the American Army to our own—especially as he was very comfortably situated in the latrines. Being in an impossible position to run or hide from the thunderflashes and blanks he had to sit it out and hope it would all go away. The whole party of **Corporal Colin Ingledrew, Corporal Terry Cartner, Corporal Bruce Cooke, Lance-Corporal Jim Woolley, Lance-Corporal Paddy Bergin, Lance-Corporal Mick North, Signalman Tony Kelly** and **Signalman Gary Cossey** look forward to a further invitation from our American cousins and in particular to steak and chips and free digestives at the end of exercises.

BAOR JUDO CHAMPION

Recently **Lance-Corporal Mick 'Kung Fu' Coles** convincingly won the BAOR Heavyweight Judo Championships and now represents BAOR versus UKLF at Sennelager on 15th March. The youth of Dortmund Garrison are pleased that their Saturday afternoon instructor is in such good form and together with members of the Squadron wish him success in the Army Judo Championships 1975 which take place in Sennelager on Saturday 15th March.

APOLOGIES TO THE EDITOR

We apologise to the Editor for not having available a photograph of our OC, **Major Alan Stutchbury** who together with a certain ex-RSM of 4 Division must hold the record for publicised photographs.

News from Troops

534 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 5

NEWS FROM GURKHA SIGNALS IN BRUNEI

Reading through the back issues of THE WIRE I noticed that it is a very long time since the rest of the world heard from Gurkha Signals in Brunei. In fact, it is such a long time that you might have forgotten where Brunei is. It is one thousand two hundred miles due south of Hong Kong on the hot and steamy North Coast of Borneo.

Gurkha Signals here number some 30 men including one British Officer—**Lieutenant Tim Fletcher,** one Queens Gurkha Officer—**Captain (QGO) Humbahadur Gurung,** two Data Telegraphists—**Sergeant Alphy 'The pigkiller' Gorham, Corporal Rick Wight** and a TE Tech—**Sergeant Barry Edwards.** These 30 men are split up into 2 troops, 534 Battalion Signal Troop performing the tasks of Battalion rear link and Brunei Signal Troop manning the Brunei Garrison Comcen commanded by **Lieutenant Fletcher** and **Captain (QGO) Humbahadur** respectively.

The signal set up, like the signalling, is far from conventional by N W Europe standards. The rear link troop spends a high proportion of its time in the dense jungle giving its support to the Battalion (1/2GR) with whom we work very closely. We recently ran a combined exercise to plot the VHF comms throughout Brunei dubbed 'Orient Nine'. It was to last a week with two boat detachments and numerous RRB and ground stations, giving, in theory, a net work of comms covering the whole of Brunei. This, however, was not to be.

FARAWAY BRUNEI

Rigging up a 27 ft. mast in an assault boat prior to setting off up River on a local exercise

The first day went well with the RRBs being flown into position spot-on time and the boats being launched successfully in 2 places on the Belait river. That evening as dusk drew in comms started to break down. There seem to be gremlins in the air over Borneo at night! However, the following morning things were OK again and good progress was made up the river by both boats. Still, boredom set in and we all felt like a bit of a play, so at the end of a day's communicating we all set off into our own areas to do a bit of hunting, with a remarkable amount of success. One group killed a pig, and my group caught 29 lbs. of fish, without the use of a net or rod and line! Generally, despite the torrential rain, spirits were high, After another couple of days communicating and another couple of hunting expeditions in which two monkeys were shot and eatern (by the locals and us) it was time to turn round and head for home to sort out the log books to give us our going map which, despite the play, we achieved.

We were very pleased to welcome the C R Signals from Hong Kong on his farewell visit to Brunei last December. He was unfortunately only able to stay a short time but we ensured he had plenty of bhat in his honour. We all wish him the very best of luck in his new posting.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow inspects the Kandahar Gun with Captain Johnny Kaye (Adjutant 1/2 G.R.) and Lieutenant Fletcher (OC Gurkha Signals, Brunei)

605 Sig Troop, Gan, B.F.P.O. 180

605 TROOP OR 'PONGO POWER GAN' AS AT 4th JANUARY 1975

Back row, left to right: Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Peter Dowdall, Corporal Roger Stebbing, Signalman Keith Bell, Corporal John Shoulder (R.E. Postal Service), Signalman Nigel Grant, Sergeant Graham Hughes, Sergeant Ted Aston, Corporal 'Trev' Inman, Sergeant Mick Turner

Kneeling, left to right: Corporal Bob Lake, Corporal Dave McKay, Sergeant Paul Hill (R.E. Postal Service), Mohammed Futta, Abdullah Didi, Corporal Dave Collier, Sergeant Pete Smith, Corporal Brian Fenton

Absent on Duty: Sergeant Ray White, Sergeant Chris Wilkie

The 'Pongo' on the wall in the background earmarks the Army Element accommodation and for the information of transitees it can be seen on the left hand side of the road prior to reaching the Blue Lagoon Transit Hotel. The 'Pongo' was the brain-child of Corporal Brian Fenton ably assisted by some of our 'older' members who have since departed (Notes over page)

MOVEMENTS

THIS month our only departure has been **Corporal Dave 'Minus' McKay** to the delights of Worcester and 14 Signal Regiment. In his place we welcome **Corporal Tony Paines** from his T1 in 'wintery, windswept' Catterick and wish him a pleasant 9 months in this sun drenched tropical paradise.

The Troop welcomes **Corporal Nick Nicholson** from 632 Signal Troop and **Signalman Paul Weaver** from 24 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, who is, at the moment our new 'Moony'.

We say farewell to **Sergeant Ted 'Gizzit' Aston** who leaves us for the School of Signals, (beware 'School' he's in the tortoise selling business). **Corporal Bob (PMO) Lake,** who may have difficulty entering Britain after his panic tanning sessions, is leaving us for 22 Signal Regiment. Best of luck in your new postings.

RADIO GAN

Signalman Nigel Grant has recently been given his own programme on Radio Gan. Every Monday evening between 8 and 9 o'clock the Troop listens to 'Cobweb Corner' during which time we find out quite a bit about the hits of the late (?) 50's and early 60's. Some of the old 'Six Five Special' records have even been played especially for the Foreman.

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

In the current five a side football competition the Troop Team has once again got off to a very good start. The main talking point in the present competition has been the introduction of rules to reduce the amount of body contact. One of our members (who shall remain nameless) found the rules difficult to adhere to and only managed to last the first 55 seconds of the first game before being sent off.

The Troop Team has done the 'Pongoes' proud by claiming fourth place out of Twenty in the CO's Cup. The team consisted of **Corporal Bob 'Monk-on' Lake, Sergeant Ted 'Welly' Aston, Corporal Dave 'Cruncher' Collier, Signalman Keith 'Spoon-boots' Bell, Sergeant Graham '55 Seconds' Hughes** and **Corporal Phil 'Holiday-maker' Hall.** Well done lads.

SQUASH

Sergeant Ted Aston is to be congratulated on reaching Division One in the Station Squash Ladder. He is on the receiving end of some comments from the Troop since in his last game in Division Two, after his promotion had been confirmed, he was defeated by three games to two by the Station Commander.

SKITTLES

With the completion of two Nine Pin skittle alleys here on Gan, 605 have taken the opportunity, as much as possible, for practising before the league starts. The team is captained by **Sergeant Mick Turner** who has two prodigies in the team, namely **Sergeant Graham ('Hot Shot') Hughes** and **Corporal Roger 'Blast 'em' Stebbing.**

HOLES IN ROOFS

In what has become the saga of Troop members falling through roofs the latest to 'score' has been **Signalman Keith Bell.** While working in the roof of Relay Comcen Workshops he decided to practice his "Fred Astaire" routine but found the stage sadly lacking in support and disappeared through the ceiling, much to the dismay of the RAF Technicians working in the room below. He now joins the Troop's exclusive 'Hole in the Roof Club' making a total of five, four Tele Mechs and one TE Tech.

639 Sig Troop B.F.P.O. 23

OC	**Captain C. D. Melhuish**
Troop Staff Sergeant	**Staff Sergeant R. Fortune**
Troop Radio Sergeant	**Sergeant M. Lloyd-Williams**
Troop Technical Sergeant	**Sergeant A. Rutherford**
Troop Stores	**Corporal K. Sanderson**
Troop MT	**Corporal N. Mitchell**
Troop Clerk	**Signalman G. Miller**

INTRODUCTION

DURING my first six months at this Troop, nobody has ever mentioned that we should inform the rest of the Corps that 639 Signal Troop is still alive and kicking. So the author suggested it, and was told to get on with it. So we will start with:

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop at present is in the process of changing its operators from Radio Training to Combat Radioman. To quote all the arrivals and departures would take up a lot of space, so to mention the most recent:

Departures: Signalman Trev Pentland, Lance-Corporal and **Mrs. Pound, Signalman** and **Mrs. Robins, Signalman 'Wedge' Stewart.**

Also shortly we shall be losing our OC **Captain Melhuish.** We wish them and their families Good Luck in their new postings.

Arrivals: Signalman 'Sooty' Brickle, Signalman 'Sweep' Burke, Corporal and **Mrs. Halliwell, Signalman Ray Haury, Signalman John Marsden, Signalman Mick Morris, Lance-Corporal Ken Mullin, Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Steadman, Signalman** and **Mrs. Wilson.**

We hope that they and their families enjoy their stay with the Troop.

GENERAL

The Troop is trying hard at the moment to instil some sanity into the Artillery to whom we are attached, apart from our Troop clown **Corporal Colin Watts,** whom we suspect of having escaped from "a local circus".

Corporal 'Mitch' Mitchell is trying hard to keep all our vehicles on the road despite efforts from **'Messrs Marsden** and **Mullin'** to smash them up.

Corporal 'Mandingo' Sanderson is also making efforts to maintain his stores, out of other peoples pockets "Watch out for P1954's" . . .

Sergeants Alan Rutherford and **Mick Lloyd-Williams** are still wandering round wondering what their employment is in the Troop.

Our Troop Admin NCO **Staff 'Eric' Fortune** spends more time collecting stamps and getting customers for his wife's baby showers, than he does at his desk.

Our Troop Clerk will soon be sending out an appeal for 'correctine' as his typing skins look more like BAOR Road Maps than Troop Orders.

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The Volunteers

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

SKI-ING WEEKEND IN SCOTLAND

IT has become part of the 38th Signal Regiment calendar to spend one weekend ski-ing in Aviemore and this year it was to be the 1st–2nd February. The only problem was that as the weekend approached there was no snow. To cancel or not to cancel? Decisions, decisions. Then, bingo, so much snow the roads were closed and with 400 miles between our regimental area and the slopes this seemed relevant. We pressed on, however, and on Friday 31st January a party of 50 all ranks assembled at our T.A.V.R. Centres in Sheffield, Blackburn, Nottingham and Derby.

The Second-in-Command, **Major Alan Hawksworth,** and his 'recce party' of Squadron Commanders had set out a day early (in the line of duty) and having survived a seven pint can of beer exploding in the car boot were there to receive the main party when they arrived. Only one of the party, **Signalman Tony Tunnicliffe,** had failed to turn up, but we were to hear more of him later!

On arrival the party split, the hard men going to the Army's Rothiemurchus Lodge half way up the Cairngorms (by kind permission of transport provided by **Captain Mike Palfrey** and his regular REME detachment staying there) and the softies staying at the High Range Chalet Hotel in Aviemore itself. Here **Lieutenant Ian Thompson** improved his image by being shown to the bridal suite and spent the rest of the weekend looking hopeful.

Meanwhile **Signalman Tunnicliffe,** a recent recruit, had turned up back at Derby to find that 0730 hrs. Friday meant just that and that 7.30 p.m. was something quite different. Undeterred he set off, having heard that initiative tests are all part of the army game.

Saturday dawned fine enough and fully kitted out the party hit the slopes. Not once but many times! **Major Iain McCulloch** (OC Support Group) found that all the stories about it being like riding a bicycle, once learned never forgotten, were somewhat exaggerated. We accepted without comment his tactical withdrawal to watch the Scotland-Ireland rugby match on the box.

Elsewhere **Signalman Tunnicliffe** was still determined, slogging north. His progress now became the subject of side-bets and his OC, **Major John Tyler,** had to set up a map board to plot his position.

Sunday dawned unbelieveably fine and we were soon on the higher slopes, ski-ing in shirt sleeves. All except **Lance-Corporal John Coltman,** that is, who had turned his ankle and was honourably one of the walking wounded. After his success the previous day **Major McCulloch** tried the same tactics, but found that listening to Family Favourites did not carry the same weight as a rugby international and eventually only managed to withdraw by losing a ski, which in its rapid downhill progress almost made **Major Alan Ripley** a stretcher case. **Private Velma Brassington,** too, was having her problems, executing a movement which was not in the book and running over her own thumb in the process. However, the M.O. said it was only broken, so she carried on.

NOTHING TO IT—STANDING STILL!
Some of the party with Diane, of the Ski School D'Ecosse

Sunday night was to be party night at the High Range Hotel. The proprietor announced he was all prepared, and casually mentioned that he had all of 70 pints of bitter to get through! A vision of mutiny crossed the Second-in-Command's stunned gaze and panic set in. But there was no solution and the 60 thirsty volunteers and guests who gathered expectantly acquired a very rapid taste for lager. Anyway attention was diverted by the news first that **Signalman Tunnicliffe** had reached Dundee and later that he had overshot and gone half way to Inverness.

It was a thoroughly worthwhile weekend. Volunteers who had never seen skis before had become experts overnight, or so they said, and the fun of doing something different produced stories which have raised the morale of even those who were not there. And **Signalman Tunnicliffe?** He beat the book and arrived before the end of the party on Sunday, saying he was pleased that at least we had laid on transport to take him home!

Sport

Royal Signals Rugby—March Tour

MAJOR B. A. Blackwell, Secretary Corps Rugby, writes: The March Tour of the Royal Signals RFC was a great success. The team building efforts of the November tour paid considerable dividends. A full report will be published in the next issue. However, the match results were:

Monday 3rd March—R Signals UK South 6 points; R Signals UK North 10 pts.

Wednesday 5th March—RMA Sandhurst 16 pts; R Signals 23 pts.

Saturday 8th March—RAF Support Command 6 pts; R Signals 15 pts.

Corps Shooting

COMBINED SERVICES COLOURS AWARDED

THE Corps' record in Target Rifle shooting received yet another endorsement recently, when **Colonel Richard Gilbertson** and **Major Douglas Genders** received their Combined Services Colours.

Colonel Richard has been a member of many Army Rifle teams in recent years. In 1972, when he was acting as Captain of Army Target Rifle Teams during the absence, on an overseas posting, of the Captain of the Army Eight, it was decided to hold a match between a Combined Services Team and a Team representing the Civil Service Rifle Association. Each Service now provides a Captain in turn, and the match is shot at Bisley on a Sunday in the autumn, over the exacting Empire Match conditions, ten rounds to count at 300, 600, 900 and 1,000 yards.

In the first two years of the Match, the Civil Service team won hands down. The CSRA can call on many Great Britain shots, and it was not until 1974 that their guard slipped and the Combined Services notched their first victory. **Colonel Richard** has shot in all three matches so far, **Major Douglas** only in 1972. The match achieved formal recognition by the Combined Services Sports Board this year, when colours were awarded retrospectively to members of the teams in the three matches shot so far.

Currently, **Colonel Gilbertson** is shooting with the School of Signals, and has recently been elected Vice Chairman of the Target Shooting Committee of the Army Rifle Association. He has been Chairman of the Smallbore Rifle and Pistol Sub-Committee of the ARA for a number of years. **Major Genders** is taking a sabbatical leave from shooting this season, while he earns a recommendation for promotion while commanding a squadron in BAOR.

ORIENTEERING

Third time Lucky

FROM: 233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

In mid-February the Squadron Orienteering team, having already trounced all opposition in the Northern Ireland Signals meeting, became Northern Ireland Minor units Orienteering Champions at the third attempt, having been runners-up for the previous two years to Depot, Kings Division.

The credit for this achievement is in no small way due to **W.O.2 Dave Etherton,** whose enthusiasm for the past three years has been the driving force behind the team and this finally paid off when he achieved the best time of the day at the meeting at Ballykinler.

The team of **W.O.2 Dave Etherton, Sergeant Fred Roissetter, Sergeant Dave Thain** and **Lance-Corporal Ted Caderius Van Veen,** were only sorry that the intrepid hedge-buster of the past two years, **'Scouse' Evans,** was not there to share in the honours.

Association News

Chester Branch hold successful Dinner

Hon. Sec.: **R. Hinge, Esq.,** 63 Green Lane, Vicar's Cross, Chester CH3 5LB.

Report from *The Chester Observer*.

TO the strains of "Old soldiers never die, they only fade away," **Brigader P. M. P. Hobson** made his farewell address at the Royal Signals Association (Chester branch) 29th annual dinner and dance. He announced his retirement as general secretary to the Royal Signals Association, after serving 12 years in that capacity.

Chester, a garrison town, and many years the regimental home of Royal Signals' units, has a special place in the minds of those who have served here.

Ex-Signals' members, of which a great number as Cestrians, will be interested to know that at the annual dinner, which was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on 8th February, a reproduction of the painting 'Through' was handed over to **Major Baldwin,** the Officer Commanding the TAVR unit at Gilwern, Abbott's Park, Chester, in recognition of his part as host to the Chester branch when they hold their meeting on the first Thursday of every month.

For the benefit of the younger people present, the president, **Colonel E. C. Lavis-Jones,** explained something of the history of the painting 'Through'. The scene depicts a Signalman of the 1914–18 War, after re-connecting the broken telephone wires and signalling his Commanding officer "We are through, Sir", becomes the victim of a sniper's bullet.

Major Baldwin said, in his reply, "That the painting exemplified the spirit and courage of our young men on active service in Northern Ireland, and other parts, as much today as it did then. It would be hung in pride of place in the main hall at Gilwern".

Master of ceremonies for the evening, **Mr. Faircloth,** made everyone welcome, making special reference to 'Evergreen' **Mr. Rowley Hill,** the only remaining founder member of the Chester branch.

PRESENTATION TO 80 SIGNAL SQUADRON

In appreciation of the kind hospitality rendered to them by 80 Signal Squadron the Chester Branch presented a copy of the famous Corps picture "Through" to the Officer Commanding at their annual dinner. *Left to right:* R. Hinge (Branch Secretary), E. G. Lavis-Jones (President), Major J. Baldwin (O.C. 80 Squadron)

56 Division Old Comrades Association

Hon. Sec.: **D. Le Febvre, Esq.,** 59 The Millbank, Ifield, Crawley, Sussex RH11 OJQ

FIRST BRANCH DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

Top table, left to right: David Le Febvre, Mrs. Lewin, Lieutenant-Colonel Lewin, Roy Hughes

Foreground, left to right: Bill Williams, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Burgess, Vic Burgess

HALLO all ex Black Cat (56 Division) Signallers we would like to hear from you. We reformed our branch on 24th January and already we have 32 Life Members on the books. Our aim (so far fulfilled) is to have a 100% life membership—£2·50 for life must be a Signals best buy.

The following branch officials were elected:—

President—**Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Lewin TD** (our last CO)
Chairman—**Roy Hughes.**
Vice-Chairman—**Arthur Lambert TD.**
Treasurer/Secretary—**David 'Lee' Le Febvre.**
Committee—**Bernie Maughan, Don Gunter, Nic Nacey, Vic Burgess** and **Vic Wrate.**

The City of London Signals OCA have been informed of our phoenic like act.

ST. VALENTINES DAY MASSACRE

On St. Valentines day we held our first branch dinner at the famous tourist spot Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, Fleet Street, London WC2, where we 'massacred' a splendid feast arranged by our Chairman **Roy Hughes.** Forty one members and wives attended, and it was generally agreed to hold the next dinner in larger premises as several members had to be turned down. A congratulatory letter from the General Secretary, **Brigadier Hobson, D.S.O.,** was read out to the diners. During the evening the Secretary **David Le Febvre,** issued 14 Life Membership Cards, two new Life Members were signed on and 12 Black Cat Division ties were sold.

SPEECHES

The President **Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Lewin,** spoke of his pleasure in accepting his office and his wish to take an active part in making the branch a success and increasing the membership. The Chairman, **Roy Hughes** welcomed members and guests and spoke of the contribution the serving members were making to their new regiments.

FUTURE EVENTS ENVISAGED

A group attendance at the Roval Tournament, a visit to a Kneller Hall Band Night, and a branch meeting at which favourite military books may be lent or swapped and military band records played.

BRANCH POLICY

So that the branch may be prepared for the welfare of its members London and the surrounding counties will be divided into areas so that welfare cases can be visited by fellow members who live in the area. Already contact has been made with **Captain Ken Biggleston** (November/December 1974 THE WIRE page 447) and he hopes to join the Branch. In the event of members falling out of work it is proposed that the members will be sent details of the member's qualifications, skills, experience and hopes for the future so that members can inform their personnel departments.

The Branch Secretary wishes to record his appreciation of the help given by headquarters staff.

Our next meeting will be on 25th April, 2000 hours at Sergeants Mess 83 Signal Squadron 351 Merton Road, S.W.18 where we hope to see some more new members.

East London Branch

Secretary: **H. W. Doze, Esq.,** 84 Clacton Road, Walthamstow, London E17 8AR.

WE held our annual dinner and dance on Saturday 22nd February, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer and Officers of 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V), at the T. & A.V.R. Centre, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E11.

It was attended by some 129 members, friends and wives. Our Branch Chairman, **Major Geoff Dyer,** welcomed all members, wives and guests, especially our guest of honour **Brigadier The Rev. C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D.** who is well known to many members of the branch (12 of whom were actually present at this dinner) when the Brigadier was in the pre-war TA unit known as 54th (EA) Division Signals, who were stationed at Stratford, East London.

Other guests included **Major W. Hill** and his wife, who are now living in Taunton and our old friend from Association Headquarters, **Mr. Dave Greenbrook** and his wife. **Major Hills** was, at one time, Chairman of the Branch and **Dave Greenbrook** was no stranger to many members present as he served in the host unit for 2½ years as a P.S.I. in the latter part of his service. Most of his time was actually spent in this very TA Centre. After the dinner everybody enjoyed, and joined in, the dancing to the music of Mike Zimmer's Disco. Dancing went on until midnight.

During his after dinner speech the chairman passed a vote of thanks to the Committee and especially to our hard working Secretary, **Harry Doze,** for making all the necessary arrangements to see that this evening's events went off so smoothly. This was greeted by applause.

York Branch

Hon. Secretary: **E. A. Leavesley, Esq.,** 14 East Way, Huntington Road, Yorks YO3 9ES.

THE Annual Dinner of York Branch was held on Friday, 14th February and was attended by some 70 members and guests.

Due to illness the Branch President, **Colonel 'Nat' Gould,** was unable to attend and **Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Brice** presided. The Branch was very pleased to welcome as their guest of honour the Vice-Chairman of the Association, **Colonel Leslie Wright** and also **David Greenbrook** from Association Headquarters.

The Branch Chairman, **John Varlow,** proposed the Loyal Toast and **Major Bob Edwards,** Chairman of Leeds Branch, proposed the toast of York Branch.

The Branch was pleased to welcome for the first time at an annual dinner new members **George Greenall** and **John Cowlrick.** The dinner closed with dancing and was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Any ex-Royal Signals in the York area are cordially invited to the monthly meetings of the Branch which are now held in the Central Conservative Club, Exhibition Square, York on the first Wednesday in every month at 8 p.m.

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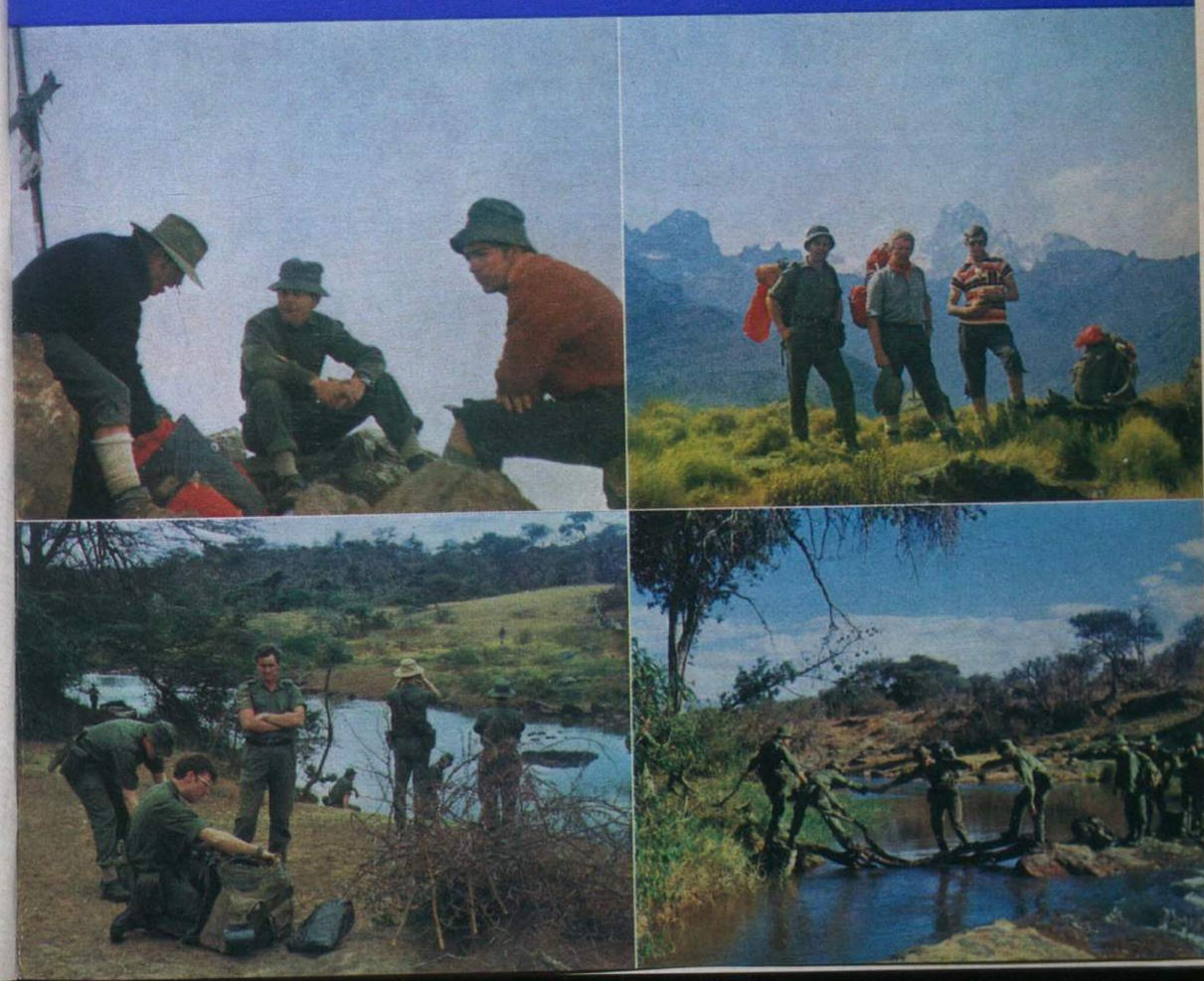
THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

3rd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment recently returned from five weeks military training in Kenya which was very much enjoyed. We publish four photographs of their Kenya visit. The top two show climbers **Captain Charles Kemp, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Rod Mathieson** and **Lance-Corporal Chris Smithson** on their way to the two main peaks of Nelion and Bation (in the background) which they ultimately climbed. The other two photographs show activities in typical Kenya countryside (see article on page 145).

Wire Price Increases

For some time now the cost of printing THE WIRE has been rising at a disturbing rate—to say nothing of escalating postal charges. 1975 has seen a further 15% increase in printing costs along with a sharp rise in postal charges. It may come as a shock to some to learn that the postage on an individual WIRE in the U.K. now varies from 8p to 9½p according to the size of THE WIRE—and this has to come out of the 15p charged for that single copy. This is why individually ordered WIRES are included in unit bulk parcels when an individual is serving with a unit. In the case of WIRES ordered in bulk by units the charge for these has been 10p a copy for orders of six or more. This price has been held since 1968 and is quite unrealistic in terms of present day expenses—other Corps are charging 15p or 20p for equivalent publications.

The Central Committee of the Association has, for some time, been subsidizing THE WIRE but clearly there must be a limit as to how far they can go in this direction. At their meeting on the 14th May—at which serving and retired members of the Corps were well represented—a long discussion was held on future WIRE finances. The outcome was as follows:

- That the annual subsidy should not exceed a figure in the order of £3,000 —though it may be difficult to achieve this in 1975.
- That the standard of THE WIRE should not be degraded in order to effect economies.
- That THE WIRE should continue to be published on a monthly basis although careful consideration was given to bi-monthly publication.

To meet these three requirements there was only one answer and that was to raise the price of The Wire. It was therefore decided to increase the price of individually ordered Wires from 15p to 25p a copy w.e.f. 1st January 1976 and bulk ordered Wires (six or more) from 10p to 20p a copy w.e.f. 1st July 1975.

The Committee were concerned that the price of 25p a copy for individually ordered WIRES might press heavily on certain older retired members of the Corps. They would be grateful if their attention could be drawn to any such cases by Branches or other suitable sources so that a special reduction might be considered to meet a particular situation.

From our "In" Tray

Gan, B.F.P.O. 180

From: Major W. Manners, M.B.E.

Sir,

I was interested in the news about Gan in your January/February issue.

I wonder whether many people realise the part Royal Signals played in the establishment of Gan.

In September 1941 I was appointed the Signals representative to the original recce party to Addu Atoll, of which Gan is one of the atolls.

We consisted of six officers of the various Services, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery and last but not least, because I had a Royal Signals Sergeant with me, Royal Signals.

The leader of the recce party was **Colonel Lukis,** RM. When we arrived in the lagoon, a native boat took us ashore to Hittadu.

The natives had never seen a white man or even a four legged animal, other than lizards and rats. The latter lived on the coconuts.

They had no currency and managed on a system of barter with the Sultan who lived at Male. Addu Atoll was very hush-hush and was to become a Naval anchorage for the Fleet, after the fall of Singapore. It was known as Port 'T'.

After our recce, it was decided to establish it as a Naval Anchorage and shortly after our departure, the MNBDO (Royal Marine Naval Base Development Organisation) from Crete, arrived to cut a road around the perimeter of Gan and set up three naval gun batteries, 1890 vintage, on Gan, Hittadu and Midu.

I returned shortly afterward as OC Signals Ocean Bases, which included Diego Garcia.

Royal Signals and Indian Signals were posted to Port 'T' and it was our job to provide communications for all the various branches of the Services. I remained at Port 'T' until 1944 and was awarded the M.B.E. for my services.

In June 1973 I was flown out to Gan as a V.I.P. as a reward for the assistance I had given the Historical Branch of the Royal Air Force. They certainly did me 'proud'.

Yours faithfully,

W. Manners (Major)

Homeleigh,
199 Copthorne Road,
Shrewsbury SY3 8LX.

Visit by Chelsea Pensioners to 4 Div HQ & Sig Regt

Sir,

I would like to amplify the account in the February-March issue of our visit to HQ 4 Division Signals which was an extremely well planned and perfectly implemented exercise. **Dave Chivers** —our navigator—kept the appointments book so well balanced that at no time were we double-banked—or at a loose end. **Jerry Cragg's** car was always available to cut travelling time to a minimum and **'Andy' Anderson** went out of his way to ensure that we went from Section to Section by the shortest and sharpest route. Besides the activities mentioned in THE WIRE we had an excursion to the Minden Ridge and climbed to the Hohenzollern Monument. From this point we looked across the river Weser. The military significance of the ridge and the gap were fully explained to us. The visits over Christmas—where we saw children unpacking their toys made us realize that there is still—some corner of a foreign field that is forever Britain. Not content with this—we have each received a sumptuously bound leather album, suitably inscribed in artistic Old English characters containing a generous selection of coloured photographs of our visit. **Mick** is in hospital—but I am sure he would wish me to pass on his appreciation to everyone who contributed to our well being and entertainment.

Please may we remain

Yours gratefully,

Dick Osgood
and pp **Mick Stamford**
(Chelsea Pensioners)

Poetry—Northern Ireland

An anthology of service poetry about Northern Ireland is being compiled which will be published in 1976.

This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has written poetry about Northern Ireland and who would like his work considered.

Manuscripts, typed if possible, should be sent to:—

Captain Paul E. Piggott, R.A.,
Otterburn Training Area,
OTTERBURN,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
NE19 1NX.

To arrive not later than: 31st OCTOBER.

Tribute to Edgar Harrison OBE, BEM

Sir,

We, ex-Royal Signallers, now employed at Hanslope Park, think it appropriate that the Corps Journal should print part or whole of the attached 'Vale' (see below).

We are, of course, biased in our opinion but there can be little doubt that **Edgar Harrison** measured up to the word great. He possessed that wonderful gift of being able to get things done without fuss or bother. Near miracles with basic equipment were commonplace to him.

If you do decide to print, could you possibly send him a copy of the Corps Journal to his home address — 'Townyard', Hanslope, Milton Keynes, Bucks. We feel sure this would be a delightful surprise to him.

Yours sincerely,

A covey of ex-Royal Signallers.

Hanslope Park,
Milton Keynes,
Bucks.

Edgar Harrison joined the Corps as a boy on 29th April 1929. After initial training at Catterick and Liverpool Post Office he was posted to 'F' Troop Cav. Div. Signals, Tidworth in March 1933 and subsequently served with the Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai Signals Sections, also 3rd and 1st Divisional Signals. The outbreak of World War II found him as an instructor at Catterick and in early 1940 he was transferred to Special Communication duties for the duration of the war. These duties took him to the Middle East, Russia, Greece and Crete during the evacuation of which he was awarded the BEM for gallantry, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. Commissioned in 1942, he ended the war as a Captain and decided to continue his career in communications as a member of the Diplomatic Service. 1946 saw him in Tokyo, 1950 in New Delhi as Regional Officer for the India/Pakistan area, 1953 in charge of the Far East Control Station at Singapore, 1957 in Moscow (awarded the MBE on his return to UK), 1959 Middle East Regional Officer, 1961 India/Pakistan Regional Officer, 1965 Far East Regional Officer and from June 1967 until his retirement on 1st March Principal Signals Officer of the Diplomatic Service. This latter appointment being the highest position open to professional communications officers in the Civil Service.

Regarded by all who knew him as an outstandingly brilliant communications officer he was responsible for ensuring that diplomatic wireless provided successive Prime Ministers and Secretaries of State with efficient and reliable communications when they were on foreign soil. More notably perhaps he was Sir Winston Churchill's personal wireless operator at very important conferences during World War II.

To have spent 46 years wholly in the field of communications is one thing, to have reached the pinnacle of his profession in 1967 and enhance it through almost eight difficult years of change was achievement indeed. There can be no doubt he possessed 'green fingers' when it came to the nuts and bolts of getting 'Through'. Above all he believed in communications and set an example of dedication and loyalty which surely can never be surpassed. The Corps can indeed be proud of having started **Edgar Harrison** off in his chosen profession.

It must be unusual at least for a member of the Corps to have been invested three times at the Palace—BEM, King George VI, MBE, HM The Queen 1959 and OBE, The Queen Mother 1975.

79th Armoured Divisional Signals Officers' Re-Union

From: Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E.

Sir,

Our fourth Re-Union took place on 21st/23rd March at FitzWilliam College, Cambridge, by kind permission of the Master of the College (Major 155 RAC (DLI) in the Division 1944/45) and through the excellent arrangements of **Dr. Jack Street,** Fellow and Don of the college and ex-Signalmaster of Division HQ.

The following attended the Re-Union including **Desmond Hoysted: Chris Denard** (Hon. Re-Union Secretary), **Maurice Hewitt, Peter Woodhead, Jim Humble, Leslie Wardell, Robin Jennings, Jack Street** and **Cliff Heap**—newcomer this year and ex-Second-in-Command 27th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (DD Tanks). Unfortunately, **Denis Strange** was unable to attend being abroad, and **Major-General John Badcock** is in Australia in the line of duty. It was quite the most entertaining and interesting re-union to take place so far.

We dined as usual in the College Parlour and the Fellows Writing Room was at our disposal. On Saturday norning we leisurely visited the excellent FitzWilliam Museum, opposite which the College was founded and which gave it its name. This was followed by a nice 'pub lunch' and a most interesting trip to the University Training Corps Establishment whose OC, **Lieutenant-Colonel Delamain,** 13th/18th Hussars, showed us round. We were particularly impressed by the up-to-date Signals Section and by the first-class Royal Signals P.S.I. who explained everything simply and clearly to us 'oldies'.

Since it is believed (subject to correction!) that 79th Armoured Divisional Signals is the sole 'Hostilities Only' Signal Unit to hold an annual Officers' Re-Union, it was decided to send a greetings telegram from the Officers assembled at FitzWilliam College to the SO-in-C and Regular Royal Signals; and of course an airmail report to our **Major-General John Badcock.** It was also strongly felt that we should extend an invitation to the SO-in-C to dine with us next year (from 19th March to Sunday 21st March 1976 provisionally selected).

In conclusion, the Re-Union Secretary (**C. Denard,** 22, Mountway, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1EP) will be glad to hear from any officer connected with the Regiment who may read this note.

Yours faithfully,

D. St. J. Hoysted
OC Unit, 1942/43

Saddlers, Chaplin Close,
Galleywood, Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 8QW.

AT THE DINNER

Left to right: P. Woodhead, C. Denard, L. Wardell, D. Hoysted, J. Street, J. Humble, R. Jennings, M. Hewitt (*Absent:* C. Heap who had to leave early)

In Dedication

From: Mrs. O. M. Betteridge

Dear Editor,

Will the enclosed poem be of use. My husband **(Sergeant R. Betteridge)** of the Corps is a serving soldier. To him and all men in the force, I dedicate this poem to show that we Army wives do care and understand.

I read THE WIRE from page to page, it does help to keep in contact with friends, postings etc.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

O. M. Betteridge

'Tanglin',
St. Nicholas Drive,
Feltwell,
Thetford,
Norfolk.

Deadly Game

Footsteps passing in the dark—
Whispered words from shadows grey—
Creeping through the endless night—
Waiting for the break of day—
Fingers cold on rifle butt—
A soldier on a scheme—
Leans against cold, damp tree—
Shudders as he waits for dawn to break—
And bring reality.
Thoughts of cheery fire, snug bed, hot bath,
pass through his head
As another 'Cig' he lights—
In the clinging, drizzling rain.
A comfort is the knowledge—
To that soldier on the plain—
That this is all Pretence—A game—
Thank God it's not the real thing—
For none know better than he—
Stood out there in the loneliness—
That this could change—
And he'd find himself playing—
A much more deadly game.

LONDONDERRY

Contributed by Signalman C. Stennett

69 (N.I.H.) Squadron.

Great walled city once so proud,
Your streets are but a shambles now,
With burn-out buildings in every street
Where once stood houses, trim and neat.

The Guildhall clock still strikes the hour
Up there in its red brick tower,
While underneath for us its past
Had been recorded in stained glass.

But this we will no longer see,
Which it seems is a shame to me,
As every single coloured pane
Has been pulled down by a workman's crane.

The River Foyle flows so serene
Past this ghastly battle scene,
While high upon a tall, tall hill
The cathedral stands like a sentinel.

Yet out in the country, where time stands still
And children pick the wild daffodil,
You would not think as they run and play
That bombs and bullets are just two miles away.

But now the buildings start at last
To rise, like a phoenix from the past,
Out of the rubble and the strife
That has taken toll of so much life.

OUR ROVING CAMERA REPORTS . . .

New Honorary Colonel of 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)—Colonel Anthony Fender

(Photo: Courtesy S. Jardine, 61 East Street, Blandford Forum

A KINDLY GESTURE

Blandford Forum emphasised its close links with their Corps neighbours when Mr. J. Langridge, Chairman of the Blandford Carnival Committee presented a cheque of £25 to the Royal Signals Association. The presentation was made in the Corn Exchange, Blandford, in February 1975

The picture shows Major S. G. Falla accepting the cheque on behalf of the Association from Mr. Langridge

SILVER COMSTAR PRESENTED

Brigadier D. H. Baynham, G.M., Commander Merseyside Garrison and Commander, HQ 11 Signal Group (V) is seen above presenting a Silver Comstar Award to the Commcen teleprinter operator, Mr. T. L. Buss who in his spare time becomes Corporal T. L. Buss of the TAVR serving with 55 Signal Squadron TAVR as a Radio Telegraphist. He commands a D11/R234 airportable detachment

FRENCH SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF VISITS 5 AIRPORTABLE BRIGADE H.Q. AND SIGNAL SQUADRON

General Virot recently spent a day with the Squadron during which he saw a complete Brigade H.Q. in the field

Left to right: R.S.M. Gerry French, General Virot, Major Kelvin Kent, O.C. Squadron

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs!

Let's have that Story!

Obituary

Mrs. Anne Murphy, M.B.E.

Many old Corps friends will be sad to hear of the recent death of Anne Murphy. Anne had close family connections with the Corps being the daughter of the late Brigadier H. Clementi-Smith —a well known Corps personality and past Colonel Commandant. She married Brigadier Ted Murphy who was the immediate postwar General Secretary of the Association, and her sister Helen is married to Brigadier Smijth-Windham also late of the Corps.

Anne became very well known during the war years for the wonderful work she did for the Corps and the Association in administering the Corps' prisoner-of-war fund. She entered into this humanitarian task with great vigour and ability being assisted by a loyal team of lady workers which included the late Iris Moore and Dorothy Amos. Thousands were indebted to these ladies for organising food parcels and generally advising next-of-kin on the many problems in connection with their menfolk. Anne was awarded an M.B.E. for her outstanding work in 1945 which she said was a reflection of the combined efforts of her team of lady helpers. She also received a certificate signed by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on behalf of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem "in recognition of devoted service to the cause of humanity during the second world war".

When her war work came to an end she carried on as Assistant Secretary (Welfare) of the Association and finished up very happily by marrying the General Secretary, Brigadier Ted Murphy. Anne had a good brain and a warm heart. She was full of courage and determination and these qualities were exemplified in her work for the Association. It was typical of her that throughout a long illness she wanted none to be bothered and no fuss. Also typical of her generosity and devotion to the Association was the gift of £1,000 left to the Association in her will. Our deep sympathy goes to all members of her family. They will remember Anne with pride.

Colonel R. Jee, M.C., M.A.

Relph Jee who was born in 1894 died at the home of his son on 5th April, after devoting 33 years of his life to the Army. He was commissioned into the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1913 and shortly after the outbreak of the First World War he transferred to the Durham Light Infantry and served with the 11th Battalion on the Western Front from 1916 to 1919 when he was awarded the M.C. After the war he completed his university training and obtained an M.A. at Oxford, before going out to the Black Sea with the 2nd Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry and then on to India, where he served until 1930. He transferred to the Indian Army (Mahratta Light Infantry) in 1925 and was seconded to the Corps serving at the STC and with 'B' Divisional Signals, transferring to the Corps in 1926. He saw active service in the Waziristan campaign of 1921 to 1924. On returning to the UK he was posted to the STC at Catterick for three years then to 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot before returning to India in 1936 as Staff Officer to the CSO at HQ Northern Command in Rawalpindi where he again saw active service on the North West Frontier. From 1938 to 1940 he commanded 1st Indian Divisional Signals. In 1940 he was posted to the Sudan where he was CSO and was also CSO of the British Forces in Eritrea throughout the successful operations against the Italians in 1941 and 1942. For his services during this campaign he was three times mentioned in despatches. He served the rest of the war in the UK holding the appointments of Commandant No. 2 STC and Deputy CSO at Scottish Command and GHQ Home Forces and CSO of Northern Ireland. His last posting before retirement in 1946 was with 55th Divisional Signals.

Ralph was a noteable character who could not but impress all those with whom he came into contact. A fellow company commander during the First World War wrote of him "He was an officer of impurtable bravery", in addition he had great modesty, unfailing cheerfulness and kindness and a capacity for making friends in all walks of life. It is no exaggeration to say that his soldiers loved him, it has been recorded that when he entered the dining hall at Christmas they would all leap to their feet and cheer.

In 1925 he married Marie Scott, sister of Major General Sir William Scott. He had two sons—Nigel, who is farming in Guernsey and Colin, who is Rector of Ludgershall in Buckinghamshire, to whom we offer our very sincere sympathy.

Major General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B., C.B.E.

Major General Kenneth Bastyan who was born in 1891 died in hospital at Poole on 21st March. Kenneth was commissioned into the Corps from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1926 and spent much of his service in India. He went out as a Second Lieutenant immediately after qualifying at Catterick in 1927 and did not return to the UK until 1946. Whilst in India he proved himself a keen and competent horseman and served for four years with the 2nd Cavalry Brigade Troop having previously attended the Long Equitation Course at Saugor. From 1929 to 1932 he was ADC to the Governor of Bihar and Orissa. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was Adjutant of the Training Battalion at Jubalpur. After qualifying at the Staff College at Quetta he filled two appointments at Army Headquarters in Delhi before being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and raising and commanding an Indian Air Formation Signal Regiment with which he served in Iraq and India. 1943 found him back on the staff with Headquarters 3rd Tactical Air Force and then as CSO Air Formation Signals Headquarters Eastern Air Command under General Stratemeyer. At the end of the War he was CSO HQ Allied Forces Netherlands East Indies where he was appointed O.B.E. and mentioned in despatches. On returning to the UK he filled staff appointments in the Signals and Military Training Directorates at the War Office and as AQMG at HQ North Midland District, until 1951 when he went out to Malaya to serve on the staff of the Director of Operations. In 1953 he was appointed CSO FARELF and was promoted C.B.E. He returned to the UK in 1954 to fill the appointment of Deputy Director of Signals at the War Office. His last posting was to Germany in 1957 where he was CSO Northern Army Group in the rank of Major-General and when he was appointed C.B.

Kenneth was an officer who had the ability to express himself clearly and forcefully. He never got flustered, however trying the circumstances might be, and having given his orders relied on those responsible to carry them out without interference, which developed a sense of mutual trust and affection. He had a kind, considerate and hospitable nature with a keen sense of humour and was always willing to help when required. He did much for the Corps during his 34 years' service and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. After retiring in 1960 he joined Mullards for a few years before moving down to Poole with his wife Pat whom he married in 1934. To her and their son we extend our deep sympathy.

Major J. C. Alcock

James Charles Alcock who was born in 1917 died at his home on 19th March. He enlisted in the Corps in 1935 and saw service in Palestine in 1936. He was commissioned in 1941 and shortly afterwards taken prisoner of war whilst serving with 32 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron in Cyrenaica. After the War he served in BAOR, Middle East, and East Africa from 1945 to 1951. He then returned to the UK for five years where he was with 56th (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment TA and Second-in-Command of 1 Training Regiment. In 1956 he went out to Germany again and served with 18 and 19 Army Group Signal Regiments and 2 L of C Signal Regiment until his retirement in 1959 when he took up residence in Kent, later moving to Shropshire. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Bunny.

Captain (QM) A. Hoare

It is with regret that we report the death of Alfred Hoare at his home in Canterbury on 23rd March. 'Bill' as he was known, enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1909 at the age of 18 and transferred to the Corps on its formation in 1920. He left the service in 1930 but was recalled at the time of Munich in 1938. During the First World War he served on the Western Front and was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He spent the whole of the Second World War with Anti-aircraft Defence Units, being commissioned in 1940 and retiring at the age of 54 in 1945. We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife Nancy in the loss of a lifelong companion.

Movements

Officers

MAY

Captain W. M. Clarke	To School of Signals	No. 3 Tech. Course
Captain R. J. Ebdon	,, School of Signals	
Captain R. D. M. Graham	,, School of Signals	
Captain D. J. Jessett	,, School of Signals	
Captain P. J. J. Kington	,, School of Signals	
Captain C. I. Spencer	,, School of Signals	
Captain H. M. Vines	,, School of Signals	
Captain P Whitemore	,, School of Signals	
Captain M. C. Wilkinson	,, School of Signals	
Major A. R. J. Ainsworth	,, School of Signals	
Lieutenant D. R. Bannister	,, QRIH	
Major M. M. Barker	,, 11 Signal Regiment (HS)	
Captain (Q.M.) W. A. Barnes	,, 30 Signal Regiment	
Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E.	,, MOD DDASD	
Major J. L. Botterill	,, 11 Signal Regiment	
Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Cattermull	,, Training Brigade as Colonel	
Captain D. E. P. Cox	,, 63 Signal Squadron SAS (V)	
Captain (Q.M.) F. R. Gardner	,, 32 Signal Regiment (V)	
Major (Tfc) J. E. Gill	,, MOD Signals 36a	
Major P. J. Hartshorn	,, Royal Signals Manning and Record Office as Lieutenant-Colonel	
Major J. A. Hood	,, 7 Signal Regiment	
Lieutenant B. M. M. Jackson	,, 11 Signal Regiment	
Lieutenant-Colonel C. N. LeGassick	,, HQ Scotland (Army)	
Major O. M. Lewis	,, 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment	
Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood, O.B.E.	,, HQ Berlin (BC Sector)	
Captain D. S. McLuckie	,, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron	
Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc) G. S. Massey	,, MOD Signals 4	
Major J. H. May	,, 7 Signal Regiment	
Major C. R. M. Noonan	,, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate	
Major E. W. Penny	,, 22 Signal Regiment	
Lieutenant J. A. Phillips	,, 8 Signal Regiment	
Major A. J. Saunders	,, HQ 1 (BR) Corps	
Captain M. P. S. Shaw	,, School of Signals	
Captain C. Speight	,, 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment	
Lieutenant-Colonel I. O. J. Sprackling	,, HQ Sultan's Armed Forces Oman	
Captain J. F. Stuart	,, 9 Signal Regiment	
Captain J. D. Tydeman	,, School of Signals	

W.O.s and Sergeants

MAY

W.O.1 P. E. Jepson	To HQ Training Brigade Royal Signals
W.O.1 B. S. Lincoln	,, 8 URD Northern Ireland (LSL)
W.O.1 (Y. of S.) M. C. O'Donoghue	,, 11 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
W.O.1 (Y. of S.) T. Martin	,, 8 Signal Regiment
W.O.1 (F. of S.) P. A. Cook	,, 632 Signal Troop (Hebrides)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. G. Lunn	,, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
W.O.2 (Sup/Rad) J. B. Rosson	,, 223 Signal Squadron (Radio)
W.O.2 J. J. McElvogue	,, 10 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 A. McDonald	,, HQ 3 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 G. Platts	,, HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
W.O.2 F. Atkins	,, 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
W.O.2 D. L. McIntosh	,, Tayforth Universities OTC
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. S. Alyson	,, School of Signals
W.O.2 P. D. Cole	,, HQ Army Dept. Radio Service
W.O.2 R. J. Hamilton	,, SSO Moenchen Gladbach (LSL)
A/W.O.2 J. George	,, HQ 3 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. G. Bird	,, 39 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. Hall	,, 225 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. J. Hill	,, 605 Signal Troop (Gan)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. D. Harris	,, School of Infantry (Warminster)
Staff Sergeant D. A. Lamerton	,, 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
Staff Sergeant J. M. Bayne	,, 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Staff Sergeant P. D. Robinson	,, 226 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Staff Sergeant D. R. Gray	,, Oxford University OTC
Staff Sergeant T. R. Gainford	,, 40 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. J. Evans	,, 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. W. Sherwin	,, 35 Signal Regiment (V)
A/Staff Sergeant M. McBirney	,, 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant A. R. Lovell	,, 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant D. E. Webb	,, Union Defence Force
Sergeant M. R. Nash	,, 16 Signal Regiment HQ BAOR
Sergeant C. B. P. Dunk	,, 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant T. M. Murphy	,, 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant R. C. A. French	,, 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant H. Hetherington	,, 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant R. Porter	,, 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant E. J. King	,, HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. L. Edwards	,, HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. C. Ogden	,, Army Personnel Selection Group
Sergeant M. J. Blackett	,, 264 Signal Squadron (SAS)
Sergeant R. Turner	,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant N. Hyland	,, 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant S. McAlpine	,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant M. F. Denniss	,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant J. K. Rodger	,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant A. Burnett	,, 262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
Sergeant G. Thorburn	,, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant T. Johnson	,, 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant G. P. Adams	,, 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant G. Brook	,, 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant W. O. H. Snee	,, HQ 6 Armoured Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. A. Ameghino	,, 35 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant S. G. Tucker	,, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sergeant M. W. Watson	,, HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. J. Bassford	,, 30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. L. Parker	,, 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant G. M. Curran	,, 532 Rear Link Detachment (Medium Regiment)
A/Sergeant A. R. Bright	,, 248 (Ghurka) Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant B. E. Pridmore	,, 31 Signal Regiment (V)
A/Sergeant R. Burnett	,, 8 Signal Regiment

REPORT FROM ULSTER

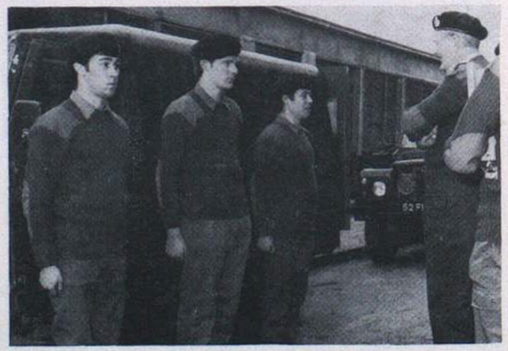
3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

S.O.-IN-C. TOURS FACTORY

THE ceasefire is on again, for how long we don't know, but our routine does not relax. On 17th March we were very pleased to be visited by the S.O.-in-C., **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** who toured the factory and had a good look at how we live and work. Before he left the S.O.-in-C. visited the Sergeants' Mess where he presented the LS & GC medal to **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) John Banks.**

NOISE—THE ANSWER?

The hammerings and bangings of the contractors, the Dog Section's Aslatians barking, Saracens screaming in and out, helicopters landing and taking off, all form part of the everyday cacophony which greets the ears but before any elderly ladies among our regular readers reach for their pens to complain to the Noise Abatement Society about our plight, let us point out that our PVR rate is quite low. Could it be that other units, with high discharge rates, have missed the point? Noise simulating machines constantly emitting the very sounds previously described could be the answer. It's just a thought.



SO-IN-C MEETS SOLDIERS OF ALPHA TROOP

Left to right: Signalmen Deardon, Kaminczuk, Lance-Corporal Dalton and SO-in-C

JOVIAL FAREWELL

Brigadier C. S. Wallis-King, C.B.E. being 'chaired' out of the Sergeants' Mess on his departure

Left to right: Staff Sergeant John Fielder, RPC, Sergeant Andy Anderson, RPC, Staff Sergeant Pete Hilton, Sergeant Pete Lee, RAOC, W.O.2 Eddie Kellett, W.O.2 George Hall, Sergeant 'Shep' Woolley

TRIBUTE TO OUR COOKS

It is said that an Army marches on its stomach. In this article we would like to acknowledge the contribution made by our ACC staff to the Squadron's operational successes. **Sergeant George Finch** and his small band of stalwarts namely: **Corporals Charlie Charlesworth** and **Chris Bennett, Lance-Corporals Eddie O'Connor, Dave Boiston** and **Phil Moore** and **Privates Ron Meek** and **Paul Allen** provide a round-the-clock service for some 300 soldiers. This, together with providing container meals for patrols and VCPs, as well as buffet meals for social functions held in the factory, presents a formidable challenge for 365 days a year. Notwithstanding the many difficulties, the talents of our cooks do not solely flourish in the kitchen, indeed our cooks are just as versatile on guard duties, patrols or when representing the unit at sport. **Well done the cooks!**

CATS AT BAY

The stray cats of Lurgan recoiling from **Lance-Corporal 'Brummie' Harris's** onslaught to decimate their numbers, are reported to have literally gone underground to regroup. **Lance-Corporal Harris,** who is the undisputed victor of the campaign against the stray dogs of Lurgan, is optimistic about the situation and is keeping an open mind about reports that the cats are now planning to counter attack in a major spring offensive.

Finally, our recent arrivals and departures list:

Departures: **Sergeant John Phillips, Corporal 'Dec' Turner (T.M.), Lance-Corporals 'Trev' Byham, 'Tich' Liddy, 'Sam' Sambrooke, Signalmen 'Yogi' Youdale, 'Smudge' Smith (734), 'Nobby' Clarke, 'Cookie' Cooke, Paul Brackenbury.**

Arrivals: **Captain (Q.M.) Mike Dunmall, Corporals Jason Cooney, Alan North, 'Jock' Johnson, Lance-Corporals Ian Hughes, Mick Gaffney, Dave Clapson, Dave Ashworth (B), Pete Fox, Signalmen Steve Faulkner, Mark Weston, Bob Dearden, Bill Martin, Charlie McCue, Les Robinson, Dick Henderson, Mel Barkworth, Terry Walsh.**

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

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

VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

DURING the month we were visited by **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe** as part of his circuit of Northern Ireland. He started with pre-lunch drinks where he was 'booked in' and presented with a Squadron Shield. In the afternoon he toured the Squadron lines and in addition to meeting as many people as possible he was able to see some of the latest additions to our 'electronic armoury'.

Y. of S. Tony Whydell greets Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E. on the steps of the Brigade Headquarters

R.S.M.'s CONVENTION—NORTHERN IRELAND—4 GOOD MEN AND TRUE

Left to right: W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. Sinnett (8 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron), W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. K. R. French (39 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron), W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. C. Bedwell (3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron), W.O.1 (R.S.M.) F. J. Loveday (40th Signal Regiment (V)

In preparation for the convention in Catterick the R.S.M.s of the Province gathered beforehand. (Guess where the pre-course training was held)

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP

Memories of the month, include those coming and going for ski-ing contrasting with farewell parties for those for whom, when they arrived in the Troop over 2 years ago, ski-ing would have been a pipe dream. But despite the ceasefire our commitments remain as high as ever and indeed 'improvements' are being constantly added. However leave applications for those final few days entitlement managed to gain approval and so the Troop generally buttoned down to routine, waiting for spring and the Easter celebrations in Northern Ireland. But not for all, **Signalman Ray Dunn** precipitated this, with the speed that in the old days would have had the Taxman easily beaten; he proposed, was accepted, married and honeymooned all by 31st March. At one stage, it looked as though some of the Troop on a ski-ing exercise in the Cairngorms might also go the same way. Overall, the sunshine and snow tans from the slopes beat the night pallor from the Aviemore discos, but it was a close run thing.

Corporal 'Jamie' James and **Corporal 'Andy' Wilson** attended a 'Snow Queen' exercise with 21st Signal Regiment and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A mishap on a ski tow between them put **Corporal James** out of action for four days but into the hands of a German Masseuse for which he did not complain.

It was sad to bid farewell to **Sergeant 'Jacko' Jackson, Corporal Dave Griffiths** and **Corporal Pat Hitchmough** and their wives. This was done at a traditional troop party in the Horseshoe Club. It was a lot of expertise for the Troop to lose in one go for in their time they have each had to carry some hefty responsibilities.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The following have joined the Squadron recently. We hope that they enjoy their tour in Ulster.

Sergeant Kitching, Corporals Coyle, Cox, Richardson and **Roy, Lance-Corporal Mooney, Signalmen Brett, Carr, Campbell, Hewitt, Hume** and **Mullen, Privates Day** (RAOC) and **Hardcastle** (RAOC).

During this period we said goodbye to:

Sergeant Jackson, Corporals Skene, Poole (RPC) and **Wimbridge** (RCT) on promotion to Sergeant, **Lance-Corporal Lewis, Signalmen Holgate, Archibald** and **Barnes, Privates Hands** and **Whitley** (RAOC) and **Driver Roberts.**

(*Late Notes from* 233 Sig Sqn. *Please see page* 178.)

26 Army Youth Team, Bushfield Camp, Winchester

LIFE in a Youth Team could never be described as dull and our team is no exception to this rule. During the last year we have enjoyed working with various Youth Organisations throughout West Hampshire and the Channel Islands.

'TEA—RIFIC' WEEK

The highlight of the year's work was a week spent with **Jimmy Saville** and 45 "young men and women" (Quote **Jimmy Saville** —Speak Easy). We joined in one of **Jimmy's** 'Speak Easy' programmes and also a couple of Saville's Travels. We are now awaiting job offers from the BBC.

ESCAPE AND EVASION

We are often involved in escape and evasion exercises. This is when the team attempts to lose as many children as possible, under cover of darkness. But somehow they always manage to find us, when it is time to return home.

JERSEY

Our yearly visit to Jersey was very enjoyable and a great deal was achieved in the limited time available. We visited several schools and youth clubs and finally ran a range day for the local cadets. We are looking forward to returning this year and meeting the many new friends we made there.

SHOOTING CARAVAN

A recent team innovation has been the conversion of a recruiting caravan into an air rifle shooting gallery. Shooting has long been a favourite pastime with youngsters and we are now able to offer this facility to any club, regardless of location.

IDEAL HOME

Not content with the exhibits at Olympia this year, **Corporal 'Paddy' (Any more fares please) Gallagher** is busily constructing his own ideal home. Facilities will include a bar, lounge and kitchen downstairs and sleeping accommodation for six upstairs. Views can be terrific, on a clear day. At 35 m.p.h. and 15 m.p.g., this London Transport Bus is his ideal home. This brings **'Paddy'** one step nearer to his lifelong ambition to tour the world in a 5 star double decker.

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

Sergeant Pete Walker puts his 'huge' hands to good use as goalkeeper for the local Signal Squadron football team.

The remaining team members namely **Lieutenant Gary Watchus, Corporal Brian Eckett** and **Lance-Corporal Mike Welch,** recently spent an excellent two weeks ski-ing in Aviemore, Thanks to 30th Signal Regiment.

26 ARMY YOUTH TEAM COMPLETE WITH BUS AND SHOOTING CARAVAN

Left to right: Corporal Eckett, Corporal Gallagher, Lance-Corporal Welch, Lieutenant Watchus, Sergeant Walker

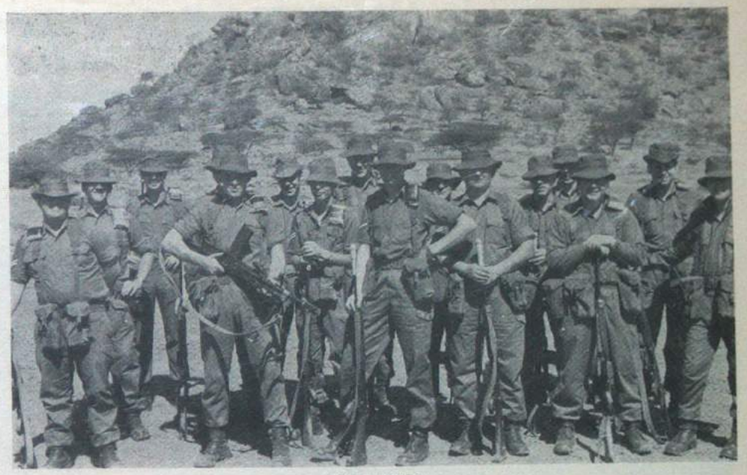
Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during March, 1975:

	£ p
A. D. Trevethick, Esq.	100·00
Treasurer, Garrison Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity, Telford	5·00
Anonymous	5·00
G. W. Cook, Esq.	3·20
C. K. McLennan, Esq.	1·05
R. N. Houston, Esq.	1·00
H. S. Ramsey, Esq.	75
J. Paterson, Esq.	75
F. Winter, Esq.	53
J. Cochran, Esq.	53
Colonel J. F. Longfield	50
Major M. Gordon Wilson	50
J. Lothian, Esq.	50
H. G. Smyth, Esq.	50
Various small donations	3·57
Hull Branch, Royal Signals Association	13·00
Northampton Branch, Royal Signals Association	10·00
Total	£146·38

Magic Carpet to Kenya!

3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment spend a fascinating five weeks on military training in the wide open spaces of Kenya. Apart from valuable training under realistic conditions there were ample opportunities to climb Mount Kenya, see wild game under natural conditions and enjoy the off duty attractions of Nairobi.



THE HAIRIES

Linemen of the Regiment merge well with the local landscape

BACKGROUND—FILLING IN THE GAPS

IN February of this year we went to Kenya for five weeks military training. This was an unusual occasion as we were the first non-infantry Regiment to train in Kenya. It was however an undertaking which we accepted with alacrity, even if to the end we could not quite believe our luck at having such an opportunity. As **Major Don Stowe,** QM (A) remarked, after the recce—"Well at least some of us got to see the country".

Below are personal accounts of how Kenya appeared to certain members of the Regiment but to fill in the gaps the following may be of interest.

RHQ and HQ Squadron were located in a disused showground on the outskirts of Nanyuki. The Squadrons, reinforced by staff troops, went through a sequence of training starting with basic drills in an area called Dol Dol where, with an area roughly half the size of Salisbury Plain and over an hour's hard driving from base, a Squadron Commander had free rein to 'do his thing'. After a week at Dol Dol each Squadron moved to Smalls Farm for field firing. Again, with 40,000 acres on which to train space was not one of the limitations. We fired all appropriate weapons including Carl Gustav, GPMG and 2 inch mortar and also carried out demolition training for Line Troop and the Defence Platoon. The third period was spent at Archers Post, a vast arid semi desert area where after three days of training the Squadron, now fit, acclimatised and confident, underwent a 36 hour escape and evasion exercise. Finally the last week was spent in deep forest on the edge of Mount Kenya, learning how to navigate, live and fight under totally different conditions to those experienced before.

We undertook two 'Adventurous Training' projects. The first was a series of three expeditions down the Ewaso Ngiro river run for the officers and SNCOs of the Divisional HQ staff who came with us. The second was to climb Mount Kenya. By the end of the exercise 120 soldiers had climbed Point Lenana (16,355 ft.) and four had climbed Batian which at 17,057 ft. is Kenya's highest peak.

We were fortunate in that our support mostly came from the Corps. Our communications to UK came by courtesy of **Captain 'Sandy' Lovatt** and his Troop from 14th Signal Regiment and two of our helicopter pilots, **Captain Graham Thomas** and **Staff Sergeant Wall** were Royal Signals. Even when we borrowed **W.O.2 Dave Pattie** from the School of PT in York he revealed that Royal Signals had been his parent regiment. We also had good fortune to be able to borrow **Captain Charles Kemp** from the AAC who brought four Apprentices: **A/T Corporal Ewan, A/T Lance-Corporal Davey, A/T Hughes** and **A/T Murray,** out with us for two weeks of the exercise (all four climbed Lenana successfully and **Captain Kemp** learned of his success in the Staff College examination at 10,000 ft.).

The greatest Corps support however came from **Major Keith Boulding** and 32 of his musicians led by **Sergeant-Major Jimmy Greer.** The playing of 'Boulding's Brass Band' became one of the features of the whole visit, whether it was in the depths of Gathuiru forest at a Squadron barbecue; in scarlet against the sunset at our Retreat Ceremony; the '1812 Overture' with which they concluded our farewell drinks party or lunchtime music under the trees after our polo match. Of the last perhaps little should be said except that we managed to field two sides (with help from two locals and ten of their ponies) and the CO's side won!

We came away from Kenya with regret. It had been a tough, exacting time but all had enjoyed themselves as the personal accounts below all show.

KENYA—A YOUNG OFFICER'S VIEW

By Second-Lieutenant Michael Dyer

Kenya! Where's that? That was my immediate reaction. Someone had just broken the news that the regiment would be going to Kenya. But this was in September 1974 and no one was going anywhere until January 1975.

But as usual time flew and January was suddenly upon us. Training in earnest began and I found myself teaching infantry tactics which I had learnt at Sandhurst not long before, instead of the 'hairys' teaching me how to communicate.

On 27th January I flew out with the first chalk from 3 Squadron and within hours I was at the first training area—the Safari Park Hotel (Nairobi) enjoying the sun beside a swimming pool. I remember thinking that it cannot be a bad firm which gives you a chance to visit a place like this once in a while.

Proper military training started for 3 Squadron after two more glorious days in Nairobi. We moved up country to Nanyuki where RHQ was situated and from there to Dol Dol training area where we did our battle drills. I remember one night in particular. After having participated in an exhausting day, a night map reading exercise was to be held. **Staff Sergeant Hughes** and myself were assigned to a check point which on the map seemed to be about 7 miles away. The problem was that the maps displayed no contour lines and we could not tell how much dead ground was between it and us. Carrying an A41 between us we set off. At about 2030 hours we arrived at the checkpoint to discover that we were surrounded by very hostile baboons who looked like they hadn't eaten for a week and had decided to break their fast on us. Things looked serious for a time as the baboons outnumbered our 5 live rounds by about 15 to 1. Luckily we found a large rock about 8 ft. high on top of which was room for one man comfortably. Somehow, back to back we managed to cling to the rock, occasionally lighting and throwing a thunderflash at the circle of screaming baboons around us. There we sat until 0100 hours when we got the call to return and thankfully we made our way back.

(Continued on page 147*)*

Kenya as seen by 3 Div H.Q. & Signal Regiment

1 **CONVERSATION PIECE**
Left to right: Sergeant Toby Turner, Lance-Corporal Mark Marcinkiwicz, Lance-Corporal Dave Rice, Lance-Corporal Derek Rees

2 **WARRIORS AT EASE**
Lance-Corporal Ken Kennedy, Signalman Frank McCubbin

3 Echo Troop being briefed

4 Drivers discussion group

5 **MASAI HUT:**
"I'm not taking over this . . . quarter!" Staff Sergeant Jerry Garland

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire? Why not do so NOW!

After Dol Dol we went to Smalls Farm where live firing was to take place. Here Signalmen who had only ever fired SLR and SMG were let loose on 84 mm. and 66 mm. as well as 9 mm. pistol and 36 grenade. I found it extremely valuable to have to organise and run a range particularly as this was in the African bush and there were no back stops, butts or other amenities.

After 3 days off duty in Nanyuki, the Squadron went to Archers Post which at 2,000 ft above sea level was the lowest and hottest area. Here in one night we covered 22 miles on an escape and evasion exercise hotly pursued by an unlikely mixture of SAS, Pioneer Corps and PCCU personnel commanded by a cavalry officer.

While at Archers Post we visited a game lodge and although I have seen more animals at Longleat I thoroughly enjoyed this insight into the luxury and splendour of an African game lodge.

With dust choking everything the Squadron moved in convoy from Archers to Gathuiru, 8,000 ft. half way up Mount Kenya, for jungle training. Although called jungle training, it should perhaps more properly be called bamboo training, and I well remember covering about 12 miles in as many hours hacking my way through bamboo, most of the time on hands and knees.

Whilst at Gathuiru parties of 8 from the Squadron went to climb Mount Kenya. Point Lenana is the third highest peak and well above any mountain in Europe and I was determined to have a go. We had about 14 kms. to cover which at sea level would have been easy but high altitude with little oxygen gave most people a headache or other symptoms of mountain sickness. At last we got to the top and a great sense of achievement replaced the splitting headache. Looking around from the peak, Kanya was laid out like a map. Climbing Point Lenana was a superb end to an extremely enjoyable exercise which I was very lucky to take part in.

KENYA—A SOLDIER'S VIEW

By Corporal John Crook

Kenya to my mind conjured up visions of Mau-Mau, Masai warriors, record breaking policemen and abundant wild life. A sort of giant Longleat with an equatorial climate.

Off to the Kenyan bush we all travelled armed with cameras and sun-tan oil. Having watched every episode of *Born Free* and re-read all the Regiment's collection of Tarzan books, as well as doing exhaustive pre-training around our local countryside, in what seemed sub-zero temperatures, we were off on safari in Kanya.

The training can only be described in a paragraph of adjectives:– Frightening, realistic, arduous, majestic, funny, fantastic.

The training staff were provided by SAS and Infantry, who together with the mountaineering instructors did an excellent job. Patient in answering unnumerable questions, very professional in their attitude, they seemed as if they really cared that we learned.

When dealing in survival on our escape and evasion exercise we learnt it wasn't a game but deadly serious, as most of us found out to our discomfort. Whether it was being chased by animals, scaring snakes, finding out how sharp and painful machettes are or being crucified by thorn bushes, **Sergeant Dave Norris** our Troop Sergeant found it all a very hazardous experience. **Corporal Jack 'Fly Army' Ridley, Lance-Corporal Derek Calderbank** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Holden** are rumoured to be asking for a watermanship course as they all had heat exhaustion. I have applied for a mountain leadership course to find out how climbing should really be done.

R and R (that's rest and recuperation to you non-combatants), which most of us had, was spent in Nairobi where we tasted the night life like gluttons at a feast. What an invigorating four days we spent there and it was with sad hearts and very light pockets that we returned.

It was the togetherness of the troops, which I think pulled us through what was a unique exercise. Morale was always high. No matter what the situation was, there were always smiling faces. Now that the exercise is behind us we can look back on it as an adventure never to be forgotten. Salisbury Plain will never be the same again. One harrowing experience that happened to our tame aborigine friend from down under, **Signalman 'Blue' Fisher,** was after being chased by buffalo, baboons, rhinos, and being scared by lions, he went to the serenity of Thompson Falls Game Lodge only to be bitten by one of the ponies used for trekking. You can't win!

It was all part of a thoroughly enjoyable five weeks arduous training in Kenya. Thank you Carter Tours. We only hope our bronzed bodies keep their tans until summer.

CLIMBING MOUNT KENYA—BATIAN AND NELION

By Lieutenant Sam Sherman

Four of us started out to climb Batian and Nelion. **Captain Nigel Gifford** and **Sergeant-Major Dave Pattie** started off on the 10th February to hire some porters to carry the extra equipment and food necessary for the expedition up to Top Hut which was going to be our camp at 15,700 ft.

For this bold enterprise we decided to go up the Nara Moru route. The following day **Captain Charles Kemp** and I with the assistance of two pack mules, **Lance-Corporal Smithson** and **Lance-Corporal Glasby,** started off at 0730 hours from the Met station on the Naro Moru track and arrived at Top Hut rather the worse for wear at 1630 hours where we also met our guide, **Corporal Thumbi** of the Kenya Rangers.

That night we sorted our kit out and had a very technical discussion, none of which I understood. At 0500 hours on 12th February we started out in the dark. Our plan was to cross the Lewis Glacier, climb Nelion, abseil down into 'The Gates of the Mist', cross the cornice, climb Batian (17,058 ft.) and then return the way we had come to Nelion (17,022 ft.) and abseil down.

We crossed the glacier safely and started climbing 'not roped up' and after about 600 ft. in the dark **Corporal Thumbi** turned to me and said "Usually we rope up and climb this properly but because you are all such good mountaineers we did not bother." My usually healthy complexion disappeared—fortunately it was dark. We eventually did rope up; **Corporal Thumbi** leading with myself and **Charles Kemp** on one rope and **Nigel** and **Dave** on the second. We reached the top of Nelion at 1100 hours.

Here we had a 30 minute break. I looked across at Batian, looked at **Charles,** looked at Batian again which is very impressive and asked anyone who cared to listen how the hell they proposed to get me up there. I then had my first abseil lesson, down into the 'Gates of the Mist' with a sheer drop of 200 ft. if I didn't do it properly. We had a relatively uneventful climb to the top of Batian which we reached at 1400 hours. 15 minutes at the top for a rest and a pose for photographs, then we started our return journey across the 'Gates of the Mist' to Nelion.

CLIMBING MOUNT KENYA—LENANA POINT

By Signalman Brian Douglas

Whilst on our exercise in Kenya a number of the lads from each troop were given the chance to climb one of the peaks of Mount Kenya. The peak was Point Lenana (16,355 ft.) higher than any mountain in Europe.

I didn't need much persuasion when asked if I wished to do it, so my name was put on the list of mountain marauders for the 5th day of our training in the forests of Gathuiru. Here we were already at a height of 8,000 ft. so acclimatisation to the altitude had been easy and steady.

We left Gathuiru on the 5th morning and set out for our start point. There were eight of us in all, four of whom were apprentices from Harrogate. 'Ambitious' I thought.

A member of the mountain training team was at the gate of the Mount Kenya Game Reserve to meet us: here we were told to unload our kit onto his Rover and he left us with a smile; leaving us to make our own way to the base camp at 11,000 ft., only 3,000 to climb. The going was fairly easy and glimpses of wild life kept our minds fully occupied. Eventually the trees started to thin out, and soon we left the tree line moving into the bracken and heavy grassland of the lower slopes of Mount Kenya.

One and a half hours to the base camp was not bad going but the brisk walk had proved too much for one of the team. Violent coughing and bloodshot, watering eyes proved the altitude was affecting him and he was deemed unavailable for the start next morning.

That afternoon, we had our briefing for the walk, the do's and don'ts on what equipment should be carried although it was up to every individual what he wished to carry, as long as the main essentials were included.

Next morning we started at 0530 hours, and typical of the few mornings we had already spent in Kenya, the air was tangy and cold. Ushered by our two instructors we merrily plodded up the track and out of sight of base camp. After the track petered out there were many various mule trails which helped in our upward journey until we reached a track which contoured around the various re-entrants, so it was fairly easy going and we made good time. Finally we reached the Liki Valley just after sunrise, but the air was still chilled, keeping us cool.

Our instructor, **Captain Kemp,** was a very strong minded person, and had no intention of letting us hang around too long when stopped for a breather. But the altitude being what it was, did affect us, and although the breathers were short, they were regular.

We reached the top of the ridge separating the Liki and Mckinder valleys at approximately midday. I don't know what anyone else thought, but I met the Mckinder valley with a sigh of relief. I had already ripped my trousers twice and bruised my leg.

We decided to press on up to Shiptons Cave before stopping for lunch, and as the next couple of hours progressed, the pace gradually slowed down, the air being thinner and the seven of us feeling the difference.

When we reached the cave I was just about all in, the Bergen and its load were annoying, but after our brew up we started up and headed for the camp site. We came across our predecessors only to find that none of them had managed to reach the peak. This didn't help our morale much at the time. After a short discussion between ourselves, it was decided we would press on up to lower Simba Tarn and camp there. The next stage took us nearly an hour to complete. Rough going up the scree started to make the legs ache and eventually we arrived at our camp site about 2,000 ft. from the top. We settled down for a well earned rest, shrugging off any suggestions by the instructors to go up an extra 500 ft. After a snack and a brew we put up the storm tents. We realised it was going to be a tight squeeze, but who cared. I think we were tired enough to sleep anywhere. One thing I had noticed my appetite wasn't what it usually was, chocolate and an oatmeal block was enough. Finally I settled down to sleep about 6 p.m.

Next morning was another early start again, leaving the base camp, and heading up to Simba Tarn again up the scree. Feeling fresh, we slowly made our way around to the last 600 ft. ascent, to the top.

Not being a brave person at heights I started slowly, and treading carefully up to the top. I must admit with a 300 ft. drop on my right, and a sheet of pack ice on the left, I wasn't exactly turned on. Eventually, with a sigh and gasp, a final scramble was made to the summit. I believe I felt like hugging the cross that was planted up there. Another achievement on the books and a brilliant view as a reward.

Our stay was short, and a quick descent was made. Due to the fact we were going lower, breathing became easier, and the going better.

The decision was made to carry on to the base camp, and not to bother camping out for another night. A grass fire which had been sweeping to and fro on the slopes was still burning fiercely, and happened to have crossed the path we were walking on. The ground was very hot, sometimes we were walking past the flames that weren't more than 20 yards away, breathing became difficult with the choking smoke that engulfed us. There wasn't any going back, as the flames were licking their way across most of the mule trails. We finally came out of the burning grassland after approximately two miles walking. Base camp was in sight.

Looking like Jamaicans we were greeted and congratulated on our early arrival. We made camp a day early, doing the journey in only 17½ hours and the fastest at that time.

We soon regretted coming back early because the camp was surrounded by are on three sides and we had to mount a guard. Next morning we felt quite safe until a warning came from the game warden of an approaching fire, so we began to break camp. His timing was the only thing wrong as the fire raged through the camp 2½ hours early. I think all of us lost some kit, so my trip to Mount Kenya finished, with myself black from head to foot.

ON SAFARI

By Signalman 'Geordie' Robinson

Due to circumstances beyond my control I was put into the second Croc Bait expedition at the last moment with only half a day's preparation. From the info I received I was led to believe that the expedition was to be more or less a sightseeing safari, spotting animals and sunbathing, and that we would cover the 40 miles in approximately 5 days. In fact the safari jaunt turned out to be a real hell for leather foot slog in which we covered the journey in a gruelling 2½ days, walking from 7 a.m. till 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. till 5 p.m. The other members of the party all had Bergen packs but I found that the frame for the A13 Radio was more comfortable so that's how I carried the set with my personal kit carefully packed around it. I found that after the first day my pack seemed heavier but I wouldn't be beaten by it, and even when the CO and RSM offered to spell me with it I refused because I knew it was mine to carry and that was my job.

If there was one thing that kept me going it was the tremendous morale boosting encouragement I received from the rest of the team. When we first started, myself being only a Signalman, they seemed a formidable band of high ranking officers but I was immediately accepted into their midst and I really felt as though I was an important 'spoke in the wheel' so to speak. The communications throughout the expedition were satisfactory and there were no problems with the antenna. The old favourite sloping wire worked, through everytime, and although we had 3 batteries we only used one throughout the walk. As we ate the compo rations, so too did the other team members' packs get lighter, but as I wasn't carrying any my load remained at the same back breaking weight.

Throughout the walk we saw small deer, baboons, monkeys and an assortment of birds, not forgetting fighting off mosquitos, red ants and ticks.

After we had accomplished our task we had to lay up for a further 1½ days as there was no transport to bring us back to Nanyuki. During this time we scouted the area around for any signs of wildlife but only found a pack of baboons and a family of monkeys. Unlike our forerunners on Croc Bait 1, we only saw a few of the natives and all of them carried javelin type spears which we were careful not to get in the way of. However we found the locals very friendly towards us and our compo boiled sweets. All in all I think I learnt a great deal on radio communications in the type of terrain we were in and also in that to succeed in an expedition like ours you need team spirit which was exactly what we had.

TALE OF AN ELEPHANT

By Signalman Joe Harris

"An elephant never attacks unless provoked"—old white hunters' saying.

"What! elephants attack people? No, of course not, they always turn and run as soon as they hear you coming. You are quite safe"—so the advice went, from our instructors.

A three-man patrol consisting of **Captain Freeman, Lance-Corporal 'Tich' Fuller** and myself left the Squadron camp at Gathiuri on the slope of Mount Kenya and started towards a rendezvous with another patrol some miles away. Soon the forest was left behind and the small bamboo with its maze of tunnels reached. We were doubled up as we half crawled, half walked through the tunnels, our large packs impeding our progress. Suddenly above the noise of the patrol there was a trumpeting and a great crashing in the nearby bush. "Stop and listen." Yes the sound was still there and coming in this direction. "What to do?" Two nearby large trees suddenly became safe havens! By now the crashing in the bamboo left us in no doubt that whatever it was—buffalo, elephant or rhino—was coming right towards us. Then the bamboo parted 30 ft. in front of **Captain Freeman,** and an enraged elephant came storming through. As **Captain Freeman** stepped further behind his tree, the elephant caught sight of **Lance-Corporal Fuller** and me behind another tree a few yards away. "They looked better prey." With terrific agility for its size, the elephant changed direction and chased us round our tree, with its tusks flashing all over the place. **Corporal Fuller** and I ran for our lives, but alas the elephant was too quick, and with one of its tusks pierced my pack. With this firmly wedged on its tusks it blazed a track into the bamboo, leaving behind a trail of crushed compo tins and feathers from a sleeping bag.

Where was I when all this was going on? You may well ask. I had done a spot of quick thinking and released my webbing and pack at the last moment and escaped with my life and was left only with the vexing problems of what to eat and how to keep warm that night.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY
12th OF THE MONTH FOR
PUBLICATION IN THE
FOLLOWING MONTH

Desert Assignment

216 Parachute Signal Squadron, on Exercise 'Trunnion', find themselves in a true Foreign Legion role in the sandy wastes of the Oman Peninsular.

To mould the many and varied types of personnel in the HQ 16 Parachute Brigade complex into one compact fighting force such as a rifle company, takes some doing indeed. One of the first problems being a total of 11 different cap badges. However, 'Trunnion' set out to train and exercise such a formation and the results were highly satisfactory.

The exercise area was the Oman Peninsular between the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf with the British Camp at Sharjah as the exercise base. Three training camps were also set up to further our education and the following jottings concern these camps. The titles are rather apt!

ON THEY TRUDGE
Corporal Max Williams, complete with smile, leads his section on the last leg of a 125 mile march. Sergeant Tovey's platoon follows up

Camp Misery. On being informed that he was to instruct in weapons at the Manama Desert Camp, **Staff Sergeant 'Ray' Duffy,** the Squadron Chief Clerk, was seen to delve rather furiously into dust ridden notes marked 'Staffies Course—and things', and emerge proudly clutching what appeared to be a training pamphlet headed 'Guidance on the crossbow Mk. V'. During the period of weapon training the platoons had the pleasure of sampling the delights of live section/platoon attacks—the Parachute Regiment way! This means maximum benefit with minimum effort, or something like that. All platoon weapons were fired, including the 84 mm. Carl Gustav AT rocket and the 81 mm. mortar. Background activities covered various explosive devices such as grenade necklaces, demolition charges, home made claymore mines and trip wire defence patterns. A four man team from 2 Parachute Mortar Platoon, led by **Sergeant Alex Munro,** controlled the CQB range and the 81 mm. mortar firing itself. NCOs from the Vigilant Platoons, HQ 16 Parachute Brigade, instructed on the remainder of the weapons, with **Staff Sergeant Duffy** and **Corporal Granitza** cracking the whip on the SLR range. The Parachute Regiment lads were somewhat delighted by the scores achieved by 216, especially with the SLR. **Corporal 'Gus' Hartley's** 245 out of a possible 260 being one of the best. Some of the higher scores might well be due to the patient coaching techniques of **Corporal 'Mick' Granitza,** sub unit weapons coach supreme. A great deal of very valuable experience was gained at this camp during the Platoon's 5 day stay.

Staff Sergeant Ray Duffy coaching on the ranges at Manama Camp

Camp Despair. At Wadi Shawkah, easily adapted to read 'what a shocker', was the training camp for desert navigation, survival and patrolling techniques. It was situated in the foothills of the main Jebel Range, on the edge of the Dayd Plain. Each of the platoons spent 5 days in 'Despair'. The first day started in true Airborne style, when the road into the camp was found to have been 'mined', leaving the troops with a 12 mile march through the heat of the day across the plain. The next few days training consisted of basic map reading and desert navigation using the Howard sun compass and the Coles vehicle sun compass, with which some amazing results were achieved. Then our tame Acorn, **Staff Sergeant Dave O'Connor,** Int. Corps, showed the correct use of the compass, which helped some people a great deal. The nights were occupied with night navigation and recce patrols, the patrols at section level led by the junior NCOs, helped/hindered by some of the officers and seniors who tagged on as riflemen. The finale of the 5 days was 2 fighting patrols from the entire platoon tasked to snatch prisoners from two separate enemy camps. Result . . . success, of course. The lessons learnt at Wadi Shawkah were valuable. Much more care taken with compass bearings, and less trust shown in issue maps (which taken from air photographs, showed no contours!).

Camp Hopeless. This camp, situated at Qidfa, on the Eastern coast of the peninsular, was run by the Squadron and was organised to permit basic signalling skills, sporting activities and R & R. After living like hermits/gypsies in Camps Misery and Despair, here was luxury indeed. A veritable Pontin's, complete with central cooking, camp beds and 180 pounder tents—even some electric lights! The daily routine began with a 4 mile run along the beach, led by a greyhound masquerading as **Lance-Corporal Parker,** our tame PTI. The rest of the morning was set aside for the signalling skills bit, basic voice procedure, patrol code, slidex, the intricacies of an A41, and such like. Those already trained in radio skills were able to take part in sub-aqua diving. The afternoons were free for individuals to relax and do their own thing, on the beach (under the watchful eye of **Staff Sergeant John Newman**) or in a heap near the pop shop tent, guarded zealously

Lance-Corporal Chris Birks and W.O.2 Jim Shearer with a few "that didn't get away" during rest and recreation week

Lance-Corporal Bob O'Hara aboard recce transport during rest and recreation week. Says the local owner "Don't be a clever dickey—isn't it!"

by **Sergeant Ray Cardwell.** Another of the camp staff, **Lance-Corporal Fred Payet** (late of the Seychelles) caught stingrays, sharks and barracuda and persuaded the cooks to curry them, with some strange and sometimes painful results. For two hours before the evening meal each day, intersection-sports were held, culminating in soccer and volleyball games against a local Union Defence Force Squadron. We held our own at soccer but had a struggle with the volleyball. The evenings were relaxed, quaffing cans of foaming ale and viewing a choice of films, courtesy of MGM and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Finn,** projectionist and camp radio operator. This stalwart NCO has been offered a prime job with a finance reclamation outfit, would you believe "Hit man for the NAAFI!" A refreshing period which injected the right amount of fitness preparatory to the final phase of the main exercise.

'THE TAB'

The final phase of Trunnion, referred to as the 'Tab' was the scheduled march from Fujeira on the East coast, to Sharjah itself, crossing the Jebels, the pebble plain and the sand dunes, a distance of some 90 miles, as the drunken crow flies. Moving into a tactical Company formation, with a live enemy supplied by the Union Defence Force, it was reckoned to take about seven days to complete the task.

We assembled at Camp Hopeless, where we dumped all unnecessary kit, and were issued with rations, ammo and water and a morale rousing speech by the Company OC, **Major D. L. Higginbottom,** Para, who, amongst other things, permitted us to 'go hairy' if we so wished, to save water.

We moved out on a very hot morning onto the first of three obstacles, the Jebels, or volcanic hills, which run down the Eastern coast. Although not very high, scrambling up shale rock in the high 80's, carrying about 70 lbs. and a weapon, brings a wee sheen of perspiration to the brow. The writer drank 10 pints of salted water this day! By nightfall we had reached and passed the highest point, found an oasis and basha'd up for a few hours.

Early next morning we moved out, down and along the Wadi Sifuni towards the far edge of the Jebels. The march was in a set pattern, with an early start at first light (if not before), a 10 minute break every hour on the hour for water and gaspers, a midday halt from 1000–1500 and a further bash until just before last light, then basha up for darkness.

By noon on the second day we had lost four men, casevac'd due to imminent heat stroke and the 'trots'. Everyone's feet were a trifle ragged around the edges, and the picture of vast quantities of iced beer was prominent in all our thoughts. That afternoon we moved on to the edge of the pebble plain, the second of our obstacles. This part was to be covered by small patrols of section strength, whose tasks would be to recce out various watering holes and small barousti dwellings, on their way to a Company RV at the far side of the plain under the shadow of Jebel Malaya. Most of the distance had to be covered that night, to avoid the roving UDF patrols, who managed to 'banjo' a few of the less wary on the next day. At the end of day three, most of the patrols had RV'd and had sent their reports by A16 to Sharjah base, in code of course.

The start of day four saw us losing two by casevacs before we commenced our final slog over the third and final obstacle, the sweet sand and camel track across the desert plain. The soft white sand brought a new crop of aches and pains to already weary leg muscles, although its softness was easier on the feet after the hard, crumbling, volcanic rock of the Jebels. It was a long and very hot day with an endless panorama of sand and scrub as far as the eye could see.

We started at 0400 on day five, by the light of a desert moon, how romantic we thought as we slogged along at a steady pace, keeping an eye out for the UDF. Just as it became light our vigilance was rewarded when 'they' ambushed us from about 500 metres. The reaction was remarkable, Point Platoon gave covering fire, the remainder dumped their bergens, fixed bayonets and fairly 'floated' over the open ground in a high speed frontal attack! The UDF saw discretion and bugged out rapidly, followed by a hail of rocks and invective. We regrouped, brewed up and carried on. At the noon halt there was some question as to how far we had to go, but the strongest buzz was about 12–15 miles. We restarted at 1500 and what seemed to be the longest part of the whole journey went on and on and on! A resupply vehicle met us at 1700 with an urn of tea, some rolls and fresh fruit, which were devoured in record time. Still wiping away the crumbs, we carried on and the water tower on the horizon, which some reckoned was next to the billets in camp, did not get any nearer. Eventually we reached it, not long after darkness had fallen, only to have our fears confirmed, the water tower was at least 1½ miles from camp! Still, ignoring the squelching of feet, by now resembling braised beef, complete with onions, we finished the last mile or so into camp, passing through the gates at approximately 1930 hours Time taken about 108 hours; distance travelled about 125 miles! That blasted airborne crow again—never did learn to fly straight!

The first 'stim' and egg banjo in the camp wog shop never even touched the sides, nor did the first can of iced DD!

Of an all ranks total of 146 who started the 'tab' we only lost 6 by casevac, a good percentage by any standards.

ARABIAN GULF PARACHUTE CHAMPIONSHIPS

All eyes were raised heavenward, whether in despair or supplication is not yet known, watching our free falling Yeoman, **W.O.2 George Devine,** being taken off the march, by helicopter, to compete in the Arabian Gulf Parachute Championships. The day of the Championships was a parachutist's dream—brilliant sunshine, light winds, and the choice of jumping from a Huey helicopter or a Dornier Skyservant. Jumping as part of the Parachute Brigade HQ Team, the Yeoman gained second place in the individual accuracy and first place in the relative competition.

5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron retrace route used to build Stonehenge by Ancient Britons

The Squadron in an imaginative adventure training exercise, quarried a half ton rock from the Prescelly Mountains in West Wales. With smaller token rocks the party moved by canoe and on foot over the same route used by ancient Britons to bring rocks to Stonehenge. Meanwhile the large rock was moved by MT to within four miles of Stonehenge. The route covered by the party was from the Prescelly Mountains via Milford Haven, Chepstow, Avonmouth, Bristol, Bath, Bradford-on-Avon, Pewsey to Amesbury—a total of 102 miles canoeing and 30 marching. The large rock was then dragged by sled the last four miles to Stonehenge so completing the 1975 rebuild of Stonehenge!

THE TEAM AT STONEHENGE

Back row, left to right: Corporal Derek Chandler, Signalman 'Nick' Wales, Signalman Ken Sirr, Driver 'Mac' Axtell, Signalman 'Dixie' Dean, Signalman 'Mac' MacMillan, Signalman 'Nick' Devon, Lance-Corporal Jack Cook, Lance-Corporal 'Luckie' Lucas, Lance-Corporal Graham Garratt
Front, left to right: Corporal Graham 'The Beast' Easton, Signalman John Crook (partly hidden), Signalman George Hill, Corporal 'Ginge' Turnbull, Signalman Fred Caldwell, Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Middleton, Signalman Andy Wager, Signalman Andy Padmore, Signalman John Barnett, Private Paul Sewell, Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Barber

Signalmen Padmore, Dean and Corporal Turner after seven days of canoeing

The Brigade Commander, Brigadier P. M. Welsh, O.B.E., M.C. has a discussion with the expedition leader, Lieutenant Chris Harper, during a visit to the exercise

The half-ton rock is dragged the last few miles to Stonehenge. The sled was built by Lance-Corporals Jack Cook and 'Lukie' Lucas

In the footsteps of Sir Francis Drake

BY SERGEANT C. G. PRIESTLEY

A VAST AMOUNT OF RESEARCH

IN the Spring of 1971 the first plans for a replica of Drake's Flag Ship the '*Golden Hinde*' were completed. There were no plans of the original ship in existence and the designs for the replica were evolved from a vast amount of research into the ship building methods of that period, artists' impressions, and written descriptions from relatives and members of the crew of the '*Hinde*'.

One might well ask why all this trouble was taken. A group of Americans based in San Francisco decided to add to the already numerous collection of Drakes artifacts in that city, (where Drake landed in 1579) a sailing ship built in England, using the original methods, and original materials for construction, which would be capable of sailing from England to America, where she would become a floating memorial to one of England's more famous privateers.

COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED

It will be readily appreciated that an undertaking to sail such a ship from England to America, bearing in mind the publicity and finance involved, dictated a requirement for communication capability. A request was made in 1973, through the Signal Officer in Chief's staff, to Royal Signals for a Technician/Operator to man and maintain the radio equipment. The man selected would, in addition, require to withstand the deprivations likely to be encountered on a 16th Century sailing ship. As an ex-Merchant Navy 'Sparks', now serving with Special Air Service Signals, I was lucky enough to be chosen to go for an interview with **Captain Adrian Small** the Skipper of the *Hinde* and was subsequently accepted on a trial basis.

SIGNED ON

In June 1973 I signed on as operator to the *Golden Hinde* which was at this time nearing completion in the picturesque town of Appledore, North Devon. She had been launched in April of that year and lay alongside a small jetty off the Appledore Quay, where she was being rigged ready for sea trials.

Although I was appointed as ship's operator it was clear that every man had to become an integral part of the crew, thus when the *Hinde* failed her stability test, I, along with the Captain and everyone else aboard, helped load, unload, reload and generally fool about with several tons of concrete breeze blocks, which were being used as extra ballast.

From my joining in June, through July into August the main concern was the *Hinde's* stability problem. The 'Yards' were lowered, shortened, planed down, and the sails correspondingly reduced in size. After re-rigging, tests, and more adjustments to the ballast, we were finally pronounced ready for sea, but limited to coastal waters.

To the echo of our own cannon, the cheers of a number of sightseers, and the blessing of the local church dignitary, we left Bideford Bay for sail trials and training in the Bristol Channel. The date was the 17th August 1973.

SEA TRIALS

This was more like it, all the tension built up over the past weeks fell away like magic. There, in the middle of the Bristol Channel, all the hard, back breaking work was made worthwhile. With a fresh North-Easterly wind blowing the orders came thick and fast: "Set the Fore Top sail", "Haul in the Main Tack"; "Let go the Main Sheet"; "Sheet Home the Sprit sail"; "Sharpen the braces" . . . so sail drill progressed, and I soon found myself heading for the correct line at the right time. With my growing knowledge, came a growing satisfaction in becoming a member of a team which took pride in the speed with which sails were furled, set, the ship made ready to 'come about' or 'wear' and all the other aspects of sailing a Square-rigged ship.

The crew were split into two watches, Starboard Watch and Port Watch, seven men per watch, under two Mates and the Captain. We worked a 'four hour on, four hour off' system with a 'Dog Watch between 1600 and 2000 hours daily. Life was full, work was hard, but a feeling of fulfilment reigned. We made passage along the south coast of England, calling into Falmouth

Golden Hinde furling sail

and Brixham, and finally arriving in London on the 7th September, to tie up alongside Tower Pier and throw our ship and ourselves (dressed in period costume) open to the public.

On show at Tower Bridge

CREW SELECTION

A skeleton crew manned the *Hinde* whilst alongside, allowing the remainder to return to their normal occupations, joining again for the actual sailing, when all hands were of course required. The process of selection of crew for the main trip to America was fairly

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(Continued from page 152)

continuous, some hands had to leave for personal reasons, a few were dismissed, and the remainder retained. For a number of reasons the passage to America had to be postponed until the following year. The *Hinde* was to winter in a ship yard, having 'Blisters' put on. These buoyant waterline additions broadened her beam and improved stability for the Atlantic crossing.

A REFIT

On 27th September 1973, we sailed from London to Plymouth, where we arrived on the 8th October. The ship was again thrown open to the public for a few weeks before proceeding to Dartmouth for her refit. Dates and timings were always more guesswork than calculation, since a sailing vessel of this type is more than usually dependent upon fair winds. The ship's programme was brought up to date. We were to sail to London for another, longer summer season, then to America towards the end of 1974.

I left the ship shortly after our arrival in Plymough, rejoining in February 1974 at Dartmouth, where, again, most of my time was spent getting the *Hinde* ready for sea.

FILM EXTRA

One interesting episode occurred during our stay in Dartmouth. A BBC Film unit arrived, engaged in making a film of Columbus, for which purpose they required an appropriate sailing ship. Thus, for a few weeks we crew members became film extras. There ensued a most interesting period, where our normal work was done by day, and filming took place by night. We were, in truth, fully occupied.

Her alterations completed, the *Hinde* was ready for sea again, and for the second time we sailed the southern coast, bound for London, to open for the summer 'season' on the 4th April 1974.

The Summer of 1974 passed quickly enough for me in the Borneo Jungle, and in what seemed no time at all I was rejoining the *Hinde* at the Port of London in August 1974.

READY FOR SEA-GOING

During the summer the *Hinde* had been re-rigged with new lines, tarred down, and generally made ready for the Atlantic crossing. On the 31st August we set out from London, bound for Dartmouth, where the vessel was converted from an exhibition piece to a sea-going ship. This entailed the removal of walkways, building bunks along the gun deck, battening down the holds, victualling, installing fresh water tanks, fuel tanks for the generator and auxiliary motor, and other preparations for a long voyage. Each crew member had, in addition, to make a hundred and one small adjustments to try to make a home out of a six foot by four foot bunk. The work was not fully completed when we left Dartmouth, and the sound of saws, hammers, and the like could be heard echoing through the ship as she sailed.

From Dartmouth we sailed to Plymouth for the official Farewell, which was held on the 30th September 1974. To the blessings of the Plymouth church dignitaries this time, and the waves of well wishers ashore, we again set sail on the short passage to Falmouth, where, by tradition, Drake is purported to have spent his last night in England, prior to his round the world cruise.

The Great Cabin

DEPARTURE

On the 1st October we left England, the reporters, public relations representatives, owners, and a thousand and one officials behind. Life returned to normal for the crew, which again numbered seventeen souls. Up until now I have avoided much reference to the crew as it was subject to change, the present crew were of course the men who were to sail to America. The cook, was an American, our master gunner a Canadian, the remaining fifteen were British (my apologies to the Canadian). There was one other member of the forces in the person of our Engineer, his task to care for the auxiliary motor and generator.

For the technically minded, or in fact, anyone with an enthusiasm for sail, the following is a detailed description of the *Golden Hinde:*

A three masted, square rigged, barque; Length of keel 60 ft.; Length of waterline 75 ft.; Length overall 122 ft. (including bowsprit); Draught 11 ft. forward, 13 ft. aft; Breadth 20 ft. (less blisters); Foremast 46 ft. in height; Fore topmast 25 ft. in height; Main mast 59 ft. in height; Main topmast 29 ft. in height; Mizzen mast 36 ft. 6 in.; Sail area 4,000 square feet approx.; Tonnage 300 (TM) approx.

On leaving Falmouth we picked up fair northerly winds, and sailed to Lisbon in seven days, crossing the Bay of Biscay without incident.

COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS

Communication equipment held on board amounted to one VHF voice transceiver and one SSB HF, Marine Radio Telephone. The latter, though working perfectly on dummy load, had a pathetic performance in use, with a very disappointing range. This was a commercial equipment installed by the makers. The combination of a wooden vessel and rather unusual rigging introduced aerial matching problems which they failed to overcome.

For four days in Lisbon, whilst the rest of the crew were sightseeing, I felt obliged to spend some days with the shore engineers in an attempt to get our HF communications working more satisfactorily but the results were still unconvincing. On the 11th October, the Captain decided to sail, confident that he had at least as good communications as his illustrious predecessor, and certainly most members of the crew preferred the idea of dispensing with such modern aids.

ATLANTIC CROSSING

For thirty three days we sailed the 'Great Circle Path' on the trade winds, to Barbados. For anyone who mistakenly thinks sailing is a carefree, lazy, holiday I can only say they could not be more wrong.

Hard work was the order of the day scraping varnish work down to the wood, sanding, revarnishing. scrubbing the decks, tarring the rigging, rope work, painting, and of course, in our spare time, sailing the ship.

The *Hinde* rolled severely with a following wind and sea, this made life very much more arduous, not only were we trying to get on with the job, but we had to constantly counter balance the roll of the ship, which was severe enough to throw one crew member from his bunk even with his 'lee-board' in place.

For about ten days we rolled our way westward, whereby even sleeping was hard work, but at last the wind came round to our quarter, and the *Hinde* settled to a comparatively easier roll.

Our rations now comprised mainly canned foods, and salt meat or fish. Full credit to our cook, he tried to make the food as attractive as possible, even so it was wisest to work up a healthy appetite before eating. Water which had been rationed to two buckets per week for washing, was now in plentiful supply as we found ourselves using very little of our total water tank capacity.

LANDFALL BARBADOS

A sweep-stake on our arrival day in Barbados was made, I chose the afternoon of the 13th November, we arrived off the breakwater at Barbados in the evening of the 13th, however the sweep was taken to the sighting of land, which occurred on the morning of the 13th, so I watched £20 pass to a fellow crew member and restricted myself to a few threats on his life, punctuated by endearing curses.

Again my shore-leave was taken up with work on the HF radio, however this time, with a special whip aerial and counterpoise earth we finally established communications.

During our Atlantic crossing, the rigging had loosened due to the rolling, and all the shrouds (mast supports laced with foot ropes to climb aloft) had to be re-set. This job had to be done whilst in port, when the ship was steady, thus work was very much as usual.

On the 18th November we left Barbados to sail the Caribbean in the tradition of Drake, though we had to refrain from plundering the Spanish ports, we did at least get branded as pirates by a few of the Spanish senoritas in Cartagen, Nombre-de-dios, Porto Bello, and finally Cristobell in Panama.

WIND POWER DOES IT

In forty-four days from Falmouth to Barbados we had used our auxiliary power to take us up river to Lisbon harbour some five to ten miles, and round the breakwater at Barbados some two miles. In twenty days in the Caribbean we were becalmed for three days and had to use our power to make a press reception in Cristobell from Porto Bello some twenty miles. The rest of the time the elements supplied our motive power, and a combination of the skill of the Devonian ship builders, and the hard work of the crew, harnessed it in a 16th century fashion.

RETURN TO DUTIES

At the end of December, having gone through the canal I left the *Hinde* to return to my duties. The programme from there was to sail to Acapulco, then on to San Francisco for what should be a tumultuous reception. As I write —— the *Hinde* will be steadily approaching San Francisco, ETA 7th of March 1975. Good Luck *Golden Hinde*, have a beer for me lads.

Bushfield Camp through the ages

MAJOR D. J. FRANCIS, INTELLIGENCE CORPS, TRACES THE FASCINATING BACK HISTORY OF 223 SIGNAL SQUADRON'S PRESENT DAY HOME NEAR WINCHESTER

PEOPLE COME . . . PEOPLE GO

ALL units have FFR inspections, visits from VIPs, incoming and outgoing Commanding Officers and a constantly changing complement of personnel. People come, people go but the unit seems to go on forever. 223 Signal Squadron is presently located at Bushfield—a wild wind-weathered and rain battered hill only an old English mile south of Winchester. The hill has been there a very long time indeed and it has borne silent witness to the many events of great historical importance.

BUSHFIELD CAMP—IN THE PALEOLITHIC AGE

Bushfield was used by Paleolithic man in 5000 B.C. where as a hunter he outran the rabbits and caught pheasants whether they were in or out of season. He was followed by the more prolific Neolithic man and he graded over into the Bronze Age (3500–1500 B.C.). A Bronze Age Urn was found pretty close to the present Sergeants' Mess and in fact two Bronze Age chieftains are buried on the crest only a few hundred yards west of the guardroom. Bushfield was almost trampled flat by Neolithic man as it was located athwart the main route from the flint bearing areas of Sussex and the distribution centres at Old Sarum (1 Group) and the Dorset uplands (School of Signals). But the peaceful trading atmosphere was shattered when about 500 B.C. the Celtic tribe, Belgae, swarmed all over the area and settled in the neighbourhood, making Winchester their tribal centre. The Belgae lost little time before constructing a hill fort immediately opposite Bushfield across the river.

ROMAN LEGIONS WERE THERE

The Celts were followed by the Roman legions and it was the Romans who built the road from Winchester to Southampton which borders the Eastern boundary of the camp. After the Roman withdrawal the next invaders were the Jutes and Saxons and they were followed by the Danes. King Alfred (of 223 Signal Squadron tie fame) probably walked or rode the hill at Bushfield as frequently as did the wet footed King Canute. William the Conqueror also spent some time on the hill and his ill fated son William Rufus was furtively carried to Winchester Cathedral after his mysterious death along the path north of the Camp. In fact they need not have bothered as shortly after interment the roof of the Cathedral fell in on to the tomb!

ROYALTY PASSED BY

As Bushfield is on the old main route from London to Southampton the Middle Ages produced a continuous stream of Royal Progressions along the eastern camp boundary.

Eventually the British Army, realising that Kings, Queens, the world and his wife passed by the hill but no one actually stopped there, decided to establish an Army camp at Bushfield. No doubt the fact that Oliver Cromwell had seen fit to place his artillery on the hill had some influence on the choice of site.

ALL PART OF THE EVERCHANGING SCENE

Nowadays we do not see very much of the crowned heads of Europe on the Roman Road. No Celtic cavalry comes charging up the slopes. No Bronze Age urns are to be found but we still have the Paleolithic rabbits and pheasants on the menu. At Bushfield one can feel that one is a part of a long and continuing romance although one stays but briefly on this ancient mound. People who have come during the last month or so are **Sergeant Friend, Corporals Naismith, Hobbs, Poyser, Hammet** and **Lance-Corporal Clarke.** People who have gone include **Corporals Rule, Greenhill, Parrish, Doig, Cork, Lance-Corporals Harris, Steen** and **Bishop** and **Signalmen Devlin** and **Harley.** They are ships that pass in the night but each a part of the rich historical pageant of Bushfield Camp.

(Maybe our Northern Ireland friends could give us some back history on Divis!—Editor)

Notes on Attachment to Swedish Army

BY LIEUTENANT N. C. JACKSON, ROYAL SIGNALS, 216 PARACHUTE SIGNAL SQUADRON

IN February I departed from the unit for a one month attachment to the Swedish Parachute Rangers. Each year a new company of national service volunteers is raised for the Parachute Rangers. The culmination of their initial military service takes place in the North of Sweden. This Winter Expedition lasts for one month and those who complete it are selected to remain with the Parachute Rangers for 12 years. In addition to the new company there was a company of national servicemen who had completed their initial service in 1972. Everyone continues to be called back for service every four years until the age of 45. In addition to this, Sweden has a very active Home Guard of 100,000 men.

PLENTY TO LEARN

On arrival at the garrison town of Boden (just South of the Arctic Circle) I was equipped with the entire uniform and equipment of a Parachute Ranger. Each company is organised into 8-man patrols which are completely self-sufficient. Within these patrols four men have completed specialist training in demolition, sniping, medical aid and telegraphy. Everyone can ski expertly with 75 lb. rucksacks, even at night! I soon realised that I would have to learn fast!

A VARIED AND INTERESTING PROGRAMME

The entire 18 days consisted of long range patrolling on skis with a re-deployment by parachute and helicopter (I made two descents from a Dakota DC3—an aircraft we know well from the Airborne Forces Museum). The programme was extremely varied and interesting.

Tuesday, 25th February. Exercise began with an afternoon descent from a Hercules C130 in brilliant sunshine and only —5°C. All parachuting at this time of the year, in the North, is done on the frozen lakes which provide perfect DZs. We then commenced the first 'tab'. This was only 7 kms. but over such terrain that we didn't reach our patrol base area until 0300 hours the next day.

Wednesday, 26th February. After making the base and digging fire positions we had a few hours welcome sleep. However, at 1000 hours everyone was up.

Thursday, 27th February—Friday, 28th February. Static reconnaissance on major road.

Saturday, 1st March. Training day for ambushes, hit and run guerilla tactics and the use of explosives.

Sunday, 2nd March. Range day using electronic ranges for the Swedish Ak4 automatic carbine and Karl Gustav. In the afternoon we carried out ambushes and counter-attacks with live rounds.

Monday, 3rd March. Clean up day and training day for telegraphists and medics. Everyone took a sauna that was set up in one of the tents and then rolled in the snow.

Tuesday, 4th March. a.m. Helicopter and light aircraft training for casevac and airlifting. In the afternoon we were lifted by helicopter to a new area. After establishing a new patrol base we began our new role of mobile reconnaissance. Our aim was to find the Brigade Headquarters and completely disrupt it by continual attacks.

Wednesday, 5th March. Disruption of Brigade Headquarters and further reconnaissance.

Thursday, 6th March. Parachuted from Dakota DC3 at night in thick fog. Luckily I was one of the few who found their skis quickly. One patrol has to remain on the DZ in all-round defence until dawn.

Friday, 7th March. We began the longest 'tab' of the exercise which was just over 17 kms. This only took 12 hours as the terrain and conditions were the best of the exercise—after the snow storm had stopped!

Saturday, 8th March. After completing the base we moved further North by 5 kms. where we ambushed the Brigade Headquarters on the move.

Sunday, 9th March. Having successfully disrupted the conventional forces we were committed to a last stand against APC-borne infantry and a Regiment of Swedish 'S' tanks. In addition to these forces we also faced the Saab and Viggen jets. Despite bridge demolition and delaying tactics used by the Home Guard our company was decimated—or so the umpires said.

Monday, 10th March. This last phase of the exercise was spent in continually ambushing and harassing the enemy. In the afternoon we jumped into a new area.

Wednesday, 12th March. Exhausted and unshaven—it was too cold to shave—we returned to Boden.

WELL WORTH WHILE

The attachment was very enjoyable. I was told at the end that I was the first Englishman to have completed the Winter expedition. However, some doubt was expressed about my ski-ing ability as I was attracted magnetically to many trees. I can also claim to have introduced the custom of 'currying' everything edible, as we had the same food for 17 days. So lighter by several pounds, I returned from Stockholm where there was brilliant sunshine. Needless to say it was raining in England.

The Corps cares for its own

MARCH 1975

Number of cases assisted financially	**38**
Number of parcels sent	**37**
Amount spent	**£1,957·53**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**2**
Amount spent	**£65·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

WIDOW of RQMS who served from 1928 to 1951 and died in 1970. She is very badly crippled with arthritis, and a married son and daughter-in-law live with her and look after her devotedly. As she is quite unable to climb stairs, a bedroom has been built for her on the ground floor, the son carrying out most of the work himself. Even so, the cost of the materials, etc., has been very high, and the Association made a grant of £100 towards this expense. A great effort was made by the son and daughter-in-law, and the room was completed in time for her to move into it on Mother's Day. Her letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

THANK you for very kind letter. I was touched by the kind words and the most welcome gift which was far beyond my wildest expectations. It will help me greatly, and also show my appreciation to my son and his wife for all their work and help. Once again, my grateful thanks.

Thank You!

Since the beginning of 1975, gifts of clothing, books, magazines, toys, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Major-General C. E. Page, F. of S. and Mrs. N. Crowder, Mrs. A. Wilkinson, Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. N. Lyons, Major J. F. Stokes, Mr. S. Springer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, 10th Signal Regiment, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Vacher, Mrs. V. E. Haslett, Captain A. Wright, Major J. H. W. Roake, Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham, Royal Signals Association, Sheffield Branch, A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq., Colonel J. H. Hild, Shetland Boats Ltd., Mr. S. G. Whenman, Major R. Iliffe, Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Swindale, Captain and Mrs. G. Meakin, Major H. S. de N. Rogers, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Welsford, Major-General A. J. Woodrow, Anonymous parcel from St. Ninians, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, W.O.2 (F. of S.) T. Crawley, Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, Mr. W. E. Osborne, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, Mrs. C. H. Stoneley, Major and Mrs. A. E. Carter, Mr and Mrs. J. Adlard, Captain P. Whitemore, Major C. J. Bayfield, 2 Squadron, 10th Signal Regiment, R.S.M. and Mrs. J. Maher, Mrs. K. Robertson, Major and Mrs. J. H. Roake, Major and Mrs. H. J. Crocker, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. N. Stevenson, Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. Woods, Miss Eversley.

PRIVATE YACHT FOR CHARTER

Major B. E. Sykes, late of the Corps, owns a Westerly Cirrus, *Alouette,* which is based at Oban in Scotland. He is willing to charter this during the season, other than for the month of August, for £50·00 per week. *Alouette* is fully equipped in every respect, including a 4 h.p. outboard. Anyone interested should contact **Major B. E. Sykes,** 221 rue St. Merry, 77300 Fontainebleau, France.

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School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

NEWS FROM TRAINING SUPPORT SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC TSS Squadron	**Major S. Falla**
OC Systems Ex Troop	**W.O.1 (F. of S.) Dyer**
OC Radio Ex Troop	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Hawkins**
SSM	**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Gaze**

EXERCISE 'GROUND WAVE 1/2— ARDUOUS TRAINING!

THE Squadron is currently active in many fields and not all of them with grass growing (hoots of decision from Radio Troop).

NOVEMBER 1974

One of our more notable achievements was the Squadron ski trip to Scotland which took place in two phases. The saga starts in the Squadron offices when a frowning, suspicious and anonymous personage overheard the following conversation by accident. It is not true that his ear was glued to the hatch.

O.C. Squadron to Troop Commanders: "Do you think the soldiers would like to go ski-ing in Scotland?"

F. of S. and Y. of S. chorus: "Great idea Sir."

O.C.: "Glad you like it."

O.C. through the hatch: "Sar'nt Major!"

S.S.M. shouting loudly: "Sir!" (Right ear rapidly shrivels to normal size.)

O.C.: "Who do you know in Scotland?"

S.S.M. now mellowing with the realisation of the proximity of the Highlands to Edinburgh (S.S.M. has friends in Edinburgh) gives better tempered call of: "Sir."

O.C. telephones S.O.1: "I would like to take the Squadron ski-ing."

S.O.1 smiling wryly: "Yes by all means and good luck."

In fact it was not as simple as all that and it took many calls, much negotiation (some might say bluff) to get the trip under way. Things moved very quickly with, very uncharacteristically, Systems Troop leading.

JANUARY 1975

'Systems' arrives in Scotland. They were fortunate in staying in warm billets with soft beds and fresh food to nourish their tender bodies. The darlings of the Squadron are not used to roughing it and these arrangements did much to alleviate the concern which the lads of Radio felt at the thought of 'Systems' exposure to all that nasty cold snow.

In fact there was little snow and it was only possible to ski for 2 days and this was limited to a large patch of ice which incidentally the F. of S. managed to negotiate from top to bottom on his posterior. Who called him shiny a . . . The other major event was provided by the O.C. who managed to spear his leg with a ski pole when he was pushed off the chair lift. He proudly bears the scars to this day.

FEBRUARY 1975

Radio Troop arrives in Scotland. The S.S.M. having visited Edinburgh and his advance party having collected all the tentage and ski-ing equipment, set up camp at Glenmore. A day later the main party arrived by coach with **Corporal Lenny Binns** still muttering about the lack of stops en route. Beer drinkers beware "We are 'ere for the ski-ing".

It snowed heavily before our arrival and the piste was in good condition. The following week saw most of Radio Troop making 'rapid' progress. Some with cries of "Banzai", others in reasonable control. **Corporal Jan Ozog** (voted our most unco-ordinated and unnatural skier) and **Corporal Mick Tharme** (voted as the skier who produced the most spectacular crash) worked hard to develop a new technique of ski-ing on heather. **Corporal Fred Court** was elected as the best beginner narrowly pipping **Corporal Paul Neale, Signalman Roy Clissold, Lance-Corporal Nigel Sloane, Lance-Corporal Phil Dolby, Lance-Corporal Steve Scarll** and **Lance-Corporal Cliff Marshall.**

They all did well learning to 'bend ze knees', 'edge' and some even managed to keep their eyes open on the way down. All credit goes to our two trained ski instructors, **Corporal Dave Cormack** and **Lance-Corporal Steve Tomlinson,** who did a fine job.

The most serious injury was sustained by **Sergeant Geoff Adams,** who bellowed out of all proportion to the size of the tiny bone he broke in his foot. **Sergeant Rod Wilson** badly strained an ankle and was therefore co-opted to help casevac **Sergeant Adams** to Blandford. **Sergeant Wilson** managed to drop **Sergeant Adams** on the platform at Euston thereby causing **Sergeant Adams'** plaster cast to break to the accompaniment of more bellowing and an unwanted vocabulary lesson to all on the Station. **Corporal Bryan Higgins** strained a thumb knocking in tent pegs and the S.S.M.'s varicose veins played him up. It was thought, however, that ski-ing was a lot safer than playing football in a Radio v. Systems match.

Lance-Corporal Ball, the chef, did well but he had us all clucking towards the end of the week on a diet of chicken supreme.

All those who took part, enjoyed themselves and thought they had gained a valuable experience. The coach pulled out of the camp site en route for Blandford to the strains of "Who's smiling now".

It is certified that this was written by O.C. Radio Troop and is a true and unbiased account of the events.

EXERCISE 'COLD COMFORT III' IN NORWAY

OBJECT

TO rid themselves of a few extra pounds and to master the techniques of cross-country ski-ing (Langlauf to BAOR skiers, Langrem to the Nordic types). All this without snow! Difficult! The dry ski slope and track at Tidworth gave some idea of what was in store for the absolute novices and the basic skills of fitting ski bindings to boots, and boots to feet, and feet to legs, were covered during this preparation period. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John Godwin** insisted on practising his rear end emergency stops but was quickly reassured that snow was much softer (if much colder) then 2-inch stiff nylon bristles.

6th MARCH—DAY 1

Amid amused stares and gestures aimed at the skis, poles, goggles and other Arctic type equipment, which does *sometimes* look out of place in the better type of weather sometimes experienced at Blandford, a party of 7, ably led by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Andy' Harkins,** left for RAF Lyneham where they were to be joined by **Signalmen Tony 'Spanner' Levy** and **Dave Leyland** of 10th Signal Regiment.

Arriving at Bergen without a hitch (despite the joint efforts of RCT movements and RAF—sorry, I'm only joking—honest!) we travelled by bus across the mountains of the Hardanger Vidda and Haukeliseter to the area of Rjukan, perhaps better known for the heavy-water plant, scene of the epic World War 2 story of the Heroes of Telemark (the real one, not the Kirk Douglas one); a 10 km. trip up a mountainside to Kvitavatn Fjellstoge, a mountain ski lodge run by **ex-Major Rod Tuck,** of British Biathlon fame, arriving at 2.30 in the morning for a well earned couple of hours shut eye.

8th MARCH—DAY 3

Up at 0700, breakfast 0730, unpacked skis etc. and out onto the snow at about 0900 after preparation of the skis. To the non-Nordic types, this involves coating the base of the skis with different grades of ski wax in order to give grip for uphill movement (yes, even without the ski-lift) and also to give a good element of glide for level and downhill movement. The type and coating of the different waxes can be a complicated subject as it is depend-end on air and snow temperatures, types of snow and other factors which were covered in preliminary lectures and which we were to practice during the next 2 weeks.

The ski lodge is situated at over 900 metres at the edge of a large lake (which was of course frozen and deep in perfect snow) which is in turn shrouded by the largest mountain in Southern Norway—Gaustatoppen—at a height of 1,883 m. With this impressive setting **'Andy' Harkins** commenced the instruction

to give us our basic grounding, and off we went on an unsteady 5 km. trek, around the Kvitavatn Lake.

There were many impressive acrobatic falls, not least of which was performed by **Corporal Mick Whitley,** of Trials Squadron. If you can imagine the normal (?) freefall position, on skis, about 3 feet in the air then that was **Mick. Sergeant Ray Hunter** spent half the time with head in the snow, presumably checking that he still had wax on his skis (not recommended at 20 m.p.h. downhill).

The next few days were spent learning the techniques required to control one's speed, direction and nerves and by the end of day 5, the standard of ski-ing had improved so much that we spent an afternoon climbing high up onto the mountain sides above the tree-line, and descending on virgin snow through the trees. **Signalman Wayne Brown** was heard to mutter various comments about not wanting to see another Christmas tree ever, whilst **Lance-Corporal Dave 'Nanuck of the North' Nurse** kept reminding **Tony Levy** that it was an offence to demolish Norwegian Spruce. **Tony** (of course) ignored him and continued to try to adorn every Christmas tree he could manage to snow-plough into.

The 'Lowlander's' International ski races were run during our visit and we saw how teams from Great Britain, The Netherlands and Denmark (including Greenlanders) managed to negotiate the Olympic standard red racing circuits. We were even more pleased to see that even some of the International standard skiers managed to fall on some of the very difficult sections, that we had been bouncing around on. At least the holes we left were bigger and deeper than theirs.

The glorious sunshine continued and toward the end of the 2 weeks, 7 sunburnt members took and passed the British Ski Federation's Bronze test of cross-country ski-ing proficiency. **Yeoman 'Andy' Harkins** had passed his Silver the previous year, his instructor's badge in January of this year on a mountain leadership course; **Yeoman Harry Cooke** had also taken and passed his Bronze the previous year and attempted the Silver but unfortunately he had 2 uncorrected errors (both on his backside in 5 ft. of snow).

The last day included a 6 km. race in which we competed against a group of Hussars who were gallantly led (naturally) by **Second-Lieutenant David Ahearne.** We didn't win but we were second. **Messrs. Hunter, Godwin** and **Cooke** complained bitterly that the over 30's should have some form of handicap, but at least there is some consolation that the 'old' signallers beat the 'young' signallers. There's a moral there somewhere.

At the end of 2 weeks of glorious sunshine and perfect snow conditions and many, many kilometres, a group of 9 were seen leaving Rjukan by bus for Bergen, 3 days by LSL to Marchwood and thence to Blandford with only brown faces, a few bruises and many, many happy memories of the beauty and challenges of cross-country ski-ing in Norway. Roll on Winter 76.

EXERCISE 'COLD COMFORT III'
READY FOR THE BIG RACE

Back row, left to right: Corporal Mick Whitley, Signalman Dave Leyland, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John Godwin, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Harry Cooke, Lance-Corporal Dave Nurse

Front row, left to right: Sergeant Ray Hunter, Signalman Tony Levy, Signalman Wayne Brown, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Andy Harkins

Report from Royal and Gurkha Signals, Hong Kong

CHANGE OF COMMAND

ROYAL and Gurkha Signals bade farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Benbow** on several occasions before they finally departed from Kai Tak on 21st March. Our best wishes go with **Colonel Bob** and **Pauline** as they move from one concrete jungle to another (MOD). We welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander** and his wife **Mary** from MOD and judging by his first couple of weeks are in for a lively two and a half years.

VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E. spent a week in Hong Kong in January, arriving from the heat of Singapore into typical British weather. It was cloudy and overcast, with occasional rain but this did not stop him completing a full morning with 27th Signal Regiment. This included a tour of the Force Commcen and inspecting a parade of British and Hong Kong soldiers, commanded by **Major I. J. Hamilton.** After the inspection LS and GC medals were presented to **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. Moat** and **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) P. J. Bunting.** Following lunch the SO-in-C visited the Joint Service Transmitter Station on Stonecutters Island, where he met the Royal Navy Communicators.

Next day, **General Tighe** visited the two Gurkha Signa Squadrons in the Colony.

At Sek Kong, a ceremonial Barrack Guard was formed up on the apron of 656 Squadron AAC heliport, a parish over which **Major 'Willie' Watson** presides as the Admin Officer. The 'Two Star' Scout helicopters landed and the General, accompanied by **Colonel Bob Benbow,** was greeted by **Major Mike Jennings,** OC 48 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. The Guard, which included a Gurkha Signals Piper and a Drummer in full regalia, was duly inspected and when dismissed disappeared sharply into the distance at 140 paces to the minute. The General then had a brief word with the Sek Kong based Gurkha Signals hierarchy including **Major Mike Barrett,** the Regimental Second-in-Command and **W.O.1 Gordon Haughie** the RSM of 48 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, before moving to Brigade HQ to present a bronze 'Comstar' award to the Commcen.

During his tour of 48 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, the General met and congratulated **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Kidd** on his award of the BEM in the New Year's Honours list. **Foreman Kidd** had recently joined the Squadron from 32nd Signal Regiment (V) where he had been recommended for the award.

A brief look at the Gurkha Signals Trade Training preceded a drink with the British and Gurkha Seniors in the Sergeants' Mess before lunch in the Gurkha Signals Officers' Mess.

After lunch the General travelled the scenic route from the countryside of Sek Kong to the concrete and noise of Shamshuipo Camp in Kowloon. For noise pollution 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron situated directly under the final approach flight path for Kai Tak Airport, rivals that which used to disturb the occupants of the old RHQ Block in 19th Signal Regiment, Changi, Singapore.

The Squadron's mobile radio detachment were lined up and the SO-in-C made a particular point of talking to as many of the Officers and Soldiers as possible during his brief visit.

In the evening a dinner dance was held in the Miramar Hotel for British Royal and Gurkha Signals Officers and SNCOs in Hong Kong at which the SO-in-C gave 'instructions on the use of a microphone when singing' to the girl cabaret artist—but to no avail!

To complete his tour of the Colony **Colonel Benbow** took the SO-in-C round the Fanling Golf Course. **Colonel Benbow** blamed his bad golf on a senior officer bringing his own weather.

General Tighe joined the British and Gurkha Officers and their wives for a supper party in the Gurkha Signals Officers' Mess. Though drizzling with rain, the Regimental Pipes and Drums played on the lawn and until the rain shorted the electrical circuit, were floodlit! A most enjoyable evening ensued during which a pewter mug was presented to **Major Ron Fletcher** to mark the end of a three year tour as OC 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron and **Gurkha Major Bhupal Gurung** presented the General with a pair of silver kukri cufflinks and a Nepalese woven handbag for **Mrs. Tighe,** as a memento of the visit. This function was the last event on the SO-in-C's Hong Kong programme as the following morning he flew off to Nepal to visit the Gurkha establishments in Kathmandu and Dharan.

NEPAL SIGNAL TROOP

Many readers of THE WIRE will never have heard of the Nepal Signal Troop. The Troop was formed in 1958 with the task of providing communications for the British Gurkha L of C. The Troop is based at Dharan at the foot of the Himalayas and has outstations in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, and Paklihawa and Pokhara in the West of Nepal. Until comparatively recently communications between Nepal and Malaysia and within Nepal itself were by hand-speed morse. All the links have now been converted to D11/R234 teleprinter nets. The Troop is manned by 9 military staff and 30 ex-Gurkha Signals civilians.

The Troop provides communications back to Hong Kong and within Nepal for the two Gurkha Recruiting Depots, the British Embassy and Transit Camp in Kathmandu and for several British Aid Schemes in Nepal.

1974

1974 was both a busy and successful year for the Troop. In January, **Staff Sergeant 'Robbie' Robertson** was awarded a BEM in the New Year's Honours List, which was presented by HE, The Ambassador to Nepal; well earned after 30 years in the Corps! **Sergeant Ginbahadur Thapa** also received his LS and GC medal. In October the Communications Project Agency installation teams headed by **Major Phil Mootham** arrived with 40 tons of equipment which they proceeded to install at Dharan Kathmandu and Paklihawa. This included eight D11/R234 stations and a 150 line automatic telephone exchange. We now have a much improved communication system.

VISIT OF SO-IN-C

On 14th January, the SO-in-C, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.** and CR Signals, Hong Kong, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Benbow** arrived in Kathmandu. After paying a brief courtesy call on HE, The Ambassador to Nepal, they visited the Kathmandu Commcen. The following morning they did some sight-seeing in Kathmandu and then flew to Dharan, in time to play golf in the afternoon. On 16th January they visited the new Commcen and Transmitter Site, the British Military Hospital and the resettlement farm. That evening the Commander, Brigadier Nepal, **Brigadier A. A. Dacre, O.B.E.,** late Royal Signals held a party to which a number of serving and ex-Gurkha Signals servicemen were invited. They left the following day from the golf course by light aricraft bound for Kathmandu. The SO-in-C went straight on to Delhi the same day to start his official visit to India as a guest of the Indian Army.

News from Regiments

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

WORM'S EYE VIEW—A LETTER FROM HERFORD

DEAR Reader,

What is it they say of March—in like a roaring lion and out like a lamb? That may describe the weather (it didn't this year in any case) but it doesn't describe last month for most of us in the Regiment. March roared in, or rather we roared into March, at a very smart pace and then continued to accelerate!

It all began when we got back from Exercise 'Quarterdeck' on 21st February, having just given the odd impromptu demonstration of how we move our Commcens etc. at least twice a day, for the benefit of about 50 students from the Staff Course at Shrivenham. Did I tell you incidentally about the RSM and the helicopters? There he was stuck in the middle of this huge great field at Senne Ranges with a nice coloured 'H' laid out and the helicopter handler's manual in his back pocket just in case he forgot the right signs. The choppers appeared, five great Wessex beasts, completely ignored the 'H', the RSM and his manual and calmly landed in a field half the size and 400 yards away! Anyway to get back to March we had a week to get the place ready as Control HQ for Exercise 'Wintex'. The gym was transformed into a lot of little cells by **Sergeant George Black** and his lads and they even had a thing called a 'bird table', but I didn't see any extra birds about, worse luck! **S.S.I. Vince Flaherty** got sent on leave lucky chap, so he shouldn't see what a mess they made of his gym. On Monday the 3rd the fun began and all sorts of blokes started turning up to run the thing. There were hoards of officers sleeping in the Court Martial Centre and meals went on till all hours. As far as I could see all they did in the gym was drink coffee and eat sandwiches. Would you believe that we served up nearly 1,200 gallons of coffee in 10 days and I don't know how many sarnies? It must have been enough to turn **'Q' Parkinson** grey. He and his lads in the cookhouse worked like blooming Trojans.

By Friday the 14th it was all over bar the clearing up and we were all heaving sighs of relief when someone said " 'Flying Falcon' starts on Tuesday"! and it did. But we all enjoyed it despite the weather, and after all there were plenty of visitors to liven things up. **Major-General Tighe** our new SO-in-C, the CSO, **General Cunningham** (ACGS (OR)), **Air Commodore Morris** and CCR Signals. Anyhow they all looked happy to see us looking happy, if you see what I mean, and so everybody was happy.

Like all good things of course 'Flying Falcon' came to an end and we got back to camp on Wednesday the 26th. All of us that is except about half of **Captain 'Stevie' Galpin's** Commcen Golf which got stuck in the mud on top of the Bielefeld ridge and didn't get back till the next day!

After a hasty clean up on the Thursday we were all off like a shot on Easter break, it was just like the end of term at school. Now although this letter's meant to be only about March and I haven't got much more time or paper I must just tell you about the MP's visit on last Wednesday (9th April). For our bit we took them up to our local ranges at Schwarzenmoor to let them shoot SMG's and pistols and then to the Sergeants' Mess. You can see from the snaps I'm enclosing that they enjoyed themselves (and so did our lads who were coaching). No time for any more news now. I'll bring you up to date in next month's letter.

Yours,

'Alfie'

"IT'S EASY, MISS, JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND SQUEEZE!"
Corporal 'Spike' Milligan coaches Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative M.P. for Plymouth, Drake, on the finer points of the 9 mm. Browning automatic. In the background Sergeant Stan Davis looks suitably serious

CONVERSATION PIECE

Mr. Alex Woodall, Labour Member of Parliament for Hemsworth, Yorks, enjoying a glass of beer in the Sergeants' Mess and chatting to (*Left to right*): Staff Sergeant Charlie Tapp, Sergeant Gerry Craggs, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Robin Price and Staff Sergeant Barry Morgan, RAOC

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

FOOTBALL FIESTA

AS daylight broke over North Yorkshire on 5th March 700 soldiers of the Regiment were to be seen heading south to Aldershot. Their destination—the Central Stadium. Their purpose—to support the Regimental team in the final of the UKLF Association Football Cup against COD Bicester. We were all quite confident of victory but at that time had no idea that it would take 210 minutes of football to confirm our confidence. The match on 5th March was a hard and evenly fought battle on a heavy ground which remained undecided after extra time with the score sheet recording one goal to each team. In the replay on 6th March victory was justifiably ours by two goals to one. A most excellent performance by all members of the team.

This victory put the Regiment into the final of the Army Cup on 9th April when we will do battle against 28th Signal Regiment—the winners of the BAOR final. This will be an historic occasion being the first time in the history of the competition when the final has been a single Corps affair. Well done the Corps.—(and 8th Signal Regiment who came out final winners by 1–0—Editor.)

In between times the football fiesta has continued with our participation in the Jubilee Cup competition sponsored by Watney Mann and NAAFI. Many fine pints of beer were consumed in the course of this inter-service competition and a great deal of exciting and high class football seen in matches against RAF Lyneham and HMS Seahawk (RNAS Culdrose). The Regiment played a 1–1 draw against the RAF and defeated HMS Seahawk by 3 goals to 2. If 'away' goals counted double, as they do in some competitions, the Cup would be in our showcase. In the event we were runners up and congratulate RAF Lyneham on their victory.

NO SECOND PLACE FOR HOCKEY

Not to be outdone the Regimental hockey team has swept aside all opposition to reach the final of the Army competition. In the final of the UKLF competition the Regiment defeated RAPC Worthy Down by one goal to nil. Needless to say the Regiment and team are full of confidence for the final and if both the hockey team and football team run out winners of their respective finals it will mark a most remarkable achievement in the history of the Regiment—and of the Corps!

(8th Signal Regiment scored a double triumph. They beat 42nd Regiment, Royal Artillery, by 4–2 in the final of the Army Hockey final)

MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS

The Regiment entered six riders for the South East/West District Championships on 23rd March. Three riders, forming one team, were awarded the prize for the best visiting team. Well done **Sergeant Ross, Sergeant Hendry** and **Corporal Walker. Corporal Walker** was also awarded the 'Best Visitor (Expert)' prize and would have been the competition overall winner if he had been stationed in South/West/East district. This was an exceptionally good performance. **Sergeant Ross** gained the prize for the 'Second Best Visitor (Expert)'.

The Regiment's sporting record is beginning to read—"You name it—we have won it".

NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS

Without doubt, the piece de resistance of many excellent functions held in the Sergeants' Mess was the Spring Ball which was held just prior to the Easter break.

Those who are acquainted with the layout of the Mess must be aware of the hard work and toil involved in organising a function for 200 plus members and their ladies. The numbers attending had unfortunately to be restricted, in such a small mess building, but it truly was a magnificent occasion of the highest standard with thanks to the PMC, **W.O.2 Carl Widdowson,** and the PEC, **Staff Sergeant 'Spud' Murphy. (Staff Sergeant 'Spud' Murphy** has at last found his bent in life—moving tables and chairs).

The wining and dining are also worthy of note, and though the Mess Bills have taken a turn for the worse, two Mess Dinners in January and February—the latter to dine in the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier R. A. King**—enabled the majority of the mess to rescue their mess kits from the Catterick moths.

During the Commander's dining-in, the R.S.M., **W.O.1 J. Frost** spoke highly of the Brigadier's many sporting achievements and in doing so drew a parallel to the Regiment's latest feats in this field.

Another 'first' for the mess in the Garrison is the formation of two Quiz teams and challenges to the local Contabulary, Royal Air Force and other Garrison Messes have been dispatched.

No doubt in our next WIRE Notes we shall be able to report on our successes—so watch this space.

Finally, congratulations must be uttered to those members of the mess who have been able to hide any criminal tendencies over 18 years: **Staff Sergeant George Harwood, Sergeant Bill Scott** and **Sergeant Tom Oliver**—all have been awarded their LS & GC.

Didn't they do well!

Mrs. Sylvia Rogers. Mrs. Rogers, who so ably runs our families office, was awarded the GOC's Commendation for outstanding work and devotion to duty. Well done **Sylvia.**

Mr. John Knight. Mr. Knight, an instructor in Driver/Power Group, was awarded the 'Imperial Service Medal' for long and loyal government service. Congratulations.

Private Diane White, WRAC. Diane achieved an 'A' grading on completion of her Switchboard Operators Course, and her name is now added to the distinguished roll of 'A' grading personnel in the Trade Training School.

Sergeant Tom Oliver receiving his LS & GC medal from the Commanding Officer, Colonel John Hart, O.B.E.

SHE ACHIEVED AN 'A' GRADE

Private Diane White, WRAC receives a plaque to mark her achievement from Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Tanner

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10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

THE MIXED QUARTER GUARD FOR THE SO-in-C's VISIT TO 10th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Left to right: Corporal Morgan, Private Davies, Signalman Fleming, Private Manifold, Signalman Steele, Private Thomas, Lance-Corporal Pywell, Private Pinch (*hidden*), Signalman Barber (Flag 1), Signalman Smith (Flag 2), Signalman Graham (Flag 3), Signalman Chilton, Lance-Corporal Harris, Signalman Leyland, Private Orchard, Signalman Briggs, Private King, Signalman Claydon, Corporal Allan Guard Commander: Sergeant Graham, Bugler: Lance-Corporal Randall. Not pictured Signalman Cox

VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF, MAJOR-GENERAL P. A. M. TIGHE, M.B.E.

THE Hounslow element of the Regiment held its first mixed guard of honour for the visit of the SO-in-C, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.** on 3rd April escorted by **Lieutenant Joyce Pilkington,** WRAC, his ADC for the day. After nights of concentrated prayer the day dawned bright and clear and the General arrived on time with his motor cycle escort. (Thank God they didn't miss him coming off the motorway). It was a really nerve shattering experience as we all wondered with bated breath whether our spanking new fibre glass Jimmy would retain its precarious pose until the car had passed. It had been supported by planks—wooden, until the very last moment. He was greeted by the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Nice** and Adjutant, **Homfray Vines** whilst the Second-in-Command, **Major Ted Baxter** hovered in the background directing press and photographers (and in particular one attractive blonde!). The General inspected what we claim is a 'first ever'—a mixed guard of Royal Signals and WRAC from 2 Squadron and HQ Troop. (We're all for women's lib here at Hounslow).

It was an attractive sight to see the 8 men and 8 girls in a semi-circle in front of our famous mascot 'Bruno' with the Squadron pennants flying in the foreground and 'Bruno' in fact had been specially turned around for the occasion and for the first time in his career at Hounslow was able to see RHQ and Squadron buildings and what goes on! (All his applications to revert to his former position have been turned down by the CO.)

Those on parade were **Sergeant Pete Graham** (Guard Commander), **Corporal 'Taff' Morgan, Lance-Corporal Keith Pywell, Signalmen Stewart Fleming, Neil Leyland, Adrian Steele, 'Barnie' Cox, Ray Briggs, Terry Claydon** and **Steve Chilton.** The more attractive were **Corporal Fiona Allan, Lance-Corporal Jean Harris, Privates Liz Manifold, Alison King, Jackie Thomas, Babs Daves, Phyllis Norquay** and **April Pinch.**

Mick Barber, Andy Smith and **Jack Graham** acted as lancemen and **Lance-Corporal Bernard Randall** made a valiant attempt to blow the bugle.

There was then a briefing on the role of the Regiment and the SO-in-C was introduced to Officers from the Regiment assembled for the occasion. These included **Major Stan Wood** from Aldershot who must be the only man in command of a female Squadron (and contrary to popular belief he is *not* henpecked!), **Major Dick Carroll** was there from Wilton minus golf clubs, **Major Jenny Brady** and the Regiment's civilian admin Officer, **Bob Bray.**

After coffee the SO-in-C visited the various Troops of 2 Squadron—Radio Troop where he was able to hear and see the many tasks undertaken by **Sergeant Mike Gowling** and his merry men. SWS Troop (who are in danger of getting themselves blown up on the ranges) and then on to the Bruno Club where he presented the Imperial Service Medals to **Mr. Walter Trussler** and **Mr. Maurice Enser.**

After a buffet luncheon in the Garrison Officers' Mess the SO-in-C concluded his visit with a tour of the Royal Signals Demonstration Team where he was able to renew his acquaintance with **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Sherrard-Smith** and view the team's show material which they are busily organising for their summer show.

The General then left with his motor cycle outriders to return home and we had a slight panic on seeing his car go straight on whilst the cyclists turned right. Before **W.O.2 Eric Smith** started to do a ton to catch the car the General cheerily waved him goodbye and left unescorted.

3 SQUADRON

THE ALDERSHOT HILTON?

Those of you considering taking up residence in the Hampshire area might turn your attention to this well appointed self-contained 'home from home'. Accommodation can be provided for up to 400, but regrettably the great British Male has no place here. This desirable residence can be enjoyed for periods ranging from a few days' gentle sojourn in the Transit Wing, to a two-year stay in more permanent surroundings. Life can be idyllic. Imagine it if you will, rising in the morning to wend your way to a well cooked breakfast—and no washing up. Then to work, either a brisk walk across the Parade ground to the Commcen, or a short wander to the Squadron Offices. NAAFI—with all the wonderful facilities that one word conjures up—is easily accessible beneath the same roof. Televisions abound, good company is all around one—what more could you ask for? Men? Yes, these too are provided, whole brigades of them for your enjoyment. So ladies, remember, when you get out the brochures to choose your next posting, consider Aldershot with the delights and wonders of the Duchess of Kent Barracks.

SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME

"I wasn't lost at all. I just wasn't too sure where I was exactly". "Anyway, everyone else had disappeared, and it seemed the right way to go at the time". These, and other unprintable comments, were heard in the region of **Captain 'Pippa' Jarman** when she eventually managed to locate the 'Finish'. Having made a good start to the S.E. and London District women's cross country race, our Second-in-Command lost contact with the leading runners and took a wrong turn. However, **Private Linda Walker** came 9th and was selected to go on to the Army championships as part of the S.E. (West) District team which finished second overall.

SPORT

HOCKEY

As a close to our very successful hockey season, the Regimental hockey team captained by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Harry O'Mahoney** won the London District minor units KO cup competition. Rumour hath it that **Harry** and **Major Ted Baxter** have hung up their sticks and burnt their boots.

Our hockey Officer and umpire, **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Phil Phillips** has locked away his bulky hockey file and whistle and his cry is now, who plays cricket? Step forward the hockey team! We would like to congratulate our team at the end of a very successful season. The members are the Second-in-Command, **Major Ted Baxter,** Adjutant, **Captain Homfray Vines, Signalmen Tony Reynolds, Billy Thorpe, Doug Brooker, Dave Fry, 'Mitch' Mitchell, Sergeants Mick South, Ray Walton** (soccer skipper), **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Graham Griffiths** and not forgetting **Lance-Corporal Bernie Randall** our goal keeper and dhobi walla.

The sad loss from our team of **Sergeant Ron Hambleton** cannot go without mention, a good stalwart, we know how much he enjoyed his games with us. The team wish to offer their special condolences to **Mrs. Hambleton** and wish her and the children the best of luck in the future.

BRUNO CLUB—THE BRAINS OF HOUNSLOW

A short while ago the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Nice** had a flash of genius and said, "Let's run a quiz like they do on TV". Consequently **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Phil Phillips** became the Regiment's answer to **Nicholas Parsons.** Mr. Scorer came in the form of **S.S.M. Graham Griffiths** and **O.R.Q.M.S. Eddie 'The handsome one' Duncan.** QM, **Major Howard** completed the trio as timer extraordinaire with SWS Troop providing an excellent light and buzzer service. Those invited to compete, included teams from the Wives Club, CPO, WRAC Detachment, 419 Troop RCT, Officers' Mess as well as teams from within the Regiment.

So the Battle of the buzzers commenced and after many closely fought battles, the finalists emerged in the shapely form of the WRAC and Command Pay Office (not so shapely) teams. After a nail biting final CPO came out as victors by a narrow margin. In the plate competition run for the first round losers, Radio Troop beat the Wives Club. The prizes for the winning teams were presented by the CO at a pub-lunch the following day. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who took part in what proved to be an exciting and stimulating competition.

SERGEANT RONALD EDWARD HAMBLETON

10th Signal Regiment write:

It is with deep regret that we report the death on 24th March of Sergeant Ronald Edward Hambleton.

Sergeant Hambleton was a very popular man who worked in the London District Communication Centre. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

To his wife and family we offer our most sincere sympathy.

11 Sig Regt,
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON

TAKING YOU A STAGE FURTHER

ANOTHER busy month that has passed in a flash. 2 Troop have formed and are now in training along with 4 Troop under **W.O.1 Ted Hunt** and 5 Troop under **Lieutenant 'Rick' Palmer. Lieutenant Dick Gittings,** assisted by **Sergeant Ian Chapman, Corporal Sam Dool, Lance-Corporal Joey Vernan** and **Signalman Ray Holdsworth** have spent this month in the Cairngorms teaching members of 1 Troop and 6 Troop to ski, or rather how to stand up again. In 7 Troop (the holding troop) **Sergeant Eddie Whiffen** and **Corporal Mark Cook** have maintained an average strength of 45 men and despatched 58 during the month to trade training. Our OC, **Major Peter Todd, B.E.M.** has continued to dispense justice over the table, aided by his Alsatian, **Cindy,** from under the table.

2 TROOP PASS OFF PARADE, 21st MARCH

2 Troop led by **Captain Howard Van Praag** passed off on Friday, 21st March. It was a good parade, justifying 10 weeks hard work by **Sergeant Ray Crook, Corporal Gordon Air** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taffy' Wilce.** The parade was inspected by **Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin,** Commander of 2 Signal Group.

The prize for best recruit was awarded to **Signalman George Phillips, B.Sc.** who decided that 10 weeks basic training was the perfect post-graduate course! **Signalman Phillips** and eight others in 2 Troop are soon to go before the RCB, we wish them all well. The prize for best shot was awarded to **Signalman Alan Clements** for his consistent high shooting scores. We wish all members of 2 Troop well for their future in the Corps.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS

Brigadier Baldwin honoured us by presenting **W.O.2 Eric Ormond** with the meritorious service medal and **Sergeant Alan Plumbridge** (our armoury NCO) the long service and good conduct medal. **Brigadier Baldwin** was assisted during the ceremony by **Signalman Peter Ormond, W.O.1 Ormond's** son, who passed off as a recruit with 2 Troop.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Mention must be made of two very special guests on the 21st March. We were delighted to host **Mr.** and **Mrs. Norman Jones** for the day. **Norman Jones** joined the Corps here in Catterick in 1928 and trained as a lineman. He was then a member of the Royal Signals Display Team—The White Helmets which was a mixture of horses and motorcycles and was based in Loos Lines, Catterick Camp. In 1936 he joined 3rd (Indian) Division Signal Regiment in Mecrut for three years and this tour was followed by two years in Peshawer on the North West Frontier. In 1942 he moved to HQ Singapore as RQMS and after 39 days there was captured by the Japanese, subsequently to work on the infamous Burma Railway. Near the end of the war the Japanese transferred him with many other POW's to Japan. On the way his ship was torpedoed by a British submarine, and **Norman** survived this to to be taken to a POW camp which actually caught the blast of the Hiroshima Atom Bomb. After the war he returned to Britain to serve with 120 (Territorial) Signal Regiment in Birmingham. He retired from the army in 1949 and has since lost touch with many

old friends. **So ex-2317678 Norman Jones, Royal Signals of 13 Brooklyn Road, Windlestone, Ferryhill, Co. Durham would be delighted to hear from any of his old comrades. We hope to see Norman and his wife again at Catterick 75.**

IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US!

Best wishes go to **Sergeant Ian Chapman** who married **Christine Aitken** on 21st March at Scarborough. Obviously one of the dangers of adventurous training not normally recognised!

2 SQUADRON

The Junior Signalman's Squadron continues to make a name for itself in the field of sport as follows:

RUGBY

On the 1st April the Squadron Rugby Team were in the final of the junior Army minor units challenge cup. The team had travelled down to Aldershot and stayed with 216 (Para) Signal Squadron, by courtesy of the OC.

The match was against the Junior Company Welsh Depot from Crickhowell. **Junior Lance-Corporal Alfie Birch** opened the score in the first 30 seconds of the game with a penalty kick from 50 yards. The Welsh retaliated with a fine try from their winger to make 6 points to 3 points. At this time the Squadron were under pressure when **Lance-Corporal Alfie Birch** had a fine run along the full length of the pitch just failing to score. A few minutes after, **Lance-Corporal Alfie Birch** converted a penalty to make it 6 all. Just on the last minute of the first half, the Welsh scored to make it 10 points to 6 points. In the second half our forwards under **J/Lance-Corporal Mark James** commanded the play achieving almost 100% ball from scrum and line. Our first try came from one of our numerous set moves when the Welsh tackled everyone except **J/Lance-Corporal Mark James** who had the ball and scored a try in the corner. **J/Lance-Corporal Alfie Birch** true to form converted. Against the run of the play the Welsh took the lead with a penalty try and conversion. However, the Squadron came back with a try scored by **J/Signalman Derek Connor** and once again **J/Lance-Corporal Alfie Birch** converted to make the final score 18 points to 16 points for the Squadron.

All credit for the team's success must go to **Lance-Corporal Harry Elkan** for his drive and enthusiasm for training the team, and for the boys, most of whom had never played Rugby before.

BOXING

At the junior Army individual boxing championships, held at the beginning of March our three boxers, trained by **Sergeant S. D. Kennedy** did very well. **J/Lance-Corporal 'Bolts' Boulton** won a title, stopping his opponent in the first round of the final. **J/Lance-Corporal 'Cockney' James** beat two people on his way to a final but was himself then knocked out by a current British Schools Champion. Our final boxer, **J/Lance-Corporal 'Tank' Stevenson** reached a semi-final and looked set for victory when he was disqualified for ducking. Considering the lack of previous experience, it was a creditable performance by all.

TRIATHLON

Early March also saw the Squadron sending away three teams to the North East District Triathlon Championships. As it was the first time the Squadron had entered this event, standards were unknown. In the end, the teams put up a fine show, finishing second, third and fourth overall. Some consolation for not winning the team event came from the efforts of **J/Corporal Carr** and **J/Signalman Taylor,** who tied for the individual title.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

In between all the sport, some work has been done, with a week being spent on the ranges at Otterburn and then three days adventurous training at Scarborough. All efforts are now being directed towards the end of term when seven troops pass off in what must be the biggest pass off parade seen at Catterick for many a day. With so many leaving, it's hard to note new arrivals, but we do welcome **Lieutenants John Cook** and **Martin Stretch** and wish them a happy stay with the Squadron.

EXERCISE 'WHITE LADY'—2 SQUADRON—MARCH 1975

After much hard work, planning and training, the Squadron Ski team was cajoled and galvanised into action by **Lieutenant 'Mac' McKinlay** and **Corporal Pete Harris.** The aim of the exercise was to enter two teams in the Army junior Alpine championships on 6th March.

The day of the Juniors race was a real washout, with gusts 60–90 knots at the summit of Cairngorm, and the race was postponed. The remainder of the morning was spent watching International curling in the Aviemore Centre.

At 1400 hours is was announced that the race would take place on the Coire Cas, so we made our way to Ciarngorm with the following teams. **J/Corporal Steve Sadler, J/Signalman Paul Green, J/Signalman Kevin Dooley, J/Signalman Jimmy Gribben; J/Lance-Corporal Ian Steward, J/Signalman Pete Callary, J/Signalman Robert Dillett, J/Signalman Mike Voros.**

These two teams came 6th and 9th respectively out of 16 qualifying teams, the fastest was **Jimmy Gribben** who came 10th out of 72 with a time of 56·64 seconds. Unfortunately **Mike Voros** twisted his knee badly prior to the race and was evacuated to Inverness Hospital, but both **Jimmy Gribben** and **Ian Steward** qualified for the Senior event the next day.

REGULAR ARMY RACE, FRIDAY, 7th MARCH

The Regimental team consisted of the following: **Lieutenant Dick Gittings, Lieutenant Malcolm McKinlay, Sergeant Tony Cowan Martin, Sergeant Pete Watson, Corporal Pete Harris.**

The team were placed 13th out of 28 teams. **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** and **Corporal Pete Harris** qualified for the open race the next day and **Pete Harris** came 20th out of 111 racers winning the Royal Signals Scottish Command ski trophy.

3 SQUADRON

Having just completed two weeks block leave the Squadron is once again ready for the onslaught of courses. Just prior to block leave we held a Squadron social evening in our cinema which was a terrific success. The highlight of the evening being a small sketch about film-making entitled 'The Stand-in'. It was very ably directed, produced and starred by **Captain (Q.M.) Cecil B. De Alfred** and **W.O.2 (Q.M.S.I.) 'Smooth hips' Davies.**

Staff Sergeant's Courses 96/97 were both completed on 21st March and the end of course dinner was followed by some excellent entertainment from the students. Congratulations to **Sergeants Pete Roscoe** and **Len Kenyon** on attaining top student of their respective courses.

Lastly, but by no means least, sincere congratulations to **W.O.1 Bert Irons** and his wife **Caroline** on the birth of their son **Christopher.**

14 Sig Regt Worcester

PFFR

THE Commander 1 Signal Group, **Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.,** having satisfied himself of the Regiment's ability to communicate on a number of exercises both in UK and overseas, added the P to our FFR by deciding to concentrate on physical fitness.

The day commenced with two workmen, reputedly from DOE, searching for the container bay to carry out repairs. Fortunately they sought directions from our MTO, **Captain Fred Gardner,** who has an unerring instinct to direct all soldiers to the railway station. On feeling himself urged to send them to Shrub Hill, he doubted that they were bona fide and directed them to the guardroom. Further interrogation eventually revealed that they were members of the FFR team testing security. Another gentleman masqueraded as a reporter from the *Worcester Journal* with a very plausible cover story. While this was being checked, he was very humanely allowed to use the toilet facilities. With red faces we report that this is one Regiment where you cannot call at RHQ's convenience.

A general alarm then started everyone running and set the tone for the day. Squadrons produced parties for range details, APFA tests and BE tests which caused the usual calm of the barracks to be punctuated with grunts and groans. Some were more favoured than others: **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Murray Foster** was selected for APFA tests in the morning and BE in the afternoon. Friends will

(Continued on page 165)

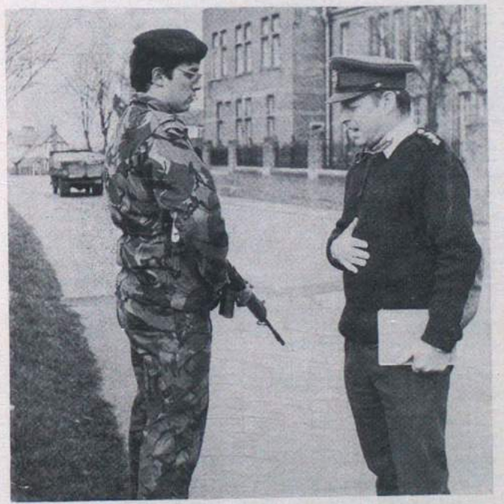
(Continued from page 164)

be relieved to hear that a mirror held close to his lips still fogs slightly. The Commander coped with a full and very tight programme by doubling with his party between events.

At the end of a full and eventful day the Commander addressed the Regiment and expressed satisfaction with what he had seen.

TIGHT ITINERARY!

Inspecting party seen at speed. Leading by 2 pace sticks R.S.M. Scott followed by the field going well—Major Schofield, Lieutenant-Colonel Hales and Colonel Hild



INDIGESTION—OR CHALLENGE BEFORE YOU SHOOT?

Colonel Hild discusses his problem with a sentry

"VE HAF VAYS"

We feel that this must have been the thought in the mind of the officer who applied for an interrogator's course and justified the request by saying "I feel that this course could improve my interviewing technique".

SMALLER FORCES

We feel sure that we can fulfil all **Mr. Roy Mason's** plans for a smaller force if we continue to attract potential recruits similar to the most recent one to contact the Regiment. The following letter was received from **Glenn Burrows,** a lad with real ambition and potential:

"*Dear Sir,*

Would you please send me details about joining the Royal Signal Regiment. I have got a Royal Signals Peaked cap that my uncle gave me. I wear it to school every day, much to the envy of all my friends.

I want to join the army now. I went to see some tanks and armoured cars, but they didn't have details about joining the army. So if you could send me some details about the Royal Signals I would be very pleased.

Yours faithfully,

Glenn Burrows
(Aged 6 years)"

An investigation by **Staff Sergeant Des Ackers** revealed a diminutive, intelligent, bright-eyed boy with the sort of spirit that produces generals. His proudest possession was a number one dress hat presented to him by **Uncle Bill Wedgbury,** ex-Staff Sergeant in the Corps who served with 14th Signal Regiment in Gloucester and 7 Armoured Brigade before retiring on medical grounds. **Glenn** lives in this hat complete with Signals cap badge and is a real advert for the Corps.

He was invited to join up for a day and savour all the delights of modern soldiering. He accepted with alacrity, then, with his number one dress hat set at a jaunty angle, his anorak belted tight against the elements and clutching his blue wellies, he left a somewhat nonplussed Mum without a backward glance. These military men are stoical about partings.

His programme included a visit to D13 and E21 detachments deployed on exercise at Droitwich. Continuous torrential rain had reduced the area to a quagmire, but this did not deter our miniature Major-General. After donning his wellies, he strode off to review the troops. In a manner of one born to command he imperiously summoned a Land Rover and drove round the area with a hugh bow wave of liquid mud. Having satisfied himself on the morale of the troops and the state of the camp he moved on to the technical aspect.

Hands thrust deep into anorak pockets, he rocked on his heels with a slightly bemused expression as he studied the myriad lights and flickering meters of the E21 receive cabin. A little help from his new found friends elicited a quick sitrep on the weather from Commcen Malta.

After seeing the latest in signals equipment **Glenn** decided that it was time for a quick half with the boys (coffee of course). Here he sat and held court with a demeanour reminiscent of Old Bill. Time out was then taken to practice shooting people with a 7·62 SLR and Sterling SMG. He obviously relished this part of his visit.

At the end of a very eventful day, a rather tired small boy proudly bearing a combat hat, stable belt, a copy of *Through To* 1970 and numerous other presents was conveyed back to Mum.

HAPPENINGS ALONG THE SATELLITES

For the past six months OC 2 Squadron, **Major Mike Brock,** with his two troop commanders, **Captain Mike Prymaka** and **Lieutenant Ted Crampton,** have been chewing on the edge of the table, wondering whether finance was going to be made available to give the TSC 500 satellite stations a future. Every avenue was explored. **Lieutenant Crampton** even tasked **Captain 'Sandy' Lovatt,** on exercise in Kenya, to find a witch doctor capable of reducing the stations down to the size of the military budget. He failed: apparently there is no call out there for witch doctors specialising in micro miniaturisation. **Lieutenant Crampton** also considered the feasibility of a manpack satellite station. It was pointed out to him that the smallest one available used salt water as a coolant. As he was also considering pedal driven generators he considered that the sweat of the detachment's brows would resolve this problem. We are pleased to report that the future of the stations is now assured, and **W.O.1s (F. of S.) Joe Jackson** and **Brian Holder** can throw away their blueprints for head bands and 'A' frames to concentrate on refurbishing, unravelling the knots before proceeding on to greater communication successes.

No doubt with pedal generators in mind, **Major Brock** has taken over the Regimental bike from **Major Colin Bunce** and is now breaking all records from Norton Close to Norton Barracks. The S.S.M., **W.O.2 Bob Jones,** has also invested in a bike and is managing to keep up with the OC. This we consider is due in no small measure to the engine fitted on his model. **S.S.M. Jones**

has also perfected a feat which we feel sure will enliven Signal View 1975. This consists of dashing at high(?) speed across the assault course: on reaching the ditch bridged by logs, he darts half way along before taking off in a death defying dive. He then soars through the air, with no two limbs moving in the same plane, before plummeting head first into four foot of ice muddy water. When we manage to divest him of his frozen PT kit and stop his teeth chattering, we will ask him to name the manoeuvre.

A slight reshuffle has produced **Corporal Brian Corcoran** in the guise of Squadron librarian. A remarkable flurry of industry has achieved startling results, as all APs and other technical publications were catalogued and flagged at the appropriate section. We can now identify not only the publication but also the particular section from which the information we are seeking has been omitted.

In sport the Squadron has been ably represented by **Sergeant Colin Robinson,** who played in goal for the Regiment. **Colin** suffered a sprained shoulder in a cup match, due, it is reported, to the fact that he picked the ball out of the net on six occasions. In view of his infirmity the team manager, **R.S.M. Bill Scott** helped him to write out his preference postings: 1—Siberia, 2—Siberia, 3—Siberia; **Colin** wonders whether the RSM is trying to tell him something. On a happier note **Staff Sergeant Bob Mills** received his Corps hockey colours, no mean feat in a Regiment renowned for its nomadic life.

FAREWELL OLD CHINA

On the 28th February **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Ted Brant** was seen off in traditional style on completion of 22 years' service. We should continue to see a lot of him as he has settled in Worcester and has joined ex-**Staff Sergeant Bill Skimming** at Royal Worcester Porcelain. We feel that if this firm continue with their policy of recruitment they could end up with a bad case of BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.

THEN THERE WERE TWO—A REPORT BY CORPORAL O'HARA

On joining the Regiment on the 2nd September 1974 I was warned for an exercise in the Caribbean. After investing in flowered beach shorts, obtaining the concession on oil drums from BP, and taking calypso lessons from Lance Percival, I was summoned by the Squadron Admin Officer, **Captain Colin Heaps.** "Welcome to the unit **Corporal O'Hara,** you are going to MAT Gulf to assist in the changeover to telex, be ready to move on the twenty-seventh, goodbye **Corporal O'Hara.**"

In company with **Signalman Tony Glass** of 30th Signal Regiment I flew to Dubai where we landed on the 4th October. On leaving the aircraft I gained the impression that I had stepped into a very hot oven. My eyes adjusted to the glare, I gazed round searching for the picturesque desert sheiks and nubile girls in diaphanous pantaloons. Disappointment—it must have been their day off. 'Desert Song' was never like this. **Corporal Steve Eggert** acted as reception party and guide to Commcen Sharjah. On arrival at the Commcen we were met by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Colin Baxter;** he briefed me and informed me that the change-over would be completed by mid-November 1974.

Things moved swiftly as the existing troop emulated the ten little nigger boys and disappeared in quick succession. By the end of October only the F. of S. and three operators remained. On the 18th November we completed the changeover in the best tradition by simply pulling out the plug. Farewell Commcen Cyprus, hello Rudloe Manor, our telex terminating station.

The arrival of **Sergeants Bob Baker** and **Bob Edwards** (REME) from Projects Installation Team signalled another frantic burst of activity. There followed a brief session of jigsaw puzzles in reverse as the station was swiftly dismantled and packed. Mid-December saw the completion of this task and the departure of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Baxter** and **Corporal Steve Eggert** leaving myself and **Signalman Tony Glass,** just the two of us, as MAT Signal Troop. **F. of S. Baxter** should note that in spite of the diminution in numbers the Sandpipers were still 12 points ahead of the Sergeants' Mess in the darts league when I left.

The New Year saw my initial task completed and the new system functioning smoothly. It also brought my relief **Corporal Keith Jones,** who, in company with **Signalman Tony Glass,** will run the station until it eventually closes down. The small number of Signals personnel made it impossible to do any touring, but no doubt **Keith** will fit some in and write a sequel to "One Thousand and One Nights" on his return.

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

THE ART OF COARSE SKI-ING (WITH APOLOGIES TO GRAHAM GREENE)—OR EXERCISE 'WHITESHOD '75'

THOSE of you who have skimmed gracefully down from snow covered Austrian hillsides clad in muscle-hugging, eye catching, very expensive be-striped overalls, to flash your daily 'fahrcart' at the helpful attendant before taking your place on the ski-lift will know all about ski-ing.

Any similarity between that and coarse ski-ing is purely co-incidental. Ideally you can only coarse ski once because it is preferable never to have stood on skis before, even to have been given roller skates for Christmas is a disadvantage.

The best way to learn coarse ski-ing is to go on a coarse. One such is the Allied Officers Winter Warfare Course held at the Norwegian Signal School, Jorstadmoen. This year's course ran from 12th February to 20 March and was attended by:

Captain D. S. McLuckie, 21st Signal Regiment, **Second-Lieutenant T. P. Rimmell,** 4 Division Signal Regiment, **Second-Lieutenant C. J. Whitaker,** 7th Signal Regiment, **Second-Lieutenant R. W. Blum,** 16th Signal Regiment, **Second-Lieutenant N. T. Moore,** 21st Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant A. P. R. White,** 8th Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant P. S. Holden,** 8th Signal Regiment, **Second-Lieutenant A. W. H. Harrison,** 16th Signal Regiment.

THE OBJECT?

The object was to teach ski-ing and winter warfare to the extent that the students could move as a formed unit and live in the Norwegian environment for a prolonged period. In that all students spent a final week, covering 100 kms. on skis and living each night in snowcaves the course was successful. The course was even more successful in that the students actually had a great deal of fun doing it.

EARLY LESSONS

After disguising themselves as Norwegian soldiers, except that they didn't don long wigs to complete the picture, the students took to the training field. It was soon realised that they were evenly split between those who couldn't ski and those who couldn't ski at all. But gradually this was overcome and the students moved onto the lower slopes. It was at this stage that the individual styles became evident; the petal pose, or thunderbox position fashioned by **Blum;** the gay abandon or one-footed **Harrison** position; and the road runner position otherwise known as the unstoppable **White.** Unfortunately before **Second-Lieutenant Blum** could perfect his ski-ing he broke a leg and had to return to Germany. By some good fortune the only other breakages on the course were skis and the spirit of one Norwegian army cook who failed to beat an Englishman in a ski-race.

WHAT IS A COARSE SKIER?

A coarse skier is one who:
—Herringbones downhill
—Wears ex-Sandhurst tracksuit bottoms, an ankle length anorak, a teacosie hat and Carrera goggles on the slopes
—Waxes the seat of his trousers
—Always falls onto the same bruise.

A coarse skier is one who, during quiet evening nursing aching muscles, can be overheard making remarks like:
—I would have gone into the carpark out of control if I hadn't fallen over
—The next Whiteshod course will be awarded by DCM
—Can I have a new pair of skis, these ones can't turn corners
—An hour on skis is longer than an hour's halt for lunch.

Even coarse skiers are sometimes prevailed upon to race and during the course the students showed their skills in 5 km., 10 km., 20 km. and finally 30 km. races. As one student remarked "putting me in a 20 km. race is like putting a learner driver in for a Grand Prix". During a race more than one student had the famous triple failure; a sense of purpose failure, followed by a sense of balance failure and finally a sense of humour failure.

HOW TO BECOME A COARSE SKIER

A similar course will be run in 1976. Only a few places are available for the very special type of officer suited to coarse ski-ing. To stand a chance of selection you must:
—Dislike Regimental duty in February
—Be dispensible
—Have a sense of humour (so that it can fail)
—Be just a little unco-ordinated.

Now is the time to start petitioning your Adjutant so that 1976 will mark your start on a career of coarse ski-ing.

THE WIRE . . .

WITHOUT IT

YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!

28th REGIMENT'S FOOTBALL TEAM—RUNNERS UP IN THE ARMY CUP FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING

Standing, left to right: Sergeant Jim Smith, Sergeant 'Mac' McLean (Assistant Manager), Signalman 'Scouse' Murray, Signalman 'Taffy' Moulds, Signalman Tony Horan, Corporal John Mizen, Sergeant 'Paddy' Parkhill, Lance-Corporal Don Robson, Signalman Peter Dignam, Sergeant Ray Francis (Team Attendant), Sergeant Cyril George

Sitting, left to right: Signalman Davie Charles, Sergeant Peter Campbell, Lieutenant-Colonel Terry Byrne (C.O.), Sergeant Jackie Snaith, Captain Bob Peake (Manager/Coach), Corporal Ray Pickersgill, Corporal Tommy Hope

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

THIS month the Regiment has had rather more than its fair share of excitement, and to avoid therefore writing a book we are restricting these notes to the two main items, and will save some of our other 'doings' for the next issue.

SOCCER—ARMY CUP FINAL

On Wednesday, 9th April at the Military Stadium, Aldershot a new chapter to Corps sport was written. 28th Signal Regiment met 8th Signal Regiment in the first ever all Royal Signals Army Soccer Cup Final. Indeed a record was also established as 28th Signal Regiment have become the only Corps unit to reach the final three times—all the more remarkable as it has been done in consecutive seasons. As if all this was not enough this Army final was played under floodlights for the first time which posed new problems for both teams.

Despite losing a number of the 1973/74 team on postings during the year, the footballers were not dismayed and from 1st July onwards **Captain Bob Peake** and his assistant, **Sergeant 'Mac' McLean,** launched a gruelling fitness campaign for the members of the squad. Lunchtime runs became the order of the day and these were gradually increased and speeded up as the weeks went by. Reserve team players **Lance-Corporal Don Robson and Signalman 'Taffy' Moulds** and new arrivals **Sergeant 'Paddy' Parkhill, Signalmen Peter Dignam, Tony Horan** and **'Scouse' Murray** all suffered the 'treatment'. They were helped along by the old stars—**Sergeants Jackie Snaith, Peter Campbell, Corporals Tommy Hope, John Mizen, Roy Pickersgill** and **Signalman Davie Charles.** To round off the squad (literally) **Sergeant Jim Smith,** RAOC was brought back out of retirement and reduced by 3 stone! The team were not without their mishaps, and **Coporal Tommy Hope** ended his first match of the season with a broken wrist. He subsequently celebrated his return to duty by colliding with a goal post and returned to hospital with a fractured jaw! We are glad to report however that he wasn't kept down for long and survived the rest of the season without further injury.

Memorable Army Cup matches on the way were the quarter final win over 36 Heavy AD Regiment RA. With 28 minutes to go the visitors were leading 3–0 but in a spirited recovery the game ended in a 4–3 win after extra time. The semi final was played in Osnabrüch against the much fancied 1 A & SH. The home crowd gave their side wonderful support and a 1–1 draw

was a good result especially as the Regiment were down to 10 men for the last 25 minutes. The replay at Krefeld produced some fine football to give the Regiment a convincing win. The BAOR final was almost an anti climax and a resounding 5–1 win was achieved against 3 LI.

In between Army Cup rounds the Regiment defended and retained, for the sixth consecutive year, the Rhine Area Cup—one of the nicest soccer trophies in existence. The North Rhine Inter Services football league title was lost however—but a mere two points to 23rd Regiment RCT, although we had the satisfaction of defeating them both home and away.

During the season five players, **Jackie Snaith, Peter Campbell, Tommy Hope, Davie Charles** and **Tony Horan** represented BAOR and they together with **Roy Pickersgill** all played in the Rhine Area team which won the BAOR Divisional tournament. **Peter Campbell** once again the leading scorer with over 40 goals to his credit.

The build up to the Army Final in UK was not helped by the weather. Snow fell in Germany days before departure and greeted the team on arrival in Winchester. There, thanks to **Major Alan Coates** and members of 223 Signal Squadron, some useful training was carried out—despite the bad weather.

The final was played before a large crowd, including a number of loyal supporters from the Regiment who had braved the Channel crossing to be there. **Sergeant Smith** failed a late fitness test, as a result of an injury in the BAOR final and was replaced by **Signalman Moulds.** The team was **Corporal Mizen, Sergeant Parkhill, Corporal Pickersgill, Signalman Charles, Lance-Corporal Robson, Signalman Dignam, Sergeant Snaith** (Captain), **Signalman Moulds, Corporal Hope, Sergeant Cambbell, Signalman Horan,** playing in a 4–3–3 formation. The substitute was **Signalman Murray.**

The first half was completely dominated by a succession of 28th Signal Regiment's attacks but they were frustrated by the brilliance of **Corporal Reilley** in the 8th Signal Regiment's goal, and the resolute tackling of their defenders. On the rare occasions that they set up an attack 8th Signal Regiment were contained quite easily by our defence.

The first half finished with non-stop aggression by the 28th Signal Regiment team hoping to obtain the first, all important goal.

The second half resumed in the same way and 28th Signal Regiment quickly forced another corner. From the clearance however the ball went to **Lance-Corporal Johnny Boyd** of 8th Signal Regiment who beat one man, and fired in a shot from well outside the area, which **Mizen** had difficulty in holding because of the wet conditions, and 8th Signal Regiment had taken the lead.

The remainder of the second half was a repetition of the first with a succession of 28th Signal Regiment attacks, with **Sergeant Campbell, Corporal Hope** and **Signalman Horans** creating havoc with the opposition's defence, but we were still unable to score. The final result was 1–0.

Each member of the team played his part extremely well and gave everything he had, and although one is tempted to mention names, it would be invidious to do so on this occasion. We were naturally disappointed—particularly after reaching the final three times—but to quote **Sergeant Jackie Snaith**—that's football—and you never know, we might be back again next year.

FAREWELL TO OUR R.S.M.

On 21st March the Sergeants' Mess dined out the present R.S.M.—**W.O.1 Pete Harris** en route for civvy street and Australia.

After a first class dinner provided under the auspices of the PMC, **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) Cliff Webb** and the PEC, **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Ray Drew** and his motley crew of helpers, the evening's festivities got off the ground. Perhaps the two most notable occurences amongst the many was the 28th Sergeants' Mess massed Male Voice Choirs' rendering of 'Waltzing Matilda' under the able direction of the President, **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Brian Gould;** and second the courtmartial of the R.S.M. (suitably clothed) by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tom Brown** and his helpers—the R.S.M. being marched in escorted by four (all RD aspiring technicians) suitably dressed in medieval uniform.

The theme for the resultant exit out of the mess was Australian inspired, namely a yacht! Everything was going well until it arrived at the main gate only to find the CO's staff car not there! Whilst hurried alternative transport arrangements were made the yacht was turned round and headed for the Officers' Mess, where they were saying farewell to the Adjutant, **Captain Mike Shaw** and OC Tropo Troop, **Captain Nigel Fairley.** The resultant bang as it hit the new Mess doors told the President and PMC it had arrived.

THE THINGS 28th REGIMENT DO TO THEIR R.S.M.
Read all about it in the accompanying notes

What happened inside the Mess I leave to your imagination but in the end the RSM and his escorts were retrieved and towed out of barracks. It was with reluctance that the PMC contacted his opposite number in the Officers' Mess the next day to assess the damage.

We wish **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Pete Harris** and his wife **Audrey,** and family bon voyage to Australia.

POSTSCRIPT

Question: What drinks 150 bottles of wine, 20 bottles of sherry and 6 bottles of port in 2 hours?

Answer: 96 WO's and Sergeants and one RSM.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

THE first quarter of 1975 seems to have whistled by.

Since the last notes we have had our two day Regimental rifle meeting at Mere ranges and announce that 1 Squadron were the winners. Well done! We've recovered our Exercise 'Snowball' ski training camp from the Cairngorms via 8th/11th Signal Regiments at Catterick and thank them for their hospitality.

We have also given the Marlborough College CCF cadets a day and a night out with 1 Squadron on exercise on Salisbury Plain fighting off the EW Troop 'dissidents' and are now attempting to fit in our Easter block leave. We were pleased to see 3 AMF(L) Squadron return from Norway in good order and couldn't help but admire their rugged wind and sun tanned faces. We did enjoy being able to tell them that Norway was not the only place to get snow in April.

They are now busily repacking during the fourteen day period that they are with us before they depart again for three weeks in Denmark this time. We have however managed to obtain a short discourse from them on their Norwegian venture.

EXERCISE 'HARDFALL 1975"

On Monday, 17th February, Force Radio Troop arrived in Trondheim, Norway via Marchwood and the L.S.L. *Sir Lancelot* for Exercise 'Hardfall 75'. During our four weeks stay we practised Arctic Survival, snow driving, communicating in adverse conditions, snow shoeing and ski-ing. We spent a great deal of our time training in the mountains, where we used our Snocats for skiyoring and moving our 5 man tent groups and their stores. Our ski-ing improved immensely during the exercise under instruction from **Captain David Gardiner, Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley** and our two Norwegian Army Liaison Officers.

We spent a night in ice-caves which we had to dig in one afternoon. Although the temperature outside was −20°C., a relatively comfortable night was had by all. After one particular night in the mountains we woke to find 'White Out' conditions all around

which is confusing to say the least, however with expert Snowcat driving and navigating by **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Colin Eastland, Sergeant 'Sandy' Geddes,** and their team of drivers, the Troop came down out of the snowy mists to safety.

Our last week was spent at the Hjerkenn ranges, where we were visited by our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Jarrett** who accompanied us in a search for 'hairy cows' (Musk ox) in a nearby nature reserve cloe to Snohette, the third highest mountain in Norway. On our final training day at Hjerkinn, we carried out live firing and section tactics over a 2 km. long course.

On Tuesday, 18th March, we loaded our vehicles and stores on the L.S.L. *Sir Lancelot* and returned to Blandford for a week's leave and time to change our colours before our next exercise which takes place in Denmark.

News from Squadrons

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

SINCE the last contribution to THE WIRE the Squadron has undergone a fairly hectic start to the 1975 exercise season which included Exercise 'Flying Falcon'. The main topic of news is the change of Squadron OC. Our 'tower of strength' on the hockey field, **Major Noel Moss,** has finally left us for the greener fields of RMCS, Shrivenham.

The Squadron wish **Noel** and **Edelgard Moss** a happy tour in Shrivenham and welcome **Russell** and **Marguerite Maynard** to 4th Guards.

ORIENTEERING

The Squadron orienteering team under the new management of **Lieutenant John Gareze** successfully competed in and won the 2 Division orienteering championship. Having been unable to compete in the Brigade event (exercise commitments) the team was really running in its first competitive event of the season. **Lance-Corporal 'Guy' Wilson** and **Sergeant Lindsey Guerin** produced two excellent results which enabled the team to win. We now have our sights on the BAOR championship later in the month.

CROSS COUNTRY 1974–75

The season started with the nucleus of last season's successful team, i.e., **Sergeant Moore, Lance-Corporal Lamb, Lance-Corporal Verdon.** The first major race of the season, a Westphalia league race with 14 teams competing saw several new faces in the team. However, when at the end of a very muddy, hilly run we were declared the winners it was obvious that our 'new faces' were well up to last season's achievements.

The followed shortly after, an expected win in the Brigade Championship and a landslide victory in the 2 Division Championships (by over 700 points), three of our runners being in the first seven home, i.e., **Lance-Corporal Gerry Hegarty,** 2nd, **Sergeant Fred Howell,** 3rd, **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Verdon,** 7th.

This led to us to the BAOR championships for which unfortunately we were now without **Lance-Corporal Gerry Hegarty,** departed to 21st Signal Regiment. Then, when after a convincing victory in the BAOR the result was declared void it seemed that we weren't destined to win the trophy. However it all came out right when on 6th February we won the BAOR Minor Units Championships by the very narrow margin of 3 points. Our top positions being **Sergeant Fred Howell,** 4th, **Sergeant 'Taff' Moore,** 18th.

The season ended with us easy winners of the well-supported Westphalia Cross Country League with a total of 103 points followed by 28 other teams, mostly major units. Two of our runners collected individual league-prizes—**Sergeant Fred Howell** being the overall winner and **Sergeant 'Taff' Moore,** 3rd.

We were all in confident mood for the Army Championships at Pirbright on 20th February but could only manage fourth team position against extremely good opposition.

Team: **Sergeant Fred Howell, Sergeant 'Taff' Moore, Sergeant Lindsay Guerin, Corporal Steve Bailes, Corporal 'Ginge' Cox, Corporal Martin Lang, Lance-Corporal Derek Lamb, Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Verdon, Lance-Corporal 'Zip' Nolan, Signalman Chris Heeles.**

HOCKEY

The Squadron has enjoyed a good season so far. Only one league match has been lost.

Great credit is due to the whole squad of 13 players (who said 13 was an unlucky number?), but a special mention must go to **Lance-Corporal Reece** who is the leading scorer in the league with 25 goals so far and **Major Moss** not far behind. However we are sad to say that **Major Moss** has now departed to RMCS, Shrivenham. His experience and influence are going to be missed for a long time.

We were unfortunate to lose the BAOR minor units final to 6 Field Workshop, but still have to play the Division minor units final against them, later in the month. The potential of the team is good, the majority of the players are still very young and who knows what might happen in the future.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Y. of S. 'Reg' Hazelgrove** on his posting to 633 Signal Troop in the Caribbean, and welcome **Y. of S. 'Jim' Creevy** from the School of Signals for his second tour in Munster.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to **Lieutenant** and **Mrs. Chris Donaghy** on the birth of a 7 lb. 5 oz. baby girl to be known as **Heather.**

Finally, as we have undergone several changes lately here is the latest Squadron batting order:

OC	**Major R. F. Maynard**
2IC	**Captain M. J. M. Alden**
Comms Captain	**Captain P. A. Hallett**
OC 'A' Troop	**Lieutenant C. P. Donaghy**
OC 'B' Troop	**Lieutenant J. J. C. Gareze**
Adjutant	**Captain W. G. Northwood,** Welsh Guards
QM	**Major V. Sullivan,** Irish Guards
MTO	**Lieutenant B. E. Thompson, B.E.M.,** Grenadier Guards.
RSM	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) I. Wells**
Y of S 'A'	**W.O.2 J. Creevy**
Y of S 'B'	**Staff Sergeant B. McAneny**
F of S	**W.O.2 D. Finighan**

216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

(SEE FEATURE ARTICLE ON PAGE 154)

ARMY CROSS COUNTRY

THE Squadron Team managed a very creditable second in the Minor Units Championships, being 'pipped at the post' by 16 Parachute Heavy Drop Company.

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

Congratulations are due to **Corporal Pritchard, Lance-Corporal McFarlane** and **Signalman Hutchinson,** and of

course, their respective good ladies, on the births of their youngest.

Commiserations to two of our members who have gone away for an unexpected sojourn in the sunshine, striped that is!

We welcome **Signalmen Thompson, Burrows** and **Richards** to our ranks, fresh from the Maroon assembly line.

THE FUTURE

There appears to be doubts about the future of airborne signalling subsequent to the Defence White Paper and the need for volunteers for 216. For the foreseeable future there will be a continuing need for parachute trained communicators. This Squadron will continue to support HQ 16 Parachute Brigade in its present United Kingdom Joint Airborne Task Force (UKJATFOR) role until 31st March 1976. Thereafter the Squadron with HQ 16 Parachute Brigade will integrate to form the nucleus of the HQ and Signal Unit supporting the South East District Field Formation whose role is that of ACE Reserve Force. This Force will be the only Air Mobile Force in the British Army and will have a parachuting capability. So that this Force is ably supported by the Corps it is vital that this Squadron continues to be manned by trained parachute volunteers from the Corps until 1st April 1976 and that the new Signal Unit is similarly supported.

So let it be clear, we still need new blood and those who volunteer from now on will complete at least one full tour as an airborne signaller. The new Signal Unit will present to all communicators a worthwhile challenge requiring the same high professional standards found in 216 Parachute Signal Squadron.

242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh

OC	**Major L. W. Prescot**
2IC	**Major (Tfc) D. Duncan**
OC Comms Troop	**Second-Lieutenant C. Veillard,** WRAC
OC SWS Troop	Vacant possession
Sergeant-Major	**W.O.2 M. Teague**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant G. Lowe**
FoS	**W.O.2 D. Carr**

HAVING had quite a turnover at the 'top' the current management is now as above. **Major (T.O.T.) J. Parkin** has left us for 610 Signal Troop and his relief, **Captain (TOT) Jeff Fordom** after a very short stay, has unfortunately left us for medical reasons, we wish him a very speedy recovery, so at the moment the post is vacant. Rumour has it even after ten days that **Major Duncan** is at last to leave the Squadron in August—"Watch our Rhindalhlen".

Our Sergeant-Major, **'Bill' Naismith** after putting up with us for all of four months has moved even further north to our NATO site in Shetland on promotion to RSM and 'Fresh' from Harrogate **(I've done my BE test) Mick Teague** now resides. This change provided us with one warm chuckle in our otherwise cold windswept Squadron HQ because in his enthusiasm in kitting himself out **'Bill' Naismith** drew up REME buttons for his Service Dress (this should have cost him a few 'Beers' at this year's R.S.M.'s convention).

M.T. SECTION

The Squadron Motor Transport Section has been its normal hive of activity since the beginning of the year. Suggestions that the kettle has done more mileage than the vehicles are well founded, and we don't seem to get many out of our MTOs (S.S.M.'s) either as we are now on our fifth in two years.

It's not long since we said goodbye to one of our most colourful MT members **Miss Neilson** who emigrated to Canada, although most of the drivers insist she got lost on the SDS route. We also say farewell to **Corporal 'Bill' Gale** who is returning to 227 Signal Squadron for yet another tour of duty.

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

For ex-Squadron members you will be glad to hear that our Chief Clerk, **Cy Laughton** is still very much with us and still supported by **Eve Hutchison. Jess Higgin** retired at the end of March, we all wish her the very best and our good wishes follow her into retirement. She leaves a gap in the Squadron Office as the I of E in their wisdom decreed the place will not be filled.

Also we unfortunately lost **Alex Weir** our carpenter who has been with us since April 1959. He was taken ill last year and has subsequently had to retire.

COMMS TROOP

'I want some tea money' Minnie still looks after our office and the tea swindle.

Comms Troop have had yet another bout of fund-raising, which enabled us to hold a Christmas party for Spinabifida children and a visit to see 'Babes in the Wood' for 15 deprived children. Since then we have sold feathers for the Cheshire Home, Mayfield House, in which two ex-WRAC members reside and we held a very successful jumble sale in mid-March. There have also been visits to the ice-skating rink and ten-pin bowling alley.

MARRIAGES

Second-Lieutenant Sara Poulson, WRAC married into the Airborne and has moved to the RAOC Depot, Deepcut.

Lance-Corporal Andrea Midgley and **Private Sheena McLanachan** marry this month and leave us for civilianisation. We wish them all the best in their new ventures—may all their troubles be small ones.

244 Sig Sqn
R.A.F. Benson

GLOBE TROTTING

THE first three months of 1975, while lacking in any major exercises, have been full of small ones. The Squadron provides air support communications to the UKMF, 16 Parachute Brigade and the AMF(L). Consequently we have taken part in exercises in three continents with all these formations. Members of the Squadron have been to Kenya with 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, Sharjah with 16 Parachute Brigade, Norway with the AMF(L), Gibraltar with the Royal Navy and Germany with 7th and 22nd Signal Regiments. In addition the operational commitments of our MAOT detachments from Odiham have continued in Ireland and Cyprus. We have also done a fly-in communication exercise in Stornoway and sent two parties ski-ing in the Cairngorms.

EXERCISE 'AVAST—KENYA'

Thirteen men under the leadership of **Corporal Tony Chew** were attached to 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment for this exercise. They carried out a month's infantry training and came back quite changed in some cases. Few recognised the new 'slim-line' version of **Corporal John Hall** who is alleged to have lost two stone in weight in a month. They became known for their superior 'Basha' building technique and their community singing. They underwent the excitement of being charged by a rhino, visited by a leopard and getting lost in the bush.

A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE

This was a joint communications exercise with H.M.S. *Llandaff*. **Corporal Pete Whitfield** and **Signalman Dave Blundell** mixed nautical pleasures and communications in a trip from Portsmouth to Gibraltar. After a four day journey, discovering to their horror that a frigate is distinctly different from Prinz Ferries and a weekend amid the apes, they returned by air to the harsh reality of Benson.

EXERCISE 'TRUNNION'

Signalmen Nigel Scott, Bob Petrie and **Danny Barnett** (now a Lance-Corporal) joined 216 Parachute Signal Squadron for a 5 week Sharjah trip, amid cries that running was 'illegal' in such heat. After pre-exercise training at Aldershot and a very reasonable amount of shift work on the 'desert guard' radio link they were sent to the 'rest camp', this came as something of a shock to them, there being something in human nature that says "when resting one shouldn't have to go for runs". **Signalman Petrie** wishes to apologise publicly for his vain attempt to burn down Camp Hopeless.

EXERCISE 'HARDFALL'

This account has been received from Echo Troop.

We deployed to Bergen, Norway on the R.F.A. *Sir Lancelot*, and thence by road to the transit camp at Bomoen.

The morning after our arrival we drew skis and associated gear under **Sergeant Dave Longhurst.** Then **Corporal Jim Hutchinson, Lance-Corporal Dave Beattie, Signalman David Bragger** and the technical **Sergeant Brian Stow** left the main party to set up their detachment with 72 Helicopter Squadron, RAF, this was to provide a voice SSB air safety link with the helicopters *when* they flew.

After three days preparation the main party left with four Land Rovers and two Volvos. We headed for Brandset Camp where, Arctic tents pitched, 9 x 9 tents dug in and stoves going we were fed an excellent casserole by **Flight-Lieutenant Dave Stanley** from HQ 38 Group. We then proceeded with tuition in the gentle art of ski-ing under **Flight-Lieutenant 'Ned' Sparks.** In the afternoon we were towed higher into the hills by the Volvos, during which process **Corporal Dick Kilpatrick** broke a ski and **Signalman 'Geordie' Knox** suffered an uncountable number of falls.

For eight days the training continued, climaxing with a 36 hour spell in snow-holes and a visit by the SASO, from HQ 38 Group, **Air Commodore Latham.** We then returned to Bomoen, joining **Lance-Corporal Billy Malone** who had returned early after a fall; during the journey **Signalman John Morgans** somehow managed to turn over one of the Volvos.

EXERCISE 'FLYING FALCON'—BAOR

This was a reinforcement of 7th and 22nd Signal Regiments for the annual CCR Signals exercise. Eleven men under the command of our jovial Yeoman, **W.O.2 George Lile** learnt how its 'really done at the sharp end'.

EXERCISE 'MARCH HARE'

As a grand finale before the Easter break a king-size orienteering competition was set up, the leadership coming from our Commcen organisation, Delta Troop, under **Captain Robin Burrows.** Sixty personnel took part each six man team covering part of the 60 mile course in pairs. The boffins in Mike Troop won by a good margin under the leadership of **Sergeant Vince McGarry, B.E.M.**

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

Y (LONDONDERRY) TROOP

ON 5th March 24 men from 'Y' Troop, 260 Signal Squadron (SAM) began their infantry role on the streets of Londonderry. After a 0400 hours start in BAOR, they arrived in Derry at 2100 hours. They were given a brief on the situation, a meal, shown where their bed spaces were (not to be seen again for at least 12 hours) and were then out on the steets.

Some went to 'homes 4 ft. x 4 ft.' called sangars where they found little television holes to view the local population and passing vehicles. Others went to the bridge where they could count and check the cars as the water flowed along from the River Foyle beneath.

To date the 'Y' men are doing well, with **Sergeant 'Mighty Mouse' Jolliff** getting congratulated by the CO, 5 Heavy Regiment RA on his quick reaction in spotting wanted suspects as they passed his location, **Corporal 'Stropper' Thomas** in his find of a timing device on his very first day here, and **Lance-Corporal 'Lurch' O'Brien** for finding a suspect bomb on a bus, although it turned out to be a false alarm.

The Ops room staff who include **Staff Sergeant Jim Allen, Corporal 'Paint Brush' Lunney** and **Lance-Corporal 'Anti' Thornely** are not as yet overworked with the current cease fire in operation, but they have had a couple of bomb scares which kept them on their toes. They thought they had a bomb outside the Ops room but it turned out to be a gas heater next to **Staff Sergeant Jim Allen's** bed, which had had a blow back and only his blankets were singed.

Morale is high and the 'Y' men are keeping up the high standard of determination and dedication that one expects from our Corps.

FACE TO FACE

"I always wear my gas mask when conversing with senior Officers". Corporal Christopher Smith talking to Brigadier G. W. Hutton, Commander 7 Artillery Brigade, during the Commander's inspection of barrack rooms on the F.F.R. Inspection

News from Troops

551 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 20

551 Signal Troop, for those of you who are unaware of its existence (the OC was when his posting arrived!), is attached to 24 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery and provides them with their secure rear link communications. Personalities at the moment are **Lieutenant Jon Henderson, Sergeant Tom (The Big Yin) Padden, Corporal 'D' Peart, Lance-Corporal Colin Ager, Signalmen Steve Carmichael, Eddy Cooper, Steve Glover, Mick Gorst, Chris Hardy, 'Jonah' Jones, 'Monty' Montgomery, Ken Rumbold, Steve Toms, Les Wilson, Corporal Lenny Twells, Corporal Dave ('Amstell') Smith** and last (and least) **'Diddy' Watkins.**

SNOW QUEEN

Members of the Troop spent a few bruising weeks during January and February on the snowslopes of Berchtesgaden in Southern Bavaria. **'Diddy'** is now famous for his snow plough—the Bavarians even wanted to keep him to clear the roads! The OC and **Chris** have perfected a new way to take the slalom gates—they knock them over rather than go through them! **'Jonah',** having spent six weeks down there, with the permanent staff, is our expert and is willing to give lessons although whether it is in ski-ing or tin bashing he wouldn't say!

SPORT

The Troop is well represented amongst the regimental sporting teams. **Tom Padden, Steve Toms, 'Jonah'** and **Mick** help prop up the rugby team and also the rugby bar. **Mick, 'Jonah'** and **Colin** are our football enthusiasts and can normally be found kicking around the regiment. The OC and **Steve Toms** achieved first and seventh place in the Orienteering Competition although rumours that the OC got lost trying to find the start area are completely unfounded! **'D' Peart** is our cricketer from Jamaica and runs the battery bar at the moment—there is a moral there somewhere. **Mick Gorst** is our regimental boxer and acts as the OC's body guard on exercise. **Steve Glover** and **Les Wilson** have recently gone off on a free fall parachuting course but we hope that they will drop in and see us again soon.

FUTURE EVENTS

On 25th April members of the Troop depart for a four week adventurous training expedition in Corsica. This is being sponsored by Headquarter Battery, to which we belong, and we will be taking part in canoeing, sub-aqua diving, trekking and all the normal holiday activities such as swimming and sun bathing! A further report from our very own roving reporter will follow in the near future.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Corporal Dave Smith** and his wife **Crystal** on the birth of the son, **David Junior.** Also to **Signalman Steve Toms** who took part in a Gunner Advanced Soldiers Course and achieved a very creditable result.

604 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 17

CAPTAIN R. A. J. GARDNER WRITES:

I RECENTLY received a contribution for THE WIRE from **Signalman Julian Holden** (resident troop clown, photographer, linguist and, sadly, my driver). In view of the threats to collapse my tent, unleash the full fury of his feet after 5 day exercise etc., I felt that I had no choice, but to break a long established troop tradition and submit it for inclusion. May I be forgiven (and may the preceding remarks take some of the wind out of his sails). All that follows is pure **Holden.**

A SMALL TROOP BUT IN GOOD HEART

You're probably wondering why you haven't seen us in THE WIRE before! The reason is, we haven't written anything previously! We are just a small troop of 36 all ranks. However, despite our size and the lack of snow in Bavaria, most of the lads managed to get down to Sonthofen to do some ski-ing, (Exercise 'Snow Queen') with the 2 RTR. **Signalmen Jake Lake** and **'Slim' Holden** managed to excel themselves and obtained a bronze medal in a competition against the Lanig Ski School in Oberjoch. The medals were presented by **Hans Peter Lanig,** who was, in his younger days, an Olympic silver medal winner.

During the past year we have been well represented in cross country by **Signalmen Pete Bullen** and **Jim Dowling** who managed to get through to the BAOR finals, granted they were running for 8th Regiment RCT but nevertheless, they *do* belong to us and we are proud of them. Unfortunately, we must say goodbye to **Signalman Dave Silk** this month, he is leaving us for the sun and fun of Belize. **Dave** has played an active part in the troop social life and was a regular in our football team.

Things tend to get a bit slack at times, but the OC **(Raj)** and Troop Staff Sergeant **Pat 'Susser' Grattan,** see to it that we don't get too bored, as the accompanying photograph shows.

EXERCISE 'FLYING FALCON'

Well what an exercise this turned out to be. To keep everyone busy, we did a section night attack on 4 Squadron, 22nd Signal Regiment. What a fiasco! I think they must have been expecting us, but this didn't stop three of our merry men, armed to the teeth with thunder flashes, trip flares, blanks and—oh yes, the password, from getting past the guards after being declared 'friends'.

The aim was to cause a diversion by setting trip flares and making as much noise as possible, on one side of the wood, while the main attack came from the other side. They soon caught on to this however, as **Sergeant 'Sandy' McLean** can verify, after having nine of the enemy jump on him. He managed to make it back to camp although he was minus his specs, hat and was carrying the wrong weapon. We weren't without our casualties as two or three of our number got caught. **Signalman 'Andy' Mooney** managed to do a classic escape by joining onto the end of one of their patrols (He's not called 'Silver Heels' for nothing).

Apart from this attack the exercise was quite uneventful, with the usual good weather which accompanies 'Flying Falcon' (Rain, snow, hail, sleet and . . . yes, even sun).

There's nothing more to write about this month but with the Regimental athletics meeting coming off next month, who knows what the future holds. So until next month, remember . . . Personal Survival is next to Godliness, so, dig deep Lads!

DIG DEEP LADS!
Signalman Jake Lake wields a pretty shovel
(Photo: Courtesy J. F. Holden)

605 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Gan B.F.P.O. 180

EASTER—UNUSUAL SPORTING EVENTS

EASTER 1975 saw two unusual 'sporting' events held on Gan. Good Friday coincided with the visit to the island of the Leander class frigate H.M.S. *Diomede*. In addition to the normal sports fixtures against the ship a round the island relay stretcher race was held on Good Friday followed by a 'chariot' race along the runway on Easter Sunday.

The relay stretcher race took the form of 5 legs with teams of 4 men carrying one man on a stretcher a distance of about 1 mile. The troop made up 2 legs for the 6 Signals Unit RAF Engineering Flight team. We finished second to the Royal Marine Platoon from H.M.S. *Diomede* with both our teams giving a very creditable performance and at one stage actually leading the Marines.

The 'chariot' race on Easter Sunday took place along the main runway. Once again we competed for 6 Signals Unit Engineering Flight and although we had the most fearsome looking and well built, or so we thought, charriot something went horribly wrong when we lost a wheel. Needless to say we collected the wooden spoon.

LEAVE OR 605's ORIENTAL SPRING HOLIDAYS

Several Troop members have recently been getting out and about. **Sergeants 'Chalkie' White, Mick Turner** and **Corporal Trev Inman** have recently had a pleasant two day trip to Colombo. **Corporal Trev Inman** and **Signalman Keith Bell** have both been enjoying the night spots of Hong Kong.

VISITS

On the 12th to 14th March the troop was visited by Brigadier, Overseas Detachments, **Brigadier J. P. Randle, O.B.E., M.C., A.D.C.** The Brigadier saw working and social aspects of the troop, in addition to meeting all troop members, and was once again introduced to the Troop Club.

FOOTSORE

Sergeant 'Chalkie' White recently received a new pair of sandals from the clothing store. The note with them said "No size 11 in stock, try size 10 in lieu" . . .?

(Continued on page 173)

(Continued from page 172)

SPORT

9-pin skittles is rapidly replacing 5-a-side football as the most successful troop sport. In a recently started intersection skittles league the troop team, ably led by **Sergeant Mick Turner,** are carrying all before them.

On the 5-a-side court the team has been weakened by several recent postings out but those turning out (especially **Signalman Paul Weaver** top scorer to date) have given a good account of themselves, although one member has recently been heard to say "I wish Records would post in some . . . football players". (N.B. All applications from Corps players will receive preferential treatment.)

633 Sig Tp, Caribbean B.F.P.O. 12

VISIT BY H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

DURING the period 4th to 9th March **His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh** visited Belize. Prior to his arrival from Mexico aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* all members of the Troop were busily involved in the provision and co-ordination of military, police and civil communications for the visit.

Apart from visiting British Forces Belize, **Prince Philip** also visited Belize City, Belmopan and several of the outlying districts of Belize. The Troop provided telephone communications to the Royal Yacht *Britannia* while anchored in Belizean waters and maintained contact by HF radio during the periods that the Royal Yacht was at sea. In addition we co-ordinated all mobile communications to the Royal Party while ashore, using both military and police resources.

Corporal John Steer met the Naval radio telephone installation party immediately on the Royal Yacht's arrival off Belize City. He then spent the next four days following the Royal Yacht up and down the coast in a light aircraft installing and dismantling the shore based radio telephone equipment at each port of call! Apparently there were some very hairy landings on the tiny airstrips due to the strong winds pevailing at the time! However, **Corporal John Steer** was well looked after aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* judging by his glowing comments about food and accommodation. Perhaps he has found his niche in life!

During his visit to Airport Camp **Prince Philip** visited the Junior Ranks Club where he met members of British Forces Belize including **Sergeant Paul Mercer** and **Lance-Corporal Dave Matheson,** together with **Signalmen Pete Caddy** and **Bill Simpson.** He then moved on to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to meet Senior Ranks of the Force and finally to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

The visit was a great success and obviously very much enjoyed by the Belizean people as well as by British Forces, Belize.

SPORTS

Now that we are well into the dry season the resident Infantry battalion, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, are making full use of all the sports and adventure training opportunities available in Belize. Courses in canoeing, sub-aqua diving, mountaineering and sailing are being run and the Troop manage to fill their fair share of the vacancies! For the really adventurous there are 7 day survival courses held on a remote island in the Caribbean!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome **Sergeant Paul Mercer, Corporals Mick Blythe** and **Dave Haslam, Signalmen Jeff Ward, Jim Paine, Gordon Patterson** and **Pete McCullough.** Not forgetting, of course, **Lance-Corporal Steve Freeman-Pannett** (14th Signal Regiment Detachment) who broke his leg on arrival from the airport!

Farewell to **Corporal Mick McDermott** and **Signalmen Paul McMullen** and **'Scouse' Allen.**

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A FAREWELL TO ARMS

AFTER twenty five years service—the last two with a Volunteer regiment—our MTWO, **W.O.1 John Winning** has finally decided to allow a civilian firm the privilege of employing his proven ability for organisation (and delegation), and accordingly he has left the Corps and joined Hawker Siddeley as a transport manager. His departure was marked by a marathon of assorted farewells, but it is right and proper that here in THE WIRE, on behalf of his many friends throughout the Corps, we should publicly congratulate him on his success in his first career, and wish him well in the next.

EVEN 'JIMMY' WAVED GOODBYE!
Farewell to W.O.1 John Winning
Left to right: W.O.1 John Winning, Lieutenant-Colonel John Eversfield, Major David Gent

General Sir John Mogg meets Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Reg Thurbon

Lieutenant Helen Loh, WRAC (V) explains her duties to D SACEUR

VOLUNTEERS WORK WITH NATO

As part of their annual training, a party of 44 Volunteers—both Royal Signals and WRAC—travelled to Belgium in March and were employed in their various trades in the SHAPE Commcen. By design, the 15 days attachment coincided with a period of exceptionally high traffic loading in the Commcen, and the Volunteers were fully integrated with the permanent shift personnel of our host unit, the SHAPE Signal Support Group, in order to cope with the sheer volume of work.

Although the work was very hard—and the long hours and unremitting pressure proved to be both mentally and physically demanding—the satisfaction of proving trade skills on a live task far outweighed the hardship. Their hosts ensured that there was sufficient off-duty activity for the Volunteers to take advantage of the change of scene, so that despite the movement to and from Belgium being run as an air-movement exercise, the attachment was considered to be thoroughly successful.

General Sir John Mogg, D SACEUR visited the Commcen, and he said that he was impressed with the obvious professionalism and sense of purpose of everyone he met. In a letter subsequently received from the host unit, it was heartening to read of our Volunteers:

"Without them, we could not have achieved our mission in such an efficient manner. Please convey to everyone our thanks for a job well done."

Major Dick Misslin, OC Volunteers, meets General Sir John Mogg D SACEUR. In attendance, Lieutenant-Colonel Alan R. Jones and Major Eric Carrel of SHAPE SSG

Preliminary familiarisation training—the calm before the storm! On the right, Private Sue Epps, WRAC (V) and Captain Jim Mill

SPORTING NEWS

Once again we have to record a near miss, as our squash team were the losing finalists in the London District TAVR Squash Competition, which was held at Armoury House in London on Monday, 24th March. We were beaten by the strong 'home' team from the Honourable Artillery Company. It is alleged they have been practising since they were formed in the sixteenth century!

In the London District TAVR Orienteering Competition, although we were not among the medals our team gained valuable experience for the future. We did have one claim to fame, as **Second-Lieutenant Wendy Kirk**—the second member of our team home—was the only lady taking part in the competition!

Lieutenant-Colonel John Eversfield presents runners-up trophies to the Regimental squash team at Armoury House. The team, *left to right:* Captain James Allan, Sergeant Roger Barron and Sergeant Alan Lafferty

"ORIENTEERING? NEXT TIME WE'LL GO BY CAR!"
Standing, left to right: Signalman Dave Rice, Captain Jim Mill
Sitting, left to right: Corporal Verendra Singh, Signalman Dave Cude, Second-Lieutenant Wendy Kirk, WRAC (V)

Sport

Corps Canoeist up with the Champions!

SERGEANT BILL WHITE OF 36th SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) SELECTED FOR 1975 WORLD CANOE MEETING

READERS may recall an article in the January/February 1972 edition of THE WIRE under the heading "Unknown canoeist makes a name for himself", when **Sergeant** (then Corporal) **White** first came to notice as a Kayak canoeist of considerable potential.

In June this year he will represent Great Britain in the Canadian class, as a member of the wild water racing team, at the 1975 world championships which are to be held in Yugoslavia. The distinction between these classes is that in the kayak the canoeist sits in the canoe and has a double ended paddle with which to propel, steer and support himself, whereas in the Canadian he has to kneel using only a single ended paddle to manoeuvre the canoe.

Sergeant White's successes are impressive. He first became interested in canoeing mainly as a pleasure sport in the summer of 1969, whilst serving in BAOR. His competitive instinct quickly developed and his first major success came in August 1971 when he won the intermediate kayak class in the Army slalom championships. He switched to the Canadian class of paddling in 1972, and his reputation as an army canoeist of the first order was assured when, in the summer of 1974 he became the Army Canadian singles champion and, together with **S.S.I. Ken Dyer,** APTC (ex-Royal Signals) won the Army Canadian doubles championship.

He has been awarded Army colours on four successive occasions taking part in the Inter-Services slalom championships. In October of 1974 he won the Inter-Services Canadian singles championship helping the Army team to victory.

In the civilian field he competed in the 1973/74 winter season of British wild water racing and won sufficient points to be ranked No. 1 in Great Britain in the Canadian singles class. This achievement he repeated in 1974/75 season amassing an even greater score securing 3 first places, 3 second places and 1 third place on the way. To confirm his ranking as No. 1 in Great Britain, he took part in the 1975 British open wild water championships, won the Canadian singles championship and helped his team into first place.

He has represented his country on four previous occasions. In the Spring of 1973 he took part in an International wild water race in West Germany, but due to an unfortunate accident which

CONCENTRATION

Sergeant Bill White battles with the River Tryweryn, N. Wales during the 1975 British Open Canadian Singles Championship which he won

required 18 stitches in his hand he didn't complete the course. In the summer of 1974 he was in the British team, competing in the Europa Cup, at Dinant in Belgium, Merano in Italy and Garmish Partenkirchen in West Germany.

To assess his chances in Yugoslavia, it is worth recalling that during the Belgium leg of the Europa Cup last year he put up his best individual performance in competition with champions from nine other countries. Placed fourth in a 39 minute race, he missed the bronze medal by 3 seconds, finishing only 9 seconds behind the current World Champion.

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

Corps Rugby

MARCH TOUR

The careful team building efforts of the November 1974 tour paid rich dividends when the Corps rugby team re-assembled for its short March Tour. For the first time for many seasons the Corps finished with a 100% record winning both of its representative matches. Two other features were notable: **Major Brian Blackwell's** fifth and final re-incarnation as skipper on a Corps Tour and the total lack of any young officers available for the Corps Team—the latter being a truly deplorable state of affairs.

There were many encouraging signs including a new team spirit and air of confidence in the side. It was particularly indicative of the style of rugby played by the Corps that seven of the tries scored in the two matches played were scored by the Corps wing threequarters.

The tour began with a new venture, a match between Royal Signals U.K. North and Royal Signals U.K. South. This was a fine opener to the tour and provided an element of keen competition which is lacking from the usual trial matches. It is hoped to continue this custom next season.

Results of games played were:

Royal Signals U.K. South 6 pts.: Royal Signals U.K. North 10 pts.

R.M.A. Sandhurst 16 pts.: Royal Signals 23 pts.

R.A.F. Support Command 6 pts.: Royal Signals 15 pts.

RMA SANDHURST v. ROYAL SIGNALS

Played at Camberley on 5th March.

RMA kicked off and immediately took play into the Royal Signals '25'. However despite the initial pressure the Royal Signals defence looked sound with backs and forwards alike covering and tackling hard. Just when it looked as if the RMA attack was spent and play began to move more into the RMA half, the RMA scrum half (who is coming into Royal Signals!) scored a clever opportunist drop goal from a lineout.

This setback inspired the Corps team to great efforts and **Steve Peacock, 'Andy' Hickling** and **Brian Blackwell** began to win a great deal of good ball from the line out and the forwards more than held their own in the tight scrums. Every time they handled the ball the backs looked very dangerous. **'Taff' Davies** was giving a splendid service to **Alan James** who was playing a cool and masterly game at fly half.

The pressure paid off twice just before half time. First a harrassed RMA player conceded a penalty in front of the posts which **Mick Pawlak** kicked with ease; then from a ruck the ball was passed down the line with back row and threequarters joining in for **Pete Lytollis** to brush his opposite number aside for a splendid try.

The second half was mainly Royal Signals pressure with RMA proving true to their tradition of never giving up. The threequarters, **'Q' Gilder, Clive Blackburn, Glen Harwood** and **Pete Lytollis** were giving the RMA endless trouble with their strong direct running and brilliant handling. It was **'Q' Gilder** who next crossed for a try to make the score 11–3. Then **Pete Lytollis** raced in for his second try to increase the lead to 15–3. The RMA fought back however to score a good try which they converted. However, before they could exploit further, the Royal Signals forwards set up a fine handling movement in which **Trevor Johnson** handed on to **Steve Peacock** who crashed his way through the opposition for a good try. This brought the score to 19–9.

An untypical error then gave the RMA the chance of a penalty which their scrum half kicked over from some distance.

Once again Royal Signals stormed back and **'Q' Gilder** scored a beautiful individualist try leaving half a dozen of the opposition mesmerised as he jinked over.

In the closing seconds the RMA scored a final consolation try bringing the final score to 23–16 in Royal Signals favour. The real loss to the Corps however was that **Glen Harwood** damaged his shoulder attempting to stop the final try and was unavailable for the remainder of the tour. This young centre showed great promise and should represent the Corps for many seasons ahead.

This was a splendid, clean game, excellently refereed with plenty of open running play. The Corps team looked more like its former successful self and the potential of the young players was self evident.

Royal Signals XV: **Sergeant Mick Pawlak** (8th Signal Regiment), **Corporal 'Q' Gilder** (7th Signal Regiment), **Corporal Clive Blackburn** (7th Signal Regiment), **Corporal Glen Harwood** (233 Signal Squadron), **Lance-Corporal Pete Lytollis** (16th Signal Regiment), **Corporal Alan James** (8th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Davies** (8th Signal Regiment), **Sergeant Trevor Johnson** (8th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Bill McConnell** (8th Signal Regiment), **Signalman Nigel Thomas** (8th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Andy Hickling** (8th Signal Regiment), **Signalman Steve Peacock** (8th Signal Regiment), **Corporal 'Scotty' Scott** (8th Signal Regiment), **Major Brian Blackwell** (MOD) (Captain), **Lance-Corporal 'Blod' Jones** (30th Signal Regiment).

RAF SUPPORT COMMAND v. ROYAL SIGNALS

Played at RAF Innsworth on 8th March.

Royal Signals won the toss and chose to play up hill against the wind. Support Command launched a series of attacks and Royal Signals spent most of the half defending desperately. There were many close calls but the Royal Signals' line remained intact although Support Command kicked one penalty goal just before half time.

Having contained the opposition and with slope and wind in their favour Royal Signals switched to the attack immediately after the re-start. After ten minutes a Support Command player was caught offside and **Sergeant Mick Pawlak** kicked a fine penalty goal to level the scores.

The Royal Signals forwards now began to win a lot of ball for their backs particularly from the set scrums where hooker **Lance-Corporal Bill McConnell,** despite an injured back, was playing a first class game.

From a tight scrum, **Major Brian Blackwell** broke from No. 8 and passed on to **'Taff' Davies** who put winger **Signalman 'Woody' Woodhouse** away on an unstoppable run to score in the corner.

Support Command rallied a little and were consoled by another penalty goal. However, the Royal Signals' line was rarely threatened now as **Corporal Alan James** used the wind to pin Support Command back into their own '25'. After a lineout from just such a kick, **'Q' Gilder** produced another burst of his jinking magic to score a try when a score seemed impossible.

There was still more to come from the Corps team as they returned to the attack immediately. A thrilling passing movement by the threequarters gave **Signalman 'Woody' Woodhouse** just the room he needed to go outside his man, hand off the full-back and score his second try in the corner. Final score 15–6 to Royal Signals.

This was a magnificent team effort by the Royal Signals in which each player gave everything in defence and attack. It was a most competent and satisfactory victory.

Royal Signals XV: **Sergeant Mick Pawlak** (8th Signal Regiment), **Signalman 'Woody' Woodhouse** (8th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Pete Lytollis** (16th Signal Regiment), **Corporal Clive Blackburn** (7th Signal Regiment), **Corporal 'Q' Gilder** (7th Signal Regiment), **Corporal Alan James** (8th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Davies** (8th Signal Regiment), **W.O.1 Bert Schneider** (22nd Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Bill McConnell** (8th Signal Regiment), **Sergeant Trevor Johnson** (8th Signal Regiment), **Corporal Andy Hickling** (8th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal 'Stretch' Dalton** (10th Signal Regiment), **Corporal 'Scotty' Scott** (8th Signal Regiment), **Corporal Bruce Casburn** (8th Signal Regiment), **Major Brian Blackwell** (MOD) (Captain).

Corps Football

MAJOR P. A. LENTHALL, CORPS SECRETARY, WRITES:

v. SHEFFIELD AND HULL UNIVERSITIES

The Corps has five University fixtures, only 2 of which were played this season. They were used to try out new players, as the Corps squad requires reinforcements.

The first game against Sheffield University, the venue Catterick on 15th January, showed the lack of cohesion that has been a feature of Corps football for so long. Playing together as a team for the first time, the Corps squad was unable to counter the relentless Sheffield attack. The University has currently the strongest Varsity side, numbering the University Athletic Union Football Skipper in its squad. Early shots at the Corps goal were deflected by keeper **Corporal Mick Freedman.** Good runs by **Yeoman Ian Sleightholme** and **Lance-Corporal Billy Malone** stretched the University defence, but did not produce a goal. In the thirty-fifth minute Sheffield scored and buoyed up by this, the students pressed home. By half time, the Corps were 4–0 down. The second half was a more balanced game with the Corps team moving well and putting the game together. However, the University had built up a commanding lead which was not to be challenged. A penalty and a mixup in the Corps defence left the students 6–0 victors at full time.

The Corps team was new, but gave their best. Several players will be in the line up for future fixtures.

The second fixture was at Hull, against a team that has always produced a good match. The Corps kicked off to meet a Varsity side that went straight into the attack playing good football, keeper **Corporal Mick Freedman** was under pressure right from the start, and made two good saves in the opening minutes.

The storm was weathered and the Corps team began to put their game together. The back four were now holding the Hull attacks giving the mid-field players a chance to set up attacks on the Hull goal. **W.O.2 Ian Sleightholme** had a shot well saved by the Hull keeper. In the second half the Corps team really began to attack the Hull goal. Following a corner the Hull keeper dropped the ball and . . . scored. Five minutes later Hull were level, their centre forward was left unmarked in the box, and made no mistake. Within minutes the Corps were in front again. A good build up between **Lance-Corporal Colin Hough** and **Lance-Corporal Billy Malone** was well collected by **W.O.2 Ian Sleightholme,** crashing in a volley for the second goal. A dubious penalty desicion gave Hull the chance to equalise and their Captain took the opportunity. The Corps team pressed forward again and only three fine saves by the Hull keeper prevented an increase in the score. The Hull forwards broke away in the closing minutes but another fine save by keeper **Mick Freedman** ensured the draw. The blend in the team was good and this result achieved against a good side must give encouragement for the future.

The Corps squad for both matches was drawn from: **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Ian Sleightholme, Corporal Jimmy Neil, Corporal Tony Chew, Lance-Corporal Keith Hibbins, Lance-Corporal Billy Malone** (244 Signal Squadron), **Corporal Jim Baines, Corporal Mick Freedman, Corporal Ron Oliver, Signalman Al Howarth, Signalman Alan Williams** (8th Signal Regiment), **Signalman Mel Hough** (10th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal George Mannarn, Signalman Mick Birney** (14th Signal Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Colin Hough, Lance-Corporal Chris Sinnet** (223 Signal Squadron), **Corporal 'Buster' Brown** (HQ Intelligence Centre).

Corps Squash—Individual Competition

REPORT FROM SECRETARY CORPS SQUASH

The week-end 7th–9th March was chosen to stage the Corps Squash Racquets Individual Competition at Blandford Camp. A total of 24 entrants came up to scratch for the Individual competition, the associated Plate competition and the Veterans competition.

In the top half of the draw the No. 1 seed, **W.O.1 M. G. E. Hall** easily disposed of all opposition to reach the final after conceding only a total of 16 points. In the other half of the draw the second seed and defending Champion, **Brigadier E. J. Hellier** was battling in his inimitable manner easily reaching the semi-final where he met **Sergeant T. Fellows,** Royal Australian Signals. After winning the first two closely contested games the Brigadier won a decisive third game and a place in the final for the second successive year.

Mid-day 9th March, after the minor competition finals, was the time of the final and 20 spectators including the Commandant of the School of Signals—**Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson**—took their places. **W.O.1 Hall** easily won the first and second games but faltered over the third when the Brigadier fought back. **W.O.1 Hall** finally won by 9 points to 5 to become the Royal Signals Individual Champion of 1975.

In the Plate competition **Captain B. P. O'Day,** Royal Australian Signals, who had been knocked out of the main competition by **W.O.1 Hall,** comfortably played into the final where he defeated **Second-Lieutenant P. Smith,** Royal Signals in 3 games.

Disappointingly, only 2 entries were received for the Veterans competition and in this match **Brigadier E. J. Hellier** beat **Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. F. Barker,** Royal Signals in 3 games.

After a fine weekend of squash **Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson** kindly presented the prizes. The standard of squash was very high

and credits must go to **W.O.1 M. G. E. Hall** for his fine performance.

COMMENT

It is unfortunate that my letter urging all UK units to encourage entries from all standards of players seemed to have fallen on stony ground. The response of only 24 entrants, a similar number to the 1974 entry, is an unhappy reflection of the devotion to this sport—when the general trend of squash appears to be ever-booming.

DETAILED RESULTS

Individual Competition
1st **W.O.1 M. G. E. Hall**
2nd **Brigadier E. J. Hellier**
3rd **Sergeant T. Fellows,** Royal Australian Signals
4th **Sergeant R. Barron**

Plate Competition
1st **Captain B. P. O'Day,** Royal Australian Signals
2nd **Second-Lieutenant P. Smith**

Veterans Competition
1st **Brigadier E. J. Hellier**
2nd **Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. F. Barker**

Late Report from Ulster

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

In November 74' 233 Signal Squadron was swelled in numbers by the arrival of 24 members of the troop being formed for a new operational task, VICTOR TROOP. Now that they are well and truly settled in **Corporal Nallon** has volunteered (or perhaps was volunteered), to put pen to paper, with the following results.

VICTOR TROOP BY CORPORAL DANNY NALLON

It was in November 74 that I left Germany for Northern Ireland amidst tears, goodbyes, and take care of yourselves from loved ones who couldn't join me immediately. A cold, rainy morning doesn't improve Liverpool docks, and I remember thinking that someone in Reading was a lousy darts player! Things looked up, though, when, having been directed to a new portakabin which was to become the troop's centre of operations, I met my Troop Commander, **Captain Alex Littlejohn** and my new comrades in arms. We had come from units all over the UK and BAOR, and included, to our pleasant surprise, seven WRAC girls.

We have been here now for five months and have already managed to lower, OOPS! did I say LOWER? the tone of the Squadron Club and any other social occasion we have been invited to, which I might add, seem to be becoming fewer and fewer in number. I wonder why?

We have a couple of romances blooming already. (Don't worry, **Private Whyte** and **Private Simpson**—no names mentioned!). There is even a marriage in the very near future. **Lance-Corporal Paul Flintham** is to become a decent member of society this month, much to the disgust of the other Troop members. Seriously, though, we would all like to take this opportunity to wish him and his wife, a local girl, every happiness for the future, and hope his children have a rich father!

Although we do work hard, we still find plenty of time for other things and morale is high. **Corporal John Terry,** a skilled and well qualified cabinet maker, has been lending a hand with alterations and redecoration in the Squadron Club—the Peake Inn, and **Sergeants Mick Sheehan** and **Peter Bovenizer** have played for our busy Squadron Hockey Team all season. Members of the Troop formed the 233 Signal Squadron 'A' team in the Garrison Spring Volleyball Competition, and succeeded in reaching the semi-finals after some very enjoyable games. Basketball, too, claims our interest and we play many 'friendlies' in the evenings.

So, this is life in Victor Troop. If hearing about it makes you hasten to your squadron commander with your posting application, I am sure you won't be sorry.

HOCKEY

We are very proud of our hockey team this season, who had a very convincing win against the RAMC Training Centre in the semi-finals, and became the first Northern Ireland unit for a very long time to reach the finals of the Army Minor Units Hockey Competition. We flew out on the Wednesday night played the final at the Officer's Club, Aldershot on Thursday 20th March and flew back again that same evening. Unfortunately the School of Military Survey scored two early goals, and although the rest of the game was very even and hard fought, we didn't succeed in putting the ball in the net.

ARRIVALS

We welcome: **W.O.1. Gray, Corporals Horne** and **Pickersgill, Lance-Corporals Medland** and **Pullin, Signalman Wells.**
WRAC: **Corporal McGregor, Lance-Corporal Eaton, Lance-Corporal Malham, Privates McGranaghan, Petty, Probert, Sutton, Tyson** and **Waltho.**

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and bon voyage to: **Sergeants Bright and Buchan.**
PS: Last month's farewell to **Signalman Ramsay** was a little premature in anticipation of success on a Para Course. Apologies!

Association News

Cardiff Branch

From: Hon. Treasurer: **M. H. Jones, Esq.**

In an earlier WIRE, reference was made to a concert held on the 2nd November 1974. Despite the entertainment provided and the enjoyment received by those present, an eventual loss was incurred of £280. The Branch was in desperate straits and doubts began to arise as to whether we could continue to function effectively. Should any other Branch ever find itself in a similar position, then perhaps our experience may be of value and encouragement. Donations flowed in from members and friends. A sponsored walk from Cardiff to Barry Island was staged by members of 53rd Signal Squadron. As we have been asked to curtail contributions to THE WIRE, it is impossible to name all those members and friends who participated in the walk. It would be equally unfair to particularise, but we do thank sincerely everyone who braved the cold and foggy conditions. Their reward is the knowledge that Cardiff branch once again is solvent, if only just!

On numerous occasions we in Cardiff have been indebted to **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.** for his advice and assistance, always rendered so courteously and most efficiently. May his retirement be long and happy.

Jersey Branch

Hon. Sec.: **E. A. Strutt, Esq.,** 106 La Collette, St. Helier, Jersey

The annual dinner of the Jersey branch was held on the 14th February and although a small branch in number, it was fully attended by members and their guests. The Branch Chairman, **Captain J. Rudkins,** welcomed all present and introduced the Guest Speaker, **Lieutenant-Commander Jolley,** RNVR who spoke of his experiences as a sailor and soldier during the 1939–45 war. They were varied and amusing and must have reminded some of the older guests of the events during that period. The Branch was also pleased to welcome **Major-General R. T. O. Cary, D.S.O., C.B., C.B.E.,** who came over from Guernsey especially for the occasion. He spoke of his pleasure at being at the dinner and some of his comments caused much amusement. The toast of the ladies was made by **Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hotchkiss** and a very pleasant reply on behalf of the ladies was made by **Mrs. Gordon-Hall.**

The evening was generally agreed to have been a great success and a repeat performance is being looked into.

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Corps Band — Public Appearances 1975

25th–31st May	St. James' Park, London
1st–7th June	Eastbourne
14th June	Hillingdon
23rd–29th June	Aldershot Army Display
2nd–5th July	Wembley—Army Benevolent Fund, Pageant
13th–19th July	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London
20th–26th July	Eastbourne
9th–10th August	Corby Highland Gathering
15th–25th August	Jersey
18th–23rd August	Darlington Railway Show
27th August	Gillingham and Shatesbury Show
21st September	Basingstoke Show
9th November	Bristol Remembrance Parade
	Richmond Remembrance Parade

White Helmets: Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team

Date	Engagement	Location
MAY		
22–28	Belgium	Mons
29–3 June	Edinburgh	Edinburgh
31	Navy Show	Rosythe
JUNE		
5– 7	Royal Cornwall Show	Wadebridge
8	Chester	Chester
14	Laing Gala Day	London
21	Accrington Carnival	Lancashire
22	Barnsley Show	Yorkshire
23–29	Aldershot Army Display	Aldershot
JULY		
4	US Army Harrogate	Harrogate
5	Signal View	Worcester
	Wordsley Gala	Stourbridge
9–10	Catterick 1975	Catterick
13	Old Comrades	Catterick
19	Masham Traction Engine Rally	
20	Skegness Show	Skegness
21–22	Kirkby Army Display	Kirkby
24–27	Manchester	Manchester
28–29	Butlins (Ayr)	Scotland
30	Stranraer Agricultural Show	Scotland
AUGUST		
1– 2	Hull Show	Hull
3	Rutland County Show	Rutland
4– 9	Colchester Tattoo	Colchester
12–17	Armex	Harrogate
18	Cleveland Show (Eston Playweek)	Cleveland
19–22	Cleethorpes Show	Cleethorpes
23–25	Expo Steam Fair	Peterborough
29– 4 September	Motorcycle Show	Earls Court
SEPTEMBER		
6	Norfolk Tattoo	Norfolk
7	Burma Star Day	Waterbeach
8–12	Portsmouth Show	Portsmouth
23–27	Grangemouth Tattoo	Scotland
20 Oct–10 Nov	Berlin Tattoo	Berlin

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Small (each)	16p
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June-July 1975

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

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Mr. L. Wood

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☆

JUNE/JULY • 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 6**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

8th Signal Regiment have enjoyed a vintage year for sport. Main successes have been as follows:

Rugby: Winners N E District Cup and 7-a-side
Football: Winners N E District, UKLF and Army Cups
Hockey: Winners N E District (cup and league), N E District 6-a-side UKLF and Army Cups
Motorcycling: Winners N E and N W District team and individual events as well as Army team championships
Cricket: Winners N E. District cup.
Badminton: Winners N.E. District men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles.
Basketball: Winners N.E. and N.W. District cups.

We are happy to publish this distinctive photograph of the various teams shown by different colours for each sport and the fine array of cups won by them. A number of individuals who contributed to these successes were unable to be present for the photograph which, nevertheless, features 60 o 8th Regiment's outstanding sportsmen.

Signing Off

THIS is the last WIRE editorial that the present editor will be writing—the hot seat will be occupied by **Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Murray** who takes over as General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association as from 14th July.

It has been a rare privilege to be able to edit the Corps magazine for the past twelve and a half years. No editor could have received more support than the writer has from very many members of the Corps, both serving and retired. Contributions have flowed in in almost embarrassing abundance—often in excess of what we can comfortably publish. Unit scribes have done their bit loyally—the mantle frequently falling on them at very short notice. The number of general interest articles received has been most gratifying and it is particularly good to see that the more junior members of the Corps are not in any way inhibited from contributing to their magazine—which is just the way we want it. We have tried to make THE WIRE a family magazine by the use of Christian names, irrespective of rank, and by not being too serious or formal in our approach. Our aim has always been to project the image, as we see it, of a vigorous, lively Corps getting out and about, doing worthwhile and interesting things, keen on sport and on top of its job both technically and militarily. Our contacts—direct or by correspondence—with a host of good friends over the years have been warm and encouraging. We must also thank our publishers, Messrs. F. J. Parsons Ltd. who have done their best to serve us well despite the vicissitudes that have beset the printing industry from time to time.

Nor must we forget the Central Committee of the Association who have always given THE WIRE their full support—both moral and financial. They have treated our problems with much understanding.

And so—with genuine regret—we sign off. One thing is sure. THE WIRE will continue—as it has since 1920—to be worthy of the fine Corps whose activities it has the privilege to portray.

Delay in Wire Publication

It is much regretted that owing to a printing industrial dispute publication has been held up and this, and subsequent issues, may be considerably delayed.

Farewell to a Distinguished Senior Officer

Brigadier C. C. FAIRWEATHER, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.

DINED-OUT AT THE ROYAL SIGNALS MESS, CATTERICK ON 19TH APRIL

FOR 47 years **Brigadier Claude Fairweather** has been identified with the Corps and the Territorial Army into which he was commissioned in 1928. A year or two after leaving St. Peters School, York, he joined 50 (Northumbrian) Divisional Signal Regiment (TA) and has been connected with that Regiment and its successor, 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) ever since. He was a TA Major at the out-break of World War Two and was mobilised with 50 Division in 1939, took his company to France with the BEF and brought it back to England by way of Dunkirk after the fall of France. After a period spent in instructing at the STC Catterick he was appointed to command 2 Divisional Signals in 1941, thereby acquiring the distinction of having been the only TA officer to have commanded that Regiment. He remained with it until 1943, handing over command just before the Kohima battle and only leaving as he had been selected to take command of communications for the Chindit Force.

It was with the Chindits that perhaps the most interesting and exciting period in a long and varied career took place. Pioneering the techniques of deep penetration behind the Japanese lines, dependant upon air resupply for their very existence, this force, under its brilliant leader, **General Orde Wingate,** created disruption and confusion amongst the hitherto triumphant Japanese Army and gave a much-needed boost to the Allied war effort at a time when British fortunes in every theatre were at a low ebb.

Brigadier (then Colonel) **Fairweather** was responsible for the particularly vital communications of this force and under his command they were extensively re-organised and expanded. On his return to India he was promoted to Brigadier as Chief Signal Officer of 34th Indian Corps—an amphibious force specially formed with an eye to the recapture of Singapore.

Returning to his civilian job as a director of the Tees Towing Company after the war, he continued his association with the Territorial Army as Chairman of the North of England TA Association. His work for the TA was not merely confined to regional or local matters. He was a member of the TA National Council and of its Executive and Advisory Committees. He also served as a member of the late Duke of Norfolk's working party which did so much to save the TA from total disbandment and re-organised it into the present thriving TAVR.

In 1967 he became Honorary Colonel of the newly formed 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), formed from 49 (West Riding) Division Signal Regiment and his own original regiment, 50 (Northumbrian) Division Signal Regiment. From that date until last month he has followed the fortunes of the Regiment and guided a succession of Regular and Volunteer Commanding Officers with enthusiasm, kindness and a wealth of sound personal experience. He has done much for his Regiment and has enhanced the reputation of Royal Signals over five decades. The warm thanks and best wishes of the Corps go with him and **Mrs. Fairweather** on their well-earned retirement. We trust we may continue to see plenty of them at future Corps functions and gatherings.

—From our "In" Tray—

The Whattheheckarwee Saga

From: W.O.1 (Y. of S.) D. T. Llewellyn

Sir,

Major Eric Gill sounded the horn but few hounds came a baying to run the old fox to earth (and to support him in some respects).

May I, as a Yeoman about to take off the finest badge in the British Army to replace it with two brand new pips, and to enter the 'kitchen' have my two new pence worth? I'm surprised to see that no Warrant Officers Yeomen, have risen to the bait before now, and even more surprised that other W.O.s on other rosters have not risen in their masses wielding knobbly clubs and uttering strange oaths—for surely the fact that they may at this moment be Technicians, Clerks, R.S.M.s or Yeomen will be obliterated once they go through the levelling process of putting up pips—after all, we don't issue pips with lightning flashes, or pips with ex-R.S.M. or Yeoman stamped on them. They are, quite simply, PIPS!

So the question posed by the title of this letter (WHATTHEHECKARWEE?) has only one answer—we are, or will be, Officers.

Just take a look at the situation of a 1975 (note the date please) W.O.1 (Whatever): Here we have an experienced man aged about 35. He has spent most of his life guiding young officers and men along the straight and narrow, learning about management, organisation, tactics, communications planning, training . . . ad infinitum. At this point he is probably the finest trained, most able middle management animal in the stable. The fact that he may well be able to quote circuit diagrams from heart or supply a regiment with socks, nuts and bolts and food or quote the exact procedure for passing a message from here to there must, certainly, be to the benefit of the Corps; for this Corps exists to communicate, and this kind of man must be one of the lynch pins. He is certainly NOT punch drunk—just very, very experienced. It is how he uses this experience, or more importantly how he is allowed to use it which is critical.

I believe that the whole subject boils down to two points only:
—What do we *want* to be? Is it a middle aged 'seen it all before' nice quiet life counting keycards and amending ACPs or counting socks? If so, then it's time we packed it in and got out of the kitchen—the Corps doesn't want us.
—What do the 'Big White Chiefs of the Tribe' want us to be? Too many COs for far too long have categorised us as 'Traffic', 'QM', 'Super Clerk' and so on . . . and have employed us as assistant deputy to the corporal in charge of mucking out the stables. What an absolute load of old nonsense. We waste two or three years waiting for our 'Regular'—Rubbish!

If you are going to elect workers to the board of directors then give them their head and let them get on with using their 18 or 20 years of valuable experience—make it work for the benefit of the Corps. Those who cannot stand the heat will melt away, those who can will be welded into first class troop commanders, adjutants and squadron commanders. I know of no law which states that you have to be ex-Sandhurst/Welbeck to command men, materials and situations.

If there have to be changes in the attitudes towards newly commissioned soldiers from the W.O. ranks, and I believe that there should be changes, then these must come from both the W.O.s themselves and also from the senior management, who must in future appreciate that we, the W.O.s (and may I speak for some of the other rosters?) are not to be categorised on commission—we must be given appointments where we can flex our muscles and apply our experience at one and the same time, for who better to manage an organisation than someone who has been trained for 20 years to do just that (after our KFS course of course!)

Yours sincerely,

D. T. Llewellyn

Offices of the Controller,
Defence Communication Network,
RAF Medmenham,
Marlow,
Bucks SL7 2ED.

Employment of Traffic Officers

From: Major (Traffic) R. J. Robinson, M.B.E.

Sir,

May I add one further letter to the spate of correspondence on the 'Employment of Traffic Officers'?

As is often the case one needs to look back to establish one's situation. Two main factors have influenced appointments within recent times. These are the demise of off-line cipher, an inevitable casualty to on-line technology and the loss of long haul circuits as a result of RISTACOM. The art of traffic handling on an international scale is with us no more.

The many pure Traffic Officer posts lost as a result of these two factors, were compensated in part by BRUIN. In general however the advance of computerisation can only shrink the employment areas, even allowing for some system management posts.

It is appreciated that this letter merely skims a complex subject. However the point I make is, appointments must be found from outside the accepted areas of Traffic Officer employment, to allow the career structure of our high quality Yeoman to be maintained.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Robinson,
Major (Traffic) SO3 Ops/Mob
HQ UKLF.

From: Captain D. S. J. Wootten

Sir,

From your 'In Tray' February-March, **Major Eric Gill's** letter 'Broader Outlook Advocated' was indeed as he admitted in his April-May letter 'Provocative' but unlike him I was not surprised by the 'smallness of response' as he puts it, for it would appear to me that the majority of Traffic Officers treated his comments with the contempt they so rightly deserved and remained silent.

From a quick perusal of the 'White List' it also appears to me that had **Major Gill** referred to *his* and not *the* 'ilk' as being "blinkered, hidebound and procedurally punch-drunk", he may well have been nearer the truth; and who are those 'Yeoman' whom he advocates the Corps should not commission? Ah! yes I know, they are those NCOs who—Commanding Officers have recommended, Selection Boards have selected and barrier tests have tested for a special brand of *versatility*.

What we need is more 'Commissioned Yeoman' of the same calibre as those I have worked with in the past, who in addition to being an officer in the widest sense of the word (be he only non-commissioned) is invariably the Commissioned Officer's right hand man, including that of the old 'traffic handling' breed.

Major Gill quotes **Truman, Major Loudoun** quotes **Lincoln** and from the views expressed in your April-May 'In Tray', I'll quote 'Anon' — 'The Pots calling the Kettle Black' and perhaps you will apologise to **Captain John Cotton** for omitting the suffix (Tfc) from his rank.

Sincerely,

D. S. J. Wootten

653 Signal Troop (SAGW),
The Royal School of Artillery,
Larkhill,
Wiltshire SP4 8QT.

(Shooting on the wrong target! The Editor was at pains to include "Tfc" with **Captain Cotton's** rank [see last line of letter above] but unfortunately the printer missed this galley correction —Editor.)

Service in Northern Ireland

From: Major E. Pickup

Sir,

I read with interest **Lieutenant Hewlett's** short article on her first impressions of Northern Ireland (April/May 1975). However, on behalf of a not inconsiderable number of serving Irishmen and women, and their families, I feel I must take her to task on her description of the people passing through a checkpoint there. She does not say where this was located but I have assumed, perhaps quite wrongly, that she was referring to one of the city centre check points. As one who has passed through these on many occasions over the past few years, whilst on leave, I find it difficult to recall the crowds as being "grey with dirt and ignorant of their smell". I would have classed them as a normal cross section of the population, both clean and not so clean, of any large industrial city in the British Isles.

And of course "only very few were silent, sullen or downright abusive" at her checkpoint. The terrorists and their supporters of whatever persuasion do represent only a tiny minority of the population and it should come as no surprise to find that the great majority "were friendly, talkative and grateful".

By all means let us have comment on aspects of life in Northern Ireland, but correspondents should try to avoid generalisations which may unthinkingly give offence to many Irish men and women.

Yours sincerely,

E. Pickup

UK Commanders-in-Chief Committees,
Erskine Barracks,
Wilton,
Salisbury.

Welcome to new General Secretary of the Association

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

We would like to give a warm welcome to **Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Murray** on his assumption on 14th July of the duties of the General Secretary of the Association and the Editorship of THE WIRE.

He was commissioned into the Corps in 1945 and joins Regimental Headquarters from being Deputy Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Manning and Records. The experience gained there and as a GSOIII in the War Office when his duties included the Secretaryship of the Corps Committee should serve him well in his new appointment, in which we wish him all good luck.

Ex-Boys/Ex-Apprentices Reunion Dinner

For a number of years there used to be a very successful ex-Boys/Apprentices reunion dinner held annually at the Victory Club, London. Unfortunately for various reasons the organisation behind these dinners ceased to function. There are many members who are keen that this annual event should be resuscitated but it does mean that a small organising Committee should be formed to get things under way.

Are there any public spirited ex-Boys or Apprentices willing to volunteer to serve on this Committee either as Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary? If so, will they please send in their names to the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association who will put them in touch with each other in the hope that things will get moving again. Association Headquarters would give assistance in WIRE publicity, despatching of circular letters and such like were such a Committee to be formed.

Birthday Honours List

Congratulations to the following:

C.B.E.

Brigadier G. Proudman

O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. C. Alexander

M.B.E.

Captain M. E. Billett
Major R. F. Maynard
Major L. W. Prescot
Major M. J. P. Vann

B.E.M.

Corporal A. Forbes

Photo news from School of Signals

The Commandant, School of Signals, Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson, presenting the Royal Signals Institution Weymss Prize to Captain B. P. O'Day, Royal Australian Signals. The Wemyss Prize consisting of an inscribed copy of Corps History and a cheque for £50, is awarded to the best overall student of the Telecommunications Engineering Management Course. The presentation was made on Friday, 18th April in Malaysia Room, School of Signals (hence the background photographs)

Lieutenant Peter Neale who obtained an 'A' Grading on No. 2 Royal Signals Communications Qualifying Course, receiving from Colonel R. L. Stonham, Chief Instructor, School of Signals, the Corps and Royal Signals Institution Prize for the best student on the course

Lieutenant Neale reciprocated by presenting a plaque on behalf of the course, suitably inscribed, to be hung in HQ Mess

Standard Telephones and Cables generous hosts at a Corps occasion

Standard Telephones and Cables Limited recently hosted a reunion dinner at New Southgate to celebrate the founding, in 1935, of the STC Southgate Detachment of the Royal Signals. The occasion also marked the 20th anniversary of the formation of the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association which was formed in 1935 by the members of the STC Detachment.

Mr. K. A. F. Frost, commercial director of STC, was host to guests who included **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.,** Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, **Major-General Sir John Anderson, K.B.E., Sir Norman Kipping,**

STC ROYAL SIGNALS 40 YEAR REUNION DINNER

The Mayors of Haringey and Barnet, Councillor F. A. Knight and Alderman W. G. Hart, toast Colonel Ken Baldwin, M.B.E., President of the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association. Colonel Baldwin recently retired from STC after 43 years' service and was guest of honour at the STC Royal Signals dinner

K.B.E. and **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary, Royal Signals Association. The Mayors of Barnet and Haringey and members of STC who served as officers and men with the Royal Signals during the war and who still work with, or have retired from, STC at New Southgate were also guests on this very pleasant evening.

The principal guest was **Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E.,** one of the early officers of the STC Detachment, who is President of the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association and who recently retired after 43 years' service with STC.

Some 300 men marched out of STC New Southgate to serve this country in the last war and whilst many were destined to be returned to industry as indispensable, the remainder served throughout the war in all fields of operations.

Nearly 100 of these men, and their guests, were present at the dinner where music was provided by the Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry (OCA), Duke of Cambridge Hussars.

Welfare

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in April	**37**
Number of parcels sent	**37**
Amount spent	**£1,943·79**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**13**
Amount spent	**£221·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

LANCE-CORPORAL, war time service, now aged 65. He looks after his wife who is incurably ill and almost bedridden. A gas fire was urgently needed to provide some warmth for the room to which she is confined, and the Association made a grant of £50 to provide this and a few additional comforts.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

JUST a line to let you know we received the grant safely. What a wonderful surprise it was. We were both overcome with such kindness given us. How can we ever thank you enough? I can never find the words to say how very grateful we both are for such generous help. We know you never forget us by all you do for us and send us; that's why we feel so good to know someone is thinking of us. All I can do is thank you very, very much once again.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during April, 1975:

	£ p
H. R. W. Marsh, Esq.	10·00
Major F. W. Natolie, Royal Signals	1·05
E. P. Piers, Esq.	1·00
A. M. Stonebanks, Esq.	1·00
J. N. B. Penny, Esq.	·50
R. A. Briggs, Esq.	·53
H. M. Kirkland, Esq.	·50
R. E. Pickford, Esq.	·50
R. M. A. Jones, Esq.	·50
G. Cawthorn, Esq.	·50
Various small donations	1·23
O.C., 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2·00
	£19·31

Zaire River Expedition

Brigadier H. R. Firth writes: As a follow through to the admirable article by Sergeant D. Hudson about the Zaire River Expedition, a West country correspondent ex ATS Signals recently attended a lecture by Blashford Snell during which he was constant in praise of the communications provided by Royal Signals.

Obituary

Colonel Sir Lionel Hall, M.C.

It is with regret that we have learnt of the death of Lionel Reid Hall on 22nd April at the age of 77. 'Bobby' as he was known was commissioned from Sandhurst into the Royal Scots in 1916 being wounded with the 11th Battalion in 1917. On return to France in 1918 he joined the 12th Battalion. He won the M.C. and was mentioned in despatches. In 1921 he joined No. 3 'Q' Course at Maresfield but illness caused him to revert to No. 4 'Q' Course. In 1922 he became OC Malaya Command Signal Section and whilst so employed he transferred to the Corps in 1924. He joined the School of Signals as an Instructor in 1925 and many students on 'Q' courses will remember with gratitude his patience as a teacher. He was a GSOIII at the War Office from 1929 until he joined the Staff College, Camberley, in 1933. On graduating he went out to India to Peshawar District Signals, taking part in the Mohmand operations of 1935. He was appointed GSOIII Lucknow District in 1936 becoming DAAG in 1938. On return to the UK in 1939 he was, for a short time, with the Operators Training Battalion and in 1940 commanded an L of C Signals in France when he was mentioned in despatches. Later he commanded 2 Corps Signals in the UK before becoming DCSO Eastern Command. He was AA and QMG Norfolk Division and later AQMG at the War Office from 1942, he was then Colonel in charge Administration North West District until appointed Colonel 'A' at GHQ West Africa in 1945. He joined HQ BAOR in 1946 as AQMG (M) and in the same year became the Senior Controller and later a Principle Controller in the Control Commission in Germany. He retired from the Corps in 1947. He finally settled in Scorton, Yorkshire, and concentrated his activities on local affairs becoming a councillor of the North Riding County Council and member and later chairman of the Richmond Rural District Council. To his wife Margery and his daughters we offer our sincere sympathies in their loss.

Major J. L. Donne

Major John Lewis Donne died on the 3rd April at the early age of 47. He enlisted in the Corps in 1947 and was commissioned in 1948 and retired voluntarily in 1968, to set up his own business with his wife in Sussex, at which he was highly successful. Apart from a few months on the staff of AAFCE in France he spent most of his time either in the UK or the Far East seeing active service in Korea and Borneo. John was a keen producer of amateur dramatics and a member of a number of professional societies amongst which he was a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society.

W.W.C. who knew him well writes:

"I met John for the first time in 1949 when he had been 'caught' for organising the Catterick Fair. It was immediately obvious that he was a young subaltern with great drive, initiative, energy and enthusiasm. These first impressions were amply confirmed in a continuing acquaintance in other fields. Perhaps my most lasting impression of John was during the period in the early 1960's when he commanded 249 Signal Squadron in the Far East. 249 was always the most 'independent' of Independent Squadrons; a boisterous, adventurous squadron with high morale, but which always needed a firm hand on the helm to keep it under control. The Squadron had a succession of distinguished commanders but certainly John's experience and qualities made him an ideal choice and under his leadership 249 enhanced its always high reputation. In this he was strongly supported by his wife Jean; nothing was ever too much trouble for them and they played a full part in the wider community. He was a keen and active 'Ham', a great loss to the Corps when he retired early".

We would like to extend our very sincere sympathy to his wife Jean and daughters Sabrina and Catherine.

Ex-Sergeant George E. 'Nobby' Clarke

David Le Febvre, 56 Division OCA Branch Treasurer/Secretary writes:

On the 11th April the Branch President, Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Lewin, T.D., and fourteen Branch members attended the funeral of ex-Sergeant George E. 'Nobby' Clarke at Streatham Cemetery.

'Nobby' Clarke joined 56 Division Signals (T.A.) in the autumn of 1936 and was in the pre-war motor cycle display team that took part in the Olympia Royal Tournament. During the Second World War he served in North Africa and Italy and was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal at the end of hostilities. He transferred to a 'T' type engagement and served with 56 Armoured Division (T.A.) after rebadging into REME (LAD). During this period he was a leading and guiding light in the reconstitution of the 56 Division Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. Unfortunately 'Nobby' died before being able to join the 56 Division OCA Branch of The Royal Signals Association. He was always helpful and amusing especially to young ex-National Servicemen whom he treated in a fatherly manner. 'Nobby' was 63 and our sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Movements

Officers

JUNE

Lieutenant R. W. Blum	To School of Signals	
Lieutenant R. A. Clague	„ School of Signals	
Lieutenant R. J. Kinnaird	„ School of Signals	No. 4
Lieutenant M. A. Little	„ School of Signals	Comms
Lieutenant A. M. Morgan	„ School of Signals	Qualifying
Lieutenant N. T. Moore	„ School of Signals	Course
Lieutenant T. P. Rimmell	„ School of Signals	30th June—
Lieutenant J. W. Rollins	„ School of Signals	12th Dec.
Lieutenant M. R. G. Stockdale	„ School of Signals	1975
Lieutenant C. J. Whittaker	„ School of Signals	
Lieutenant J. M. Willis	„ School of Signals	
Captain J. C. Chambers	„ School of Infantry	
Lieutenant A. J. Clark	„ School of Infantry	No. 25
Captain R. G. Drake	„ School of Infantry	JCSC
Captain M. Prymaka	„ School of Infantry	8th June—
Captain M. P. S. Shaw	„ School of Infantry	8th Aug.
Captain J. T. Smith	„ School of Infantry	1975
Captain D. A. Williams	„ School of Infantry	
Captain (Tfc.) B. Abbis	„ 7 Signal Regiment	
Major M. J. M. Alden	„ 36 Signal Regiment (V)	
Major (TOT) J. D. Baker	„ MOD (Signals 36b (2))	
Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. F. Barker	„ HQ South East District	
Captain M. E. Billett	„ MOD Signals 31a (2)	
Major M. J. Bowen	„ DGW(A) Project Wavell/Bates	
Major W. J. Buxton	„ 4 Communications Unit	
Captain (TOT) D. W. Capon	„ 9 Signal Regiment	
Captain S. A. Coltman	„ HQ 39 Infantry Brigade	
Captain M. J. M. Emslie	„ 24 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron	
Lieutenant J. M. Ferguson	„ 55 Signal Squadron (V)	
Major G. O. Fulton	„ 13 Signal Regiment	
Lieutenant P. J. Grey	„ 39 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron	

Captain P. A. Hallett .. .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment
Captain R. P. Harrison .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Colonel J. P. Hart, O.B.E. .. .. „ BDS Washington
Captain D. P. Howshall .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) A. M. P. Howie, B.E.M. .. „ 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant A. J. Hutt .. .. .. „ 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major A. J. R. Jackman .. .. „ HQ 1 Signals Group
Lieutenant-Colonel K. Kirkby .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Major (Tfc) G. E. Loudoun .. .. „ HQ 2 Signal Group
Lieutenant D. J. Lowe .. .. .. „ 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major R. S. Mansfield .. .. .. „ 33 Signal Regiment (V)
Captain T. M. Martin .. .. .. „ 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major G. A. Maude .. .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant A. W. Merrick .. .. „ 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Regiment

Captain I. W. Morris .. .. .. „ 644 Signal Troop
Lieutenant-Colonel N. Moss .. .. „ RMC of S
Major (Tfc) F. W. Natolie .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (Retiring)
Captain P. A. Neale .. .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. F. Oakley .. „ SHAPE
Major L. J. Pertwee .. .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Major (TOT) G. E. Pinder .. .. „ 241 Signal Squadron
Captain G. P. T. Raku .. .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) N. A. V. Ribchester .. „ Intelligence Centre
Captain P. Richards .. .. .. „ 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. A. Ridley .. „ School of Signals
Lieutenant H. A. Ross .. .. .. „ 48 Gurkha Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron

Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Rowland .. „ 35 Signal Regiment (V)
Captain C. P. B. Smith .. .. .. „ DADPTC
Second-Lieutenant P. Smith .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) R. Stather .. .. „ MOD Q(EMan)
Captain E. S. Storie .. .. .. „ 37 Signal Regiment (V)
Major M. A. Thorne .. .. .. „ HQ 3 Signal Group
Captain P. L. Tilson .. .. .. „ School of Signals
Captain A. E. Truluck .. .. .. „ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron

Captain Q. Vigurs .. .. .. „ HQ BAOR (Ops B)
Lieutenant-Colonel S. G. Walker .. „ HQ NAV South
Captain C. J. Walters .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) P. D. Watton .. .. „ CPA Royal Signals (1st Com)
Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White .. „ SHAPE
Major M. S. Wilson-Brown .. .. „ 7 Artillery Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron

Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc) S. J. Wyatt, M.B.E. .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Sergeants

JUNE

W.O.1 (Supvr(R)) W. Motion .. .. To 224 Signal Squadron (Radio Training)
W.O.1 D. A. Ewer .. .. .. „ HP CC Depot, RE Mill Hill LSL
W.O.1 P. E. Jepson .. .. .. „ HQ Training Brigade Royal Signals
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) K. M. Coker .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 C. Hay .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment (Depot Troop)
W.O.2 A. Jamieson .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 R. L. Stark .. .. .. „ 36 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 K. C. Stewart .. .. .. „ HQ 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron

W.O.2 M. A. Thurgood .. .. „ 11 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. M. Doyle .. .. „ HQ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

W.O.2 (F. of S.) R. B. Kelbie .. .. „ Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill
W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. W. Abrahams .. „ School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. Botham .. „ 10 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) C. M. Eastland „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. W. McLaren „ 32 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. G. Weston .. „ SHAPE HQ Command and Support (BE)

Staff Sergeant (Supvr(R)) T. W. Wood „ 30 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. H. Davidson .. .. „ School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. Cooper .. „ Sultan of Muscat Armed Forces
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. W. W. Milne „ Communication Projects Agency Royal Signals

Staff Sergeant E. R. Jennings .. .. „ 14 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. M. Boyle .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Staff Sergeant A. C. Derbyshire .. „ HQ 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron

Staff Sergeant J. D. Howes .. .. „ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant R. Hughes .. .. „ Sultan of Muscat Armed Forces
Staff Sergeant K. Lister .. .. „ HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant D. Wills .. .. „ 27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. McLaren .. .. .. „ 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
Sergeant L. Collins .. .. .. „ 603 Signal Troop (Masirah)
Sergeant F. J. Stalgis .. .. .. „ 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant G. T. Bardsley .. .. „ HQ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron

Sergeant H. W. Banks .. .. .. „ HQ 19 Airportable Brigade and Signal Squadron

Sergeant A. M. Abdulraham .. .. „ HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade and Signal Squadron

Sergeant G. Cairns .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant V. R. Hayward .. .. „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. R. Everett .. .. „ 233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Shorter .. .. .. „ 233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. P. Warren .. .. .. „ 22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)

Sergeant M. A. Codd .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)

Sergeant J. R. Hodge .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)

Sergeant R. J. G. Roberts .. .. „ Sultan of Muscat Armed Forces
Sergeant M. Warne .. .. .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

Sergeant G. Cairns .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. A. Jinman .. .. .. „ 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant T. P. D. Roberts .. .. „ Sultan of Muscat Armed Forces
Sergeant G. M. Macintosh .. .. „ 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant R. W. Adey, B.E.M. .. .. „ 34 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant R. E. Gipson .. .. .. „ 8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. M. Fallon .. .. .. „ 16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant D. W. Manders .. .. .. „ CV HQ and Training Wing
Sergeant D. Watson .. .. .. „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)

Sergeant W. G. Metcalfe .. .. „ 233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. V. K. Battisby .. .. „ 248 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. A. Stuart .. .. .. „ NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron BAE

Sergeant P. O. Bentley .. .. .. „ School of Signals
Sergeant P. R. Urry .. .. .. „ 37 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant G. M. Carpenter .. .. „ RMA Sandhurst
Sergeant G. J. Crofts .. .. .. „ 9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant P. J. Jarrold .. .. .. „ 13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant J. W. Thomasson .. .. „ 226 Signal Squadron (Radio)
A/Sergeant J. F. Perkins .. .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

A/Sergeant D. A. Freudenfeld .. „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

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COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Bobsleighing – The High Speed Sport

LIEUTENANT DUNCAN JONES WRITES OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN A SEASON IN WHICH HE WAS ARMY CHAMPION AND SELECTED AS RESERVE FOR THE 1976 OLYMPICS

BEGINNING OF A VERY BUSY SEASON

AT lunchtime on the 25th February 1975 I received a telephone call in Cervinia, Italy asking me to move as quickly as possible to Igls, Innsbruck to compete in one of the most important races of the bobsleigh season. We arrived at the bobsleigh track, having experienced two punctures on the way, been held up at customs, and driven through the night, to find we had 15 minutes to get ourselves and the bobsleigh ready. We reached the finish, but as the driver, I had only the vaguest idea of which way the next corner was going to go. The beginning of the end of a long bobsleigh season had started and not in a way I would recommend.

In 1973 I wrote an article for THE WIRE about my bobsleigh experiences in Switzerland and at the World Championships in America the latter of which gave me ideas on how I should plan my bobsleighing for the future.

DEJECTED—BUT VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

In 1974 I flew back from Hong Kong to compete in the British Championships and the Junior European Championships, the former being fairly successful as I was awarded the title of the "Most Promising New British Driver of the Year". The latter was disastrous as I was disqualified under a rule that fortunately has since been changed. I returned to England that year after turning my bobsleigh over in St. Moritz in training, feeling very dejected but nevertheless with invaluable experience to help me during the most important season of 1975.

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED

The first problem to overcome was to find a suitable brakeman and I found one in the Regiment to which I am fortunately attached, the 1st Battalion The Black Watch. **Lieutenant A. J. A. Ogilvy-Wedderburn** proved ideal as he was a powerful sprinter and would undoubtably learn very quickly the skills to compete at International level. I had hoped to have a couple of 'Jocks' as crew for my four man bobsleigh but due to a number of reasons I did not organise this as I should which proved to be my greatest mistake of the season. The second problem was transport for the bobsleigh. I was reluctant to tow a trailer over the mountain passes, so I sold my car and bought a Ford Transit Van which was to prove ideal. The third problem was time and for this I cannot thank **Lieutenant-Colonel T. N. McMicking** and the members of The Black Watch enough for the support they gave **Lieutenant Ogilvy-Wedderburn** and I.

We drove out of London on Boxing Day and returned on 10th March on a journey which took us to West Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy, competing in all four countries as members of the British Team and Army Team. The season was split up into four parts, firstly our own training, secondly selection for the 1975 World Championships and the 1976 Winter Olympic Games, thirdly competing as the Army Team, and fourthly as members of the British Team.

TURNING OVER AT 80 M.P.H.!

Our own training went quite well including turning the bobsleigh over at 80 m.p.h. in St. Moritz which left us a little bruised. However we were short listed for selection for the British Olympic Team for 1976 along with four other crews, finishing first in the first half in Koningsee, West Germany and third in St. Moritz in the second half. Unfortunately it was decided that I would be reserve driver and the three more experienced drivers were selected—slightly against the face value of the results but absolutely the right decision bearing other facts in mind. I had been appointed Captain of the Army Bobsleigh Team and led them after a number of international races at St. Moritz into the British Championship and Inter-Services event. The Army won the event from the Royal Air Force and a combined Royal Marines and Royal Navy team. I also managed to become Army Champion and third overall in the British Championships.

Duncan Jones (centre) chats with other enthusiasts at St. Moritz

FASTEST BRITISH TIME

In Cervinia, Italy we were to race as part of the British Services Team in an international military event but were summoned to Igls, Innsbruck for the Pre-Olympic trials. There we competed with the same crews we had for our own Olympic selection and finished that week recording the fastest British time. The following week my four man crew assembled, a combined Services idea with myself as driver, a RAF member as one crew, a Royal Marine as the other crew and my normal brakeman keeping an eye on me from the back. An interesting week but not too successful.

LONG HOURS—WELL WORTH IT

So eventually the season had ended. The hours we had put into both the two man and four man bobsleigh had left us with many memories. The time I had put in as driver walking up the tracks and down the tracks looking for a quicker line through a corner, somewhere where I could afford to steer less and whether it was worth staying on a corner longer than first looked necessary. The

AT SPEED
Olympic Trials Innsbruck

hours my brakeman had spent polishing the runners, checking the bolts, ensuring the bobsleigh was in the gate at the right time and lifting the bobsleigh on and off lorries. The days packing suitcases, moving from town to town, waiting for the snow to clear in order to get onto a track. The minutes of anxiety before going down trying to build oneself up into the concentration one ideally needs to get the most out of probably a minute's worth or work per run. I found myself thinking on my return to England whether I could justify the immense amount of money I had spent and the time I had been away from the Battalion. I am now the reserve two man driver and four man driver for the 1976 Winter Olympic Games and received the offer of crewing in one of the bobsleighs that is selected. All of this has naturally to be officially confirmed as the season has only just ended.

THANKS FOR ASSISTANCE

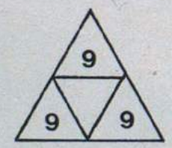
I have only briefly mentioned the expense of this sport but I would like to thank the Royal Signals Games Club for their very generous grant they gave me and also to the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (RHR) for their extremely generous grant.

I do hope this article has managed to interest a few Corps members in one of the most exciting and exhilarating sports in the world, and in the near future some of you might be able to give it a go.

RESULTS

British Olympic Team Selection—Koningsee, 22nd–26th January.
1st **Duncan Jones/Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn**—Lieutenant, Royal Signals/Lieutenant, 1 BW.
2nd **John Caulcutt/Michael Sweet**—Stock Broker/Corporal, QDG.
3rd **Chris Baldwin/Tony Dawson**—Stock Broker/Private, 1 Para.
4th **Jacki Price/Michael Lloyd**—Corporal, QDG/Corporal, QDG.
5th **Hon. Mark Agar/Graham Sweet**—Land Owner/Trooper, QDG.
British Olympic Team Selection—St. Moritz, 3rd–6th February.
1st **Jacki Price/Michael Lloyd.**
2nd **Hon. Mark Agar/Graham Sweet.**
3rd **Duncan Jones/Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn.**
4th **Chris Baldwin/Tony Dawson.**
5th **John Caulcutt/Michael Sweet.**
British Championships—St. Moritz, 15th–16th February.
1st **John Blockey/Michael Cunningham.**
2nd **Colin Rimmer/Tony Higgins.**
3rd **Duncan Jones/Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn.**
4th **Keith Schellenberg/John Ingleby.**
5th **Patrick Vigors/Paul Morris.**
Army Championships—15th–16th February.
1st **Duncan Jones/Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn**—Lieutenant, Royal Signals/Lieutenant, 1 BW.
2nd **Patrick Vigors/Paul Morris**—Captain, Royal Inniskilling DG/Corporal, QDG.
3rd **David Balgownie/Bill Tink**—Lieutenant, QO HLDS.
4th **Graeme Lamb/Tony Norton**—Lieutenant, QO HLDS/Lieutenant, 13/18H.
5th **Charles McFarlane/John Kiszely**—Lieutenant, CG/Captain, 1 SG.
Olympic Trials—Iglis, 25th February.
1st **Chris Baldwin/Michael Swet.**
2nd **Jacki Price/Michael Lloyd.**
3rd **Duncan Jones/Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn.**
4th **Hon. Mark Agar/Graham Sweet.**
5th **John Caulcutt/Richard Minchin.**
British Olympic Selection, Four Man Bobsleighs—Iglis, 4th–8th March.
1st **Jacki Price/Graham Sweet/Michael Lloyd/Michael Sweet.**
2nd **Chris Baldwin/Brian Green/Colin Campbell/Eric Grounds.**
3rd **John Caulcutt/Paul Morris/Tony Norton/Richard Minchin.**
4th **Duncan Jones/Roger Potter/Robert Beers/Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn.**

Where are you now ?



IF the sight of the formation sign above stirs your military memories, and names like Naktong, Inchon, Pyongyang nudge your nostalgia, then perhaps you travelled the Unicorn Line to Pusan in August 1950.

If you did, or possibly know someone (dad or uncle?) who did, then you could be, (or know someone who is) an ex-member of 27 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop.

Will you please get in touch with either **Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin,** Commander 2 Signal Group, or **Major (Tfc) G. E. Loudoun,** both at Malta Barracks, Aldershot (Tel.: 0252-24431 Ext. 2529). The slight change in status will no doubt not escape the notice of former acquaintances who we hope will read this article. Nevertheless, we would welcome the opportunity to shed 25 years, share a jar and swap a yarn—please get in touch—or better still confirm you will rendezvous at the PS *Old Caledonia,* Victoria Embankment at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, 30th August.

Post Script—For those of later years, it is perhaps necessary to relate a little of what is now military history. On 25th August 1950, in response to a desperate appeal, the British Government despatched its 27 Infantry Brigade (less one Battalion) to Korea from Hong Kong in response to **General Douglas MacArthur's** "For God's sake send us something" entreaty.

Joined shortly after arrival, courtesy *HMS Unicorn* and *HMS Belfast*, by the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Rifles, the formation became 27 (Commonwealth) Infantry Brigade and was later to be joined by elements of New Zealand, Indian and Canadian forces making it more truly representative of the Commonwealth. Two uniquely historic occasions arose. British troops for the first time campaigned on Korean soil, and also in the first military campaign waged in defence of the Principles of the United Nations.

Despatched in Jungle Green, initially to serve only until relieved by 29 Infantry Brigade being formed in the United Kingdom, the Brigade found itself hastily re-equipping to withstand the rigours of the Asian continent's climate. This was due to the involvement of the Chinese People's Republican Army. That our Battalions (1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and 1st Middlesex Regiment) upheld every tradition and more is now recorded in their respective Regimental archives.

They themselves would be the first to suggest that they could not have done so without the support of a very small number of REME (LAD), RAOC (OFP), and modestly lastly, Royal Signals (Signal Troop).

The Brigade's campaign took it from the extreme South of the Pusan box on the tip of the Korean Peninsula, to within 30 miles of the Manchurian border at Chongju. It was here in October 1950 that everyone was saying "It's all over". This feeling was short lived and the next few weeks found the Brigade deeply involved in a rearguard role in the long withdrawal to the 38th parallel along which, approximately, the Kansas Line was formed.

The Korean war, now officially no longer a 'Police Action' and already six months old, ground on for a further period of more than two years, punctuated by battles with names such as The Imjin or The Hook or Pork Chop Hill. The peace talks, 22 years after the cease fire, are still being held in Panmunjon. This town was one of many taken by the Brigade in its successful initial drive North.

There were casualties, Royal Signals amongst them. Their first injured (correct adjective) occurred within hours of landing at Pusan and were the result of a right of way dispute between a railway locomotive and one of the passenger carrying GMC trucks. In pitch darkness they assessed the damage which was mercifully light. Fortunately, this instance of bad luck was singular and although further casualties were sustained they were, no doubt, in strict military parlance, "extremely light".

Many are the tales that could be told. Hopefully a lot of them will—by men who are now 25 years older but willing to reminisce on 30th August.

An Imaginative Exercise in Berlin

SUBMITTED BY 229 SIGNAL SQUADRON

IN the confines of Berlin it does not take long to become familiar with training areas and there is a danger that all exercises appear 'déjà vu' if not 'déjà fait'. It is obvious that we welcome any exercise which presents some form of additional challenge and in this respect Exercise 'Rondo' is an important event in our annual programme.

THREE NATIONALITIES INVOLVED

Exercise 'Rondo', which is held twice a year, is a signal exercise involving American, French and British radio operators. The Allies sponsor the exercise in turn but on each occasion all nations provide four radio vehicles, twelve radio operators and control staff. Mixed crews of an American, French and British operator are allocated to each exercise vehicle and detachments compete with each other over the two days of the exercise. During daylight hours the detachments are directed to move to specific locations in West Berlin and the accuracy of their map reading is tested by

(Continued on page 189*)*

(Continued from page 188*)*

their answer to a feature, distance, compass bearing or inter visibility problem at each position. Overnight the detachments move to a hide area and they are each inspected for camouflage, defence and administrative arrangements, in addition to being tested in radio skills when acting as net control station for a specific period.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IRONED OUT

The basic VHF radio used in Berlin is the Telefunken FuG7b-1, a commercial type set with similar characteristics to the Pye range. It is simple to operate and we realised that to present a sufficient challenge on Exercise 'Rondo 8', with the Squadron sponsored on 22nd/23rd April, we could not base the exercise on this set alone. In consequence the exercise was organised to make maximum use of the national VHF radio carried by each detachment. Although it was well known that the British C42, American VRC 46 and French SEM 25 were compatible, prior to the exercise each national contingent lacked confidence in operating a mixed net and individual operators were in no way familiar with other nations' sets. Basic netting at the start of the exercise quickly established the requirement to switch off the VRC 46 tone squelch to achieve inter-operability and to watch the drift of the C42 closely, particularly during its warming up period. Thereafter the mixed net worked well and by the end of the exercise full confidence was established. To maintain interest when the FuG7b was used, detachments were required to change frequency between two small nets on which traffic was passed very quickly, adequately testing responses.

INTERESTING COMPARISONS

Our operators enjoyed working with their Allied counterparts and the majority experienced operating the VRC 46 or SEM 25 and riding in and working from the French Unimog or American Jeep. The latter was not praised for its comfort! In the field the general consensus of opinion was that French compo did not satisfy open air appetites as well as our own compo or the short term appetising American rations.

BI-LINGUAL

Captain Derek Boddington, OC Radio Troop, **Staff Sergeant Gay** and **Sergeant Day** spent many hours preparing for the exercise. This task included selecting 144 questions for various locations to be visited during the exercise! During the event they were joined in 'Signals Command' by a French control team under **Captain Didier Pascolo** and an American team under **Captain Carlos Bumanglag.** Obviously the exercise radio nets had to be bi-lingual and to ensure one language did not predominate a local ruling was made that detachment transmissions had to alternate between French and English (the latter grouping including American English!).

A PARTY FOR ALL PARTICIPATING

To cement the friendships made during the exercise the event ended with a lunch party in the Squadron Club, preceded by the presentation of prizes by our Brigade Commander, **Brigadier L. A. H. Napier.** In a hard fought contest a French led detachment won and **M/D Warlouzet, SP 4 Todd** and **Signalman Higgins** each received a tankard as a momento of the event. They dropped only 14 points out of a total of 200 and were closely contested by a British led detachment, **Lance-Corporal Godwin, SP 4 Davis** and **2° T. R. S. Mariage** who dropped 16 points in the two days.

In keeping with the whole spirit of the exercise the lunch party was very much an Allied effort. Each nation provided part of the fare, American h'ors d'oeuvre, British cold roast beef, cold meats and salad, French cheese and wine and finally a huge cake, iced and decorated with the three national Flags, presented by the Americans.

VOTED A HIT

The new form of the exercise, achieved by **Captain Derek Boddington** and the NCOs of Radio Troop, was voted 'a hit' by all those taking part. The only worried frowns noticed at the end of the exercise were worn by our American friends who were conscious of the challenge we have presented to them to organise an equally lively Exercise 'Rondo 9' in September. For our part, we are already planning to incorporate battalion regimental signallers into future Rondos, to spread the very valuable experience gained from this simple exercise.

The Corps gets around . . . Now a Training Exercise in New Zealand

FOUR U.K. MEMBERS OF 28 BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON ENJOY SIX WEEKS IN KIWI LAND

A COMPANY group from 28 Infantry Brigade based in Singapore recently returned from New Zealand after six weeks training. Four of the Squadron were amongst the group. **Captain John Kay** was appointed Company Adventure Training Officer. **Sergeant Ken Fowler** and **Corporal Mick Kirk** carried out a wide range of infantry training and **Signalman Len Ball** was attached to the adventure training base.

INITIAL TRAINING

After arriving at Auckland International Airport the entire company were transported to a small camp at Whangaparoa for a three week attachment to the New Zealand SAS Squadron. **Sergeant Ken Fowler** and **Corporal 'Mick' Kirk** were soon deeply involved with early morning runs, assault cliff climbing and various other activities entirely strange to them. In addition they also had the opportunity to fire a variety of weapons including the M 79 grenade launcher. After this initial period of training they both moved South to the Waiouru training areas to act as enemy for the New Zealand SAS Squadron. Finally having adapted to being infantrymen they finished off the training part of the exercise by being enemy in the Brigade Exercise.

PLENTY OF ADVENTURE

Whilst all this was going on **Captain John Kay** and **Signalman Len Ball** were busy organising and running adventure training expeditions for various parties who were sent down to Waiouru during the five week training period. Altogether nearly 70 took part in three separate activities, climbing in the Tongariro National Park, canoeing down the Wanganui river, and hunting in the Kaimanawa mountains.

Captain John Kay acted as guide for three separate mountaineering trips which involved the ascent of Mounts Tongariro (6,458 feet) and Ruapehu (9,175 feet). The ascent of the active volcano Mount Ngauruhoe (7,515 feet) was abandoned apart from one ascent by **Captain John Kay** due to intense activity which at one stage threw ash to a height of 47,000 feet and boulders 1,000 feet clear of the summit crater.

Whilst the adventure training parties were out **Signalman Len Ball** was busy manning the emergency VHF radio link to the mountaineering parties and, performing a wide range of administrating duties. He also took the opportunity, together with **Captain John Kay,** in climbing Mount Ruapehu.

Besides the training aspect of the exercise some of the famous tourist attractions including the geysers at Rotorua were visited.

THANKS TO NEW ZEALAND HOSTS

The opportunity was also taken to visit some of our counterparts in the Royal New Zealand Signals and our thanks go to **Major Trent Harker** the Officer Commanding the Royal New Zealand School of Signals, his Second-in-Command, **Captain Paul Dale, Captain Bill Croxon** the Officer Commanding the Southern Communications Troop and **Captain Dick Pearson** the Second-in-Command 3 Brigade Signals Squadron.

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Putting The Corps Across

BY STAFF SERGEANT 'DES' ACKERS OF 14th SIGNAL REGIMENT

HAVING taken over the Regimental Recruiting Team I steeled myself to follow in the footsteps of **Lord Kitchener.** On inspecting the team of **Lance-Corporals Steve Smith, 'Polly' Pollard** and **Signalman Mick Barrett,** I realised that none of us were poster material; we did not possess a walrus moustache between us.

TREPIDATION

Our programme during the winter months was to visit schools in the Midlands area. The prospect of these visits filled the team with some trepidation. They envisaged hordes of pimply boys drawn by **Ronald Searle,** descending like the warriors of Ghengis Khan to tear them limb from limb or intense, bespectacled, embryo nuclear physicists intent on assisting the team to become the first British astronauts.

Reality was completely opposite to what we had imagined. At every visit we found scores of bright, intelligent, children keenly interested in our display and the prospects offered by an army career. Their enthusiasm and appreciation of everything produced made us realise that we were engaged on a very worthwhile rewarding task, whilst their effervescent enthusiasm inspired the team to greater efforts.

ARCHITECTS TAKE NOTE

Our mobile display consists of a rather ancient 2 ton cypher trailer, which has been stripped and refurbished as a display caravan. This is equipped with a wide variety of technical equipment and an interesting selection of photographs illustrating all aspects of life in the Royal Signals. With parties of 20 or 30 children we discovered that we had a space problem. This became patently obvious on our first engagement. The remedy was clear. In order to produce a really professional display and hold the interest of the children we had to dismount the display and set it up in the school assembly hall. This became standard practice and led us to the momentous discovery that some educational architects are anti-military. They site their assembly halls on the second floor and, with 1,400 lbs. of equipment to move, there is nothing more anti than that.

QUESTIONS FLOOD IN

We quickly discovered that the best approach was to take a party of 20 or 30 children and explain all the equipment carried. A brief talk was then given on the more specialised Signals Units such as: SAS, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron and Ships Signal Troops. After questions had been answered the children were encouraged to operate the equipment, the aim being to ensure maximum audience participation. In all cases we discovered that our greatest problem was to bring the display to an end. A veritable flood of questions was invariably generated by the talks and participation.

STATISTICS

During the period the team was featured in 'Man Alive', a TV documentary which was filmed at a Coventry School. The team found this very interesting and can provide suitably autographed portraits of the TV celebrities—for a small remuneration of course. We also visited 55 schools, had a total of 6,481 children attend our presentations which produced 773 requests for additional information on careers in Royal Signals.

Our only disaster was due to person or persons unknown. At 8th Signal Regiment our caravan, complete with awning, was sited on a very exposed position subject to Force 8 gales. Inevitably, as anyone who knows Catterick will appreciate, our awning and framework disappeared. This resulted in us being resited in the garages beneath the training school and led to our greatest disappointment; the other teams enjoyed all the pleasure of a Force 8 snowstorm.

A FEW SETBACKS

The biggest let down was discovering that school building contractors fit only 3 ton heavy duty manhole covers. We parked a 4 ton Bedford on one.

Lance-Corporal 'Polly' Pollard had a shocking experience. Whilst warming his hands on a radiator in the caravan, he discovered that someone had rewired the extension board and reversed live and neutral. We observed that 140 volts make Radio Telegraphist Lance-Corporals very mobile.

For the benefit of owners of Audi Saloons I would like to point out from practical experience that the vertical dimension of this vehicle is too great to pass beneath a 4 ton Bedford rear axle. Offers for a low slung Audi of unique design should be sent to me and I will forward them to the owner. Unfortunately, he is not a member of the Corps and he showed no interest in our handouts or display. One wonders why?

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

SINCE the start of the present ceasefire many of the more mundane matters, which were previously conveniently overlooked, have been brought up to date. The most painful, to the delight of **R.S.M. Jim Sinnett,** being PFA Tests at Ballykelly Airport.

VISITS

We welcomed the visit of the SO-in-C, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** on the 18th March and look forward to his return.

WINTER BIATHLON

Communications Troop, captained by **Sergeant Tom Stirzaker,** emerged the winners after some good keenly fought six-a-side hockey and football matches. Games have to be played on the square (our sportsfield) throughout a six week period.

DID THE OC AND DAA AND QMG GO ABSENT?

Major Andrew Carter and **Major Richard Graham** joined radio technicians **Staff Sergeant Steve Gair** and **Sergeant**

'Q' STORES

The S.O.-in-C. meets Signalman 'Tojo' Menham. Looking on Corporal George Bartlett, RAOC and Captain (Q.M.) Sam Raynor, Royal Signals

(Continued on page 191)

(Continued from page 190)

'Bud' Abbott, on Wessex flight to service radios in Scotland. Their justification was somewhat 'fishy' and much of it fell on 'stony' ground **(Debbie Carter** now has a stone polisher).

All went well until all four 'misted' the return flight, and were informed that they would have to remain self sufficient for at least 24 hours unless the Second-in-Command stated the OC was required back in the interests of operational efficiency. Due credit to the Second-in-Command who said "Let all four practice their personal survival".

EXERCISE 'SNOW EAGLE V'

Another welcome spin-off of the ceasefire was a ski-trip to Granton-on-Spey organised by **Lieutenant John Macleod.** The Squadron went onto a high state of alert so that **R.S.M. Jim Sinnett, Staff Sergeant Mick Croot, Sergeant Joe Talbot,** RAPC, **Lance-Corporal Stuart Empsall, Lance-Corporal Ian Irving, Lance-Corporal Niel Cotton, Lance-Corporal Bob Hemphill, Lance-Corporal Alvin Kolling, Signalman 'Dusty' Miller, Private 'Tink' Tinkler, Driver 'Paddy' Smythe** and **Lance-Corporal Leech** and **Signalman Watson** from 3 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, could ski from 15th February until 1st March. On their return, **Sergeant Ken Pullman, Sergeant Pete Martin, Corporal Max Steele, Signalman Pete Schollick, Signalman Dave Jones** and **Private 'Scouse' Crossland,** left to ski from 1st March until 18th March. Everyone had a terrific time ski-ing and relaxing.

RELAXING 'MID SNOW AND SUNSHINE

Left to right: Sergeant Joe Talbot, RAPC, Driver 'Paddy' Smyth, Lance-Corporal Bob Hemphill, Staff Sergeant Mick Croot, Private 'Tink' Tinkler, RPC, Lieutenant John Macleod

We would like to thank 32nd Signal Regiment (Volunteers) for the loan of a 4 ton vehicle and 39 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron for the loan of their chefs, **Lance-Corporals Nicholl and Selvey,** ACC.

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

Officer Commanding	**Major M. P. Walker**
2IC and OC Comms. Troop	**Captain L. R. J. Tilson**
Admin. Officer and OC Admin. Troop	**Captain D. Henry**
SSM	**W.O.2 R. G. Vale**
OC Commcen Troop	**Captain (Tfc) J. W. Ankers**
OC Tech Troop	**Captain (TOT) A. J. Cook**
OC 'V' Troop	**Captain (Tfc) W. A. Littlejohn**
OC 'E' Troop	**Captain I. C. Double**
OC WRAC Signal Troop	**Lieutenant R. A. Hewlett,** WRAC
OC NICAST	**W.O.2 (Supv. R.) D. J. T. Poole**
Y of S	**W.O.1 (Y. of S.) P. C. Gray**
F of S	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) W. P. Kent**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant S. Evans**

THE OC's TURN TO WRITE

BY the time these notes are published I shall have been here a year, and therefore felt that, apart from wanting to make a contribution, it was also my turn.

The list above, although larger on paper than a football team, is unlikely to appear at one place at one time to play. It does however form an admirable team for managing such a large Squadron with many separate tasks to perform. The life style of Royal Signals in Northern Ireland is one of rapid change, in which today's discussion and planning becomes tomorrow's action.

COMMUNICATIONS REBUILD

The memory of the dark wet winter is now passed and summer is upon us. The decrease in intensity of operational activity since December has enabled the Squadron, with much outside assistance from the CPA, to rebuild the existing communications systems and instal the planned new ones.

The extent of the reorganisation and the increasing number of works services which were carried out during the rebuild suggests that OC Commcen Troop should be given the Chairmanship of 'Ankerprises'. Technical Troop has managed to obtain the largest desk ever made by PSA in the new system control. Comms Troop managed to have a brick built extension to the radio room, the only brick building apart from the squash courts to be erected last year. MT Troop are also driving a very sporty foreign car in the SDS role.

GETTING AROUND

Corporal Bob Welch looking for inspiration to keep the old Commer on the road. Corporal Alan Epthorp is quite happy with his little share of the Provinces' new mode of transport

OFF DUTY ACTIVITY

To keep pace with the salubrious working surroundings it became essential to rebuild the Squadron Club inside. In order that it can double, as a training room by day, a false ceiling with recessed lights has been fitted. For evening use each side has separate dimming wall lights. A simulated wood grain bar has been constructed and the SSM has organised the redecoration. **Corporal Terry** of 'V' Troop and **Corporal Newman** of NICAST have made some excellent wooden benches to provide more seating. An extension is under construction to one side of the building, which will give more space, a pleasant view to the putting green and trees beyond and a proper entrance and cloakroom. The Club is open 6 days a week and is open to all ranks and their families. Each Troop has a party regularly and Squadron functions are also held. This facility is vital for the whole Squadron and well used by all, since the need for security precludes one from being able to drop into the local pub. Profit from the club is used

to provide further entertainment and buffets for all ranks functions. We have just held a Squadron weekend with an all ranks Friday night dance followed by a Saturday disco and a Church Service, Barbecue lunch and children's sports to finish off. The weather was superb and the weekend was very much enjoyed by all not least the WRAC, who had an outright victory over the winning finalists in the Tug-of-War.

The Officers and Seniors, after winning the league, were somewhat surprised to be beaten in 2 straight pulls against the girls. The reason soon became clear when shaking hands with the 50 girls or so who had been tugging.

WIVES CLUB

Mention must be made at this point of the Wives' Club. It is not so much a Club but just that the wives seem to have as many activities listed in the forecast of events as the rest of the Squadron. An evening dinner, a trip to Hillsborough Castle—previously the Governor's residence, a ·22 shooting match, a cookery demonstration and a coffee morning in the Squadron club with badminton is a fair sample for the last two weeks. Some are now housed in the new quarters and the waiting list is down to 15 points, so there is no delay in accompanying husbands and a full life to enjoy throughout the tour.

CHALLENGE FOR EVERYONE

Against this relief of progressive improvement in communications and plenty of sport and off duty activity, Squadron military training and shooting practice continues throughout the year. The UBE and FFR also enter our lives annually. In this demanding and exciting military life style the juniors meet a big challenge and the seniors find a chance to develop, which is of benefit both to the Corps and the individuals.

—News from Headquarters—

Royal Signals Demonstration Team, Hounslow

PURPOSE

SINCE notes on the Team have not appeared for some considerable time it is perhaps appropriate to give an indication of its task. The Team is concerned with advertising the Corps to the public and stimulating recruiting. It does so by constructing, manning and touring the Corps Mobile Display, by co-ordinating the Corps efforts for such major displays as the Army Day at Aldershot and Harrogate, and assists Regimental recruiting teams in producing their displays. In addition to a small Headquarters element the Team contains a comprehensive workshop and the Corps mobile display—'Quicksilver'.

TOURING

During the winter months the Mobile Display is tasked by the Signal Officer-in-Chief and makes a tour of schools throughout the UK presenting equipment and films supporting an introductory lecture about the Corps. During the summer months it is combined with other Corps mobile displays and tours the country under instructions issued by the Director of Army Recruiting. This coming summer the Team is scheduled to start in early May up in Glasgow and Edinburgh and will progress through the country via such places as Darlington, Chester, Rutland, Longleat, Bournemouth and Plymouth.

Quicksilver, which is led by **Captain John Kirby,** returned recently from a countrywide tour of 74 schools which started in Kent during November 1974 and ended in Scotland four months later. As these notes are written we are preparing to leave Hounslow for Scotland once again at the start of our summer tour. We can look back on the winter tour and smile at our experiences in many sorts of schools; the questions that we were asked and the occasions when the equipment had to be carried to an upstairs hall—a whole furniture van full of equipment at that! We can remember the times that we were programmed to appear in two schools on one day (the schools were 30 miles apart and one hour was allowed for the move) and we can think back to many a pleasant evening spent over a pint of beer in a pub. Our off duty hours were always

THE QUICKSILVER DISPLAY

The photograph does not do justice to the colour impact—each vehicle is painted in sky blue whilst the tent is in broad stripes alternately dark blue and green—all the colours being those of the Corps stable belt

enlivened when **Colonel Sherrard-Smith** (OC Demonstration Team) chose to join us for a couple of days. In the evenings his darts seemed to fall into the board at random but amazingly into the triple scores, so **Corporals Mick Kidd** and **'Kase' Bond** had to sharpen their arrows to keep ahead of him. The next morning he would inform those at breakfast that he was going 'birdwatching'. Well, he did take a pair of binoculars with him but we are not sure what birds he watched!

VISIT BY S.O.-IN-C.

Our return to Hounslow gave us a little over two weeks to prepare the Summer Display for the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The General arrived after lunch on the appointed day and after an introduction to our role he was shown the tent that forms the Quicksilver display. His visit was not without its amusing incidents. **Signalman Pete Searle** described the display of Technicians' test equipment and then in reply to the General's question revealed that he was a Combat Driver B1. **Lance-Corporal Tony King,** a veteran of the Team and soon to leave us after 3½ years, had a long talk to the General before he moved to the final piece of equipment that was on display, a teleprinter. The General was asked to start the machine and when a tape had been printed successfully **Corporal 'Kase' Bond** presented him with a certificate of competence stating that "With training he could become a competent tradesman in Royal Signals". The General was amused—we hope! After meeting the rest of the team we bade **General Tighe** farewell by leading him out of camp with one of our pantechnicons; emblazoned across the back of the vehicle were the words 'Follow me, Join Royal Signals'.

General Tighe discussing the Quicksilver layout with Lieutenant-Colonels Pollard and Sherrard-Smith, Captain Kirby and F. of S. Payne

S.O.-in-C. GAINS A USEFUL CERTIFICATE

A BUSY PERIOD

We are nearing the end of six busy weeks and we will each have our own way of remembering the last month; **Signalman 'Taff' Carr** will dream about picture pelmets for weeks to come. **Corporal Mick Kidd** has been wrestling with the electrical and mechanical guts of 'Magnetron', our ageing but ever popular robot, whilst **Corporal Jim Gordon** has been wiring our new Bruin model. Two replacement vehicles have been fitted out by **Sergeant Joe Fisher** in the workshops and **Signalman Colin Misra** and **Signalman Mick Sherwood** have spent many hours re-routing cables and generally ensuring that the vehicles will be comfortable for the tour. Overseeing the technical side has been our new Foreman of Signals, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Chris Payne,** who seems to be enjoying himself.

Royal Signals Records have been busy since we last wrote to THE WIRE. The following list will give some idea of who has replaced who:

We have said farewell to **Captain A. Gale, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Matt Campbell, Corporal Glen Morgan, Corporal Chris Griffin, Lance-Corporal 'Boom' Moore, Lance-Corporal Tony King** and **Signalman Al Dove.** We welcome the following in their places: **Captain J. E. F. Kirby, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Chris Payne, Corporal Woodmason, Lance-Corporal 'Budgie' Burdis, Signalman John Chivers, Lance-Corporal Webber** and **Signalman Tim Hatch.** In addition to these changes we have recently welcomed the following WRAC girls who will be attached to the display for the summer tour: **Wendy Kirkaldie, Annette Jackson, Sheila Bussingham** and **Liz Manifold.**

Meanwhile, "back on the range" **S.S.M. Graham Griffiths** was temporarily absent from the Team whilst he acted as the R.S.M. 10 Signal Regiment for some eight months. **Staff-Sergeant Gill Harding** not only took on the job of Team S.S.M. but also did a sterling job sorting out the enormous amount of paper work involved in the stores accounting for the Team and its Workshops.

ANY VOLUNTEERS

We hope all members of the Corps will come and visit us when we are showing nearby. If any soldier is interested in joining the Team he should inform his Squadron Commander so that his request may be noted by Records. The sort of man required must be an extrovert who is prepared to talk to the public and 'sell' the Corps.

The WIRE
Without it—
You're not With it!

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY, SPRING 1975

AS the Commandant, **Colonel Gordon Neilson,** said in his Graduation Day speech, the College was very honoured that Her Majesty's Lieutenant for North Yorkshire, **The Marquis of Normanby, C.B.E., D.C.L., K.St.J.,** had been able to find the time not only to act as Reviewing Officer on 10th March, but to pay us a preliminary fact-finding visit in February.

A/T R.S.M.—A PRAISEWORTHY EFFORT

The Parade, held in dry but bitter cold, was commanded by **A/T RSM Kevin Livermore,** 18, of Braintree. Perhaps his great aplomb was less surprising in view of the fact that this was his second Graduation Parade—which makes him only the fourth apprentice ever to have achieved such a distinction. Nor can there have been all that many A/T RSMs also to carry off three of the main prizes—all in all a most praiseworthy effort.

HIS BIG DAY!

Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major Kevin Livermore, (*right*) meets the Marquis of Normanby, Lord Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (*left*). *Centre:* Colonel W. G. Neilson, Commandant. Kevin (18) had just commanded a 400-strong parade at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, at which the Marquis was the Reviewing Officer.

On graduating Kevin received three prizes:
The Master of Signals Award "for the best all-round apprentice".
The Commandant's Prize "for conduct, discipline and example".
The Director of Army Education Prize "for outstanding academic achievement".

Joining the College in September 1972 he was the best recruit in December that year. Now he has graduated, Kevin will be posted to 14th Signal Regiment at Worcester

COMMANDANT'S ADDRESS

Having welcomed our guests, especially the ladies who were brave enough to defy the 'notorious reputation of Pennypot Moor' **Colonel Neilson** went on to outline the term's achievements in the various spheres of College life. So many and varied are these —and certainly no Editor in his right mind would spare the space to list them here—it is both miraculous and merciful that the Commandant's speeches are kept so short. But he found room for a word of congratulation to **Band Sergeant Major Singleton, Pipe Major Cross** and **Drum Major Bandy** for producing our own Bands which had sorely felt the raising of the school-leaving age. The Commandant also thanked **R.S.M. Meade,** SG, on this his last Graduation Day; perhaps his greatest success in the 2½ years he had been with us was the re-designing of the Graduation Parade to its present format.

Finally **Colonel Neilson** told the Senior Squadron: "You have worked jolly hard—don't slack off. I know that all the Staff join me in wishing you all the best for the future".

An unusual event at last term's Prize-giving was the presentation by the Reviewing Officer of the Imperial Service Medal, in recognition of "long, loyal and diligent service to the Crown", to **Mr. John Norfolk,** who has been on the College staff for 25 years, and Head Gardener since 1958.

REVIEWING OFFICER'S ADVICE

The Marquis of Normanby endeared himself to his audience by quickly reassuring them that he detested long speeches. He told those leaving: "You have shown ability, go, and guts, and that you can reach a target. Those who can do this can exert considerable influence". His work, he said, gave him the opportunity to visit many schools and colleges. We had here splendid facilities, but "buildings matter less than what goes on inside them". He thought that the success of the College was founded on three things: "discipline, the sympathy of the instructors, and a shared attitude and purpose."

MAYOR'S REGRET

Councillor Graham Bott spoke with some regret, as this would be his last official visit as Mayor of Harrogate. It would be, he said, a sad occasion to lose contact with such fine young men. "In fact, were I some five years younger, I would enlist and become an A/T myself."

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Master of Signals Award for the best all round Apprentice of the Term, won by **A/T R.S.M. K. Livermore.**

The Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award for the outstanding Tradesman of the Term, won by **A/T Sergeant D. M. Gunn.**

Commandant's Prize for Conduct, Discipline and Example, won by **A/T R.S.M. K. Livermore.**

Director of Army Education Prize for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College, won by **A/T R.S.M. K. Livermore.**

Prizes Awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to the best Apprentices of the Term in each trade wing:

Technicians
won by **A/T Sergeant D. M. Gunn**
A/T S.S.M. J. A. Chapman
A/T M. A. Whitehead

Telegraphists
won by **A/T Lance-Corporal W. A. M. R. McCauley**
A/T A. E. Bree

Education Prizes for the best academic progress during their time at the College:

Technician
won by **A/T A. McCartney**

Telegraphist
won by **A/T Sergeant J. H. Lathbury**

The Borough of Harrogate Prizes for the best essay on Local Government:

Technician
won by **A/T Corporal G. B. O'Sullivan**

Telegraphist
won by **A/T P. J. Holt**

News from Regiments

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

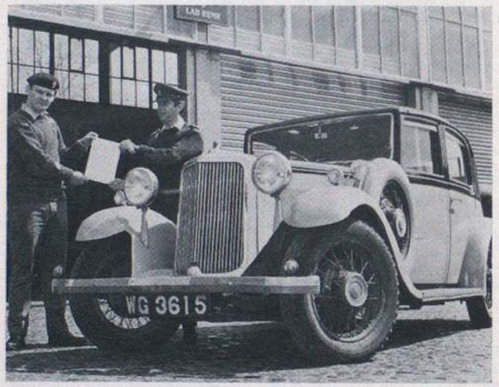
THAT 'X' FACTOR

RUMOURS, rumours! some right some wrong. The months do differ but only by the weather. The sign outside the main gate of Hammersmith Barracks does not read "4 Division Signal Regiment Plus X Factor" and the RSM will not he says, be knocking on the front door of the soldiers' 10 man flats when they are completed next year, so cancel your preference postings. The 'X' factor quip is said to have come through 'hairy' channels, but not originated in 4 Division. How can they be so cynical running a rabbit farm as they do under the management of **Corporal** (who says compo is boring with a rabbit in your sleeping bag) **'Eyes' Linton.** They also had **Signalman 'Vinny'** (every time a basket) **Flemming** who together with **Lance-Corporal Bob Mahoney** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Mayhew** contributed greatly towards winning the Divisional basketball final for the unit. How can life be boring in 3 Squadron with Line Troop and a Divisional Headquarters Troop with a driver officer and the supposed posting in of a driver sergeant! (4 Division RCT humour!).

HOW TO FORM A 7-A-SIDE RUGBY TEAM

It's been said that the Badge Man didn't bother taking part in Exercise 'Keel Haul' because the Commanding Officer didn't take his caravan and that he wasn't missed anyway because all and sundry mistook the Division Superintendant Clerks coat of arms for the RSM! (Something wrong there somehow.) While on the subject of Staff Clerks, using the word in its broadest sense. If two or three of them are thrown together with members of the Corps and a sprinkling of RCT members are added and given a manager such as **Major Peter Webster,** OC 1 Squadron, you have the runners up in the Division's 7-a-side rugby final (see photo).

Major David Dudley, OC 2 Squadron who was introduced in our last notes, drove from England in his 1935 Armstrong Siddeley. It turned a few heads on the way and received a few enquiries as to new ownership. Finally arriving with a sick gearbox, which has been replaced by **Lance-Corporal Richardson** of the LAD. The car was taken to the AQMS, **W.O.2 Bob Brotheridge** to find out the requirements for BFG. The photo tells the story.



500,000 MILE SERVICE?
Major David Dudley with his 1935 Armstrong Siddeley supposedly saying to A.Q.M.S. Bob Brotheridge, "Come on now A.Q.M.S., it has got all items listed"!

Ex-members of C1 and C2 Troop of 1 Squadron will be glad to know that the Troops now have both acquired a motto. C1 Troop is "WE GO", that they don't come back can be deduced from the April/May notes. C2 Troop is slightly complicated, but helps the Troop Officers and Sergeants establish what their soldiers were last doing. It involves the Hats Combat. If worn peak down over the right or left ear the soldier has been SWINGING. If worn peak up and centre front, he's completed HEIGHT AND GAIN. If the hat is conventional, he has SWUNG, done HEIGHT AND GAIN and lowered for CAM. Posted into C2 as a troop officer you may receive these actions, completed in quick time, but not by number, with a salute! Words are then unnecessary except from the author, who believes that numonics should be confined to words and drill manuals.

Alfie, (what's it all about)!

P.S.—METHOD OF ENSURING EXCELLENT PHOTOS FOR THE WIRE

RSM: "New PR man **Sergeant Kitson;** welcome to the Regiment".
PR Man: "Yes Sir. Thank you Sir". (14 years' service).
RSM: "Big fellow, mess rugby Sunday, alright?"
PR Man: "No Sir . . ." (only after 14 years' service).
RSM: "Last posting Sergeant?"
PR Man: "Benbecula Sir".
RSM: "Mess darts team Friday night then" (not what you thought!).
PR Man: "Colour or black and white for the Mess dinner Sir?"

4 DIVISION 7-A-SIDE RUGBY RUNNERS UP
Back row, left to right: Major Peter Webster (Manager), Corporal Brian Neil, Corporal Pete Radcliffe, RCT, Lance-Corporal 'Barny' Gravil, RCT
Front row, left to right: Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Williams, Captain Eric Mercer, (Intelligence Corps), W.O.2 Colin Bawden, RAOC, Lieutenant Bob Binham

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

IN THE FIELD—EXERCISES

MARCH was an exceptionally busy month for the Regiment. The first fortnight saw us involved in Exercise 'Wintex'. Then, after a respite of three days the Regiment was on the move once more, this time participating in Exercise 'Flying Falcon'. During the CCR Signals' exercise, the Regiment was entrusted with the task of hosting the visits of several VIP's. These included the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. A. Tighe,** the Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Major-General H. E. Roper** and the ACGS (OR), **Major-General H. P. Cunningham. Air Commodore Moore,** D Signals (Air) MOD designate, also paid us a 'flying' visit.

On the Saturday night of the exercise a dinner night in the field was held for our guests and 60 other Officers from various units in BAOR. **Lance-Corporals Lucking** and **Warren,** ably assisted by **Captain J. L. Brumfitt,** ACC produced their usual excellent fare.

ON THE FIELD—RUGBY AND FOOTBALL

After the disappointment the Rugby Club suffered at the hands of 3 BAPD in the BAOR semi-final (we lost 6–9 in a closely contested match) the Regiment was all the more determined to retain the 4th Division cup. The final, held in almost ideal conditions, was against our old rivals 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. Both teams strived to play open rugby, but on the day the Regiment proved to be the better team with **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Keith Zoing, Sergeants Sammy Degei** and **'Smudge' Smith, Corporal 'Q' Gilder** and **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott** all contributing points towards the final total of 38–6.

In the Divisional seven-a-side competition the Regiment fielded 4 teams out of an entry of 17. The 'A' team, drawn from **Staff Sergeants (F. of S.) Keith Zoing** and **Bert Taylor, Sergeants Norman Siggs** and **Roy Smith, Corporals Brian Thompson** and **'Q' Gilder** and **Clive Blackburn,** and **Signalman Roy Cameron,** qualified for the BAOR finals as well as winning the competition in convincing style 26–0. The remaining three teams failed to qualify for the BAOR finals but the 'B' team did sweep all opposition aside to win the plate competition.

The Footballing Officer, **W.O.1 Alan Davies** wishes to point out football also features amongst Regimental winter sports!

The team, coached by **W.O.2 'Mac' McKenzie** has had an enjoyable season. They were knocked out of the Army Cup in the second round but made great progress in the 'Rothmans six-a-side competition', by qualifying for the BAOR finals of this tournament. In the Divisional League they finished as runners up, beating local rivals 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment twice. The season's leading goal scorers were **Lance-Corporals Alan Taylor** and **Mick O'Hare.** Next season an improved performance should be seen with the return to the team of **Sergeants Gerry Manton** and **Ian Dolby** and **Signalman 'Hammy' Hamilton** —all of whom missed some part of this season because of courses, attachments and alike.

OFF THE FIELD—ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

With a Regiment of this size one would need a separate issue to catalogue the comings and goings that occur. However, special mention must be given to **Majors Paul 'Red Leader' Webb** and **Bill Kennedy** and **Captain Peter Myatt** (former editor of these notes) who have departed for fresh pastures, whilst **Majors Bob Siderfin** and **David Podevin** have joined us. However, to all those who have left us we wish them good fortune in their new units.

STOP PRESS

The seven-a-side rugby team won the BAOR competition and thus retained the trophy.

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

AN OUTSTANDING SEASON FOR SPORT

THOSE reading these notes may be excused for exclaiming "Not more Sport". When a unit holds three Army Championships—motorcycling, hockey and soccer—perhaps there is an excuse for announcing the event. In what has been an outstanding sporting season the Regiment has also reached the UK finals of the basketball (runners-up) and badminton. The rugby team reached the UK quarter final and should be a team to watch next year.

ARMY CUP WINNERS 1974-75

The dream of every footballing soldier is to be a member of the team that wins the Army Challenge Cup. The Regimental players wound up an excellent season by doing just that, as well as winning the North East District Cup and being Runners-up in both First and Second Divisions of the Yorkshire Joint Services Leagues.

All the matches that led up to the final were away fixtures, adding to the achievement. Results were:

v 4 Light Regiment RA — 2–1
v CAD Kineton — 7–3
v Kings Own Border — 3–2
v 22 Engineer Regiment — 2–1
v 14 AD Regiment RCT— 7–2

and the UK Final at Aldershot v COD Bicester. This was a double event as the first game was drawn 1–1, the replay producing a 2–1 victory.

The final itself was against 28 (BR) Signal Regiment, at their third successive cup final. This almost unique Corps event was played at Aldershot on 9th April, under floodlights; the ingredients of an exciting fixture were well mixed. With a distinguished VIP audience, **Joe Mercer** included, and strong Regimental support, the team faced a 28th Regiment side determined to capture the Cup.

28th Regiment took the initiative from the start and maintained a continuous attack that forced keeper **Corporal Tom Reilly** to give one of the best performances of his career. They pressed hard throughout the first half and had a succession of shots stopped or kicked away. 8th Regiment played attractive football but lost their only two opportunities to score through poor finishing.

It was not until the second half that 28th Regiment's defence made a mistake and allowed striker **Lance-Corporal John Boyd** to place the ball in the net from 25 yards. The game continued, at the same tempo, 8th holding 28th off, to the same full time

MADE IT!

Sergeant Jim Tierney holds up the much-sought-after Army football championship cup—presented by Mr. Joe Mercer

(Photo: Courtesy Soldier magazine)

result. The Regimental sides's jubilation was marred only by having had to defeat another Signal Regiment to win the cup, a side who were left wondering what they had to do to win.

NORTH EAST DISTRICT CUP

This trophy for the local teams of North East District was hard fought for. The first round was against arch rivals, 4 Light Regiment RA whom we beat 2–1. Next we played the very strong 15 Field Workshop team whom we beat 7–2, followed by the semi-final against neighbours 11 Signal Regiment. This was a hard fought match which we finally won 2–1. The final was played against York Garrison on the Central Ground Catterick. The game was a dour affair and both teams played hard attacking football. 8th Signal Regiment finally won 4–1.

The squad that saw us through the final stages of the Army Cup and the Jubilee Cup was comprised of **Sergeant Jim Tierney** (Captain), **Sergeant Pat Gallagher** (Vice Captain), **Corporal Tom Reilly, Signalman Allan Mann, Sergeant John Fuller, Corporal Dave Bracey, Signalman Alun Coleman, Sergeant Al Cunningham, Lance-Corporal John Boyd, Craftsman John Yearsley, Signalman 'Nicky' Welsh, Staff Sergeant Dave Osborne, Corporal Jimmy Murray** and **Signalman Pete Jones.** Our grateful thanks to all who played in the early parts of the season and to our sports co-ordinator, PRI staff, and supporters, who helped in so many ways. At the time of going to press they are also through to the final of the Milbank charity cup and hope to take that on the 12th May from Northallerton Town. We wish them well. On a final note, one man deserves special credit—**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Walton** who sweated, swore, cajoled, coached, managed and led the team from being a collection of players at the start of the season to being a fine, sporting squad at the end of it.

HOCKEY

"We are the Champions", the cry rang around the home team changing room in the Officers' Club at Aldershot on Thursday, 17th April. After our 4–2 win against 42 Heavy Regiment RA.

This was the final climax in a very successful season, Army Winners 1974/75. Nobody could believe it until they had a drink out of the cup least of all the goal scorer **Sergeant Mick Raybould.** Also **Corporal Peter Havlin** who had been in two finals before but had never won one. The team will now be splitting up. **Sergeant Mick Moore** is going to 224 Signal Squadron; they now have a first class centre forward. **Lance-Corporal Dick Woodfine** the man who filled the goalmouth and left it empty for 7 minutes in the final is off to 21st Signal Regiment. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Pat Blakelock** the grandfather of the team and stalwart fullback is again considering hanging up his stick and **Major Clive Collier** who is going to Staff College in October will have to decide next season which comes first, sport or study. **Corporal 'Sticky' Stickland, Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Weir** and **Signalman Graham Harrison** are due for posting on completion of their courses. This will leave only the forward line intact, **Lance-Corporal Alan Frampton** our REME rep who came in at the last moment, leaving the delights of Canada to play for the Regiment. **W.O.2 George Clark** the team Captain and only member of the team who is unable to read road signs and **Sergeant Eddie Mulvanna** our right wing and **Corporal Benney Grossmith** the fastest player, until his glasses steam up! Finally and by no means least baggage master extraordinare **Sergeant George Wright** will still be here next season to help either as a player or an up and coming umpire.

Looking back over the season our success started with the North East District 6-a-side competition. It is interesting to note that two of the team, **Sergeant Mick Weaver** and **Corporal Martin Roberts** are no longer with us and we would like to thank them for their help in putting us on the right road to success.

In the North East League Cup we once again finished in the final with 38 Engineer Regiment, this time beating them 4–0. In the Army Cup we played and beat the following:

1st Round.	36 Engineer Regiment (Army Champions 1972–74)—1–0 (at home)
2nd Round.	RCT Training Regiment—7–2 (at Aldershot)
4th Round.	See Arborfield—1–0 (at Aldershot)
5th Round.	7 RHA—5–2 (at Aldershot) the result of this match at full time was 2–2. Won on penalty flicks.
UK Final.	RAPC Worthy Down—1–0 (at Aldershot) this team had 9 of their Corps players and an Army player and was the only Corps team to beat our own Corps team.
Army Final.	42 Heavy Regiment RA—4–2 (at Aldershot).

We also supported the Corps team providing 7 players throughout the season. They were **Major Clive Collier, Lieutenant Derek Rutherford, Sergeant Eddie Mulvanna, Sergeant Mick Raybould, Sergeant Mick Weaver, Sergeant Mick Moore, Lance-Corporal Dick Woodfine.**

Finally we would like to thank our supporters in the Regiment for all their help and encouragement.

BASKETBALL

The team coached by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) 'Chippie' Wood** and **Sergeant Chris Bond** won through to the Army (UK) Basketball Finals held at Aldershot.

They eventually finished as runners up to HQ Army Air Corps losing to them by 68 points to 50.

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FARAWAY PLACES !

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WHY NOT WRITE YOUR STORY FOR "THE WIRE"?

10th REGIMENT FOOTBALL TEAM WINNERS HOUNSLOW LEAGUE JUBILEE CUP

Back row, left to right: Sergeant Robin Gipson, Signalmen John Chapman, 'Jock' Minto, Corporal Roger Parker, Sergeant Pete Stanger, Signalmen 'Scouse' Favager, 'Jock' Graham

Front row, left to right: Sergeant Ray Walton, Signalmen 'Brummie' Hough, 'Brummie' Barber, Alan Keers, Corporal Trevor Walcroft, Signalmen Paul Sinnott, Neil Leyland

Absent on duty: Corporals Geoff Ruffer, Eddie Gallacher *(Courtesy Slough Evening Mail)*

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

HOUNSLOW LEAGUE JUBILEE CUP FINAL
REPORT BY SIGNALMAN JOHN CHAPMAN

EAGER to shake off their defeat in the London District challenge cup final the Regimental football team had an air of grim determination about them when they met Heslow in the final of the Jubilee Cup.

An early goal by **Neil Leyland** set the pattern of play. With **Geoff Ruffer, Neil Leyland** and **'Brummy' Hough** dominating the mid field, our forwards, **'Brummy' Barber, Trevor Walcroft** and **Ray Walton** kept the Heslow defence in their own box. The Heslow men gave the Regiment some bad moments but the steadying influence of Team Captain **Peter Stanger** and the sure head of **Eddy Gallagher** kept the Regiment in front. With seconds to go to half time **'Brummy' Barber** pounced on a loose ball and made it TWO–NIL.

The second half saw Heslow pressurising the Regiment but fine saves by keeper **Alan Kears** kept us in the lead. Clever use of the full backs **Robin Gipson** and **Roger Parker** caused Heslow defence a lot of problems and a late tackle in the penalty box enabled **Neil Leyland** to make it 3–0. Soon after **Ray Walton** left the pitch and **'Scouse' Favager** came on to give fresh bite to the team, and it was not long before a fine individual effort by **Neil Leyland** made it 4–0 and gave him his hat-trick.

At full time **Peter Stanger,** on behalf of the Regiment, was presented with the Cup by the Chairman of the Hounslow League.

REPORT FROM 2 SQUADRON

LONDON DISTRICT RIFLE MEETING, 17th-18th APRIL

MINOR units in the Corps meeting in June and RASAM in July had better beware after the splendid efforts of 10th Signal Regiment in the London District Rifle Meeting which took place on 17th and 18th April. Our team consisted of **Sergeant Mel Gowling, Captain Geoff Hudson, Corporal Harry Thorne, Lance-Corporal Kevin Roper, Sergeant Chris Boys** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Johnson** (Team Captain).

They won both the moving target match and the Dewar Trophy for minor units championship and **Corporal Harry Thorne** came second in the individual pistol match.

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON

IN spite of gloomy forecasts recruits continue to arrive and the pace of training continues unchanged.

3 TROOP PASS OFF

3 Troop passed off on Friday, 18th April. The Inspecting Officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel N. T. Davies, M.B.E.,** RA, Commanding Officer of 4 Light Regiment, RA. The Troop was commanded by **Lieutenant Mike Stanners** assisted by **Sergeant Roy Bennet, Corporal 'Jock' Cain** and **Lance-Corporal Doug Goldie.** The prize for best recruit was awarded to **Signalman Norman Mauchline, Signalman Brian Roughley** won the prize for the best all round shot. We wish them both and all the other members of 3 Troop all the best for their future in the Corps.

ARMY DISTRICT COOKERY COMPETITION

Having been successful in obtaining 7 places out of 8 competitive classes entered in the District cookery competition, four members of the Regiment were fortunate in being selected to represent both the Regiment and No. 4 Catering Region in the Army Cookery Competition Finals held in Aldershot 23rd/24th April. The classes entered were as follows:

Class 5—Advanced Junior Individual—**Corporal Ridgeway.**
Class 10—Cold Buffet (Fish)—**Lance-Corporal Lee.**
Class 15—Gateau and French Pastries—**Private Bowler.**
Class 16—Cold Pie—**Staff Sergeant Robinson.**

It is believed that this was the first time anyone from the Regiment had reached the Army final. As was expected the standard was very high and only **Staff Sergeant 'Joe' Robinson** was lucky enough to gain a medal for third place in his class. Our three other competitors, however, did not disgrace themselves and were beaten only by narrow margins. All agreed that the experience was worthwhile, and the incentive to come back with more prizes next year is firmly embedded in the catering staff.

2 SQUADRON

These notes are written in retrospect of what has been a hectic end of term and culmination of the 28 weeks training of the first intake of Junior Signalmen. After managing to complete the battle camp and adventure training successfully and without casualties, to the boys that is, the final few weeks were spent in examinations, inter-troop competitions and pass off parade rehearsals. This may not seem to have been much, but when combined with a parachute demonstration, parties and general clearance of boys about to leave, it all combined to make the last two weeks seem far too short. **Captain Frank Rogers,** the Second-in-Command/Training Officer, and therefore the co-oridnating Officer of Squadron activities, has now recovered from the strain inflicted upon him and disclaims all responsibility for the final outcome.

CHAMPION TROOP

The inter-troop competitions which took place between and during examinations much to the exasperation of **Major Tom Shovlin** (Senior Education Officer) resulted in 10 Troop under **Lieutenant 'Willie' Brewin** becoming champion Troop. Luckily this did not disrupt the pass off parade form, as they were first in numerical order anyway and therefore already placed on the right of the parade.

THE END OF TERM FINALE

At last the great day arrived and all the hard work which had been put into the rehearsals, hobbies, displays, catering arrangements and general cleaning of the barracks was put to the test. The programme consisted of the pass off parade at 1100 hours followed by lunch for the boys and parents in the soldiers' mess and in the afternoon parents were conducted to Hooge Barracks where they saw hobbies displays and were generally shown round by their sons.

The parade itself to everyone's relief took place without any hitches and the sun came out for the first time that week. The Inspecting Officer was **Brigadier P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E.,** BGS Signals (Army) and there were 7 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 12 Sergeants and 186 Junior Signalmen on parade, the largest number of recruits to pass off in Catterick since national service.

The form of parade was standard, but based more on a Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade than a 1 Squadron recruits pass off. **Brigadier Webb** in his address, complimented the boys for their steadiness during what had been a particularly long inspection. **Major 'Willie' Robotham** who commanded the parade must also be congratulated for surprising everyone on the day for actually managing to remember his words of command, particularly that the army gave up 'Sloping Arms' when the SLR was introduced.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Brigadier Webb presented the following prizes on parade to boys considered best in academic and military subjects:

Military Subjects

Best junior NCO—**J/Corporal G. B. Carr,** 14 Troop.
Best junior Signalman—**J/Signalman P. K. W. Sixsmith,** 10 Troop.
Best all round sportsman—**J/Lance-Corporal S. R. Stevenson,** 11 Troop.
Best overall in military training—**J/Signalman M. Phillips,** 13 Troop.
Basic signalling skills—**J/Lance-Corporal M. R. James,** 15 Troop.

Academic Subjects

Best overall in academics—**J/Lance-Corporal C. D. Crewe,** 15 Troop.
Communication skills—**J/Signalman S. D. Newell,** 15 Troop.
Mathematics—**J/Lance-Corporal T. G. Morrissey,** 10 Troop.
Physics (E & M)—**J/Lance-Corporal M. W. Bradberry,** 14 Troop.
Orientation studies—**J/Signalman P. Watts,** 13 Troop.
Project—**J/Lance-Corporal M. E. Chambers,** 15 Troop.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The end of term also brings the inevitable change in the Squadron staff. Departing are **Captain Clement James,** RAEC who is posted to Northern Ireland and **Lieutenants Tim Bushell** and **Martin Strong** who change to adult training in 1 Squadron. Also **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Pritchard** and **Signalman 'Ginge' Donnelly** of the RP Staff depart for civilian life. The Squadron wishes them all the best of luck. We welcome to the Squadron **Lieutenant David Case** and **Sergeant Chas Irwin** as a new troop commander and troop sergeant. Also **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Reid** who joins our RP Staff.

The Squadron now looks forward to the summer term when we expect the arrival of 90 new boys which will add an extra three Troops to the five we will still have, who are doing either their second term training or are staying for a third term while awaiting vacancies in 8th Signal Regiment. With large numbers of boys predicted to be arriving in September this year, it now appears that the Junior Signalmen are here to stay as a major part of the Corps intake from recruiting.

3 SQUADRON

The immortal words of **Robert Browning** "Oh the little more and how much it is" had special significance for the Squadron at the beginning of the month, as a total of 93 students arrived to be taken under our instructional wing. With boots stamping and pencils steaming, the backbone of the Corps strive to reach the unattainable 'A' pass with honours. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast".

The comings and goings in our happy little band are recorded as follows: **Captain Pat Kington** leaves us for sunny Blandford and is replaced as OC Leadership Troop by **Lieutenant Tim Bushell.**

We also extend a very warm welcome to **Corporal Ron Regan** newly arrived from Cyprus.

It may be of interest to those of the Corps who are at the moment preparing themselves both physically and mentally for either a Staff Sergeants' or Detachment Commanders' course, to read the following proposed curriculum for all future courses.

"At this establishment, food of a sustaining character is served every two hours. Intervals between meals are devoted to sleep and a little dumbell exercise. No mental work whatever is permitted among students as such employment has been found to be deficient in flesh forming properties. The results of the system speak for themselves. Of the thirty students sent in for trials last year, twenty-two passed in weight, three joined the Navy and the remaining five were commissioned".

(Extract from: "How to prepare young gentlemen for the Army" *Punch Magazine,* November 21st, 1900).

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

LIVING next door to 21st Signal Regiment—although they are very nice people—has its disadvantages. For example they will keep winning things! However, recently we took stock of our own sporting achievements with a measure of pride. The progress made this season in both cross country and hockey merit special mention.

CROSS COUNTRY

Under the able leadership of **Sergeant Dick Holman** the Regimental Cross Country Team had their finest season for many a year. A good team effort by 13 members resulted in the Regiment finishing runners-up in the Rhine Area and fourth in the BAOR Championships. Since it took such illustrious teams as 21st Signal Regiment, 1 Parachute and 2 Royal Irish to beat us, fourth place in the BAOR competition was no mean feat.

On the individual plane the performances of **Signalman Jim Wakenshaw,** only 19 years old in his first season at senior level, were very encouraging. His 5th and 16th places in the BAOR and Army Championships respectively, plus 2nd in the Army Junior Championships and his BAOR Colours are the result of a hard winter's training in all weathers. Should he continue to train hard it is well within his ability to win an Army Championship within the next three years.

HOCKEY

During the winter 1973/74 **Captain Bob Taylor,** RAPC ran the Regimental Soccer Team and it won promotion to the First Division. This season he ran the hockey and we finished second to RAF, Wildenrath in the league. We also reached the finals of the Rhine Area Major Unit Cup only to be defeated 5–3 by 36 Heavy Regiment after a ding dong battle with **Sergeant Stephenson** scoring all 3 of our goals. Altogether a satisfying season and made so by the performances of people like **Captain Mike Dawkins, W.O.1 Lew Hammond** and **Sergeant 'Jock' Taylor** who performed untiringly throughout the season,

SOCCER

Although not quite as successful as last season the Regimental Soccer managed to remain in Division I. The stalwarts of the team including **Sergeant 'Trev' Ryan, Corporal Mick Ford** (Captain) and **Corporal Keith Wolstencroft** to mention but a few, not only made certain that we kept in the same Division—they learnt a ripe selection of new Australian expressions from **Lieutenant Bob Blue** our doughty soccer officer.

Our other activities, drastically trimmed in answer to editorial appeals, included our providing the venue for an international youth soccer competition. 10 British, Dutch and German teams in the age group 10–12 years battled it out on the playing fields of Birgelen. As hosts we were strictly non partisan (but jolly pleased nontheless) when Castlemount School from Dover beat Borussia Monchengladbach Youth in the final.

We were very pleased to see the White Helmets in sparkling form. So far none of our Special Telegraphists have volunteered!

SO-IN-C's VISIT

The month's activities were rounded off by a visit from **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe** and **Mrs. Tighe.** The details of the visit will be of little interest outside the Regiment except to say that he presented richly deserved LS & GC Medals to **W.O.2 Dave Cheyne** and **Sergeant John Davies.**

The S.O.-in-C. presenting the LS and GC medal to Sergeant John Davies

14 Sig Regt Worcester

LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

OUR D13 rear link detachment, commanded by **Captain Ron Abbott,** has recently returned after a prolonged winter holiday in Norway. To ensure complete success and write an illuminated, if somewhat frigid, page in the Regiment's guide to good exercise sites, he took along our ski-ing experts **Staff Sergeant Jerry Jarrett, Lance-Corporal Paul Ellis,** all the paraphernalia for winter sports, arctic clothing and, we are assured, radio equipment.

Arctic conditions on arrival boded well for good sport, but these coupled with high winds threatened to destroy our 80-foot antennae. A sudden mild spell aggravated the problem by varying the temperature between minus thirteen and plus five degrees Centigrade, this serving to loosen the stakes. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Chalky' White** developed an almost psychopathic fear of antennae crashing down until **Staff Sergeant Jerry Jarrett** suggested digging through the perma frost and anchoring them with Molex Anchors. This proved to be the answer and there were no further antenna problems.

Almost overnight the snow disappeared to be replaced with heavy rain. Had the marines brought a Gemmi the detachment could have commenced water ski-ing. Whilst everyone was pondering on the irony of being located above the arctic circle without snow, **Major Colin Bunce** arrived with authority for adventurous training in Junkerdalen (near the Swedish border) and morale rose appreciably.

Parties spent a week in the Junkerdalen area living in a very comfortable log cabin. The ski-ing consisted mainly of langlauf in high mountain forest and tundra. Here **Signalman Trev Walker** discovered that he has a canine affinity for trees. In no time at all he had developed a technique which would be the envy of Sun Valley. This involved approaching trees head on at high speed, then opening his legs to enable one foot to pass either side of the tree. Alas, his body does not divide in the same manner and a rather abrupt halt results. He assures us that the impact is bracing and one soon acquires a taste for fresh pine wood.

The communications party in Bodo were quite comfortable but found the Norwegian diet of fish, fish and more fish, a trifle monotonous. **Corporal Larry Lant** cannot eat fish, and has now set up a new world record for surviving on jam butties which should be included in the 1976 Guinness Book of Records. The

KEEPING THEIR END UP IN NORWAY

Sergeant Fowler, Signalman Walker, Corporal Guest with Sergeants Botfish and Assender enjoying the ski-ing during Exercise 'Clockwork'

diet also produced two galloping gourmands in the shape of **Sergeants 'Taff' Assender** and **Dave Bennett;** they ate then galloped. Their speciality, of curry and spaghetti proved very popular as it could either be devoured or used to knit up a jersey heavy duty.

Without a doubt the most memorable experience for everyone was to witness that unique natural phenomena, the Aurora Borealis. Everyone was open-mouthed in wonder as the whole spectrum of colour exploded and weaved across the sky. Vivid slashes of colour flash across the heavens as if some divine artist is creating a masterpiece of mobile colour. The brilliance of Titian and Turner pale to insignificance against such a superabundance of indescribably brilliant colour. Words and all the paints ever invented fail miserably to convey the magnificence of this spectacle. In common with all good parties, this feast for the senses has its own built-in communications hangover. The Aurora Borealis owes its origin to streams of electrified particles ejected from the sun and attracted to the earth's magnetic poles. Approximately 24 hours after witnessing the spectacle communications were extremely difficult.

The D13 was discovered to have one insurmountable fault on this type of exercise. It cannot ski. We therefore had to content ourselves on letting it do the only thing it seems to do well, communicate. On numerous occasions it achieved 100% success on our daily schedules back to the UK and gave an overall result of well in excess of 90% for the whole exercise.

On the return journey the detachment moved north by road from Bodo to the port of Soreissa where they were due to board the *LSL Sir Galahad*. As the weather had deteriorated, producing arctic conditions once more, this journey was both spectacular and hair-raising. The icy road wound through numerous mountain passes often with sheer drops into snow covered valleys hundreds of feet below. The views were magnificent but no one boasts that they were able to relax and enjoy them. However, the journey was completed without incident.

After a somewhat rough crossing our team of intrepid arctic warriors have now lost their green hue and are busy planning their next exercise which will possibly be East Africa.

SERGEANT SUPER THUMB?

Recently, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Tom Wilkinson** tasked his right hand man **Sergeant Allan Protheroe** with producing a sign for the door of the custodian's store. **Allan** tackled this task with enthusiasm and showed real artistic flair. Eventually a really professional sign was produced with a flourish, complete with tag designed to hang on a drawing pin. Slight snag, the door to the custodian's store is steel. The Yeoman now wonders whether he employs Sergeant Super Thumb or will require the services of the Six Million Dollar Man to hang his sign.

THROWER WAY GARDENING

Having been exposed to the 'Dig for Victory' campaign in his childhood and possessing a garden of Ponderosa-like dimensions, **Captain (Tfc) Colin Heaps** decided to emulate **Percy Thrower** and produce succulent vegetables for the table. With this in mind he purchased 20 or 30 healthy winter cabbage plants, consulted the MMG (Manual of Military Gardening), planted them in rows with Guards'-like precision and lavished every possible care upon them.

To his amazement, instead of developing into crisp, firm, cabbages as laid down in the manual, they insisted on growing upwards until they resembled Jack's favourite plant. Finally, in exasperation, he decided that they had gone to seed, tore them up and hurled them on the compost heap in disgust.

During Easter, whilst visiting relatives in Kent he remarked on a particular tasty vegetable and was informed that it was purple sprouting. He said "I planted them but everyone went to seed". His host expressed surprise and after lunch took him into the garden to see the plant growing. To his chagrin he discovered that they were identical to the ones he had destroyed and that the succulent greens were the sprouting portion. He is now convinced that the green on his fingers is mould.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

VISIT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

ON the 9th April a party of 10 parliamentarians visited Lippstadt Station as part of their tour of BAOR. The party which included two members of the Lords, **Lord Swaythling** and the **Earl of Onslow,** was led by **Mr. Jack Dormand,** Lord Commissioner of the Treasury and Government Whip and Member of Parliament for Easington.

Their main aim was to see the 'quality of life' and so after a brief introduction to the roles of the Regiment and of 27 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery, the party spent two hours looking at the various facilities in Churchill Barracks. One MP, an ex-Army Officer, on visiting 1 Squadron's accommodation stated that he had seldom seen single accommodation in such good order. The whirlwind tour included the medical and dental centres, the youth club room, the Church, the NAAFI families shop and the WRVS room where the party were introduced to **Mrs. Nora Short** and to **Mr. Hill** manager of the Winston Club and to **Mrs. Hill.**

However the most important parts of the visit were those in which the visitors had the opportunity to talk with the 'constituents'. At tea in the regimental restaurant they met 40 all ranks and their wives from the Regiment and from 27 Medium Regiment. Aft wards they drove to the Bokenforde Estate, to the homes of **Corporal Tom 'Jock'** and **Mrs. Norma Robertson** and to **Corporal Al** and **Mrs. Mary Young.** Finally in the evening they attended an Anglo-German reception and buffet supper hosted by the Commanding Officer, as Station Commander, and the Officers of both Regiments. We believe they left with a good impression of Lippstadt.

DRAMA

The Lippstadt Players have been in existence now for quite a number of years and past members of the Regiment will no doubt remember some of the fine plays that have been produced by them.

The players are perhaps stronger in numbers and more enthusiastic now than they have ever been.

Their latest production 'Billy Liar' was held on the 29th and 30th April and 1st May. With this play they were competing in the British Forces Germany drama festival and on the second night **Mr. Graham Sutor,** Member of the Guild of Drama adjudicators and Chairman of the Guild Council was present.

Under the chairmanship of **Major John Higton** the group have been working hard since February in preparation. The play was produced extremely well by **Elaine Morris,** wife of **Signalman Trevor Morris** (under orders—Stage Manager) and the cast of eight who kept the audience smiling, laughing and sometimes 'spaniel like' but most definitely glued to their seats were, in in order of appearance: *Florence Boothroyd*—**Audrey Harper** (wife of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. D. Harper),** *Alice Fisher*—**Pat Cooper** (wife of **Captain F. Cooper),** *Geoffrey Fisher*—**Matt Lowe** (27 Medium Regiment RA), *Billy Fisher*—**Signalman Steve Holliday,** *Arthur Crabtree*—**Lance-Corporal Dick Ash,** *Barbara*—**Jackie Black** (wife of **Corporal B. Black),** *Rita*—**'Sandy' Scrase** (wife of **Sergeant A. Scrase)** and *Liz*—**Ann Hall** (wife of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) W. R. F. Hall).**

(Continued on page 201)

(Continued from page 200)

THE LIPPSTADT PLAYERS IN ACTION

Left to right: Signalman Steve Holiday, Staff Sergeant Matt Lowe, Pat Cooper, Audrey Harper

Pat Cooper is no stranger to 'Hamdrama' and readers who have served in Blandford will no doubt remember her and the fine performance she gave with the theatre group at the School of Signals.

This year the final night of the drama festival will be held in the Garrison Theatre, Rheindahlen on Saturday, 24th May when the winning groups will be announced and the trophies presented.

Will the Lippstadt Players win an award? We certainly hope they do but if not the audience here appreciated their performance and all the hard work that went on behind the scenes.

IT HAPPENED YESTERYEAR

Extracts from our Regimental Scrap Book 1962:

4th February 1962	**Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe** assumes command vice **Lieutenant-Colonel J. Knowles.**
19th June 1962	Four subalterns join the Regiment from the School of Signals, **Second-Lieutenant J. Graham, Lieutenant B. J. Austin, Lieutenant R. N. Garlick** and **B. J. Nicholl.**
21st August 1962	The initial issue of D11/R230 arrive in the Regiment.
12th September 1962	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) P. W. H. Lafferty** appointed R.S.M.
20th November 1962	The formation of 2 Squadron as a trade training Squadron to cope with the 'overflow' of radio operators from the Training Brigade.

FAREWELLS

On the 14th April we said farewell to our Paymaster, **Captain Roy Griffiths,** RAPC who left the Regiment and the Army. As an ex-glider pilot, whose Army career spanned over 30 years, he saw service in Arnhem. Off to America, Australia or returning to the valleys of Wales, he wasn't quite sure when he left—or wasn't telling? But where-ever he goes we wish him and his wife **Olive** a happy retirement.

The 1st April (April Fools Day) saw the change over of Chief Clerks. **W.O.2 Dave McCluskey** departed for higher stations in 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment; we wish him and his wife the best of luck in their new posting. In his place we welcome **W.O.2 Bert Schneider** who has taken up the appointment of Assistant Adjutant. **W.O.2 Schneider** was heard to remark that he intended to put 22 on the map, with a strong rugby team, however last time seen he was buried under a pile of signals and posting orders for football players.

If you're 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

VISIT OF THE SO-IN-C

ON Monday, 30th April, the Regiment was visited by the SO-in-C, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** accompanied by **Mrs. Tighe.**

On arrival the SO-in-C inspected a Quarter Guard commanded by our RP Sergeant, **Sergeant Fulton** (who had served at the Training Brigade under the then **Brigadier Tighe**). There then followed a briefing on the Regiment and a demonstration of some of the unique equipment which the Regiment owns. **Captain Mike Kenyon** and **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Brown** demonstrated the versatility of our mobile TARE, whilst **Captain 'Andy' Whiddet** managed to convince the SO-in-C that those Tropo dish assemblies really are heavy.

The S.O.-in-C., Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E. has a word with Lance-Corporal Mayne during his inspection of the Quarter Guard. In the background are Captain John Young (Adjutant), Sergeant Fulton (Guard Commander) and Corporal Wagstaff

"And if you look over here . . ." Signalman Smith (1 Squadron) briefing the S.O.-in-C. on some of the NATO range of power equipment used by the Regiment

We were able to demonstrate to the SO-in-C the complexities of the NATO system when he visited our new multi purpose training hall and met **Staff Sergeant Grainger,** APTC putting a class through its paces. This is a NATO funded building sitting on British funded foundations (site cleared by the Regiment and levelled by 40 Army Support Regiment RE). We now await a third party to instal some central heating.

Following this, the SO-in-C was entertained to drinks in the Sergeants' Mess, where our new R.S.M., **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Atkins** introduced some of our WOs and SNCOs. **Major-General Tighe** then retired to the Officers' Mess to meet the officers of the Regiment over lunch before departing for 16th Signal Regiment.

While the SO-in-C visited the Regiment, **Mrs. Tighe** was taken on a tour of Berg Linn, a local museum and castle of historical interest. She was accompanied by **Mrs. June Byrne** and **Mrs. Sue Thomas,** and afterwards attended a buffet lunch at which she met some of the wives of the Regiment.

SHOOTING

Our leader, **Captain John Woods,** REME, manfully attempts to whip some skill into the available talent, but is baulked at every turn by the resident comedian, **Sergeant 'Taffy' Meakes. 'Taffy'** has been known to get a decent score, once!

The dedicated worker of the team is our armourer, **Sergeant Mick Colley,** REME, backed up sometimes by **Sergeant Mick Everett, W.O.2 (A.Q.M.S.) Ted Starkey,** REME, our pipe smoking handsome ladies man, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Dowie Treharne, Corporal 'Mac' MacKinnon, Lance-Corporal Cook** and latest recruit, **Corporal Cheeseman.**

In the smallbore this season we have won the Rhine Area and were placed 3rd in the BAOR finals at Sennelager, being the only Royal Signals Regiment to qualify in the Major unit championship. Some respectable scores have been returned in the Army championships and there are hopes of bettering last year's placing of 5th in the Major units championships.

The fullbore season is about to commence and it is hoped that the Regimental team, based on the small bore team plus our stalwart 'potential Corps shot', **Corporal Alan Brooks,** young soldiers **Lance-Corporal Bushell** (ex-Nisan) and **Lance-Corporal Calvert,** plus a few others yet to prove themselves, will acquit themselves as well, if not better than they did at Bisley last year.

'BRAVE MARAUDER'

This was a mountaineering exercise—those involved—**Lieutenant Martin Rhind, Corporal Foy, Signalmen Mallinson, Watts, Dixon** and **Craftsman Murray.**

The object was to climb the 'Gross Krottenhopf' (2,657 m.) in the Allgauer Alps over the Easter period.

Our would-be mountaineers set off, carrying heavy rucksacks, for an 8 kilometre uphill climb to 'Spiel Mannsau' arriving rather shattered, due I am told to the pace set by **Lieutenant Martin Rhind** (rumour has it that he performed like a mountain goat). Then followed a stroll to Gerstruben (1,154 m).. A further set back on Good Friday due to a heavy snow storm forced our weary climbers back to the hotel. That evening **Craftsman 'Ricky' Murray** produced a mouth organ, all the locals joined in plus a 'Yank' and an 'Aussie'—needless to say a great time was had by all.

On Saturday a swift 13 kilometre walk to Birgsam—whilst returning our happy band amazed the locals by successfully pacing a horse and trap—this whilst carrying heavy rucksacks.

On Monday our wanderers returned to camp, although our party failed in their attempt to climb 'Grosse Krottenkopf', we are assured they will try again at a later date. We wish them luck.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sergeant Smith** and **Sylvia** on their marriage on 17th April.

FAREWELLS

Finally, we say fond farewell to our sailor Adjutant, **Captain Mike Shaw** and **Captain Nigel Fairley,** wish them good luck in their new postings.

We also say goodbye to our long serving **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Harris** and family who have departed for sunny Australia.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **Captain John Young** our new Adjutant of *HMS Intrepid* fame, and **Captain 'Andy' Whiddett,** OC Tropo Troop and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Frank Atkin,** wishing them a happy stay with the Regiment.

News from Squadrons

6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 106

OC	**Major F. R. Maynard**
2IC	**Captain A. T. B. Kimber**
Comm Officer	**Captain M. R. Stone**
OC 'Alpha' Troop	**Lieutenant R. M. Crombie**
OC 'Bravo' Troop	**Lieutenant K. K. W. Parsons**
Admin Officer	**Captain K. J. Pinkard, M.B.E.,** Cheshire
Quartermaster	**Captain P. Smurthwaite, B.E.M.,** SAS
MTO	**Captain A. R. M. Smith,** RCT
RSM	**W.O.1 T. Balch**
RQMS	**W.O.2 K. D. Cheetham**
Y of S	**W.O.2 D. Gallacher**
F of S	**Staff Sergeant W. B. Smart**
Chief Clerk	**Staff Sergeant R. J. Sheldon**

PERSONALITIES

SINCE our last entry in THE WIRE there has been considerable changeoever of personnel. Individuals are too numerous to mention, however it is worth noting that having lost **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Derek Allen** on promotion to 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment we have since gained three replacements! In a movement plot far too difficult to relate, we now possess **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Dennis Gallacher, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) 'Paddi' Paddison** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ewen 'Jock' Douglas.** We hasten to add that this is only a temporary arrangement and bids will not be accepted from other Brigade Squadrons!

SQUADRON ATHLETICS MEETING

On Tuesday, 6th May, the Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron held its annual athletics meeting at the Jahn Stadium, Soest. For the second year running the weather for this occasion remained bright, dry and sunny and as a result there was a good turn out from all at the camp and also the families—some of the children being lucky enough to have been given the afternoon off school to watch their fathers competing.

PRIZE GIVING

Corporal 'Greg' Gregory receives the Inter-Troop Cup from Mrs. Jill Maynard on behalf of 'Alpha' Troop. Captain Tony Kimber, Staff Sergeant (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) Bob Sheldon, Staff Sergeant Harry Creedy and W.O.1 (A.S.M.) 'Paddy' O'Hara look on

From the start, competition in both the athletics and tug-of-war was extremely close. **Corporals Clive Gregory, Pete Bradley** and **Lance-Corporal Steve Walker** all ran the 200 m. within the BAOR individual qualifying time, **Lance-Corporal Davey Wyles** won both 800 m. and 1500 m. events and **Captain Martin Stone,** despite commitments for 'Summer Sales', won the 400 m. In the field events **Lance-Corporal 'Stu' Proctor** proved he had not lost his skill in putting the shot and **Corporal Pete Bradley** gained a personal best in the high jump. At the end of the afternoon, with only the 4 x 100 m. relay to go, all four teams were neck and neck, with only one point separating Alpha and Bravo Troops. However, some fine sprinting from the Alpha team clinched the match, making the important Troop in the Squadron the outright winners of the day, as they also won the tug-o'-war.

The afternoon also included various children's races (lollipops galore!), a ladies race—won by **Mrs. Burr**—and the old soldiers' race—won by **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Terry Balch** (who walked away with a bottle of whisky, the others having to make do with . . . lollipops!). The day closed with the presentation of prizes by **Mrs. Jill Maynard,** wife of the OC Squadron, followed by a frantic dash by all the children in pursuit of **Lance-Corporal Steve Bowley** who had all the remaining sweets and lollipops.

Our special thanks to **Captain Alec Forbes** for coming down from G (PT) Branch Bielefeld to keep a general eye on the meeting, to **Sergeant Jimmy Welsh** and his crew for pvoding a first-class 'Bratty Stand' and all the other people who helped to make the annual athletics meeting the success it undoubtedly was.

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

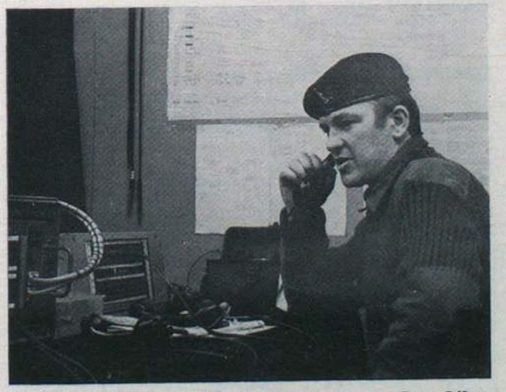
EXERCISE 'SWAN LAKE 5'

AS we have just returned from our biggest exercise of the year (and possibly the last of its kind?), a few words seem to be in order.

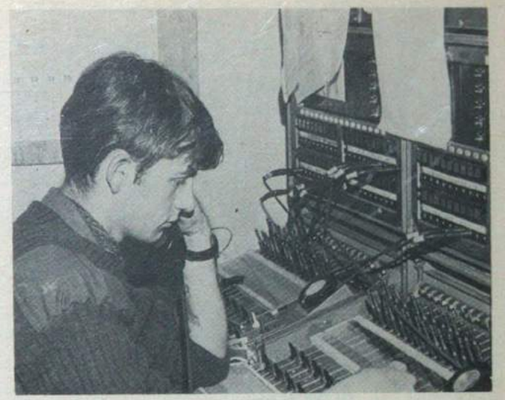
We ran Control HQ on this exercise, which only means administering about 150 Officers and 600 men, setting out 40-odd non-interfering HF and VHF radio detachments and laying about 30 miles of assorted cable . . .

This meant, of course, ten solid days of hard work for all the men of the Squadron, and even some of the officers and seniors, like **Lieutenant Graham Hand** and **Staff Sergeant Ron Crabtree** of 'J' Troop, out until after dark one night sorting out the results of over enthusiasm in the laying of 50 packs of D10.

Still, our part in the exercise would not have been so successful without a certain amount of luck and the efforts of some of the



Our Yeoman, W.O.2 Keith Finch as Signal Operations Duty Officer on Exercise 'Swan Lake 5'



One of our newest recruits, Signalman 'Chip' Davies, manning our 'lash-up' 80/160 exchange on Exercise 'Swan Lake 5'

Squadron 'characters': **Signalman Joe Fiteni,** who sorted out most of the exercise conference calls—whether originated from us or not; **Captain Graham Paton,** RCT, our new MTO, who doesn't quite yet have the knowledge of communications required in an MTO, but is very willing to learn; and others, too numerous to mention.

The last word must go to an unknown Regimental Policeman just before the exercise 'wash-up', who reported to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Wally Lockwood:** "One Brigadier absent, Sir!"

SPOTLIGHT ON 'MIKE' TROOP

'Mike' Troop are, as usual the unsung heroes of the Squadron, without whose hard work we would never take to the field. (Not written by a member of 'M' Troop). Of course they are as happy as sandboys in their new custom built workshops in Goojerat Barracks—haven't heard the Foreman, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Brian Watts** complaing hardly at all lately—or could that be something to do with his recent promotion? Congratulations also to **Corporal Derek Hubbard** on his promotion.

As is sometimes the case, the personnel of 'M' Troop seem to have been almost entirely replaced recently—farewell to **Sergeant Mick Peplow** and **Corporal Bill Horrobin** and **Signalman Dick Fudge** on leaving the Army, and **Sergeant Dave Williams,** RAOC, our FATSO Sergeant, on posting. He worked so hard at his paperwork he was forced to take his golf clubs on Exercise 'Swan Lake 5' just to get some exercise . . .

Welcome to **Corporal Chris Muriel, Lance-Corporal Alan Howarth** who is really here for the football, but might consider going on the occasional exercise, **Corporal George Gallant, Lance-Corporals 'Jock' Whiting** and **Dave Fearon, Signalmen 'Arv' Harvey** and **Frank Nicholls**—almost enough for a decent coffee swindle, in fact.

Finally, **Foreman Watts** reports that if you want the clutch on your car replaced, whatever you do don't consult **Sergeant Dave Powell;** unless, of course, you didn't use your car much anyway . . .

SPORTS ROUNDUP

It gives us great pleasure to report two successes recently. The first was in the Eastern District minor units orienteering. Our team was composed of **Major Alan Withers,** Royal Hampshires, who ran in suede boots—"Is there anyone selling running shoes at the start?"; **Captain Gage Williams,** Light Infantry—"I've never run this far before"; **Captain Phil Cooper**—"Please can I go to the Army meeting (and miss the next exercise)?" **Lance-Corporal Ted Haines,** who had never run in competition before; and **Signalman Jed Philips,** who only just woke up on the start line.

Curiously enough, that team won the competition and, just as pleasing, the winning major units team was captained by **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones,** Royal Signals attached Infantry.

The other, more recent success was in the Eastern District minor units soccer league, which we won, losing only one match in the process. The squad, under **Staff Sergeant Chris Bartlett** have shown a great deal of effort and determination in this win, particularly when we have had to move barracks, go on exercise and send men to Glasgow during the season.

It must be emphasised that the team is a 'multi-cap badge' effort, which has done a great deal to bring the various elements of the Squadron closer together.

With the sort of spirit the squad now have, I can only say that 8th and 28th Regiments had better watch out when we enter the Army major units cup next season!

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 5

Contributed by Staff Sergeant W. Wilson

OC	**Major I. Graham**
2IC	**Captain J. Kay**
TOT	**Captain H. Davies**
SSM	**W.O.2 J. Bowman**
F of S	**W.O.2 A. Lynn**
Y of S	**Staff Sergeant R. G. Pond**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant M. Abson**
Troop S/Sgt	**Staff Sergeant W. Wilson**

SQUADRON TO BE RUN DOWN

HAVING lived under the shadow of the axe for the last few months, publication of the Defence White Paper came as something of a relief to us, even although it only confirmed the inevitable 'pull-out'. The youngest Squadron in the Corps (we only formed in February 1974) will have disappeared into the archives by the end of the year. This put most of us in the somewhat unique position of having been in at the formation and disbandment of the same unit. With the impending doom came the inevitable requests for preference postings, upgrading courses and dates of departure. **Although there are one or two members of the Squadron who might not agree with me I think I can quite safely say that our records office has done us proud.**

With all the postings for Signalmen and NCOs now in everyone is waiting with baited breath for news of the OC, **Major Ian Graham's** posting, as he now has three disbandment 'notches' on his swagger stick.

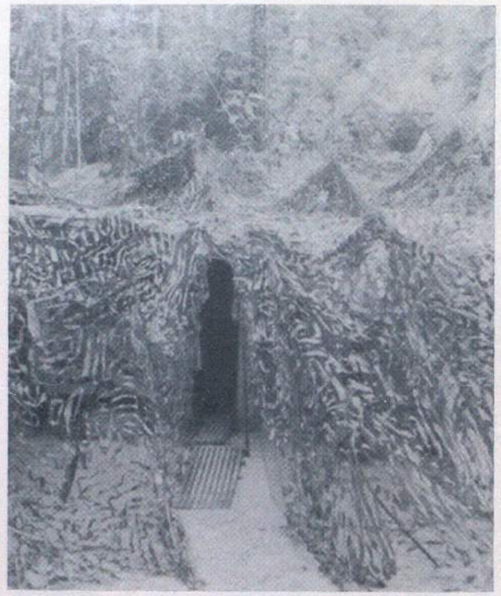
THE LAST UK EXERCISE IN MALAYSIA

I have read and noted the Editor's requests not to write about that which happens in every other unit, however Exercise 'Three Bridges' represented a little bit of history in Malaysia which should not go unrecorded. The official description reads—"2 sided exercise with live enemy. Friendly forces made up from the Armies and Air Forces of UK, New Zealand and Australia (under Command of 28 UK Brigade): enemy made up from the SAS forces of UK, New Zealand and Australia and elements of 2 Para". In all quite a gathering, for what will be the last UK exercise, presumably ever, in Malaysia. Our communications load trebled to take in umpire and control communications as well as normal tactical requirements; our manpower increased significantly with the taking under command of **Staff Sergeant Dhanbahadur Rai** and 10 Gurkhas from Hong Kong (thank you Hong Kong) and 10 Kiwi operators from New Zealand. Voice procedure, and in particular, speech security was second to none—imagine a rebro net with 'Jocks' of 1 Gordons, the Gurkhas and the 'Kiwis' (all using American radios)—it really worked a treat!

Corporal Mick Kirk and his rebro crew are to be congratulated on their concealment, obviously the threat of being 'lifted' by the SAS patrols provided ample incentive to avoid detection for 11 days—well done.

THE 'HOLE'

The Brigade Headquarters was established in a covered hole 80 feet long, 18 feet wide and 6 feet deep in the heart of the jungle, and it was here that we lived, or perhaps I should say existed for 11 days. The BM, **Major Gregor Campbell,** RE made it quite clear that he wasn't out to win any popularity contests when, with the exercise only a few hours old, he announced that there was to be no smoking in the 'hole'.



THE HOLE

The 80 ft. x 18 ft. x 6 ft. hole that Brigade HQ existed in for 11 days. The roof area was the only available site for 13 antennae which had to be remoted into the various cells

The light hearted note of the exercise was struck by **Signalman 'Flash' Adams** (alias **Willey**) who, having just been reprimanded by **Staff Sergeant Bill Wilson** for setting off a trip flare at the end of morning stand-to, retorted with—"if they put the damned things where they could be seen people wouldn't trip over them".

Sergeant Colin Bachelor thought his time had come when he was gently roused from his 'hutchie' one morning by three 'friendly' SAS gentlemen who very kindly took him for a three hour stroll through the jungle before depositing him at their HQ for a 'social chat'.

The final word must go to a very sweaty F. of S., **W.O.2 Nick Lynn** for his truly magnificent display of self-control in not lynching **S.Q.M.S. Staff Sergeant Mick Abson** when, on the last night of the exercise the 'Q' returned the techs canvas shower bucket which he had secretly removed on the third day of the exercise.

ALLIED CO-OPERATION

We have other exercise commitments to follow in the form of communications support for The School of Infantry's Jungle Warfare Instructors course but nothing will ever compare with Exercise 'Three Bridges'. It was a prime example of how, at short notice, allied troops can successfully operate together. It also provided us with an excellent 'swan song'.

THE WIRE . . .
WITHOUT IT
YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!

48 Gurkha Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 1

SIX months have passed since our last appearance in THE WIRE. The defence review left us in suspense as to our future but slowly optimistic news is emerging. We are now looking forward to the challenge of the future and the changes it will bring. However, although the future promises change, the past six months have been of a familiar pattern.

PERSONALITIES

The list of British Gurkha Signals now serving with the Squadron is:

OC	**Major S. G. M. Gordon**
2IC	**Captain L. R. Smith**
Adjutant	**Captain A. J. Simpson**
OC 'J' Troop	**Captain A. McVittie**
OC 'C' Troop	**Second-Lieutenant J. W. Rollins**
RSM	**W.O.1 G. G. Haughie**
RQMS	**W.O.2 L. Dickey**
Yeoman	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) P. Daniel**
Foreman	**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. S. Kidd, B.E.M.**
Technician	**Sergeant P. White**
Cypher Operators	**Sergeant J. Collison**
	Sergeant B. White
	Corporal R. R. Burrell

KHUD RACE

Fresh from our victories in the Brigade and Land Forces cross country competitions, we entered a team in this year's Khud race. The Khud race stems from the North West Frontier of India where, whenever a battalion moved, pickets were placed on commanding hill top features. A battalion's rate of progress was dictated by the speed with which pickets could be positioned and great rivalry developed between regiments over the relative speeds of their picket parties. This rivalry soon developed into an official race. Today's race is held over a circuit which climbs 1,300 ft. in just over a mile. In this year's competition the Squadron came second in the Minor Unit competition, however, **Captain Les Smith** achieved a personal best for the course of 18 minutes 50 seconds.

COMSTAR AWARD

In the last period the Squadron Commcen won a Bronze Comstar. This is the first award our Squadron Commcen has ever won. The award was presented by the SO-in-C to **Signalman Rajkumar** the youngest operator in the Commcen. We are now working hard to try and win a Silver award next time.

SPORT

The inter-Troop athletics competition produced joint winners. 'A' Troop and 'C' Troop. Using talent unearthed in the Troop competition, the Squadron then went on to win both the Brigade and Land Forces athletics minor unit championships. In each case the winning margin was narrow, the results of both meetings depending on the final relay races.

NEPAL VISITS

Captain Les Smith and **Sergeant Collison** have both been to Nepal for several weeks recently. **Captain Smith** on trek and **Sergeant Collinson** for a spell in the Dharan Commcen. The price of travel for one of them will be a spell of writing WIRE Notes! (Not a punishment—a much sought after pleasure—Editor.)

OPERATION 'PINAFORE'

Three days before the fall of Saigon four and a half thousand frightened men, women and children clustered on board a small, leaky river boat in a desperate attempt to flee the perils of their homeland. The peril they entered into, may have been worse than that which they left behind. Several days out at sea their vessel sank and if it had not been for a Danish container-ship bound for Hong Kong there could have been a great tragedy. As it was, they were all rescued and brought to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Government agreed to give temporary refuge to the four and a half thousand and called on the Army to help. Operation 'Pinafore' thus got underway.

A quiet weekend, as the Army prepared to greet Her Majesty The Queen on her first visit to the colony, was transformed into a hive of activity in which every unit was involved. A tented camp capable of holding 2,500 individuals sprung up on Sek Kong airstrip. Various old Army camps were made ready to receive refugees. Within 24 hours of the first news arriving all was ready. Army transport met the Danish ship as it came into harbour and transferred the refugees to a hospital for medical screening and inoculation. Later, in the early hours of the morning, the refugees were transported to their temporary accommodation.

48 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron was involved from the start in the operation. While our HQ staff prepared plans for the provision of food, stores, transport and medical care, the Squadron helped with erecting fences, light and PA. Control communications were set up and operated continuously. The cooks, faced with the problem of an extra thousand men, women and children to feed, set to with a will. The operation has just started. We hope to bring you more news of our activities at a later date.

VIETNAM REFUGEES

Captain Allan McVittie with a rather sad detachment providing control communications at the main tented camp for Vietnam refugees. *From the right:* Signalmen Nandarprasad and Lilitbahadur and Corporal Thanbahadur

COMSTAR AWARD

The S.O.-in-C. presents a Comstar award to 48 Brigade Commcen. *From left to right:* Signalmen Kamalbahadur, Rajbahadur and Corporal Setbahadur

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

229 SQUADRON FOOTBALLERS ON TARGET

Back row, left to right: Signalman H. Hunter, Signalman D. Higgins, Lance-Corporal K. C. Johnson, Corporal R. Reynolds, Signalman R. T. Boyd, Corporal J. R. Baggaley

Front row, left to right: Signalman P. Hendry (Sub.), Signalman E. P. O'Donnell, Staff Sergeant G. T. Nelson, Sergeant P. G. Ferns (Captain), Corporal A. J. Lea, Lance-Corporal R. K. Dodds, Staff Sergeant G. E. Gay (Manager)

Trophies, left to right: Berlin Brigade Minor Unit League Championship, BAOR Mini Minor Unit Cup, Viscountess Kemsley Minor Unit Challenge Cup (Berlin)

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

HAPPY END TO SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL SEASON

THE climax of a very enjoyable and successful football season came on 30th April when the Squadron team beat 6 OFP by 3 goals to 1 to win the BAOR FA Mini Minor competition.

The Mini Minor competition which is a keenly fought contest was the brain child of **Major Stan Byfield,** a previous Honorary Secretary of the BAOR FA, following the resounding defeat of a small unit by a major unit in the Army Cup. After an approach by the Chairman of the BAOR FA, the Royal Army Pay Corps Association welcomed the opportunity of presenting a trophy, in the form of a cup, for Mini Minor units in BAOR. A Mini Minor unit is deemed to be any unit with a strength below 125 and as one of the few remaining Brigade Signal Squadrons not integrated, 229 Signal Squadron qualifies for the trophy.

As the saying goes there is plenty of fight in 'little-uns' and this is very true of the Mini Minor competition. We had some very interesting games beating 20 Field Workshops REME 10–0, Ordnance REME, Berlin 3–2, 113 Provost Company, RMP 7–0 and Hannover Station 5–3 to win through to the final which was held at Lothian Barracks, Detmold.

In a clean game, which in the words of CCR Signals, **Brigadier A. C. Birthwistle, O.B.E.** "was a delight to watch being devoid of histrionics", the Squadron achieved a 3–1 win, one penalty goal being awarded to each side. We were proud to receive our trophy from the hands of CCR Signals who kindly gave up his time to support us.

The season has thus drawn to a close with our trophy cupboard containing the Viscountess Kemsley challenge cup, The Berlin minor units league championship cup and BAOR mini minor cup for football. In the remaining space we are already creating some over-crowding with trophies for Berlin Brigade basketball minor units championships, Berlin Brigade basketball challenge cup, 2 Division minor units basketball championships achieved so far in 1975 and we hope to continue to burst the trophy cupboard at the seams.

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

CONTRARY to popular belief, 262 *is* still here in Cyprus, and a few things have happened since our last notes. Firstly we congratulate **Corporal 'Paddy' Coburn** (who has now left us for the School of Signals) for being selected to play hockey for the Army, also the girls, **Staff Sergeant Elaine Willacy, Lance-Corporal Sue Ardern** and **Lance-Corporal Lyn Davies** (see photo). Well played all!

On the matrimonial side **Captain Ann Ruffle** was married to **Lieutenant Phil Hanlon,** RAOC (Lucky lad), also **Private Jenny Garner** was married to **Sapper 'Mac' McLeod,** RE. Both weddings went off without a hitch??!!

A PARTY WAS CALLED FOR

The amalgamation of 262 Signal Squadron and 259 (East) Troop was celebrated by a dinner and dance attended by all Officers and SNCOs on the 30th April in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess. Many thanks must go to **R.S.M. 'Bob' Wade** of 9th Signal Regiment for lending us all his Mess silver, to make it a truly 'Jimmy' do; also to the GSM, **W.O.1 Bill Grindle,** RCT, for allowing us to disrupt the Mess. What's this rumour that **Lieutenant Jim Kennard** is avoiding the GSM? The only thing I can get out of him is 'I am a gentleman'.

(Continued on page 207)

(Continued from page 206)

Left to right: Major Mike Allan (O.C.), Staff Sergeant Elaine Willacy, Lance-Corporal Lyn Davies, Lance-Corporal Sue Ardern

Staff Sergeant Dave Barnes of Radio and Radio Relay Troop, is going back (so soon!) to Pirbright. **Dave,** one of our sharp shooters, did so well in the NEARELF shoot that he has been selected for RASAM 1975. Or is he going back on a *refresher!* The best of luck, **Dave.**

GROUP ATHLETIC MEETING

On Friday, 9th May, under the able management of our Squadron, the 3 Signal Group athletics meeting was held at Dhekelia. 2 Squadron, 9th Signal Regiment won the 3 Signal Group athletics championship cup, while the ladies 'A' team from 3 Squadron, 9th Signal Regiment won the 3 Signal Group ladies cup. The ladies of 262 Signal Squadron came in second, while the men's team of the Squadron were placed third overall. It was a grand effort from both competitors and management alike. Our thanks to all the judges and announcers and scorers and muscle-men and Olympic athletics of the future.

The arrivals and departures are too numerous to mention but to those who have come, welcome, and to those who have left, bon voyage, and good luck to all those who now belong to our new Squadron: 262 Signal Squadron (Eastern Cyprus).

News from Troops

604 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 17

PREAMBLE

DEAR Editor,

It would seem that I have unwittingly unleashed a potential in **Signalman Holden.** My Staff Sergeant and I are not sure what it is yet, but when we find it, you may rest assured that we will be ruthless.

Whilst we try to isolate this deadly virus—wonder if anyone has checked his socks lately?—I regret that we must inflict upon your luckless readers yet another atricle from the Chapman Pincher of Munster Nord.

With apologies to all, I enclose the offending script.

R. A. J. Gardner, OC

RIPOSTE

What a cheek, **R.A.J.** (the OC), saying that my feet smell after a five day exercise. It's true of course, but I don't know what he's complaining about. They are only about 6 ft. away from my nose all day long. He can at least run off and cover himself with after shave. Before very long he'll have me pulling a trailer just for his toilet requisites.

ALL HELL LET LOOSE IN THE 'NADGERS ARMS'

This month all hell has been let loose, socially, that is. At the beginning of the month we had a troop rally, organised by **Corporal 'Lofty' Toothill.** The winners were presented with a crate of beer. **Lance-Corporals 'Titch' Sillett** and **Horace Cole** won the aforementioned beverage.

Later on in the month we had a fancy dress party in the troop club, 'The Nadgers Arms'. To make this evening something special, we invited **Miss Pauline Birchall** of BFBS fame to judge the costumes, which were many and varied. The judging, to say the least, was very difficult. However, in the end, **Ann Sharman,** the wife of **Corporal Lou Sharman** (they came as Mr. and Mrs. Flintstone), won the ladies prize. **Corporal 'Lofty' Toothill,** who is well over 6 ft. tall, came as a dwarf, and won the men's prize.

ATHLETICS

Well we didn't do that well this year, but we (combined Signals and REME), beat the Regimental tug-of-war team and won the 5,000 metres. **Signalman Jim Dowling** came first, for the second year running (no pun intended), with **Signalman Pete Bullen** close on his heels. We managed entries in most other events, but really didn't have much luck. Still there's always next year.

GOODBYES

This month we say goodbye to **Lance-Corporal 'Tich' Sillett** and his wife, who are leaving the Army for the dangers of civvy street. **'Tich'** was our REME rep, and has done us proud by keeping our wagons on the road. We also say goodbye this month to **Corporal Roy Sparrow.** The Troop will miss him, even if it's only for the drop in bar takings for the troop club. He's posted to rainy Blighty, where we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

605 Sig Tp, Gan Island

SIGNALMAN KEITH BELL WRITES:-

ARRIVALS

APRIL saw the arrival of **Corporal Nick Cole** from 653 Signal Troop, Larkhill. We wish him a pleasant stay on our sundrenched tropical isle.

SPORT

The five-a-side football team has fared well this month with **Signalmen 'Dinger' Bell** taking over as captain, manager and often coaching from the sidelines after being sent off for over enthusiasm. **Corporal Nick Cole** arrived on the island at 10.00 hours one Thursday morning and was playing five-a-side at 18.30 hours and staggering by 18.35 hours but still managed to complete the match.

ROUND THE ATOLL WALK

On Sunday the 28th April **Sergeant Chris Wilkie, Corporal Tony Paines** and 38 RAF members took part in a sponsored walk round the Atoll, a total distance of some 17 miles. Two of the teams taking part lost their way on an island measuring ¾ of a mile by 3½ miles, the map reading being done by one of the members of the RAF.

The first aid team were well prepared for blisters and sunburn, but found themselves unprepared for the main complaint which out to be seasickness due partly to the effects of the morning after the night before, and the rough seas experienced on the crossing between the islands. Nearly £100 was raised.

VISIT TO ATOLL VILLAGE

On Sunday the 20th April **Sergeant Mick Turner, Corporal 'Grandad' Collier** and **Signalmen 'Dinger' Bell** visited Hittadu village as the guests of the Troops' two Maldivian labourers. They were shown round the village, all the time being followed by large groups of children, the main attraction being not the visitors but the sweets they carried with them.

The highlight of the day was a visit to a Maldivian boatbuilder's yard observing crafts and tools which have remained the same for centuries. The visit ended with a boat ride in a native Dhoni out into the lagoon to take photographs of a school of dolphins. One member of the Troop, who shall remain nameless, went to great lengths to photograph the dolphin display but was left cursing himself when he found he had left his lens cover on.

639 Sig Troop B.F.P.O. 23

Troop OC	**Captain N. C. Fairley**
Troop Staff Sergeant	**Staff Sergeant R. Fortune**
Troop Technical Sergeant	**Sergeant A. Rutherford**
Troop Radio Sergeant	**Sergeant M. Lloyd-Williams**
Troop Stores	**Corporal K. Sanderson**
Troop MT	**Corporal N. Mitchell**
Troop Clerk	**Signalman G. Miller**

AS a follow up to our last little ditty in THE WIRE, there has been a number of small but significant changes in the Troop.

GOODBYES

Captain C. D. Melhuish has now left us for a new and much heavier work load at 21st Signal Regiment, **Signalman Pete Hanson** who thought he was bound for sunny Cyprus, but instead had to settle for Salisbury Plain, and 30th Signal Regiment, and last but not least **Lance-Corporal Kenny Mullin** who decided that his time had come to rejoin civvy street.

There are also two other members due to leave us shortly: **Corporal Colin** and **Maureen Watts,** and **Lance-Corporal 'Oscar' Kershaw,** who got his name off Sesame Street.

Best of luck to all in their new postings.

NEW FACES

Captain N. C. Fairley the new OC, **Signalman 'Kev'** and **Mrs. Barnard,** and **Corporal 'Griff' Griffiths.**

We hope that they enjoy themselves with the Troop.

SPORT

With a Troop of only 24 strong you can't expect much on this subject, but we do have an excellent volleyball team, as the Arty boys well know, we also have **Signalmen 'Sooty' Brickle** and **Mick Morris** in the Regimental sub aqua, then there's **Corporal 'Mandingo' Sanderson** in the final of the motor time trials.

GENERAL

With our Troop clown **Corporal Colin Watts** leaving us shortly, you would think we would be without, but no, **Signalman John Marsden** who as from now will be called **'The Frog'** as he goes jumping around, and drives his work mates up the wall by saying "Iydup" all day, has taken over. There is also **Corporal Jim Halliwell** and **Signalman Mick Morris** who are trying very hard to run a battery shop, despite mounting efforts by the SMIS to halt progress by borrowing our one and only rectifier.

We also have **Signalman Ray Haury** on loan to 5 Heavy Regiment RA, who are at present in Northern Ireland. We wish him all the luck in the world, and hope that he doesn't see too many nasties.

With the exercise season now in full swing, we don't get much time to ourselves for courses and such like, although at the moment we have **Lance-Corporal Chris Cupper** on his BI at Catterick, and thoroughly enjoying himself, or so says his wife, **Corporal Colin Watts** who at the moment is on a SAS selection course and **Staff Sergeant 'Eric' Fortune** who is on a RQMS's course. Best of luck to all three.

A vacancy exists for a Civilian Tele Communication Mechanic at 71 Signal Regiment (V), Bexleyheath, Kent.

Duties

To test, maintain and repair military communication equipment including HF and VHF Trans/Receivers and DC Telegraph machines. Must be capable of working without supervision. Some limited travel to Sub Units may be necessary.

Qualifications

A T.E. Technician (Class 1 or 2) would be suitable. The ability to drive light vehicles would be an advantage.

Pay

£39·79 plus £3·00 craftsman allowance per 40 hour week.

Enquiries should be addressed to 71 Signal Regiment (V), Hill House, Beckenham Lane, Bromley, Kent, BR2 0DA, Telephone 01-6571/7832.

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31 Sig Regt (V), Hammersmith

HIGH LIFE IN LONDON

ONE of the principal events in the Volunteers' calendar is the annual Reserve Army Officers' Ball. This year, the ball was held on Friday, 11th April in the Cunard International Hotel, not far from the headquarters of the Regiment in Hammersmith.

Among the guests were **Major-General** and **Mrs. P. A. M. Tighe,** and our photograph shows the SO-inC with a number of Volunteer officers all of whom are either present or past members of the Regiment.

THE RESERVE ARMY OFFICERS' BALL

Right to left: Major-General and Mrs. Tighe, Colonel and Mrs. Crawford, Major and Mrs. Greenhill, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Eversfield, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Willis, Miss Jane Greenhill

THE CAPTAIN'S MUSEUM

Earlier this year, **Captain David Manders** left us after some 17 years service, mainly with the Middlesex Yeomanry element of the Regiment. However, his association with 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) has not ended, as the Middlesex Yeomanry museum is in 47 Squadron's TAC at Harrow and **David** will continue to be curator of the museum. In fact, it is difficult to imagine the museum without **David,** as he has built up the impressive collection of weapons, uniforms, photographs and other memorabilia largely out of his own pocket, with sponsorship from the Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades' Association. Our photograph shows **David** with just a few of the exhibits.

ENTHUSIAST

Captain David Manders with part of the Middlesex Yeomanry Museum collection

(Photo: Courtesy The Middlesex County Press)

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

(Deuteronomy 15, Verse 1: "At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release"—it's been a long time since we wrote to THE WIRE too!)

FREEDOM OF MIDDLESBROUGH—22nd MARCH

THE event this year had a special significance as it was to be the first occasion that we were to exercise our long-established right in the newly organised Borough of Middlesbrough. Our pictures show some of the action of this inspiring parade.

Following this martial extravaganze, our Band was invited to provide the musical accompaniment for the twinning ceremony between our town and Dunkirk, France. Naturally they were eager to accept the chore as it was to be held in France and so **Major Ted Tunstall, M.M.**—himself a Dunkirk veteran—**W.O.1 Morris Pope,** the Bandmaster and 25 eager Volunteer bandsmen took the French by storm over the weekend 12th/13th April. They are still washing the garlic and pernod fragrances from their minds, uniforms and instruments so we will save this particular little adventure story for our next issue of notes!

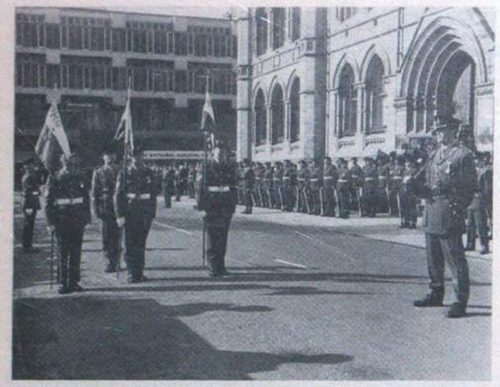
TRIPS TO GERMANY AND ALL THAT—APRIL

We were sorry that BAOR had opted to do without our services for two consecutive years and felt strongly that the tone of the place would suffer if we waited until our next official trip in 1976. Accordingly a party of bold Volunteers under **Captain Lee Tibbs,** WRAC decided to re-inforce the Regular Army for Wintex.

After a fairly wet start from Brize Norton the party—by this time enlarged by the addition of Volunteers from other Regiments of 12th Signal Group—arrived with our old friends of 16th Signal Regiment. The re-union, as ever warm and friendly, was almost like returning home in fact.

The exercise gave them the opportunity to put their theories into practice and develop their expertise. Certainly it was on a scale larger than they anticipated but, nothing daunted, they set out to do all that was asked of them and obtained immense satisfaction in their ability to complete the task.

Morale in the team was high and good humour prevailed when the going got rough. **Lance-Corporal Meikle's** request for new legs (after standing for the whole shift) was not complied with,



FREEDOM OF MIDDLESBROUGH BEING EXERCISED

The Regiment outside the Town Hall with the lance party about to take post. Our picture shows Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Hall, Staff Sergeant Chambers and Sergeant Reid-Robertson the lance bearers, with R.S.M. A. R. Heath behind. Parade Commander (*right of picture*) is Major G. C. Mitchell, T.D.

THE MAYOR INSPECTS

Left to right: W.O.I Robinson, T.E.M. (parade R.S.M.), Major G. C. Mitchell, T.D. (parade Commander), Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L. (Honorary Colonel), The Mayor, Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Olds (the Commanding Officer)

and attempts to induce them to remain as regular operators were nipped in the bud. On occasions the four Sergeants, **Sergeants Rooney** and **Coates** (Royal Signals) and **Sergeants Jones** and **Wright** (WRAC) assumed managerial positions on the shifts—which speaks well for their standards.

Corporal Douglas worked hard and still maintained her infectious witticism. (She also found an Inn called the 'Tivoli'—would you believe.)

Little was seen of the outside world, it was a question of shift and sleep. Although the Exercise was not over until Friday lunchtime the CO of 16th Signals (as a reward for hard work, we think), released all T & AVR in his area on Thursday night and all returned from locations to Bradbury Barracks. Friday was their official 'day off' for shopping, sight seeing and packing. They managed to make up for lost time judging by the presents carried aboard the plane.

0800 hours on Saturday, and they were Wildenrath bound for a plane and home. The general consensus of opinion was that they had really made their mark. The Volunteers are confident that they can fulfil their role at any time and had, in retrospect, enjoyed the experience. They left in the knowledge that their contribution had been worthwhile and with further confirmation (if it was ever in doubt) that the T & AVR can work alongside and with their counterparts in the Regular Units.

The next party go across in a few weeks time for on-the-job training on the switchboards of Bielefeld. We look forward to this immensely as it is new ground for us and yet another place to see.

COLD FEET IN WESTMORLAND—EXERCISE 'BOWES HILL'—APRIL

The Regiment was assured that it was pastures Green and New when the Training Major, **Major Roy Simmons,** obtaining clearance for our annual military skills exercise to be held in Westmorland.

On a spring weekend, the coldest in memory, the Regiment temporarily named the 1st Voluntarian Heavy Infantry, set up camp in the foothills of the Murton Plateau, known to many in the Corps as WARCOP, to defend the small peave-loving state of Voluntaria against marauding bands of Aggrovian infiltrators.

Aggrovians, a bloodthirsty collection of PSIs, technicians and LAD craftsmen, led by our MTWO, **W.O.1 Bert Bowes,** appeared from the hills on the Friday evening. Their activities ensured that the remainder of the Regiment did not get any rest or sleep during the exercise, which lasted until midday on Sunday.

The Squadron company camps were set up in the foothills near Warcop at 600 feet and from there the troops pursued the enemy up into snow-covered, cloud-obscured plateau at 2,000 feet. After dark the infiltrators reappeared to harass the night locations with raiding parties, para-flares and thunderflashes.

49 Squadron (Leeds) achieved a notable, if unscheduled, success by setting up camp some 1,000 metres from where they should have been, thereby evading all attempts to find them, not only by the enemy but also by the acting CO, **Major Graham Mitchell** and the Group Commander, **Brigadier W. A. Sykes!** After a less disturbed night than most, they were slightly fresher for the final sweep of the fells the next day.

'A battle royal' led by OC 50 Squadron (Darlington), **Major John Smith,** was called off when he discovered that the enemy were one of his own patrols. Back to the drawing board and plans for 1976.

DINING OUT OF OUR HONORARY COLONEL

Elsewhere in this issue our readers will find a tribute to our much-loved Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier Claude Fairweather** but the manner of his passing merits recording. Any arrangement for such an event would fail to match the tremendous contributions that he has made to the Corps in general and to us in particular, but we tried our best.

No less than six brigadiers (past and present) and seven commanding officers (past, present and[we hope] future) sat down to dine the Honorary Colonel out at the Royal Signals Mess on the 19th April. The occasion was graced by the Lord Lieutenant of Cleveland, himself an ex-officer of Royal Signals, the Master of Signals and **Mrs. Bradley** and the Signal Officer-in-Chief and **Mrs. Tighe.** We had a splendid night, thanks to the staff of the Mess, and ended the evening by pulling the Brigadier away on a drum-barrow-mounted ceremonial chair, with an escort of very senior officers and our inevitable and peerless Regimental Band.

His place as head of the Regiment has now been taken by **Colonel L. J. D. Davies, T.D.,** a former Volunteer Commanding Officer of 49th (West Riding) Signal Regiment (TA), one of our predecessor regiments. To **Claude** and **Alice Fairweather** all in the Regiment say thanks and goodbye, to **John** and **Elsie Davies** we extend a cordial welcome and hope that our forthcoming association will be a long and happy one.

KEEP YOUR
UNIT NOTES
SHORT!

37th Sig Regt (V) Bristol

THE Regiment's absence from these pages inspired our scribe to comment on life with the Volunteers and our communication roles to HQ's Wales, West Midlands, South West Districts.

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lieutenant-Colonel Roy Williams**
Training Major	**Major Peter Ashlin**
Adjutant	**Captain Alf Stapleton**
QM	**Captain Danny Kay**
Traffic Officer	**Captain Ron Finister**
RSM	**W.O.1 K. E. Wormwall**
MTO	**W.O.1 J. T. Wood**
RQMS	**W.O.1 C. Moore**
F. of S.	**W.O.2 R. J. Wherry**

THE VOLUNTEERS

OC 43 (Wessex) Signal Squadron (V)	**Major Peter Isaac**—Bridgwater and Plymouth
OC 53 (Welsh) Signal Squadron (V)	**Major Dick Pine**—Cardiff
OC 57 (City/ County of Bristol Signal Squadron (V)	**Major Keith Brown**—Bristol and Cheltenham
OC 67 (QOWWY) Signal Squadron (V)	**Major Richard Showell**—Stratford and Stourbridge
OC HQ Squadron	**Major Mike Barnard**—Bristol
OC LAD (V)	**Lieutenant Mike Sterling**—Bristol

The Regiment's strength of over 500 all ranks and our wide dispersion in many civilian occupations makes the Adjutant's phone bill a sizeable contribution to the Defence Estimates.

43 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The Squadron has been extremely busy preparing for Exercise 'Inside Right and Live Wire'. They deployed the D11s on 24th/25th January in the Mendips and after surviving the elements had a very useful exercise. 7 VHF Troop has begun training in earnest but as a respite they produced all the communications for the Amberley Horse Show.

The Squadron bid farewell to **Major Edgar Tucker** and **Lieutenant Colin Mason** but welcome back **Lieutenant Adrian Sutton** from August from his attachment to 4 Division Signal Regiment and also **Lieutenant Chris Eskell** to command 7 VHF Troop. **Jimmy Munns** is a tower of strength as the 'civilian' SQMS and we are all very glad that **Captain Ted Barker** has now recovered from his illness—beer isn't the cure **Ted!** The Padre, **Reverend Chris Marshall** is a regular attender at Bridgwater but it is rumoured that he is slightly worn from the labours of 'Parson's penance'.

53 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Captain Frank Doherty organised a sponsored walk for the Royal Signals Association at Cardiff which raised £300—the girls walked over 12 miles in quick time.

Despite the festivities of St. David's Day the North Wales Troop completed a very successful Exercise 'Full Back' later in the month and more than confirmed their ability to communicate after some careful planning and liaison from RHQ.

General P. R. Leuchars, O.B.E., GOC Wales visited the Squadron in April and after a presentation from **Major Dick Pine** saw 67 volunteers training on a Drill Night. The General was well pleased with the recent Squadron enterprises and successes. It is rumoured that even the Port Troop may move to Maindy in due course!

57 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The 'Gateway' emerged from the winter recess and deployed to South Cerney—it rained, and rained and rained! Once the communications were proved and the tactical aims achieved the LAD had some real practice rescuing Rx Troop from its hole. We understand that the firm of Brown, Branch and Flint are willing to undertake general landscaping, soil and movement environmental improvements for a price—unless it is done free as a demonstration to OC 29 Regiment RCT! We hope that the project planning for the September exercise will be favoured by better weather.

67 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The 'Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry' have distinguished themselves on military training. Firstly a team led by **Lieutenant David Hardy** and **Sergeant Bruce Payne** won the West Midland District battle efficiency competition from 23 regular all arms teams. The tests covered first aid, fitness tests, signalling skills, shooting and infantry tactics. Secondly a team won the Clinch Cup which is a ·22 shooting competition for forty 2 Signal Group regular and TAVR units. The cup was presented to the Squadron Leader on 24th April personally by **Brigadier J. C. Clinch, C.B.E.** and afterwards there was an informal party in the Officers' Mess. **Lance-Corporal Gordon Aylett** also did us proud by becoming the Individual Best Shot in the competition.

The Squadron has kept abreast of its signalling skills and primary role on the Regimental Mobex—Exercise 'Paper Lion'. But after this strenuous programme we were all pleased to welcome **Brigadier Peter** and **Judy Baldwin** to the annual Squadron reunion at the Lygon Arms, Broadway.

PRESENTATION OF THE CLINCH CUP TO 67 (QUEENS OWN WARWICKSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Left to right: Major R. G. Showell, Brigadier J. C. Clinch, C.B.E., Sergeant Payne, Lance-Corporal Francocci, Lance-Corporal Aylett Team Captain (Individual Best Shot)

HQ SQUADRON (V)

Major Mike Barnard has had a very hectic but successful initiation as the new Squadron Commander and PMC. A very successful Ladies Night was held at Horfield Mess on 21st February followed by the Regimental Cocktail Party at Stratford on 5th April which was attended by five 'local' Lord Mayors and over 50 guests. The 'brew' was 'doctored' again!

Finally we welcomed GOC South West District, **Major-General G. L. C. Cooper** to a very successful drill night and party in the Officers' Mess.

STOP PRESS

The Adjutant has lost his collection of small furry animals called MTD's. Anyone finding these desirable creatures between Plymouth and Colwyn Bay will be rewarded by a grateful **Alf Stapleton!**

Congratulations to 2 + 6 candidates who passed the Captain-Major and Lieutenant-Captain examinations held at Aldershot. Come back **Captain Flint** all is forgiven!

The PSIs have all passed their fitness tests after several exhausting sessions at the CO's Isometric class—'slimmer nimbler' types at Horfield!

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

THE Adjutant, **Major Ken Goulding,** thinking of the Regimental historical records decided at last, to start taking notes. He began on the 27th April. On the 4th May he stopped. Extracts follow:

27th APRIL

66 Squadron returned from Exercise. No security problems—except:

The Landowner who gave land clearance forgot to tell the farmer renting the land, who resported a suspicious group on his land to the security forces who then—hell! it's too long a story.

The Landowner didn't think any damage had been done, but wished they hadn't moved the heifers out of the field they were in into the one containing the bull!

A couple of shots were fired but not apparently by, or at, the detachment.

1st MAY

SO2 12 Group, **Major Charles Robertson,** arrived for pre-FFR Inspection. He said he would like to visit our Troop at Ballymoney. Action:

Signed out 2 Landrovers, 4 flak jackets, 4 SMG's mags. and ammo and yellow cards to the visitors.

It's 50 kilos that way, pointing, "Cheerio".

Problems solved.

They came back!

3rd/4th MAY

Regimental Officers' Study Weekend at a local seaside hotel. No incidents, except:

Sergeant Prebble was asked to cut out the cleanliness bit when water poured through the lounge ceiling as he took a bath.

Captain Robyn Foster discovered her car had only 3 wheels when she went to collect it from the car park.

The Training Major, **Pat Wymbs,** decided to learn to swim in style at 0300 hours in the hotel pool. He looked immaculate in his DJ.

Our QM, **Duggie Rumsey,** was observed, quietly I might add, streaking for the sea, no doubt attracted by a certain nubile young WRAC Officer tripping nymph-like through the ripples. It's a dodgy game getting under the security wire half way isn't it **Duggie!** Come to think of it I knew he would 'End Up' in the 'WIRE'!

5th MAY

I think I will close the Regimental History—people might not understand!

OVERHEARD IN RHQ

"What's that noise?"

"It's the QM speaking to 12 Group".

"Why doesn't he use a telephone?"

51st Sig Sqn (V), Aberdeen

OC	**Major A. R. Ramsay**
2IC	**Captain A. K. Sutherland, T.D.**
OC WRAC	**Captain S. Main,** WRAC
PSO	**Captain R. Esson**
SSM	**W.O.2 W. Park**
PSIs	**Staff Sergeant J. Gibson**
	Sergeant A. J. Burnett

NEW BARRACKS AT FONTHILL

THE wildest dreams of the old and bold in the Squadron were dealt a shattering blow recently when it was confirmed that the rebuild of Fonthill Barracks had been approved and would start mid '75. The old block is to be demolished and a new wing to run parallel with the Fonthill Road wing will eventually house us in the future, along with the AYT and Cadets, with RCT, Para and RAMC stealing our luxurious existing accommodation. Our three Messes will disappear and combined ones will take their place. The latter sentence has been permed in every way possible, but irrespective of our views, we are doomed. What a thought and our gallant Second-in-Command just refuses to believe it.

GROUP COMMANDER VISITS

The Group Commander, **Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin,** paid us a visit on 6th March and presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bill Park, Staff Sergeant Doug Bartlett** who since that date has at last been commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant (Tfc) and to that old stager **Sergeant Bob Aitken,** his second medal, having qualified and received the TA medal in 1961. Yes, he has been with us 26 years and can still show the youngsters a thing or two, especially in the form of drill movements. On presentation night he did a memorable about turn which even the WRAC element were jealous of, to say nothing of his performance when the seniors visited the Officers' Mess for Christmas drinks.

The preparation and planning for this event failed in as much that the Second-in-Command produced a camera which **Staff Gibson** merrily clicked during the presentations, but a complete blank negative was the result. Whether the fault lay in the camera, the Second-in-Command's instruction on how to use it, or the operator's handling of it is still being debated although the Second-in-Command has not denied being guilty.

PSI, **W.O.2 Mary Sloan** paid us one of her frequent visits from Edinburgh that night and was amazed when a person beckoned her thus, "Psst." She honestly thought someone had told the Commander she had visited the Sergeants' Mess Bar prior to going on parade.

MISCELLANEOUS JOTTINGS

We lost two members to the Regular Army recently in the names of **Mauchline** and **Smith** who are now languishing in the Catering Palace. **Norman Mauchline** was employed in the unit as a civilian driver and he should have stayed with us as it is a fact that he would have been one of the few amongst us who would have sat in comfort behind the wheel of a mini which we are to be graced with soon.

Lieutenant Gordon-Rogers is enjoying his short term regular enlistment with 22nd Signal Regiment and seems to have put most of his energy into ski-ing in Bavaria, who knows they may teach some signals matters there as well.

In the sporting world, our Badminton Team are members of a local league but do not give us anything to write about. Perhaps the results are not right for print?

Staff Sergeant Joe Gibson (PSI) has entered the Army Scotland golf championships and if he does not produce something for the trophy cupboard, his endless days off for practice might well be converted to leave taken.

Quartermaster of the Regiment, **Captain Bill Barnes,** was dined out by the Squadron Officers recently. Present at the dinner was old stager **Bill Tyers** who still finds time for a pint and a game of bingo on a Thursday evening. There is no truth in the rumour that he is moving South.

To end on a happier note than starting, we are off to Scarborough for Summer Camp during the first two weeks of July, where some of the old school will meet ex-RSM of the Regiment, now **Major (Q.M.) T. W. Jackson.**

Sport

Report on Corps Hockey in UK 1974/75 Season

GENERAL

THE Corps has now completed a reasonably successful hockey season. From the well attended trials, held in Catterick at the end of September 1974, it was clear that a fairly strong pool of players was to be available for the season. However, as a result of retirement from the Service, mid-season postings, exercises and some individual unavailabilities, some 38 players have represented the Corps. Of these 38, 20 have played on 3 or more occasions. Although this may seem a large number, it is probably lower than average for a typical season. Hockey players aspiring to represent the Corps should be encouraged by these figures to 'have a go' next season.

RESULTS

The record for the season is:

Played	*Won*	*Lost*	*Drawn*	*Goals For*	*Goals Against*
17	10	3	4	46	23

Of the 3 losses, the first was in the opening match of the season against the Thistles, a strong touring side from Scotland. This defeat was not totally unexpected since the Corps has claimed victory in this fixture only once in 24 attempts. The other 2 defeats were at the hands of the RAPC; a 'bogey' that must be laid next season. Although 'Lady Luck' may have smiled a little on them in the first clash, when they put paid to the Corps' attempts to win the Inter-Corps knockout tournament, they proved very worthy winners on the second occasion.

PLAYERS

It has been encouraging to see a number of younger players emerging, principally from 10th Signal Regiment and AAC Harrogate, to take their places in the Corps team. It is hoped to be able to include coaching and team training in next season's programme to improve playing standards more rapidly.

No Corps player has represented the full Army team this season. Those suitably qualified have been unable to devote the necessary time to the Army squad. However, **Lance-Corporal Gaunt** of 14th Signal Regiment and **Signalman Reynolds** of 10th Signal Regiment have both represented the Army at under 22 level.

Colours for the 1974/75 season have been awarded as follows:

Initial Award—**Sergeant M. W. South** (10th Signal Regiment).

Re-Awards—**Major G. A. Allen** (244th Signal Squadron), **Major A. H. Boyle** (MOD), **Lieutenant W. E. Brewin** (11th Signal Regiment), **Lieutenant W. P. Crowley** (RMCS), **Captain I. A. Noble** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Signalman A. Reynolds** (10th Signal Regiment), **Sergeant (Retd.) M. D. Weaver** (8th Signal Regiment) and **Sergeant T. Wood** (14th Signal Regiment).

BOURNEMOUTH FESTIVAL

The season had an Easter sting in its tail for the Corps. With high hopes of success at the Bournemouth Festival, the Corps had a disappointing holiday. Although the sun shone while most of the country was under snow, the best that could be managed was 2 draws from 5 matches. Although a few of the more experienced players were unavailable, results should, on the run of play, have been more rewarding. The civilian sides encountered appeared to be sharper in front of goal, probably resulting from their experience in the keener competition of hockey leagues in which most clubs now play.

CORPS HOCKEY TEAM LOOK CHEERFUL

Royal Signals players at the Bournemouth Festival—does anyone recognise the two obviously ardent fans in the background?

Standing, left to right: W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. K. Hurn, Corporal J. Kelway, Sergeant T. Wood, Captain M. J. Crane, Sergeant R. G. Hunter

Seated, left to right: Captain I. A. Noble, Major S. R. Carr-Smith, Major G. A. Allen (Captain), Major A. H. Boyle, Sergeant M. W South, Lieutenant W. P. Crowley

Front, left to right: A/T Sergeant J. H. Lathbury, Signalman J. S. Mitchell

Absent: Captain J. A. Rose

1975/76 SEASON

At the time of publication of these notes, the 1975/76 season will not be far distant. It is intended to hold Corps trials in September 1975, and all major and minor units in UK will be contacted in good time with requests to nominate players. Any player who fears he may not be included in either major or minor unit categories, and would like to stake his claim, should contact the Secretary of Corps Hockey by post at:

Room 507, Castlewood House,
77–91, New Oxford Street,
London WC1A 1DT
or by telephoning 01-632 4680.

DETAILED RESULTS

Thistles	Catterick	Lost	1–3
Norton HC	Catterick	Drawn	4–4
RMCS Shrivenham	Blandford	Won	4–0
RE	Aldershot	Won	4–0
RAPC	Aldershot	Lost	2–3
Infantry	Chelsea	Won	3–1
RAOC	Blandford	Won	1–0
RA	Woolwich	Drawn	0–0
REME	Bordon	Won	1–0
RMA Sandhurst	Camberley	Drawn	2–2
RM	Blandford	Won	2–1
RAF Support Command	Blandford	Won	2–1
Staff College	Camberley	Won	6–0
RAC	Blandford	Won	4–1
RAPC	Worthy Down	Lost	1–6
Welbeck College	Worksop	Won	8–0
Newcastle University	Catterick	Drawn	1–1
Bournemouth Festival			
The Robins (Sheffield HC)		Drawn	4–4
The Abstainers (Staines HC)		Lost	1–2
The Chiltern Lions (Amersham HC)		Lost	0–1
South Staffordshire		Lost	2–3
Epsom HC		Drawn	0–0
Matches Cancelled			
HAC			
Dorset 'A'			
RCT			
Durham University			

Royal Signals (BAOR) Easter Hockey Festival

THE Corps was asked for the first time to send a representative side to the Berlin Hockey Festival from the 4th to the 6th April.

Twelve members of the Corps finally made the trip, mainly by train, and had an excellent weekend. Our thanks are due to **Major M. T. Whitworth,** RE, the secretary of Berlin Combined Services Hockey Club who looked after the needs of our team both socially and sportswise. Also to **Captain R. Barry,** Royal Signals who initially invited us.

The following teams took part in the festival:

Royal Engineers, Berlin Combined Services, Berliner HC, Argo 40 HC, Brandenburg HC, and ourselves.

The festival was played on the HQ Berlin grass pitches which considering the dreadful weather played well.

The results reflect late nights and a strange playing surface. (Normally we play on tarmac.)

Royal Signals v. Argo HC. Lost 6-2.

The goals were scored by **Bromidge** and **Clark.** This was our first game as a team and on grass. To be fair the score was not indicative of the share of the game.

Royal Signals v. Brandenburg HC. Drew 3-3.

Goal scorers: **Bromidge, Clark, Lilley.**

Royal Signals v. Berliner HC. Won 4-1.

Goal scorers: **Wooff, Baxter, Rogers, Lilley.**

Up to this point the Berliner team was unbeaten.

The festival ended with an excellent buffet which was followed by an excess of alcohol at the Berliner HC ground.

An excellent weekend. Many thanks Berlin!

Corps Team: **Sergeant Crighton,** 22 Signal Regiment (Umpire), **Lance-Corporal Wilson,** 22 Signal Regiment, **Major**

Pertwee, 7 Signal Regiment, **Signalman Macincey,** 22 Signal Regiment, **Corporal Worth,** 22 Signal Regiment, **Corporal Wooff,** 260 Signal Squadron, **Corporal Baxter,** 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, **Sergeant Lilley,** 260 Signal Squadron, **Captain Clark,** 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant Proctor,** 11 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **Sergeant Bromidge,** 11 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **Corporal Rodgers,** 11 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron.

School of Signals Hockey—Good Results in the 1974/75 Season

AT the end of the hockey season the School of Signals team can look back with a good deal of satisfaction at their achievements, some of which are listed opposite:

Winners South West District Hockey Cup; Winners South West District 6-a-side competition; Winners Dorset Indoor 6-a-side competition; Runners up Blandford Town 6-a-side competition.

Results of games played:

Played	*Won*	*Drawn*	*Lost*
14	5	5	4

Regular players included:

Major Tom Livingstone, Captain John Rose (Team Manager), **Sergeant Ray Hunter** (Team Captain), **Corporal Jim Coulson, W.O.2 John Hurn, Sergeant Mick Richards, Sergeant 'Paddy' Quinn, Corporal Glen Baldwin, Sergeant Billy Calder, Captain Neil Horler, Sergeant Matt Collins, Sergeant Instructor Kev Durkin, W.O.1 Joe Izzo** and **W.O.2 Harry Cooke.**

WINNING SMILES
No. 1 (Spearhead) Squadron Champions at the recent 30th Signal Regiment Rifle Meeting on Mere Ranges pose for the camera

Association News

Dorset Branch, Royal Signals Association Annual Dinner once again a Success

Below is an extract from *The Western Gazette.*

SPIRIT OF LOYALTY PRAISED

The spirit of loyalty shown by members of the Royal Signals Association was praised by **Brigadier Pat Hobson,** the general secretary, speaking at the annual dinner of the Dorset branch on Friday evening.

"In these strident modern days, when loyalty and pride are sometimes decried, I gain great comfort from what I see going on in our branches," he said. "I say to myself that this is the true England, and, indeed, it is."

Brigadier Hobson, who is shortly retiring as general secretary, was guest of honour at the dinner, which was held in the Sergeants' Mess at Blandford Army Camp, and was attended by members from all parts of the county.

A section of the Corps band played during dinner, and before the loyal toast there was a fanfare by trumpeters.

The Branch Chairman, **Colonel M. E. E. Truscott,** praised the work of the branch officials, and particularly the Secretary, **Major W. E. Howley,** whom he described as a tower of strength, and **Major Eric Gill,** who organised the dinner.

VISION

Among the guests welcomed by the Branch President **(Major-General R. Moberly)** were **Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson** (Commandant of the School of Signals), **Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. F. Barker** (Administrative Commandant), **Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Garrett** (Commanding Officer of the 30th Signal Regiment) and **R.S.M. B. Green.**

The General said they were grateful for the encouragement and advice the branch had received from **Brigadier Hobson** since its formation in 1967.

Replying, **Brigadier Hobson** praised the vision of **General Moberly, Mr. Sam Henwood** and other founder-members in getting the branch under way.

The Association now had 46 branches throughout the country. Welfare work was continuing. Last year they helped over 600 welfare cases, and the year ahead would make even greater demands.

The Badge of the Royal Signals printed on

Short sleeve T-shirts sizes small, med, large, E. large; colours black, white, yellow, red, navy; price inc. of v.a.t. and carriage £1·25 each.

Long sleeve T-shirt colours and sizes as above, price inclusive £2·00.

Sweat Shirts—ideal for sports or casual wear, fleecy lined, raglan sleeve for extra room; colours black, navy, white, red, green; price inclusive £3·00, small, med, large, E. large.

Super Holdall Grip—heavy duty pvc, wet 'and dirty sports gear can be packed separate compartment in the base; colours black, navy, red, white (with contrast piping) Price inclusive £4·75.

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WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from both world wars. We come from Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus..and from Ulster. From keeping the peace no less than from war we limbless look to you for help.

And you CAN help, by helping our Association BLESMA (the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association) looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps, with advice and encouragement, to overcome the shock of losing arms, legs or an eye. It sees that red-tape does not stand in the way of the right entitlement to pension. And, for the severely handicapped and the elderly, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help BLESMA, please. We need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

Donations and information: Major The Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD, Midland Bank Limited, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association
'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE'

Goods available from Association Headquarters

Corps Ties—Woollen	75p
Terylene, Type A	65p
Terylene (narrow) Type D	55p
Terylene (narrow) Type E (Horizontal Stripes)	45p
Terylene—3¾ (non crease)	£1·18
Terylene—3½ (non crease)	£1·16
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Wool and Terylene	£1·32
Corps Squares—Terylene	£1·30
Corps Cravats—Terylene	£1·20
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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)	18p
Small (each)	16p
Motor Car Badges—square plastic	£1·55
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled on Corps Colours)	75p
Corps Plaques with 'Royal Corps of Signals' Scroll or Scroll left blank	£3·00
Key-Rings with Corps Badge Tag (each)	16p
Glass Ash Tray embossed with Corps Badge (each)	64p
Driver Licence/I.D. Car Holder with 'Jimmy' Crest (each)	15p
Corps Clipper Board Folders in Blue Vinyl with 'Jimmy' Crest in gold (each)	£1·45
Corps Stick-on P.V.C. Transfers:	
Large (10″ × 7½″) each	52p
Medium (7½″ × 5¼″) each	46p
Small (3″ × 2⅛″) each	30p
Corps table mats (set of six)	£9·50
Corps cocktail mats (set of 6)	£2·00

The above prices are those current at the time of going to press and may be subject to increases due to manufacturers raising their charges.

R·S·A

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YOU

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The principal aims of the Association are :—

(a) To try and keep those who have served the Corps in touch with each other with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship—a feature of Corps life you will miss when you leave the Service.

(b) To help serving and retired members of the Corps (and their close dependants) who find themselves in difficult circumstances with advice and practical aid, financial or in kind.

(c) To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life by trying to find employment and generally advising.

The Association endeavours to achieve the above aims by :—

(a) Sponsoring branches in the main towns and population centres of the U.K. These branches often meet for social occasions, and there is generally an annual dinner.

(b) Organising annual reunions at centres such as Catterick and Blandford. These are very popular.

(c) Running a welfare, employment and general advice bureau at Association H.Q. which is at the service of all members. Over 500 cases are helped every year.

(d) Publishing the monthly Corps magazine 'The Wire'. Place a standing order now if you want to keep in touch with Corps and Association affairs.

(e) Selling Corps ties, blazer badges, car badges, diaries and many other items of Corps goods.

Membership

If you have been contributing to the Day's Pay Scheme and the sum total of your contribution during your service adds up to not less than £2·50 then you have qualified as a Life Member and you should write for registration as such NOW.

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Whatever your circumstances or problems do write *now* or visit the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, SW3 4RH (Tel: 01-739 4129), so that he can advise you on membership, nearest branch or any queries you may have. Be sure and give number, rank and name and your home address when writing.

Your Corps Association has flourished for many years, but only the support of those leaving the service will enable it to continue doing so. If a branch is near you join it and so make your personal contribution towards this end.

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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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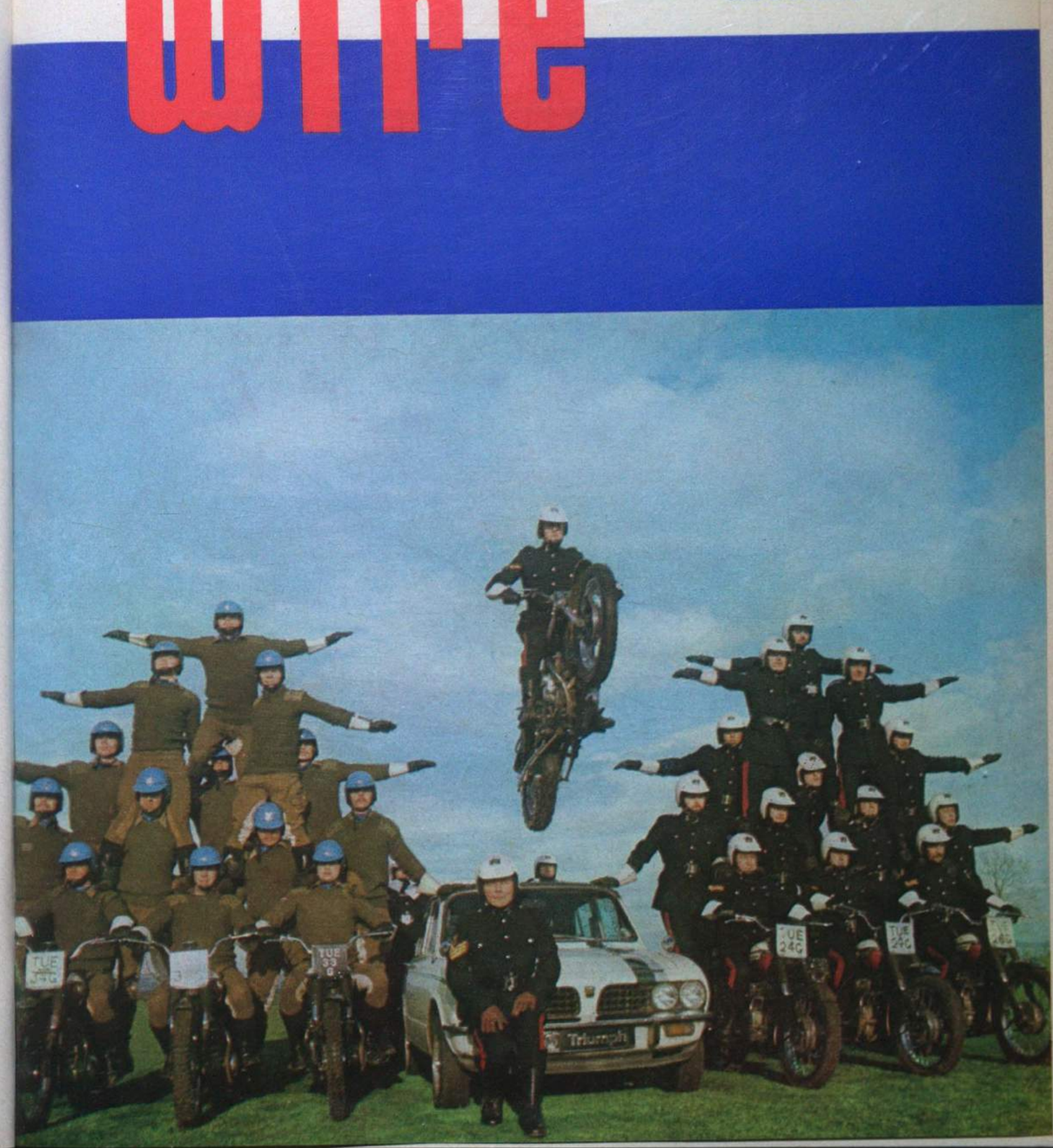
July-August 1975

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
LT. COL. R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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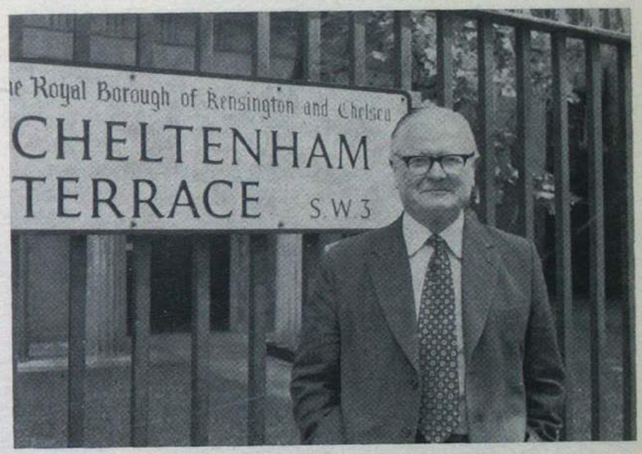
Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We are happy to feature our old friends The White Helmets this month. Their performance is—if it is possible—even more spectacular than ever this year. Jumping the Toledo sprint car is **Lance-Corporal Bob Barkess.** Sitting on the bumpers is **Sergeant Pete Hallsworth.** All the White Helmets team are involved in the picture.

A Farewell Tribute



Brigadier Pat Hobson

When an individual has contributed over 45 years' continuous dedicated service to the Corps it is always a sad occasion when the time comes for him to hand over to someone younger. It is doubly so in the case of Pat Hobson, since although the regulations force him to hand over his reins of office he is still young enough in heart and mind to give many more years to the benefit of the Corps. It is not proposed to describe again his service on the active list which he joined as a young subaltern in 1930. Suffice it to say that throughout his service, which was mainly spent in India and at Catterick, he devoted all of his considerable energies to the well-being of those he commanded; ex-boys whom he trained whilst with 'F' Company in the S.T.C. at Jabalpur before the war still write with affection and appreciation of all he did in laying a sound basis for their future careers and of the concern and understanding he showed for their problems and welfare in their formative years. Recognition of his leadership, courage and organisational abilities was given when he was awarded an immediate D.S.O. for his part in repelling an overwhelming Japanese attack on the 7th Indian Division Headquarters in the Arakan in 1944 when commanding the Divisional Signal Regiment; not only did he help to organise the defence of the 'admin box' but also managed to maintain communications for the Headquarters. In his last active list appointment he was host to the

Association's Re-unions when Commander of the Training Brigade at Catterick. He was thus eminently suitable to assume the responsibilities of General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association and as Editor of THE WIRE in 1962. It is certain that all those who have received help from the Association and read THE WIRE since then will agree that it would have been hard to find anyone more suitable or one who could have carried out the responsibilities involved more successfully.

No other Arm expects as much from its Association Secretary as we do. Other Associations have two or three people to perform the functions that our General Secretary, a most appropriate title, carries out. Nothing was too much trouble for Pat, whether it was detailed work on minor or major welfare cases, planning for re-unions at Catterick and Blandford, or frequent weekend travelling to special occasions at Association Branches all over the United Kingdom.

His Editorship of THE WIRE was outstanding and the Corps magazine has for several years been highly regarded for its quality of content and style of production. He was appointed Chairman of the Association of Service Newspapers, a post he occupied for seven years. He also served over a long period as a member of the Committee.

The tremendous support given by the serving Corps to the One Day's Pay Scheme enabled him to give generous help to those in trouble and to initiate schemes for loans to soldiers leaving the service and grants to units serving under arduous or unusual conditions. Very many have reason to be grateful for his generous and humane approach in welfare and similar matters. His relationship with other Service charitable organisations was excellent and he was held in high regard by them, particularly by the Controller and staff of the Army Benevolent Fund. He was also a member of the Co-ordinating Committee of British Service and Ex-service organisations taking his turn as Chairman in 1967.

He was an enthusiastic member of the World Veterans Federation. He was leader of the U.K. delegation to the General Assembly held at U.N.E.S.C.O. in Paris in 1973 and his loyal service was recognised by his appointment as U.K. Chairman. The same year he also undertook the Chairmanship of the World Veterans Trust.

On top of all these activities he managed to find time to assist in and take an active part in the life of his village where he was, and still is, Chairman of the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

On 3rd May, 1975, following the Annual Meeting of Association Branch Secretaries, Pat Hobson was given lunch in the Hammersmith Drill Hall of 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V) at which over a hundred sat down; other guests included the Representative Colonel Commandant, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, members of the Regular and Volunteer armies and of the Association's Trustees. There were no speeches but this fully representative gathering was able as 'Royal Signals past and present' to drink Pat's health.

Pat Hobson's last day in office was the Sunday of this year's Catterick Re-union of which there will be a later report. On behalf of the Corps we thank him for all he has done and wish him all happiness and good fortune in his second retirement.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

Why not write up any outstanding sportsmen in your Unit and send in to The Wire with one or two action photographs?

From our "In" Tray

Report from Australia

From: ex **Staff-Sergeant R. Cossor**

Sir,

I left the Corps in 1972 after 23 years' service finishing as S.S.I. at 11 Signal Regiment. I emigrated to Australia in 1973 and joined the Australian Army reserve—140 Signal Squadron. Fellow members of the Corps were ex-W.O.2 **O'Neilly,** W.O.2 **Jimmy Onton, Sergeant Bob Spooner** and myself. I would appreciate it if you would publish my address in THE WIRE. Anybody thinking of emigrating can get in touch with me and I shall be only too pleased to send information required. We receive the odd 'WIRE' and it gets pretty dog-eared with looking through for old friends.

Yours truly,
R. Cossor

21 Flynn Street,
Holland Park,
Brisbane,
Queensland,
Australia.

Captain David Fairlie

Captain David Fairlie of Myres Castle, Auchtermuchty, was recently appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Fife.

Captain Fairlie is County Commissioner for Scouts (Fife) and a tireless worker in the youth movement of the county.

He is a member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers).

David Fairlie was a regular officer in the Corps for many years. His mother did much for the Corps by sending books and magazines for many years to some of our remote detachments. She was presented with a Silver Jimmy by the Corps in appreciation of her kindness.

Roosevelt Memorial Gardens

Those who have been stationed in Blandford Camp will have seen the Roosevelt Memorial Gardens. These gardens were designed and constructed by a United States soldier during the time the Camp was occupied by 22 United States General Hospital following the invasion of Europe. The 48 States then comprising the United States of America each contributed a plant to the garden. Though many have suffered from the ravages of the weather and chalk of Dorset, some do still remain, together with the spirit which inspired the building of these gardens.

A Memorial Service is held annually at Blandford Camp to which the United States representatives at the All Arms Schools are invited with other American guests.

The gardens have recently received a cairn of stones which had been erected in the barracks at Cove by the 1st Canadian Divisional Signal Regiment in memory of those members of the Regiment who died during the 1939–45 war. As the barracks are due to be demolished, Royal Engineers offered the memorial to Royal Signals. A fitting corner of the gardens has now been given over to this memorial.

The photograph shows a section of the garden with the Guard of Honour formed up prior to the service on 23rd May, 1975.

PADRE ON PARADE

Getting in-step after 30 years apart, a school boy friendship is renewed as Garrison Padre Frank Parkinson and the R.S.M. of 9 Signal Regiment, W.O.I Bob Wade, meet again at Ayios Nikolaos in Cyprus. The two were close friends when at Ushaw Moor Junior School

CORPS LOOKS AFTER ITS OWN

Lance-Corporal Keith Pywell of 10 Signal Regiment married Miss Gina Titmuss of Wellingborough on Saturday, 17th May, and held their reception at the Columbia Hotel, Wellingborough. The hotel is owned by Gerry and Dorothy Boast who retired from the Corps in October 1970 and it was a great pleasure for them to do the catering for a member of the Corps.

Major Boast's sword still sees regular service, not on the parade square, but to cut the wedding cake.

HIGH POWERED USER TRIAL

Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E. (centre), Signal Officer in Chief (Army), accompanied by Brigadier H. A. J. Sturge (right) and Brigadier R. G. Phippard, making the first calls over the functional model of the Ptarmigan Stored Programme Controlled Exchange during a recent visit to Plessey where the development of the Mobile Military Exchange using the Plessey System 250 Processor is being undertaken

Officers Reunion—Aldershot Club 3rd Oct

Arrangements are in hand to hold a similar reunion to the one held last year. 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 has been sent out on a similar distribution to last year. Anyone who has not heard from the General Secretary of the Association by the time this WIRE is published and who would like to attend should get in touch with him as soon as possible.

Welfare

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially	**26**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**41**
Amount spent	**£948·69**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**6**
Amount spent	**£185·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, 1940–46. His wife nursed him devotedly through a very long and distressing illness until his death this year. The Association helped her with a grant of £43·50 towards the funeral expenses, and her letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

WILL you please express my grateful thanks to the Committee for their kindness in settling the account for my husband's funeral. I couldn't possibly find so much money myself, but now it is all cleared up, and I am hoping to put it all behind me and face up to life on my own. Your support during the last six years has been of the greatest help to me, and I know my husband would have wished me to thank you too.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during May, 1975:

	£
Shrewsbury Branch, Royal Signals Association	70·00
Reading Branch, Royals Signals Association	25·00
Glossop and District Branch, Royal Signals Association	21·00
Bath and District Branch, Royal Signals Association	10·00
Newark Branch, Royal Signals Association	10·00
W.O.2 (F. of S.) H. M. Cooke (249 Signal Squadron reunion)	14·00
Secretary, Wives Club, 30th Signal Regiment	15·00
W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. W. Piper, Royal Signals	5·00
Colonel T. W. Vigurs, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L.	2·10
H. C. Partridge, Esq.	1·25
Signalman Jagdish Singh	1·05
J. O. Buchannan, Esq.	50
Various small donations	45
	£175·35

Obituary

Ex-W.O.2 R. W. Fairclough

A. V. Ient, M.S.M., Secretary of Aldershot Branch, writes:

It is with regret I have to tell you of the death of 2313623 **ex-Warrant-Officer 2 R. W. Fairclough.** 'Fairy' as he was known to all his friends served in the corps from 1921 to 1946. He served in India on two tours of duty, in Egypt and the Sudan as well as at Rome. One time he was a staunch member of the Aldershot Branch doing a tour of honorary secretary in 1963. After his retirement he didn't go far. He died at Frimley Park Hospital on the 21st April and was cremated at Aldershot on 25th April. He was 75.

M. A. V. Green and myself attended the cremation service. Our sympathies go to his widow who resides at 65 Carfax Avenue, Tongham, Surrey.

Major M. Hooper, MBE, MM

Major Marc Hooper who was born in 1913 enlisted in the Corps in 1928 and saw active service on the North-West Frontier in 1936. He was in India at the outbreak of the Second World War where he served until 1948, being commissioned in 1941 and holding the appointments of Adjutant at No. 2 Training Battalion, S.T.C. Second in Command of a Special Armed Constabulary Battalion and Police Wireless Officer Central Provinces. On returning to the U.K. he was with Scottish Command Signal Regiment and for a year in B.A.O.R. before retiring in 1952. He then joined the T.A. and was commissioned to R.E.M.E. He died at Peterborough on the 1st May, 1975, and we offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

Ex-Sergeant Jimmy Low

Many of his friends in the Corps will be saddened to hear of the sudden death on 2nd June of former **Sergeant Jimmy Low. Jimmy Low** served with the Corps from 1952 to December 1974, for his last three years of service he was the sergeants mess caterer of 24 Airportable Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron in Plymouth, Barnard Castle and Topcliffe. His widow, Ursula, and his family reside at 45 Zetland Road, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham, and we offer them sincere condolences.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. D. Thompson

We have just learnt of the death on the 19th March, 1975, of **Frederick Joseph Dunbar Thompson** who started life as an army schoolmaster in 1907 being commissioned into the Army Educational Corps from the rank of warrant officer class I in 1921 and retiring in 1931. He was recalled at the outbreak of the Second World War and went out to France with the B.E.F. as Graves Registration Officer but was shortly afterwards posted to G.H.Q. and H.Q. 3 Corps as a cipher officer. On returning to the U.K. via Dunkirk he subsequently served in Scottish Command and H.Q. 21 Armoured Division as a cipher officer having transferred to the Corps in 1942 and being mentioned in despatches in 1945. He retired from the army in August 1945 having completed 30 years on the active list and eight years on the reserve.

Major A. C. W. Ware, MBE

Albert Charles William Ware who died a few weeks short of his 76th birthday on 19th May, 1975, had a colourful and interesting career. In 1915 he joined the Royal Navy at the age of 16 as a boy telegraphist and saw active service during the 1914–18 war. He retired from the Navy in 1939 in the rank of petty officer. In 1940 he was granted an emergency commission for special duties in the Corps and spent the rest of the Second World War in North Africa and the U.K. with Special Communications units. He was discharged after the war in 1946 when he joined the Diplomatic Wireless Service and was appointed M.B.E. In 1952 he was granted a commission in the A.E.R. from which he finally retired in 1959.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Watts

Peter Annesley Watts, who was born in 1913 died on 22nd May, 1975. He was commissioned into the Corps from the Royal Military Academy Woolwich in 1934 and took part in the operations in Palestine in 1936 then went out to India in 1938 returning to the U.K. in 1939 on medical grounds. During the Second World War he served in the U.K. with a number of higher formation units until 1943 when he went out to the Middle East but returned to the U.K. after a few months on medical grounds. From, 1944–45 he was O.C. Signals 134 Force and saw service in Austria and Norway. At the end of the war he went out to India and qualified at the Staff College at Quetta. He was in India during the time of partition and after a short spell in FARELF returned to the U.K. in 1948 holding staff appointments at the War Office, Northern Command and the School of Signals. In 1952 he commanded 4A.A.(M) Signal Regiment until 1954, when he was taken ill on his way to FARELF and retired on medical grounds in 1955. Peter's main interests apart from his career were tennis and riding. He was blessed with a cheerful disposition and had a most infectious laugh. After retirement he joined E.M.I. with whom he worked until his death. We would like to extend our very deep sympathy to his wife, Valerie, and their two sons.

Major P. Wolfendale

Philip Wolfendale enlisted as a Territorial at the outbreak of the Second World War and was commissioned into the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1942 seeing service in Gibraltar, Iceland, Middle East, North Africa and Austria. In 1946 he transferred to the Corps and concentrated on the technical side attending appropriate courses at the School of Signals and Royal Military College of Science. He served for nearly four years at SRDE and then went out to the Middle East when he was mentioned in despatches whilst serving with Cyprus District Signal Regiment. He retired in 1960 and died at the early age of 56 on 20th January, 1975.

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel B. F. Allen	..	21st Signal Regiment
Lieutenant R. F. A. Axton	..	7th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant T. Balch	..	4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment
Major J. J. Bally	..	24 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Major M. M. Barker	..	JSSC Gosport
Lieutenant M. Bevan	..	2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Booth	..	11th Signal Regiment (HS)
Lieutenant R. S. Bresloff	..	16th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Bromley	..	33rd Signal Regiment (V)
Major P. J. R. Brown	..	9 US Infantry Division
Major D. T. Burton, M.B.E.	..	RMA Sandhurst
Lieutenant E. C. Cameron	..	2 R Irish
Second-Lieutenant T. W. Canham	..	7th Signal Regiment
Major J. D. Cathcart	..	HQ N. Ireland
Second-Lientenant H. N. S. Colborn		3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain F. C. R. Common	..	11th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. W. M. Conran	..	11th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant N. J. Cory	..	2nd Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) A. J. D. Davies	..	242 Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant N. J. R. Ferriman		7th Signal Regiment
Major W. B. Foote	..	HQ Scotland (R & L Staff)
Major (TOT) D. Hazel	..	DADPTC
Captain D. Henry	..	10th Signal Regiment
Major A. W. de V. Hunt	..	3 Infantry Border HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain J. E. Ient	..	16th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. Jefferis	..	259 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maclean	..	11th Signal Regiment (HS)
Second-Lieutenant J. R. M. McGrath		22nd Signal Regiment
Captain (QM) P. McNaughton	..	Edinburgh and Heriot Watt UOTC
Captain P. L. Maloney	..	248 Gurkha Signal Squadron
Lieutenant N. P. Mansfield	..	260 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Morris		RMC of S
Major (Tfc) M. Nutt	..	241 Signal Squadron
Major J. R. S. Ovenden	..	224 Signal Squadron
Major L. J. Pertwee	..	US Defence Int Agency
Captain M. Prymaka	..	8th Signal Regiment
Captain N. R. Pullman	..	3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain V. J. Reed	..	35th Signal Regiment (V)
Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. McL. Robinson	..	Signals 32b
Lieutenant J. R. Snowden	..	1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) R. Staniford	..	262 Signal Squadron
Captain A. G. Stapleton	..	233 Signal Squadron
Major M. Stears	..	4 Comns Unit
Captain (Tfc) A. Stringer	..	SHAPE
Major P. D. Templeman-Evans	..	10th Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. M. Thurston		16th Signal Regiment
Captain (TOT) M. A. Truran	..	22nd Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant S. J. Turpin	..	21st Signal Regiment
Captain C. J. Walters	..	HQ 3 Signal Group
Major (QM) W. Watson	..	HQ Catterick Garrison
Captain A. D. Whipp	..	2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Major (TOT) R. D. Willingale	..	HQ 4 Signal Group
Lieutenant C. L. G. Wright	..	216 Para Signal Squadron

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.1 (F. of S.) D. Thom	..	227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) T. G. Southall	..	14th Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) M. J. D. Groom	..	Sultan of Muscat Armed Forces
W.O.2 R. F. Dixon	..	14th Signal Regiment
W.O.2 A. Patterson	..	31st Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 F. C. Pope	..	39th Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 T. Ryan	..	11th Signal Regiment
W.O.2 R. G. Vale	..	16th Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) H. M. Cooke	..	633 Signal Troop (Caribbean)
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) K. A. Allen		10th Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) W. E. Clarke		37th Signal Regiment (V)
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. I. Gilchrist	..	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Simons	..	8th Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant (Supvr Radio) J. D. Hutton	..	225 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Staff-Sergeant T. D. A. Davis	..	30th Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant K. Harlick	..	3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff-Sergeant A. E. Keenan	..	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Staff-Sergeant G. H. Lumley	..	HQ 7 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff-Sergeant T. W. Macdonald	..	13th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Staff-Sergeant J. N. Martin	..	8th Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant B. P. Neillings	..	225 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Staff-Sergeant C. H. Story	..	22nd Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Staff-Sergeant V. Towler	..	55 Signal Squadron
Staff-Sergeant P. J. E. Hilton	..	MOD DM (Army)
Staff-Sergeant D. Hemingway	..	7th Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) R. E. Lidgbird	..	40th Signal Regiment (V)
Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) J. Hough	..	603 Signal Troop (MASIRAH)
Acting Staff-Sergeant A. K. Pilkington	..	11th Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Gratton	..	8th Signal Regiment
Sergeant F. G. Oliver	..	8th Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. Scott	..	30th Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Field	..	240 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. T. McKinlay	..	22 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant P. Nason	..	242 Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. I. Ratcliffe	..	10th Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. L. Adams	..	10th Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. D. Dring	..	21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant H. E. F. Nanty	..	27th Signal Regiment
Sergeant E. T. Robinson	..	22nd Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant D. Traynor	..	21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant P. J. Garden	..	28th Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant M. J. Burke	..	HQ 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. D. Moore	..	224 Signal Squadron (Radio Trg)
Sergeant R. Goodwin	..	8th Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant G. M. Morgan	..	259 Signal Squadron (RR)
Sergeant P. J. Roscoe	..	227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant B. J. Morrison	..	227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant C. D. Brownhill	..	8th Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant I. L. Dudding	..	3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. R. Budden	..	542 Rear Link Detachment (HY Regiment)
Sergeant E. R. Sreeves	..	HQ 4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. D. Welch	..	8th Signal Regiment
Sergeant I. S. Degei	..	244 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Parker	..	HQ 1st Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant S. J. Waring	..	SHAPE HQ Command and Support (BE)
Sergeant B. Hives	..	233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. J. Walker	..	5 Army Youth Team
Sergeant B. Snaith	..	9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant P. Laing	..	HQ 4th Division Signal Regiment
Acting Sergeant J. H. Halliwell	..	70 Army Youth Team

Corps can be proud of Durham County Royal Signals Army Cadet Force Detachments

DARLINGTON DETACHMENT

There are only two detachments of the Army Cadet Force in Durham County that are badged to the Royal Corps of Signals and both are found in Darlington. The largest detachment is based on the Drill Hall, Neasham Road, Darlington, being approximately 45 strong. This unit is perhaps the most active and efficient in the county. Recently it celebrated its year's achievements by holding a Christmas Regimental Dinner for the Cadets. This was a huge success, nearly 40 boys plus officers and adults attended and the menu was festive, served by the officers and adults. Speeches were made by a number present and a jolly good evening was had by all.

During the past year this deatchment, commanded by **Lieutenant Jim Pearce,** ably supported by **R.Q.M.S. John Baldry. Second-Lieutenant L. Jeavons** and **Sergrant Bill Alden,** have proved beyond doubt that they are one of the finest cadet units in the North of England. They have had a first-class record in passes in Cert. A Part I and Part II exams and have had cadets representing the County and N.E. region in national and county cadet competitions such as shooting, football, athletics, swimming, penthathlon.

SOLDIERLY YOUNG MEN

Those of the Darlington detachment cadets with Lieutenant J. R. Pearce, A.C.F., on a visit to B.A.O.R.

At annual camp at Barry Budden they excelled themselves by winning the R.S.M.'s shield for the best billet and the many sporting trophies which were gained.

Many weekend camps were held at Stanhope, Whitburn and Hartlepool, and a number of hiking and climbing outings were enjoyed.

This unit is a credit to the Corps whose badge it wears and augurs well for the years to come.

BRANKSOME SCHOOL DETACHMENT

The Branksome School Detachment, Royal Signals, is the second unit in the A.C.F. in Durham County badged Royal Signals and, here again, does great credit to the Corps.

This unit is much smaller than the Darlington one, being only about 25 Cadets strong, under the command of **Second-Lieutenant Eric Richardson.**

They have always taken part in annual camps and weekends and all sporting competitions, and it is pleasing to note that this past year they have become quite a force to be reckoned with. They, like the Darlington Detachment, have received recognition in many sporting fields and competitions, and have had several boys representing the County and N.E. Region in the A.C.F. national competitions held during the year.

It is hoped that these initial successes will bring forth even bigger ones in the forthcoming year.

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AN ISLAND CALLED DANGER

A REPORT ON THE JOINT SERVICES EXPEDITION TO DANGER ISLAND, JANUARY TO MARCH 1975, SUBMITTED BY CAPTAIN (Tfc) G. P. T. RAKU, ROYAL SIGNALS

A NEW STRANGE WORLD 100 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

THE Chagos Bank of the Indian Ocean is one of the most remote and unknown regions of the world, it lies just south of the equator, bounded by thousands of miles of deep water on every side. It is a continent that sank beneath the ocean's surface early in earth's evolution. Most of the bank is uncharted and what charts there are of the area carry the advice that the accuracy of the information on the charts cannot be guaranteed and that vessels should keep well clear of the area. The average depth of the bank is about 100 feet, but in places it rises above the surface to form small coral islands. One of these islands is named Danger Island, and it was to this and other islands in the area that approval was given by the Joint Services Expedition Trust for an expedition to be mounted to carry out scientific exploration both above and below the sea's surface.

AIMS OF THE EXPEDITION

Early in 1974 a D.C.I. was issued calling for volunteers from the three services to partake in the expedition. The main qualification required was that of sub-aqua diving with a variety of secondary qualifications to enable 14 servicemen to be self-sufficient for three months on a remote island far from civilisation. The scientific aims of the expedition laid out in the D.C.I. were to carry out the following:

A topographical survey of transects from the high water mark to the base of the reef at 150 ft at as many points of the compass as possible.

An ecological survey of the coral communities including full photographic coverage.

A study of the metabolism of the reef communities for energy and nitrogen fixation.

A reference collection of the flora and fauna of the area and especially of the reef communities.

To carry out this scientific programme it was desirous to find an area where the ecology was as far as possible unaffected by man, hence the islands of the Chagos Bank where only Eagle Island had at one time been inhabited.

SHAKING DOWN

I had the good fortune to be selected as the expedition's communicator. Planning and organisation carried on throughout the year. Stores were indented for from a myriad of sources and all duly arrived at Portsmouth Docks until by September approximately 25 tons of stores and provisions were assembled ready for crating prior to loading on the R.F.A. 'Resurgent' which was to convey them on our island base en route to the Far East. A week's pre-expedition training was carried out under the auspices of the Joint Services Sub-Aqua Diving Centre at Fort Bovisand, Plymouth. Here the team had a good shakedown, getting to know one another, diving together, boat handling and a sea survival course at nearby R.A.F. Mountbatten. At the end of the week the final team selection was announced; 5 R.N. members, 4 Army, 4 R.A.F. and 1 R.M., plus the 4 civilians forming the scientific element of the expedition.

AN EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE

The expedition got under way proper at the end of December last, an advance party, comprising the expedition leader: **Commander Alan Baldwin,** R.N., **Squadron-Leader Dave Rickard** (i.c. diving), **Sergeant Ray Pringle-Scott,** R.A.F. (photographer), **Sergeant (Boots) Allistone,** R.M. (jack of all trades) and myself flew from Brize Norton to Gan. Here we met up with the vessel which was to transport us the 400 miles south to the islands. This vessel was a 75-foot ketch called the *Four Friends* from Singapore and owned by a friend of Alan Baldwin, who had agreed to let his ketch become our support vessel for the duration of the expedition. Approximately four tons of advance party stores and provisions including over 500 gallons of petrol were loaded on to the *Four Friends* and eventually we set sail, looking more like a Chinese junk than the elegant vessel she really was, on Sunday, 5th January. The next day a following sea flooded the exhaust system and entered the engine and we spent all day rolling uncomfortably in the Indian Ocean whilst the engine was stripped and cleared. During the voyage south we all kept watch at times, and for landlubbers such as we, it was truly an exhilarating sensation to steer a largish sailing vessel across a vast ocean by compass and star, especially at night whilst all others slept.

A GHOST SETTLEMENT

On our third day out of Gan we reached the large atoll of Peros Banhos, just north of the Chagos Bank, which according to the Indian Ocean pilot had a settlement of 160 persons who tended the coconut plantation there. Peros Banhos was a magnificent sight, an atoll of about nine green tropical islands bordering a blue lagoon some 17 miles across. As we sailed towards the largest island, Ile du Coin, the jetty and the buildings of the settlement became clearer but amazingly even as we anchored 400 yards offshore not a sign of life. We rigged an inflatable and made our way ashore. The settlement was deserted, a ghost village, the buildings beginning to deteriorate, the jungle steadily reclaiming the inroads made by man. From records found in the manager's house we learnt that the settlement had been abandoned on 27th May, 1973. Nostalgic writings on the walls, broken toys, a faded Union Jack hanging on the verandah of the manager's house, even a home-made guitar gave the village an air of sadness and pathos. Donkeys, some with young, roamed aimlessly amongst the old dwellings, and appeared to have made their home in the chapel which still had artificial flowers on the altar. We stocked up with fresh limes and breadfruit before setting sail on the final leg or our voyage.

SEARCHING FOR A SUITABLE BASE

The next day another unforgettable sight, we passed close alongside two huge whale sharks basking on the surface, these are in fact true sharks, and the largest living fish, growing to about 65 ft. Those sighted by us were about two-thirds of that size. We reached the *Three Brothers* soon after midday and again the inflatable was sent to investigate the centre of the three islands. The pass into a large lagoon was safely negotiated and a landing made. It was immediately apparent we had found an island paradise. Clear blue water within the lagoon, aw hite coral sand beach, green vegetation and shrub and literally hundreds of nesting birds. Although we still hadn't decided which of the islands was to be our base it was regretfully agreed that the ecology would be too much disturbed if we were to establish a large base on this exotic isle, so once again the *Four Friends* journeyed south. Our next landfall was Eagle Island, the island it had been anticipated in the pre-expedition planning would become our base. We knew that it was possible to get ashore on Eagle as there had been a settlement there until the mid-1930s, because of this we also knew that the island would be rat infested with consequently no breeding birds and therefore our presence there would not further upset the ecology. A preliminary reconnaissance of the reef that evening showed no easy way ashore, with the ocean rollers crashing on to the reef about 500 yards from the beach so another night was spent on the ketch anchored offshore.

FUTURE HOME

Very early on the morning of Saturday, 11th January, we again set forth in the Zodiac and with the tide at high water it was possible to see what appeared to be a pass through the fringe reef into a small lagoon at the north of the island. A muttered prayer and we were committed, one or two anxious moments, then suddenly we were in the quiet calm waters of the lagoon and heading towards the sandy beach. At this point we were a trifle alarmed to note that the lagoon appeared to be full of largish sharks swmming lazily around, dorsal fins cutting the surface. Ashore the island was neither hospitable nor beautiful. The undergrowth was dense beneath tall palms, the sea at high tide reached right up to the undergrowth, no friendly birds, a smell of hydrogen sulphide and a rather depressing air about the entire place. However, this was to be the base camp for the expedition and our home for the next three months.

BACK BREAKING, BLISTER RAISING, EXHAUSTING

A site for the camp was decided on and immediately we began work to clear it ready for the arrival of the main party in about a week's time. The next seven days will remain forever in my memory as the most back breaking, blister raising and exhausting I can recall. The undergrowth was first burnt then 40 years' accumulation of fallen coconuts and young palms were uprooted and piled high to be burnt, until gradually an area about 100 yards long and 50 yards back from the beach was cleared down to coral sand and dirt. We worked from dawn to dusk in high temperature and humidity, but eventually the site began to take shape. One of our main concerns was the availability of drinking water so a well was dug and sure enough at about 4 ft deep, water began to seep into the bottom and much to our relief we found that it was reasonably clear and drinkable with only a slight taste of hydrogen sulphide. During that first week we also found that the sharks in the lagoon were nurse sharks and as long as we left them alone they ignored us completely when we went swimming or snorkeling. During this period the main party had flown to Mauritius to await the arrival of the R.F.A. 'Resurgent'. Radio contact daily with Mauritius and the R.F.A. kept us informed of their progress and on the morning of Sunday, 19th January, we awoke to see the 'Resurgent' stood offshore.

UNLOADING STORES

The ketch had previously sounded and buoyed a safe anchorage for the R.F.A. just outside the pass, and with an extremely cooperative master she now slowly approached and anchored only half a mile outside the reef over the bank. Now followed another hectic two days, six inflatable craft plied to and fro from dawn to dusk conveying our 25 tons of stores to the island. The R.F.A.'s skipper provided about 30 willing hands ashore to help erect tents and give us any other assistance we needed, and throughout all this activity only one mishap; one crate containing vital compressor spares and tools slipped from a loading net into over 100 ft of water beneath the R.F.A. Luckily a diving salvage operation was successful and all the stores were recovered. On the evening of 20th January the *Resurgent* sailed. Our expedition was now complete on Eagle Island and we were on our own until she returned late in March; our work was about to commence.

MUCH AQUA-LUNGING AHEAD

The main aims of the expedition required a tremendous amount of diving to collect coral samples at 20-ft intervals from the surface to 150 ft at points around each of the islands in the area. **Dr David Bellamy** and **Charles Sheppard,** both leading marine biologists from Durham University, were then to carry out their research on the samples collected. Transects were drawn on compass bearings from the seaward side, across the island and extending to the lee. Diving would then take place from 150 ft at one end of the transect, up to 10 ft close to the reef front and then back down to 150 ft at the other end of the transect. In all there were over 40 of these transects to be dived around the islands and on submerged coral mounds on the bank.

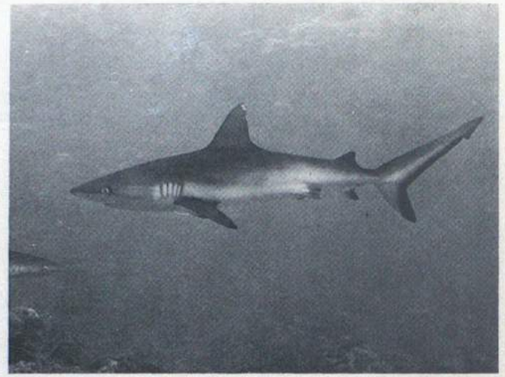
DIVING TEAM PROCEDURE

A diving team normally consisted of four persons; a shark guard, a photographer, and two sample collectors. All four divers would enter the water simultaneously and go straight down without surfacing (in shark-infested waters a diver is most vulnerable at the surface). The shark guard would indicate when the decided depth had been reached and then would then take up his protective duties. He would be armed with a 'bangstick'. A six-ft steel rod with a firing mechanism containing a ·303 bullet at the business end and a Hawaiian sling at the other. The principle of the bangstick was to release it sharply against the shark using the sling, the protruding bullet would then recoil against a firing pin and blow a hole in the side of the shark. Having reached the decided depth, the first collector would lay a 2-metre cord across the coral. The photographer would then photograph a 2-metre square and then the coral collecting would commence. Both collectors would carry a sandbag, a hammer and a chisel. The first collector would collect a sample of every coral in the square, whilst the second would collect any corals at the same depth which were not apparent in the square. When the collectors had finished, or when bottom time had expired the divers would surface with the bags of samples. The shark guard would remain below water until all the other divers were safely back in the boat before leaving the water himself.

NEW FORM OF GUARD DUTY
Captain Raku as shark guard. 'Bangstick' at the ready and a small shark in background, under observation

SHARKS!

The shark guards were very necessary, very few dives were carried out without the presence of these predators. Their usual behaviour pattern was to circle the divers at about 8–15 ft distance, then occasionally coming in head first, turning away at the last minute. After about 20 minutes they would often lose interest and suddenly disappear altogether, although on other occasions they would persevere and become quite agitated. It was then that the bangsticks would come into use, and although they were never used in anger with the safety-catches off, many a shark received a sharp prod in the gills to remind him to keep his distance. Most of the sharks were of the whitetip reef variety, averaging 5–6ft in length, although it was the smaller youngsters which caused us most apprehension, their behaviour tended to be like that of playful pups, but with sharper teeth. Occasionally the larger ocean-going 14–16 ft blue sharks were seen, but these tended to be entirely uninterested in our presence and would go on their way disdainfully. On one occasion a huge hammerhead, 16 ft long and 4 ft between the eyes convinced our diving doctor, **Flight-Lieutenant Clive Studd,** that he was about to be eaten but again the shark sheared off at the last minute nearly knocking the doc's facemask off with its tail. It's often said that the only thing predictable about a shark is its unpredictability, and whilst we may have tended to be a little blase about them we always respected them, especially as in some areas we would often have up to fifty in sight around us and on occasions like that the adrenalin flows regardless. It was, however, a fascinating experience to be able to study these beautiful beasts at so close a range.



BEAUTIFUL BUT A POTENTIAL DANGER
A white tip reef shark glides silently by

CORAL A KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOUR

The underwater scenery was breathtaking and impossible to satisfactorily describe. On the leeward side of the islands the coral gardens where a kaleidoscope of colour, visibility of up to 200 ft, tropical fish of every variety and all completely unafraid. On the exposed seaward reefs there were fantastic vertical dropoffs and here it was often possible to carry out transect sampling from 40–150 ft from the same shotline, and beneath the team working at 150 ft the reef front would continue to drop vertically with no bottom in sight. At this depth of course, to ensure there was no requirement for decompression stops, the time limit from starting the dive to beginning to ascend was only eight minutes, but below 100 ft the coral growth diminishes and consequently the time taken to complete the task is reduced.

A WIDE VARIETY OF SAMPLES

The scientists were ecstatic over the variety of species collected. All the known Indian Ocean corals were soon identified and several previously unknown gena found. All the samples were listed and associated with transect number and depth and returned to the U.K. for further analysis at Durham. Other underwater work included mollusc and echinoderm (sea slug and starfish) collecting, and experiments performed underwater to measure the metabolism of various corals at different depths using a radio-active energy fixation agent. One selected coral head was photographed every 30 minutes throughout a 24-hour period to determine the complete day and night cycle of the polyps and other life forms present in the corals.

EXTENSIVE BIRD LIFE

The work was not all underwater. The transects were continued across the islands from shore to shore. Here the undergrowth and trees had to be cut to form channels along the line of the transect. The scientists would then put in a tremendous amount of footwork collecting plant and insect samples so that a complete ecological survey of the islands and their history could be formulated. With the exception of Eagle, all the islands were teeming with seabirds. Here the expedition's ornithologist, **Mont Hyrons,** came into his own and was soon busy with camera and notebook. Identifying, ringing, registering; fairy terns, sooty and noddy terns, shearwaters, herons, boobys, lesser and greater frigates, and all breeding. Eggs along the shoreline so dense it was difficult not to tread on them. **Mont** was in his element. Despite being a non-swimmer and in his mid-50s we somehow contrived to get him ashore on every island, often, in his lifejacket, towed through the surf at the end of a line. His final estimate was that there are colonies of a quarter-of-a-million birds breeding on the islands of the Chagos Bank and that these breeding grounds are hitherto unknown of in the ornithological world. A colony of a completely new type of booby was also found and one taken back to England for further investigation.

(*Continued on page* 225)

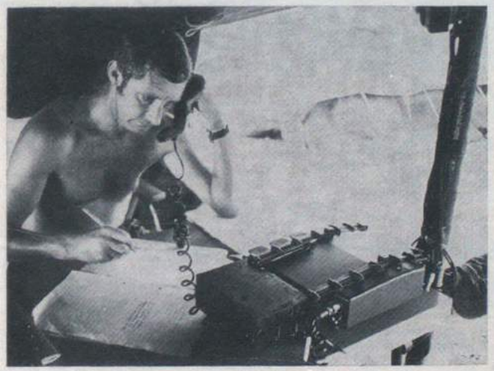
(*Continued from page* 224)

To complete the full programme, sub-expeditions of up to a week's duration had to be mounted to Three Brothers and Danger Islands and on these occasions we would travel on the ketch, towing a string of inflatables, and establish temporary camps on these islands from which to continue our work around these areas.

COMMUNICATIONS

The expeditions communication requirement was quite straightforward; a daily schedule back to civilisation, communications between the islands when required, communications to the ketch and short-range communications on the islands and between diving boats. Also required was a facility to be able to contact our rearlink station outside of schedule hours in an emergency. I was extremely fortunate, with the assistance of D. Tels M.O.D. to obtain two Clansman P.R.C.320s direct from Plessey. These equipments made communications simple. One was installed on the ketch, the other used as the base station on Eagle. An evening schedule was arranged with R.A.F. Gan using S.S.B. and good two-way communications were established on all except two occasions throughout the expedition. The P.R.C.320 was also used between the islands and in the initial stages of the expedition contact was made with Mauritius, some 1,100 miles west and the Resurgent en-route.

In an emergency we could contact Gan or the nearby base of Diego Garcia on the flight watch frequency and this we did once to prove the facility. I cannot speak too highly of the capabilities and performance of the 320. For the short-range island communications, and between inflatables, standard S.R.A.40s were used and again these worked exceptionally well and did all and more than was expected of them.



COMMUNICATIONS WERE A SUCCESS
Captain Raku operating the Clansman P.R.C. 320

TIME OFF

Evenings were spent relaxing with a cool beer and a discussion on the day's events. Saturday evening in particular was especially looked forward to, when the American base at Diego Garcia would air our own record request programme entitled 'Danger Island Discs', and we would receive messages from home. On these evenings each of the services would take it in turn to prepare a special Bar-B-Q to make a change from our normal compo diet. Here there was plenty of scope for the imaginative and coconut crab, shark steak, crayfish and grouper all adorned our table at various times. Sundays were sometimes a day of rest and yes, you've guessed it; after a later start, most of us went diving.

TELEVISED

Towards the end of the expedition the *Four Friends* sallied north to Gan once more to collect a B.B.C. television team who were to film the expedition, and for the last three weeks of our stay on Eagle we had the three-man team with us. They entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the expedition, to such an extent that **Peter Crawford,** the producer, after a crash diving course completed earlier at Fort Bovisand, carried out his very first sea dive with us in the Indian Ocean. After that we couldn't keep him out of the water. The title of the film is 'An Island Called Danger' and is to be screened on 3rd August B.B.C.2 in 'The World About Us' series.

JOURNEY'S END

The expedition completed its programme fully and it is hoped achieved some remarkable scientific results although it's going to take **David Bellamy** and his team the next two years to complete a full analysis of all the data collected.

Text of final Sitrep transmitted from the Joint Services Expedition to Danger Island:

'The work of the expedition to Danger Island is now complete. All objectives have been achieved. Life of the coral reef both above and below water is outstanding in quantity and variety. The expedition is of the opinion that the Great Chagos Bank ranks as an area of international importance and strongly recommends that it be recognised as a marine nature reserve.'

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OLD TIMES REMEMBERED

Left to right: Major Penny, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Dunbar, Lieutenant-Colonel Olds (seated), W.O.2 Payne, Corporal Gartside, Major Thompson, Staff-Sergeant Edmunds (seated), Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Gelling, Major McCann, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Marsh, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Beresford, Sergeant Titman

249 Signal Squadron (Farelf) hold Fourth Successive Reunion

SQUADRON SPIRIT BRINGS FIFTY EX-MEMBERS TOGETHER FOR A REAL NIGHT OUT

THE School of Signals was the venue for the fourth successive 249 Squadron Reunion which took place on 2nd May, just about five years from that fateful day when the finest field squadron the Corps has ever produced, was disbanded. Such is the affection felt for those busy exciting days of a nomadic life in distant parts of the world that no fewer than fifty ex-members turned up to mull over old times. **W.O.2 Eric Webster** and **W.O.1 'Hansome Fozz' Thornton** led parties from B.A.O.R. and AFCENT and several had made the trip across from Ulster to be with us. Perhaps the most creditable effort, however, was by **Sergeant Jim Lennon** who, when the Catterick members 'chickened out' of such a long journey, hitch-hiked down to join the party (we looked for him the following morning to give him a lift back but he was not to be found—presumably already walking back, or, as likely, still carousing with one of the late night splinter groups!)

A MEMORABLE EVENING

The arrangements were excellent, thanks to the hard work of **Major Ian Penny** and **W.O.2 (Yeoman) Harry Cook** and it was a memorable night. The Corps Museum had kindly loaned various relics which were proudly on display, the centre of attraction being the scrapbook (67 to 71) which revived a few forgotten memories. After a traditional curry and a toast to 'absent friends', the usual nursery rhymes and negro spirituals echoed into the quiet Blandford air as the entertainment committee took over.

For the benefit of ex-members a list of attenders follows. It will also be of interest for all to note that it was unanimously decided to continue with the yearly get-together and to that end U.K. and B.A.O.R. secretaries were appointed. They want to know the names and addresses of all ex-members so that they can keep you in touch with future arrangements and with your old mates. So get in touch with either:

Captain (T.O.T.) Cliff Webb, The Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, Yorkshire or

Major Ian Penny whose address will shortly be 22nd Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 107.

Those attending the reunion were:

Sergeant Anderson, Staff-Sergeant Beresford, Sergeant Betteridge, W.O.1. Bowes, Sergeant Butler, Corporal Chew, W.O.2. Cook, Lance-Corporal Davidson, W.O.2 Docherty, W.O.2 Donnelly, W.O.2 Dunbar, Captain Durrant, Sergeant Edginton, Staff-Sergeant Edmonds, Sergeant Farrell, Corporal Franklin, Sergeant Garside, Corporal Gibson, Sergeant Green, Sergeant Henning, Captain Horler, Sergeant Higgins, Sergeant Hodge, Major Knight, Staff-Sergeant Lamont, Sergeant Lennon, Lieutenant Lowe, Corporal Lofthouse, Major McKinley, Major McCann, Corporal McCormack, Corporal Marsh, Mr McPherson, Corporal Monton, Sergeant Nicholson, Lieutenant-Colonel Olds, Major Penny, Sergeant Pulman, Signaller Rees, W.O.1. Sinnett, Major Thompson, W.O.1 Thornton, Sergeant Titman, Mr Welsh, Captain Webb, W.O.2. Webster Corporal Wincup, Sergeant Wilson, Staff-Sergeant Wrightson, Sergeant Yallop—haven't they done well!

Report from the White Helmets

The season so far . . .

Contributed by Lance-Corporal Bob Barkess

OPENING SHOW

THE White Helmets 1975 season got under way on 12th April, with our opening Show which took place at the United States Air Force base West Ruislip. The weather (for once) was good with not a hint of our old adversary 'Big Bertha' (the team's pet name for a rain cloud). Unfortunately though, the arena did leave a lot to be desired as it was still rather wet but we managed to get through the show without any major mishaps. Among our many guests were the Signal Officer in Chief, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E., Brigadier R. A. King** (Commander Training Brigade), **Colonel J. P. Hart, O.B.E.** (Commanding Officer 8 Signal Regiment) and **Peter Purves** from Blue Peter, now an ardent fan of the team.

TOURING B.A.O.R.

Two days after the opening show we travelled to Dover for the start of our tour of the British Army on the Rhine. The first unit we visited was 16 Signal Regiment at Krefeld, where we did our show on the square, but I am afraid we upset the Department of Environment by performing our fire jump on their football pitch, and leaving a big burnt patch on it. From our accommodation at 16 Signal Regiment we did a show in a different unit every day, first being 28 Signal Regiment, then 13 Signal Regiment, where **Signalman 'Jethro' Nash** had a nasty fall from the car jump, as did **Signalman 'Cowboy' Cowderoy.** I think '13' was probably their unlucky number. The next day we were at 21 Signal Regiment, and did the show on grass (we were beginning to forget what it looked like).

Now came our big move to 4 Division where we were to be accommodated for the next ten days. From here we did displays at 2 Division, where we spoilt a nice quiet Sunday, 7 Signal Regiment where we had a bit of a problem in our opening ride, 12 Infantry Brigade (grass again?), 4 Guards Brigade, where **Signalman** (now **Lance-Corporal) Steve Clements** pulled his bike over in the Jump Ride and ripped the seat out of his trousers. In fact the damage was so bad that **Sergeant Pete Hallsworth** sent him away to make himself respectable again. Our next show was at 22 Signal Regiment, and this time it was **Corporal Graham Lonsdale's** turn to pull his bike over. No damage this time. The show at 4 Division included a display by **Corporal Mick Hanlon** (Team Corporal) on 'how to fall and hurt your elbow' in the Backwards Ride. Nice one, Mick!

Next came displays at 20 Armoured Brigade, Detmold, and 11 Brigade, Minden, the latter boasting the smallest crowd of the tour, due to the exercise commitment.

Once again it was time to move accommodation, this time to 1 Division, Verden, although only for one night. The show at 1 Division was received very well by a particularly appreciative crowd. The only mishap was when **Signalman Vince Borda** 'scored a goal' with his double jimmy, by running into a goal-post. Our next show was at 7 Brigade, Soltau, where they asked us not to rip the grass up as it was the only football pitch they had. I hope we did not do too much damage. The next day we had ONE WHOLE DAY off, back at 4 Division, we moved to our next showground at 6 Armoured Brigade, Soest. The show was held up for about 30 minutes as coaches carrying part of the Mohne School party were late. I am afraid we had a disastrous start to the show, with the arena looking like a battlefield after the opening ride. The grass was a bit greasier than we had expected and one or two came to grief, or, like **Signalman Bill Skee,** found it all a bit too much and rode for the comparative safety of the pits. Suffice it to say **Sergeant Hallsworth** threatened us with everything from postings to disbandment if the like ever happened again.

IN BELGIUM

The last show of the tour was at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium, but unfortunately, our show coincided with the Football Association Cup Final, so our crowd was made up mainly of Americans and wives, who were not football fans. We spent the weekend at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe before catching the midnight ferry back to the United Kingdom.

UP AND DOWN THE U.K.

Once back in England we looked forward to the unashamed luxury of one-and-a-half days off before travelling to one of the Team's favourite cities: Glasgow (all those dear children). The weather was back to normal again, and we had one or two displays called off, because of rain, the lads were bitterly disappointed, of course, but managed to grin and bear it.

Our next show involved a long overnight drive to the Midlands, to Telford where we did our first 'civvy' show of the season. The only incident that stands out in my mind about this venue was when **Lance-Corporal Dennis Fawcett** scraped the coach against someone's garden railings, whilst trying to negotiate a particularly tight entrance to the showground. The owner of the garden was quite nice about it, but we heard later that another five coaches did exactly the same thing after us. I pity the driver of the fifth coach.

MONS FESTIVAL

After Telford it was two days off and then back to Dover again for the ferry to take us to Belgium for the Mons Festival. We now had **Staff-Sergeant Hancock** back with us after having been in hospital for a few weeks with a collapsed lung. He must be one of the few people who had benefited from inflation.

We were accommodated once again at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe during our week in Belgium, but although the sleeping quarters were crowded (to say the least) our stay was on the whole very pleasant.

We gave two displays in Mons. One on the local football field, and the next at 9 p.m. on the town square. Both shows were received very well by the Belgian crowd, who I think were grateful for the break from the music. We were the only non-musical display of the night.

After the show on the square we stayed in town to help the locals celebrate whatever it is they were celebrating (I never did find out) not that they needed our help. They were dancing in the streets, and everybody looked as though they were really happy. The team's philosopher, **Signalman 'Taff' Evans,** summed it up when he said **'We've got nowt like this in Barnsley'.** Taff doesn't say much, but when he does everyone's a gem. Most of the team got back to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in the early hours of the next morning and tried to get a few hours' sleep before our trip back to the United Kingdom.

EDINBURGH

Once back in England we had a day off then travelled up to Edinburgh, which is where we are at the time of writing these notes. We have had quite a hectic time since we have been here, including three shows in one day. Two were in Edinburgh and one was at Rosyth about 15 miles away. We made it in time with the help of a Police Motorcycle Escort. As soon as we had finished the show at Rosyth, it was straight back again to Edinburgh for our third display in under four hours. **Corporal Graham Lonsdale** injured his heel during the first show, and was just recovering in his car, awaiting our arrival back in Edinburgh, when our Officer Commanding, **Captain Jim Blake,** skidded gently into him, with the team car, and put a beautiful dent in **Corporal Lonsdale's door. Captain Blake** was heard to remark that the grass was definitely as slippery as the team had said. **Captain Blake's** face, on the moment of impact, was a sight to behold.

That, then, is the season so far; as you can see it's been very busy, with the team covering a lot of ground. The season is still young and we have got a lot of miles still to travel, before we make our last overseas tour of the year to Berlin in November.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

In lieu of a crammer or learning the ropes as a potential Yeoman of Signals

by

Corporal John McKenzie of 233 Squadron N. Ireland

When posted to N. Ireland these days one should keep an open mind. Having previously spent an emergency tour with 39 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron. I knew that almost anything might be expected of me.

AN IDEAL PLACE TO LEARN

It therefore came as no surprise when I arrived at 233 Signal Squadron during November last year to find that I was to be detached to one of their outposts in the Province. After several months it transpired that although the work I was doing interested me, as a (hopeful) potential Yeoman of Signals I must spend some time practising my additional trade to the full in order to enhance my performance at the entrance exam. What better place to do this than within the confines of Headquarters Northern Ireland where every communications facility exists? As a Radio Telegraphist, the time spent in Commcen Norireland and Commcen Lisburn (the tape relay centre) should prove invaluable. These places are exclusively the habitat of Data Telegraphists.

WHY LARGE COMMCENS GET FEWER AWARDS?

Experience of a small tributary station administered by a Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron in Germany had given me an insight to the static tape relay network. The primary function of the Signal Squadron had been to provide communications for the Brigade in the field. The operators, all Radio Telegraphists, were commandeered from their mobile stations in the radio troops to man the static commcen. Due to this manpower shortage the number of operators on shift was always at a minimum. One operator would handle a message during all the stages of its processing. Mistakes are much more likely to become obvious if messages are handled by more than one person. I now believe this to be one of the reasons why the larger communication centres win so few Commstar Awards

A TAPE APE

Commcen Norireland is situated on the ground floor of the Main Headquarters building at Lisburn. When I started work there my first impression was the signal mindedness of everyone concerned. The prime task is to 'get that traffic passed' and what traffic! Almost half is in tabulated form and all immediate signals seem to be at least two pages long. My first task was to bring my teleprinter typing speeds up to the required standard and there was certainly no shortage of material for practice. I began to appreciate what it is to be a 'Tape Ape'. Many were the signals thrown back at me for the odd machine function or letter shift where it shouldn't be. The standard of tape preparation is extremely high and a Bronze Commstar Award bears this out.

CORRECT ADDRESSING DIFFICULT

From punching tape I progressed to the duties of out recorder. Whilst in this position it soon became obvious that the main difficulty as far as I was concerned, besides finding the correct routing indicator, was inserting the correct SMA (signal message address for the un-initiated). It should also be appreciated that routing information continuously changes due to the constant arrival and departure of units on emergency tours. My first attempts drew several comments from the three D.S.O.s, **Corporal Nick Stevenson, W.R.A.C. Sergeant Pat Stanton** and **Sergeant Idris Jones.** Under their guidance I persevere. However, as there seem to be so many different ways to express addresses where only one can be correct, I am convinced I'll continue to make the occasional error.

HUNDREDS OF DESPATCHES CAN BE UNNERVING

After a day or so in the Signals Despatch Office I felt more like a postman than a soldier. All the mysteries of bagged and bundled despatches became clear but I'm still not sure if I filed the transit slips correctly. The sight of several Signals Despatch Service drivers arriving from all over the Province with hundreds of despatches requiring sorting, registration and delivery is quite unnerving at first. Air despatches have to be prepared, drivers and vehicles with escorts found for high precedence traffic and there is always the person who comes with an urgent package just after the bag is sealed.

LISBURN COMMCEN

Perhaps the most novel experience for me as a Radio Telegraphist was to work in Commcen Lisburn, the tape relay centre. This building has only recently come into operation and all agree that it is a vast improvement. Previously the relay centre was situated in the same building as the tributary. Operators working both in the relay centre and tributary belong to the same shift so there is plenty of scope for interchange. This ensures that all telegraphists attain an all round employment of skills and procedures. The flow of tape over the circuits never seems to cease but with operators of the calibre of the Royal Signals ably assisted by W.R.A.C. Data Telegraphists there never seemed to be any delays.

In the 'Stats' (statistics) office, the troop **Staff-Sergeant, Bob Patterson,** compiles data on every aspect of message handling for both the relay centre and tributary. Only when these statistics are known does it become really obvious just how much the staff at HQNI and units throughout Northern Ireland rely on Royal Signals communications.

For the young telegraphist wishing to gain all round experience this is the place to come.

Ah well! Off to discover the mysteries of the Telephone Exchange!

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 801

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	.. ..	**Major A. F. Carter,** Royal Signals
2IC	.. ..	**Captain R. L. Windmill,** Royal Signals
Admin Offr	.. ..	**Captain (Q.M.) A. C. Downes,** Royal Anglian
QM	.. ..	**Captain (Q.M.) S. J. Raynor,** Royal Signals
OC Comms Tp	..	**Lieutenant L. Fox,** Royal Signals
2IC Comms Tp	..	**Lieutenant J. B. M. Macleod,** Royal Signals
RSM	.. ..	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. Sinnett**
Y. of S.	.. ..	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. J. Tunmore**
F. of S.	.. ..	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) I. Forbes**
RQMS	.. ..	**WO.2. (R.Q.M.S.) J. F. Milton**
Chief Clerk	.. ..	**Staff-Sergeant (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) D. S. Berry**

OUR THOUGHTS

From our point of view in Londonderry the Convention Election took place quietly, only 18 soldiers, were injured. The ceasefire is still in being but bomb and shooting incidents still continue and vehicles are still hi-jacked. Our communications continue to provide the users with an ever-improved service with many of the little bugs now out of the system.

VISIT OF CR SIGNALS

Recently **Lieutenant-Colonel C. N. Last** appeared from H.Q. Northern Ireland to pay the Squadron and Roulement City Battalions an informal visit. The weather was perfect and everyone appeared in very good spirits.

8 BRIGADE 'HEAVIES'

The Deputy Commanders rover group from left to right: Private Tinkler, Signalman Morgan, Colonel Shuttleworth, Driver Rae, Signalman Benson

BEING IN A ROVER GROUP HAS ITS POINTS

The Commander Brigadier D. Houston, O.B.E., treats members of his Rover Group to champagne in the Squadron's club after having just launched his new Land-Rover

Left to right: Sergeant Stirzaker, Captain R. L. Windmill, Private McLean, R.P.C., Private Soutar, R.P.C., Private McVeigh, R.P.C., Private Bardell, R.P.C., Signalman McBain, Brigadier D. Houston, O.B.E.

BEATING OF THE RETREAT

The 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers, the Band, Drums and Bugles of the Battalion beat retreat at 1800 hrs on 14th May, 1975, at Ebrington Barracks. The Commander, **Brigadier D. Houston, O.B.E.,** had declared the occasion as an opportunity for the Officers and W.O.s and S.N.C.O.s to invite private guests along to listen and afterwards to drinks in the Messes. **Signalman Bush** whilst in full view of the City of Londonderry lowered the flag. **Sergeant John Sture** rolled out his TV equipment and enabled those members of units who could not attend to sit back and watch all on their colour TVs.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This has been a fairly heavy month for personnel changes. We say 'Hello and Welcome' to:

Lance-Corporal Hedges, Lance-Corporal Brady, Lance-Corporal Thompson (A.C.C.), **Signalman Philips.**

We say 'goodbye and thank you and good luck' to:

Major Wallace (R.A.O.C.), **Lance-Corporal Young, Lance-Corporal Crook** (A.C.C.).

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 801

A NEW EXPERIENCE—LEARNING TO BE A DOG HANDLER

BY SIGNALMAN I. P. SMITH

WHAT had I let myself in for? Arriving at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Training Centre, I looked across the barren parade ground to the ancient wooden 'spider' accommodation (which was to be my home for the next three months), down the rainy and windswept hill to the kennels, where in the midst of all the clamour of barking dogs was the one which would become my partner for the next 18 months. I wondered what I had let myself in for. Further on in the distance was the artificial village, odd vehicles, a complete train and an aircraft of the 'Heron' class, all of which were to be used to train the dogs and handlers in their new-found job.

At the Army Dog Training School

Volunteering for a tour with the Arms Search Dogs (not Sniffers) in Northern Ireland, I was sent from 39 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron to the Army Dog Training School in Leicestershire, where I was to learn the in's and out's of a search handler. During the time there I learnt everything from cleaning out kennels to marching with a dog (and praying that I didn't trip over it), learning about dog illnesses and the skills of searching occupied and unoccupied buildings, vehicles, trains and planes plus, of course, all types of outside areas imaginable with all types of distractions thrown in for good measure, and in all sorts of weather conditions.

After being issued with my dog, a golden labrador called Sady, I was to try to master all the knacks, plus making sure that the dog obeys your every command straight away (to make sure that he doesn't 'leg it' when he sees a rabbit).

During the course, we were sent to the R.E. Search Team Training Establishment, to learn about some of the sneaky places explosives and arms can be hidden and about the types of booby trap that the not so dumb Irish terrorist has developed with the purpose of killing or maiming any unsuspecting 'squaddy' who happens to go along (or more often than not, the dog and handler). Also we were to do a night clearance exercise, where the 'enemy' tried to distract the dogs by any means possible, even to the extent of staging mini-riots, throwing thunderflashes and firing blanks. It was here that the importance of discipline was shown.

BACK ON DUTY

At last, during the first weeks of January, I was to find myself posted to the Army Dog Unit at Long Kesh, where I was to join the 37 or so different cap badges being worn in the unit. From there I was sent to 8 Infantry Brigade in Londonderry, where I was issued with the latest fashion in 'bone dome' (crash helmet) and body armour.

Life in the Brigade area isn't too bad, spending two weeks a month out in the area working under command of the units on the ground then after a couple of days' rest, back to work in any trouble spots in the city itself. The amount of work depends naturally on what is happening, although you are guaranteed to be out at least once a day.

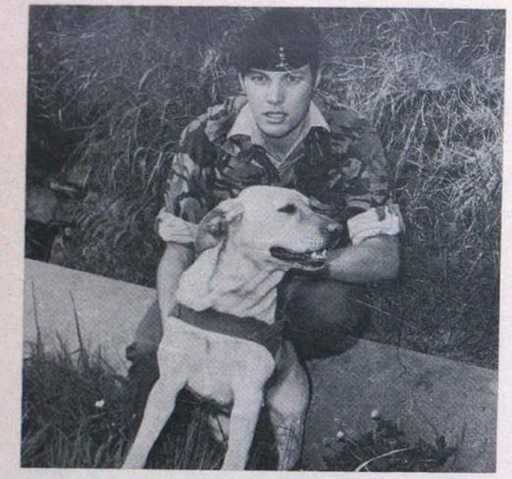
It takes a couple of jobs to settle down and to realise that now you are the boss and it is you that is in front, and everyone else is watching you. Every time your dog indicates, it becomes a possible booby trap, so extreme caution is taken at all times.

FIRST FIND

It is your first find that gives you that confidence in your dog (in my case it was a 175 lb culvert bomb on a routine route clearance) that is needed to be a success.

Finally a word of caution to all would-be handlers that are joining for the glamour and time off, there isn't any and it may be weeks before you can drink (alcohol that is). If you are looking for a different type of job, and do not mind hard graft, often with no results, also if you are something of a monk, volunteer for dogs and—

'WIN WITH WAGTAIL!'



A GOOD TEAM

Signalman J. P. Smith and his arms search dog 'Sady'. They found a 175-lb culvert bomb

SQUADRON NEWS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Throughout the year the Squadron is very active with two local homes, in addition to the regular summer requests for marquees, etc., around the local schools. One of the homes is an orphanage where we have spent a lot of time in the last three months. It wasn't just spring cleaning but it included much painting and decorating as well as converting a cellar drying room into a children's play room. We don't call it a romper room in Northern Ireland. The material for the projects was 'found' by the R.S.M., who's technique appears to be a phone call, a couple of drinks with the suppliers(?) at lunch time, followed by 4 tonners laden with paint, timber, hardwood, plywood, plaster, screws and nails turning up by 14.30 hours. He's after a scrambling net now for an adventure playground.

HIGH POWERED DO-IT-YOURSELF

Redecorating a local orphanage playroom

W.O.I (R.S.M.) Colin French, Staff-Sergeant 'Spike' Hawthorne (R.A.O.C.), Staff-Sergeant Brien Jones (R.M.P.), Sergeant Gordon McKenzie (R.A.O.C.), Sergeant Wally Kitching, Corporal Bill Parker, Signalman Jock Reynolds and Jock Hynd were the main work force. When not decorating they assisted with homework

WEEKEND FOR TWO

Some people have all the luck! This time it was the turn of **Signalman Ray Dunn** and his wife Elenora. In February the City of London Signals, 56 London Division Signals O.C.A., Despatch Riders motorcycle display team, very kindly invited us to send a soldier and his wife, not only to their reunion dinner/dance, but to stay in Eastbourne for a week with full board and accommodation. Volunteers were not hard to find! In the event the original lucky man was taken ill at the very last minute and **Ray Dunn's** lucky number came up. I wonder if people used to move as fast, with wife, when this was an Airportable Squadron. Needless to say they both had a marvellous time. Thank you very much City of London Signals.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The following have joined the Squadron recently, thank goodness the monthly turnover isn't normally this large. We hope that they will enjoy their tour in Ulster:

Captain S. S. Paul who is our new O.C. Communications Troop and **Sergeant Smith (R.C.T.), Corporals Howe** and **Knight, Lance-Corporals Barber, Browell** (R.A.O.C.), **Church** (R.P.C.), **Northover** (R.P.C.), **Signalmen Little, Waud, Wilson, Wright** and **McCreadie, Drivers Abbott, Carnall, Hunt, McIlraith** (all R.C.T.), and **Private McCallion** (R.A.O.C.).

During this period we said goodbye to:

Captain I. N. Carruthers who left us for the wide world of commercialism, and **Sergeants Banks, Brien** (R.A.O.C.), **Ecroyd** (R.C.T.), **Corporals Corder** (R.C.T.), **Fillmore, Grant, Morgan** (R.A.O.C.), **Thwaites** and **Wilson,** Lance-**Corporals Murtha** (R.A.O.C.), **Podzuns** (R.C.T.), **Tope** and **Waugh** (R.P.C.), **Signalmen Dingwall, Edge** and **Holgate, Drivers Gee** and **Pestell.**

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

FAREWELL TO 'PEREGRINE'

This was not to be just another farewell report for THE WIRE as far as we were concerned when **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) D. E. P. Cox** left upon commissioning. 'Old Peregrine' as he was affectionately referred to (never to his face mind) was a 'good egg'. His popularity was so high in the Troop that some of the hardened W.R.A.C. members, such as **Corporal Rena McGregor** and **Lance-Corporal Skatty Eaton** were actually reduced to tears.

When a date was decided for his farewell party from the Troop just what could they do to make it memorable for Peregrine, he of the Bow Bells tongue? Well, to suit his 'Cockney' accent a cap 'n' braces night was in order. The troop to a soldier (we are a mixed troop so can't say man) turned out in some form of attire (what a mess). The only ones who couldn't make it were the On Duty shift; however, they took it in turns to squeeze an hour in.

The party was a great success highlighted by his presentation(s). They started when the boss of the outfit **Captain (Tfc) John Ankers** gave him a pen and pencil set, nothing unusual about that you might think? No! Well it was an Army issue pen and a 2B pencil. Next came his 'Boggy' bashing stick (shillelagh).

The grand finale of six silver goblets, one from each section of the COMMCEN; the first from **Captain Ankers** on behalf of the day workers, this was followed by one from each shift, **A-Lance-Corporal Anna Whitehead, B—Lance-Corporal Chris Pritchard, C—Corporal Sammy Knox** (note only three), for the Telephone Exchange **Corporal Rena McGregor** ending with **Signalman John Daley** on behalf of the SDS crews and technical staff. As the Senior N.C.Os. of the Squadron were to present him with a silver tray, the goblets seemed an ideal gift and, we have since learnt these now grace 'Chez Cox' admirably.

As with most of these functions food is of prime importance. Our W.R.A.C. 'cordon bleu' really showed their true feminine characteristics. **Private Sue Hammett** supervising **Skatty Eaton** and **Rena McGregor,** put on an excellent ploughman's lunch, the likes of which went down (and came up) very well. **Sergeant Idris Jones** and **Corporal Steve Stevenson** along with a willing band

arranged the décor of the 'Peake Inn' most suitably for the occasion. Our own **Lance-Corporal Graham Murray** and **Private Babs Lightfoot** supplied the music to make this a most enjoyable, though a somewhat sad, evening.

DAY-TO-DAY HAPPENINGS

'Old Peregrine' goes, likewise his replacement arrives and we would like to say welcome to **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Peter Gray** and his wife **Elaine** and daughter **Amanda.** We would all like to add our congratulations to **Corporal Jeff Trembeth** and **Lance-Corporal Sylvia Duff** on their marriage on 29th May, and hope they'll be very happy together. Because of the size of the troop we are always having arrivals and departures:

Departures: **Corporal Dave Jones, Corporal Liz Lowe, Private Dianne Southby, Signalman Dave Hart, Signalman Alec Brown, Signalman Brian Smurthwaite, Signalman Taff Treharne, Signalman Scouse Evans, Lance-Corporal Gwen Aldred, Lance-Corporal Pat Jackson, Lance-Corporal Mary McCuish, Lance-Corporal Eileen Lalor and Lance-Corporal Rosie Rees.**

Arrivals.—**Sergeant Bill Metcalfe, Signalman Paul Adams, Corporal John Griffith-Williams, Signalman Steve Crosthwaite, Signalman Tom Williamson, Lance-Corporal Ange Morton, Lance-Corporal Kip Malham, Private Jean McGranaghan, Private Elizabeth Hurst, Private Helen Thompson, Private Yvonne Glen, Private Lynda Probert, Private Liz Tyson, Private Jan Petty and Private Mandy Pateman.**

To all who have left thank you for the sterling work. To the new arrivals, we hope you have a happy and enjoyable stay with the troop.

News from Regiments

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

VICTORY was ours. The scene was Horsten ranges near Hohne and 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment were sharing first place with 3LI for the Major Units skill-at-arms trophy. It was a proud moment as we received the Generals cup after three hard days of competitive shooting. We had beaten 15 other major units which included 4 Infantry Battalions known for their shooting expertise.

The team had won the L.M.G., pistol and small-bore matches, came fourth in the S.M.G. and equal second with 3LI in the S.L.R. match. To polish off this performance one of the team members, **Squadron-Leader Henry Prince,** won the coveted 1 Division individual skill-at-arms championship.

When we first heard that we were entering the 1 Div skill-at-arms meeting we cast aside our prejudices and scoured the Regiment for volunteers. Within a short space of time we had recruited a talented side consisting of:

Major Arthur Harvey, R.A.
Squadron-Leader Henry Prince, R.A.F.
Sergeant Bob Sadler, R.A.
Sergeant Bill White, R.A.
Sergeant Dave Bright, R.E.M.E.
Lance-Corporal Keith Pardy, R.E.M.E.
Signalman Colin Peck, Royal Signals.
Signalman Tony Gaynor, Royal Signals
Signalman Steve Joyce, Royal Signals
Driver Steve Sampson, R.C.T.
Gunner Charlie O'Docherty, R.A.

Captained by **Lieutenant Peter Hryhoruk,** training started on Exercise Green Finch and this was followed up by two weeks of intensive range work. Up every morning at 0600 hrs and shooting all day was hard work but the team saw themselves slowly improving. Confidence and enthusiasm increased as they approached the first day of the shoot—but they were under no illusions as to the calibre and skill of the opposition.

The event itself was a cliff-hanging affair. At the end of the second day, after winning the L.M.G., pistol and small-bore matches, the S.L.R. competition was in the balance as **Sergeant Bob Sadler,** our anchor man, went in to shoot.

The results couldn't have been closer. After 10 team members had fired, both 3 L.I. and ourselves had scored 482 points each putting us equal second behind 1 P.W.O. in the S.L.R. match placings. This meant that we would split the points allocated for second place in the overall championship. With only the S.M.G. match to come the championship was still wide open.

After a day's break for the E.E.C. referendum we returned refreshed and ready for battle. There was no reprieve; the tension and pressure quickly mounted as the scores came in confirming the small score margin between the top teams. As our last man went in to shoot the S.M.G. we all realised that the championship depended on this result. **Sergeant Bob Sadler** again shot well, leaving us 4 hits behind 3 L.I., but well clear of our nearest rivals 1 P.W.O. As the points were allocated we realised that 3 L.I. had been awarded 14 points to our 13 placing them equal first place with us in the overall championship result. Out came the rule book to see which match was the tie breaker and remarkably it was the S.L.R. match in which we had both also tied. The match committee discussed the problem in an effort to find a fair method of breaking the tie, but in the end the wisdom of Solomon prevailed. It was ruled that both teams would share the trophy.

It had been a hard-fought competition and we had fired against numerous skilful marksmen and had come out on top.

EXERCISE GREEN FINCH III—SUMMER CAMP

THE IDEA

The Training Major, **Graham Saunders,** was, this year, virtually given a free rein for the Regiment's annual summer camp. But the following guidelines were given; every man must fire his personal weapon (for at least a couple of days), undergo N.B.C., P.E. and swimming training and tests, carry out a low level adventure training exercise and some sporting activity. The camp was to be run by Squadrons and last for two weeks. This was where earlier liaison with our German Signal unit colleagues was renewed and exercised to the full. A quick telephone call to **Herr Leutnant Görk** (S3 Ausbildung) with Fernmeldebataillon 610 at Rendsburg and over half the preparatory arrangements were dealt with in a surprisingly quick and efficient manner. Allocation of a camp site, storage of arms and ammunition, fire equipment, provision of P.O.L. and water, medical cover, disposal of rubbish were all taken on by the Fernmeldebataillon—N.A.T.O. works wonders.

PREPARATION

Major Ed Mulley chaired the first conference in barracks. **Captain Jim Esson** again volunteered to be Camp Adjutant and **W.O.2 Paddy McLaughlin** took a note that sufficient 160 lb tents would be required for 400 all ranks. A flying visit some days later was made to **Rendsburg** and confirmation of all facilities was gratefully received.

ACTION

2 Squadron set up the camp on 29th–30th April and what a fine job they did too. 'Canvas City' soon took shape and was ready for Phase I to begin on 1st May. The nominal roll was made up from 2 Squadron and elements from 3 and 'H.Q.' Squadrons for Phase I. There were 15 Groups of 10–15 soldiers all of whom went through 'the system'. A camp parade was held every morning at 0800 hrs and by 0815 hrs the camp areas was deserted except for the skeleton administrative staff. 1 Squadron ran Phase 2.

RANGES

With the N.A.T.O. ranges at **Rendsburg** completely at our disposal and nine qualified instructors a lot was achieved. Half a day dry training followed by zeroing and application of fire with two runs at the classification on day two produced results. This was finalised with a night shoot. Meanwhile **Lieutenant Peter Hryhoruk** was giving thoughts to selecting Class B shots for the Div skill-at-arms meeting in June. On the final reckoning two weeks later 352 all ranks had fired the classification and 316 had passed—88 per cent. success This has given us a head start for the rest of this year.

N.B.C.

Gas training was realistic and included demonstrations, a coverage of full N.B.C. drills—and a simulated atomic explosion (One had to remember to telephone the neighbouring German airfield at Hohn to let them know that there was no need to react to the characteristic mushroom cloud.) Hard tack biscuits have now been struck off every soldiers' diet after eating them in a C.S. environment! But over 300 can breathe easy again until next year.

P.E.

S.S.I. Bill Irwin and A.I.s P.T. set up the new P.E. course and enjoyed coaching, pushing, coaxing and recording for two weeks. Everyone had a 'dry run' then (on another day—thank goodness) took the test. Times ranged from 5 min 21 sec to 8 min for that last mile. The whole course proved an obstacle for many and cries of 'I'd rather do the 10 miles bash—Anytime' were often gasped. Over 250 can relax at least until next year.

Major Ed Mulley (O.C. 2 Sqn and Camp Commandant Phase 1) presents Corporal 'Nobby' Noble with the plaque for champion shot class A S.L.R. . . .

. . . and Corporal Ralph Porter with the plaque for champion shot class A S.M.G. He also won the S.M.G. competition

Major Ken Doyle (O.C. 1 Sqn and Camp Commandant Phase 2) presents the cup and plaques to the winners of the falling-plate competition from H.Q. Squadron

ADVENTURE TRAINING—EXERCISE FORK LIFT

This exercise was designed to test the group leaders' qualities of initiative, planning and map reading. The scenario indicated that several N.A.T.O. helicopters had crashed somewhere within a five-mile radius of camp and reports received gave their locations either as grid references or grid bearings from these grid references. These helicopters were carrying various essential combat supplies and ordnance stores but as to which helicopter carried which items remained a mystery—and still does to some who took part! The aim of the exercise was to recover these items in the shortest possible time and bring them all back to camp with the group still intact. Local units had been warned of the exercise and since any military vehicles were to be considered as hostile the sight of a British soldier diving into a ditch or over a hedge was not uncommon. This proved an expensive and messy precaution when carrying a dozen eggs (loose). Stores and supplies consisted of spare wheels, eggs/potatoes, chairs folding flat and full water cans. All groups enjoyed the exercise and times home were varied—and interesting in some cases.
in some cases.

SWIMMING

The local Schwimm Meister accepted over 250 British soldiers, whose A.F. B2672 showed that they had not yet passed the military proficiency swimming test, and allowed us good use of the Hallenbad and Freibad in Rendsburg. **Captain Tim Mountford** and **Staff-Sergeant Bob Mawson** (when he wasn't playing the accordion) took on the task of testing those who could swim and helping those who couldn't float. Many personal survival awards in bronze, silver, gold and honours were obtained—and P.R.I. drowned in the swimming bill.

(*Continued on page* 233)

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs!

Let's have that Story!

(*Continued from page* 232)

SPORT

This activity was designed initially to give everyone a chance to kick or throw a ball around. But the inevitable challenge was accepted from Fernmelde bataillon 1 to enter a soccer competition. Our teams were literally made up from those groups who were programmed for sport on that morning or afternoon. After our first 10–2 resounding defeat we 'rustled up' a near Regimental team and won 3–1 in the next round. 'Ach so' said the German coach—and we never won another game! At last we were awarded with a certificate at the end, for taking part it is believed.

SOCIAL

Extra mural activities were plentiful and interesting. Brevity of these notes on the subject does not suggest that they are not worthy of mention, rather that the experiences are too numerous to mention. **Lieutenant Mike Sheehan** and **Lieutenant Ken Hadfield** looked after visits to places of local interest and transport left at 1900 hrs every night for evening excursions.

We hosted the Fernmeldebataillon 1 and they hosted us—and we hosted them—and . . . excellent liaison! They were glad to have us there and we were lucky to be there. We exchanged notes, goodwill and Regimental plaques.

COMPETITIONS

An incentive for everyone to do his best in all activities was the prizes. Cups and medals were awarded for shooting both in individual achievements and for the S.M.G. match and falling plate competitions. Prizegiving took place at the end of each phase. The winners of ex. Fork Lift readily accepted a crate of beer. It was interesting to note that the winners of the falling plate competition in Phase I had three members of their team who had failed to classify. Nobody was more amazed than the unit marksmanship instructors who had spent two days trying to get them to hit a figure 11 or figure 12 target.

Reports indicate that everyone enjoyed 'Summer Camp' and we certainly now have a head start for the year with the task of completing classification, N.B.C. and P.E.

QUOTES FROM SUMMER CAMP

Scene: 25m range night shooting. Detail called forward and told to adopt the sitting position.

Sergeant Hunt (coach)—'OK, lads, sit down'.

(A few seconds later) 'Come on, lad—*Turn Round*'.

Scene: **Major Saunders** confirming night shooting details with **Lieutenant Görk.**

Major Saunders—'Are you quite sure we can night fire on Sundays?'

Lieutenant Görk—'Ja, aber quietly please!'

Scene: Pistol range—**Major Saunders** coaching **Captain Peter Didamms,** R. Aust. Signals.

Major Saunders: 'O.K. Peter, we'll start off with pistol shooting then you can have a go at swimming, the P.E. test and N.B.C. training. When was the last time you did anything like this?'

Captain Didamms: 'Vietnam . . .'

FAREWELLS

CAPTAIN MIKE JOHNSON

With the return of **Captain (now Major) Mike Johnson** to his native Canada, we lose another of the succession of Canadian exchange officers who have become a characteristic feature of the Regiment.

Mike's arrival in August 1973 and his subsequent stay in the Officers Mess quickly convinced any who had doubts on the matter that our friends from across the water certainly had no lack of spirit in things either military or social. Often was the dreaded cry 'Dead Ants!' known to disrupt into an undignified rabble a group of (at first sight) very staid bar-flies.

With the arrival of **Julie,** his wife, and his children, **Tracy** and **Trevor,** the Mess lost one of its leading lights who did not allow his return to respectability to hinder his self-expression in other directions. **Mike** quickly took control of the Regimental basketball team and led them to many successes through his expert transatlantic tactics.

However, it was on exercise that most people had a chance to see **Mike's** true worth. Visits to the A2 Troop Radio Village and Radcon were inevitably worth while, not only from the literary point of view but also on account of its being a haven of sanity when all around disasters and despair seemed imminent. Such cries of 'You do the goddam dog-watch' (whatever that meant) were a characteristic that the merry men of A2 learned to associate with exercises the length and breadth of 1 Division area.

We wish **Mike, Julie and the children** the very best of luck with their next posting, and hope that they have found their short association with the 'Goddam Brits' both as amusing and rewarding as ours has been with them.

MAJOR PETER McNAUGHTON

On 18th June **Major Peter McNaughton** departs after three years as our Quartermaster (Technical) and returns once again to Scotland; he first enlisted there as a boy soldier in 1943. His move takes him this time to Edinburgh University O.T.C. and their gain is certainly our loss.

Major Peter McNaughton

There is no mention of his hard work in these notes; **Peter** can read all about that in his C.R. but his efforts have been appreciated by the Regiment. We soon found out that his bark *was* worse than his bite!

Unfortunately (for us) he takes his wife **Joan** with him and the Verden Station library will not be the same without her calm efficiency and smiling face. We wish them both all the best of luck north of the border and remind them that the caravan sites in Scotland are not quite the same as those in Italy.

LIEUTENANT MIKE SHEEHAN

2 Squadron say farewell to **Lieutenant Mike Sheehan** who commands the Rebro Troop. **Mike,** a man of many talents, an excellent musician (flute, trumpet and guitar) and a talented artist, will be missed by the Squadron. He brought an air of refinement to Rebro Troop. We wish him success on his course and in his next posting to 20th Armoured Brigade.

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'HOW TO BE FAMOUS IN ONE EASY LESSON' OR 'BECOME A WIRE NOTES WRITER'

READERS of the March-April edition of THE WIRE will remember the article written by **Corporal Parry** on his trip to the Arctic Circle. At that time **Corporal Parry** was in 3 Squadron of this Regiment. A short while ago he moved across into H.Q. Squadron to become the Training Wing Clerk (under the wing of our ornithological and magnificently moustached Training Major/Divisional Recce Officer, **Major Bill Griffiths**). His experiences in that squadron (see below) must surely prove the truth of our heading this month? Or perhaps just that the H.Q. Squadron middle management are a crafty lot who do at least read THE WIRE regularly.

PARRY'S PARISH

Monday, 2nd June, started out to be a quite routine sort of day, no panics, no calamities, when suddenly the Alexander Bell's invention spoke to break the silence. Picking up the receiver, I said, 'Training Wing, **Corporal (Fingers) Parry** speaking, can I help you?' Well, that was a mistake for a start! The caller, **Sergeant George Black** said 'Yes, the O.C. (**Major Freddie Hodges,** Royal Hussars, including his bodyguard Kai (an Alsatian with whom no one argues)) would like you to write another article for THE WIRE magazine. You have two days in which to produce something, can you manage it?' Before I could reply the call was terminated. What could I say, it was futile to protest so without further ado and the determination of a Reuter correspondent I grabbed pencil and paper and set off to reconnoitre the working departments of the squadron.

My first port of call was the most distant, that of the L.A.D., commanded by **Captain Charles Munro.** On entering the busy factory-like premises where the mixture of men, metals and sweat including the odd comment ground against the progression of time there seemed no need for words. And as I approached each for their comments they seemed to have little to say for themselves—so all I can say is thank you to each and every member of our L.A.D. for their splendid efforts in maintaining our bent and twisted vehicles—the R.E.M.E. serve us well.

Retracing my steps towards the Squadron Office, I noticed a small and rather insignificant sign with the words F.A.M.T.O./F.A.T.S.O. Once inside, an impressive store of neatly-lined shelves with all the hard-to-come-by accessories was apparent and a quiet gentleman by the name of **Signalman Brian Souter** approached me. On explaining my tale of woe he pointed to a large notice board inscribed with the following, 'Make sure your brain is engaged before putting your mouth into gear!' Prior to my departure, he said, 'There's one thing we would like to say and that is to congratulate **Lance-Corporal Jed Nutall** on his recent promotion.'

Moving on towards the M.T.O.'s empire it struck me that the modern concept of the M.T. Section is a far cry from the camel park of times gone by, although the odd military caravan can still occasionally be seen prior to an exercise. No constructive comments came from the R.C.T. drivers as they were away for their N.A.A.F.I. break. The only Signals representative, **Corporal Eddie Evans** did say, 'I'm still trying to educate these drivers'.

Somewhat despondent at the response to my pleas for interesting items to report I made for my last destination—the Regimental Headquarters. At least, I thought I would find my scoop of the day, here in the heart of the Regiment. But since their recent upheaval of 'All Change' accommodation (due to barrack modernisation) they have again settled down to some sense of security, false though it may be. The clerks, **Lance-Corporal Ray Munro, Lance-Corporal Eric Budkiewicz** and **Signalman Pete Baldock** are overwhelmed by the latest facilities offered to them in this technological era! Like typewriters! The décor of the new offices is out of this world! But regardless of their surroundings, the morale of all concerned (Clerks that is) remains high. Last, but by no means least, is small sub-section of R.H.Q.—Q.M. Technical, under the direction of **Captain (Q.M.) Graham MacDonald** and **R.Q.M.S. Shaw.** Busy with pen, paper, ink and ledgers are the workers **Corporal Andy Anderson,** the newest of the new, **Lance-Corporal Ken Jones,** the latter being the main backbone of the department or is it rugby! The squadron offer him their congratulations on his recent promotion—only another five steps to go?

In passing I must mention that a Novices boxing competition is to be held on the 12th and 13th June and the squadron would like to pay homage to the volunteers! They are, brave lads, **Corporal Jack Christian, Corporal Tom Gratton, Lance-Corporal Dave Tressider, Lance-Corporal Jack Smith** and **Signalman Brian Hobson,** but as yet their opponents are unknown.

Finally, a note of sadness enters our squadron with the posting of **W.O.2 Andy** and **Mrs. Anderson,** but we would like to wish them every success in their new posting, and we welcome in their place, the new Vice-Chairman of the squadron **W.O.2 J. Keenan** of the Royal Artillery.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON 4 SQUADRON—CORPS V.H.F. GENERALLY SPEAKING

ALTHOUGH the smallest squadron by miles or megs or men or whatever, the 'yellow peril' (named so after the colour of the Squadron cravats) do sterling stuff. Alfa Troop supply the terminals at Corps Headquarters, where such stalwarts as **Sergeants 'Steady' Eddy Turner, Ray 'Behind the Knees' Hawkins** and **Clint (The one who never works) Mogg,** and many others besides, can be found.

Bravo Troop (the folks that live on the hill) merrily rebroadcast anything and everything. **Corporals Taff Cleves, Paddy 'The loo-tenant' Davey, Rick Ward** and **Olly Walton** all run excellent detachments whilst **Sergeant John (AH-DAD!) King** keeps a paternal eye on all matters relating.

In periods between exercises (a rare occurrence so they say) the 'Lemons' do fit in some other activities. They won the Page Trophy football and were runners up in the Herford Garrison football league. In summer, plans have been made for a Squadron camp at Berches—er—Berckles—er—Burk—well, you know, the **Eagles Lair** place. You have been warned.

Amusement, however, is not only restricted to outside exercises. On a recent, well-known, exercise, a certain Brigadier and **Sergeant Rickets** had a teleprinter conversation. An extract is shown below:

'How about an answer to my question now that you have had time to check the Grid KKKK.'
'If you are the Brigadier then I am a Monkey's . . . KKKK'.
'Sadly as you will find when I have gone you are KKKK'

Finally, the whole Squadron, at the moment, is undergoing rebirth pains as key personalities change. **Major Jim Pertwee** is off to the U.S.A., whilst **Major Alistair Hood** has taken over after the long trip from H.Q. R. Signals, Bielefeld. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Sandy Reid** has recently assumed this position, on promotion, whilst **Lieutenant Mark Grieves** earnestly believes that a relief is on the way! **Captain Mike Wallis,** however, is remaining. However, you cannot mention 4 Squadron without mentioning the S.Q.M.S., **Staff-Sergeant Jim Tunney** who is off to Berlin, on promotion, shortly. The Squadron and the Rugby Club will miss him.

HOCKEY

Not to be outshone by other sports, the hockey team won the 4th Division Hockey Cup this month. **Majors Jim Pertwee** and **Bob Siderfin, Second-Lieutenant Morgan, W.O.2s Scott** and **Bland, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) McDonald, Corporals Hyward, Goslyn,** and **Holmes, Lance-Corporal McDonald** and **Signalman Garlick,** as well as substitutes **Sergeant Foster** and **Signalman Jones** were involved in a tremendous struggle with our near neighbours, 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regt. At full time there was no score, and the situation was unchanged after the first period of extra time. However, during the final period **Lance-Corporal Sandy McDonald** scored two goals and **Corporal Paddy Goslyn** added a third to clinch a good win, and the trophy, for the Regiment.

VISITS

In May the Regiment entertained three distinguished visitors, the Chief Signal Officer B.A.O.R. **Major-General H. E. Roper** paid his farewell visit to the Regiment. The C.R.A.C. **Brigadier J. M. Palmer** and the Dean of R.M.C.S., **Dr. F. J. Farley**, also toured the Regiment during the month.

30 YEARS ON

The Corps and the Regiment said farewell this month to **Major (Tfc.) F. A. Natolie. Frank**, the only registered jeweller in the Corps, has decided to retire after nearly 30 years' service. So no longer will the Officers Mess echo the tap of hammer on metal as he works out his week-end frustration on an unoffensive piece of gold. To **Frank** and his wife **Molly,** we extend best wishes for their retirement in Blandford.

The Regiment also says farewell to **Captain John 'Bunns' Brumfitt,** A.C.C. However, the Regiment's loss is 8 Signal Regiment's gain. On hearing of his posting to Catterick he brushed up his Yorkshire pudding recipe. It's recommended!

STOP PRESS

The Page Trophy Competition was won for the second consecutive year by 3 Squadron. Hence the cry from North Camp of, 'We are the Champions'.

8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

'VALE' TO COLONEL J. P. HART AND WELCOME TO COLONEL D. G. CATTERMULL, W.O.s AND SGTS MESS 15th May, 1975

THERE was a distinct Anglo-American flavour at the dining-out of **Colonel J. P. Hart, O.B.E.,** and dining-in of the new Commanding Officer, **Colonel D. G. Cattermull** and in his farewell speech the R.S.M., **W.O.1 Joe Frost,** made some reference to **Colonel Hart's** next posting—the Pentagon, Washington—even suggesting that for some time he had been practising the American phraseologies he will have to contend with in his new post. The R.S.M. continued by reminding the Mess members of the Colonel's knack of finding out everything about his Regiment, no matter how small, his 'getting to know you' personality and his way of being more than a figurehead, but a father to the members of the Regiment. He thanked **Colonel John** for all he had done for 8th Signal Regiment and presented him with two magnificant candelabra as a farewell present.

Colonel Hart in reply gave one of the most moving and profound speeches a gathering of Senior N.C.O.s is ever likely to hear.

Unlike the extravaganza of platitudes one expects from a Commanding Officer's farewell speech, **Colonel Hart** spoke of the deep love and affection he had for this Regiment, and in particular for his Senior N.C.O.s. He used the word 'love' he said, expediently because it summed up the existing empathy.

He spoke of his pride in the Regiment's sporting achievements and one may well at this juncture recall some of the coveted trophies that have been won by the Regiment during the last 12 months.

Army Cup Soccer Final—winners, NE District—Rugby—winners, Army Cup Hockey—winners, Army Cup Basketball—runners up, Cricket NE District—winners, Badminton NE District—winners, Triathlon NE District—winners.

Colonel Hart laid the responsibility for winning these trophies mainly on the members of the Sergeants Mess, and suggested that without the support he had had from his Senior N.C.O.s, many of these trophies would not be gracing the T.T.S. He was, he said, immensely happy, immensely proud and immensely grateful for their loyalty. They were, he said, the Army at its best and summed up by recalling that in his eyes, his Senior N.C.O.s 'never put a foot wrong'. He then presented the Mess with a beautiful cigar box and invited **Colonel Cattermull** to join him in drinking a toast 'To the best Regiment in the British Army'. So close was **Colonel Hart** to his men that most of the members present were more than just a little 'choked up' after his speech.

The S.M.I., **W.O.1 Norman Springall,** A.P.T.C., then presented **Colonel Hart** with a huge colour photo of the team members and trophies that had been 'accummulated' during the Colonel's tour, to which was inscribed: TO COLONEL HART OUR CHAMPION.

The evening's light entertainment saw the Colonel court martialled by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Graham Hitchcock** (prosecuting), **W.O.1 Fred Wilkinson** (defending—but not very ably) and the R.S.M. (Judge Advocate)—and his sentence to be banished into space to the United States was carried out at midnight when he was escorted to a huge space rocket on Messines Square, and in front of not only members, but a large proportion of the Regiment, he was blasted off into the night . . . and we ain't seen him since.

W.O.s AND SERGEANTS MESS ACTIVITIES FLOURISH

Though it has been a quiet month for the Mess gourmets, without even one formal dinner, it has, however, not been an uneventful month.

The **P.M.C. W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Carl Widdowson** and his committee have, with considerable endeavour, produced an enterprising and varying selection of entertainment, the most successful of which have been the monthly supper nights. Top class cabaret, a superb meal, music till the wee small hours and an inexhaustible supply of 'plonk' and the major ingredients of the supper night cocktail held in a fiesta atmosphere to the delight of up to 150 members and guests.

Also attracting a wide and appreciative audience have been the monthly quiz evenings 'Cock of the North', undertaken with professional *savoir faire* by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Hill** (who wrote these notes). In the latest battle of wits against 150 Pro Coy R.M.P., the mess team consisting of **Staff-Sergeants Geoff Lumley** and **Tommy Steele** and **Sergeants Joe Gleissinger** and **Bob Morley** swept aside the opposition to a convincing victory. Later a brain of the mess competition was won by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Harry O'Mahoney** who narrowly defeated—wait for it!! **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Dave Stokes**—Oh well, there's a first time for everything.

These events, coupled with the old favourite cheese and wine nights and brewery visits have all added to a most successful—if not expensive—month's entertainment—but the long term effect has been to drag the members away from 'Z Cars' and 'Sportsnight'—and after all, that's what belonging to the world's most exclusive club is all about.

MOTOR CYCLING

A hundred riders from all parts of the U.K. converged on Catterick for the weekend 26th–27th April in order to participate in the North-East and North-West Districts Army Motor Cycle Championships.

The event was organised and planned by **Captain Mark Wilson, S.S.M. Tom Fayers** and **Mr. Phil Mellors.** It consisted of some 30 miles of riding, with sixty hazards, varying from deep rocky streams to steep twisting uphill climbs to be ridden during Sunday morning, followed by forty miles of fast cross-country riding against a bogy time during the afternoon.

Major Graham Williams put the whole of 4 Squadron into the field as judges, marshals and checkpoint officials. The sun shone, spectators arrived in hundreds and the whole event was a huge success.

Captain Colin Smith and **Lieutenant David Shakespeare** produced the final results from the mass of papers collected from checkpoints and the prizes were presented by **Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott, M.C.,** the Deputy Commander of North-East District. The Championship was won by 8th Signal Regiment with **Corporal Tommy Walker** taking the 'Best Individual Trophy', and the 'Best Royal Signals Rider Trophy'.

Sergeant Des Ross, Sergeant Ken Hardy and **Corporal Tommy Walker** taking the 'Best Trophy', and the 'White Helmets Trophy'.

Sergeant Roger LeLacheur won the runner-up individual cup; **Staff-Sergeant Thomas, Sergeant Mick Gratton** and **Sergeant Roger LeLacheur** won the runner-up team trophy. The best novice award was won by **Sergeant Mick Gratton** who has thereby qualified as an expert (Army) trials motor cyclist.

The fame of motorcycling in Catterick has now spread considerably and the British International Six-Day trials team requested permission to attend the trial. The team were invited as special civilian guest riders, among them were the world-famous names of **Dave Jeremiah, John May, Mick Bowers, Nick Jefferies** and other up and coming riders.

The numbers of servicemen riding their own civilian machines in this type of trial is steadily increasing and is likely to outnumber those riding service machines in the future.

(*Continued on page* 238)

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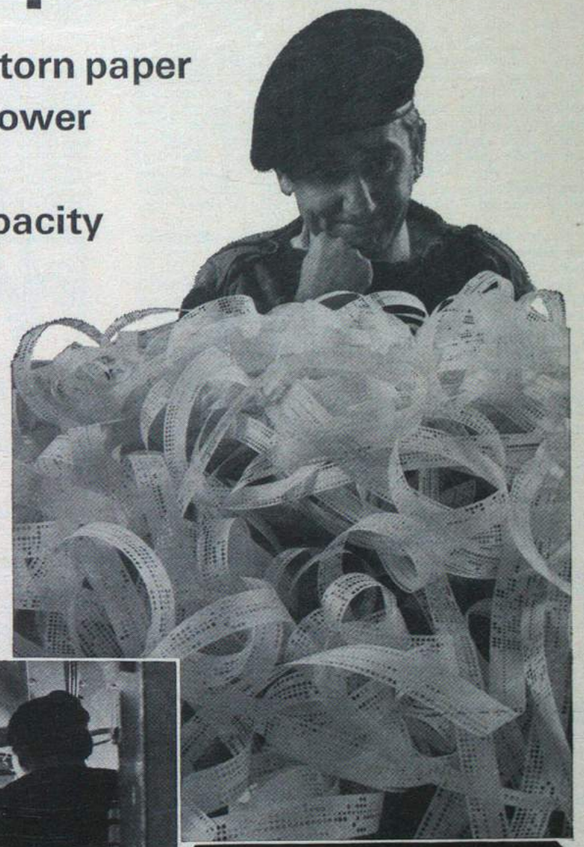

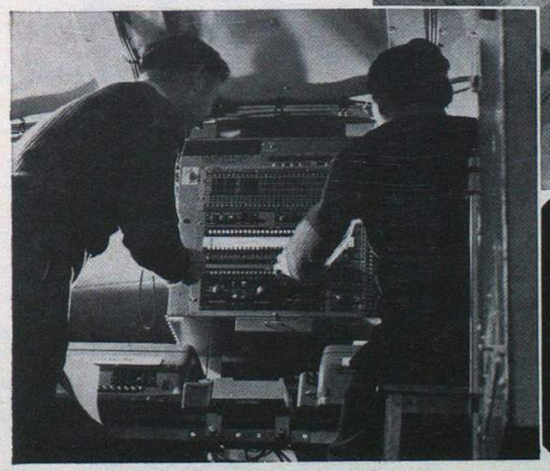

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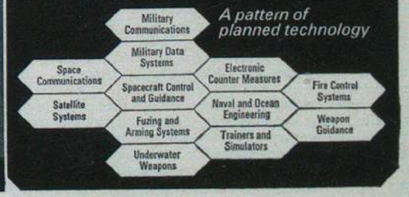

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(*Continued from page* 236)

Late Results

Sunday, 4th May—S.E.M.E. Motorcycle Trial—Bordon:
Best Team—8th Signal Regiment: **Sergeants Ross, Gratton and LeLacheur.**
2nd—Best comp machines: **Corporal Tom Walker.**
3rd—Service machine: **Sergeant LeLacheur.**
4th—Service machine: **Sergeant Ross.**

GOLF

The Royal Signals Spring Meeting was held on the Garrison Golf Club on 22nd and 23rd May. Fortunately the snow one normally expects in May for once held off and the Regiment were successful in winning not only the Handicap Challenge Cup, but also the coveted Shardlow Trophy. The Trophy, presented by **Leiutenant-Colonel Shardlow** some eight years ago, has now been won by 8th Signal Regiment on five successive years. It has become a little embarrassing, however, as other units tend to suggest we do little work and play too much golf. The team consisted of **Major Bernie Hodgson, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Joe Harvey, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Joe Smith,** and **Sergeant Paddy Kavanagh**—(perhaps there's something in what they suggest).

An arduous day's golf over 36 holes was also won by **Sergeant Paddy Kavanagh** with a tremendous net 139, and must now be considered the Corps No. 1 bandit.

It should be noted that unlike the Army Football cup which was filled with champagne and drunk from gleefully in the Officers Mess after the Army Cup final, the Shardlow cup was with little ceremony, brought quietly back to 8th Signal Regiment

We golfers, you see, are used to success and the romantica of sporting achievement.

Notes from the Trade Training School

CLOSED CIRCUIT TV AS AN AID TO INSTRUCTING

Audio-Visual aids play a vital role in the day-to-day training of any Educational Establishment. In fact such aids are essential in the learning process. One single aspect of such aids is closed circuit TV and in this respect the Armed Forces are not lagging in its use. At the time of writing some 55 units are involved, in varying degrees, in the use of C.C.T.V. Starting with the smaller units the Sony Rover portable cameras and video tape recorders have, and are being used in Northern Ireland for surveillance and training. The training coming from demonstrations of tactics, and feed back to units about to go to the province for the first time.

Like many other Trade Schools 8th Signal Regiment have a much more complex system than a single camera and VTR. Our equipment consists of, in the studio, three Shibaden FP100 cameras, normal studio lighting with audio, taken from desk, stand or neck microphones. The output from the studio is fed into the console in the control room. The console itself allows for the 'mixing' of video and audio signals on to the VTR which is ½ in. Shibaden SV 700 (ED) having editing facility.

Additional equipment in the control room consists of an off air monitor for viewing commercial programmes, a telecine, Sony rover, tape deck and additional VTR's.

Telecine simply means the ability to take the whole or part of any film from a 16mm projector, to copy from a slide projector or take photographs or captions for insertion into any production being 'taped'. All this in monochrome

Completed films are then used as and when required within the training organisation. In this respect two methods of showing film are currently available. The first by providing the instructor with a VTR and monitor giving him absolute control of the media or by 'piping' to rooms in the Trade Training School. A total of eleven rooms are on this system. With these facilities the staff have one more audio visual aid to help them in their task.

Some of the films made in this Regiment cover such activities as radio tuning, operator maintenance of EPR's message writing, switchboard operating and teleprinter conferences. Of more general nature a film was produced, mainly for new entrants styled 'An introduction to Signal communications'. This used all our facilities, taxed our ingenuity and resulted in a production which shows the passage of a telegram through the G.P.O. leading to a comparison of signals dealing with a message through the Army network. The whole was rounded off with a look at the complex equipments operated by Royal Signals for the armed forces.

It is fair to say that not everyone is 'sold' on CCTV as an aid to teaching. However, where it is used by those who believe, it is true to say that by constantly improving the quality of our productions we can show its true potential and, hopefully, 'convert' those who still have doubts.

Our immediate task is to improve the lighting and this, together with some new equipment currently awaited, should enable us to improve the picture resolution (quality). We have some useful experience behind us and we look forward to more and better productions to help in the work of producing our end product—well-trained personnel who can take their place in Field Units.

'A' GRADINGS

Listed below are the names of Basic and Upgrading Students awarded 'A' Gradings as shown during the period 1st December, 1974, to date.

Name	*Course attended*
Lance-Corporal Woolley, M. J.	CP16U–4
Corporal Taylor, P. G.	RR14U–1
Corporal Seddon, J.	RA11U–1
Lance-Corporal Blythe, G. E.	RR26B–1
Private White, D. A.	SO25BW–5
Corporal Brown, L. F.	RR15U–1
Signalman Gray, D. M.	CT20B–4
Signalman Norfield, S. R.	CR23U–2
Corporal Moulson, J.	DT32U–3
Private Downes, F.	SO26BW–5
Signalman Mann, A.	TM15B–2
Corporal Reah, A. S.	RR16U–1

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON

ON Friday, 16th May, Four Troop held their Pass Off Parade. The troop was commanded by **W.O.1 Ted Hunt,** and was assisted by his troop cadre, **Sergeant Gordon Dagless, Corporal Tom Thornton** and **Lance-Corporal Sam Stephenson.** The prize for the best recruit was awarded to **Signalman Eddy Jones** and the troop's best shot was **Signalman Davy Brown.** The inspecting officer was an old acquaintance of Training Brigade, **Colonel R. L. Stonham** now Chief Instructor at the School in Blandford.

Due to the seasonal fall in recruiting, we have managed to get several people away on courses. One of these was our 2IC **Captain Bob Wannell,** who went on a golfing course at Tidworth. He benefited considerably from this course, and in the regimental golf competition, strategically timed for the Monday he returned, he only narrowly lost to the Adjutant a closely-fought match for the booby prize.

REPORT FROM 2 SQUADRON
SQUADRON ORBAT

To help keep Ivan's staff lists up to date the following are on station:

Squadron Commander ..	**Major W. H. D. N. Robotham**
Second in Command ..	**Captain F. D. Rogers**
Squadron Sergeant-Major	**W.O. 2 R. Briant**
S.Q.M.S	**Staff-Sergeant J. Young**
Troop Officers	
9 Troop	**Lieutenant J. R. B. Cook**
10 Troop	**Lieutenant M. K. Stretch**
11 Troop	**Lieutenant D. E. Turner**
12 Troop	**Lieutenant D. Case**
13 and 14 Troop ..	**Lieutenant B. M. M. Jackson**
15 Troop	**Lieutenant W. E. Brewin**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

New faces that have appeared over the last month are **Lieutenant David Case** from 260 Signals Squadron and **Lieutenant Brian Jackson** from Bulford. **Lieutenant David Case** has taken over a new troop which formed at the beginning of May and **Lieutenant Brian Jackson** has taken over from **Lieutenant Harry Ross** who leaves the Squadron in June for the sunnier climes of Hong Kong.

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Hoping that the weather will be kind to us this summer the adventurous training cell (smacks of B.A.O.R.) under **Lieutenant Malcolm McKinlay** and **Sergeant Ron Turner** have dreamt up several exercises on Yorkshire moors. The senior troops, whilst awaiting postings to 8th Signal Regiment for their trade training, participate in fell walking, climbing and living under field conditions. Scarborough also gets its quota where canoeing, climbing, range work, hiking and the dubious delights of Yorkshire's seaside Mecca somehow account for the new 25-hour day.

LOOKING AHEAD

With the upward trend of junior recruiting in the past few months and a certain large intake due in September 1975, it has been noticed that **S.Q.M.S. Jimmy Young** has indented for twenty-four panel marquees and is now trying to squeeze them into Hooge Barracks. Also the cadre are looking for reinforcements so U.K. and B.A.O.R. beware.

REPORT FROM 3 SQUADRON

Sadly this month we say goodbye to **Corporal Clark-Derby** and his wife **Maureen.** In his place we welcome **Lance-Corporal Paddy McConnon,** we wish both good luck in their new environment and feel sure **Mrs. McConnon** will have received a warm welcome from the wives of the Squadron.

R.S.S.S.C 98 and 99 completed their training on 23rd May, 1975, and after a good end of course dinner are now on their way back to their units. After **Sergeants George 'Sweet Cheeks' Holden** and **Bill 'Non-Stick' Venus** performed at Warcop, I doubt Staffies will ever be the same again.

One more new arrival in 3 Squadron is **Corporal Jones,** we hope he enjoys his tour with us. Well done the tug-of-war team who comfortably won the Brigade athletics tug-of-war, under the careful guidance of their coach **Corporal 'Tug' Wilson.**

R.S.S.S.C. 98-99

The 21st May, D-Day for R.S.S.S.C 98 and 99. What happened after that was a mixture of rumour and nightmares which the Court of Inquiry is still dealing with. Really everyone settled in quickly with the help of **W.O.2 (Q.M.S.I.) Tony Davies** and his merry band of staff. Old friends met again in the Mess on Monday night and everyone was introduced to the **R.S.M. W.O.1 Alan Walton.** The reason for this get-together is really to lull the students into a false sense of relaxation before the new B.E. Test on Tuesday. It's really a pleasant conducted tour of the old 8 Signal Regiment area to satisfy any nostalgia students may have had, very quickly dispelled by two miles in twenty minutes. But wait—this was the easy part. We had a whole thirty seconds' rest before the dreaded mile in eight minutes maximum, which wasn't really bad as we only had the assault course to contend with. **Sergeant Mick Gue** (no I haven't miss-spelt it) got bored with the whole thing and cheated by doing the mile in about five minutes, but how anyone can do it that fast and still take in the scenery is beyond me.

Warcop struck in the fourth week and gave the S.S.I. Drill, **Staff-Sergeant Mick Lavery** and his Mars Bar a week to cool down and for D.O.E. time to repair the square. After night patrols and section attacks everyone was reduced to whippet-like versions of their former selves. The only ones who did not really enjoy the use of live ammunition were the sheep. Grenade throwing had its moments. **Sergeant 'Bomber' Brown** showed us all how early spring had come this year by releasing his early. This was rather a shock to **W.O.1 Bert Irons** and **Sergeant Paddy Crabtree** who immediately wrapped his left puttee around his knees to stop them knocking. It all turned out well when **Bomber** calmly threw the grenade over the wall. The entertainment provided by the two courses on the last night to influence the staff to imbibe more readily in preparation for section attacks the next morning, seemed to have no effect by the speed at which we were shepherded up and down the hills. **Sergeant Roy Poole** produced a sketch which showed us how to pray for something we had not seen for a long time, but even if we had, we didn't have the strength so it didn't matter. For the ex-students, **Staff-Sergeant 'Taff' Evans** is still telling the same old jokes—they go to the Corps Museum this year.

The last week was either a case of taking you a stage further or the aim of this lesson is to teach you something or other. After the end of the course the local police are still talking about the day they saw six cars hurtling down the A1 in ranks (or was it files?)

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13 Sig. Regt.—As the camera saw it

1. Guard of Honour for the Signal Officer-in-Chief
2. Cycle marathon—Regimental weekend
3. It's a knockout event—Regimental weekend
4. All hands turn to put the finishing touches to the unit swimming pool

14 Sig Regt Worcester

HOLIDAY SEASON

WITH the onset of balmier weather our Regimental travel agency 'Scott Tours', under the guiding hand of **Mrs. Glenys Scott,** our movements clerk, has launched itself into a frenzy of activity. Cook's organisation pales into insignificance against our monolithic happy holiday tourist bureau.

SLIGHTLY N.W. OF PANAMA

The C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales,** recently paid a flying visit to our semi-permanent holiday camp in Belize to check on the activities of our chief redcoat **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Trevor Spence** and his band of happy campers. These are all enjoying a six-month spell of fun in the sun and justifying their vacation by communicating with Forest Moor daily. The number of marriages to local girls which have taken place recently has led us to believe that the foreman was operating a matrimonial mart. We are assured, however, that this is not the case. We now have two Belizean wives in Worcester and two or three more weddings scheduled.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Our 2IC **Major Tony Edmonds** decided to sample the joys of North-West Africa and has organised a liaison visit to the Moroccan Signal School. His flight posed no problems as J.S.B.C. assured us all flights are likely to land in this area. We anticipate that he will reutrn an authority on Arab, Berber and Moorish customs. No doubt he will also be a connoisseur of sheeps' eyes and the art of consuming them. We look forward to a very interesting account of this visit in a later edition of THE WIRE.

UTILITY HOLIDAY

A less ambitious tour in the best holidays at home tradition was undertaken by **Corporals Keith O'Hara** and **Roy Baker** who took one of our economy cruises on H.M.S. *Fife* from the Clyde to Liverpool, during the course of a recent JOCOMEX. They found the trip very interesting and assure me that naval hospitality more than makes up for the somewhat spartan appointments of this cruise liner.

(*Continued on page* 241)

(*Continued from page* 240)

MEDITERRANEAN IDYLL

In the luxury class we have **Sergeant Ron Clayton, Lance-Corporal Nick Gaunt, Craftsman Gerry Bates** and **Private John Shaw** enjoying a prolonged Mediterranean cruise on board the R.F.A. Sir Tristam. This will extend from May to July and should prove to be a most interesting and enjoyable trip. **Sergeant Clayton** will be giving a blow by blow account on his return.

BRITISH SOLDIER

Other intrepid sailors include **Sergeants Keith Kennard** and **Hughie Strang** and **Corporal Brian Corcoran.** These three in company with **Sergeant George Marshall** and six others sailed **Chay Blyth's** yacht British Soldier from Gosport to Alderney, returning to Dartmouth. This was a really worth-while experience as it was the largest vessel any of them had ever sailed. The weather was good and a very calm voyage gave **Corporal Brian Corcoran** a chance to demonstrate his culinary skill.

All three were amazed at the area of canvas carried by the boat. They are also very enthusiastic about the aids to sailing and navigating which are fitted in the vessel. **Sergeant Marshall** was well qualified to instruct them on the operation of the yacht as he accompanied **Chay Blyth** on the last round-the-world race.

Whilst in Dartmouth they were moored alongside GB2 and took the opportunity to inspect this yacht which is also owned by **Chay Blyth.** At Porchester they also had a tour of inspection of GB3 which is at present under construction and will be sailed by **Chay Blyth** in the next round the world race. This was a most impressive boat which has been tank tested at 36 knots and promises to be a leading contender for honours in the race.

All three are now contemplating further trips with **Sergeant Marshall.**

GRAND HARBOUR AND BLUE GROTTO

Whilst **Captain Sandy Lovatt** was holidaying with 'E' Troop and a E21 at Macrahanish in the West of Scotland, **Sergeants Taff Assender** and **Dave Bennett** went to look at the other end of the circuit in Commcen Malta. As the circuit worked almost perfectly they found ample opportunity to tour the various places of interest on the George Cross island.

Both were very impressed with the magnificence of the Grand Harbour at Valetta. Even without the Mediterranian Fleet the harbour is a must for all visitors. During their stay H.M.S. *Intrepid, Bulwark* and *Juno* were visiting Malta. **Dave Bennett** made contact with members of the crew of *Intrepid* and had a conducted tour of all three.

As well as touring Valetta extensively **Taff Assender** also managed visits to the Blue Grotto and Maleiha Bay. He waxes eloquent on the many beauties of this ancient isle. Commcen Malta does not figure very prominently in their account but we are assured that they did call in occasionally.

WHERE THE CIDER APPLES GROW

For those not fortunate enough to be involved in our more exotic trips O.C.2 Sqn, **Major Mike Brock,** organised the Regimental Camp. This party was based at Fremington and had a full and very varied programme to occupy it. This included rock climbing on Exmoor under the expert tuition of instructors provided by 66 AYT, canoeing, and watermanship using assault boats. With his flair for finding the most inhospitable terrain, **Captain Ron Abbott** organised a night exercise over what has been described as lunar landscape. Whilst no one was completely lost a number of parties managed to move in ever decreasing circles. Pony trekking and a visit to the Appledore shipbuilding yards were also very popular. The local beverages were tested and found to be quite palatable.

HAMPSHIRE LADS?

The members of 'T' Troop with their O.C. **Captain Damian Buckley,** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Joe Jackson** have proved to be immune to the lure of tropical paradise on unusual overseas detachments. They find themselves unable to tear themselves away from their semi-permanent holiday resort of R.A.F. Oakhanger. Here they sport themselves communicating via satellites and savouring all the delights of Bordon. The troop have spent so much time in Oakhanger recently that they now consider themselves to be Hampshire lads by adoption.

SUNSPOTS

Other members managing to avoid the arctic chill of the English summer are **Corporals Taff Yates** and **John Bainbridge** in Cyprus and **Corporal Brian Jones,** our man in the Gulf. For June we have two tours organised for our D13 detachments. **Captain Ron Abbott** with **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Sant** will be taking one to Sardinia whilst **Captain Sandy Lovatt** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson** will take the other one to Italy. In addition we shall have **Corporal John Stoney** and **Lance-Corporal Robin Underwood** acting as liaison team in Gibraltar.

THEY ALSO REFUSE TO FADE AWAY

R.S.M. Bill Scott was recently called to the Adjutant's office and told, 'R.S.M., the guardroom report there is an old old soldier trying to get into the camp, see what you can do about it'.

On reaching the guardroom the R.S.M. found a very spritely 88-year-old with a military bearing and well-polished shoes. He drew himself smartly to attention and introduced himself as 7766 **Corporal Williams** ex-Worcester Volunteers. **Mr. Williams** informed the R.S.M. that he had joined the 2nd Bn Worcester Volunteers in 1907. He spent the seven years from 1907 to 1914 in Norton Barracks before going off to the Great War. He saw active service in France and had a wealth of interesting stories which gave evidence of a clear incisive mind. On the renumbering of the British army he became 493113 **Private Williams** and later became the first Lance-Corporal ever in the Worcester Volunteers.

The purpose of his visit was to request that he be allowed to see his old barrack room in Charlemont Block. The R.S.M. organised a conducted tour for him and he expressed delight at the standard we now maintain in the barracks.

He tells us that he still possesses his old kit box, cut throat razor and eating utensils issued to him in 1907. We cannot help but wonder how many present-day soldiers will treasure such mundane articles over such an extended period.

Mr. Williams' visit gave him enormous pleasure and gave us all a new appreciation of the strong ties of service life.

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE

Ex-Corporal Williams, now 88 years old, re-visits the barracks. where he served as a Corporal in the Worcester Regiment. Still a spritely lad at 88 years with a few good tales to tell. He is seen here on a tour of the barracks escorted by a slightly junior soldier —in years that is!

INFLATION?

One of our officers recently received a milk bill on which was written, 'Monthly bills will in future be fortnightly'. The officer concerned is convinced that his dairy have crossed a Humphrey with a Leprechaun.

LET LOOSE THE DOGS OF WAR

This is more or less what the Regiment has done with great success since the inception of guard dog patrols as a security measure. Many members of the Regiment will vouch, as a result of hair-raising experiences, for the efficiency of these canine guardians.

SEE HIM OFF!
Dog 'Lacon' at take-off from 6-ft. window. Lance-Corporal Geordie is the dog handler

The dog handlers are all members of the Royal Pioneer Corps forming our Regimental Police section under the Provost Sergeant **Tom Fowle.**

In addition to normal guard duties the dogs are at present being trained to compete in the Army Dog Trials which will be held at Melton Mowbray in July. These trials consist of agility, obedience and handling tests. Under the watchful eye of **Sergeant Fowle, Corporal John Bougeard** with his dog Debel and **Lance-Corporal Geordie Tutin** with Lacon are daily put through their paces. The routine is very spectacular as these powerful, muscular, graceful animals effortlessly leap seven-foot spans of hurdles, or negotiate six-foot obstacles with almost feline grace. Every command, gesture, or inflection of the handler's voice is obeyed instantly. Such a perfect understanding between dog and handler almost leads one to believe that the dog is an extension of the man's mind and body. In spite of the implicit obedience the impression of a leashed volcano prepared to explode instantly is never totally obscured.

Young visitors to the Regiment are frequently entertained by the skill and agility of the dogs as they go through their elaborate training routine. All visitors leave the barracks with a very healthy respect for the security measures in force within the Regiment.

Sergeant Fowle insists that the relatively high turnover of Pioneers cannot be attributed to the dogs. In spite of this it is reliably reported that the handlers are careful not to expose the alsatians to the commercials for a particular brand of dog food.

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

SITREP FROM SERGEANTS MESS

Well, since our last contribution we have been as busy as ever—who was it that said 'There's no peace for the wicked'?

W.O.1 (F. of S.) Jim Phillips and **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Jim Ferguson** left us on commissioning and we held a Regimental Dinner to see them on their respective journeys, the dinner was a great success and our thanks go to the PMC **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Paddy Keating** and his committee for making the evening the success that it was and also to **W.O.2 (S.Q.M.S.) Jeff Wilson** and the backroom boys for their gastronomic delights.

As there is normally a bit of fancy footwork and intricate verbosity nowadays between Y. of S. and F. of S. the 'Jims' were dressed accordingly and fenced their way over to the Officers Mess where no doubt the battle continued.

At football we played a friendly at Antwerp where we were very well looked after and had a good game running out winners at

THE THINGS THAT GO ON!
W.O.I (F. of S.) Jim Phillips versus W.O.I (Y. of S.) Jim Ferguson on the way to the Officers Mess

11–1 and the following week played 2 Div H.Q. and Signal Regiment in the Inter League Final which we won 2–1.

We took on our neighbours 40 A.S.R. (R.E.) Sergeants Mess in a friendly games evening which ended in a draw as always. Unit plaques were exchanged and the R.S.M. of 40 A.S.R. was presented with an armchair for his office.

Our two motorcycle kings continue to participate in local and military competitions and **Sergeant Ken Hendry** won the Rhine Area individual title whilst **Sergeant Gordon Crags** broke his leg in the same event—never mind, Gordon, better luck next time.

At darts we ended up third in Rhine Area as a team and our players in the individuals did quite well, but the last player got knocked out in the Semi-Finals.

Our last function was a social involving the International Police Association when policemen from ten nations visited the Mess and some Mess Members later visited the International Police Ball. Everyone had a very arresting time.

EXERCISE CHAMOIX

It was on the 12th May when the fighting 'F' troop left Krefeld and headed south to the forest of Schleiden in the Eifel. This intrepid crew (a motley bunch at that) led by **Second-Lieutenant Adam** (where's my bike) **Leather** and assisted by **Sergeant Ray** (the stretcher's mine) **Jones** camped by Lake Oleftatsperre.

The exercise was in two parts, the first being an orienteering exercise in the forests looking for elusive crates of beer; the troop was split into two; Jyderites (**Sergeant Ray Jones** mob) and the catmen/shufties (**Second-Lieutenant Adam Leather's** entourage) headed for the woods like so many goblins in search of clues cunningly hidden by **Corporal John** (Queeny) **Doyle** and **Lance-Corporal John** (Rent-a-dent) **Slater.** The Jyderites found suitable clues and spent their first night in a dry and warm location (?) 'at the wrong end of the front, I add', while the catmen/shufties roughed it eating cold compo out in the open. The second day was the last day of looking for clues, and after much soul-searching, the Jyderites found their hidden beer much to the dismay of the catmen who had to resort to hijacking a Land-Rover to find theirs—they claimed their clues were particularly misleading.

The last part of the exercise was spent canoeing within range of the swirling paddles of **Sergeant Tony** (capsize) **McMahon** and swimming for those brave enough to test the icy water. The last night saw a barbeque with plenty of beer and bratties by the lakeside. Any locals who might have wandered around the late that night would have probably thought that they had stumbled upon some satanic rite—just 'F' troop performing 'Old MacDonald's Farm' around the campfire in the early hours. It was a good end to an enjoyable exercise.

En route back to Krefeld the O.C.'s Rover battered its way through bush and briar to show us the washing on the Siegfried Line and finally to watch some wheelburning circuits at the Nurburgring.

The rest of the party were: **Corporal Billy** (Topcat) **Pounder, Lance-Corporal Alan** (Coffstick) **Hallgate, Signalman John** (Nosebag) **Hindle, Signalman Ron** (Monk-on) **Stephenson, Signalman Dave** (Smudger) **Smith, Signalman Robbo** (The Tub) **Robson, Signalman John** (Not Alpen again) **Taylor, Signalman** (Bad Eyes) **Fuller** and **Signalman** (Big Ears) **McNeill.**

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BEVERLEY BRUISERS, 1951—RECOGNISE ANYONE? (See notes below)
Back row, left to right: Shaw, Cox, Davies, Issacs, Eouzan, Austin
Front row, left to right: Rees, Hamilton, Metcalf, Captain West, R.A.E.C., Larkin, Fish, Gibson

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

FAREWELL TO STAFF-SERGEANT EOUZAN

ON the 29th of May we said farewell to **Staff-Sergeant (Ozzy) Eouzan,** who left us for Catterick and then retirement to his native Jersey. Staff joined the Corps in 1951 as a 'Beverly Boy'. On joining man's service he was posted to No. 10 N.T.S. Loughborough for special operator training.

On completion of the course he moved to 1 Wireless Regiment at Munster and was with them during their move to Birgelin in 1955.

From then on he served in the following units: 1956—12 Wireless Regiment, Degendorf, Bavaria, 1957—15 Signal Regt, Cyprus, 1960—14 Signal Regt, Gloucester, 1963—Junior Leaders Regt—Denbury, 1967—237 Signal Sqn, Singapore, 1970—18 Signal Regt, Singapore.

It is interesting to note that most of the units he served with have disbanded—Staff assures us he had no hand in the matter.

In 1972 he was posted to 22 Signal Regiment and gave invaluable service in charge of the M.Q.A.S. office where his presence will be sadly missed

Staff enjoys sailing and fishing and was treasurer of our very successful fishing club. Before leaving Staff gave us this picture of the 'Beverly Bruisers' taken during his training in 1951. Our best wishes go with him, his wife, **Jackie,** and their three children. Staff wishes to pass on his home address and invites members of the Corps holidaying in Jersey to call in for a coke. 63 Les Chenes, Five Oaks, St. Savior, Jersey, CI.

Leaving for Civvy Street—Staff-Sergeant Eouzan

LIPPSTADT NEW NAFFI SHOP

Just two months ago work commenced on building a new NAAFI shop here in Churchill Barracks. As past members of the Regiment will no doubt remember this is something that has been rumoured and dreamt of for years but never materialised.

The manageress **Frau Ilse Neuhaus** recalls the day when the present shop was open in March 1952. The premises, converted from an accommodation block, were provided to serve 120 families.

What seemed adequate at the time soon became too small to cope with the number of customers and in 1962 the shop had to be enlarged giving a drapery area, larger food hall and a perambulator park in the front entrance.

Now the same shop is trying to provide for over 620 families from both Regiments, ourselves and 27 Med Regt RA. Saturday morning shopping is to be avoided, queues of laden trollies snake round the small food hall to the two checkout points. The new shop is a topic of conversation for the veteran queuers and we all look forward to it being open by Christmas. Which one? 1975 of course.

IT HAPPENED YESTERYEAR

Extracts from our Regimental Scrap Book 1963:

7th February 1963—**Major A. Pagan, M.B.E.,** appointed 2IC vice **Major J. E. Carroll, M.B.E.**

2nd July, 1963—**Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., C.S.O.,** B.A.O.R., made his farewell visit to the Regiment.

11th October, 1963—**Captain (Q.M.) W. A. Tumbrell** appointed Quartermaster (Admin.) vice **Major (Q.M.) W. E. Roscoe.**

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

FROM the May-June WIRE it appears that other units were still slotting in their snowplough turns while assorted bodies from the Regiment were warming up on the first of the summer (?) adventure training trips. Take **Fransail** for example.

AT SEA

Under the leadership of **Captain Mike Shaw,** a party engaged to travel gently round the Danish islands in the B.K.Y.C. boat *Barbera*. Snag one—*Barbera* had to be collected from Ostend in order to pass go! This resulted in a fair amount of mental agility, some excitement in the German Bight, a period of playing at barges in the Kiel canal, and the borrowing of **Flight-Lieutenant Allan Davenport** from R.A.F. Wildenrath to drive the boat in tidal waters. Three days were taken off the exercise but a worthwhile delivery job had been done. **Lance-Corporal Gil Gillard** gives notice, however, that his future sailing expeditions will be in nothing smaller than 3,000 tons.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Meanwhile in slightly dryer surroundings **Captain John Cotton, Lieutenant Murray Martin-Rhind** and **S.S.I. Tony Grainger** were giving the benefit of their expertise to participants on exercise **Fransud** in the Harz mountains. Activities included map reading, mountain walking, abseiling and visits to the interzonal border. It is to the credit of our Regimental goalkeeper **Corporal John Mizen,** that he managed to stop the mountain slipping through his fingers during the abseiling phase!

Early morning snowstorms and the buzzing of foresters' saws outside the tents at 5 a.m. were suffered in the knowledge that the 'buzzing' of R.A.F. Harriers during our open day on 23rd May was a little more noisy.

Demonstrations of our equipment and various sideshows helped our families to appreciate what we actually do for a living. This produced two reactions—'Is that all?' and 'It's a fix' as **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ian Haylock** won the raffle.

FAREWELL

On the 5th June we said farewell to **Major-General Harry Roper. General Roper's** interest and support for the Regiment in both the professional and sporting fields has been unflagging during his tour as C.S.O. B.A.O.R. and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking him and wishing him and **Mrs. Roper** luck in M.O.D.

UNIT MARKSMAN ON TOP LEVEL

The markmanship season has opened and successes have been scored in both the Northag Signal Support Group and Rhine Area Skill at Arms competitions. **Lance-Corporal Chris Bushell** becoming champion rifleshot of Rhine Area. The smaller bores distinguished themselves too, winning the Army Small Bore Championship from 16 Signal Regiment, last year's holders.

They also took the Rhine Area Championship and were third in the B.A.O.R. competition.

THE ARMY SMALL BORE CHAMPIONS
Standing left to right: Corporal Ian Mackinnon, Sergeant Taffy Meakes, Lance-Corporal Mal Cook. Sitting: Sergeant Mick Everett, Captain John Woods, Lieutenant-Colonel Terry Byrne, W.O.2 (A.Q.M.S.) Ted Starkey, Sergeant Mick Colley. Not pictured W.O.2 (F. of S.) Dewi Theharne

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

CYPRUS, ALDERNEY AND WORCESTER

Suddenly it's WIRE notes time again! Again, the Regiment has had a busy time—most of us have forgotten how our three male subalterns look—**Lieutenant Iain Robertson** is away for six months enjoying the delights of Cyprus with 644 Signal Troop; **Second-Lieutenant Guy Thornton** is one of the project leaders at the Regimental summer camp (Exercise Norman Quest) in Alderney, and **Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley,** our roving A.M.F. Troop Officer, has been taking a break from Arctic warfare exercises and has been recruiting in the Worcester area—inhabitants of Kidderminster and Evesham have been treated to the sight of the recruiting team (**Lieutenant Smedley, Sergeant Bayliss, Corporal Hughes, Lance-Corporal Plater, Lance-Corporal Dodgson, Signalman Warner** and **Signalman Dunnet).** (Fortunately, the W.R.A.C. contingent, **Second-Lieutenant Bobbie Allen** and **Second-Lieutenant Sue Rollo,** are still here to hold the fort.)

FREMINGTON CAMP

1 Squadron are walking around looking very bronzed and fit after two weeks' training at Fremington Camp. The fortnight was split into one week of adventure training, and a week of military training. During the week of adventure training, instruction was given in horse riding, abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing and sailing. The high spot of the fortnight was **Lance-Corporal Mick Sturney's** capsize demonstration. I have also been assured that the current rumour that **Second-Lieutenant Guy Thornton** spent 90 per cent. of his canoeing time upside down underneath the canoe is absolutely true!!

Exercise Norman Quest 3, the annual Regimental training camp on Alderney, began on 30th May. A full report will follow next month.

FAREWELLS

This month we had a large number of farewells to perform. At a Regimental dinner held in HQ Mess, we said goodbye to **Major Les Taylor, M.B.E.,** and **Major Bill Jackson,** both of whom are retiring, and **Captain Roy Smithard** and **Captain Brian Abbiss,** who are moving on to new units. We also said goodbye to **Lieutenant Mike Swan** (yes, we really had a Swan in the Regiment!) of the Royal Australian Signals, who served a short attachment with us prior to joining the TEM course at the School of Signals. We welcome into the Regiment **Captain Alex Leitch** and **Captain Bill Barnes,** and hope that their tours will be happy and successful.

News from Squadrons

1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 102

THINGS FALLING INTO PLACE

SINCE THE WIRE last heard from 1 Arty Bde the Squadron has undergone quite a substantial change. Under the leadership of our newly arrived OC, **Major David Hunt,** we tried out the experiment of 'caterpillar' movement instead of using 'step-up'. Needless to say, for the first Squadron exercise everyone was asking 'Who is who?' and 'What's going on?' However, since then everyone has grasped the idea and things have started falling into place. Not only has the Squadron said goodbye to **Major Jim Crow,** it has said farewell to the Troop O.C., **Captain Chris Spencer,** and we would like to wish them well in their new postings. We would like to welcome back (at last) **Lieutenant Tony Raper** from his detachment with 644 Signal Squadron and hope that he can forsake the sun for the forests of Germany though we have heard he is spending two weeks in Norway and leaves shortly.

Other arrivals

We welcome our new F. of S. **Staff-Sergeant Steve Sims,** and reluctantly say farewell to **F. of S. 'Curley' Milne,** the daddy of 'em all! The Squadron is said to be walking round with a smile on its face since the departure of our Chief Clerk, **Sergeant 'Grumpy' Powles,** who is rumoured to have smiled at least three times during his tour. Seriously, we would like to wish him well in his new posting and at the same time extend a warm welcome to his replacement, **Sergeant 'Eric' Sykes.**

The Squadron, like every other unit in Germany, has a heavy exercise programme which, of course, includes the annual favourite —**Ex. Flying Falcon.** The exercise was no different to usual in that the Squadron moved here, there and everywhere! With the Fighting First Arty, everything went well, although **Corporal Kevin Lightfoot** complained of lack of beauty sleep!

Ex. Hurst Park was totally different. This time we were umpires with our Brigade Staff running the show! **Brigadier J. A. Stephenson, O.B.E.** was seen on a number of occasions stalking through the woods with his long stick and pipe. It is now rumoured that all ranks from Sergeant and above will be issued with sticks (walking) and pipes (smoking) although this is strongly denied by our Q.M. It is a known fact that the consumption of pipe tobacco has increased in both Officers and Sergeants Messes!

We are now looking forward to our Troop camps and I'm sure that these will provide some interesting reading at a later date.

MENS CLOTHING
is still URGENTLY required
by the WELFARE SECTION

6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 106

A BRIGHT IDEA FOR WHITSUN—WINING ON THE MOSEL!

'What are you doing over Whitsun?'

This question was posed to a couple of living-in lads from 'A' Troop by **Sergeant Robbie Hamilton.**

'Well, Sarge, we haven't really thought about it . . . probably have a few beers in the NAAFI'.

That's what started it all . . . and . . . before I knew what was happening I'd begun to organise a 'non-organised' trip down to the Mosel wine valley.

We returned to barracks from **Ex. Main Brace** on Friday, 23rd May and Saturday morning saw us loading up and departing for the Mosel Riviera. Zeltingen-Rachtig was our destination and find it we did after about six hours' cabby. We were greeted by the Burgermeister, **Herr Ehrses-Hansen,** who welcomed us to our camping patch on the banks of the River Mosel. Tents were erected, food eaten and bodies disappeared in all directions led by **Lance-Corporals John 'Foo Foo' McAveety, John Ingleby** and **Signalman Stevie Bartlett,** to taste and sample the local wines! Where else!

On Saturday evening there was a party in one of the local hotels and there the lads and the local lads had a good old sing-song, with one person even losing his voice on that old standard 'Ja, Ich Hab' Kein Bananen'. Sunday proved to be a bit more adventurous and saw us heading into Bernkastel-Kues where famous ancient ruined castles and wine keellers were rediscovered.

On Monday we took to the water on a boat trip to Traben-Trarbach which is one of the better known resorts on the Mosel and apart from a couple of lads on the wrong boat and heading in the wrong direction, everything went well.

Luxembourg was the venue on Tuesday and, under the leadership of **Lance-Corporals 'Butch' Coles** and **'Taff' Maslen,** several of the lads went off to see the sights. Meanwhile, under the 'care' of **Sergeant Bill 'Heap' Hickey** and myself, the remainder visited a 'Wein Gut' to see just exactly how what we were drinking was made. Just to see all those old kellers and those big casks and all those bottles brought tears to our eyes (and thirst to our throats).

Our last evening was celebrated with a barbecue on the banks of the River Mosel when we drank to its health with some of its very fine wines. We left Zeltingen-Rachtig, its wonderful sights and friendly people, after many farewells and promises to visit at the end of the year . . . at grape-harvesting time!

KIEL to COPENHAGEN (or **Five in a Boat**)

Recently, a party of intrepid sailors set off from St. Sebastian Barracks to Kiel. Their eventual destination was Copenhagen, and any other ports within reach, and they set sail under command of **Captain John Robertson,** aboard the BKYC yacht 'Osprey'. The journey was comparatively uneventful, the winds fair but not excessive although two crew members, who shall remain nameless, were seasick a great deal of the time. About five miles from our destination the mainsail split in a wind which could not have exceeded Force 4 and we limped into Langelinie yacht basin in Copenhagen Harbour 35 hours after leaving Keil.

Much to the disgust of the crew we had to remain in Copenhagen for 36 hours until the mainsail was repaired. The crew split up in order to find something to do. The main body, under the supervision of **Signalman Dennis Clinch,** went off in search of grotty dives and discotheques, while **Lance-Corporal Alan Chambers** visited the Opera House. One notable point is that **Foreman of Signals Blair Smart** has finally seen the famous Tivoli Gardens after 'intending' to visit them on every one of his several previous trips . . . while **Captain Robertson** went swimming (with his clothes on?). However, this procedure was carried out with his usual aplomb.

After all repairs were finalised we set sail for Samsø, an island to the north and west of Copenhagen. With a good wind we made excellent time and averaged five knots for the journey. From there we went on to Svendborg and finally to Aeroskobing. This trip took some time as we went somewhat off course due to the skipper's insistence that the mainsail was not to block out the sun while he was sunbathing. At Aeroskobing the crew were allowed to join in the sunbathing act and eventually we set sail for Kiel after the sun had gone down. **Corporal Cliff Ewen** was given the task of navigating us home—much to his dismay. However, no great disaster befell us and we reached Kiel at 7.30 a.m. after a thoroughly enjoyable cruise.

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

'YOU CAN WRITE THE WIRE NOTES'

'FUNNY smell, **Sergeant Barnett**'. 'I beg your pardon, sir', says I, addressing **Captain John Munnery,** our then Communications Officer. He took another quick sniff, screwed up his face and shouted the familiar 'Gas Alarm', of which we were well familiar. It was 0200 hrs on the last day of a very cold and snowy Ex. Flying Falcon. In stormed the OC **Major Bob Cook** clad in 'Noddy Kit' accompanied by a similarly clad **R.S.M. W.O.1 Tony Williams** observing the havoc which our now expired/promoted 2IC **Major James Sweetman** had caused in one foul sweep! We were well prepared and in next to no time all were dressed in 'Noddy Kit' and wearing our new faces.

'What's this wandering set and unlocated carrier?', says the O.C. looking at the D.S.O.'s log. 'A rebro, sir', came the retort. 'Say he has a wandering set and an unlocated carrier over his means.' 'Very interesting', says he. 'You can write the next WIRE Notes'. Being a member of Alpha Troop, I decided to give rather a bit more publicity to some of the troop members.

Personalities: O.C. **Lieutenant A. J. Schuler, Staff-Sergeant Arthur Cottilard, Y. of S. Staff-Sergeant Dick Palmer,** Radio **Sergeants Gary Coude** and **Sid Barnett,** M.T. **Sergeant Ginger Reynolds.**

MEETING POINT

GI Commander meets G2 Commander. The mutual question 'Have you see my 'G' anywhere?' Left to right: Lieutenant Schuler, Lieutenant Ham

Arrivals

We welcome to the troop **Signalman Dave Cooke** and **Frank Jackson.**

Departures

Our best wishes go to **Lance-Corporal Phil Sead** on his leaving the army for civilian life, to **Signalman Dennis Allison** on posting to British Honduras (last seen in the Naafi trying on their stock of sunglasses and beach wear whilst clutching a bottle of suntan oil, which incidentally was returned from last year's summer camp 'unused').

Congratulations

To **Corporal Brian Lauder** (recently promoted) as were **Lance-Corporals Kenny Wynder** and **Jock Shaw;** also to **Signalman Steve Norfield** on attaining an 'A' pass on his Class I course

MAN OF ACTION

Troop Staff-Sergeant—Staff-Sergeant Cotillard—phoning up 'main' and 'step-up'—Have you any spare bread?

A special mention to our gallant Troop Commander for keeping sane since assuming command, who by the way has a new 'ripple metal' effect added to his car!!

Warning

Our Ubiquarian Proceleuomatic troop **Staff-Sergeant Arthur (Gimme Bread) Cottilard** is shortly to descend on 10th Signal Regiment on posting. We hereby strongly recommend the aforementioned unit should check the security of their 'Bread Store'.

Troop Motto

Ariston Mey Hydro.

Closing Note

'Bravo Troop, you are on next.'

P.S. We do not infer that we get more than our fair share of exercises, but do not be alarmed next time per chance you phone Bournemouth Barracks to hear '7 Bde in the Field, Sir'.—nuf sed!

216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

Ex. Horse Radish

A PARACHUTE assault on to Everleigh D.Z., followed by a Brigade C.P.X. for a few days. Unfortunately, **Sergeant Jeff Hartley** dislocated a shoulder bone and **Lance-Corporal Noel Duff** heard that nasty crackling noise in both his puttees! Both are faring well now, with **Duff** performing a creditable imitation of Douglas Bader!

Ex. Light Century

A Brigade H.Q. and Battalion Group (3 Para) parachute assault, closely followed in helicopters by a 2nd Battalion Group (1 D.E.R.R.) into Jamboland (yet again Salisbury Plain), where we eventually routed the enemy (1 D.W.R.) without any casualties this time.

16 Para Bde Free Fall Championships

Our team, led by **Captain Jack Turner,** entered the novices part of the competition and excelled themselves by winning the team accuracy shield. The other members were **Corporal Jim Turner** and **Signalman George Burrows.**

Army Free Fall Championships

Captain Jack Turner and **Corporal Dick Kilpatrick** entered as novices and did quite well. **Captain Turner** narrowly missed the prizes when he finished fourth. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) George Devine** joined forces with **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Norman Cowell** (22 SAS), **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ian Haylock, Sergeant Jim Robins** (both 28 Sig. Regt.) and **Corporal Mick Whitley** (School of Signals) to make up the senior team, and although they didn't set the heather on fire in the team events, they did well in the individual accuracy competition. **Jim Robins** was 18th, **Ian Haylock** was 20th and **George Devine** came 22nd in a very stiff competitive field of 69 jumpers, which included at least two former British champions. Just wait until next year!

Brigade Commander's Visit

Brigadier The O'Morchoe visited the Squadron to test our fitness for role and departed suitably impressed. We were a trifle dazed as his visit occurred two days after Ex. Light Century and some blokes still had cam cream on!

Summer Camp

Once again in Scotland, this year at Cultybraggan training camp, near Crieff, where there will be much escaping and evading, and snarling of police dogs and no doubt some interesting tales for the next edition.

Ex. Dashing Impact

Our next trip abroad, after camp, which is to Northern Italy with 3 Para. More details later.

Hatches, Matches and Despatches

Congratulations go to the following for their recent increases in family, for

Sergeant John Bailey and wife, a son, **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse Jones** and wife, a daughter, **Corporal Stan Stanley** and wife, a daughter.

Lance-Corporal 'Ricky' Richardson took the plunge and joined the Pads.

We have said farewell in the time honoured fashion to:

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Jim Shearer—to 8 Signal Regt., **Staff-Sergeant 'Matt' McBirney**—to 7 Signal Regt., **Sergeant 'Max' Williams**—to 22 L.A.D. Regt. R.A.

Between them they totalled 36 years' service in the Airborne!

Arrivals

We welcome **Corporal Dick Kilpatrick** from 244 Sig. Sqn. and **Signalman Ramsay** amd **Sinclair** from the maroon conveyor belt.

Promotions

Records (Reading) have smiled benevolently upon us and brand new badges of rank blind the eye on all sides:

Doug Baikie now W.O.2 (S.S.M.), **Jim McGovern** now W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.), **Dick Hamilton** now Staff-Sergeant Comms Troop, **Steve Marshall** now Staff-Sergeant Support Troop, **Joe Baker** and **Jeff Hartley** now sergeants.

Squadron Reunions

It is intended to hold two of these, the first in mid-October of this year, for past and present members, of Sergeants rank and above (i.e. those who served in 216 as a senior rank or above).

The second 'hoolie' should be the one to end all 'hoolies' and will be open to ALL ex-members of the Squadron from 1948 to the present day, of any rank. This is scheduled for March/April 1976.

If those interested will inform us of their present location then we can publish details and send out invitations.

If you know of an ex-Squadron member who has since left the Army, we would appreciate his address too, for we mean to have a 'grand do'.

Vacancies

We still have openings for fit, keen, young men, willing to give that little extra in order to become Airborne, in the following trades: R Tg, Combat Driver, Clerk, Combat Powerman.

Remember, if you are already parachute trained and wish to complete a further tour with the Squadron you have to re-apply to O.I.C. Manning and Records on Annex A to AG and AI Chapter 37 as do initial volunteers. (P Coy does *not* have to be negotiated for a second time.)

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223 Sig Sqn, Winchester

DURING the Squadron F.F.R. held on 15th May, 1975, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** Chief Signal Officer U.K.L.F., presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to two of our N.C.O.s, **Staff-Sergeant Phil Stevens,** R.A.P.C., and **Corporal Cliff Hitchcock,** R. Signals.

Staff-Sergeant Phil Stevens. During his career he has worn three cap badges. In 1956 at Harrogate for 2½ years, he was under training as a R. Signals technician. This was followed by a voluntary transfer to R.A.C., and employment as a Clerk General Duties. His service as a Clerk in R.A.C. covered five years. Throughout this time he was employed mainly on Pay Duties and thus his interest in accounting developed a desire to transfer to R.A.P.C. In 1963 his ambition was realised and as an R.A.P.C. Corporal, he remained with R.A.C. in Fallingbostel for seven years. In 1966 in the rank of Sergeant he moved to 3 R.G.J., and, in 1968 an internal B.A.O.R. move took him to H.Q. Rhine Area where he remained until posting to this unit in April 1972.

In all **Phil Stevens** has served eleven years in B.A.O.R. He has now returned to the theatre again on posting to 28 Signal Regiment. We wish both **Phil** and his wife **Chris,** bon voyage and good luck in their new station.

Corporal Cliff Hitchcock was born in Burma, in June 1934. In the early 'fifties his first contact with the Corps was as a hockey player where he played in local teams against R. Signals in Rangoon. His growing ambition in following a career in the British Army and particularly R. Signals was finally realised when in 1955 he was granted an assisted passage to UK in order to enlist in the Army.

On arrival at Liverpool in October 1955 he enlisted into the Corps and after basic training he was selected for employment as an Operator Wireless and Line. His career span as an OWL/POp covers fifteen years with tours in 4 Div. Sig. Regt., 241 Sig. Sqn., 235 Sig. Sqn. (C.O.M.C.A.N.), 234 Sig. Sqn. and 262 Sig Sqn. In 1971 whilst in Cyprus he decided to train as Combat Signalman and in short time qualified as a Class 1 tradesman in his new trade.

He was posted to this Unit in March 1972 as a Combat Signalman and is employed as our Ration Storeman. He serves us well.

COMMCEN TROOP—4 DATA TELEGRAPHISTS RAISE £150

For some months, four members of the Troop—**Corporal Colin Hough, Signalmen Keith Anderson, Ian Mackay** and **Bob Marshall,** have impressed everyone in the Squadron with their enthusiasm to walk the 'Southern Way'. The 'Southern Way' is one of the country's natural walks. Inland, it begins at South Harting near Petersfield in Hampshire, following the Southern Downs, and ending at Beachy Head near Eastbourne in Sussex.

The aim of the walk initially was to swop plaques with the lighthouse keeper at Beachy Head. However, it was finally decided to make for Newhaven on the westerly side of the Beachy Head peninsula and to establish contact with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute skipper. Our four Data Telegraphists tackled the planning in a most creditable way. In addition they actively persuaded everyone in the Squadron to sponsor the walk—the return journey totalling 160 miles. On completion of the walk they estimated a sum of £200 would be donated to the R.N.L.I.

They set out on 18th May carrying essential kit and rations, arriving at Newhaven on 22nd May. In 'Snakelike' fashion they shed some kit, which was swiftly collected by the Q.M. department. At Newhaven they were met by Mr. Sayer, the Area Manager of the R.N.L.I., at Lifeboat House and he and his family fed them, let them bathe and finally showed them over the 'Canadian Pacific' Lifeboat. A 223 Signal Squadron plaque is now displayed in Lifeboat House.

The return journey began the next day—22nd May. They followed the beach to Shoreham-on-Sea cutting inland to the Southern Downs picking up their original route for return to Petersfield and Winchester arriving in Camp on 25th May.

Sponsored walks are not new, certainly in our Corps they have been done many times and have been well reported in THE WIRE. For this reason our article does not cover the full story of the journey. However, it is encouraging to see young soldiers volunteering for energetic pursuits which invariably help some charitable organisation. A cheque for £150 will be passed to the R.N.L.I. shortly.

THEIR INITIATIVE RAISED £200 FOR ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION

Four praiseworthy young men starting off on their sponsored walk. From the left Signalman Bob Marshall, Keith Anderson, Ian Mackay, Corporal Colin Hough and O.C., Major Alan Coates

(Photo courtesy Roger P. Thompson, 17 Rees Road, Worthy Down, Winchester)

W.O.1 (SUPV R) L. G. H. STOREY

Laurie Storey left the unit on 30th May to attend his Commissioning Course, at the School, to be followed by posting to 13 Signal Regiment in the appointment of Assistant Adjutant. Both **Laurie** and his wife **Rene** have been popular members of the squadron and we wish them both good luck in their new station.

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234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

SITTING here on Mtarfa hill, enveloped in heavy cloud and drizzle, it is hard to see how so many of the newly-exposed knees can already have acquired their golden tans. Nevertheless, summer is now officially here and shorts and shivers are the order of the day.

Our main aim this month is to say farewell to prominent Squadron members who are on their way. **W.O.2 Joe Grech, B.E.M.** finally retired after 25 years with the unit and is sorely missed. **Major Ian Robinson, Captain John Reed** and **Captain Bob Stather** are all leaving within a period of two weeks, each one of them with a new desk licence and set of civvies to match. **W.O.2 Roy Stark** is also buying suits for his posting to a T. & A.V.R. Unit. M.O.D. and T. & A.V.R. will be overrun by brown knees if this continues.

PRESENTATION TO OLD MALTA HAND

W.O.2 Joe (Cable King) Grech, B.E.M., receives his retirement gift from W.O.2 Roy Stark at the W.Os and Sergeants Mess farewell dinner—his last issue of duty free cigarettes, suitably encased in silver

Needless to say some of the gaps in the ranks have already been closed and with **Major Tony Hill** now at the helm all seems plain sailing. **Captain Peter Steeples** arrived in time to witness several radio relay rumbling thunderstorms so he already feels well and truly 'dug in'.

The winter sports have not been the grand success that was hoped for this year as with the Gunner Battery away we were called upon to provide the whole of the Army team. Our successes in the Joint Service six-a-side hockey tournament helped to make up for this, however, when we beat the R.A.F. in the final on penalty flicks. Our heroes were **Staff-Sergeant John Richardson** (Chief Clerk) and **Staff-Sergeant Joe Devlin** (M.T.) who both produced spectacular goals at vital moments.

Sergeant Jim Lindsay, Corporal Harry Dixon and **Signalman Chippy Wood** recently returned from a shooting trip to Cyprus but will now have to wait until October for the shoot here. **Captain John Reed** is also disappointed at the postponement as he will now miss the chance to defend his Champion at Arms title.

Roll on the sunshine—athletics, cricket, swimming, water polo, sailing and tennis are all looming up and even the hardy water skiers under **Captain Dick Sanders** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gus Ward** are taking things easy until it breaks through (the unit boat has no foghorn).

As a final word we send regards to **Captain Alistair Clarke** to remind him that courses are all in the mind and that we do not expect to see him here before August.

248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 1

OVER the past two months the Squadron has been active, playing its full part in training and sport. At the beginning of April we moved from the heat and noise of Shamshuipo to Sai Kung for our annual training camp. This camp in conjunction with the battle camp which was held last February on Lantau Island, is the main event in our training calendar. We returned from Sai Kung refreshed having revised many military and communication skills.

SHOOTING

Just before leaving for annual camp our shooting team led by **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Gobindabahadur Mall** achieved a fair result in the Land Forces shooting competition. Overall we were sixth out of thirteen in the minor units competition and did very well by winning the S.M.G. match. Our top scorer in this match was **Signalman Juktabahadur Gurung.**

ATHLETICS

Both the 51 Brigade and Land Forces Athletics Competitions were held in April. We were second to 27 Signal Regiment in the Brigade Minor Units competition. Our best individual performers were **Signalman Udaichandra Gurung** who won the high jump with a jump of 5 ft 4 in (not bad for a Gurkha!) and **Corporal Lilbahadur Gurung** whose shot put of 34 ft 2in gave him first place. The 4 × 100 metres relay team won their event in 48·1 seconds.

The Colony's three signal units showed their athletic talents in the Land Forces Competition. The first three places in the minor units events were:

1st 48 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron	46 points
2nd 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron	45 points
3rd 27 Signal Regiment	44 points

A very close set of results indeed. **Udaichandra** repeated his 5 ft 4 in jump to become the minor units champion while **Signalman Bhagwandas Limbu** won the 200 metres event. The 4 × 100 metres relay team again won their event in an improved time of 47·8 seconds.

ITEMS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The British members of the Squadron have also done their share of representation in the sporting world. **Corporal Dave Vince** led the squadron orienteering team to victory in the Brigade Competition. A notable success considering that very little practice was done before the competition. **Corporal Vince** and family and **Corporal Alan Kinchington** and his family have since left the Squadron and we wish them both luck in their new appointments. Meanwhile we welcome **Corporals Bob Smith** and **Phil Dews** and families. We also welcome **Sergeant Chris Boyles, R.A.O.C,** who takes up a new appointment as F.A.T.S.O. Sergeant. He too is a family wallah and we hope he and his family enjoy their stay with the Squadron.

Congratulations to **Staff-Sergeant Shyanbahadur Pun** who was commissioned by the Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas at Sek Kong on 21st May. **Shyambahadur Saheb** has now moved to 48 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron to command 'C' Troop.

The Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas ceremonially badges Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Shyambahadur Pun

'WISH YOU WERE HERE'—603 TROOP, B.F.P.O. 65

The people in the photo are, left to right, seated: Corporal Cerrone, Sergeant Guyatt, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Hunt, Sergeant Moore, Corporal Leitch
Centre row: Lance-Corporal Churchman, Corporal Gardner (now Sergeant), Corporal Bryant, Lance-Corporal Gallagher
Back row: Lance-Corporal Donnelly, Lance-Corporal Godfrey, Signalman Baxter, Signalman Stingemore, Signalman Smith, Lance-Corporal Ling, and, of course, Ali in front

GREETINGS FROM THE ISLAND PARADISE OF MASIRAH

FEW people realise the attractions that this camp has to offer. Exclusively run for the R.A.F. by Pongos, the island equivalent of Butlin's redcoats.

On arrival at Masirah International Airport, base of Yimkin (maybe) Airways, you will immediately perceive the warm sun, cloudless blue skies and plenty of palm trees, and you will be met by your future Pongo compatriots.

From the air terminal you will be driven to your open chalet complete with piped music from your station. G-plan furniture, and fan assisted solar heating. A wide selection of food is available in the restaurant, after which ice-cold drinks can be purchased from any one of nine bars in the camp.

There is an extensive range of extra-mural activities open to all. Pongo organisation caters for success in many sports. Imagine yourself in our championship winning hockey side or our five-a-side football team who are at present in contention for the second division championship. If the warm climate should prove a little trying there is always our ideally situated open-air swimming pool to cool off in, followed perhaps by a few hours' light entertainment in the camp cinema. For the more academically inclined there is a chance to join our currently successful 'Brains of Masirah' team.

To bring some variation into your stay here, it is advisable to spend a few hours each morning in the luxury of our air-conditioned Pongo control, the heart of camp communications. Excitement is provided by frequent pleas for help from the 'Blue Job' holiday-makers who are under the impression that telephones and intercoms require occasional internal cleansing with hot tea or coffee. The resident camp donkey has been known to provide interesting diversions by helping to test our lines.

Regular excursions from our island paradise can easily be arranged with Yimkin Airways to such tropical resorts as Dubai, Muscat, Seeb, Gan or Singapore. If, however, you prefer a longer trip, a three-month stay in Salalah can be arranged.

Trips by air can often be boring, so to alleviate all such worries we offer our 'round the island tour' with the SAR (Search and Rescue) team. In order to make this trip more interesting the aeroplane flies low over the sea and each person is given the chance to 'bomb' a boatful of 'Blue Job' holidaymakers, the idea being to land smoke flares near enough to frighten them without actually sinking the boat.

The local railway known as 'Masirah State Railway' has a line down to the jetty, which not only provides interest for railway enthusiasts, but gives access for sea fishing and for naturalists to view turtles during their annual breeding season in May. In order to avoid disappointment book early through **Colonel Ramsbottom,** R. Signals Manning and Records.

To complete this guide to Masirah here is an introduction to our team of Pongos:

F. of S. Barry 'Six weeks early' **Hassal**
F. of S. Gerry 'Part-timer' **Hunt**
Sergeant Mo 'Days to do' **Guyatt**
Sergeant Jim 'Chief Tech' **Moore**
Corporal Ray 'I just love this cookhouse food' **Leitch**
Corporal Brian 'Who is this bloke Mooney?' **Gardner**
Corporal Ken 'What me ref?' **Cerrone**
Corporal John 'Broken nose' **Bryant**
Lance-Corporal John 'Bones' **Gallagher**
Lance-Corporal Steve 'Billy Whizz' **Churchman**
Lance-Corporal John 'Give me your cheque book' **Godfrey**
Lance-Corporal Frank 'Quararumpa Rovers' **Ling**
Lance-Corporal Andy 'Wish I was a pad' **Donnelly**
Signalman Spike 'Blitz Kid' **Stingemore**
Signalman Smudge 'I'll get it right next' **Smith**
Corporal Dougal 'Supertech' **Moule**
Corporal Taff 'I'll start the diet next week' **Williams**
Signalman Taff 'I've just found five baizas' **Davies**
Signalman Barry 'Basil' **Nesbitt**
Corporal Dave 'Water Baby' **Plumb**
Signalman John 'The Hulk' **Baxter**

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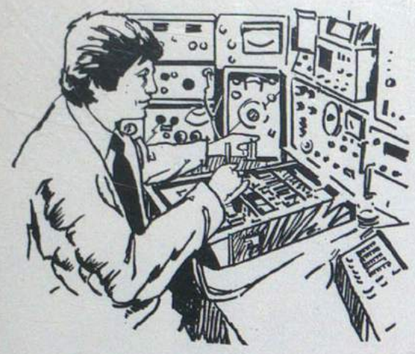

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Long sleeve T-shirt colours and sizes as above, price inclusive £2·00.

Sweat Shirts—ideal for sports or casual wear, fleecy lined, raglan sleeve for extra room; colours black, navy, white, red, green; price inclusive £3·00, small, med, large, E. large.

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605 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Gan B.F.P.O. 180

Movements

THIS month the Troop bid farewell, in the traditional style, to **Sergeant Mick Turner** bound for 632 Signal Troop, and **Signalman Keith Bell** who is posted to 21 Signal Regiment. Apart from the beer, and the excellent party, the remaining members of 605 would like to thank them for their efforts on the sports field, in particular the five-a-side football, and rugby. We hope the water in the North of Scotland will not be too cold to deter **Mick Turner's** sub-aqua enthusiasm. Best of luck to them and we hope they keep up the good work in their new units.

We welcome to Gan **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Hill** who has joined 605 from the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, also **Sergeant 'Spike' Spencer** whose last post was with 21 Signal Regiment at R.A.F. Bruggen. We hope they have a pleasant vacation (?) on this beautiful Indian Ocean coral reef.

The End is Near

As readers are no doubt aware, R.A.F. Gan is due to close early next year. In order to ensure that the rundown runs smoothly and to reduce turbulence several of the Troop have been 'requested to extend their tour' and remain until the bitter end. The gentlemen who have had their 'sentences' extended are **Sergeants Graham Hughes, Chris Wilkie, Pete Smith, Corporals 'Nick' Nicholson, Trev Inman,** and **Signalman Nigel Grant.** To quote the current island pun 'It's surprising what some people do to miss an English winter'.

Sports Special—9 Pin Skittles

Although the smallest section to participate the Pongo skittle team, ably led into 'battle' by **Corporal Dave Collier** (complete with war cries) won the recent inter-section league. Throughout the competition a high standard of play was maintained, only one of their 15 games being lost.

The team also reached the semi-final of the 9 Pin Knockout competition. It was an exciting game against 1125 Marine Craft Unit who ran out winners by one pin. Our 'Postie', **Corporal John Shoulder** just failed on the last ball of the game, despite the fact that he had ordered the ball to 'kill'.

Sergeant Graham Hughes and **Corporal Roger Stebbing** won trophies for the highest individual scores in the league with 490 and 485 points respectively.

Can't the 'Blue Jobs' win anything? Well . . . Maybe?

Five-a-Side Football

The success at skittles, was perhaps offset by the lack of success at five-a-side. The Pongos ended the season second from the bottom, and must accept second division football in the next competition. Credit must be given to **Corporals Dave Collier, Brian Fenton, Nick (Killer) Cole, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Dowdall, Sergeants Graham Hughes, Tony Paines** and **Signalman Paul Weaver** for their magnificent efforts against overwhelming odds, even though they were billed at one time as 'the Pongo Road Show'. In fact, they only finished second from the bottom because the last team dropped out of the competition. Perhaps if **Sergeant Pete Smith** had put down his whistle and played instead of refereeing we may have improved our lowly position.

633 Sig Tp, Caribbean B.F.P.O. 12

633 SIGNAL TROOP (CARIBBEAN)
AND
14 SIGNAL REGIMENT DETACHMENT (BELIZE)

Back row, left to right: Signalmen Mick Bethune, Jess Ward, Bill Simpson and Gordon Patterson, Lance-Corporal 'Scruff' Naylor, Signalmen Pete Bebb, Steve Allan, Dave Silk, Jim Paine, Dave Leggett and Pete McCullough

Centre row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Bill Davies, Corporal Eric Sadler, Lance-Corporal Dave Denning, Corporals Steve ('F.P.') Freeman-Pannett and Brian Coombes, Sergeant Kojak Dickenson, Corporals Mick Blythe and Dave Haslam, Lance-Corporal (now Corporal) Bob Orchard, Corporal Dave Ray and Lance-Corporal Steve Mathieson

Front row, left to right: Sergeant Colin (Midnight Cowboy) Sobers, Miss Janice Bainton (Telephonist), Sergeant 'Nobby' Clarke, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Trev Spence, W.O.1 (F. of S.) Alan Falconer, Captain Mike Taylor, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Hazelgrove, Sergeants Paul Mercer and Jim Brown, Miss Rosita Bainton (Telephonist) and Sergeant Dave Andrews

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

APRIL and May have been very quiet months with most effort spent in preparing for the forthcoming hurricane season which commences in June and is followed by a hurricane precaution exercise. During the month all members of the Troop have been checking the hurricane communications networks and familiarising themselves with their emergency tasks. The provision of emergency communications is a vital task and one which the Troop practices continuously throughout the five-month long hurricane season.

During 1974 two hurricanes, Carmen and Fifi, struck Belize but luckily caused little damage and no loss of life. However, a great amount of damage and a considerable number of casualties occurred in neighbouring Honduras as a result of hurricane Fifi. We are therefore very conscious of our role in providing emergency communications in Belize and of the ever-present hurricane threat which hangs over the region for most of the year.

VISIT OF C.O. 14 SIGNAL REGIMENT TO BELIZE

During May we were visited by **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales. Colonel Hales** visited Belize to see members of his regiment on detachment here, to pay a routine visit to 633 Signal Troop and to meet the Commander and Staff of British Forces Belize. **Colonel Hales** was accompanied by **Captain John Heard** from Headquarters 1 Signal Group. The visit was a great success and very useful. We hope that our visitors enjoyed their short visit to Central America and the Caribbean.

SPORTS

Members of the Troop continue to make full use of some excellent adventure training courses organised and run by the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. At present **Signalman Pete Bebb,** is learning all about 'Jungle Hunting and Tracking'—the hard way!—with an American professional hunter at Millionario, a jungle village miles from anywhere! Occasional radio messages from Millionario indicate that **Signalman Peter Bebb** is enjoying himself although just a little 'saddle-sore' and finding that 'Armadilloburgers' for breakfast take some getting used to—as well as some chewing!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

As our photograph shows, we have quite a strong Royal Signals contingent in Belize! We welcome:

Signalman Dave Silk, Corporals Eric Sadler, Dave Denning and **Sergeant 'Taff' Mugford.** Also **Signalman Mick Bethune, Sergeant Colin Sobers** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Trev Spence**—all of 14 Signal Regiment.

Farewell to **Sergeant Eric Jones, Corporals Bob Orchard, Bill Davies, John Steer** and **'Scruff' Naylor, Signalmen Steve Allan** and **Dave Leggett.** Also to **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Alan Falconer, Sergeant Dave Andrews** and **Brian Coombs** of 14 Signal Regiment.

The Volunteers

31 Sig Regt (V), Hammersmith

EXPERT VIEWS

On Sunday the 8th June the Regiment held the Officers, W.O.s and S.N.C.O.s principal Training Day in the Hammersmith TAC, and we were fortunate to be able to include two first-rate presentations.

Captain Paul Whittle and **Captain Richard Ives** set the ball rolling with a well-planned, informative and crisply delivered account of reconnaissance and siting principles, neatly contriving to emphasise their comments with some very good slides. They were followed by our principal speaker, **Brigadier W. F. K. Thompson, O.B.E.,** the Defence Correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph,* whose splendid discourse on N.A.T.O. and the ramifications of that alliance promoted some interesting questions.

We were pleased **Brigadier Thompson** was able to stay to lunch, where he cheerfully fielded more questions, and very grateful that he made the time to come and contribute so much to our study.

RECRUITING CARAVAN

Corporal Brian Carroll points out some of the detail in the caravan's field communications model

COME AND JOIN US!

Since our repaired recruiting caravan was released from workshops earlier this year, **Major Jim Greenhill,** our 2IC, has been working very hard to complete the refurbishing. With the able assistance of **Foreman Lamb** and his team, he managed to have the caravan ready for public viewing during the 'natural breaks' in our Training Day and, as the photograph shows, we shall have an excellent display when we go out and about.

CULINARY SUCCESS

Traditionally Army cooks receive more brickbats than bouquets, so it is only fair to point out that they work hard at their trade, and like everyone else must pass a trade test. The big day came for **Private Patrick Burke,** A.C.C., on Sunday, 8th June, when his practical and theoretical ability was very carefully tested by **W.O.1 A. Ferguson,** A.C.C., one of the supervising travelling instructors of H.Q. London District. We congratulate **Private Burke** on his success in passing the test, and he can now put up his sign 'Have compo, will travel!'

Sport

Corps Shooting

Captain G. L. P. Hudson, Secretary of the Royal Signals Rifle Association writes: 'At the Inter-Corps Target Rifle Team Match held at Bisley 17th–18th May, Royal Signals were second with a team score of 698. The Parachute Regiment won by a narrow margin with a score of 701.

Individual scores were as follows:

Colonel R. H. Gilbertson ..	186
Lieutenant J. Evans ..	177
Major J. Cox	173
Major G. A. S. Exell ..	162
Captain G. L. P. Hudson ..	164 (Reserve)

Colonel R. H. Gilbertson was the highest scoring competitor at the meeting.

Army Golfing Society's Spring meeting

THE Army Golfing Society Spring Meeting saw a fairly good turnout of Corps golfers. Sadly, **Major-General E. S. Cole** was still recovering from a recent major operation and **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** suffered a back injury before things really got under way, so the Corps teams were a little depleted.

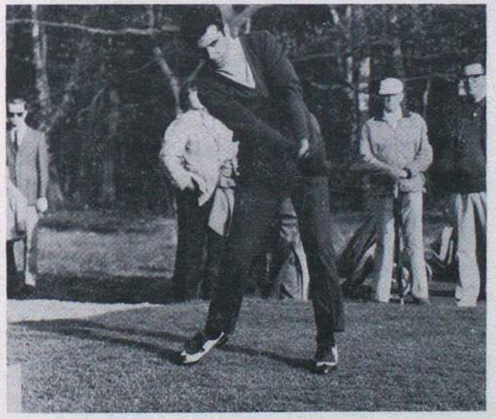
Initial mention must be made of **Corporal Chris Carveth** who led the qualifiers for the Army Championships with two splendid rounds of golf under atrocious conditions. He shared the lead for the first 18 holes with **Major Dick Carroll.** Regrettably, after two good wins to reach the semi-final stage, **Chris Carveth** was beaten, his opponent getting a hole-in-one at the 16th to put the match out of reach. **Major Dick Carroll** also succumbed during the early match play knockout rounds.

The Corps 'A' Team, competing in the ordnance cup, gave us hope of glory, but it was not to be. After comfortable wins over the R.A.E.C. and R.T.R. the team lost, by a margin of two holes only, after 90 holes had been played, to the Royal Artillery team. Better luck next time. The 'B' team, competing in the Egypt Cup, also lost by the margin of two holes to R.A.O.C. 'B'—some slight consolation being that they were beaten by the winners. They also hope to do better the next time around. At full strength both teams could probably have brought home some 'pots'. The teams representing the Corps in these events were:

'A' TEAM	'B' TEAM
Major Dick Carroll	**Captain Peter Dixon**
Captain George Heaney	**Major Jim Potts**
Captain Willie Brewin	**Colonel Don Fairman**
Lieutenant-Colonel Stan Schofield	**Brigadier O. J. Peck**
Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales	**Major Eric Gill**

Corps W.O.2 Wins B.A.O.R. Golf Championship for second time

SIXTY-FIVE of the best Army golfers in B.A.O.R., more than twenty of them handicap 6 and below, met at R.A.F. Bruggen on 28th April to engage in a week-long struggle to find their Champion for 1975. The pundits made **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Simpson** of 16th Signal Regiment the popular choice. He had won this title in 1973 and was surprisingly beaten in the 1974 semi-finals but it took a 2 handicap County player to put him out then. Who was there to beat him this year? Well a certain **Private Peter Meredith** from the Paras in Berlin had written 0 against the word Handicap on his entry form. Was he really a scratch golfer? He was certainly unknown in Army and B.A.O.R. golfing circles. Once seen on the course all doubts faded away. Looking like something straight from the American circuit, this amiable young man was clearly the genuine article. The spotlight of attention quickly swung away from **Reg Simpson** and all eyes were on this former assistant professional from Hayling Island, now reinstated as an amateur.



W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Simpson in action

The first hurdle in this competition is to quality in a 36 hole medal event. The best 16 gross scorers going forward into the match play knockout stage. **Yeoman Simpson** did not produce his best form but with a 78 and 76 he was the number one seed. **Private Meredith** was not finding the course very easy especially in the tricky wind conditions, nevertheless he qualified easily enough.

Good Royal Signals performances came from **Major Peter Tidey** currently serving with Rheindahlen Garrison and **Captain Don Reed** of 227 Signal Squadron who both qualified. **W.O.2 'Barney' Barnett** of 16th Signal Regiment unluckily missed the cut by one stroke. **W.O.2 Bob Parker,** R.A.P.C. also of 16th Signal Regiment qualified well and showed **Private Meredith's** vulnerability by not yielding to him until the 19th hole in the opening match play round.

The stage looked set for a **Simpson** v. **Meredith** final, but **Captain Peter Fellows,** R.A.O.C., had other ideas and toppled **Private Meredith** in his semi-final. Nobody had unduly troubled **Reg Simpson** in his progress to the final. So it was **Simpson** v. **Fellows,** and what a match these two produced to thrill the gallery. **Fellows** playing like a machine reeled off eight straight pars, **Simpson** going for the 'birdies' he knew he must produce to beat this man played an occasional loose shot, but always kept in touch. There was never more than one hole in it either way. **Reg Simpson** never slackened his aggression and going into the long 18th all square he finally cracked his man, two mighty blows gave him a chance of an eagle putt from about eight feet. In the event he had to settle for his 5th birdie but **Captain Fellows,** a gallant loser, could not match this.

This was the best B.A.O.R. Championship Final anyone could recall, played in most sporting fashion. Another boost for Royal Signals golf and another splendid performance by **Reg Simpson.**

Corps Cricket

ROYAL SIGNALS v ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

The match was played at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, on 21st May. The weather was fine and the wicket easy paced at the start.

R. Signals	188	Raybould	32
		Coltman	30
R.C.T.	82	Scott	7 for 43

Result: R. Signals won by 106 runs.

ROYAL OF SIGNALS v RMA SANDHURST

The match was played at Sandhurst on 28th May. The weather was fine and the wicket a batsman's paradise.

Result

RMA Sandhurst ..	182 for 6 wickets declared				
R Signals	184 for 6				
Coltman	62	Yeoman	23 not out
Scott	49	Gipson	22 not out

R. Signals won by four wickets.

ROYAL SIGNALS v RMCS SHRIVENHAM

The match took place at Shrivenham on 4th June. The weather was overcast and the wicket was well grassed, easy paced with a tendency for the ball to keep low.

RMCS Shrivenham won the toss and elected to bat.

Result

RMCS Shrivenham ..	184 for 7 wickets declared				
		Scott	5 for 64
R Signals	163 for 7 wickets				
		Scott	64
		Commons	44

Match Drawn.

ROYAL SIGNALS v REME

The match took place at Arborfield on 6th June, 1975. The weather was fine and the wicket easy paced.

REME won the toss and elected to bat.

Result

REME	122	Scott	4 for 63
		Taylor	3 for 9
R Signals ..	123 for 2	Raybould ..	69 not out

R Signals won by eight wickets.

Association News

Aldershot Branch

Hon. Sec. A. V. Ient, Esq., 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, writes:

It is now some time that notes from this branch appeared in THE WIRE and I think it is time that this was put right. The Aldershot Branch is still going strong and the monthly meetings are still quite a monthly affair on the first Wednesday in each

month at The Duke of York, Weybourne Road, Aldershot, at 8 p.m. Any members this way on that day are always welcome. There are, of course, the regular hard core of attenders but we do have those who don't come this month will be there the next.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held on Wednesday, 2nd April and the following are now the officers of the branch.

President, **Brigadier W. Guise Tucker, C.B.E.**
Chairman and Hon. Treasurer, **Major D. P. Gardiner, T.D.**
Hon. Secretary, **Mr. A. V. Ient, M.S.M.**

The Annual Dinner of the Branch was held on 10th May at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Farnborough, Hants, and 81 members and wives and friends sat down to an excellent dinner. It was presided over by our President, **Brigadier W. Guise Tucker, C.B.E.,** with **Major 'Duggie' Gardiner** in the chair for the first time. There is not room here to give you the names of all those present but I must include a few of those present who were so well known in the Corps at one time. **Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E.,** and **Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.** were present with their wives for a good start. **Mr. W. M. 'Joe' Cotterell** with his wife who many will remember in his running days. The Toasts included The Royal Signals Association proposed by **Mr. A. V. Ient** and replied to by **Brigadier H. A. Sturge.** The Guests toast was proposed by **Major Duggie Gardiner** and replied to by our guest of the evening, **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.** Others present included **Mr. A. E. Foot** and three members of the Reading Branch. **Brigadier P. Baldwin, Brigadier F. J. Allen, Mr. Adkins, Mr. G. R. Ient** and our only Honorary Member **R.S.M. C. Slater, M.B.E., R.W.F.** from the Staff College, Camberley.

56 Division Old Comrades Association

Hon. Sec.: **D. Le Febvre, Esq.,** 59 The Millbank, Ifield, Crawley, Sussex RH11 OJQ

GREETINGS to all ex-Black Cats! Our Second branch meeting held at W.O.s and Sergeants Mess 83 Sig Sqn (V), 351 Merton Road, S.W.18, resulted in eleven new members joining the fold (or should it be cattery?). Of the eleven, eight are new Life Members (including **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Goldie-Morrison,** our C.O. in the late 1950s, and the last O.C. 332 Sig Sqn, **Major John Baber**), two are Life Members from North London Branch (having **Major M. A. W. Rose**—ex-O.C. 332 (City of London) Sig Sqn and recently ellected to the Central Committee—has got to be a bonus), and **ex-Sergeant Cliff Villis** trying to prove his old Life Membership. This brings our membership up to 42 with more, in the pipeline. During the formal part of the meeting a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect for **ex-Sergeant G. E. (Nobby) Clarke.**

BRANCH RECORDS

The Secretary has requested that all members complete a 'details of Service form' to assist the Committee.

1965 RECRUITING FILM

Later in the evening, one of our new members, **Major John Batchelor** (affectionately known by the disrespectful as George Formby), one time O.C. 332 (City of London) Sig Sqn, showed us his 1965 recruiting film. Old places, old names and younger faces were remembered, resulting in a list of wanted potential new members. Should we initiate a bounty hunters system as they did in the old west'?

29th MEETING OF BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

The Branch Chairman, **Roy Hughes** and I attended our first Branch Reps meeting at 31st (GL) Signal Regt (V) drill hall Hammersmith, on 3rd May 1975. Not unfamilar ground as we have both served there since 1967 and 1969 respectively. By kind permission of the R.S.A. Chairman, as we were a recently reformed branch, we were able to have three reps at **Brigadier Pat Hobson's** retirement luncheon. It was in July 1951 that **Don Gunter** (Branch Committee member and S.S.M. of H.Q. Sqn 31 (GL) Sig Regt (V)), our third representative, last met **Brigadier Pat Hobson. Brigadier Hobson** was C.O. of Hong Kong Signal Regiment and **Don Gunter** was a N.S. Signalman about to be demobbed. Since then **Don Gunter's** greatest enthusiasm has been Hong Kong, and during the writer's and **Roy Hughes'** 23 years' friendship with him, his cry of 'Don't I know you from Hong Kong?' when meeting some newcomers to our Regiments has become quite famous. His meeting with **Brigadier Hobson** must be the ultimate; the Hong Kong reunion to end all reunions; anyone else after this has got to be a let-down. To prove his identity **Don Gunter** produced his Army Book 111, Discharge of N.S. Soldier from Wholetime Service, signed by **Lieutenant-Colonel Hobson.**

A voice from the distant past congratulating us on our reformation was **Mr. Rose** of Huddersfield Branch who served with 56 Div in 1916.

Our next meeting will have been held on 11th July, 1975, before publication of our notes, but the next important date for all ex-Black Cats to note is 28th November, 1975, when we are holding a dinner-dance including cabaret at the Bridge House Restaurant, Reigate Hill, Surrey. We are confident that our Chairman will organise another great occasion.

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
LT. COL. R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No.8**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

On 10th July, Her Majesty The Queen unveiled this very fine statue depicting THE SIGNALMAN 1925 and 1975. Her Majesty is seen viewing the statue, following the unveiling ceremony: The Master of Signals, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. in attendance. On the right, the sculptress, Mrs. Faith Winter. The engagements undertaken by Her Majesty at Catterick are reported fully in this issue.

High Summer For The Corps !

DURING June and July a series of Corps events have taken place some of which must go down as outstanding even in the context of the whole of Corps history. Pre-eminent amongst these must, of course, be the gracious visit of Her Majesty The Queen, to the Training Brigade on Thursday, 10th July during the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the move from Maresfield to Catterick. This issue of THE WIRE draws its main theme from the Royal Visit which is recorded in full elsewhere in our columns including four pages of photographs (see pages 260, 261, 262 and 263). Details of other events during the Catterick 1975 week are also included.

Another event of considerable Corps significance was the Dedication of the Corps Memorial to our late Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. This took place at Blandford on the 21st June in the presence of a large gathering including the Honourable Gerald Lascelles, son of the late Princess Royal, and Mrs. Lascelles and the Representative Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, Brigadier K. R. Colwell, C.B.E. (see report on page 269).

Finally, two major Association Re-unions were held—one at Blandford on Sunday the 22nd June and the other at Catterick over the weekend 12th/13th July. Both were a great success, some 570 attending at Blandford and nearly 750 at Catterick. It is hoped to publish photographs of the latter in the next issue of THE WIRE.

All in all a Summer that the Corps can look back on, not only with pleasure, but also with considerable pride.

Corps Athletes Strike Top Form

Congratulations to all our athletes who competed in the Army inter-unit team Athletic Championships at the Aldershot Military Stadium on 23rd and 25th July.

	Major units	
1st	21st Signal Regiment	210 pts.
2nd	1 Cheshire	176 pts.
3rd	7th Signal Regiment	157 pts.
	Minor units	
1st	6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron	49 pts.
2nd	11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron	43 pts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the advice and assistance of Brigadier Pat Hobson in producing this Special issue of THE WIRE.

THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN TO CATTERICK '75

How it began

IT is difficult to remember now how it all began, and even exactly how the idea grew into its final form, but the inspiration to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Corps in Catterick must certainly lie with Brigadier Jimmy Hellier. It was left to his successor, Brigadier Reg King, his staff and many members of the Training Brigade and Catterick Garrison to refine the original concept, and to stage, in the event, one of the most memorable weeks in the history of Catterick and the Corps.

To commemorate the move of the Corps from Maresfield to Catterick half a century ago was, of course, a splendid idea and then to learn that Her Majesty The Queen had agreed to a Royal visit set a final seal on all that was being planned. To make the occasion Her Majesty graciously consented to visit the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, to unveil a commemorative statue, to meet soldiers of the Brigade with their families, to take luncheon with the officers of the Corps and to tour the Trade Training School.

Her Majesty arrives . . .

The setting for the arrival of Her Majesty was at the site of the statue itself, on Druggon Road leading to the Training School. Colour abounded, with masses of flowers, blue carpets and awnings, the Corps Band in full dress, the uniform and dresses of the spectators—all set against the background of the familiar Sandhurst blocks of Vimy Lines, with the glass and silver of the Training School in the distance.

The Royal aircraft landed at RAF Leeming, where Her Majesty was met by the Lord Lieutenant for North Yorkshire, the GOC North East District and the Corps ADC, Brigadier Geoffrey Proudman.

Escorted by outriders from the White Helmets for part of the way, Her Majesty was met on arrival in Vimy Lines by the Master of Signals, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, and received by a Royal Guard of Honour, under the command of Major Clive Collier, provided by 8th Signal Regiment.

As Her Majesty inspected the Guard, and moved to the rostrum for the unveiling ceremony, spectators realised with delight that The Queen's hat and dress were in Corps colours.

To unveil a Statue . . .

The Master, in a short speech of welcome on behalf of the Corps, invited Her Majesty to perform the unveiling ceremony, to which Her Majesty replied in the following words:

"Master of Signals,

Thank you for your welcome. I am delighted to be with you today to commemorate 50 years of Royal Signals Training at Catterick.

Good communications are as essential to a modern Army as nerves are to the human body, without them it cannot function. Like nerves they are not much in the news, except of course when they go wrong, but let no one doubt their importance because of that!

Anyone who joins the Royal Corps of Signals and comes here to train may be quite sure that he is doing something which is worth-while and needed by his country.

Modern military communications have come a long way from the signalling flags, heliographs and smoke signals of primitive armies. They are highly sophisticated and this gives an added advantage to all who train here. The skills you learn will always be needed and when you leave the Army you will be well equipped and qualified for civilian life.

I am much looking forward to meeting some of you today and seeing something of your training school.

On this special occasion for the Royal Corps of Signals, I send my best wishes to all its members, serving and retired, Regular and Volunteer, wherever they may be. I wish them all good fortune and the continuing satisfaction of work well done to the highest standards.

It now gives me much pleasure to unveil this statue."

At the press of a switch the covering on the statue rose slowly and precisely into the air and fell away on to the grass; in itself a splendid effect, due to the ingenuity and care of Sergeant Lennon and Major Hodgson of 8th Regiment. These statues, of two soldiers in 1925 and 1975 uniform respectively, are over eight feet tall, and stand proudly on a five-foot plinth. One soldier holds a signalling flag, the other a hand-set. Both figures are of manly bearing and full of life, the composition is strong and compelling. Faith Winter, the sculptress and the wife of Colonel Freddie Winter, late Royal Signals, had created a perfect symbol to commemorate the occasion. Mrs. Winter was, of course, presented to The Queen immediately after the ceremony.

The variety and extent of the landscaping being carried out throughout the Garrison, under DOE auspices, is now a major feature of the new Catterick. It was therefore right that Her Majesty should meet some of those concerned, and to be invited to plant a horse chestnut tree, the first of a new line in Druggon Road. At the moment of planting, the road was renamed Queens Avenue. The spade was handed to Her Majesty by Mr. George Bagley, the retired head gardener of the Regiment, who has done so much to beautify the Regimental lines over the years.

To meet soldiers of the Brigade and their families . . .

Brigadier King had the pleasant duty of escorting Her Majesty on a walkabout among the families of his Brigade. The happy and relaxed atmosphere can best be appreciated from the photographs and there are many who will now treasure pictures of themselves or their children meeting Her Majesty. The Queen had expressed a wish to meet the soldiers of the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police serving in the Garrison, and their families; they too shared in these delightful moments of the Royal 'walkabout.'

To take luncheon with the Officers of the Corps . . .

One hundred were at luncheon in the Mess, and the judgement of Solomon had been needed to select the list of names; many were doubtless disappointed they were not there—they can but share the memories of those who were. All who attended were presented to The Queen before luncheon. Her Majesty was thus able to meet a cross section of the serving and retired Corps, members of the Garrison, the Richmondshire Council, the TAVR, and many other representatives of the Corps. Among those presented was Major Elizabeth Ross, Officer Commanding WRAC, whose father was resident factor at Balmoral for 28 years, and who knew Her Majesty when they were both children. Among the guests were Francis Russell Flint, commissioned by the Corps Committee to paint a picture of the unveiling ceremony, who had been at work in beret and smock behind the Guard of Honour; also Brigadier Galwey, Adjutant of the Depot Battalion in 1925, at the time of the move north.

The Officers' Mess staff and Committee had prepared everything magnificently. The silver on the top table included a replica of the statue Her Majesty had just unveiled, also the work of Faith Winter.

There were no speeches, but it was an emotional moment as the Vice President responded to the Master of Signals' call of "Mr. Vice The Queen" and all rose to drink the Loyal Toast in Her Majesty's presence.

To tour the Trade Training School . . .

The aim of the last part of the Royal Visit was to show The Queen something of the tasks of Royal Signals and the training of the men and women who serve, and at the same time to permit Her Majesty to meet some more soldiers and the military and civilian staff of 8th Signal Regiment. To set the scene radio and radio-relay vehicles from Schemes Troop lined the entrance to the School. After being received by Colonel Cattermull and Lieutenant-Colonel Tanner, Her Majesty, escorted by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, spent a few moments asking questions about the vehicles and crews outside the building. Previously Her Majesty had observed that the handset of the modern statue soldier had no visible connection to any equipment! A soldier with a manpack set was therefore paraded to provide a working model for The Queen to see.

R.S.M. Frost and Mr. Peter Halsey, senior civilian instructor, were both presented, before Her Majesty visited a BRUIN equipment course where Captain John Grigsby gave a demonstration of trunk dialling. En route to see a WRAC course, Her Majesty's attention was caught by two classes of overseas students, mainly from Africa, and an unscheduled stop was made, which Sergeant Colin Worthing handled without batting an eyelid. Major Ashley Barker and Mr. John Ring received Her Majesty in the Operating Wing and a demonstration was given of teleprinter training using the screen keyboard and tape.

In Laboratory Group, with Mr. Peter Dawson, Her Majesty spoke to three trainees, two of whom were re-enlistments: Signalman Ray Stone, ex-Royal Navy; and Signalman Jim Cameron, ex-RAF. These encounters provoked some amusing questions. Luckily Signalman Dave Brown was able to reassure Her Majesty that we also recruit young soldiers without previous military experience!

The interest shown by The Queen was evident from the several encounters and conversations that followed. In Radio group with Captain George Hayes, the number of left-handed operators in training was considered unusual; the sight of Para wings raised the subject of our commitment to the SAS and Parachute Brigade; Major Mel Russell, US Army Signal Corps held Her Majesty's attention with a neat summary of CCTV. Finally, in the three communications centre rooms Mr. Ken Coates launched a message and a facsimile picture down the corridor, its progress along the route being explained to Her Majesty by Sergeant Douglas Friend and Yeoman of Signals Tom Martin. The message, addressed to Her Majesty, conveyed the loyal greetings of the Corps world wide. The facsimile picture was of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and re-enacted the transmission of a picture by facsimile for His Majesty King George V on his visit to the Corps in Aldershot in 1932. The picture sent then was of Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth, taken on her birthday. Her Majesty was surprised to see the actual picture and facsimile copy sent at the time, which are normally kept in the Corps Museum.

And so Farewell

After a pause at the time capsule in the entrance hall, with some comments on its contents, Her Majesty signed the visitors book and said her farewells to 8th Regiment.

On the School steps Diane Whiffen, a Brownie, presented a bouquet. Brigadier King, Major-General Tighe and Major-General Bradley took leave of Her Majesty and, to the cheers of local schoolchildren, the Royal motorcade drove down Queen's Avenue lined by 11th Signal Regiment.

As The Queen departed from RAF Leeming, Her Majesty instructed the Private Secretary to write to the Master of Signals to say "how much pleasure it had given her to visit the Training Brigade of the Royal Corps of Signals and to join in the celebrations of the Corps presence at Catterick Camp."

In his reply to the Private Secretary, the Master included the following sentence:

"I shall be most grateful if you would convey to Her Majesty, with our humble duty, an expression of our deep gratitude for her interest in us and an assurance of the continued love and devotion of her Royal Corps of Signals."

So ended a glorious day, which will remain for ever a bright page in our Corps history.

The Other Celebrations

Catterick 75 however had been planned to last five days, and there was much more to come. Indeed the celebrations had started the night before with a Band concert in the Classic Cinema. Here surely was a show to start off any celebrations on a high note. The Corps Band shared the bill with Morecambe and Wise, and never have either of them performed better. Major Keith Boulding conducted and commented as professionally as always, and the Band, individually and in unison, were outstanding. And what can one say of Morecambe and Wise, surely two of the greatest modern clowns, who had us in the palms of their hands from the moment they appeared. They staged a finale with the Brigade Commander playing the post horn gallop on a gun barrel and producing coloured handkerchiefs with magic skill. Throughout their stay in Catterick Morecambe and Wise made innumerable friends; their generosity in performing without a fee for the Corps, and the genuine interest and friendship they showed for everyone will not be forgotten. One can only say again, "Thank you, Eric and Ernie, very much for giving so much of your time to us."

Mercury Bridge

Each year we exercise our rights of the Freedom of Richmond by marching through the Town and playing retreat in the Castle ground. This year one further distinction was added by naming the bridge by Richmond Station, 'Mercury Bridge.' The parade of 8th and 11th Regiments was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Cuerden, and the salute was taken by the Master and Chairman of Richmondshire Council and the Mayor of Richmond.

A reception was held in Richmond Town Hall and that night a celebration Ball was held by the combined Sergeants' Messes of the Brigade in Loos Mess. Gifts of commemorative Caithness glass were exchanged.

The Old Comrades weekend

The Royal Signals 'At Home' and Old Comrades Weekend followed the traditional format, with added numbers and events this year. Playing of Retreat, on Helles Parade Ground, opened the weekend on Saturday, 12th July. It included a spectacular rendition of the 1812 Overture, with suitable explosions and coloured smoke. Buffet supper in the Officers' Mess and separate evening entertainments in the 8th and 11th Signal Regiments' Sergeants' Messes followed.

(*Continued on page 264*)

THE CAMERA CAPTURES THE SCENE PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF HER MAJESTY

The Guard of Honour, commanded by Major Clive Collier marches on

R.S.M. Joe Frost covers the finer points

Assembled guests awaiting the arrival of Her Majesty include Brigadier E. J. Hellier, O.B.E., late Commander, Training Brigade

THE FORMAL MOMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME

The arrival of Her Majesty. The Master of Signals, Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. in attendance

A few minutes later, Her Majesty inspects the Guard of Honour

. . . AND THE INFORMAL

Brigadier R. A. King with Her Majesty as she meets staff and families of H.Q. Training Brigade

Her Majesty meets Corporal and Mrs. Jim Baines and daughters Lorraine and Angela

W.O.2 Ian Buckley presents A/T Sergeant Martin Webb

Her Majesty has a word for a very young admirer, Vicci Taylor

Miss Dawn Davies greets Her Majesty with a smile

Her Majesty talks to W.O.2 Carl Widdowson, 8th Signal Regiment

HER MAJESTY AT THE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL – AND THEN FAREWELL

Signalman Raymond Stone, trainee Tele Mech discusses the tools of his trade with Her Majesty and the S.O.-in-C. Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Tanner looks on but missed the joke

Major Mel Russell, U.S. Army explains T.V. as a training aid

Her Majesty has a word with Private Susan Burton, trainee Commcen Operator. Staff Sergeant Norma Hunter also included

Signalman James Cameron explains the form. Mr. Peter Dawson, his Instructor, clearly approves

Miss Diane Whiffen presents a bouquet as Her Majesty leaves the Trade Training School with Brigadier R. A. King

The Master of Signals and the S.O.-in-C. bid farewell to Her Majesty

(*Continued from page* 259)

The Sunday Service was held in St. Martin's Church, attended by the soldiers of 8th and 11th Signal Regiments with the Old Comrades. The Reverend (ex-TOT) Les Pettifer preached the sermon, expressing sympathy for those who had celebrated too well the night before. After the service the Master of Signals opened Newbigging Park in Scotton Road (originally 'Q' Lines) in memory of Brigadier General Newbigging, who was responsible for moving the Corps from Maresfield to Catterick. The Parade then marched past the Master of Signals and the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association was then held in the Baghdad Gym. After lunch all gathered for the music and displays on the Messines Sports Ground. These included a gymnastic display by the Harrogate apprentices, free-fall by the Blue Helmets, the Corps Parachuting Team, and the show of the White Helmets, followed by a performance by the Corps Band. The Master of Signals took the final salute at the Sunset Ceremony, which brought the weekend and indeed the Catterick 75 celebrations to an end.

Envoi

So now it is all over, five memorable days which gave much pleasure to so many, which will remain a part of the tale of Catterick for many a year. Mention has been made of those who conceived it all, in particular the planning team, Major Peter Valder, Captain Bob Coe and Lieutenant 'Paddy' O'Connell, RAOC, who put it all down on paper, and then made it work. There were many others within the Garrison and the District who helped in innumerable ways, but special tribute must be paid to the many unseen helpers without whom nothing would have gone so well; the catering staffs, the guards and security men, those who put up tents and stands, who drove and gardened, painted and cleaned—those in fact who did the hard work, on the spot. Thanks to them all. What a week it was!

From our "In" Tray

Ex Signal View '75

A Letter of Thanks

Sir,

Through your pages may we express our sincere appreciation for the welcome and hospitality shown to us by all ranks of 14th Signal Regiment during the recent 'Signal View 75' weekend which we were privileged to attend in uniform.

Whilst providing a welcome interlude from our rather enclosed environment in the Tower, it was obvious, looking at things with the critical eyes of ex-Sergeant Majors, that a terrific amount of hard work and organisation had gone into making the event a deserving success.

Well done! and thank you again.

Yours in the Tower,

Alan Copestake
John Maker
Yeoman Warders

28 The Casements,
H.M. Tower of London,
London E.C.3.

Contacts Wanted

with ex-members of 1st British Operating Section, Royal Signals, who served at HQ British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Kure, Japan from 1946 until 1948 with a view to organising a Re-union. Please write to Norman Smith, 77 Eastfield Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire HP17 0HZ.

Information Wanted

Sir,

I am attempting to compile information for a book on the story of the Military Medal for Bravery, and of the men and women recipients since its inception in 1916 up to date.

Official sources in most cases give only very limited information. What I am searching for is first hand accounts of actions, citations, photographs, press cuttings etc. Plus of course as much personal information as possible on the recipients.

Could I, therefore, through your columns, appeal to your readers for help in this connection?

Permission to use any such information would be requested from recipients and/or relatives, and any documents, photographs, papers etc. would be treated with great care and returned promptly.

It is sincerely hoped that enough information will be forthcoming to make this a successful venture, and to place on record a story which I feel is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,

W. Carrigan

61 Sydney Road,
Eastbourne,
Sussex BN22 8BQ.

Welfare

JUNE 1975

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially	**32**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**52**
Amount spent	**£770·46**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants made	**14**
Amount spent	**£303·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, war time service, who has not worked for many years because of severe ill health. He and his wife and 3 school-age children live on State benefits and his small disability pension. The Association made him a grant of £20 for essential house repairs, and clothing parcels have also been sent. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

PLEASE accept our heartfelt thanks for the kindness and generosity shown to us by the Association. I'm afraid that I can't put my feelings into words fully, but will trust that you can understand how much we appreciate your help. Were there more people like you around, the world would be a much better place than it is. I do not think I can express my feelings any more than that. The clothes you sent might have been made to measure. Had you been here when the parcels were opened, I'm sure you would have been pleased to see their faces. Once again, thank you, and God bless you for your kindness.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during June, 1975:

	£ p
O.C., 28th Signal Regiment	55·05
O.C., 241 Signal Squadron	20·00
Donations received in memory of the late Major F. G. Strange	103·10
D. W. Jaggard, Esq.	50·00
F. V. W. G. West, Esq.	7·45
E. C. Harrison, Esq., O.B.E., B.E.M.	5·00
Major L. J. Bosher	3·45
D. K. Egan, Esq.	2·50
Mrs. J. M. Thompson (In memory of Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Watts)	2·00
A. Shaw, Esq.	·99
P. A. Cubbage, Esq.	·70
Various small donations	·61
	£250·85

THANK YOU!

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

Major N. A. V. Ribchester, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Palmer, Mrs. B. Baker, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Captain G. Meakin, Mrs. I. Storey, Major and Mrs. K. N. Smartt, Mr. W. E. Osborne, Captain A. H. Wright, Mrs. A. Simons, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Beale, Miss G. Wood, Major W. G. Cunningham, W.O.2 W. J. Clark.

Visit of the Royal Naval Division Association to Blandford Station

FIRST WORLD WAR RECALLED

ON 4th June we were privileged at Blandford to act as hosts to members of the Royal Naval Division Association and survivors of the Collingwood Battalion of that Division.

The Royal Naval Division was formed at Walmer in September 1914 and comprised RNR, RFR, RNVR and Royal Marines. On 5th October the Division was in action near Antwerp and suffered severe casualties. Of the original 700 in the Collingwood Battalion only 22 reached England. A new Collingwood Battalion was formed at Crystal Palace in late October 1914. It was decided to concentrate the whole Division for training and Blandford became the Depot of the Division—the only completely self-contained Divisional Depot, which remained in being throughout World War 1. The first Battalion to arrive at Blandford was the Nelson in November 1914 and by January 1915 almost the whole Division was at Blandford. In February 1915 the Division left for the Dardanelles.

On 4th June 1915 the Collingwood Battalion took part in an attack against the Turks and suffered over 500 casualties. On 8th June the Battalion was disbanded. The Division went on to fight through the Gallipoli campaign and later in France until it was finally disbanded after the war in 1919.

REMEMBRANCE

And so, sixty years later we welcomed some of the survivors of the Division back to Blandford. Among them were four survivors of the Collingwood Battalion. As may be imagined some incredible stories were told and it was quite clear that these survivors were very tough men indeed. The visit took the form of an Act of Remembrance at the Collingwood Memorial, at exactly the same time as the Battalion went into the attack. Wreaths were laid by **Mrs. Conyers** of Blandford who with her sister had provided a wreath for the memorial every year since 1919; **Mr. Arthur Watts** a survivor of the Collingwood Battalion and **Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.** the President of the Royal Naval Division Association.

After the Act of Remembrance the visitors had lunch in the Officers' Mess and went on a tour of the camp. **Mr. Watts** presented to the Commandant the Divisional Association Football Cup of 1917–18 which it is proposed to put in the Museum.

One of our visitors who had been wounded on the Somme in 1916 and told he would never walk again left Blandford on his motor bike for Thruxton where he was going parachuting!

AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE . . .

The ceremony at the Royal Naval Division Memorial at Collingwood Corner, Blandford Camp. Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., President of the Royal Naval Division Association, is seen standing in front of the Memorial after having laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. Immediately behind him is Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson, Commandant of the School of Signals. A bugler from *H.M.S. Collingwood* is about to sound the Last Post

Champagne marks 1,000 hours of flying

CORPS ACTIVE IN AIR OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Staff Sergeant Ian Wall of the Corps is shown above having just completed a 1,000 hours of army flying. He is serving with a detachment of 633 Squadron AAC on duty in Northern Ireland which is commanded by Captain Graham Thomas also of the Corps

Staff Sergeant Ian Wall has his mug ceremonially filled with champagne to mark his 1,000 hours of Army flying by Captain Graham Thomas. Standing with arms akimbo on Captain Thomas' left is Corporal Ian Wye, AAC (ex-Royal Signals)

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British Army Training Unit, Suffield, Canada, B.F.P.O. 14

With two battle groups over and a third about to get off to a muddy start the Royal Signals element of the British Army Training Unit Suffield is well involved with the battle on the prairie

Corporal Pete Alves, Sergeant John Williamson and Sergeant Conroy are fortunate enough to be in Canada on two year postings whereas the remainder of the Royal Signal detachment are attached for the summer training season only, on 4 or 9 months tours. Sergeant John Williamson leaves shortly to hand over the running of detachment to Sergeant Conroy. Also leaving next month at the end of a 4 month tour is Signalman 'Rover' Smart. For those who are wondering how an Officer in the Corps appears in the picture, Captain Dick Hoyle works as SO3 (Admin.) in BATUS HQ and was borrowed in order to swell the ranks for the photograph

The task of the Royal Signals detachment is mainly the running of the large range safety net which by relaying through BRUTUS (your friendly permanent rebro on the hill) controls the movement of the range safety staff. The size of the training area presents its own communication problems, but much larger problems have arisen this year with snow drifts for the Life Guards battle group and mud for 3 RTR, as the worst spring in Canadian history is at present hitting Suffield

Finally a word of hope for those Signalmen faced with long unaccompanied tours. At present Dick and Margaret Hoyle are living in a cottage on the prairie, for the staggering rent of $30 per month. Problem solving: No running water—build a water tower; mice—get a cat; wall collapsing—build a new one: All part of the 'Great American Adventure' at BATUS

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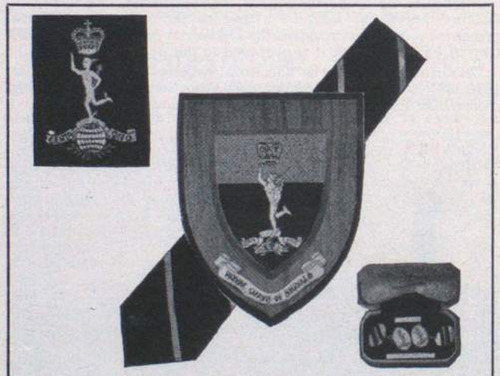

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Silk Blazer Badges	£1·50		

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WELCOME TO RECENTLY JOINED CORPS Y.O.'s
No. 4 COMMUNICATIONS QUALIFYING COURSE:
7th JULY–19th DECEMBER 1975

Back row, left to right: Second-Lieutenants R. W. Blum, R. A. Clague, P. R. Day, M. J. M. Dyer, R. J. Kinnaird, M. A. Little and A. M. Morgan
Front row, left to right: Second-Lieutenants N. T. Moore, T. P. Rimmell and J. W. Rollins, Lieutenant M. A. J. Sheehan, Second-Lieutenants M. R. G. Stockdale, C. J. Whittaker and J. M. Willis

Obituary

Major J. Basil Fenwick, T.D.

The death occurred in Nottingham on 15th June of Basil Fenwick. Born on 17th November 1902, Basil was educated at Uppingham where he was in the OTC. Shortly after leaving Uppingham he was commissioned into the Sherwood Foresters TA. During the second World War he transferred to Royal Signals as a Cipher Officer and it was at this time that he met his wife, Kay, who was serving in the ATS. After the war, Basil continued his service in the reformed TA in 21st (North Midland) Corps Signal Regiment (TA), later redesignated 46th (North Midland) Signal Regiment (TA). In 1956 on an exercise in a very brave but vain attempt to resuscitate an electrocuted soldier he lost an arm and a leg through electrocution. After being very close to death he asked for an interview with the GOC as a result of which he remained on the Reserve for some time. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration and three clasps. He was a keen sportsman and Bisley shot. His life reflected the highest standards of the Sherwood Foresters, and the Royal Signals to both of which he was dedicated. He will be especially missed by his many friends in the former 46th (N.M.) Signal Regiment (TA). To his charming widow Kay who was so strong a pillar of support to him we extend our deepest sympathy.

L.W.W.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. H. Herdon

Wilfred Fraser Harris Herdon, invariably 'Dick' was one of the last regular Indian Army Officers to be commissioned from the World War I Cadet College at Quetta. His regiment was 55th (Coke's) Rifles (Frontier Force). He was just in time to take part in the 3rd Afghan War of 1919 and the operations of 1919–21 and 1921–24 in Waziristan, during which he served as an infantry officer. He was then seconded to Indian Signals with a view to transferring to Royal Signals, when his British Army contemporaries had reached the rank of Captain (11 years in the British Army, 6 in the Indian Army). When he transferred he was staff officer to the Commandant of the STC at Jabalpur. In 1930 he became Adjutant of the Signal Training Battalion at Jabalpur. In 1937 when he was Adjutant of 'A' Corps Signals at Rawalpindi, during the operations in Waziristan against the Fakir of Ipi, his father died and Dick retired as a Captain to take over the family distillery business, which was at Sujjanpur in Gurdaspur District. It was located on a spit of land between the Sikh Irrigation canal, constructed by King Ranjit Singh before his defeat by the British, and the UBDC, the British equivalent canal. The head waters of both were on the river Ravi, just north of Sujjanpur. The Herdon residence was a beautiful old bungalow with four foot walls, deep verandahs and an incredibly thick thatch on the roof. It was redolent of Kipling's days, particularly as Kipling had been a great friend of Dick's father and had absorbed much of the feel of India in this bungalow. When World War II broke out Dick rejoined and commanded a training battalion in Jabalpur. He retired at the end of the war in 1945 and instead of continuing his business at Sujjanpur he joined Carews, the best known distillers in India. His family home was within yards of the boundary between India and Pakistan when the split took place in 1947. Much of the slaughter of minority populations, as they struggled across the river Ravi, which followed partition, took place in and around Sujjanpur. Dick's first cousin, Bertram Herdon, a retired Indian Signal Corps Officer who lived about 4 miles north of Sujjanpur was murdered in a roadway near his home by a mob who were slaughtering Mohammedans. It was typical of Bertram and his family, that armed only with a ·22 rifle he, by himself, tried to stop thousands of those whom he loved from murdering each other. Dick remained in India as a distiller for some years afterwards but decided, finally, to make the break and take up residence in England where he found employment at the Headquarters of the Automobile Association. He died at Ringwood two months before his 75th birthday after a long illness on the 11th June. We extend our very deep sympathy to his wife Babs and family.

Major F. G. Strange

During his 50 years continuous service to the Corps, 40½ years on the Active List and 9½ years as an RO with Royal Signals Manning and Records, Freddie Strange made many friends who will be saddened to learn of his death on 10th June at the age of 75.

He was one of the few surviving ex-RE boy telegraphists, having enlisted at the age of 14 just before the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. He joined 'K' Company in Ireland in 1915 and after gaining valuable experience with the Post Office he was posted overseas in 1919, having been too young to go on active service before the war ended. For the next 5 years he served in Syria, Palestine and Egypt during which time he dropped 'telegraphing' and adopted 'clerking'. On returning to the UK he was posted to the Training Battalion at Maresfield as Chief Clerk and moved with that unit to Catterick in 1925. During this tour he organised a number of extended 'hikes' in the Lake District as well as many weekend ones in the Yorkshire Dales—the forerunners of modern adventure training. In addition to this his recreational interests were chiefly centred on tennis and swimming. Before going out to India in 1938 he served with 'A' Corps Signals at Aldershot, at the School of Signals as Chief Clerk and as R.S.M. with London Divisional Signals TA. In India he was posted to Peshawar District Signals as R.S.M. and later to Army Headquarters at Delhi as Superintending Clerk until he was commissioned in 1940 as Lieutenant (Q.M.). Throughout the rest of the Second World War he served in London at the War Office and with the Ministry of Supply. He then went as Quartermaster to 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment TA and in 1952 was posted to BAOR Signal Regiment as Quartermaster until 1954 when he returned to the UK and for a few months filled a regular major appointment at Records until his retirement. After retiring from the active list he continued at Records as an ROIII until his second retirement on 22nd June 1964.

Freddie was ever a man of worthwhile enthusiasms and was blessed with the ability always to see them to a successful fruition, chiefly through his own infectious enthusiasm, tact and organising skill. Whilst in the Near East in the early 20s, through his energy and drive he transformed the Sergeants' Mess from a strictly utilitarian building into a comfortable and pleasing home.

After retirement at Reading he devoted his energies to organising the ex-Boys annual reunion of which he was Chairman for many years. Whilst serving as Chief Clerk at the Training Battalion he met and married Cicely King, sister of Major Victor King, a few years his senior but also an ex-Boy Telegraphist. During his tour in India he developed an interest in embroidery at which he became completely dedicated and outstandingly proficient. For six years after the war he attended evening classes at the Royal School of Needlework and was presented in 1951 with his Final Certificate from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother). He concentrated his talents and ability mainly on ecclesiastical embroidery and examples of his craftsmanship are to be seen in many churches throughout the country as well as in a Regimental chapel in BAOR. In 1962 he was awarded 1st prize by the Church Furnishings Association. For many years he was Secretary then Chairman and finally President of the Berkshire Branch of the Embroiderers Guild, during which time he increased membership from 30 to nearly 300. For a time he was on the Executive Committee of the Embroiderers Guild and lectured extensively on embroidery in 'Church Furnishings'. At his funeral service at Reading on June 16th there was a large gathering including serving and retired members of the Corps who heard the Vicar pay a very warm tribute to Freddie's dedication to all he did and to his many activities in the district.

Though memories tend to fade over the passing years Freddie's will certainly be perpetuated through his craftsmanship. To his wife Cicely and daughter, Mrs. Frances Walshaw, we express our very deep sympathy.

Movements

Officers

AUGUST

Captain J. R. S. Ambertson	To 8 Signal Regiment
Captain J. D. Ambrose	30 Signal Regiment
Major M. E. Bradbury	HQ BAOR
Major A. J. Briggs	Sultan's Armed Forces
Captain J. F. Budd	HQ 24 Airportable Brigade
Major A. B. Byng	RARDE
Major H. D. V. Chappell	School of Signals
Captain A. J. Clark	234 Signal Squadron
Major B. M. Cooke	2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain J. W. Cornforth	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Lieutenant-Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Major R. Dorrell	STANOC Centre
Major (Tfc) D. Duncan	HQ BAOR
Captain R. H. G. Elford	1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain (Tfc) J. J. Elliott, M.B.E.	44 Parachute Brigade Signal Troop (V)
Major (Tfc) R. Finister	27 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. L. Fletcher	11 Signal Regiment
Colonel C. J. Gilbert	School of Signals
Major (TOT) L. C. Hooper	642 Signal Troop
Captain H. Jennings	11 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. G. Kirkup	11 Signal Regiment
Captain F. S. Mackenzie	8 Signal Regiment
Captain R. C. Meyer	27 Signal Regiment
Captain G. H. Mills	RAPC Training Centre
Major D. S. Mullineaux	MOD (ASD22)
Captain A. J. Pennington	14 Signal Regiment
Major R. Pickard	38 Signal Regiment (V)
Captain W. A. Ramsay	4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment
Captain T. N. Singleton	Sultan's Armed Forces
Major R. W. Stark	MOD (Signals 31a)
Captain N. G. Steven	633 Signal Troop
Captain (TOT) T. McK. Stoddart, M.B.E.	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Captain J. R. Stuart	School of Signals
Major P. A. Treseder	MOD (Signals 36d)
Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Verdon	Staff College
Captain R. A. Wannell	262 Signal Squadron
Second-Lieutenant A. J. Ward	11 Signal Regiment
Captain N. O. Williams	8 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
Captain J. T. Worrall	21 Signal Regiment

W.O.s and Sergeants

AUGUST

W.O.1 (F. of S.) P. A. Thornber	To Communications Project Agency Royal Signals
W.O.1 C. Meredith	37 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.1 I. Wells	Recruit Selection Centre, Sutton Coldfield
A/W.O.1 T. Guest	HQ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 (F. of S.) K. E. Eustace	School of Signals
W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. Hassall	3 CDO Brigade Signal Squadron RM
W.O.2 E. P. Symonds	MOD (Army Department) DSS
W.O.2 E. Bell	248 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron
W.O.2 R. S. Groves	36 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 M. T. Kinrade	32 Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 F. E. Worrall	HQ 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 H. Ruff	School of Signals
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. Gallacher	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. Hazelgrove	223 Signal Squadron (Radio)
A/W.O.2 J. S. Mancais	32 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant J. W. H. Martin	HQ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. A. Brett	241 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. E. Gordon	4 Communications Unit
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. Atkinson	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. E. Richardson	27 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. H. Clayforth	37 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant B. E. Eason	HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. R. Elliot	8 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. A. G. Lawrance	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Staff Sergeant J. J. Murphy	11 Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. C. Northey	16 Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Staff Sergeant W. D. Smith	31 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant P. D. Spratt	32 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant W. L. Chubb	Scarborough Signal Training Centre
Sergeant J. J. Keane	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. D. Graham	34 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant C. F. Braganza	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. C. Muir	HQ AFSOUTH (BAE)
Sergeant P. J. Waring	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. O. Rowland-Jones	HQ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Frith	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant M. J. Brown	SHAPE HQ Comp Sup BE
Sergeant A. R. Garrow	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant R. L. Terrett	582 Rear Link Detachment (Infantry Mechanised Battalion)
Sergeant M. C. Davey	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. T. Harper	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. M. Allen	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. D. Dimmock	16 Signal Regiment HQ BAOR
Sergeant A. Finn	25 Cadet Training Team
Sergeant J. T. Sharp	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sergeant B. W. Bradbury	HQ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant T. Connor	11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant M. G. Guyatt	11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. T. Witherington	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sergeant P. R. Cowles	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant R. C. White	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant J. Hughes	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant L. L. Adams	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant E. Stout	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Habergam	240 Signal Squadron (Brizelee Wood)
Sergeant D. L. Lambert	HQ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. A. Belcher	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant D. Hadrick	233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. F. Harvey	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant W. J. Summers	604 Signal Troop
Sergeant D. P. Allard	SHAPE HQ Command and Support (BE)
Sergeant G. A. Wilson	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

THE WIRE . . .

WITHOUT IT

YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!

Dedication of Memorial to H.R.H. The Princess Royal

ON 21st June at All Saints Church, Blandford Camp, the Corps Memorial to **H.R.H. The Princess Royal,** our first Colonel-in-Chief, was dedicated by the Chaplain General, The Venerable Archdeacon Peter Mallett, Q.H.C. There was a large gathering of retired and serving members of the Corps which included The Master of Signals, the former Master, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., eight other Colonels Commandant or former Colonels Commandant and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, We were also particularly pleased to have with us the Honourable Gerald Lascelles, son of the late Princess Royal and Mrs. Lascelles and the Representative Commandant of Royal Australian Signals, Brigadier K. R. Colwill, C.B.E., R.L.

The Memorial takes the form of a group of engraved glass panels. In the centre light appears the Living Christ in Glory. He is depicted, coming out of a crown of thorns, whilst behind Him is the shadow of the cross, showing that He has overcome the trials and tribulations of this life. He is crowned showing His kingship, whilst on His stole appears a Celtic ornament, a symbol of eternity. At the base of the stole is the star of David pointing out His lineage, and within the star are the letters A and O, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The seven stars in the background are from the Revelation of St. John and are symbols of the seven churches. The arms are outstretched beckoning, "I if I be lifted up, shall draw all men unto Me".

On the right side of the door is a figure of St. Michael holding the flaming sword of the spirit; while at his feet the dragon appears, the symbol of evil. The opposite panel depicts St. George slaying the dragon, again, good and evil. The four smaller panels show the symbols of the four evangelists; the winged lion of St. Mark, the eagle of St. John, the ox or bull of St. Luke and the winged man of St. Matthew. On the extreme right appears the badge of the Royal Corps of Signals, and on the left is the Coronet, and Cypher of **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.**

In his address the Chaplain General commended **Princess Mary's** life of service as an example to be followed and noted how apt it was that the Corps, the eldest offspring of the Royal Engineers should have had the eldest daughter of the Monarch as its first Colonel-in-Chief.

For the first time at All Saints Church the Church Wardens on this occasion carried wands which had been given to the Church by Brigadier and Mrs. A. C. Bate.

Signal View '75 – A Resounding Success

CORPS' MAJOR SHOP WINDOW

EXERCISE 'Signal View Four', or 'Signal View 75' as it came to be described for the benefit of the general public, took place in Worcester on 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th July. "What", I hear some people say, "is 'Signal View'?" The short answer to your question is that it is the Corps' major recruting show of the year. However, such a major annual event in the Corps calendar deserves a more detailed reply. Our aim in the ensuing paragraphs is to do just that.

'Signal View' is a recruiting show for schools, the Army Cadet Force and the Combined Cadet Force. Its aim is to show these young people what a career in the Army, and Royal Signals in particular, has to offer. Because we want to present the show just before the end of the school year, it is sandwiched between the Aldershot Army Show and The Royal Tournament. This invariably coincides with lesser important things like World Cup Soccer and the Men's Singles at Wimbledon!

This year, for the first time the show was opened to the general public, and there is no doubt that the match between Ashe and Connors proved to be less important to the people of the West Midlands than 'Signal View 75'. But more of that later.

SEVEN MONTH'S PLANNING

The exercise is run by 1 Signal Group on behalf of the Chief Signal Officer, United Kingdom Land Forces. Seven months of planning, advice from the design consultants and a mountain of co-operation from the Ministry of Defence, Headquarters West Midland District and a lot of other agencies preceded the show.

5,000 YOUNG VISITORS TO BE FED

While elements of the Corps were playing there part at the Aldershot Army Show, **Captain Cyril Evis,** the Quartermaster of 14th Signal Regiment, was collecting in the final consignments of Engineer and Ordnance material—some 170 tons in all. At the same time the ration stores were rapidly spreading to all corners of the kitchen and dining room as the Catering Advisor from Brecon bought in rations to feed not only the 5,000 young visitors but the many representatives of units who would present the show. Ten days before the event, **Major Peter Brunton, Y. of S. Sidney** and half of the AMF(L) Signal Squadron of 30th Signal Regiment arrived to build the showground, and by 1st July the scene was set to receive those who would present it all to the visitors.

ALL ASPECTS OF CORPS LIFE INVOLVED

Officers and men, their equipment, vehicles and displays, showing how we both work and play, came from all over the United Kingdom to present the show. Major contributions this year came from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, the School of Signals, 14th and 30th Signal Regiments. 35th (South Midlands) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) were also represented on a rather grand scale. Although not so heavily involved, but none the less important, came representatives from 59 and 66 Army Youth Teams; 10th and 11th Signal Regiments; 216, 223 and 241 Signal Squadrons. This year for the first time, and as an attraction to the girl visitors, both the WRAC and QARANC were well represented. All aspects of our work were there to be seen; from line laying to cable jointing, from Arctic to airborne communications; weapon skills to computers and technology, field radio to long haul communications and from earth satellites to closed circuit television. On the leisure side, visitors were able to match their skills against Corps golfers, sailors, canoeists and cricketers. Apprentices from Harrogate showed their skills in free fall parachuting, sub-aqua and archery while members of the Army Youth Teams encouraged visitors to abseil down the 'Keep' or trampoline in the gymnasium in Norton Barracks.

MAYORAL VISITS

By close of play on 2nd July, Norton Barracks had been transformed into a careers exhibition and the showground was complete. The night shift of cooks and kitchen hands assembled at 8 p.m. and started preparing the lunches for the first visitors the following day. Thursday had been reserved as a preview for the press, civic and military dignitories. Clearly no preview would be complete without some of the young visitors we were entertaining, and some 500 youngsters from local schools were to support the preview. By 10 a.m. the showground was becoming alive with young people. The Mayor of Worcester the Sheriff of Gloucester and the Mayor of Cheltenham, each with their chains of office toured the exhibition. Schools Liaison Officers came also to see for themselves; and we took the opportunity of testing all our arrangements for reception, guiding and feeding the visitors. After one or two minor changes, we retired at the end of the day convinced it was, as they say, "a piece of cake".

THE SLICE THAT BECAME A CAKE!

By 9.30 a.m. on Friday morning pupils and teachers began arriving in Norton Barracks. They came from near and far; from Swindon and Wrexham, Rugby and Coventry, Newport and Nuneaton, Birmingham and Cheltenham. In all some 2,000 pupils and teachers. Apart from one or two delays in reception, inevitable perhaps when ten 50 seater coaches arrive within one minute of each other, all had a most enjoyable and interesting day. Girls and boys alike toured all the stands, handled equipment and joined in with the leisure activities. **General Sir Roland Gibbs, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** the Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, visited the show and was pleased with all he saw. 2,000 young people, although enough to handle in reception and to feed in the dining tents, really did not completely fill the showground with its thirty six 'stands' of interest. Again we retired to bed at the end of the day with the view it was perhaps just a bit more than a 'piece' of cake—maybe a 'slice' was a better description. Always uncertain as to how effective publicity will be, little did we know, on that Friday night how that 'slice' was going to become almost all the cake on the next day.

BIG DAY FOR THE ACF

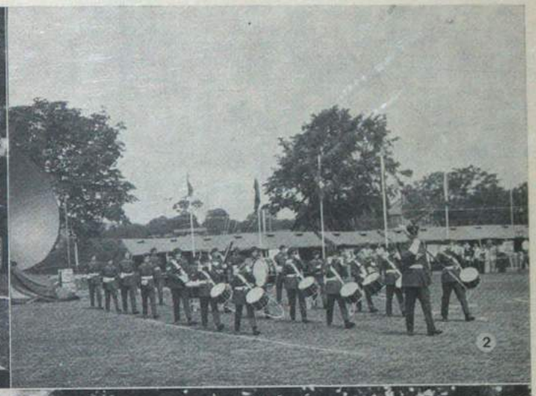
Saturday, 5th July was reserved for the Army Cadet Force and the general public. We had firm bookings from some 2,000 cadets and their 200 officers and adult instructors. Of these a quarter were camping at nearby Tyddesley Wood under the arrangements of Headquarters West Midland District. The rest came from even farther and wider locations than the schools. From Dundee to Devizes, Newcastle to Dunstable and London to Caernarvon. As an added attraction we had launched a first ever ACF National Band Competition. Although we started with 17 bands anxious to enter on the day only 11 could actually make it. The competition was a great success and the cadet bands played with all the enthusiasm of the Wembley Pageant. The 9th/10th Area of the County of Avon ACF Bugles and Drums emerged clear winners and received the winners cup from **General Sir Antony Read, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** Chairman of the Army Cadet Force Association.

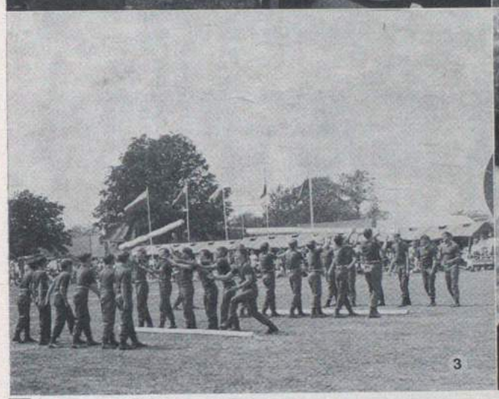
6,000 GENERAL PUBLIC

While visitors and presenters were enjoying their lunch, the general public began arriving. Clearly our publicity had worked and by the time the arena events were due to open at 2 p.m., the provost staff had parked over 1,600 cars on the rugby field. A conservative estimate from the civilian police assisting in traffic control indicated the presence of some 6,000 of the general public in the showground. Fanfare trumpeters of the Corps with an escort of two Yeomen Warders from HM Tower of London heralded the arrival of **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe,** the Signal Officer-in-Chief. At a minute to 2 p.m. the Signal Officer-in-Chief entered the arena with an escort of White Helmets, and after a brief message of welcome announced the show open. Then followed a three hour programme of events including the Blue Helmets, Royal Military Police Mounted Display Team, a superb log and gymnastics demonstration given by Apprentices from Harrogate, the Nottinghamshire ACF Military Band—the only full band in the ACF, the Warwickshire ACF Silent Drill Squad culminating in, as always a splendid display by the White Helmets. By 6 p.m. the last of the visitors were reluctantly leaving the barracks while the presenters set about the task of cleaning up and renovating for the last day of the show.

(*Continued on page 272*)

SIGNAL VIEW AS THE CAMERA SAW IT





1 **Brigadier Frank Clarkson, CSO UKLF presents the winners cup to Magdalen College School CCF who won the CCF Signal Competition**

2 **The winning band in the ACF National Band Competition, the 9th/10th Area Avon Army Cadet Force—badged Royal Signals we are pleased to note!**

3 **Log display by Apprentices from Harrogate**

4 **Right on target in the leisure activities area**

5 **Sergeant Ritchie of the Blue Helmets drops in for a perfect landing**

CADET SIGNAL COMPETITION

The sun beat down with even more ferocity as members of the Combined Cadet Force and their masters arrived for their day of the show. Again they came from far and wide—some 600 of them in all. Our attraction to these young people this year was a Cadet Signal Competition. 19 teams entered and showed their prowess in a combined test of weapon handling, command tasks and communications skills. Magdalen College School CCF were clear winners and received their trophy from **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** the Chief Signal Officer, United Kingdom Land Forces.

RATED A HUGE SUCCESS

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, 6th July, 'Signal View 75' came to a close. Cadets and their masters headed for home. Equipment so painstakingly prepared and brought to Worcester was dismantled and loaded into unit's transport. The flags were lowered and in what seemed like no time at all, packets of vehicles were moving up and down the M5 heading for home.

'Signal View 75' was rated a huge success, and perhaps through these columns we may record our sincere thanks to all who made it possible. Armed with the motto "Recruiting is everybodies business", and before even closing the files on '75', we are now involved in planning 'Signal View 76'. Look forward to seeing you there!

Some reflections on the Ministry of Defence

by W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) A. J. Schneider

SIGNED ON AS A TEMPORARY

IT began with a 'phone call on a late autumn evening and ended with the inevitable farewell party in the Grapes, Whitehall. The time interval was just six months; a few severe headaches and a wealth of experience and memories. I am referring to my summons to the highest of highest places the Ministry of Defence Signals Branch. To many in the Corps the MOD is probably somewhere or something that stands in Whitehall along with No. 10 and undoubtedly it is looked upon by most as just as non functional. However, to those who have had the fortune, good or bad, to have worked there this is soon shown not to be the case.

I could not possibly in the short space allotted to me begin to explain all the functions and aims of Signals Branch. On the other hand, I could not let the opportunity pass without trying briefly to pass on a little of what I was fortunate to have seen and learnt. My attachment was to Signals 32a, where I was drafted into a small three man team under the control of **Colonel C. B. Masser,** Colonel GS Signals 32, and filled the post vacated by **Major Ted Bennett** who unfortunately spent most of the winter in hospital; the third member was a very hard pressed staff officer, **Major Frank Smith.**

They tell me Signals 32 also has another junior branch known as Signals 32b. I was led to believe it is responsible for all stages of recruiting into Royal Signals of both officers and soldiers. However, 'a' didn't have time to talk to the 'b' unless it needed a ream of statistics I was never able to quite ascertain its true function in life during my short time there. Nevertheless we still seem to be getting soldiers into Royal Signals, so I can only take the facts at face value and accept that it must be true.

THE MASS OF PAPER—AND PROBLEMS

It would be difficult for anyone who has not had the experience of staff work before, to even begin to comprehend the mass of paper that flows through any branch within MOD, and Signals 32a is certainly no exception in the volume of paper it handles and the vast range of subjects covered. I have known the day when we have had no less than 50 files piled up on the desk all to be investigated in detail and replied to. Signals 32a is responsible for all aspects of training within the corps for both officers and soldiers. For soldiers, it covers from the time a boy enlists into the Army Apprentice College at Harrogate or as a recruit joining 11th Signal Regiment at Catterick, to the time he takes his final career course at the School of Signals. For officers it covers from RMA Sandhurst to wherever they go. As well as training UK soldiers, 32a also has a large commitment to train foreign and commonwealth students on courses at the School of Signals and Training Brigade. This brings the branch into close liaison with both these establishments and it is as well that the working relationships are as good as they are. That is not to say that we always saw eye to eye. Being on the permanent strength of the School during my attachment I found I was caught with divided loyalties, but it is true what they say. You have to work on both sides of the fence to fully understand the other's problems and get your own in prospective. In addition to the everyday training Signals 32a is also responsible for the organising and loading of all commercial courses, and dealing with all well known commercial companies that specialise in technical and communication equipment. High on the list of priorities with Signals 32a is the publication and the issuing of amendments to such highly recommended reading material as SO-in-C PDs and other Signal Training Pamphlets.

As a contrast to the normal day to day training routine the branch is responsible for the communication aspects and provision of signal communication equipment to such well known expeditions as the successful Zaire River expedition and the more recent, ill fated attempt by an army team to climb Mount Everest. At this point I must admit I found myself in deep water and left this aspect strictly to **Major Smith.** As a Chief Clerk I was completely out of my depth with frequencies A41 and C something or other. I thought they were vitamins.

THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

I can honestly say, however, that of all the many tasks of Signals 32a, the most important and indeed the one that is given the highest priority, is that of ensuring that all our tradesmen in Royal Signals get a fair deal on the Pay Banding system compared with their contemporaries in other Arms. This entails many hours of hard slogging and preparation to present the best possible case before the Job Evaluation Team. Although to many it may not seem so—and not least of all to the overworked, under-paid, and frustrated chief clerk element of the corps—I want to assure you all that this is very much the case. When the facts of each trade under review are given to the Job Evaluation team they are the best that can be provided. The ultimate decision on how well each trade does and to what Pay Band it is allotted is with the soldier selected for interview by the Job Evaluation Team. It's up to you to sell your trade to them with a good and strong case for why you feel you should be on Band 7. The Treasury is not known for giving away money for nothing.

I suppose the most difficult and frustrating job I had to deal with during the six months I was with the branch was to find keen young officers for the 1975 Whiteshod course. Now as if to add salt to the wound I have just read **Captain McCluckie's** report in the May/June issue of THE WIRE and if he feels he lost his sense of humour he should have been sat where I was. If there are any takers for the 1976 Whiteshod course send now with a stamped addressed envelope to Signals 32a for full details. I am sure that it will save **Major 'Pip' Mott,** the new incumbent, a considerable amount of worry and grey hair should he get the required volunteers before he finds himself volunteering just to make up the numbers.

To all of you who have taken the time to read this article, when next you feel that the MOD has once again forgotten you, the individual, take heart. They haven't, there is a small and very experienced (now that I've left) team putting a lot of time and hard work into looking after YOU the individual and ensuring your career is well planned and well taken care of.

WELL WORTH WHILE

In conclusion I would like just to say "thank you" to all my mess colleagues at 10th Signal Regiment who were forced into suffering my bad temper; to all the friends I made in Signals Branch who helped to make my stay so memorable and worthwhile and especially to **Miss Dot Daniels** and **Mrs. Winnie Mills,** two well established civil servants for having to put up with me and my chief clerk ways and without whom Signals 32 would just collapse. I shall miss you all but the LOA and duty free will I'm sure help make up for the loss!

If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading — boy you sure need sympathy!

The Somme, a Canoe, plus You!

SUBMITTED BY 3 DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

EN ROUTE TO RIVER SOMME

TWENTY-SEVEN husky lads from 1 Squadron were led by **Major Hervey** to navigate the river Somme from its source during late May and early June. The trip to Boulogne went well bar one small breakdown in London. Once at the Customs in Boulogne however, we found the French authorities prefer trips of this nature to be covered by a letter from MOD copied to the lowliest of customs officials. After a slight delay we were on the road to Fontaine-Sur-Somme where we made camp for the first two days. Much to our amazement, the only pub didn't open that night, so it was off to the next village to sample the local wine. To the flashing of the sun on faces, eyelids slowly opened revealing red eyes eager to try the new sport. New, that is, to 98% of 1 Squadron.

The trial water proved to be very fast flowing so all thought our journey was going to be a piece of cake. How wrong we were.

Moving on to Bray, we set up our new camp at a two star cold water camping site, setting off to paddle at the start of the journey from NW of Fonsommes, near the source of the Somme.

River party near the source of the Somme

YOU CAN'T CANOE DOWN A PIPE SO IT'S THE ROAD

Our launch point was in a cultivation ditch approximately 5 metres wide which led to our first canal. After two and a half kilometres, much to our dismay the water was directed underground by pipeline, so we loaded up and moved by road to our next waterway.

A small canal met our gaze and the still waters made the muscles flex in anticipation—but what's this? A French lock keeper saying it's impossible for us to travel on his water. Once more into the culvert but this time due to heavy weeds, paddles had to be split to nagivate the twists and turns. Stopped by canal workers, we had to transfer our craft once more to the canal and clear waters.

When the term clear water is used it means free from weeds, the water being in a filthy condition due to barges and the assorted effluent of St. Quentin, through which the Canal du Nord flows.

BARGES CAN BE FRIGHTENING

After meeting our first few barges the terror they inspired left us as we grew more confident in our frail craft. Soon we were to enjoy the ups and downs of the wake and its splashing return from the bank.

The energy used to beach, carry, launch and power our eskimo originated transport, soon took its toll and **Corporal Terry Low** found he had to leave the water. With a lot of tired muscles the remainder reach our first day's limit on the outskirts of St. Quentin, a total distance of 14½ kilometres that afternoon.

Ready for the off—235 kms. to go

A welcome lunch break

OC, Major Tony Hervey and Corporal Colin

TRYING OUT THE SOMME FOR DEPTH

Breakfasted on our compo supplemented by French bread supplied by **S.Q.M.S. Reg Rice,** off we went to the village of Ham with a lunch break at Pont de Tugny. En route, much to the delight of the onlookers and due mainly to **Lance-Corporal Keith Glasby, Major Hervey** was the first to test the depth of the Somme at the first of our stretches of white water. Not to be

outdone by the OC' exhibitio of boatmanship, **Keith Glasby** also managed the same manoeuvre but not with the same grace, so he retired for a few hours.

Once more on the open canal, with the wind rising against us, **S.S.M. Joe Albon** and shipmate **George Holden,** in their sleek racing canoe, sped ahead of the main flotilla to assess the water standards, while the OC pushed from the rear in a sweeping action. Thus the day passed and set the distance covered at 40 plus kilometres.

Ham, via Peronne to Feuilleres on our third day in the water, created and established our NAAFI boat. With much foresight, **Y. of S. Bob Baker** and **Sergeant Dave Robertson** had loaded up with flasks of tea and fiddled French rolls. When we stopped for a break, for all the time it takes to say "pirates", hands reach out from the empty waters and their passage was blocked till the 'bounty' was handed over to the rest of the fleet. By now the wind was high and going was harded with every stroke, so the 1st June was a welcome Sunday off the water.

The OC dishes out the champagne at the mouth of the Somme, in dainty drinking vessels

A LUNCH THAT LASTED 6½ HOURS!

The French nation has always claimed that the British people have no idea how to eat, so **Major Hervey** invited the officers and SNCOs to dine with his parents-in-law at Fontaine-sue-Somme. The meal started at 1300 hours and continued with suitable breaks for a cigarette, till the hour of 1930. Six and a half hours of feasting, wine sampling, discussion and chat together with a champagne toast to **Sergeant Dave Norrie** whose birthday fell on that day, Sunday closed with a rosy finish.

The call of the river is never very far away, but the camp had to be moved to Amiens, so the next day the double canoes only went out, whilst the remainder moved down river the easy way by road. The river to Bray, where we stopped for lunch, took many a devious route which led us past places where we felt no man had paddled before. The locals we did see looked at those mad English with the eye of a fisherman about to lose his bait, but nothing stops **Lance-Corporal Keith Glasby** and **Signalman 'Doc' Foster** whilst in full thrust.

Corbie was reached at last and muscle developed like Popeye were again rested for the day

PLACED UNDER ARREST FOR CONTINUOUS SPLASHING

Another early morning paddle and soon the Cathedral of Amiens was in sight for a quick rest and lunch. Back into the water and on to the town of Picquigny with the wind howling in the faces of the Somme boatmen. The paddles dug hard into the water in unison, the wind stopped and one canoe veered into the bank with a jolt. The NAAFI boat was grounded so we had a cup of tea and off again to complete that day's quota.

Wednesday, 4th June saw us pass through Long and Fontaine-sur-Somme to the town of Abbeville. The passage was not without incident—**Signalman 'Doc' Foster** was placed in irons in the bilges by **Lance-Corporal Keith Glasby** for continual splashing but was soon released, as it is difficult to travel on only one engine. It was a good feeling to know St. Valery on the Channel coast lay only 15 kilometres away at the end of the day.

AND SO IT'S FAREWELL TO FRANCE

Spirits were high as we set off on our last day for the mouth of the Somme, **Sergeant Dave Norrie** and **Corporal Colin Joseph** took the NAAFI boat that day, giving the local cows a rendering of many an ancient song, but our destination was almost in sight from the moment of departure that day. 15 kilometres in an almost straight line and the end came in a rush. One moment we were miles away then round the last lock and curve to find the end of a journey never to be forgotten. Once the last man was ashore, **Lieutenant Bob Hussey** passed round the champagne whilst we all relaxed in the knowledge we had achieved something no matter how great or small.

We had done all we set out to do so the following day was spent packing up and with a jubilant farewell to France, we returned to Carter Barracks with two hundred and thirty five kilometres of paddling under our belts.

Pennine Paddle

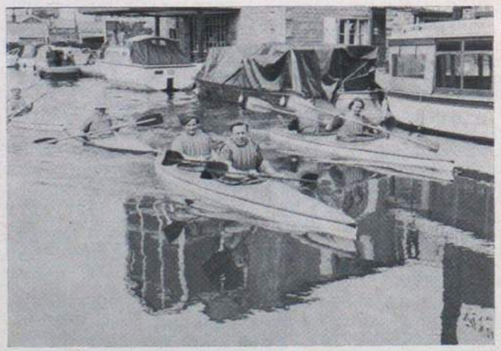
by Corporal Ian Simpson and Lance-Corporal Chris Whitehead of 233 Signal Squadron

IT sounded like a great idea for a break away from Northern Ireland, so we volunteered; and for ten days bent our backs in an attempt to canoe from one coast of England to the other, by means of the Inland Waterways system. We were a party of 10, led by **Captain Lee 'Horatio' Tilson,** and backed up by a permanent land party of **Sergeant Dave 'Gentleman' Meredith** and **Corporal Bob 'Hot Water Going Cold' Welch.** The majority of the team was in fact drawn from Communications Troop, but the Commcen, MT and Line Section were also represented.

GRAND NATIONAL START

We set off from Liverpool's Aintree Racecourse, first putting palm to paddle appropriately enough at the Canal Turn and our aim was to arrive at Goole, on the east coast some 10 days later. After an enthusiastic and very successful first day, there were feelings on day two that the trip should be re-christened Pennine Plod as we were required to negotiate 24 consecutive locks through Wigan, and the only way to do that was to get out, shoulder the canoe and walk it!

As the exercise progressed, so our speed decreased. However, our singing grew louder and if the efforts of **Signalman Eddy 'Big Jim' Turnbull** are anything to go by, then almost everyone in Blackburn must now know the 'Cushy Butterfield' song! Despite the slow speed of our canoes, the trip was not without excitement.



THE SQUADRON COMMANDER 'UNDER INSTRUCTION' DURING HIS VISIT

From left to right: Lance-Corporal 'C. J.' Whitehead, Signalman Arthur Phoenix, Signalman Dave Hart, Major Mike Walker, Corporal Ian Simpson, Signalman Eddy Turnbull

THE DARK TUNNEL

We had to negotiate a half-mile long tunnel in almost total darkness at one stage and also had some exciting encounters with the local swan population. They were still breeding at the time and it was not uncommon to hear a loud beating of wings and to turn and see an 8 foot wingspan of swan bearing down on the rear of your canoe at full chat! Surprisingly enough however no one capsized during the entire trip!

DESTINATION AT LAST

Due to careful recce, our overnight camp sites were all within easy striking distance of a local hostelry and light refreshments were available on every evening throughout the expedition. After 9 days hard slog, there was an air of relief when the canoes were launched for the last time and after an interesting day of formation canoeing pioneered and choreographed by **Corporal Ian 'Jock' Simpson,** we finally arrived at our destination some 250 kms. after leaving Liverpool.

ALL SMILES AT THE FINISH!

Left to right: Signalman Eddy Turnbull, Corporal Ian Simpson, Lance-Corporal Steve Tupling, Signalman Arthur Phoenix, Lance-Corporal 'C. J.' Whitehead, Signalman Linton Dawkins, Signalman Dave Hart

Not on photo: Captain Lee Tilson, Sergeant Dave Meredith, Corporal Bob Welch

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

OC	**Major R. Dorrell**
Designate	**Major A. W. deV. Hunt**
2IC	**Captain G. J. Barrett**
Comms Ops/Plans	**Lieutenant J. M. Shaw**
Admin Officer	**Lieutenant I. G. Jones,** Welsh Guards
OC 'A' Troop	**Lieutenant T. E. M. Richardson**
RSM	**W.O.1 C. C. Bedwell**

MOURNE MOUNTAINS

MANY people have remarked upon the splendour and beauty of the Mourne Mountains. However, it would be true to say that there are several members of the Squadron, who would call them anything but beautiful. On the 1st June approximately 30 members of the Squadron took part in the Annual Mourne Wall Walk. This takes place over 22 miles of the Mournes and is a speed and endurance test for anyone who cares to enter. Over 600 participants set out and considerably fewer returned. **Signalman McCue** from Alpha Troop was the first member from the Squadron to complete the course and he came a very creditable thirtieth.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL RIVALRY

A high degree of rivalry between the various departments of the Squadron has been developed as a result of various competitions, run on a knock-out basis, including such sports as Volleyball, 5-a-side Soccer, Basketball and Shinty, an Irish version of deck hockey. The supporters' stand, affectionately known as the 'Scratching Shed', is always alive with the vibrant shouts of the rival groups of supporters. A Finals Day is projected for the day the Squadron OC's change.

MID-ULSTER CRICKET

The Squadron takes part in several competitions in the Mid-Ulster Cricket group. Such famous teams as Donacloney mid-week eleven and the Laurelvale Wednesday team have suffered under the hammer of the Triangle Cricket Club. Moreover, we have even managed to progress into the second round of the Minor Units Cup. The stars of the team so far have been our resident Padre, **Kester Carruthers, Corporal Neve, 'Speedy' Tippen** and **Lance-Corporal 'Lefty' Smyth.**

PRO-AM GOLF

Two members of the Squadron, **Lieutenant James Shaw** and **Lance-Corporal Tippen** took part in a Pro-Am Golf Competition at Portadown Golf Club, to commemorate the opening of a new nine-holes. Neither player performed well, but it was an enjoyable day and a good experience. The Squadron, in gratitude for the beneficial rates accorded to members from the unit who have joined the Club, sponsored the entertainment during the evening which proved a tremendous success.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

As the reader may have gathered **Major A. W. deV. Hunt** assumes command from **Major R. Dorrell** on the 9th July. We wish **Major Dorrell** every success in his new appointment and Larkhill and welcome **Major Hunt** to the trials and tribulations of Kitchen Hill. Other arrivals and departures mainly concern MT 'Super Troop'. Arrivals over the past two months include: **Sergeant 'Pete' Roberts** (REME), **'Blondie' Epro** (REME), **Corporal Alex Johnson** (Royal Signals), **Driver 'Brum' Byng** (RCT) and **Driver 'Pancho' Dick** (RCT). They have all become firmly convinced that their main occupation in life is to ferry deserving individuals to Aldergrove for leave and R & R, although they never get any themselves. Several, who are due to leave us in August are: **'Don' Hamilton** (Royal Signals), **'The Tatto' Harris** (RCT), **'Canuck' Cameron** (RCT), **'Al' Simms** (RCT) and **Jim Commons** (RCT). We wish them all the best for the future and hope their time at Kitchen Hill has not been totally intolerable.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

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

OUTWARD BOUND TO NORWAY

IN May, **Lieutenant Les Fox** and his outward bounders headed northwards to pit their endurance against the cold waters and steep hills of Norway. The party had a thoroughly unique collection of cap badges from within the Brigade, from our own pioneers there were **Lance-Corporal 'Tich' Reed, Private 'Tink' Tinkler** and **Private 'Crossy' Crossland, Staff Sergeant Mick Croot** headed the signallers with **Lance-Corporal 'Zac' Tracy, Signalman 'Treacle' Thompson, Signalman George Fuller, Signalman 'Andy' Andrews** and **Signalman Dave Morgan.** The King's Regiment was well represented by **Lance-Corporal Ronnie Ross, Lance-Corporal Paul Rice, Lance-Corporal John Wall** and **Lance-Corporal 'Hogie' Hogan. Corporal George Janos** from the Dental Centre represented that loathsome trade and **Driver 'Checkers' Wright** from MT Troop completed the collection. The course was enjoyed by all and even the cold water swimming test proved less formidable than thought possible.

SETTING UP CAMP IN NORWAY
Private 'Crossy' Crossland, Private 'Tink' Tinkler, Driver 'Checkers' Wright and Lance-Corporal 'Tich' Reed

EXERCISE 'MARRAKESH EXPRESS' IN SCOTLAND

In June, the newer members of Communications Troop had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the civilian radios used by the Squadron. The exercise took place in Kintyre, Scotland and based at RAF Machrihanish. Apart from training as many aspects of signalling within the Squadron—including some much-needed voice procedure—the party tried their hands at motor cycling, canoeing, map-reading, escaping and evading. Campbeltown was visited not infrequently and it was confirmed that the famous Loch is water and not whisky. As well as the lucky ones who had recently returned from Norway, **Lance-Corporal Frank Kolling, Signalman 'Tich' Fallowfield, Signalman 'Dusty' Miller** and **Signalman John McBain** were those from Communications Troop who took part in the training. Kingsmen **'Scouse' Walker** and **Pete Parr** demonstrated the prowess of Infantry signallers, whilst **Private Keith Robinson, Private Pete Bardell** and **Private 'Taff' Sullivan, Signalman Steve Rogerson** and **Driver 'Bilco' Billing** got to grips with some motor cycle scrambling. There many activities all run by **Staff Sergeant Steve Gair** and **Sergeant Tom Stirzaker.**

Brigadier David Houston, Major Richard Graham and the OC **Major Andrew Carter,** visited the exercise and flew back with 70 lbs. of kippers.

OVERHEARD . . . .

Gunner: "Foreman, we have a problem. We have two black telephones side by side and it is impossible to tell which one is ringing".

F. of S.: "Paint one of them white, sir".

Gunner: "Thanks, Foreman, we never thought of that . . . er?"

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

VISIT OF COMMANDER LAND FORCES

THIS month our principal visitor was Commander Land Forces, **Major-General D. T. Young, D.F.C.,** on his initial tour of the Squadron. "What a lot of different parts there are" he said.

VISIT OF COMMANDER, LAND FORCES
Major-General Young being briefed by Corporal Mick Hemingway in the Radio Room

ATHLETICS MEETING

First came the Inter-Troop standards competition, which Communications Troop won by swamping all the events with an excellent turnout, then came the Squadron athletics meeting. It covered all the normal events, including the children's and old soldiers' races, plus this year 'The Great EEC Referendum' Race. The catch phrase was "vote early, vote often" and that's what **Sergeant Keith Cooper** and **Signalman Rick Houghton** managed to do to win the prize. It was a very special cake which, almost traditionally, was subsequently presented to an orphanage in Lisburn. The combined Headquarters team won the competition with a lot of effort going into all the events.

THE COMBINED MT/TM TROOPS TEAM WHO WON THE TUG-OF-WAR
Left to right, front row: Corporal Mick Scogings, RPC, Private Norman Hobson, RPC, Corporal Archie Goode, Private Don Hartley, RPC, Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' McCann, RPC
Back row: Driver 'Bull' Barrow, RCT, Corporal Eric Richardson, RCT, Captain (TOT) John Kirton and Sergeant Jim Peters, RPC

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

ARRIVALS

W.O.2 Hanlon; Sergeants Conlin, Everett; Corporals Davey, Hagen, Nichol, Smith, Spooner, Wyllie; Lance-Corporals Fisher, Jones, Rhodes, Rumford, Smith; Signalmen Bamford, Bell, Brady, Campbell, Evans, Nickson.

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and bon voyage to:

W.O.2 Vale; Sergeant Burke; Corporals Barker, Brailsford, Jones; Lance-Corporal Stainton; Signalmen Dawkins, Evans, Hart, Smurthwaite.

See article on page 274

—News from Headquarters—

News from Signals Branch, HQ, B.A.O.R.

BAVARIA VISITED

YOUR new correspondents in the Big House have pleasure in submitting their first despatch. Some changes have occurred within the branch. Our new SO2 Mountains (and part time Tels), **Major James Sweetman** has already managed to fit in a week in Bavaria with **Sergeant Gerry Moloney.** The terrible stories of snow and ice will no doubt be related by 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, who still seem to be maintaining their standards after sending their star officer to serve with us!

The Garrison Sergeants' Mess recently had its Summer Ball which was a great success, with the attendance of some 750, and the branch being to the fore in the organising of the event, in the form of our Staff Assistant, **W.O.1 John Duke,** who was chairman of the Ball committee. A good time was seen to be had by all, including guests from the branch!

FAREWELL PRESENTATIONS FROM C.S.O.
To Staff Sergeant John Davies—the LS and GC. To Mrs. Kath Davies —a bouquet of flowers

FAREWELL TO GENERAL ROPER

During his final week as CSO, BAOR, **General Harry Roper** found time to present our chief clerk, **Staff Sergeant John Davies** with his LS and GC, and a bouquet of flowers to **Mrs. Kath Davies,** as well as attending the West Rhine Musical Society Performance of 'Yeomen of the Guard'. Again the branch was in the fore with **Captain Katie Meachem,** our WRAC SO 3 Tels, in the chorus, having done much work as secretary of the Society. **Major Ann Smith** (known to many for her years of gracing Blandford) sang one of the lead parts, and had no need of the assistance of **Major David Chappell** who remained unheard as prompter.

On the 20th June we had a small branch party to say farewell to **General Roper,** when **Lance-Corporal Olwyn Steward,** WRAC presented the General with a bronze statuette of a Royal Signals Officer, a gift from all ranks in the branch.

In the evening the **General** and **Mrs. Roper** were wined and dined by the officers of the branch. The **General** was agreeably surprised to find that a new tarif was in service with a pleasant sample of things to come served in a clansman cocktail. The bruin of Beef was exquisite but **General Roper** still dislikes his Pork with no-tare sauce! **Captain Dereck Wallis** organised a splendid evening with wines served from the WMR (or as some people thought the CSO's pool!).

The ration strength of the branch was recently increased by one, on the arrival of a bouncing boy to proud parents **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Alan Houghton.**

WELCOME TO GENERAL STURGE

Finally we welcome our new CSO, **General John Sturge** and hope he will find us all able to offer the service he requires during his tour as CSO, BAOR.

RADIO OPERATORS

LEAVING THE SERVICE IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS?

If your trade involves radio operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the Composite Signals Organisation.

On satisfactory completion of a 7 months specialist training course, successful applicants are paid on a scale rising to £5,094 pa; commencing salary according to age—25 years and over £3,646 pa.

During training salary also by age, 25 and over, £2,326 pa with free accommodation.

The future holds good opportunities for established status, service overseas, and promotion.

Training courses commence at intervals throughout the year. Earliest possible application advised.

Applications only from British born UK residents up to 35 years of age (40 years if exceptionally well qualified) will be considered.

Full details from:

Recruitment Officer
Room A/1105
Government Communications Headquarters,
Priors Road,
Oakley,
Cheltenham, Glos GL52 5AJ.
Telephone Cheltenham 21491 Ext 2270.

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

Twelve of the best and it's a record

On Thursday, 17th June, twelve soldiers of whom five were Royal Signals received their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. The Presentation was made by **Major-General J. W. Stainer, M.B.E.,** the GOC 1 Division. This, it is believed, is a record and in his speech the General drew attention to the number of years experience assembled before him—242 years. He pointed out that a man with that length of service could well have been eligible for his first LS and GC and perhaps been in the vicinity of Verden during the 7 years War!

Many thanks must go to the Medals issuing office—they deserve a medal too—for rushing through the last five medals to make this record possible.

The honour of holding all twelve medals on the cushion before they were presented went to **Signalman Richard Hall,** aged 17 years 5 months.

As one old wag was heard to say "It may be another 17 years 5 months before the lad gets that close to one again".

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL RECIPIENTS WITH LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. D. ALEXANDER, M.B.E. (C.O. 1 DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT)

Left to right, front row: W.O.2 C. J. Meredith, W.O.2 F. Taylor, W.O.1 J. A. Doherty, B.E.M., W.O.2 A. J. McLaughlin, W.O.2 L. Lawes, Staff Sergeant G. McNeil

Left to right, back row: Sergeant T. Peacock, Corporal R. V. Stone, Lance-Corporal J. P. McChristal, Staff Sergeant M. Crabtree, Sergeant K. R. Smellie, Sergeant D. K. Campbell

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

2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment celebrate Kohima Day

FEBRUARY 1944

ACROSS the Chindwin River poured the Japanese Army of invasion, its goal, the defeat of the British Army and the conquest of India. In the face of this mighty onslaught the men of the 14th Army fell back to their base at Imphal, only to discover that they were surrounded, besieged in the jungle by a powerful Japanese force, their one road of escape blocked not only by the enemy, but also by the mighty Kohima Ridge. To the men of the 2nd Division was given the task of breaking through to the beleaguered army, by crawling, hacking and killing their way over the impregnable Jap infested mountain. Trained in jungle warfare they were tougher than most, conditioned to death and mutilation, to fever, jungle sores, flies and dysentery. But the murderous battle of Kohima looked as though it might destroy even those brave men, the men on whom depended the fate of the 14th Army —and the future of India.

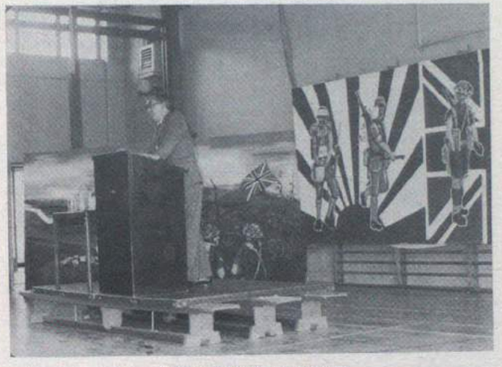
By April 1944 the Japanese had surrounded the village of Kohima on three sides and thereafter followed one of the great sieges involving the British Army, of the last World War. For sixteen days, twelve to fifteen thousand men of the famous Japanese 31st Division were held off until, by the evening of the 16th May 1944, the Japanese had suffered their first major defeat of the war. With it they lost the hope of a base in Assam and their chance of invading India. Of the overall battle, which continued

long after the siege was raised, Lord Mountbatten has said, "The Battle of Kohima will probably go down as one of the greatest battles in history. It was in effect the Battle of Burma".

VETERANS JOIN 1975 CELEBRATIONS

Each year the 2nd Division remembers Kohima as its primary Battle Honour and, traditionally, veterans associated with the battle are invited as our Guests of Honour to join in the celebrations. This year our guests were **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Greg' Gregory, M.B.E.** (late Royal Signals) who was in the Arakan, itself a significant prelude to Kohima, and **Mr. W. H. 'Jess' Jessemey** (of AG11), then a Company Sergeant Major in the Reconnaissance Regiment, who was wounded in the battle.

The celebrations began with the WO's and Sergeants' Mess Kohima Ball held on Wednesday, 11th June, in the Stadtgarten, Bunde. The GOC, **Major-General W. D. Mangham** and **Mrs. Mangham,** and the Garrison Commander, **Brigadier G. L. Body** were the principal guests at the Ball which was a grand start to the Kohima celebrations and was much enjoyed by everyone.



MEMORIES OF THE PAST

'Jess' addresses the Regiment before a backdrop of Kohima, specially painted for this year's celebrations

JAPANESE FLAG PRESENTED

On Friday morning our two visiting personalities addressed the Regiment on their own experiences of Burma in 1943/44. **'Greg'** educated his audience in the tactical and strategic implications of Kohima, whilst **'Jess'** related incidents depicting the true fog of war. A most interesting and often amusing morning, as exploding gun cotton—rehearsals nearby for a fete event, (more later)—provided a realistic and timely background.

Following his address **'Jess'** kindly presented the Commanding Officer with a Japanese Company flag which he took at the battle. The flag will hang in turn in specific places about the Regiment and serve as a constant reminder of the Regiment's association with that famous battle.

On Friday evening the HQ 2 Division Officers' Mess, Lubbecke, held their annual Kohima Ball with the theme this year being 'full of Eastern promise', and again in Lubbecke, the traditional 'Mum's Day Off' took the form of a families' Sunday lunch after the Remembrance Service with everything from salmon salad to strawberries and cream.

The standard of food throughout was quite excellent, in the true traditions of the Army Catering Corps.

FETE ATTRACTS THE CROWDS

A fly past of six Scout helicopters from 652 Squadron AAC, an opening address by BFN Cologne's own **Richard 'Asters' Astbury,** and the Kohima Fete 1975 was well and truly open. As in previous years threatening overcast sky gave way to sunshine just in time—yet another indication, perhaps, that the CO's 'influence' is not restricted to earthly matters!

The sports ground was a mass of colour as stalls ranging from ·22 rifle ranges to ducking stools prepared to entertain our visitors, both German and British alike.

Across from the stall and Arena area stood the static military display exhibiting helicopters, chieftain tank, M2 rigs, swingfire,

CHEERFUL EVENING

The Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of 1 Squadron obviously enjoying the Sergeants' Mess Kohima Ball

a field hospital and all manner of military equipment—even a railway engine from the only remaining railway squadron, 79 Squadron RCT. The display was, as always, a truly great attraction which helped provide a military flavour to the day's proceedings.

HELIBORNE ASSAULT HIGHLIGHTS AFTERNOON

The crowd of over 7,000, throughout the afternoon watched events forming the arena programme, which began at 2.30 p.m. with a free fall parachuting display by members of the Rhine Army Parachuting Association. The highlight of the afternoon was provided by men of Kohima Company, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment who, supported by helicopters of 652 Squadron AAC, executed a heliborne assault upon an enemy position located in the Arena area. Landing in 3 waves of 2 the helicopters dropped the men a suitable distance short of the objective, (despite a fear of the possible consequences of helicopter downdraught the Wines Club stall did remain intact—cakes and all!) A quick attack with smoke screen—green smoke, which inevitably went the opposite way to rehearsals and engulfed the VIP tent—and the enemy were routed. With gun-cotton and thunder-flashes providing the 'noise of war'—not to mention dust —the whole display proved quite spectacular.

The Grand Kohima Draw with first prize of a colour television, won by our own **W.O.1 Moir** of HQ Squadron, and a whole host of supporting items realised a profit of DM5,600. This figure, together with profits from the stalls, made up the total profit of DM17,000 which is to be equally distributed between British and German Charities.

WELL DONE THE WIVES!

The winning stall. The Wives' Club stall before the 'rush' that brought them DM1,400 in sales

OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The traditional prize for the best stall went this year, after a most difficult choice, to the Wives Club who, from articles entirely produced by hand, made a contribution to charity of DM1,400—a grand effort.

The Pipes and Drums of 4 Royal Tank Regiment, and the Band of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment each gave a marching display and closed the arena programme with the Beating of Retreat. A helicopter dropping sweets, a stampede by the children and the Kohima Fete was brought to an end—for this year!

The Fete was the result of a great deal of personal effort by all members of the Regiment and a donation to charity almost twice that of last year is praise indeed.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Sunday 2 Division remembered Kohima. As the climax to the Kohima week a Drum Head Service of Remembrance was held in Tunis Barracks, Lubbecke, attended by the GOC 2 Division, **Major-General W. D. Mangham** and **Mrs. Mangham,** all members of the Headquarters and of the Regiment. The Memorial Service was conducted by the **Reverend G. G. Holman,** the lesson was read by the GOC and the address given by **Colonel Gregory** who expanded upon the spirit of goodwill that he had witnessed throughout the Kohima Week.

This moving ceremony was held before a replica of the Memorial now standing on Jail Hill, Kohima, at the head of one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the world. On a site above the District Commissioner's Bungalow, where much of the hardest fighting took place, the 2 Division's Memorial stands as a token of Remembrance of those who were lost from its ranks. On the face of the central stone is engraved a cross, with, underneath, the translation of an old Greek epigram:

"When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today."

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

EDITORIAL

COUNT yourself fortunate (or otherwise) dear reader to get any editorial observations this month as June has more than lived up to our forecast of 'busy 75'. Perhaps the '4 Division Whitsun' holiday is also a factor as we celebrated this between 7th and 12th June (although 2 Squadron were too busy that week and had their own holiday the week after!). The Editor must confess to having spent the holiday sailing at Kiel on the Corps yacht *Petasus* instead of sitting planning next month's WIRE Notes. However to cut a long excuse short 3 Squadron have been persuaded to contribute a few notes on their sporting activities and these are reproduced below.

ATHLETIC VICTORS

3 Squadron Athletics team with their 'pot'. *Left to right, standing:* Signalman Horton, W.O.2 Bawden (RAOC), W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Platts, Corporal Linton, Signalman Wilson, Lance-Corporal Hewitt, Signalman Nightingale, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Stewart, Signalman Fleming, Private Saunders (RAOC)
Kneeling: Lance-Corporal Peters, Gunner Jackson, Signal Goater, Driver Fisher

3 SQUADRON NEWS

3 Squadron, in between a generous helping of Exercises, has not been idle in the field of sports and other outside activities.

On the 26th May, the Squadron team was in action in the Regimental inter-Squadron athletics. The team coach, **S.S.M.** (now R.S.M. 6 Brigade) **Ken Stewart,** hobbled around on his crutches and lead the Squadron team to victory for the fourth successive year. Amongst the stars of the team were the relay foursome—**W.O.2 Colin Bawden, Corporal John Linton, Lance-Corporal 'Snowy' Peters** and **Signalman Steve Goater** and the throwers, **Signalmen Vimmy Flemming** (javelin) and **Danny Wilson** (shot). The Squadron also took this opportunity of saying farewell to **S.S.M. Ken Stewart** at an informal gathering after the athletics. We wish him well at his new post in 6 Brigade. We welcome in his place **S.S.M. Gordon Platts.**

The Regimental inter-Squadron boxing was held on 19th–20th June. At very short notice, our very own 'Q Tech' **(Staff Sergeant Dave Darlington)** raised a team and punched it to victory on the final afternoon by 5 matches to 2. The team consisted of **Signalmen Pitman, Goater, Gerrish, Fowler, Lowden, Frew, Whittaker** and **Mullin.**

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) 'Lemmy' Lomas is our man before the mast, and he writes:

"Five members of the Quadrant Kanu Klub used the belated '4 Division Whitsun' to make the annual pilgrimage to the Surf Beaches at West Schouwen in Holland. The party led by **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) 'Lemmy' Lomas** consisted of **Lance-Corporals Jim Hamilton, Pete Turner, Nigel Dixon, Signalmen John Robertshaw** and **Sammy Pblovic.** MSO, recently appointed official road manager to the Klub.

Camp was set up at Broushaven in the early hours of Saturday, 7th June and the remainder of the morning was spent horizontally. Saturday afternoon was mainly taken up with swimming and capsize tests, followed by a couple of hours sailing on the Y. of S.'s yacht. On Saturday evening the party was guested in one of the local hostelries with a tray full of 'bessenjenevers' and demands to know where the 'Old Major' (**Major Mike Simms-Reeve** take note) was hiding.

After a late start on Sunday (waiting for the tide!) we beat the traffic jams down to the beaches at Schouwen only to find the wind blowing obliquely along the beach and producing only 'Baby Surf' but sufficient to cause the beginners to swim.

To avoid further suffering from sunburn Monday morning was spent buying cloggs in Zerilezee, following by some more sailing in a North Westerly that was beginning to gust up to force five, providing some hairy sailing and promising good surf for the following day.

The wind and tide predictions turned out correct, and Tuesday's trip to the beach provided some good surfing, with plenty of amusement for the amazed Dutch and German spectators."

CANOEING SUCCESSES

BAOR Sprint and LD Canoe Championships 21st–22nd June, River Werre, Herford.
Results:
500 *m. Sprint Class UK4 Doubles Kayak*
1st—**Lance-Corporal Nigel Dixon** and **Signalman John Robertshaw.**
Class 3 Singles Kayak
4th—**Staff Sergeant 'Lemmy' Lomas,** 5th—**Signalman Ray Shreeve.**
18 *km. LD Race Class UK4 Doubles Kayak*
1st—**Lance-Corporal Nigel Dixon** and **Signalman John Robertshaw.**
Class 3 Singles Kayak
3rd—**Staff Sergeant 'Lemmy' Lomas,** 4th—**Signalman Ray Shreeve.**

THA LAST LAUGH!

We must record the recent departure of our Specialist Catering Officer, **Captain Mick Marshall** for a number of reasons, not the least of these being the very active part he took in Regimental activities. In particular he ran orienteering for some time, and was himself a leading member of the Regimental team.

On the occasion of the farewell lunch for himself and **Captain Ron Meyer** (PRI Officer and shortly on his way to Hong Kong, lucky fellow) he was given 'carte blanche' by the Second-in-Command on the matter of the menu and promised a surprise. On the appointed day 20 hungry officers sat down to lunch to find a delicious first course of avocado pear awaiting them. Having disposed of this, consultation of the menu cards (until then hidden) produced the information, "an Old English delicacy" for the main course. At this point **Captain Marshall** rose from his seat and with great aplomb invited all present to follow him. He led the assembled company out into the Mess garden and around to a tastefully camouflaged shelter where all were served with sausage and mash in mess tins by an NBC suited **Signalman Coe.** This delicacy was eaten seated at newspaper covered tables GS 6 ft. to the accompaniment of pre-war speeches by Hitler!

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

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

THE following account recently appeared on the Editor's desk from **Sergeant Paul Rousham:**

LADIES HAVE A NIGHT OUT!

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess recently held a Ladies' dinner night—with a difference. The last bastion of male chauvinism was toppled as hungry males were forced(?) to haunt the bar whilst their ladies sat at well laid tables eyeing a menu fit for a queen. At the given signal (what it was we've yet to discover) the waiters ran into action, dashing from table to table serving the first course. Many courses later, with the odd dieter convincing herself that this would be the last time she would succumb to temptation, the dinner ended. Husbands were then collected from the bar and an evening's dancing commenced. Since this time the Mess has held several more of these functions and they are becoming so popular that they are now a regular event.

THE GENTLEMEN HAVE NOT BEEN STARVING . . .

The gentlemen, however, have not been starving. In fact, the Mess has dined out two departing Officers. The first dinner was held to say farewell to the Second-in-Command, **Major B. A. R. Driskell,** who has been replaced by **Major D. P. J. Lavender**—to whom we extend a warm welcome. We would also like to wish **Major Driskell** well on his posting and promotion. The second occasion was to bid farewell, after 7 years with the Regiment, to **Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Pepper,** RAPC. Despite his genuine surprise at being presented with a gift from the Mess, **Colonel Pepper** collected his thoughts rapidly, prompted by cries of "speech" to reply in a most eloquent fashion, singling out **W.O.2 Roy Cockcroft** for the help he gave him during his tour.

After this spate of good cooking and companionship shared over a drink or two . . . , **Q.M.S.I. W.O.2 Eddy 'Who's Crashing?' Davies,** APTC could be seen rubbing his hands and beaming with delight at the prospect of 'helping' some over-weight seniors shed a pound or two.

SPECIAL MENTION MUST BE MADE OF THE MESS FOOTBALL TEAM

A special mention must also be made of the Mess football team. This bunch of players, together with their faithful followers, had a most enjoyable season and produced good results. The team consisted of **Staff Sergeants Mac 'The Flyer' McDonald, Ron 'Hairy' Russell** and **Eddie 'I'll organise it' Jones, Sergeants Eric Birchall, Bert Connon, Ian Dolby, Gerry Manton, Mal 'I'm too busy' Forster, Dave 'P.A.' Newbury, Ken 'I'm broke' Wilkinson,** RAPC and **Mick Roberts.**

SUMMER BALL

Finally, our Summer Ball has just passed by. This was a superb evening. Many guests were present, with **W.O.2 Charlie Coventry** hosting a fair number himself. He is now believed to be on leave recovering from the cost. The buffet was excellent and the group provided superb entertainment, enticing even the most reluctant dancer to the floor. **Sergeant Hamish 'I'm on extras' Stewart,** RCT, could be seen doing his dance routine whilst being watched with excited admiration by a 'gay' character. However, this errant spectator got the wrong idea about **Sergeant Stewart's** imitational gyrations of a belly dancer and had his hand slapped!

From all members, a big thank you is extended to the Entertainments Committee headed by **W.O.2 Jim 'The Beast' Adams.**

THE SPORTING LIFE

With the onset of torrential rain we feel we can now announce the start of the Regimental summer sporting season.

The cricket team to date, led by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bert Taylor,** have lost only once—to one of last season's BAOR finalists. However, the team are confident of reversing the result in this year's final—should 1 Queens progress that far!

TENNIS TO THE FORE

The tennis courts, too, are never empty, with experts and novices alike flocking to the nets. To encourage beginners, and assist the 'Old Hands' in improving their game, weekly coaching sessions are held, which are well attended. The Regimnetal team is drawn from the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers, Major R. Siderfin** (The Division's individual champion), **Captain M. J. Anderson** (Tennis Officer), **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Bevan,** REME, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Zoing, Sergeant Weirmouth,** RAPC, and **Corporal Tomlinson,** REME. To date they are undefeated. Further, after victories over 2 Field Regiment, RA and 14/20 Hussars, the team has gained a place in the final of the 4th Division inter unit tennis competition, with every chance of taking the trophy.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETES IN FORM

Finally, athletics. After the recent Regimental athletics meeting we can announce that the new holders of the Inter Squadron athletics cup are 2 Squadron, captained by **Sergeant Ian Haldane.** It was a close run thing (!) but 2's greater depth of talent saw them home. A novelty event was also held, called the 'Chain of Command' race. Each team was required to enter a team of six, consisting of 2 Officers, 2 SNCOs, 1 JNCO and 1 Signalman. Each member of a team had to run 100 m. and then drink a can of a well known fizzy, non alcoholic drink. To the accompaniment of cheers or cat calls, depending who was running a particular leg, 6 Squadron whose team was **Major Richard Gravestock, Lieutenant Hugh Bardell, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Nick Scott, Sergeant Burt Connon, Corporal Tony Brooks** and **Signalman John Marooth,** passed the post first. The inter Squadron tug-of-war competition, held (or is it pulled) on the same day, was won, for the second consecutive year, by 3 Squadron, who were coached by **Sergeant Douggie Poultney.** 4 Squadron were runner-up.

Five days after the Regimental athletics meeting, the Divisional inter unit meeting was held, where the Regiment ran out eventual winners. Wins by **Sergeants Ian Haldane** (110 m. hurdles) and **Pete Tarrant** (pole vault), **Glyn Broome** (high jump) and **Lieutenant Mark Grieves** (800 m.) as well as team wins in the 100 m., 200 m., 400 m., 800 m., 1500 m., 100 m. relay and 400 m. relay saw the Regiment home by 23 clear points in front of its nearest rival. The team now has its sights on the BAOR Championships and the Morrison Cup.

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

REPORT FROM RADIO RELAY GROUP, TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL

THOUGH hundreds of technicians and operators pass through the TTS annually, as students they seldom get to know the more human side of the instructors who have to 'bully' knowledge between those ears by fair means or foul. Without a doubt, Radio Relay Group is the group that accommodates more students and courses than any other, but a closer look at these dedicated geniuses reveals a much more humane characteristic. How many know that their leader, for instance, **Captain (TOT) Norman Walker** is conversant with every blade of grass on Catterick golf course—while his assistant **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Hill** is one of the few authorities on volleyball in the Army—its not a recognised sport you see—while his present position of Quizmaster ensures that he spends hours with his nose in encyclopaedias.

Wednesday afternoons finds **Staff Sergeant Roger Foster** dedicated to fell walking across the Yorkshire Moors, while **Sergeant Bob Foskett,** (even though he resembles a mobile roadblock) and **Sergeant John Field** represent the Regiment at rugby. **Sergeant Pete Dunnings** not only represents, but trains, coaches and captains the Regimental swimming team while **Sergeant Keith Gilbert** represents the Regiment on the squash

courts. We must congratulate **Sergeants 'Geordie' Hennrie** and **Alex Gavillet** on successfully taming 11th Signal Regiment during their Staff Sergeant's course—and extra congratulations to **Alex** and **Jean Gavillet** on the birth of their daughter, and to **Sergeants Alan** and **Margaret Harris,** and **Pete** and **Teresa Dunnings** for continuously trying.

Sergeant 'Paddy' Moorhead, having left the Mess early one morning after a 'sesh' was certain on arriving home that he had forgotten something. He checked the essentials; wallet, ID card, keys, coat—all intact. It was only after making a cup of tea that he discovered he had indeed left something behind—his wife!

Sergeant Bruce Ozanne has done nothing of note, so won't even get a mention while our three new boys, **Sergeants Bob Fotheringham** and **Alfie Bass** with **Corporal Terry Witts** were all striving to make their mark in such talented company—now; how about it Line Group?

"... AND WATCH THIS SWITCH"
Sergeant Keith Gilbert (R) instructs Basic Technicians on some common equipment. To prove the picture is posed, the Foreman, W.O.2 John Hill shows an interest

We did it our way

ADVENTURE TRAINING WITH COURSE TM17B, 2 SQUADRON, 8th SIGNAL REGIMENT

CAMP IS PITCHED

After a hectic afternoon collecting together all the required kit we eventually left Catterick at 1700 hours for our weekend in Keswick. Our driver, **Signalman 'Jock' Storey** made good time and we arrived in Keswick and made our way to the campsite situated at the head of Lake Derwentwater.

Not being used to putting up 12 ft. x 12 ft. tents we puffed and struggled until they were in order. Two 12 ft. x 12 ft. army green tents between a few orange, red and yellow holiday tents, made us quite a picture. Whilst we were pitching the tents a young boy was watching us and although we did not know it at the time he was to become one of our friends for the weekend.

WEATHER AGAINST US

Next morning we were able to leave camp by 0830 to start our walk. The weather was not looking very promising but we pushed on with the hope of some sun later in the day. Our walk took us through the woods and we started to climb up to Rowling End and Cansey Pike 2,035 feet from Stair Village.

We stopped a few times going up Rowling End to take in the views. Looking West we saw heavy rain clouds swelling into huge banks rolling towards us, to the north the sunshine, which we hoped would keep the rain off, was rapidly vanishing. There was only one answer, and so with the cries of 'shame' and 'rotten weather' and other such words, we began to lose height before we were finally engulfed in cloud.

Heading into a strong wind we lost height and made the track over to Buttermere following the two becks of Rigg and Sale. By now the cloud base was at about 1,500 feet and our hope of walking the tops for the day were lost.

Instead we followed the sheep track towards Buttermere in the knowledge that we would be safe from accident and able to take it steady into the valley.

AN UNFORTUNATE MISHAP

'Snowball' had been relieved of his weight and took the lead through the ferns and suddenly he was no longer in view. When we reached him we found that he had slipped and twisted his ankle and was very far from being happy.

At this point we took lunch while we strapped up the ankle and set off at a steady pace on the downward track.

By now the clouds had lifted but we could not see all the walk we had hoped to do and we were glad to be going down with our casualty. When we reached Buttermere we had a break in the local hotel. When the vehicle arrived we were surprised to find that we had a new face amongst us. **Stuart,** the young boy who had watched us the previous night had befriended **'Jock'** our driver, and with his parent's permission came out to meet us.

Saturday night was enjoyed by all and everybody was back in camp at various times during the night and for two people early in the morning. We then packed up all our kit and were able to be in Keswick at 1020 hours to meet our two American friends **Agnes** and **Phyliss** who joined us for the day.

PRAM RACE

We travelled down the valley towards Seatoller and were dropped off to climb up to the Bawder Stone and explore the old slate mines and enjoy the company of our mascots for the day. Our next stop took us to Ashness Bridge and gave us time to enjoy the views back to Keswick and over to Buttermere. The thirsty walkers now made back to Keswick to watch the annual pram race which was won by **Bill** and **Ben.** Each team pushed a pram and drank a bottle of beer in each pub, a very large crowd turned up to watch this spectacle. The thought of all that beer made us thirsty and so we retired to the pub for lunch and our American friends bought drinks all round.

A POTENTIAL RECRUIT

Our journey back was made with regret at ending our weekend and we were back at camp at 1930 hours. Everyone agreed that the weekend was a success even though we didn't achieve our object.

Our young mascot for the weekend, **Stuart,** who wanted to join the Royal Signals before we met him, still hasn't changed his mind—how's that for recruiting.

'A' TROOP NEWS

ALL CHANGE

No doubt that cry has echoed down many a Squadron corridor, none less so than 2 Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment. There have indeed been many changes in the past few weeks, one of the biggest being that we now have almost a full complement of officers again. Instead of our rather unwieldy Squadron Headquarters controlling the troops we have now reverted to a Troop Officer and Troop Sergeant for each Troop.

The 'new look' Alfa Troop came into being on 23rd May with **Lieutenant C. J. Durham,** Royal Signals as OC and **Sergeant T. A. Craft** as Troop Sergeant. We now have all the Combat Radiomen, both basics and upgraders. Our upgraders have been doing very well lately, organising some very good discotheques for the Squadron which have been well supported. Rumours that the last two courses ran their cars for a year on the proceeds have proven untrue!

Things are going to be a little hectic for everyone in the Troop soon. We are moving our accommodation to Gaza Lines, the Queen is coming for a visit and we are enjoying the Freedom of Richmond again, plus of course Old Comrades weekend all within 4 days! (Training? . . . What's that?). We also welcome all our Junior Signalmen even if we do only see them for a few hours a day. They'll all be 17 one day!

WEEKEND EXERCISE 26th/27th APRIL

The monthly weekend exercise, written, produced, directed and animated by **Lieutenant Chris Durham,** saw the whole Squadron running amok on Catterick and Feldom moors on an escape and evasion theme. This included not a little interrogation for the enemy and particular congratulations to the young basic trainee who refused to utter anything, except the occasional anatomical reference when under pressure. We never did find out his name!

Under exceptionally changeable weather conditions, from brilliant sunshine, through rain, to a white frost, 80 or so goodies hounded out 20 baddies—though from the Gestapo tactics used on the prisoners, 'goodies' was the misnomer of the weekend.

The current spate of war films on Television must have influenced the Audie Murphy tactics of **Lance-Corporal Bryce McPike** who spent the whole of Saturday taking prisoners to such an extent that there was a danger of all the enemy being captured and the exercise finishing early. (Who cheered?) However, a few DS devious decisions, and the 'Battler Britton' image that emerged from certain enemy such as **Signalmen Glenn Chapman, Keith de Moulpied, Clyde Atherley** and **Brian Grainger** all combined to save the day, or rather the enemy.

One or two of our prisoners had rather a hard time of it. **Captain Peter Reed's** dog, **William,** took over the duties of Chief Interrogator while no one was looking, much to the horror of his intended helpless victim. Fortunately, someone recovered from their hysterics long enough to rescue the prisoner from a fate worse than . . . well, we won't go into that now but it will give the interrogation boys something to think about.

The move to Feldom to give the men a change of scenery proved another misnomer as rain and fog kept visibility down to 100 metres, which didn't help the enemy's navigation either! Finally, as in all good war stories the enemy were completely routed by the advancing goodies . . . or was that merely another DS devious decision to give it a little authenticity?

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 53

VISIT OF THE SO-IN-C

REFERENDUM DAY

WEDNESDAY, 4th June was the day that all 9th Signal Regiment Servicemen and their wives voted in the EEC Referendum. The vote was a day earlier than the UK to enable those vital ballot boxes to be sent to England for the count on 6th June. It was also the day we were honoured by the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Tighe.**

SMART TURNOUT
The Signal Officer-in-Chief inspects the Regimental Quarter Guard watched by the CO, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Milton and Sergeant Moore

MANY OLD ACQUAINTANCES MET

The day started off with the SO-in-C arriving (three minutes early) and inspecting our illustrious Quarter Guard under the command of **Sergeant 'Paddy' Moore.** The General then started his tour of the Regiment and it was gratifying to see the number of soldiers he actually managed to meet. **Signalman White,** the 1 Squadron Clerk, is currently writing a book entitled "The Day the General Met Me" with his, now well known, photograph of him placing his typing hand in one of the General's hands. The SO-in-C had lunchtime drinks in the Sergeants' Mess where he managed to renew many old acquaintanceships with members of the Intelligence Corps. Then followed lunch with the officers and a short respite before 1930 arrived and **General** and **Mrs. Tighe** accompanied the Commanding Officer and **Mrs. Milton** to the polling station to cast their votes. Having done their democratic thing our guests then left for 'The Event of the Day'. This was a dinner held in the 9th Signal Regiment Sergeants' Mess for all Royal Signals Warrant Officers and Sergeants (plus their good ladies) in Cyprus. The event was organised by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) 'Wally' Hammonds** and his obvious effort was duly rewarded.

HIGH POWERED SPEECH MAKING

The only official speech of the evening was made by **R.S.M. Bob Wade** who had obviously been taking lessons from a certain **Mr. Benn.** If his standard of oratory continues to improve he may start writing the Chief Clerk's speeches! After dinner the Mess was transformed from a place where 300 had been eating to the 'Ay Nik Palais' and dancing to the 'Storm' followed. The **General** and **Mrs. Tighe,** accompanied by **Colonel** and **Mrs. Curl** stayed and danced into the night but like all good things it was over too soon and they took their leave of the assembled throng. The whole day had been a huge success and we were delighted that the SO-in-C found the time to visit 9th Signal Regiment.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

WRAC SET THE PACE

THE two weeks from 16th May to the end of the month saw the WRAC members of the Regiment descend upon Chickerell Camp, near Weymouth to partake of 'Summer Camp'. About fifty girls attended each week looked after by a small permanent staff consisting of **Major 'Jenni' Brady, Major 'Stan' Wood, Second-Lieutenant 'Cherry' Hune-Lewis, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) 'Ann' Ramsden, Sergeant 'Maggie' Murdoch, Corporal 'John' Archer. Corporal 'Van' Horrik** and **Lance-Corporal 'Nikki' Rochelle.**

Amongst the activities to choose from were camping, sailing and canoeing. The Navy provided extremely good facilities for the latter sports, but not even they could quell the strong winds which lashed the Dorset coast during the second week and made the sea unfit for play.

Map reading (better known in its feminine interpretation of nature rambling—or where's the nearest tea shop!) was organised by **Lieutenant Joyce Pilkington** and **Second-Lieutenant Corina Fleming**—who are still congratulating themselves not only on not losing the girls but also on not getting lost themselves.

'It's a knockout' sorted out those who can (and cannot!) distinguish between their left and right feet in the maxi-legged race and those of us with a natural talent for crawling under bivouacs on our stomachs carrying a bucket and netball. Oh well—c'est la guerre!

We even had a couple of funnies—**Lance-Corporal Hennah** and **Private Garwood** who insisted on wandering around in Noddy suits and respirators, but we soon told them our opinion of that fashion!

At our Inter-Service Disco at Chickerell the Navy again came to our rescue—this time in their hundreds together with half the German fleet. (Was that really **Major Brady** hiding under the bar?)

THE MAXI-LEGGED RACE
Sergeant Maggie Murdoch in command on the right

Sad to say we're all now back in our respective Squadrons once more, admiring our suntans, and all the hard work we did. The men go to camp in September but their's won't be as good as ours . . .!

1 SQUADRON

PRESENTATION

Wednesday, 21st May was a happy occasion for two of the staff from the Blandford Military Telephone Exchange when **Messrs. March** and **Richards** were presented with the Imperial Service Medal by the Commandant, School of Signals, **Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson. Mr. March** served in the exchange for 20 years of which he spent the last 3 as the exchange supervisor. He retired earlier this year. **Mr. Richards** has served in the exchange since 1946, is still hard at it and not looking a day older.

PRESENTATION OF IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDALS AT BLANDFORD

Left to right: Major R. B. Carroll, Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson, Mr. S. R. March, Mr. J. S. Richards

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

On the personality front we have 3 fresh (relatively so) faces. **Staff Sergeants (Y. of S.) Harry Beresford** has joined us from the School of Artillery, **Mick Tivenham** fresh from his Yeoman's Course at the School and **W.O.1 Sylvia Pratt,** WRAC who has come South from Edinburgh (she really wanted to go to Guernsey —but they wouldn't give her a warrant!).

The month of May also saw a retirement in 2 Squadron. **Mrs. Catherine Hayes** retired on 30th May after 23 years loyal service with 2 Squadron. We wish her a long and happy retirement and thank her for all her good work.

A BUSY MONTH

During the past month the Radio Troop has had a very busy period contributing to the Queen's Birthday parade, the Aldershot Army Display and giving assistance to 32 and 35 TAVR plus ensuring that our RRIT under command of **Sergeant Mal Gowling** is kept active keeping the Corps in the public eye; we look forward to providing control communications and PA for the World Water Ski Championships in September.

Our stalwarts on the CCF/ACF, **Lance-Corporal Bernie Randall** and **Signalman Andy Smith,** keep 'haring off' to schools in all directions. Their battle cry of "Only the best shall pass" echoing through the exhaust smoke!

Reading this one would assume that it is all work and no sport, but the Regimental Hockey, Soccer and Basket Ball teams would not have won their various competitions without our galaxy of stars. Hockey—**Lance-Corporal Bernie Randall, Signalmen Billy Thorpe** assisted by Corps players **Tony Reynolds** and **Mick Mitchell.** Soccer-men **Barry Tiller** and **Mick Collins** (now a civilian). Basket ball players **Lance-Corporal 'Lofty' Dalton, Signalmen Mick Reynolds** and **Rab Lee**—not fogetting **'Lofty' Dalton's** assistance to Corps rugby.

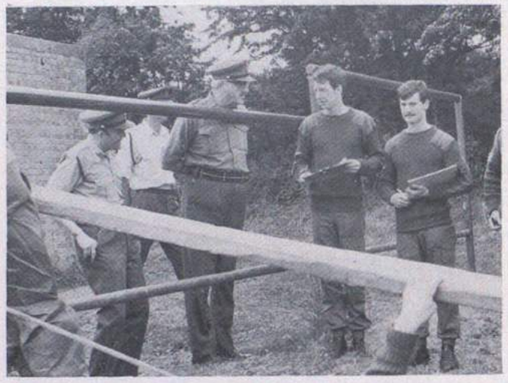
We say a fond farewell to **Corporal Keith Bolton** and **Lance-Corporal Jeff Walker,** both of whom left us recently for BAOR. Our contribution would not be complete unless we said thank you for their excellent work at Hounslow.

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

VISITORS

ON 19th June we were pleased to welcome to the Regiment **General Sir Peter Hunt, D.S.O., O.B.E., A.D.C.,** Chief of the General Staff. During his visit **General Hunt** saw a detachment commanders course, a leadership course, a recruit troop and met members of a Staff Sergeants course in the Sergeants' Mess.

Earlier in the month we were pleased to welcome **Captain Nordly** of the Norwegian Signal Corps. **Captain Nordly** visited the Regiment with a view to seeing our programming techniques. We hope the visit was profitable.



LEADERSHIP COURSE TASK

The Chief of the General Staff overlooks. The Brigade Commander underlooks. O.C. 3 Squadron remains neutral in the background

EXERCISE 'SIGNAL VIEW IV'

For the first time the Corps had a display of signalling equipment through the ages on show at Exercise 'Signal View'. Most of the exhibits on view came from the Regiment's Historical Room and the display attracted tremendous interest from spectators of all ages. The stand was manned by **Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson** and **Major** (Retired) **Alexander** who were ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal Doug Goldie.**

EEC REFERENDUM

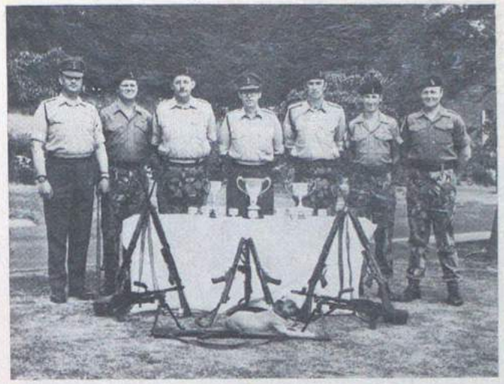
On the historic day of 5th June the Regiment opened its polling station with the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Cuerden** casting the first vote at 0700 hours. There is no truth in the rumour that **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) George Shepherd** can recite from memory the 900 names on the nominal roll of our polling booth.

CORPS MINOR UNITS SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The annual Corps Skill at Arms Meeting was held at Bulford from 23rd–27th June. The Regimental team was composed of **Captain Jim Stockill** (Team Captain), **Major Stewart Law, W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Alan Walton** and **Sergeants Rob Watts, Dave Hooks** and **Joe Bonser.** At the end of four days hard competition the team had won the Minor Units Cup, the Roupell Cup, the Whitehead Cup and the Staff and Schools Match. Congratulations to all the team on a noteworthy performance and in particular **Sergeant Joe Bonser** who was placed first in the Whitehead Cup.

NORTH EAST DISTRICT MINOR UNITS SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

This was an exciting competition held in Catterick on 11th June. The result hung in the balance until the last event when our free style relay team finished a length clear of the opposition. Notable



SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

11th Signal Regiment Shooting Team. *Left to right:* W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Alan Walton, Sergeant Dave Hooks, Captain Jim Stockill, Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Cuerden (C.O.), Major Stewart Law, Sergeant Bob Watts, Sergeant Joe Bonser

(Photo: courtesy A. J. Glover & Sons, Richmond)

performances were put in by **Captain Harry Barstow,** RAEC in the individual free style and **Sergeant 'Stew' Kennedy** in the breast stroke. The team is now training in earnest for the Army Championships in July.

1 SQUADRON

ADULT RECRUITS

No. 5 Troop passed off on 30th May. The Inspecting Officer was **Colonel D. G. Cattermull,** Commanding Officer of 8th Signal Regiment, who presented prizes for the best recruit to **Signalman Pybus** and for the best shot to **Signalman Webb.**

Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, C.B.E. was the Inspecting Officer at the pass off parade of No. 1 Troop on 13th June. During the parade **Brigadier Robertson** presented **Sergeant Colin Easton** with the GOC Northern Ireland's Commendation for his work with 233 Signal Squadron. Our congratulations to **Sergeant Easton. Brigadier Robertson** also presented prizes for the best recruit to **Signalman Sefton** and **Signalman Boomer.**

TAVR RECRUITS

On 14th June No. 2 TAVR Recruit Training Troop passed off. This is a new training commitment for the Regiment and nine of these courses are to be run during this year. No. 2 Troop, commanded by **W.O.1 Mick Hall** with his cadre of **Sergeant Roy Bennett, Corporals Archie Cairns, Eddie Bell** and **Ian Frazer,** reached a very high standard during the two weeks of training and certainly impressed the inspecting officer, **Brigadier D. H. Baynham, G.M.,** the Commander of 11 Signal Group TAVR.

2 SQUADRON

We are now busily preparing for the move to RAF, Ouston which is being taken over to accommodate us and the new Junior Signalman Squadron which forms in September. The new squadron numbers which are already being used do tend to confuse **Captain Frank Rogers** our Training Officer. This however is 'situation normal' and we hope that all will be clear to him by September.

3 SQUADRON

"Time and courses wait for no man". This is certainly true in 3 Squadron where RSSSC No. 100, RSDCC No. 85/86 and a TAVR RSSSC are well under way. If all goes well more news from these courses should appear in next month's issue.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

The Regiment welcomes **Major John Botterill, Major Patrick Templeman-Evans, Lieutenant Brian Jackson, W.O.2 Ryan** and a son belonging to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Peter Antrobus.** We say farewell to **Captain Bob Wannell** and his wife **Gill, Lieutenant Harry Ross** and his wife **Linda** and **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Reid.**

OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

Why not contact

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

A.G., a former Corporal Supervisor, Royal Signals did and he writes:

"My reception at Three Tees was very friendly and they certainly went to a lot of trouble to show me the different machines and systems used in civvy street.

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WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from both world wars. We come from Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus . . . and from Ulster. From keeping the peace no less than from war we limbless look to you for help.

And you CAN help, by helping our Association. BLESMA (the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association) looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps, with advice and encouragement, to overcome the shock of losing arms, legs or an eye. It sees that red-tape does not stand in the way of the right entitlement to pension. And, for the severely handicapped and the elderly, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help BLESMA, please. We need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

Donations and information: Major The Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD, Midland Bank Limited, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

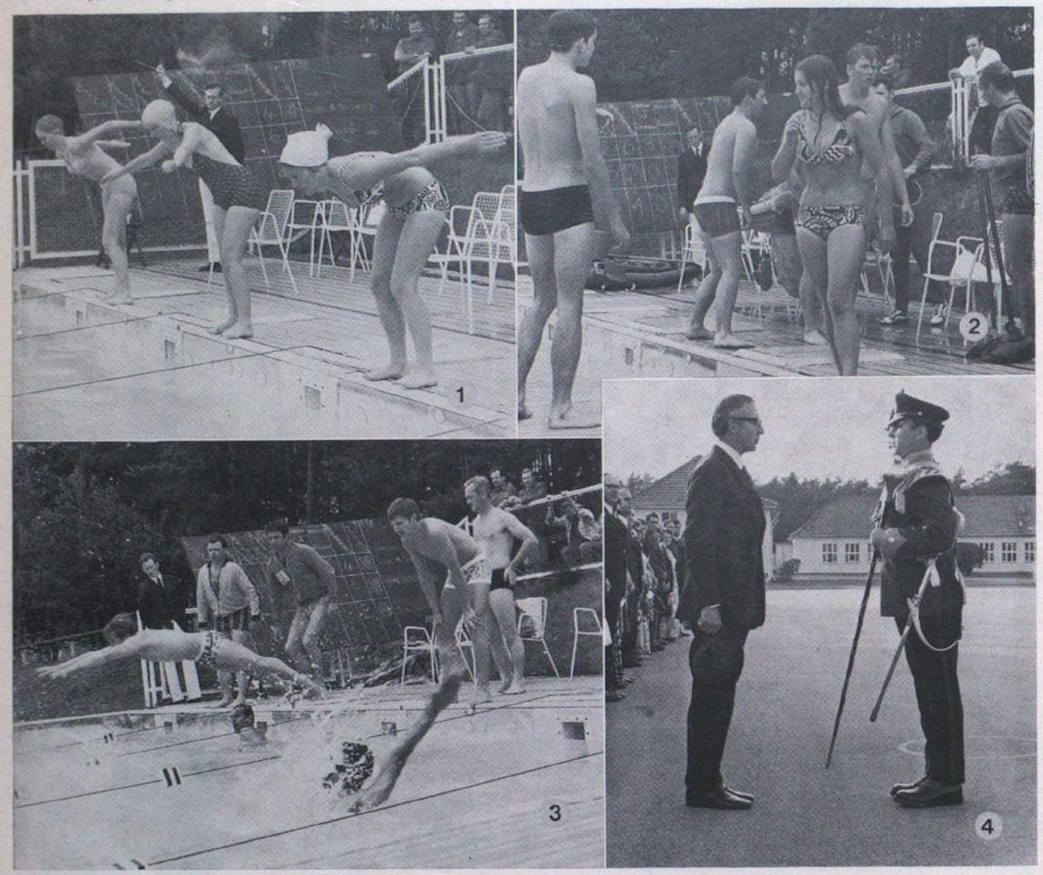
'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE'

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

This month was distinguished by the visit of the CSO BAOR to the Regiment. He and **Mrs. Sturge** came to a 'Beating of the Retreat' by the Band of the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment and to the Regimental Cocktail Party which followed

The following day came the informality of the Regimental swimming gala. 1 Squadron won, but the WRAC received most of the attention. The photographs shown with this month's notes are not only here for their decorative value, or to show personalities of the Regiment but to prove that the pool is not always a concrete jungle as displayed in recent editions of THE WIRE.

Finally, our congratulations to **Captain Mike Billett, M.B.E.** on his award in the recent Honours List.



1 W/Lance-Corporals Murphy, Bremner and Overy
2 W/Lance-Corporal Overy plus 13th Signal Regiment
3 W.O.2 Henderson, Sergeant Emery, W.O.2 Ferguson, Signalman Pemberton and W.O.2 Cheyne amongst others
4 Major-General H. A. H. Sturge with Drum Major D. M. G. Blackshaw at the ceremony of Retreat

Faraway Places! Unusual Jobs!

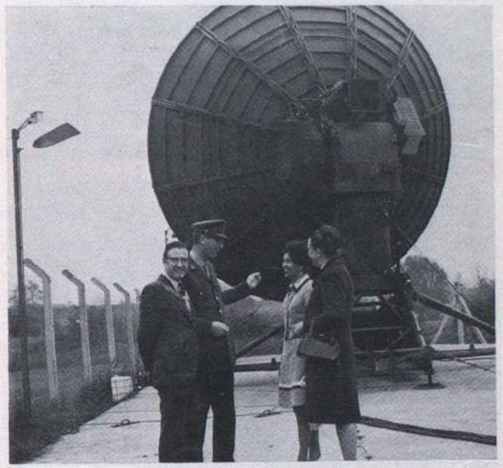
Let's have that Story!

14 Sig Regt Worcester

REGIMENTAL FAMILIES DAY

THE Regiment's close ties with the cities of Gloucester and Worcester were very apparent on the recent Families Day. **Councillor Peter Robins,** Mayor of Gloucester, accompanied by his wife **Iona,** and **Councillor Rowland Blackwell,** Mayor of Worcester, with his wife **Phyllis** took time off from civic duties to visit the Regiment.

On arrival, they were met by the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales,** and his wife **Ella** before joining the Regiment's wives on a tour of the various departments. These included a visit to a TSC 500 Satellite station, the E21 station participating in a Jocomex to *H.M.S. Ariadne,* a demonstration of agility and obedience from the Regimental guard dogs, a chance to emulate Annie Oakley on the miniature range and the opportunity to meet all the members of the Regiment, present in Worcester, at work.



TSC-500 SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY!
The C.O. explains the more amusing aspects of the TSC-500 to Councillor Peter Robins, Mayor of Gloucester, and his wife Iona. Also taking an active interest, Mrs. Ella Hales

A couple of agile and adventurous infants also gave our R.S.M., **W.O.1 Bill Scott** a bad attack of apoplexy by scaling the commando scrambling nets on the assault course, quite a feat for children under five. The event is designed to give the soldiers' wives the opportunity of seeing their husbands at work and touring all departments of the Regiment, which serves to give them a good appreciation of how the unit functions. Productivity booms on this one day, as husbands strive to impress their spouses with the weight of responsibilities and the exacting nature of their duties.

At lunchtime, visitors and husbands repaired to the various messes and replenished their energy with the gourmet's delights produced by our catering staff.

Our civic visitors and all concerned found much to interest them and proved once more how useful the event is as a public relations exercise which involves everyone associated with the Regiment.

NAUGHT BUT NAUTICAL AT NORTON

The arrival of **Major Tony 'Hello Sailor' Seward** in February signalled a renewed interest in sailing especially in 1 Squadron, the S.S.M., **W.O.2 Murray Foster** being one of the more fanatical converts to the sport. **Sergeant Dave Hudson,** with an eye to the main chance, has started a whispering campaign about accompanying **Chay Blyth** on his next jaunt; the Squadron Administrative Officer is totally unmoved and stoically turns a deaf ear to **Sergeant Hudson's** insidious campaign.

On Exercise 'Web Feet 5', **Major Seward, S.S.M. Murray Foster, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson, Sergeant Rupert Lund** and **Corporal Steve Cross** sailed the yacht *Trumpeter* from Portsmouth to Weymouth, then carried out a series of days sailing to Plymouth, Looe and out to Eddystone Rock. On these jaunts the crew were supplemented by members of the Regiment at summer camp. This served to allow the maximum number possible to participate and gain some sailing experience. On one trip round the Eddystone Rock **S.S.M. Foster, Sergeant Lund** and **Sergeant Keith Kennard** were cast adrift in a dinghy to photograph the yacht under full sail. Alas, **S.S.M. Foster** proved to be no **Anthony Armstrong Jones** or **Cecil Beaton;** his excuse is that he gained a distinct impression that the OC was endeavouring to produce dramatic WIRE notes by ramming the dinghy. **Major Seward** refutes the allegation and insists that he was simply endeavouring to reveal his best profile to the camera.

Off Looe he played Fletcher Christian and introduced a touch of Jerome K. Jerome when he set **Captain Ron Abbott, Sergeants Lund** and **Kennard** with **Ron's** dog, **Silk,** alias **Montmorency,** adrift to purchase stores; **Silk** was not amused. With the aid of a sympathetic current, and many curses, they eventually made the shore. A quicker if somewhat undignified return journey was achieved by a tow from a rather fruity-smelling lobster fishing boat. Being downwind of this, the dinghy crew had the full benefit of this piquant odour. Friends with heavy colds can approach them with impunity.

Exercise 'Web Feet 6' followed with a change of yacht, *Trumpeter* being replaced by *Skywave.* **Staff Sergeants Jerry Jarrett** and **Harry Ryall,** and **Corporal Steve Cross** made up the crew with **Major Tony Seward** and **S.S.M. Murray Foster.** On this occasion they sailed from Gosport to Cherbourg where they stayed overnight. The SSM assures me that their stay was purely to obtain French bread; we of course feel sure that there may be a crumb of truth in this. He also insists that there is no truth in the rumour that the Lord Lucan sightings were generated by the suave, urbane charm of **Major Seward.** He also denies the report the **Staff Sergeant Harry Ryall** was mistaken for Toulouse-Lautrec during the course of the evening.

The next day took the party on to Guernsey, where time was taken to purchase duty-free supplies. A quick wine-tasting session was also fitted in before the crew sailed for Poole. On arrival here **Staff Sergeant Ryall** decided to catch the boom on his head and spent the night in hospital. The doctor's verdict was that any boom faces unfair competition when it takes on an ex-lineman's head. Staff assures us he carried out a complete inspection of nursing staff before returning to Worcester, none the worse for his encounter.

ALL THE TWO'S—A SATELLITE

This is a new variation on the old Tombola theme sparked off by the fact that in 2 Squadron we have two satellite troops each with 22 men. The station can be carried in two Belfast and each item weighs under 2,000 pounds. These numbers have recently been subject to fluctuations as **Captain Mike Prymaka** departed and was replaced by **Captain Peter Neale. Lieutenant Ted Crampton,** mess secretary plus cheese and wine co-ordinator extraordinary, continues to command 'S' Troop in his spare time, while **Captain Damian Buckley** has arrived and will eventually be Squadron Second-in-Command. Two men recently married, **Sergeant Brian Etheridge** and **Corporal Eric White** (not to each other), propogated still further the magic two. The birth of a baby boy to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Frank Jolley** almost wrought havoc with the figure 2 but we are assured that he has two of almost everything: parents, hands, feet and bootees. Recently, 'T' Troop have paid two visits to Oakhanger before moving swiftly on to a very successful demonstration at the Aldershot Display, A year's overhaul has now been completed by 'S' Troop which culminated in successful tests prior to its first move. This event was not allowed to pass without notice. In a moving, impressive ceremony the OC Squadron, **Major Mike Brock,** pronounced "I now declare this to be a fully working station".

An additional qualification was recently introduced for 'T' Troop when **Signalman Phil Bryan** took up somnambulism and unintentionally entered free space from a second floor window of his accommodation at Oakhanger. Although his position was perfectly relaxed he failed to glide on air, his vertical descent was too rapid and he failed to achieve any semblance of horizontal flight. He failed to qualify for gliders licence, free-fall, or parachutist qualification, but he is available for pantomime next year when he hopes to do well as Peter Pan.

FIRST HINDE SIGHT?

Following **Sergeant Priestley's** excellent article "In The Footsteps of Sir Francis Drake", May/June WIRE, I was informed by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Goodman** that the Corps has other connections with the replica of the *Golden Hinde*. **S.S.M. Goodman** and his family were present at the launching of the vessel at Appledore as a result of members of his wife's family being involved in building and fitting out the ship. His father-in-law, **Mr. Joe Bennett** and his brother **Oswald** were responsible for making the ship's riggings. These gentlemen are now well into their seventies and are members of a swiftly vanishing breed of craftsmen.

Miss Jacqueline Goodman, the SSM's daughter, is now the proud possessor of the decorated neck and cork of the bottle of Mead used in the christening ceremony. Her father insists that the fact that there was a large sheet of blotting paper strategically placed under the bows endorsed 'Property of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Goodman'** was purely fortuitous. A case of "Mead will find a way".

During the Regiment's summer camp at Fremington in 1973, the RSM at that time, **W.O.1 John Wise,** was invited to inspect the ship. This he did with his usual aplomb, pace stick and the ubiquitous **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Goodman.** The SSM is sure that he sowed the seed which germinated into another Corps first, with one of his usual sotto voce remarks, in which he suggested that the Corps be entrusted with the responsibility for radio communications during the voyage. His only regret was that he was not fortunate enough to be the one chosen for the task.

WILD WORCESTER CARNIVORE

Having survived eyeball to eyeball confrontations with the wildlife of Kenya to emerge completely unscathed, **Captain 'Sandy' Lovatt** believed he had returned to a safe haven on returning to the peaceful serenity of Norton Barracks. Lulled into a false ense of security he dropped his guard only to discover in a fierce and bloody conflict how misguided he had been.

Recently, whilst seated at his desk ruminating and planning his next communications triumph in Italy on Exercise 'Dashing Impact', his sixth sense, developed on Exercise 'Avast', warned him that he was in mortal danger. He froze almost every muscle as he allowed one eye to open slowly. His eye focused with a cold steel-like glare on a malevolent predator advancing stealthily across his desk obviously intent on sinking its yellow fangs into his jugular vein.

Without hesitation **Captain Lovatt** galvanised himself fearlessly into action, his body uncurling like an unleashed steel spring as he dived forward to grapple with his attacker. In a manner immortalised by the pen of Edgar Rice Burroughs he strove heroically to cope with the vicious, slashing claws, whilst avoiding the razor-sharp, evil, yellow incisors. Momentarily his concentration slipped, the evil fangs sank into his finger and his desk and letter to his new OC was stained with gore. His grip relaxed as he attempted to stem the crimson flow and his assailant made good his escape.

The identity of his attacker? An uncommonly vicious, predatory, grey squirrel. We are sure that his many friends will be relieved to learn that our courageous captain recovered sufficiently to proceed on Exercise 'Dashing Impact' with only a virgin white bandage as mute evidence of his narrow escape.

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.

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

BOXING—REGIMENT SCORES SUCCESS OVER RAF LAARBRUCH

AT a recent Inter Unit Novices Boxing Tournament held in the Unit gymnasium, the Regiment team took on the RAF, Laarbruch team, and the spectators who filled the gymnasium to its capacity were treated to a very entertaining evening of boxing between two well matched teams.

Throughout the evening the teams won virtually every alternate fight from each other with the Regiment winning the bantamweight, lightweight, welterweight (1st string), welterweight (2nd string), middleweight and lightwelterweight (2nd string) contests and RAF, Laarbruch winning the featherweight, lightwelterweight (2nd string), light middleweight and light heavyweight contests. The heavyweight contest was not held.

Representing the Regiment were:
Bantamweight—**Signalman 'Dusty' Miller.**
Featherweight—**Signalman Ian Rose.**
Lightweight—**Lance-Corporal 'Lennie' Newton.**
Lightwelterweight (2nd string)—**Signalman 'Mac' McPhilbin.**
Welterweight (1st string)—**Lance-Corporal 'Ging' Allen.**
Welterweight (2nd string)—**Signalman 'Fix the Nose' Ward.**
Light middleweight—**Signalman 'Lofty' Thornton.**
Middleweight—**Signalman 'Sting like a Bee' Biggs.**
Light heavyweight—**Lance-Corporal 'Lester' Piggott.**
Lightwelterweight (1st string)—**Signalman 'The Demolisher' Tervit.**

At the end of a very entertaining evening the Regiment ran out winners by 16 points to 13 points.

Individual trophies were presented to all boxers who participated by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Hackworth** and by **Wing Commander A. Pitcher** of RAF, Laarbruch.

Our thanks go to the many officials who made the evening a success and we look forward to our return tournament at RAF, Laarbruch in the near future.

Incidentally, any boxers or potential boxers who want the opportunity to participate in their sport now know the address where they can do just that—through the proper channels of course.

FAREWELL TO W.O.2 ADAM PATTERSON

On 25th June we 'dined out' our S.S.M., **W.O.2 Adam Patterson** and his wife **Pat** in typically 4 Squadron style, requisitioning a local Gasthaus for the evening.

Adam Patterson leaves us on posting to 31st Signal Regiment (V) in London as a W.O.1 after less than two years in this unit, during which time he was either directly responsible for, or deeply involved in very many Squadron improvements.

Now that he has attained the top rung of the ladder a resumé of his career would not come amiss. He started inconspicuously enough in 1953 as a National Serviceman. On 'demob' he served 3 years as a member of Royal Signals AER but in 1958 decided that he had savoured the delights of a civilian existence long enough, and enlisted as a regular soldier.

Both he and his wife have been very popular and valued members of the unit. It is worth mentioning that **Pat** is a former member of the WRAC, which probably helped **Adam** with many a tricky problem in this 'mixed' Squadron. During most of their time in Bielefeld she worked in the Defence Lands Office, but never failed to support her husband in the Squadron social and welfare spheres.

It is also worth recording that their second eldest son **Alan** will be following in Father's footsteps shortly, and goes to the Army Apprentice College this September.

Our thanks are due to the **Pattersons** for all they have done here. Our loss is 31st Signal Regiment's gain and we wish **Adam** all the best in his new appointment.

FAREWELL VISIT OF MAJOR-GENERAL H. E. ROPER

On Wednesday, 4th June the Chief Signal Officer, **Major-General H. E. Roper** paid his farewell visit to the Regiment. During his visit a regimental obstacle course competition was held. Each Squadron put in a couple of teams which included a WRAC team. The competition proved to be both exciting and hilarious and our congratulations go to **Corporal Baines** and his gallant team who won the competition. Enclosed are a few pictures—we let them speak for themselves.

Camera Report – 16 Sig Regt

Private Phillips receives a trophy for the WRAC obstacle course team, from the C.S.O.

Corporal Baines receives the winner's team trophy from the C.S.O. on winning the Regimental obstacle course competition

ANOTHER CORPS GOLFING SUCCESS
Colonel Harry Thompson (*right*), Vice Chairman BAOR Golfing Society presents the Sennelager Open Championship Trophy to W.O.2 Reg Simpson, Royal Signals, who is the current reigning BAOR Champion

RECOGNISE THIS CAMP?
Bradbury Barracks as it looked in 1940

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

FAREWELL VISIT OF THE CSO, BAOR

ON Thursday, 5th June, the Regiment was visited for the last time by **General Harry Roper** in his capacity as Chief Signal Officer, BAOR. The weathermen were kind to us and enabled a tour of the camp to be carried out. **General Roper** asked many searching questions (doesn't he always) before being escorted to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where he was met by the R.S.M., **W.O.1 Frank Atkins** and the P.M.C., **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Ron Hacker.** A most enjoyable hour followed during which the General spoke to every mess member. As this was the General's last visit he was presented with a 'Gentlemen of the Road' suitably inscribed.

ANGLO-GERMAN EVENT

Our annual 'meet the locals' function on 20th June was a great success, with the band and drums of The Kings Own Royal Border Regiment, ably led by their Bandmaster, **W.O.1 Ross, A.C.R.M.** giving a magnificent exhibition of marching and counter-marching. A very moving ceremony of 'Beating the Retreat' concluded the evening's music. We were honoured by the presence of the Burgermeister of St. Tönis, **Herr Beckers** and many local dignitaries. As the band marched off the Officers and ladies accompanied by their guests retired to the Officers' Mess for the annual cocktail party whilst the Warrant Officers and Sergeants did a hurried change into mess kit for their summer ball.

GERMAN ATHLETES TRIUMPH

The annual Northag Signals Support Group athletics meeting took place on 5th June. Pride of place once again went to our sister unit 840 Fernmelde Battalion who swept the board of all major trophies except the Tug of War trophy which was won by 1 Squadron 28th Signal Regiment.

RUGBY TEAM HAVE GOOD START

The Regiment has made a good start on the rugby field where **Signalman Neil Thomas** proved a good choice as captain, leading the side, including **R.S.M. Atkins,** to the finals of the Dusseldorf 7s Plate where we lost a hard fought game 14–18 to 3 BAPD.

RHINE AREA SWIMMING

The Regiment competed in the Rhine Area Water Polo and Swimming Championships on the 2nd and 3rd July. We were runners-up to 16th Signal Regiment in the Water Polo and just missed being runners-up in the swimming due to one of our swimmers being disqualified. The outstanding regimental swimmer was **Signalman Eyre** of 1 Squadron who bore the brunt of the sprint swimming and was the backbone of the team's attack in the water polo. However the polo team did very well when one considers that the combined age of two of the team was 86 years!

SHOOTING SUCCESSES

The Regimental Team led by **Captain John Woods,** REME is currently in the UK in preparation for Bisley. The team shot as an 'invitation' team in the Royal Signals shoot at Bulford. Although they could not, as a non UK unit, carry away the silver, they had the satisfaction of achieving very good results. They achieved the highest scores in the Ranpell Cup, Whitehead Cup, Para Cup and the Association, and were runners-up in the Section Match. They retained their BAOR Major Units title by a comfortable 11 point margin. On the basis of these results, we are now looking forward with interest to Bisley.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Atkins, Staff Sergeant Stevens, Sergeants Garrow** and **Gardner, Corporal Braye, Lance-Corporals McNaulty** and **Thompson, Signalmen Ward, Catterall, McKay** and **Evans** and **Craftsmen Stillman** and **Nicholls.**

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and good luck to **Sergeants Cross** and **Ratcliffe, Corporals Hatton, James, Bradshaw, Carson** and **Robson, Signalmen Allen** and **Boyd** and **Craftsman Stewart.**

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

AIRLIFT TO A ROYAL EVENT

ON Tuesday, 27th May two Army Air Corps Beaver aricraft lifts moved three members of the Regiment plus two pipers from the 32nd Scottish Signal Regiment (V) from Hurn to Alderney. The Regiment, as many of you will know, is adopted by the people of the island of Alderney and we had been asked to provide a military presence for the visit of **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother** on Thursday, 29th May. The duty was indeed a pleasant one, with **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Brian Green** attending the Queen Mother's car, **Pipe-Major Robert Molle** and **Pipe-Corporal Tom Keegan** playing at her arrival at the Island Hall and then at her departure, and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Jarrett** and his wife **Ann** being amongst the island personalities who were presented to her.

The weather was marvellous and although the visit was short it was a most memorable one. This was most evident when the two pipers were 'taken' to the Beaver for their departure, complete with sporran, sword, dirk, pipes and black cock feathers, murmuring the two words "Marvellous . . . Wonderful". This was no doubt caused by the unscheduled decision by the **Queen Mother** to cross over the lawn to the two pipers and talk to them for some considerable time as shown in the photograph.

L.C.T. TO SUMMER CAMP

Close on the departure of the Beaver, the first party of the regimental summer camp arrived aboard the L.C.T. *Andalsnes.* This was indeed a luxury as in previous years we have had to make do with two converted fishing vessels and an R.P.L. and to those of you who have had the experience you will know what even a moderate Force 6 wind can do to these vessels. This year we had to abandon the old Fort Tourgis as the structure is now considered to be unsafe but we had a most successful tented camp.

Having offloaded three 4½ ton MK Bedfords, three Landrovers, a Minibus and a mountain of tentage we headed for Saye Bay and erected a truly comfortable 1937 type tented camp of which thanks go to **Staff Sergeant Ken Griffiths** and **Lance-Corporal 'Buck' Buckberry** and a hoarde of helpers. The location was idyllic, with a superb green pasture, sand dunes, a small horseshoe shaped sandy bay and clean clear water.

The catering was also a treat, although our deep freeze gave up in the face of the warm spell, but our caterer, **W.O.2 Don Hastie,** made the most of the compo plus other delicacies such as fresh crab and lobster. We did also strike lucky with the location as it was well endowed with very large winkles which required the services of a 'Winkle Picquet' at each low tide.

VISIT OF H.M. THE QUEEN MOTHER TO ALDERNEY

W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Brian Green, 30th Signal Regiment, attending Her Majesty the Queen Mother's car outside the Island Hall, St. Annes, Alderney on Thursday, 29th May

Pipe Major Robert Molle and Pipe Corporal Tom Keegan, 32nd Scottish Signal Regiment (V) with Her Majesty the Queen Mother and the President of Alderney, George Baron, Esq., outside the Island Hall, St. Annes, Alderney

ISLAND PROJECTS BENEFIT SENIOR CITIZENS

Our daily programme began early at 0600 hours with Fitness Training until breakfast at 0830 hours, then Military Training until lunchtime, when we went to our various projects around the Island. We did our own mini-KAPE by building a wall in the harbour, making the Senior Citizens' Home a rock garden, complete with plants, clearing the Catholic cemetery, clearing and painting a navigational beacon on the more remote south side of the Island and digging out the sand filled bunkers used for changing around Saye Bay. At the mid camp weekend the *Andalsnes* returned with the change over party and the Band. This enabled the mini-KAPE to be enlarged somewhat with an hour's concert at the school, a reception for States Members on Saturday and a Church Parade at St. Anne's Church with the Band playing before and during the service, plus a pre-luncheon concert at the Senior Citizens' Home on Sunday. By all accounts both 'we and they' thoroughly enjoyed our Summer Camp and we were all returned much bronzed and fitter by the faithful L.C.T. *Andalsnes* on Saturday, 14th July.

Whilst we were away, 3 Squadron AMF(L) were on Exercise 'Clear Voice'. The following are their notes on the exercise.

EXERCISE 'CLEAR VOICE'

On 9th June, officers and SNCOs from the representative units of AMF(L) arrived at Old Sarum to join Exercise 'Clear Voice'. The exercise was designed to practice the non-native English speaking members of the NATO Force in Joint Voice Procedure. All the radios, operators, control staff and instructors came from 3 Squadron, 30th Signal Regiment whose role it is to provide the radio communications for AMF(L).

The first day of the exercise was spent revising procedures. 3 Squadron Commander, **Major Peter Brunton,** assisted by **Captain David Gardiner, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) John Sydney** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Colin Eastland** instructed a class of 19 students from Germany, Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg in the finer points of NATO Voice Procedure.

ETHER SUPPORTS FOREIGN DIALECTS

From Wednesday, 11th June to Friday, 13th June the ether around Old Sarum hummed to the unaccustomed sounds of many foreign dialects passing messages of international import from Stonehenge to Figsbury Rings and beyond. As the exercise progressed the procedures became slicker and the students more confident. The international flavour of the operation was obvious as **Lieutenant-Colonel Arturo Cadura** (Italy) and **Major Heiko Zimmer** (Germany) from CSO's branch HQ AMF(L) monitored the overall progress of the exercise along with **Major Paul Hunter** (Canada) who directed the tactical aspects.

CORPS BAND SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Commander 1 Signal Group, **Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.,** arranged a splendid social programme for the occasion which included a civic reception by **Councillor A. Stocken,** the Mayor of Salisbury and an Officers' Mess dinner after which the Corps Band, under **Major Keith Boulding,** played a magnificent selection of national songs and music hall favourites which soon engaged the complete participation of all guests.

In addition to the NATO officers, the SO-in-C, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** GOC 3 Division, **Major-General R. M. Carnegie, O.B.E.,** GOC AMF(L), **Major-General J. Groven** (Belgium), **Air Vice Marshall F. S. Hazlewood, C.B., O.B.E., A.F.C.,** Commander 2 Infantry Brigade, **Brigadier B. N. L. Fletcher** and CSO, UKLF, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.** were guests at the dinner.

SUCCESS

In professional achievement and, no less importantly, socially, the exercise was an undoubted success. Old friendships were renewed and now ones made and the international relationships characteristic of the Ace Mobile Force were again cemented. We really felt that we had made progress.

News from Squadrons

7 Arty Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 20

CHANGE OF COMMAND

SINCE our last appearance in the columns of THE WIRE, the Squadron has endured two exercises (Wintex and Flying Falcon) and is about to embark on Exercises 'Summer Sales' and 'Whirly Gig 8'. These hardships are borne with great courage especially after reading the notes of those Regiments less fortunate!

However, exercises apart, these notes must give mention to the departure of our Squadron Commander, **Major Peter Treseder,** who after three valiant years in command has departed us for the hallowed corridors of the MOD. Having spent three years in the Squadron he is to be congratulated on successfully 'gun-running' (i.e. running away from members of the Royal Artillery) only to find himself waylaid with problems from the other cap badges that grace the Squadron—RE, RAOC, REME, RAPC, ACC, and more lately **Musician Stuart Piper,** temporary attachment from the RA Alanbrooke Band who used to think the Royal Signals Corps Band were not as good as them (funny how opinions change!).

To mark the OC's departure, the Squadron assembled in a Gasthaus (a remarkable turnout!) and after a good meal, a presentation was made to him of a Silver Jimmy and a large model of the Squadron vehicle line-up and the Brigade HQ, the intricate bits being done by **Lance-Bombardier 'Luigi' Ford** who worked well into the night to perfect it. The OC was always remonstrating about the lack of vehicles held by the Squadron and we are sure this will solve his problem—better late than never! The social was organised unbeknown to him and he was invited to have dinner with **W.O.2 (S.S.M) 'Tony' Perkin** and wife **Renée.** Imagine his surprise when . . .!

We welcome his successor, **Major Wilson-Brown** and hope he has an enjoyable tour with us.

WIVES SHOOT IT OUT

The Dortmund Garrison Air Rifle League was concluded on 22nd May, the Squadron 'C' team finishing in 3rd position and our 'A' team consisting of four wives finished, very creditably, in 5th place.

Although none of our teams qualified for the finals, we were represented by two wives in the female individuals final. **Mrs. Renée Perkin,** the S.S.M.'s wife, was placed 1st beating **Mrs. Jenny Hutchings,** wife of **Corporal John Hutchings,** by only 1 point. **Sergeant Arthur Moodie** took second place and the silver medal in the male individual final. The Squadron's Air Rifle Club thrives thanks mainly to **Arthur's** management and guidance.

FAREWELLS

We say farewell and good luck to a number of stalwarts: **Major** and **Mrs. Peter Treseder,** who we have already mentioned, **Signalman John Daley** who departs us for 'civvy street', **Sergeant** and **Mrs. 'Nobby' Clarke** who departs us for 'civvy street' and Australia, and **Corporal 'Holly' (I like Amstel) Hollingsworth** who goes to 8 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron.

Our R.Q.M.S., **W.O.2 Pete Nichols** gave us an example of how life begins at 40 plus when he got married at All Saints Church, Dortmund. We wish **Peter** and his wife **Rita** every happiness for the future. **Pete** soon departs to civilian life and we wish him luck!

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

19 AIRPORTABLE BRIGADE HQ AND SIGNAL SQUADRON SOCCER TEAM
WINNERS EASTERN DISTRICT MINOR UNITS LEAGUE- AND DEFINITELY A TEAM TO WATCH IN COMING SEASONS

Back row, left to right: OC Squadron, Major J. G. McK. McLuckie, Royal Signals, Staff Sergeant Bartlett, Team Manager, Lance-Corporal Howarth, Lance-Corporal Hart, RCT, Corporal Watts, RCT, Signalman Rosslee, Driver Varley, RCT, Corporal Coathup, Lance-Corporal Mann, Brigade Major, Major R. N. Wheeler, Royal Irish

Front row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Meakin, Signalman Fuller, Private McCabe, RCP, Signalman Holcroft (Captain), Signalman Crooks, W.O.1 Hartley, RAOC, Lance-Corporal Ford

A BUSY THREE MONTHS

WE have just ended an extremely busy three months, and the whole Squadron is looking forward to our maximum leave period with some relief; there does not seem to have been a single day without something either happening, or in the immediate offing. Not that the pressure has been anything we can't handle, but the OC, **Major McLuckie** has been heard muttering about "Crisis Management", and how you aren't supposed to plan and execute an adventure training exercise in five days—more of which later.

We have only recently returned from Exercise 'Summer Sales' in Germany, which the whole Squadron enjoyed, mainly because of the shower/shopping runs and the greatly reduced prices of certain essential items . . .

This was supposedly the biggest exercise on the communications side for some time—all we hope is that on the first few days, we've never seen rain like it, and never hope to again. It does enable the Communications Officer, **Captain Phil Cooper** to explain away his failures with airy references to "wet trees", and that makes a welcome change from his usual cry of "Fresnel zones"!

The Squadron welcomes **Lieutenant Arthur Merrick** and his wife of three months **Jayne.** They are fresh from a tour in Australia. **Arthur** will take over 'J' Troop from **Lieutenant Graham Hand** shortly ('J' Troop is 'B' Troop in less tradition-minded Signal Squadrons). Curiously enough, **Jayne Merrick** doesn't like Foster's . . .

EXERCISE 'TARTAN ROLLER'

This was the improbably name of our even more recent adventure training camp in the North of Scotland. If it suggests well-

(*Continued on page* 293)

DIVISIONAL COMMANDER VISITS

Major-General R. M. Carnegie, O.B.E., being met at the entrance to our new Brigade/Squadron Headquarters building by the Squadron Commander, Major J. G. McK. McLuckie and the R.S.M., W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. W. Lockwood, on a recent visit

(*Continued from page* 292)

oiled machinery swinging (or indeed rolling) into action, it is well wide of the mark.

We returned from Germany to discover that our well laid plans for adventure training with a dash of summer camp had, in the OC's own words "turned to worms". We had intended to indulge in every sort of arduous activity (and a bit of training, too) and suddenly our accommodation *and* our kit indent fell through.

However, with hard work all round, we managed to scrape up enough by way of sailing dinghies, canoes and walking/climbing kit to make the thing a viable proposition once more; and all this in five days. In the next edition we will have a full (and probably hilarious) report, with photographs, of our exploits.

'Q' TROOP GOES TACTICAL

For the first time in living memory, the forward BAA/Squadron echelon recently went into the field, not as a mobile holiday camp advert, but as a tactical unit!

Unfortunately the QM, **Captain Brian Turner,** could not be on the exercise, owing to pressure of work . . . but it was felt that this would be valuable experience for the RQMS, **W.O.2 Howard Parkes,** and the new MTO, **Captain Graham 'Pathfinder' Paton,** RCT (more of whom later).

Of course, this being their first tactical exercise for so long, they were much more keen than the 'Sharp-end' people at Brigade HQ ever are; trenches were dug, there was an enemy party, liberally supplied with gas and thunderflashes—**Staff Sergeant Dave Boot,** RCT, nearly committed suicide by standing beside **W.O.2 Billy Butlin,** RMP, when the latter threw a thunderflash which hit a tree and bounced back—witnesses say they moved faster than you would have believed possible.

The exercise ended with a night drive organised by the MTO, right round the training area on sidelights. Things went slightly wrong at times; but everyone eventually arrived at the final rendezvous, minus **Captain Paton.** Hence the nickname.

FAREWELL TO THE BRIGADE COMMANDER

One of the Squadron's annual balls was held at the very end of May at which the opportunity was taken to say farewell to the outgoing Brigade Commander. This being a special occasion a suitable gift was produced. The Commander went on to test his new tankard and in the finest Scottish tradition downed a pint of whisky and water!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During the last month we welcomed the following and so far they have been treated to unbroken sunshine:

W.O.2 (F. of S.) Doyle, Staff Sergeant Thomas, Sergeant Hutton, Corporals Culton and **Robson, Lance-Corporals Birch,** RCT, **Deeming, Herr,** REME and **Northover,** RPC, **Signalman Skeoch** (on temporary loan from 5 Brigade, AF G1033 signed by OC Communications Troop), **Signalman Wood, Driver Garner,** RCT and **Private Hayes,** Royal Anglian.

We said goodbye to:

W.O.2 (F. of S.) Groom, Staff Sergeant Hardman, Sergeant Carter, Corporals Hazel, RPC and **Johnston, Lance-Corporals Thompson, Young,** RCT and **Wasilenski,** REME.

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

CHANGES AT THE TOP

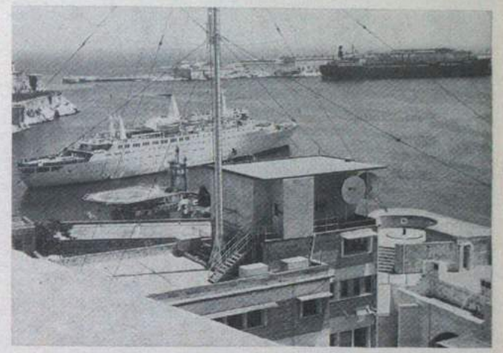
THE Squadron has seen many changes in the key appointments over the past few months. At date the lucky incumbents are:

OC	**Major Tony Hill**
OC Line Troop	**Captain Dick Sanders**
OC Line Troop	**Captain Peter Steeples**
QM	**Major Bill Gahan**
Admin Officer	**Lieutenant Eric Le Quesne**
SSM	**W.O.2 Danny Lamerton**
IC Airfield Det	**Staff Sergeant Mike Wringe**

In mid August we look forward to welcoming **Captain Alistair Clark** to the sunny shores of Malta and to those previous key post holders—**Major** (now **Lieutenant-Colonel**) **Ian Robinson, Captain John Reed, Captain Bob Stather** and **W.O.2** (now **W.O.1**) **(R.S.M.) Roy Stark**—we convey our regrets for their present predicament and our best wishes for the future. Many other changes of personnel have occurred but they are too numerous to mention.

WHO SAID RUN DOWN?

We do believe it has been mentioned. However, evidence that it is of serious consequence is difficult to find and one of the major projects within the Squadron at date is the completion of the Malta radio relay system. Maybe this is taking a little longer than necessary because of built-in distractions—all the chosen radio relay sites being located in the most advantageous scenic position. As an example we show in the photograph below the equipment sited at Lascaris—the Headquarters of the Commander British Forces Malta. From the site the best view of the world famous Grand Harbour of Valletta is obtained.



Radio relay site high above Grand Harbour, Valetta

FEATURING AIRFIELD DETACHMENT

The airfield detachment of 234 Signal Squadron (Malta) is situated at RAF Safi approximately 1 mile from the main airfield of RAF Luqa which is a joint user airport—both civilian and RAF.

There are several Squadrons of aircraft permanently stationed at Luqa. The RAF, being very 'publicity' minded, are always prepared to accommodate the pongos with a 'jolly' of some 8 or 9 hours duration. The jolly consisting of criss cross patterns all over the Mediterranean at zero feet. Quite an experience.

Other visiting Squadrons keep us busy with extra exercise communications and permanent deafness as they seem to delight in 'Beating up' our accommodation which is at the end of one of the runways.

Airfield detachment consists of 18 men both UK and locally enlisted soldiers. The detachment is led by **Staff Sergeant Mike Wringe** and the Troop Sergeant is **Sergeant Franz Farrugia.** Fourteen of the complement are telemechs. There are also 3 drivers and a Technician Storeman.

Work on Luqa, and subsidiary RAF installations, requires a thorough knowledge of the telemech trade both theoretically and practically, and so if you want a 2½ year tour in the Mediterranean sunshine in the land of duty free, then airfield detachment is the place for you.

Last but not least we have just said goodbye to **Corporal 'Tom' Witherington** who never let us forget that he is, and always will be a 'Hairy' and not one of 'us'. **Tom** is posted to the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate on promotion, and we wish him and his family Bon Voyage.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

244 Sig Sqn
R.A.F. Benson

The S.O.-in-C. meets Major Geoffrey Allen, O.C. Squadron

VISIT OF SO-IN-C

AS part of his visit to HQ 38 Group RAF at RAF Benson the SO-in-C, **Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** also managed to spend about an hour with the Squadron. For those of you who don't know what the Squadron does or why it is located at RAF Benson a short explanation may be in order. The Squadron is responsible for supplying all air support communications for 3 Division and as such is part of 38 Group RAF Tactical Communications Wing (TCW) which is stationed at RAF Benson in Oxfordshire.

Because the programme of the SO-in-C's visit allowed him only a very short time with the Squadron he was unable to meet many people. However he was able to see a small demonstration of the Squadron's layout and equipment in the field, and in particular two of the RAF sets that we use, the 058 which was demonstrated by **Lance-Corporal Richardson** and the PRC47 which was demonstrated by **Corporal McDonald.** The climax of the demonstration was the de-rigging of a Land Rover and trailer from a heavy drop medium stress platform and the setting up of the Parachute Brigade Air Support Operations Centre by our parachute detachment in record time. Next time **Staff Sergeant Longhurst** has promised to have a brew ready for the SO-in-C rather than waste time on non-essentials such as camouflage and communications.

EXERCISE 'DASHING IMPACT'

Whilst most of the Squadron was gyrating madly around Germany on Exercise 'Summer Sales', a small select group of highly trained, handsome, charming, rich, well dressed men led by **'Noddy'** and **'Staff'** slipped quietly aboard their VIP aircraft from RAF Lyneham bound for that city of strife . . . Venice. Some ten days later they miraculously reappeared back at Benson as if nothing had happened. Their customary modesty and reticence has prevented all but the most sketchy details of the privations that they suffered being made known. Occasionally however, vague mutterings are heard as these stalwarts reach shakily for their tenth coffee of the morning (**'Noddy'** always drinks tea, in between mountaineering magazines that is). Apparently not only did **'Droopy'** not work but **'Gnome'** kept disappearing into a hole in the ground and not re-appearing for several hours, and it is also said that the issue double beds were only half full.

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

259 and 261 Squadron Amalgamation

1

2

3

4

1 Major Peter Rowlands presents Colonel Godfrey Curl with the 261 Squadron plaque
2 Major Michael Chandler receiving the Beaufighter Mascot. *In background:* Foreman of Signals Hunt, Keohane and S.S.M. Redgrave
3 Major Peter Rowlands is 'carted' off
4 Foreman of Signals Yule with Major-General C. W. E. Purdon, C.B.E., M.C., GOC NEARELF and Colonel G. J. Curl, Commander 3 Signal Group after the presentation of his B.E.M. awarded whilst serving with UNFICYP during the Cyprus emergency 1974

PERSONALITIES

WITH a month gone since the amalgamation of 259 and 261 Signal Squadrons the 'greater' 259 Signal Squadron (West) has now emerged.

The line up is as follows:

OC	**Major Mike Chandler**
2IC	**Captain Hugh Goodman**
QM	**Major Stuart Dunlop**
AO	**Lieutenant Steve Bresloff**
CSE	**Captain John Simpson**
TOT	**Captain Ernie Short**
OC Episkopi Troop	**Lieutenant David Elson**
OC Airfield Troop	**Captain Tom Keany**
OC Mountain Troop	**Lieutenant Barry Styles**
SSM	**W.O.2 Jim Redgrave**
SQMS	**Staff Sergeant George Fenn**
Chief Clerk	**Sergeant Ian Murray**

The majority of the 'graft' is now behind us (**Major Stuart Dunlop** may disagree, having still to marry up G1098 to G1198 ledgers!) and we can look back with a certain satisfaction at our recent sporting achievements. Our Squadron team finished a very close second to 2 Squadron 9th Signal Regiment in the 3 Signal Group Minor Units Championships. **Sergeant Bernie Thomas** had a fine win in the 400 metres as did **Signalman George Gordon** in the 800 metres, **Sergeant Dave Kuester** led the field in the Javelin with a throw of 50·4 metres. **Corporal Ron Thompson** won the Discus. The climax of the meeting was **Staff Sergeant Stokes'** Tug-O'-War team winning the 3 Signal Group Cup after annihilating the opposition. **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Bob McKay** has promised even greater things in the future—and harder training!

259 Signals Squadron winning the Tug-of-War, 3 Signal Group Athletics Meeting

Alas we have already said goodbye to **Captain Terry 'Tiny Mind' Martin** who has left us for sunny Bulford but we can be grateful to him for his training of the NEARELF Shooting team who gained high overall place embarrassing many infanteers in the process. **Captain Hugh Goodman** is currently training the Squadron team on the new ETR at Akrotiri for Bisley.

VISIT OF SO-IN-C

Major-General Tighe visited the Squadron on Monday, 2nd June. He was able to speak to many of the lads at Episkopi and Akrotiri before flying by helicopter to Troodos to see the 'Mountain Men'. In the Troodos Signals Club he was presented with a Commemorative Tankard by **Lance-Corporal Rod Whateley** before lunching in the Troodos Officers' Mess and then spending the afternoon meeting members of the Corps working at Troodos and Olympus.

SO-in-C VISIT

SO-in-C and members of Mountain Troop, Troodos

Front row: Lieutenant Barry Stiles, Sergeant Doust, Colonel Curl, SO-in-C, Corporal Wilkinson, Major Mike Chandler, Staff Sergeant Graham, F. of S. Calver

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

AMALGAMATION WITH 'AULD ENEMY'

BEWARE the 'Ides of March' immediately sprang to mind when the OC, **Major P. J. Rowland** called the Squadron together for a briefing on the amalgamation of 261 Signal Squadron with the 'Auld Enemy' 259 Signal Squadron. The date for the amalgamation was 1st May.

This gave the Squadron approximately six weeks to prepare for the final festivities and the handing over of flags, name boards and a model of the famous 'Beaufighter' to OC 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay).

END ON A NOTE OF TRIUMPH

A great effort was made throughout the Squadron to end on a note of triumph. The shooting team consisting of **Captain Hugh Goodman, W.O.2 Barry Hassall** and **Signalman Derek Hannan** won the RAF Episkopi CO's Cup shooting trophy on 25th March and followed this up with further successes in the Royal Signals Cyprus skill at arms meeting winning the rifle cup and the falling plate competition. The runners-up in the falling plate were the 259 Squadron Team—an omen? Individual winners were **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Barry Hassall**—rifle champion; **Signalman Derek Hannan**—pistol champion with **Sergeant Dave Chivers** runner-up.

The Squadron then moved into April still looking for trophies and honours. Our aim was to win the RAF, Episkopi Station Commander's Cup in our last season as 261 Signal Squadron. We had to do well in the target golf and cricket to carry off the trophy, which, thanks to our golfers **Lieutenant Steve Bresloff, Corporal John Carney** and **Signalman Trevor Lloyd** and cricketers **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Shawyer, Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Hyde, Lance-Corporal Jim Simpson, Lance-Corporal Mick Dunn, Signalman Trevor Lloyd** and **Signalman Neil Gabb,** we achieved.

Our shooting team again collected trophies at the NEARELF skill at arms meeting held at the end of April. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Barry Hassall** winning the 1st stage of the rifle championship, **Signalman Derek Hannan** runner-up in the 'B' class SMG and third in the pistol championship. This pair also were third in the LMG pairs match. **Captain Hugh Goodman** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Barry Hassall** also qualified for the GOC's XX shots. They were ably backed up in the shooting season by **Sergeant Dave Chivers, Corporal 'Taff' Whitfield, Lance-Corporal Jim Stevenson,** REME, **Corporal Dick Robinson, Corporal Andy Campbell, Corporal Henry Morrison** and Team Captain **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Charlie Homewood.**

FAREWELL

Apart from the Squadron identity ending on 30th April we also had to sadly say farewell to **Major** and **Mrs. P. Rowland.** The Warrant Officers and SNCO's formally dined out the OC and **Mrs. Rowland** on 25th April and presented them with a coffee service.

Individual troops held parties to say goodbye and we hear that the OC's baggage has been allocated its own boat.

A parade was held on the 29th April. The Commander 3 Signal Group addressed the Squadron and was then presented with a 261 Signal Squadron Plaque by **Major Rowland.** The parade was then formed up in front of Squadron Headquarters. The 261 Signal Squadron Flag/Pennant was lowered and handed over to **Major M. E. G. Chandler,** together with boards showing past OC's of the Squadron. We even managed to get the board up to date showing us as 259 Signal Squadron and **Major Chandler** as OC. The final presentation and perhaps the most significant was the presentation of the model of the Beaufighter so long the symbol of Air Formation Signals by **Major P. J. Rowland** to **Major Chandler.**

The parade was then dismissed and a farewell party for **Major P. Rowland** commenced at the bar, which thanks to Airfield Troop was well organised by **Sergeant Bob Hawkins** and **Corporal Ted Tolley.**

The Squadron Commander was then presented with a linemans' lamp after which he made a farewell speech. He then was 'seen off' in grand style being chaired to a chariot pulled by the Officers, WO's and SNCO's to the Sovereign Club. The remainder of the Squadron lined the route. On arrival at the Sovereign club car park, three cheers were given to the OC as he left in his staff car. All ranks of the Squadron wish **Major P. Rowland** and **Mrs. Rowland** every success in their new appointment with 35th Signal Regiment (V). The final act of 261 Signal Squadron was to receive the Station Commanders Cup, which was received by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Charlie Homewood** from **Group Captain Parfitt** the Station Commander.

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

VISIT OF SO-IN-C

AFTER a rather 'heavy night' of being wined and dined by the Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the Royal Corps of Signals in Cyprus at 9th Signal Regiment Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, **Major-General Tighe** arrived to visit the Squadron looking in far better condition than the majority of the SNCOs.

First on the agenda was a visit to the detachment at Cape Greco Commanded by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) George Turner, B.E.M.** After being shown around the station the SO-in-C together with the Commander 3 Signal Group, **Colonel G. J. Curl** were flown to Dhekelia (courtesy of 16 Aviation Flight AAC) to visit the main body of the Squadron.

Upon his arrival at Dhekelia International Heli-pad the SO-in-C was met by **Major Mike Allan,** OC Squadron and the S.S.M., **W.O.2 Brian Greatorex,** who, when congratulated on his alertness and lack of symptoms from the night before, commented "You should see what it's like from the inside, Sir".

Next came a visit to SHQ to meet the administrative staff, who despite pressures of work and mountains of paper managed to give the General a few moments of their time!

Then on to HQ Rumour Control, namely MT and Radio Troop under the management of **Lieutenant Jim Kennard** aided and abetted by **Staff Sergeant Dave Barnes** and **Sergeant Dave Heselton.**

Meanwhile back at the Commcen the excitement was mounting. The lookout at 'Fort Clark' had spotted the SO-in-C and his entourage approaching. **Captain Noel Clark** assisted by **Staff Sergeant Elain Willacy** assembled the girls in preparation for the presentation of a well earned Silver Commstar Award by the SO-in-C.

The SO-in-C presents the Silver 'Commstar' Award to Staff Sergeant Elaine Willacy

Left to right: Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E., Colonel J. G. Curl, Captain J. N. Clark, Staff Sergeant E. Willacy

After touring the Commcen it was the turn of the Telephone Exchange, where the SO-in-C met our resident civvy **Mr. John Yiannoukos** and presented him with the GOC's Certificate for 25 years loyal service. Some say he has been with us so long he should be on the inventory!

Finally the SO-in-C visited Alma Camp, the HQ of Maintenance Troop under the direction of **Captain (TOT) Tom Stoddart, M.B.E.**

Whilst the General was visiting the Squadron **Mrs. Tighe** was hosted by the Squadron wives club to a coffee morning in that well known establishment, The Bitsa Club, where she met and talked to most of the 'better half' of the Squadron.

We hope the SO-in-C was impressed by all he saw and that he and his wife enjoyed their short stay in Cyprus.

FAME AT LAST

'Brains required' apply to HQ 3 Signal Group, that was the rough gist of a letter which arrived in SHQ about half past April. Those of you who have served in Cyprus before will realise that it was the start of that annual event 'BBC Forces Chance Quiz'. Teams were to be selected to represent the Army and RAF Cyprus to pit their wits against the resident BBC panel of **Ted Moult, Nan Winton** and **Neil Durden-Smith. Captain Eddie Hampson** (that well known impressario of Bitsa Folk fame?) together with **Lance-Corporal Dave Anforth** volunteered to take on the formidable challenge. After several rounds to formulate the strongest army team our two heroes managed to win a place in the team to represent the Army.

12th June, the big night had arrived, **Eddie Hampson** was elected Captain and without further ado won the toss and elected to take the first question. Unfortunately the answer was wrong, and for the first couple of rounds everything went the way of the resident panel. However during the third round the Army pulled back a few points and made that round even. Confidence renewed, the Army challenged everything and by the sixth round the scores were level.

Time was running out fast, would the Army have the knowledge and stamina to hold off a late challenge by the resident panel or had they given their utmost in the attempt to draw level.

Questions flew thick and fast, bonus points here, wrong answers there, the audience were gripped in the tension, at last, the final bell. The referee called for the score card and a win for the Army **68** to **64.**

MEMBERS OF THE FORCES CHANCE ARMY TEAM MEET THE RESIDENT PANEL

Standing left to right: Captain E. Hampson, Major C. Goode, RMP, Lance-Corporal D. Anforth, Major R. Bolton, 2 Royal Irish
Sitting left to right: Ted Moult, Nan Winton, Neil Durden-Smith

CONGRATULATIONS

The following events have occurred in recent months and our congratulations go to all concerned.

W.O.2 (F. of S.) and **Mrs. Turner**—a son.
Sergeant and **Mrs. Hawke**—a son.
Corporal J. Evans—married in England on 31st May.
Lance-Corporal K. Jarratt, WRAC—married in Cyprus on 28th June.
W.O.2 (S.S.M.) B. Greatorex—LS and GC awarded May.

FJP

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MOVEMENTS

THIS month we have welcomed **Corporal Tom Johnson** from 22nd Signal Regiment at Lippstadt and **Signalman Mick Dymtrenko** from 8th Signal Regiment. We hope they will both enjoy their sojourn on this lovely 'Island in the sun'.

Au revoir was said to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Dowdall** and **Corporal Dave 'Grandad' Collier** both bound for 21st Signal Regiment. **Pete Dowdall** is going home the long way—via Hong Kong, Japan and the United States. 21st Signal Regiment need not be too concerned, **Pete** has 87 days leave to do it in.

SPORTS REPORT

9 PIN SKITTLES

The Troop have started off in the new league, in the same form as they finished the last—a superior winning combination. After the first few games we have, as expected, emerged as league leaders.

RUGBY

After only 3 weeks on the island **Corporal Tom Johnson** is to be congratulated on his selection for the Gan Island Rugby Team, which at present is touring Singapore. His return is awaited eagerly as his exploits in the Singapore nightlife will, no doubt, be as colourful as those on the rugby field.

5-A-SIDE SOCCER

Even though the Troop were relegated in the recent league competition **Corporal Dave Collier,** our goalkeeper, was awarded the 'Sportsman Of The Season' award by the league committee. The award was very popular amongst both the spectators and players. The words of the citation were "Awarded for outstanding devotion and courage as the goalkeeper of the Pongo team", congratulations **Dave**—you may have had more goals scored against you than any other goalkeeper, but it was a very astute way to keep 605 in the awards.

LEADERSHIP (?)

Since his arrival on the island **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Hill** has been getting himself acclimatised, by half walking and half running round the island, a distance of just over 4 miles. He does this most afternoons. On the 9th of June his 44th birthday, he set what must be a difficult record to beat, by getting round the island in exactly 44 minutes. He is now on the receiving end of Troop members jibes about his time "not being bad for an old un'."

SULTANATE OF OMAN

ARMY APPOINTMENTS

Yeomen of Signals are required by the Army of Sultanate of Oman to fill contract appointments in the rank of Staff Sergeant. Applicants must be ex-Yeoman of Signals or Radio Telegraphists of Senior NCO Rank (under age 50) with experience as a Signals Centre Supervisor, and be fully competent in all relevant skills including traffic handling and communications procedures, HF radio, line systems management, cipher operating and operator training.

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RE-UNION—THIRTY YEARS ON

FROM time to time the CSO, HQ UKLF, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** visits one or other of our six TACs which are located in five separate London Boroughs in the Greater London area. On 18th June **Brigadier Clarkson,** accompanied by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Eversfield,** visited 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) in Harrow.

During the visit **Brigadier Clarkson** met **Councillor H. T. Mote, T.D., D.L., J.P.,** who served with Royal Signals during the war and eventually retired as Lieutenant-Colonel. The two officers last met in 1945 when both were serving with 10th Indian Division Signal Regiment, which was about to move from Italy to India. At that time **Councillor Mote** was Second-in-Command of the Regiment and **Brigadier Clarkson** was a subaltern.

Councillor Mote's connections with Royal Signals continue as he has two sons serving in 31st Signal Regiment (V). **Chris,** the elder of the two, is a Second-Lieutenant with 83rd (London) Signal Squadron (V) while **Tony** is a member of 47 Squadron in Harrow.

RE-UNION GROUP

Left to right: Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. Mote, Major M. G. Vokes (O.C. 47 Squadron)

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

THE LORD MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM'S PROCESSION, SATURDAY, 24th MAY

IF I have to go, I might as well do so in style—that thought may well have crossed the mind of the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby** as he marched sword in hand at the head of the Lord Mayor's Parade in Birmingham on Saturday, 24th May.

LAST FLING

On 12th June he relinquished command of 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and handed over to **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Rowland,** hot foot from Cyprus, but on the 24th

preceded by the Corps Band under the direction of **W.O.1 Donnell,** he proudly led 162 men and women twice round a 1,500 yard course in the centre of Birmingham to the obvious enjoyment of the thousands of spectators who turned out on a crisp dry day to watch the Annual Civic Parade.

Granted the Freedom of the City in 1970 this was the first time the Regiment as a whole had elected to exercise their prerogative of marching through the streets with drums beating, bands playing and bayonets fixed, and thanks to the good work of the Adjutant, **Captain Reg Hill,** and the R.S.M., **Harry Birtles,** everything went off without a hitch.

HIGH REGIMENTAL SPIRIT

The fact that whilst the rest of the population were slipping into holiday mood, so many had given up their Bank Holiday Saturday is indicative of the spirit prevailing in the Regiment, and it was gratifying to see the support given by the families too—some of whom had travelled over fifty miles to witness the parade.

Besides elements from RHQ and HQ Squadron, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, contingents from 48th (South Midland) Signal Squadron (Volunteers), Golden Hillock Road, Birmingham, 58th (Staffordshire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers), Newcastle-under-Lyme, 89th (Warwickshire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers), Rugby, and 95th (Shropshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers), Shrewsbury, Hereford and Oswestry took part as well.

The Salute was taken by the newly elected Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Councillor Albert Jackson** accompanied by the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, **Colonel Anthony Fender, T.D., A.D.C., D.L.** After the first lap the Lord Mayor left the saluting dais and aboard a vintage Rolls Royce joined the procession around the City Centre. Upon which one wag was heard to remark, "if he had let us know we could have fixed him up with a real vintage ride—in one of the two 1 ton K9's, which formed part of the Regimental display".

Organised by the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce in aid of local charities, the theme this year was 'Wheels of Industry, Wheels of Fortune'—a particularly apposite one in view of the fact that the National Exhibition Centre is due to open in Birmingham next year.

WARMLY APPLAUDED

Backed up by twelve Bands, four of them military, the procession completely filled the near mile long route through the City Centre and amongst the colourful floats taking part were several from the last Lord Mayor of London's Show. Hailed by everyone as the best procession yet, the participants were warmly applauded by the huge crowds, many of whom had cause to remember events of a less happier nature in the same locality not so long ago.

Altogether a well worthwhile public relations exercise, appropriately rounded off with an All Ranks and families lunch at 48 Squadron's TAVR Centre, Sparkbrook.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

ANNUAL CAMP GLEANINGS

CULINARY VIRTUOSITY

GOURMETS of a Port Message Centre located bleakly at Ravenscar had a rare treat. **Lance-Corporal Eddie Flinn** spotted a few potatoes left over, and with a little flour, and more than a little flair, he conjured up some potato bread. The next day he disguised the inevitable bully beef in a batter that improved its popularity. Clearly a good man to have around for a well organised detachment!

AWAKE, FOR THE BLACK CROW NIGHT IS FLED

. . . and so is everyone else. Or almost. That was the experience of **Private Maisie Robinson,** WRAC, at the same location. She had crawled between the blankets worn out after a heavy stint, and slept solidly through until six-o'clock on a blustery morning. But it was a rude awakening. She blinked uncomprehendingly at the open sky, and slowly it dawned on her that the tent had gone. (She could have sworn it was there when she went to sleep.)

It was not the prankish North-east wind that had done the damage, however. The PMC had received orders to redeploy, and in the flurry of ensuing activity, the tent in which **Maisie** slept was struck before anyone spotted its still sleepy occupant.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST

On the other hand PMC 2, in common with other detachments, had such a battering from the elements on the first night in location, that at one stage a distraught Officer Cadet, who shall be nameless, decided the time had come to abandon ship!

With cables awash in a newly formed lake his message to RCP was brief. "Sinking fast. Conditions dangerous to life and limb. Am closing down". The training Major was unsympathetic and equally brief. (Have you noticed it seems to be a common trait of TM's!) "Going down you may be, but as you sink slowly in the West, you will continue to communicate!"

There the story ends. We shall await with interest the Exercise Reports, to see whether the last message from PMC 2 was "Glug, Glug, Glug!" (To the strains of: 'Nearer My God to Thee!')

SPLICE THE MAINBRACE

Doing his rounds of the detachments, the CO decided conditions warranted a little fortification, and he ordered base to arrange a rum issue. The necessary authority was obtained, and within hours the detachments were receiving their share of the warming liquid. Whether the weather improved immediately, or it only seemed that it did, is neither here nor there.

HANG YOU, JACK, I'M FIREPROOF!

And there was the foraging party sent out with a PSI, no less, that returned with all missions completed, except . . . the rations.

"How will you eat if you forget the rations?" they were asked. "Oh, *we* have already eaten" was the reply. "There's a marvellous pub just outside the Ordnance Depot!"

The PSI was, of course, trying but HOW'ARD we couldn't say.

Sport

Corps Cricket

ROYAL SIGNALS (OFFICERS XI) v. WELBECK

The match was played at Welbeck on 11th June.
Royal Signals—114 (Yeoman 29, Conlon 23).
Welbeck—117 for 7 wickets (Coltman 4 for 37).
Welbeck won by 3 wickets.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

Royal Signals—109 (Gipson 30, Hussey 30), and 218 for 9 wickets declared (Grossmith 31, Smith 32).
RAOC—114 (Scott 5 for 39, Taylor 4 for 39), and 64 (Scott 5 for 3, Taylor 4 for 28).
Royal Signals won by 149.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. ROYAL MARINES

The match took place at Exeter on 3rd July.
Royal Marines—165 all out (Gipson 4 for 41, Taylor 3 for 34).
Royal Signals—168 for 8 wickets (Yeoman 48 not out, Gilbert 40, Smith 26).
Royal Signals won by 2 wickets.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. RAC

The match took place at Bovington on 4th July.
Royal Signals—129 all out (Gilbert 46, Commons 25).
RAC—130 for 3 wickets (Taylor 2 for 36).
RAC won by 7 wickets.

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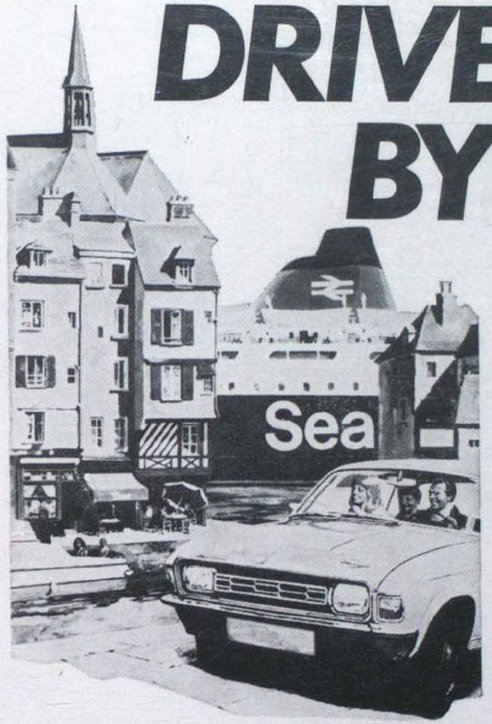

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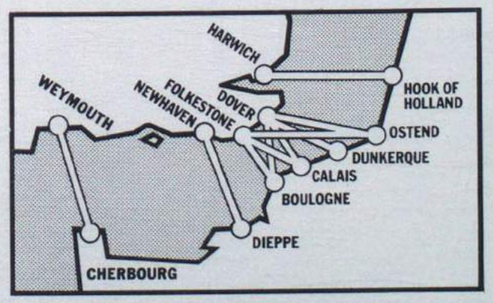

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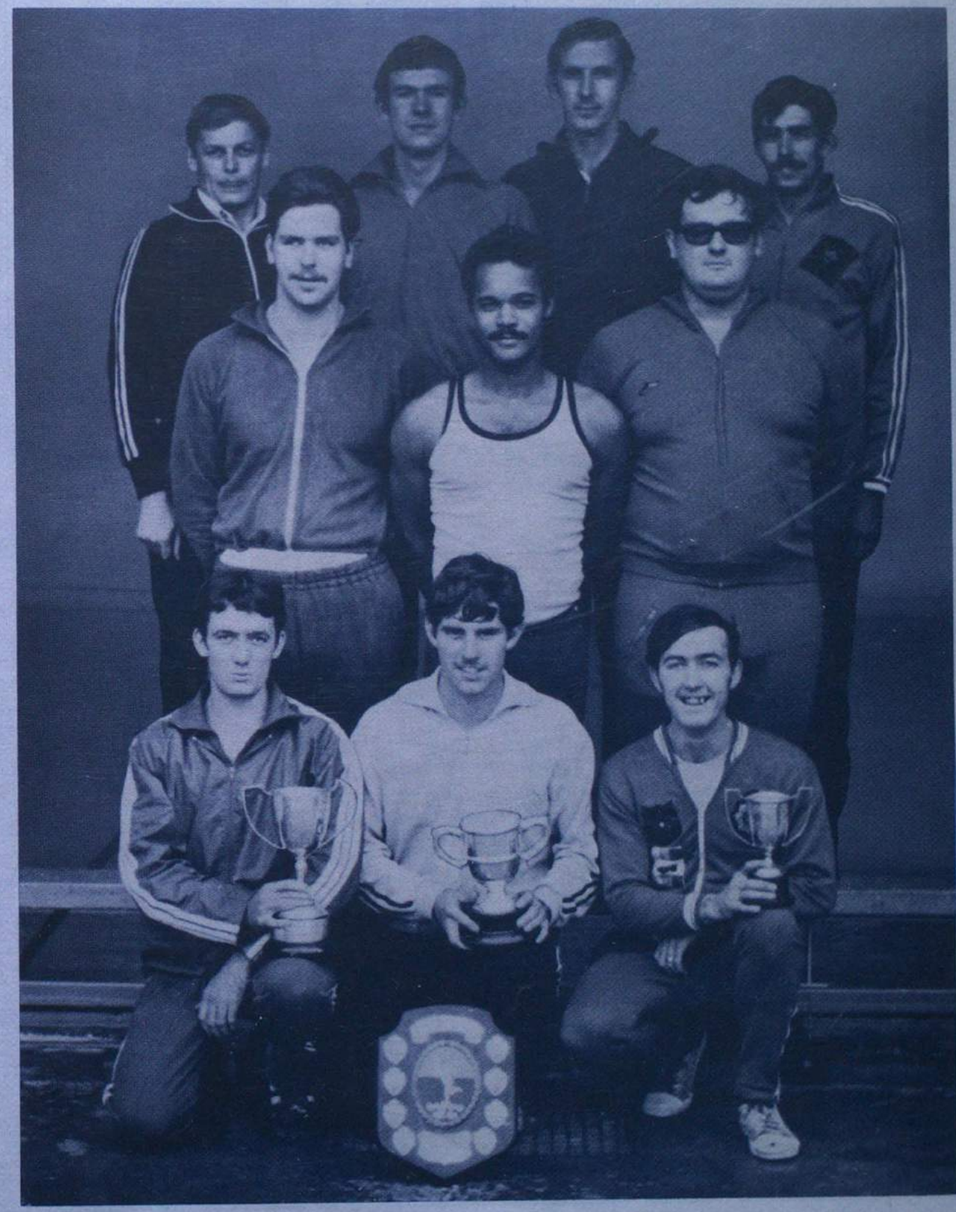

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WIRE/9/75

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MR. L. WOOD

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER — 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

Although 6 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron have always been keen on sports and have usually managed to produce a workmanlike cross-country team they have never 'hit the heights' in athletics. In 1974 a start was made to rectify this situation and from scratch the team very creditably reached the Army final but only managed to come sixth out of eight teams. However, the seeds for success had been sewn and in 1975 virtually the same team trained to a peak of fitness to carry off the highly coveted prize of the Army Minor Units Athletics Championships. This is the first time that a Royal Signals minor unit has been able to win this competition. The key to the teams success was their physical fitness and a great deal of determination.

The Army Dependants Assurance Trust

IF you put 10 perfectly fit young men in a room together, you can be pretty certain that one of them will die before he's 55. He will leave a widow and maybe, young children.

If those young men are soldiers, the dangers are even greater. Partly because we know that soldiers live life more dangerously than factory or office workers. But, even more important, if anything does happen to them they are much more likely than average to leave their families homeless. Ninety per cent of married soldiers rely on their jobs to provide their homes for them. If they die, their job dies with them and, within a few short months, so does the family home.

They must protect themselves against the possibility that their children might be brought up not only scraping for every penny but without a roof over their heads. Which of the young men in that room will be the unlucky ones, we don't know and neither do they. But the obvious solution is for them to pool their resources on the understanding that, if anything should happen, the widow and orphans will collect the pool.

If they each paid in £10 or £20 a year, there would be no financial hardship for any of their wives and families and when one of them dies his widow would collect many thousands of pounds. I'm talking about basic life assurance—not saving for your old age and not regular stock market investment, but protection. Don't confuse this with endowment policies or unit-linked savings plans. And equally don't confuse it with the few hundred pounds' benevolence that widows get to tide them over their period of bereavement.

This is basic cheap life assurance and the simplest way for anyone in the Army to do it is through the ADAT scheme which guarantees that, if any member should die before he's 55, his widow will get a tax-free income which will run into many thousands of pounds. It's based on the principle of what is called a family income benefit policy. The Army didn't invent the idea and if you are prepared to do a lot of homework you can go and buy a family income benefit policy quite independently from one of many leading insurance companies. But you have to be very careful and quite expert at reading the small print if you do want to be independent.

Many commercial policies exclude death on active service and most won't cover you for Northern Ireland. It's normal to exclude death through dangerous pursuits like parachuting and climbing or even death in a foreign country. But ADAT was designed for you in the Army and has no exclusions of this kind. Obviously with that sort of comprehensive cover it can't be exceptionally cheap —and I wouldn't want it to be. We've seen enough of cut-price holidays and motor insurance to believe in false promises. But it certainly is good value for money and with 16,000 members is already after only 21 months the largest group life assurance scheme in the country.

It took many months to design and may seem a little complicated but all you need to know is that, in return for agreeing to have a pound or so a month deducted from your pay at source, you can rest assured that if you die your widow and family will get a tax-free income until you would have been 55.

ADAT is already paying out nearly a million pounds in benefits. One widow collected benefit worth £26,000 only eight days after her husband joined the scheme. Another family will get £64,000 because the soldier joined ADAT three weeks before he was killed. He'd paid in just £5·20 in premiums. But sadly many families have been left fatherless and homeless since ADAT was introduced because they had not heard about the scheme or had rejected the idea for various reasons. It's too late to do anything for them, but it's not too late for the families of soldiers who we know, by the law of averages, are likely to die next week, next month and next year.

At Ndanda, where a 'light moto.' set was required on the hill top but there was no road through the bush, taking all the equipment out of the Crossley car and rebuilding it in a packing case, after transport by native porter, at the hill top. He also dismantled the AC generator from the Crossley power take-off and fitted it at the hill top to a Ford chassis bolted to tree trunks.

Fuge was appointed MBE while at Dar Es Salaam.

D. St. J. H. writes: 'Major Fuge was acting Company Commander of No. 1 Company, "A" Corps Signals, Ewshot, where I was posted straight out of the YOs' Course, Catterick, to the unit —"A" Cable Section. Major Fuge was a very kind and considerate officer, sunny in temperament and with a keen sense of humour and of the ridiculous. He was more of a scientist and I believe he got his decoration for splendid wireless work in the East African Campaign of World War I. I remember we got him out to play rugger for the unit (I refer to the then younger fry, namely, Tom Boileau, Selby Milner and self), and after he had "recovered his wind" he became a conscientious and energetic second-row forward. He certainly played for the unit from the winter 1927–28 to the spring of 1930, when I left for 1st Divisional Signals. Although I only met him very infrequently after 1930 I was very sad to see the death of such "an old dear" who would have done anything for anybody'.

Colonel E. V. F. MacSwiney

Colonel Eugene Valentine Francis MacSwiney, who died just before his 85th birthday on 19th July, 1975, had many connections with the army and the Corps. His two sons were both officers in the Royal Engineers, his brother-in-law, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Conner, and nephew, Major J. F. MacSwiney, both served in the Corps. He was commissioned in the Cheshire Regiment in 1941 and was wounded by shrapnel shortly after going out to the Western Front in 1915. A piece of metal remained in his leg for the rest of his life, which caused hims some painful lameness in later years. He transferred to the Corps in 1923, having previously been a brigade signal officer at Poona and an instructor at the Army Signal School. He spent 21 of his 32 years in India, but whilst in the UK, during the late 20s, he was adjutant of 2 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divisional Signals TA for four years. During his service in India he was adjutant of Kohat District Signals, 2IC of 3rd Indian Divisional Signals and commanding officer 2nd Indian Divisional Signals. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was commanding 'A' Corps Signals and subsequently held the appointments of CSO Western District, Commander Rawalpindi area, CSO 1 Burma Corps and CSO Central Command, finally retiring in 1946, when he went to live just outside Shaftesbury. Gene was a keen sportsman, particularly at game shooting, riding, tennis and hockey, at which he was no mean exponent. He was of a phlegmatic character and exuded confidence, being always willing to give advice and help when called on. He and his wife Margery were generous and kindly hosts. To her and their two daughters, two sons and family, we extend our deep sympathy.

Major (QM) W. E. Roscoe, MSM

Bill Roscoe enlisted in the Corps in 1930 and saw Active Service on the North-West Frontier in 1936 and 1939. After many years in India he served for most of the Second World War in the UK. He was commissioned as a Quartermaster in 1954 and subsequently served in the Middle East, Cyprus, BAOR and Scotland, where he was Quartermaster of 52 (L) Divisional Signal Regiment from 1957–60. He retired in 1964 and died on 8th June, 1975, having served continuously for 34 years. We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

Major M. Turner

It is with regret that we report the death of Major Marmaduke Turner, who enlisted in the Corps in 1932. During the Second World War he saw Active Service in Africa, Italy, and North-West Europe, during which time he received a Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for outstanding services. He was commissioned as a Cipher Officer in 1951 and spent most of his subsequent service overseas in France, BAOR, Middle East and the Far East. He was with 3 GHQ Signal Regiment, later 15th Signal Regiment from 1958–61 during the troubles in Cyprus. He retired in 1967 and immediately joined the TAVR as Administrative Officer with 23 SAS Regiment (V) until finally retiring in 1969. He went to live in North Devon, where he took up part-time employment in a solicitor's office and devoted his leisure time to golf. He died on 5th June, 1975, after giving 37 years of his life to the Corps. We would like to express our deep sympathy to his wife and daughter in their loss.

Colonel F. K. Wilson, CEng, MIEE

His many friends will be sad to learn of the death of Francis Kenneth Wilson on 7th July, 1975. Frankie was born in 1897 and enlisted in the Glostershire Regiment in 1915; he was commissioned two years later and transferred to the Corps in 1925. Out of his 31 years' service he spent under nine years in the UK, the majority of the remainder being in India, Ceylon and two years in East Africa. He was serving with the Training Battalion at Maresfield at the time the STC moved to Catterick 50 years ago and later became adjutant. Between the wars he held a variety of staff and field appointments and took part in the operations in Waziristan in 1921–23 and 1937, when he was mentioned in despatches. During the Second World War he commanded Peshawar District Signals, 34 Indian Divisional Signals, was CSO Ceylon Command and DCSO GHQ Home Forces. His last appointment before retiring in 1947 was CSO HQ East Africa Command.

Frankie was a man who lived life to the full. He had a warm and generous nature; he was stern and strict when the need arose, but was always fair, and was a staunch ally to his friends and went to untold trouble to ensure the welfare of all those under his command, which resulted in happy and efficient units for which he was responsible, but he had no patience with fools and knaves. He was a man who will never be forgotten by those who knew him, perhaps because of his monocle, which seemed to be a permanent fixture—few people saw him without it—but really because of his warmheartedness, fairness, joy of life and enthusiasm for the Corps. After his retirement he was employed for many years in an intelligence branch at the War Office. We would like to express our sincere sympathy to his family for the loss of a true gentleman and a loyal supporter of the Corps.

Movements

Officers

SEPTEMBER

	Unit to which posted
Major M. M. Barker	To Housing Comdt, Portsmouth
Captain H. Bell	„ 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Major (Tfc) K. J. Bicknell	„ 16 Signal Regiment
Major B. A. Blackwell	„ National Defence College
Second-Lieutenant A. J. Bowering	„ 11 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Brian	„ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Major (Tfc) D. A. Burge	„ School of Signals
Captain R. M. Burrows	„ 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lieutenant C. J. Burton	„ 11 Signal Regiment
Captain A. Burtt	„ HQ South-West District
Lieutenant J. R. Cadwallader	„ 1 King's Own Border
Captain G. A. Carmichael	„ 13 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant G. J. Cary	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Major W. J. Clapp	„ HQ West Midlands District
Major M. F. H. Colman	„ Regular Commissions Board
Lieutenant G. D. Corbet	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Major M. S. Davies	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel A. N. de Bretton Gordon	„ Joint Warfare Estab.
Lieutenant R. G. Dibley	„ 11 Signal Regiment
Colonel J. A. H. K. Findlater, OBE	„ Royal Signals Manning and Records
Colonel J. A. D. Francis	„ NICSMA
Lieutenant J. J. C. Gareze	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Captain (Tfc) G. W. Giles	„ 31 Signal Regiment (V)
Lieutenant R. J. Gittings	„ 1 Parachute Regiment
Major P. Goldney	„ National Defence College
Major (Tfc) P. H. Grant	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant M. N. Grieves	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Lieutenant I. W. Griffiths	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. J. Halford	„ 2 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Major E. Hampson	„ 8 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant A. W. H. Harrison	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Captain J. M. Haydon	„ 11 Signal Regiment
Captain R. G. Heaney	„ Cambridge University OTC
Major C. R. F. Hinds	„ MOD Signals 31a
Lieutenant-Colonel K. Kirby	„ SRDE
Major (QM) P. W. H. Lafferty	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. J. Lawson	„ 11 Signal Regiment
Captain A. M. Lovatt	„ 223 Signal Squadron
Captain N. A. Mackereth	„ HQ Northern Ireland
Captain G. Meakin	„ School of Signals
Captain R. J. L. Middleton	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) (Retiring)
Major D. M. O. Miller	„ National Defence College
Major D. G. Mitchell	„ 13 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. G. Proctor	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Lieutenant I. O. Robertson	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Major T. F. Ross	„ Army Apprentices College
Major (QM) D. W. Stanley	„ 38 Signal Regiment (V)
Colonel D. H. Thursby Pelham	„ MOD (D13)
Major (Tfc) D. K. Wallis	„ HQ NORTHAG (Cande Div)
Lieutenant J. W. Wedgbury	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Major R. L. Windmill	„ HQ 3 Signal Group
Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge	„ MOD (Sigs (Pol) 2)

WOs and SNCOs

SEPTEMBER

	Unit to which posted
W.O.1 (Y. of S.) T. L. Brown	SHAPE HQ Command & Support (BE)
W.O.1 (F. of S) A. J. Porritt	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main Headquarters)
W.O.1 (Supur. R) T. B. Cooper	9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) G. H. Nickson	242 Signal Squadron (Mossy Hill)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) F. Jones	8 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) R. F. W. Livesey	14 Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. T. Jackson	3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 D. Drane	11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. M. Pentland	38 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff-Sergeant R. C. Charlesworth	Headquarters 3 Signal Group
Staff-Sergeant D. Vockings	Headquarters 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff-Sergeant L. A. Brown	34 Signal Regiment (V)
Staff-Sergeant A. F. J. Curnow	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Staff-Sergeant J. H. Golding	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Staff-Sergeant T. A. Hazel	16 Signal Regiment (Headquarters BAOR)
Staff-Sergeant C.J. F. Hemstock	Headquarters 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Staff-Sergeant G. Porteous	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Staff-Sergeant J. P. Tunney	229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)
Sergeant C. J. Laughlin	16 Signal Regiment (Headquarters BAOR)
Sergeant H. Rowlands	11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. H. Stirzaker	Headquarters 4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant B. R. Mumford	Headquarters 12th Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. J. Rivett	33 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. H. Hyde	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main Headquarters)
Sergeant J. C. Harlow	30 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Graves	9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant D. Taylor	Headquarters 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant L. A. Plumber	11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant B. Clark	11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant R. Stadius	11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant I. D. Turner	School of Transport (RCT)
Sergeant J. B. Greeney	8 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. Crabtree	13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant C. W. Beston	Headquarters 4 Signal Group
Sergeant D. Brough	Headquarters British Army of the Rhine
Sergeant B. J. Cartwright	4 Communications Unit
Sergeant G. P. Fellowes	8 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant L. R. Jukes	259 Signal Squadron (West)
Sergeant K. Stafford	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Sergeant J. W. F. Tierney	Headquarters 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. Breakwell	Headquarters 4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. F. Curry	605 Signal Troop (GAN)
Sergeant J. C. Hunt	Headquarters 11th Armoured Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. B. White	3 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. F. Holt	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant J. C. Matthews	School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant D. Southwick	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant D. G. Conway	Headquarters 39 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Woffenden	School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant P. A. Gill	School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant A. B. Harper	7 Artillery Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Brown	223 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Sergeant R. J. White	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant D. Trippier	33 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant D. G. Kingdon	27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. E. Taylor	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Rear Headquarters)
Sergeant P. R. Norgate	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant P. J. Roscoe	School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant J. A. Tope	27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant T. McLauchlan	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant R. T. Howe	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sergeant R. S. White	11 Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant S. J. Hemmings	161 Special Intelligence and Security Section.
Sergeant L. E. Willmott	233 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Comber	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. D. B. Tatnall	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. M. Allen	10 Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. R. Smith	27 Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. M. Ritchie	4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. R. Farrell	11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. R. W. Derwanz	11 Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. C. Hewing	Comuter Centre BAOR
Sergeant J. F. Burns	538 Rear Link Detachment (LT Regiment)
Sergeant G. T. Paton	Headquarters 4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. R. Mitchell	33 Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant A. Garrehy	591 Rear Link Detachment
Sergeant W. R. Marsh	264 (SAS) Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. Harkin	12 RSME Regiment
Sergeant D. J. Luckett	13 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Acting-Sergeant A. N. Armstrong	604 Signal Troop

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society (RSARS)

A GO-AHEAD AND FLOURISHING ORGANISATION

President: **Brigadier D. H. Baynham, GM,** G3DHB.
Vice-President: **Major-General E. S. Cole, CB, CBE,** G2EC.
Secretary: **Captain (TOT) J. Cooper,** G3DPS.
HQ Station Manager: **Sergeant L. Thompson,** G3VYZ.
Headquarter Station call sign: G4RS.

It is not known how long it is since an article appeared in THE WIRE concerning the activities of The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, but the fact that a very successful 14th Annual General Meeting has just been held seems sufficient justification for an update on this activity.

For those readers who are a little out of date, membership of the Society now numbers around 1,100, of whom some 900 are Home Office licensed. The Headquarter station is located at Blandford Camp, and is operational on HF and VHF (CW, SSB, FM and RTTY). Like a good parson, it calls its flock together in accordance with the following schedules:

3·720 MHz—Monday 12.30 GMT
Tuesday 12.30 GMT and 19.00 GMT
Wednesday 12.30 GMT
Thursday 12.30 GMT and 19.00 GMT
Friday 12.30 GMT
Sunday 10.30 GMT
(All the above are SSB, although AM and CW callers are welcome.)

14·275 MHz—Wednesday 13.00 GMT (SSB)

3·575 MHz—Wednesday 19.00 GMT
Sunday 10.30 GMT (both CW only)

This activity helps to keep both serving and retired members of the Corps in touch wherever they may be. For example, the world-wide net on 14·275 MHz brings in members located as far afield as the USA, Gibraltar. Malta, Cyprus, Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. The members in New Zealand have now formed their own 80 metre net.

The RSARS was very prominent in the Royal Signals enclosure at the Aldershot Army Display this year. The stand was inspected by hundreds of visitors and the Society was able to demonstrate the long distance capability of low-power HF together with other aspects of amateur radio such as 'repeater' operation through both the London and Alton VHF repeaters. A similar display was provided for Signal View 1975 at Worcester.

Reverting back to the AGM, it was a good gathering of some 60 members and their wives. The Society was delighted to welcome amongst those attending such venerated call-signs as **Ken Alford,** G2DX (first licensed in 1912 and still going strong!), **'Chis' Chisholm,** G2CX, also an 'Old Timer', **'Brownie' Whatman,** G2BQ, now retired, but a well-known ex-member of the Corps, **Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Evan Y. Nepean Bart,** G5YN, also a past member of the Corps and who, as a subaltern just prior to WW II, operated one of the rarer call-signs in the world as AC4YN from Tibet. **Arthur Milne,** G2MI, of Radio Society of Great Britain fame, was also present. Not all those present were 'Old Timers'; in contrast we welcome the younger element and members who had helped to further such amateur radio techniques as moon-bounce, satellite communication, slow-scan TV, RTTY, etc. Other RSARS members who could not attend the AGM are equally well known in the world of Amateur Radio. Such members include **Captain (Rtd.) D. A. Bowden,** G3PNF, who led the Royal Signals DX-pedition to Brunei, North Borneo, in 1968, with two other RSARS members, **Captain (TOT) Jack Cooper,** G3DPS, and **Captain (Rtd.) Maurice Caplan,** VS6AA; **Jim MacIntosh,** GM3IAA, who, whilst serving in Malaya, invented the now world-famous VS1AA antenna; **Captain Ray Vasper,** G3VIY, who received a C-in-C's Commendation a few years back for using his amateur radio equipment to save a Royal Navy ship in difficulties, and **Captain Maurice Caplan,** VS5MC, who recently attempted to put Spratly Island and Amboyna Cay in the South China Sea on the amateur radio bands, only to find that 'unfriendly' forces had occupied the strips of sand and coral just before he arrived!

It is hoped that this article will remind readers of the RSARS existence and through it increase participation, particularly at Unit level, by the introduction of more club stations.

For more details, write to the General Secretary, Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs!

14 Days in Morocco

BY MAJOR TONY EDMONDS

A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

DURING the dull, dark days of last winter I was thumbing through UKLFO when I came across a paragraph headed 'Exchange au Pair' which caught my eye since it was asking for people to go to, among other places, Jordan. Being an Arabic speaker this appealed to me. After some hard talking on my part I persuaded **Colonel Mike Hales** that he could afford to let me go for a fortnight and also accept an exchange officer in the Regiment. So I duly applied, only to be informed that there were no longer any vacancies in Jordan but that, if I wished, an exchange could be arranged with Morocco. Thinking that they must speak some form of Arabic in Morocco I requested that an application be made to Morocco which was eventually accepted.

COMFORTABLE HOTEL

So, on Sunday the 25th of May, I was at number two terminal Heathrow waiting to board an Air France flight to Paris. In Paris I transferred to a Royal Air Maroc flight to Rabat arriving in Rabat at 2200 hours. My first requirement then was to obtain some local currency, which cannot be bought outside Morocco. Having done this and collected my baggage I met **Dennis Young** from the Embassy and was taken to one of the better hotels for the night. In the morning **Dennis** collected me and I went to the Embassy for a short briefing before being handed over to the Moroccan army at the General Headquarters of the Royal Moroccan Army in Rabat. I waited there for a while sipping a cup of mint tea, the first of many that I was to drink in the next fortnight, waiting for a Moroccan signal officer to arrive to drive me to the Centre d'Instruction des Transmissions in Kenitra which was to be my home during my stay.

DOWN TO BASICS!

At Kenitra I met the OC of the Signal School, the CO of the Signal Battalion and my escorting officer, **Commandant Driss Lazzouzi**, who will be visiting 14th Signal Regiment in July. At this point I was told that, unlike other exchange officers, I was not to be accommodated in an hotel but was to sleep in the barracks. This accommodation turned out to be very spartan, an incredibly hard bed, cold water washing and shaving facilities and an asian toilet. Something of a comedown after the previous night's accommodation. However, there then followed one of the most interesting fortnights that I have ever spent.

The broad programme was as follows. Rise at seven and have breakfast at eight followed by a walk for about forty-five minutes. The remainder of the morning was then spent at the Signal School visiting classes under instruction and on exercise. Afternoons during the week were spent visiting places of interest, industrial concerns or shopping. The two weekends were spent in conducted tours of towns of interest distant from Kenitra.

TRADE TRAINING SIMILAR TO OURS

The School of Signals trains students at 3 different trade ratings very similar to our own in the trades of radio technician, radio operator, teleprinter operator, radio relayman and lineman. In October of this year training will commence at Foreman/Yeoman level in the trades of radio technician and radio operator. In the October of 1976 this advanced training will be started for the other trades. The standard of training at the school and the training aids and material were all very good. Unlike our system they do not divorce military training from trade training, with the result that in addition to trade subjects the syllabus also includes military subjects, languages (French and English), current affairs and Moroccan history. All courses are thirty-three weeks long and culminate in an examination set by an external board of examiners.

During my stay I was also taken to see a boys' boarding school which is funded and administered by the army which has civilian instructors. The standard of instruction and range of subjects would have done credit to any good British grammar school. The list of ex-students currently in universities both in Morocco and throughout Europe was very impressive.

SENIOR MEMBERS OF MOROCCAN SIGNAL SCHOOL
On left: Commandant Lazzouzi, *Centre:* Major Tony Edmonds

Moroccan signallers on a radio relay exercise

VERY VARIED CLIMATE

Morocco offers a very varied climate to the visitor. The western plain is a very fertile agricultural area growing a vast range of temperate and tropical plants and trees. The mountainous areas are very similar to the Austrian Tyrol and the southern part of the country borders on the Sahara Desert. Since Kenitra is in the western plain the industries I visited were based on agriculture such as a sugar factory which processed sugar cane, a wood pulping factory and a cardboard and paper factory, all of which were manned and run by Moroccans

SEEING THE SIGHTS

My first weekend was spent staying at the home of **Commandant Driss Lazzouzi** in Meknes which is one of the ancient capitals of Morocco. It is a fascinating town surrounded by a vast wall some 40 ft. high and 75 ft. thick at the base. Inside the town is one of the Royal Palaces which has a similar wall and within its gardens has a fair-sized nine hole golf course. Which gives some idea of the vast size of the whole walled area. **Commandant Lazzouzi** actually comes from Meknes and much time was spent walking in the twisting narrow streets of the old city where the commerce is still carried on in small shops open to the street. During this first weekend I was taken to Fez which is another ancient capital of Morocco with another fascinating old walled city with its multitude of miniature shops. The King of Morocco was in residence in the palace at Fez and the spectacular royal guard in their flowing white and blue uniforms were on duty outside the great brass gates to the palace, which were highly polished I might add. I also visited Volubilis during this weekend.

This is a very large Roman city which has only been partially excavated but which is very impressive with triumphal arches and many fine mosaics.

The second weekend found me in the south at Marakesh being looked after by **Lieutenant Ouishin** who comes from that city. The climate here was very hot and dry. The soil in the area was very dry and red. This red soil has produced the red bricks from which Marakesh is built and resulted in it being known as the 'red city'. Whilst at Marakesh I was taken to see the annual Folklore Festival which is held in the gardens of a ruined palace. The evening performance which I attended takes the form of an animated son et lumiere performance and was most impressive, lasting for two and a half hours, during which all of the many folk dances from all over Morocco were demonstrated.

HOMEWARD BOUND

Sunday evening, with my visit drawing to a close, found me on a train bound for Rabat. The journey was long, hot and dusty in an overcrowded train. However, not without its moments of interest such as when the snack bar visited the compartment. This consisted of a man with a large basket in one hand which contained egg rolls, glasses and the wherewithall to make mint tea or coffee. In the other hand he carried a very large kettle to the base of which was strapped a charcoal brazier. How none of the passengers was not burnt or scalded I do not know.

The hospitality and kindness extended to me by all ranks of the Moroccan Signal Corps was quite overwhelming and the Moroccan cuisine consists of such a multitude of mouth-watering dishes that I would strongly recommend anyone who is given the chance to take part in an exchange to a Moroccan army unit to grasp it with both hands.

Sergeant Powell by the statue of one of the legendary warrior gods of Mysore

A Holiday in India

BY SERGEANT ERIC POWELL

WHEN I decided to visit my girlfriend in New Delhi and she suggested we go to stay with her parents in South India I thought it would be a good way to use my leave scheme.

GLEAMING CHROME AND BARE FEET

I finally left on 2nd May on an Air India Boeing 707 for Bombay via Bangkok and Delhi. The plane had to divert from Delhi and fly direct to Bombay as a severe dust storm made it impossible for us to land. I landed at Bombay just after midnight, passed through the gleaming chrome and glass entrance to the customs to discover the interior was worn wood and cold chipped concrete. The officials were efficient, courteous and looked very smart in pressed jacket, shorts and long puttees, but bare feet in sandals added an incongruous note.

The onward flight to Bangalore took one and a half hours and I was met just after 8 a.m. by Jenny and her father. We went to the West End Hotel for breakfast while the two cars were loaded for the journey. Bangalore is the Karnataka State capital and is the Garden City of India. Its main thoroughfares are wide and well lit, but most of the shopping areas are down narrow side-streets which appear to be lit by 100 W household bulbs. The legislative building of modern design is surrounded by well-tended parks, the trees of which are ablaze with various shades of red.

Once Bangalore had been left behind the 'major' road became a strip of tarmac about 10 ft with 3 ft wide dirt verges on either side. Driving technique was to sit in the middle of the tar strip and only to pull over to the verges to avoid oncoming traffic or to overtake. The area around Bangalore is mainly flat but scattered about are many volcanic outcroppings, some rising to a height of several hundred feet. After lunch the hills towards which we were heading appeared out of the heat haze.

OLD COLONIAL ROUTINE STILL EXISTS

At Chikmagalur, baggage was transferred from the hotel car to the plantation jeep, which had come to meet us. Chikmagalur is the main town of the district and most of the buildings appear to date from the early 1900s. The Planters Club is a typical example, large veranda, whose roof is supported by columns. The rooms have large double doors and windows to allow a through cooling breeze, while the fans hang precariously from high ceilings. As befits an old colonial club the walls were decorated with many trophies, including stags heads and leopard skins. On to the estate, where we arrived at about 8 p.m. The final part of the journey took longest as we wound up through the foothills. We were now out of the plains and into forest. As night had fallen I could see only that illuminated by the headlights but my impression then was that it is very similar to the Eiffel region of Germany. On my next trip through the area this impression was spoilt by the number of bullock carts trundling along.

The next couple of days were spent recovering from the journey and winding down from the bustle of Hong Kong to the slow routine of the estate. Tea and coffee are the main crops on Kerkiecoondah Estate, but they also grow some pepper and cardimum (a spice). All plantations also have paddy fields where rice is grown for the workers.

ELEPHANTS, MONKEYS—AND A 5-FOOT COBRA

Tuesday, 6th May, we left to pay a visit to Nenmeni Estate, 12 hrs away. All distances in India are judged by time not mileage.

We were unlucky not to see any game, which **Mike** assured us was normally plentiful. On the way to Kerala State we passed through Tamil Nadu, which is one of a few states in India which has prohibition. It was on this journey that I saw my first elephants, monkeys and a snake sunbathing in the road. The snake was a 5ft long cobra and disappeared into the bushes before we got really close. The elephants were tame and used for hauling timber. Nenmeni, being further south and not as high as Kerkiecoondah, produces mainly rubber and coconuts, but they also grow cashew nuts, bananas and pepper.

PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS

The bungalow at Nenmeni was not electrified; lighting was by hurricane and Tilley lamps, hot water by buckets on a wood-fired stove. It was in bungalows equipped such as this that a daily routine was developed, which is still adhered to by planters in their modern estate bungalows. Up and breakfast at 8 a.m. estate work (read or write letters for those on holiday) until noon. A drink, lunch, then snooze through the heat of the day until 3 p.m. A cup of tea, or two, to refresh one's self, then more business (or a walk round one of the various sections of the plantation). Dinner just after dark and to bed just after that. This is a very easy routine to fall into and the one I settled into for the rest of my holiday.

Mike finished his inspection of the estate and we left Nenmeni on Saturday 10th and drove to the City of Mysore, where the old Maharajah had had his Summer Palace. We arrived in time for lunch at the Krishnarajah Sagar Hotel, where we booked in for the night. This hotel is built behind a dam and is well known for its floodlit gardens and fountains.

We broke the routine that afternoon and visited the Summer Palace and its associated temple with several large 15-ft statues of legendary figures. After a before-breakfast walk round the grounds we left to return at 10 a.m.

Sergeant Powell in the grounds of the Krishna Raja Sagar Hotel, Mysore

EARTHQUAKE—EVERYBODY OUT!

Monday evening India provided me with a new experience—an earth tremor. Just after 8.30 p.m. the bottles on the drinks table started to tinkle. I looked up to see why the fan was making funny noises and saw that it was wobbling as it went round. As I settled back in my shaking chair to work out what was going on **Mike** shouted 'Quake! Everybody out!' I found it is possible to clear the arm of a chair and a coffee table, complete with a brandy soda, from a sitting start. By the time we were all outside the tremor was over, but what a peculiar sensation, knowing that I was still and everything else was trembling (for a change).

AN IRON ORE MOUNTAIN

Early Wednesday morning we set out to climb the Durgadabetta, an iron-ore mountain on the Estate, to have breakfast on its summit, 800 ft above the bungalow. Two hours of scrambling; later we tucked into our boiled eggs and coffee. Tradition demands that each year, at Easter, the Catholic workers on the Estate carry a 7-ft cross to the top of the Durgadabetta. We remained at the top for about an hour, hoping for the cloud to clear but had to return disappointed.

HAND-FEEDING THE FISH

There followed a relaxing week and on Thursday we visited a fish temple at Sringeri on the Bahdra river. Removing shoes at the entrance to the grounds we first bought packets of puffed rice and small bananas, before walking down the temple steps to the water's edge. A few handfuls of rice soon brought the fish—a type of carp—some of them up to 2 ft in length. For those brave enough to risk a finger it was possible to hold a banana above the water and watch a fish come out to get it.

HOMEWARD-BOUND—A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY

My holiday was now coming to a close and we left for Bangalore at 6 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Thursday morning was the final frantic souvenir hunt before I had to report to the airport at noon for my flight to Bombay. The flight eventually left 30 mins. late and, once again, I had an overnight stay before my onward connection. This time to the Sun 'n' Sands Hotel, which is situated by the sea, where I passed the afternoon and early evening sipping beer under a beach umbrella, watching children having donkey rides. Shades of Blackpool!

We left at 9 a.m. Friday after a 'scheduled' delay of three hours and landed at Delhi two and a half hours later. 'Delhi is in the dust bowl of India', I remembered from school, and for 20 minutes before we landed and up to a height of about 5,000 ft I could see dust. On leaving we flew above this dust cloud until we neared the coast at Calcutta.

The remainder of the return trip was uneventful and I landed in Hong Kong at 11 p.m., tired but having had a wonderful holiday.

PS.—**Sergeant Powell** and **Jenny** plan to marry in May 1976.

The Changed Face of Singapore

BY CAPTAIN H. DAVIES

FOR the second time in four years we are faced with the withdrawal of British Forces from Singapore. In 1971 the formation of ANZUK brought a last minute partial reprieve, today no such reprieve is in sight and by March 1976 the withdrawal should be complete. Prior to the 1971 withdrawal the Corps was represented, in Singapore, by three Signal Regiments and a Signal Squadron. Representation today is by 28th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron based at Terror Barracks in the old Naval Base. The face of Singapore has changed considerably over these last years and it is considered that a last quick trip around some of the areas, once familiar to many members of the Corps, would not be out of place in these final few months.

NEE SOON MUCH THE SAME

Nee Soon, once the temporary home of 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment, has undergone relatively little change. The UK Infantry Battalion, 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, together with other Brigade Support Elements are presently based in the Barrack area. Destined for eventual occupation by Singapore Armed Forces, it already houses the Singapore Armed Forces School of Signals.

Transit Road remains the Mecca for those interested in those fascinating Japanese electrical and electronic devices. Asking prices are high, these however appear to be related to the bargaining ability of the resident Battalion. The Sembawang Golf Course is still fully operational.

BUT CHANGI LOOKS VERY DIFFERENT

Changi, the former residence of 19th Signal Regiment, is planned for development as Singapore's International Airport. Regimental Headquarters is now occupied by Prison Headquarters and visitors are carefully searched for clubs of any description. The hospital, retained for use by ANZUK and lately by UK Forces, is to remain as a hospital serving the Singapore Armed Forces. Changi Village is in the middle of a face lift. The northern side remains unchanged but the southern side has been demolished and the new Village is rising from the ruins. Shoppers are eagerly awaiting the competition between closing down sales on one side and grand re-opening sales on the other. That last foothold in Singapore, the Changi Creek Hotel now boasts a new sign as the National Trade Union Congress Holiday Centre, whilst the Regiment's old gold mine, the China Seas Beach Club, seems to have struck an even richer vein, being situated centrally in the new Changi Beach Resort. The golf course is still open for those enthusiasts who are prepared to make the trip.

OLD RHQ 19th SIGNAL REGIMENT NOW A PRISON HQ

CHANGI VILLAGE, SOUTHERN SIDE

A NEW LOOK DOVER ROAD

Dover Road, occupied for many years by 18th Signal Regiment and 249 Signal Squadron, has undergone the most change. Part of the Regimental Lines are now providing a temporary home for the new Singapore Polytechnic whilst their new accommodation is being built along the remainder of Dover Road. Princess Mary Officers' Mess is now the home of the Dover Court Preparatory School and St. John's is under the management of the Singapore International School. Service families are still housed in the estates, in the Dover Road area, but these are being handed over to Singapore as the accommodation becomes vacant. The Kent is still open for business and the Warren Golf Course is well patronised.

PRESENT DAY DOVER ROAD

TANGLIN STILL A MILITARY CENTRE

The Tanglin complex has retained its military air, being the Singapore Ministry of Defence. Seletar and Tengah Airfields are both administered by Singapore Armed Forces, Tengah, being the last stronghold of the RAF is also shared with the RAAF and the RNZAF.

Singapore itself is changing rapidly. New Towns seem to appear overnight and vast new areas are being reclaimed from the sea. The island of Sentosa has been developed as a holiday resort, complete with cable car transport from Mt. Faber, soon to be followed by another holiday development along the East Coast Road.

Unchanged, the people, still pro-British and hardworking, the weather, warm and for the most part sunny and talk of that magnificent drive from the third tee.

If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading — boy you sure need sympathy!

Expedition to Far Eastern Waters Famagusta Sub-Aqua Club, Sponsored by 9th Signal Regiment, Visit A Challenging New Venue

REPORT BY W.O.2 MARTIN HAGGER

THIS year's expedition by members of the 9th Signal Regiment based Famagusta Joint Services Sub-Aqua Club promised to be unusual from the very outset. Earlier expeditions by the Club had all been to the Coral Island of Gan in the Maldive archipelago, but a trip to that particular venue was ruled out by the heavy booking of other diving clubs. Even so, we felt that after an abnormally cold and wet winter in Cyprus coupled with the restrictions placed on diving by the Turkish occupation of part of the island, we deserved a visit to summer seas. Consequently, after weighing up the pros and cons of various possible locations, **W.O.2 Dave Brown** drafted letters to Masirah, Salalah and Tengah. We received a most promising reply from **Flight-Lieutenant John Wright,** the Secretary of the Diving Club at Royal Air Force, Tengah, Singapore, and decided that we need look no further.

MUSEUMS AND UNIVERSITIES ENTHUSIASTIC

The expedition plans gained momentum from this point. **Corporal Chris Charlton** sent letters to a dozen or so museums and universities in the UK enquiring whether they would like us to undertake any projects for them. We received enthusiastic replies from most of them, listing the forms of sea life that they wished us to collect or study. Finally, our application was despatched and backing was obtained from NEARELF and, later, MOD for the newly nicknamed Pearl Diver I expedition.

ASSISTANCE OF GOC ENSURES A SMOOTH START

Disappointment followed when our initial flight dates were turned down when there was just one week to go before the start date. At this point we were most fortunate in that the GOC, **Major-General C. W. B. Purdon, CBE, MC,** weighed in on our behalf and persuaded MOD to re-schedule the expedition and, on 22nd June, our party of nine divers set off.

THE TEAM

At this point I'll take time to introduce the members of the team. As is usual with almost any group from 9 Signal Regiment there were representatives from several branches of the Army and RAF. Technicians **Corporal 'Paddy' Harper** and **Corporal Chris Charlton,** together with **Corporal Bill Simpson,** who is an S Tg, were present to represent the Royal Signals and the Intelligence Corps element comprised **W.O.2 Martin Hagger** and **Corporals Andy Jones** and **Glenn Telford. Lance-Corporal Chris Downing** of the Royal Engineers was the expedition leader and **Private Billy Dallow,** Royal Pioneer Corps, and **Junior Technician Earnshaw,** Royal Air Force, completed the party.

AWAY AT LAST

The flight from Cyprus to Tengah takes about 13 hours, with a stop over in Gan, and consequently we did not arrive until early on 23rd June. **Flight-Lieutenant John Wright,** who was to prove to be an excellent host, was there to meet us. No diving was planned for that day and once our gear and accommodation was sorted out and our plans firmly laid for the next day's project, we set out to take in the sights, sounds (and, regrettably, smells) of Singapore.

HAIR-RAISING DIVES

Our first day's diving was very nearly a non-event. We had hardly set out in our locally hired boat when a fierce squall struck. Within minutes the sky was black and slate grey seas were lashing at our little craft. Benku, the boatman, wasted no time in getting us back into the relative calm in the lee of Jurong pier. The weather quickly cleared and we were soon able to set out for Palu Salu, the site of our first dive. It turned out to be a day of surprises for, whilst we had realised that conditions would differ significantly from those encountered in the waters around Cyprus, we had not anticipated how comparatively poor the underwater visibility would be; nor had we fully realised the strength

W.O.2 Martin Hagger and Corporal Chris Charlton prepare for a dive on a keelong in Singapore waters

EXPEDITION TO AN OFF-SHORE ISLAND
Loading camping and diving gear at Mersing

and treachery of the currents. Consequently the first few dives were fairly hair-raising and we were all grateful for the time spent in training and perfecting our diving techniques.

THE REAL WORK BEGINS—EVEN UNDER-WATER WRITING HAS ITS PROBLEMS

During the days that followed we dived off many of the islands and reefs that guard the southern approaches to Singapore. With advice from the local club members we quickly found the best spots and were soon collecting specimens for our scientific studies and shells for our personal collections. Shell hunting can profitably be carried out in the shallow waters over the reefs and close to the shorelines as well as in the depths and snorkelling soon became as popular as diving. We found the process of collecting and preserving specimens to be a novel challenge. Each team was briefed on the area of sea bed to be covered and the type of specimen required. Divers were equipped with plastic sheets and pencils suitable for writing under water and a sheath of self-sealing specimen bags. The mere business of popping shells and other creatures into the bags and jotting down a few notes on their habitats should have been a simple job. Unfortunately this was not so. Many of the shells were firmly rooted to the sea bed on partially encased coral and had to be hacked out. Furthermore our writing looked like our first efforts at school thanks to the awkwardness of scribbling notes whilst finning against the prevailing currents. Even the pencils conspired against us and, being buoyant, shot out of our fingers if our grip slackened. The one project which we all enjoyed was collecting random samples of marine life for Plymouth Polytechnic. Most of the divers enjoyed the challenge of hunting out peculiar and obscure creatures and fairly soon our collection boxes looked like scenes from Disneyland.

All of this activity each day, together with the inescapable chores of compiling records, cataloguing specimens and changing and maintaining equipment made for a fairly exhausting routine. Even so, many of the party managed to find sufficient energy to make regular evening sorties to sample the delights of Singapore. **Paddy Harper** and **Bill Simpson** deserve a mention here for their determined efforts to locate the best pint of Tiger beer in town.

FASCINATING OFF-SHORE ISLAND VISITED

Towards the middle of our stay in Tengah we began to organise a visit to the Malaysian island of Pulau Tioman and on 12th July we set off by road for Mersing. Once there we hired a boat for five days and set sail for the islands. We had intended to base ourselves in the village of Mukut for the entire stay but we were prevented from doing so on the first night by high seas along the southern coast. Instead we moored off Teket on the west coast.

The long hut which we hired for the night gave us shelter, but very little else. The sides were open to the world and once we had settled down, after some late-night snorkelling by torchlight, the rats entertained us by playing leapfrog over our beds. There were some long faces and bleary eyes in the morning, but cheerfulness soon returned once we had reached Mukut and arranged the hire of the village hall for our remaining nights. The diving off the island and the nearby islets was truly superb and we collected a further batch of specimens as a bonus for our sponsors. On shore we revelled in the joys of life on a tropical island—warm Coca Cola and all the coconuts we could eat at 50 cents a time. One party of intrepid explorers led by **Chris Charlton** set off in search of a waterfall which we had been told was in the jungle above the village. They returned after a two-hour hike without having found it, but *en route* **Bill Simpson** took the opportunity to leap into a cool mountain pool and do a quick length, Tangan style.

A FIERCE STORM

It was with considerable regret that we set sail for Mersing on 16th July. We waved a fond farewell to the islanders, who, I'm sure, would have waved back had they not been busy inspecting the remnants of our compo rations which we had left behind. Our journey back was quite eventful. According to plan we moored alongside a Keelong (native fishing trap) close to the inner isles and eight divers in four teams of two entered the water, leaving **Martin Hagger** to do boat watch. Minutes after they had entered the water a fierce storm blew up complete with impressively noisy thunder and vivid lightning. It was obviously imperative for the divers to get back on board before the pitch of the waves made it impossible or the boat broke away from its flimsy mooring. Fortunately one of the teams of divers surfaced at this time and were signalled to call in the others. It was quite a scramble to get everyone back aboard with the boat heaving in the swell and the torrential rain lashing down, but surprisingly quickly all our gear was stowed and the boat was heading hastily for the lee of a nearby island to weather the storm. The rest of our journey back to Mersing and then to Singapore passed uneventfully.

WE SAY GOODBYE

We had hoped to be able to continue diving in Singapore waters upon our return but we were given flights home earlier than we had anticipated and had just sufficient time to pack our gear and buy a few last-minute presents before leaving. We held a brief, important ceremony, in the departure lounge at Tengah, in order to present our good friend and helper **John Wright** with an engraved tankard. In return he said that he would willingly host all, or some of us again, if we head out that way again before the Anzuk element leaves the base. We had to tell him that, regrettably, the chances of anyone managing a second trip out that way this year were very slight. After all, you only get one 'trip of a lifetime'—or do you? I've already heard talk of forming next year's expedition to Mauritius, or perhaps Barbados, or . . .

Our thanks go to all those members of 9 Signal Regiment, HQ NEARELF, the MOD and Tengah, who made this expedition possible.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

Sergeants Mess 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn on the occasion of the farewell to Major R. Dorrell, Royal Signals

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

OC	**Major A. W. de V. Hunt**
2IC	**Captain G. J. Barrett**
Comms Ops/Plans	**Lieutenant J. M. Shaw**
Admin Offr	**Lieutenant I. G. Jones**
OC 'A' Troop	**Lieutenant T. E. M. Richardson**
RSM	**W.O.1 C. C. Bedwell**
ORSQMS	**Staff-Sergeant I. L. Dudding**

MAJOR Tony Hunt, having arrived on Saturday, 5th July, assumed command from **Major Rodney Dorrell** on Thursday, 10th July. We wish **Major Dorrell** every success in the future and hope that **Major Hunt** manages to retain his sanity and enjoys his tour with us over the next two years.

ORANGE PARADES

The 'Orange Parades' passed off quietly on 12th July. In fact, the only incident during the whole period in our area had taken place during the practice marches the previous week, when bombs were deactivated by ATO on the routes used by the Portadown Orangemen.

TREK ACROSS MOURNE MOUNTAINS

Major Tony Hunt decided that the entire Defence and Employment Platoon would trek across the Mournes on Wednesday, 16th July. In order to achieve this aim, he managed to find 40 men from other troops in the Squadron and from 8 and 39 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadrons. By the end of 16th July, he probably regretted having had the idea. Not only had he been soaked by a typical Irish downpour, but also he found out that an Irish mountain is not like a Yorkshire dale. All the teams managed to finish in the allotted time and returned to the 'Knicker Factory' wet, weary and more than ready for a few beers. **Corporal 'Darkie' Bryce** and his team completed the longest route, whilst **Sergeant Noonan** and his team managed to avoid the heights and ambled along the edge of Silent Valley reservoir. Watch out, Alpha, Bravo and MT Troops, it's your turn next.

CRICKET

The Squadron managed to reach the semi-final of the Minor Units Cup, beating 'C' Squadron Blues and Royals and 3 Field Workshops on the way. Unfortunately, 39 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron managed to thrash us in the semi-final and now meet 8 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron in the final.

FAREWELL VISIT BY GOC

Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King visited the Squadron on Wednesday, 23rd July, on his farewell tour. He enjoyed a pint of beer with several members of the Squadron and asked his usual round of unexpected questions, before moving up the stairs to the Brigade Headquarters and, finally, to the Officers Mess for a farewell lunch.

SQN HQ FAREWELLS

The Squadron HQ element said a fond farewell to OC **Major R. Dorrell,** the Chief Clerk, **Staff-Sergeant Pete Hilton,** and wife Marlene in the form of a 'rave-up' disco. It was a well-planned evening, organised by the junior side of the Squadron Office staff, namely, **Corporal Alan (Soixante) North, Lance-Corporal Dave (Sparrow) Kilford** and **Signalman Dave (lockjaw) Levy. Staff-Sergeant Pete Hilton** presented **Major Dorrell** with an engraved cigarette box with a typically, new to the English dictionary, engraving done by a local firm, the comment from the OC being: 'That's a memory in its own right'. **Signalman Levy** presented to **Staff-Sergeant** and **Mrs. Hilton** a stainless steel tea set which attracted the comment: 'Oh blast, the MFOs gone and now bang goes the budgies what with this extra hand baggage'. So now we are on the lookout for a good home for two budgies.

The SHQ wish to welcome **Major A. W. de V. Hunt** and **Staff-Sergant (ORSQMS) Ted Dudding** and wife Lorraine for their two-year tour with the Brigade.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 801

VISITS

THE GOC, **Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King, KCB, MBE,** made his farewell visit to the Squadron on Monday, 14th July, 1975. The GOC made a lightning tour of the lines and then spent 40 minutes in the Oyster Club, during which time he made a farewell speech and thanked all ranks for their efforts in Northern Ireland. We all wish the GOC every success in the future.

Three days later we had our first visit from **Major-General D. T. Young, DFC,** the CLF. He showed a great deal of interest in our communications and Corps personnel.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

RSM Jim Sinnett and his merry gang have spent the last few weeks in the sun, preparing a summer camp (somewhere in Ulster). The camp will be used by various youth organisations over the next three months.

The RSM has now gone on leave to display his suntan.

WIVES CLUB ORGANISE FETE

On Saturday, 5th July, **Mrs. Debbie Carter** and the wives club committee organised a fete. The weather was on their side and so was **RQMS Jack Milton.** The fete was a success, raising £153, some of which will go to the Old Folks Home and the rest to the wives club outing.

ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Squadron the following new arrivals: **Sergeant P. G. Marven, Corporal J. T. Rich, Corporal P. Cameron, Signalman R. C. W. Hahn, Signalman D. J. Handibode, Lance-Corporal Betts** and **Signalman A. Barnard, Signalman P. S. V. Johnson** and **Signalman F. B. A. De-Souza**

DEPARTURES

We wish all the best in the future and thank those that have left, namely, **Corporal M. D. Moore, Corporal P. Cooper, Lance-Corporal Marsden, Lance-Corporal R. O. Hemphill, Lance-Corporal J. E. Young, Signalman S. Bradshaw, Signalman I. P. Menham, Signalman M. F. Bush** and **Signalman J. McGoldrick** for their good work in Ulster.

MARRIAGES

Our best wishes for the future to **Seregant 'Geoff' Board** and **Sue, Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Higginson** and **Rachael,** and **Signalman 'George' Fuller** and **Barbara.** All three marriages took place in June.

233 Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 801

NEWS FROM THE ENGINE ROOM—TECH TROOP

AT last it is our turn. We have waited so long that our notes are four days overdue. How can one briefly sum up the past six months, which has seen an increase of 100% in both equipment maintenance responsibility and personnel in Tech Troop.

The ceasefire has provided a certain respite from operational problems. However, during the past six months we have seen 'Paddy' Bruin installed and the initial shake-down period safely through. 'Paddy' B is akin to its German cousin yet entirely different in temperament. Though we lack the mobility of equipment, the Technicians (not least the C50 techs) more than make up for it by ceaselessly roaming the Province carrying out routine maintenance.

HARD WORK—BUT REWARDING

Paddy B was installed by PIT of CPA with a considerable amount of assistance from Technicians and Tele Mechs of 3 Div HQ and Signal Regt. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for the many hours they put in and a job well done in such a short hectic period. The technicians of 3 Div stayed with us and weathered the initial shake-down period. At the end of May, in the space of 10 days they were all replaced by two-year tour personnel still dazed from shock posting orders. The problems of working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year are almost unique. Routine maintenance at regular intervals is imperative to ensure reliability. There is, therefore, a team of Technicians travelling around all the outstations for which we are responsible for maintenance. Many experiences, some hilarious, some frustrating, and others rewarding, have been encountered. In all, with Bruin and all our other multiplicity of types of equipment which we maintain it means a most rewarding tour both in experience and job satisfaction for our technicians.

Things are not all work, we do play—reluctantly albeit at some sports.

The F. of S., **W.O.2 Bill Kent,** has just spent a very wet (in more ways than one) week with our RN friends aboard HMS *Laleston,* carrying out a radio coverage trial (his story—not ours).

Our swimming team, **Sergeants Bill Summers, John Hagen, Fred Roissetter** and **Corporal Joe Smith,** were unsuccessful in their attempt to win the Squadron swimming gala.

Meanwhile **Sergeant Colin Ramsay** is coaching all budding squash players, including several members of the WRAC. It has been noticed that one in particular is receiving more lessons than most. **Sergeant John Hagen** is not jealous but has applied for the job as well.

To all our new members, too numerous to name (14 in all), welcome. To those departed, Thank you, *bon voyage* and good luck—**Sergeants Bill Summers, Dave Thain, Mick Burke** and **Brian Chapman.**

HOCKEY SENSATION

Hot press release—Tech Troop rules—hockey champions, Squadron six-a-side competition August 1975. Much to the surprise of everyone, including the team coach, our hockey team trounced all other teams in the competition, conceding only one goal in three matches, eventually beating 'V' Troop 2—1 in the final. To our team, captained by **Corporal Graham Robertson** and comprising **Sergeant Bruce Wyllie, Corporals Al Davey, Brian Nichols, Mick Spooner, Signalman 'Stick' Stocks** and **Tiny Donaghan,** our civilian storeman, goes everlasting fame and glory. Wait for our results in the rugby!

SHQ NOTES

We bade farewell to **Captain 'Paddy' Henry** at the end of July after a two-year tour as Admin Officer. His responsibilities were far-reaching and included looking after the welfare of the total Squadron strength of nearly 300 all ranks and 70 families. His hard work and devotion to the interests of the Squadron was obviously appreciated since a quick whip-round among the seniors produced six of the finest Tyrone glass goblets ever seen.

He will not be forgotten in the Squadron Club, which demanded a lot of his time in maintaining the accounts and collecting the handsome takings. A ship's bell from a chandler in Belfast was presented to the Club by the Squadron Commander, and it is to be called 'Old Henry' to mark **'Paddy's'** tour here and from now on will call time before the bar closes.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **Captain Stapleton, Staff-Sergeant Hives, Sergeants Denton, Keenan, Corporals Lawson, Robertson, Travers, Young, Lance-Corporals Scott, Whitehead, Willson, Signalmen Aiken, Allen, Neale, Taylor.**

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and *bon voyage* to **Captain Henry, Staff-Sergeant Patterson, Sergeants Chapman, Luckett, Smith, Summers, Lance-Corporal Marshall, Signalman Phoenix.**

BIRTHS

We congratulate **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Carmichael** on the birth of a son.

MARRIAGES

Corporal Sanderson, Lance-Corporal Connolly, Signalman Gardiner and **Signalman Gray**—Our best wishes for your future.

Army Apprentices' College

Harrogate

A MEMORABLE SUMMER

WE might have been forgiven if the cry of 'We are the champions' had oft of late been heard echoing round the College corridors and playing fields. For the summer term has produced a quite unprecedented crop of sporting successes.

CRICKET

The final day of the Army junior cricket cup was played at Aldershot on 10th July, our opponents being the Army Apprentices College, RAOC, from Blackdown. This was the third year running in which we had reached the final under the guidance of **Major (Retd) Don Robinson,** and this time our team made no mistake.

The RAOC won the toss and put us in. Thanks to a captain's innings of 31 by A/T **Steve Johns,** with sound knocks of 27 apiece from A/T **Colin Luckham** and **Max Bohea** and 21 from A/T **Lance-Corporal Nigel Rock,** a brisk scoring rate was maintained throughout the 25 overs allotted, and we finished with a total of 148, A/T **Tony Holden** being run-out off the last ball, attempting the inevitable impossible single.

The RAOC struggled for 19 overs under stern pressure from A/T **Steve Johns** (5—19) and A/T **Corporal Ian Brerton** (4—18) and were all out for 45, leaving the College victors by 103 runs. Apart from a sound innings of 20 from A/T **Liddle,** their opening bat, the RAOC's highest scorer was that well-known crixketer, Mr. Extras, with 6.

Left to Right: Apprentices Tony Holden, Colin Luckham, Paul Nicol, Tony Foster, Dave Hardman, Nigil Rock, Mark Read, Max Bohea, Steve Johns (captain), Dick Gigg, Benny Bywater. The players are holding the unusual mementoes presented to them after winning the cup. These took the form of silver plated paper-knives bearing the Army badge

SWIMMING

The three big events in the army junior swimming year were held at the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RA, Bramcote, over the period 4th to 7th July, 1975, and Royal Signals apprentices played a prominent part in all three.

Captained by A/T **Lance-Corporal Rob Steel** the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate won the Army junior swimming championship for the second year running, this time by the slenderest of margins, scoring 64 points to the 63 of the runners-up, AA College, Arborfield. Two new Army junior records were established, A/T **Lance-Corporal Rob Steel** powering his way over the 110 yards breaststroke in 1 min. 17·1 secs., and the Harrogate 4 × 55 yds relay freestyle relay team (A/Ts **Lance-Corporal McCallum, Corporal Ian Brereton, Corporal Jerry McNiece, Lance-Corporal Colin Bowers**) swimming the event in 2 min. 2·4 secs.

Harrogate went on to emphasise their overall strength when, captained by A/T **Corporal Jerry McNiece,** they won the Army junior water polo championship for the first time ever, defeating last year's winners, AA College, Chepstow, in the final by 6—4.

This is the first time in history that the same unit has won both championships, swimming and water polo, in the same season.

In the junior inter-services championships, the RAF failed to produce a team, and thus the championships became a straight match between the Army and the Royal Navy. The College provided the captains of both the Army swimming team and the Army water polo team, in A/T **Lance-Corporal Steel** and A/T **Corporal McNiece,** respectively, and these apprentices led the Army to victory, winning the swimming by 82 points to 57 and the water polo by 12 goals to 4 (A/T **Lance-Corporal Steel** 4 goals; A/T **Corporal McNiece** 1).

TENNIS

In the Army junior lawn tennis championships, A/T **Lance-Corporal Dave Hall** won the singles final 7—6, 7—6 after two-tie-breakers, against A/T **Garner** of Chepstow. In five preliminary rounds plus the final he won every set he played.

Although they had been playing tennis for only nine weeks A/T **Stephen Groom** and A/T **Lance-Corporal Mark Fairclough** reached the doubles final, also after five preliminary rounds, but were beaten 6—2, 6—2 by **Garner** and **Wiseman** of Chepstow.

In the triangular games against Arborfield and Chepstow our tennis team achieved the remarkable distinction of winning all their 12 matches without dropping a single set.

Left to Right: A/T Stephen Groom, A/T Lance-Corporal David Hall, A/T Lance-Corporal March Fairclough

ATHLETICS

Having won the Army junior inter-unit team championships for the two previous years, we decided this season to lend the cup to Chepstow—just for a year. But even so four Royal Signals apprentices produced six individual championships and three Army junior records among them. They are as follows:

Hammer: A/T **Sergeant Steve Green**—37·10 metres (new Army junior record).

5000 *metres:* A/T **Corporal Paul Staynings**—15 min. 40·6 secs. (new Army junior record).

110 *metres hurdles:* A/T **Derek East**—15·1 secs.

Triple jump: A/T **Lance-Corporal Paul Stevenson**—12·80 metres.

2000 *metres steeplechase:* A/T **Corporal Paul Staynings**—6 min. 12·4 secs. (new Army junior record).

Long jump: A/T **Lance-Corporal Paul Stevenson**—6·22 metres.

FENCING

Having won the Army junior and senior championships, Zone B, we went on to the finals of the Army fencing championships at Aldershot in May. Here, both teams finished second, the juniors being most narrowly beaten, the seniors upsetting all forecasts by defeating RMA Sandhurst, but losing to the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, who were selected to represent the Army at this year's Royal Tournament.

This was another 'first': the first time that any one unit has been able to enter both Senior and Junior Championships—let alone come second in both.

Individually, we provided the Army under-20 épée champion, A/T **Lance-Corporal (now Signalman) Peter Martin,** presently serving with 11 Armd Bde in BAOR. **CSM Brian Matless,** Gren Gds, who, with **Captain Geoff Simmonds,**

RAEC, has done so much for College fencing, qualified for the Royal Tournament in both foil and épée, and has again been selected to represent Combined Services against All England.

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

HOST TO NATO OFFICERS' COURSE

FROM 14th to 25th July, 1975, the School of Signals played host to No. 20 NATO Signal Officers' Course. Twenty-two officers from six nations, a number of them complete with families, spent the fortnight being lectured on topics of common interest. Visits were also made to a number of outside agencies, such as SRDE and Plessey.

The social side of life was not neglected. A day trip to Winchester, which included a visit to the RGJ Museum, a tour of the Cathedral and sherry with the Mayor, was a success, as was a trip to Portsmouth to see *HMS Victory*. Nearer to home, drinks parties, a Ladies' Guest Night and an evening of 'Jeux Sans Frontieres' added to the social scene. On those evenings when there were no official parties, the local pubs reported a boom in trade, one in particular, selling 'Old Ale', soon became adopted as the Course's 'local'. There is no doubt that this was directly responsible for one NATO officer having to effect some first line repairs to his car before he could make the ferry back to Ostend!

At the end of the fortnight there was general agreement that it had been a good course from both instructors' and students' viewpoints, both having learned a great deal of each other's ideas and problems, the aim of the course therefore having been achieved.

NATO COURSE PRESENTATION

The Commandant, School of Signals, Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson, receives Regimental plaques from (*left to right*) Lieutenant-Colonel D. Spreen, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Grüterich and Major R. Juette, all of the West Germany Army

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

News from Regiments

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

VISIT BY HEREFORD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL CCF

ONE squadron was called upon to host a party of 20 senior cadets and four officers from Hereford Cathedral CCF for 10 days in July. No time was wasted in preparing a hectic but interesting programme and **Major Graham Saunders** and **W.O.1 Derek Allen** soon filled in the blank spaces on the wall chart. It all got off to a flying start on the afternoon of their arrival with helicopter familiarisation and a static display; it is understood that the helicopter used for the static display is still not airworthy. . . .

The remainder of the programme was a blend of viewing, riding in, jumping out, trying on and generally familiarising themselves with British and German armour, bridging equipments, weapons and communications systems. On the final day we said farewell to 24 tired but happy officers and cadets. One squadron heaved a sigh of relief at a task well done and crawl back into their Bruin shells for yet another year.

Officers and Cadets of Hereford Cathedral School CCF during their visit to 1st Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment

1 SQN NOTES

After only 10 months in Verden, **Major Ken Doyle** (OC 1 Sqn) is the longest serving officer in his squadron. During his relatively short stay he has experienced considerable officer movement within his own lines. We say a sad farewell to **Captain Bob Drake,** who is now on his Junor Staff Division Course and from there goes on to join the new junior signalmen squadron at the Training Brigade. **Bob** had kept everyone in suspense here as all his matchmaking friends have been trying hard to get him married off—and he has at last succumbed to the charms of **Miss Jackie Spurgeon** and the great day is 16th August, 1975. **Bob** and **Jackie** thank everyone for all that they have done and we wish them a very happy marriage and a successful tour in UK.

We also said farewell to **Captain George Heaney** and his wife **Mary.** They return to Cambridge University, where they originally met. **George** is to be adjutant but will no doubt find time to play some serious golf (he claims to be too old for rowing). In their place we welcome to the Squadron **Captain Bill Richard** and his wife **Shirlene. Bill** comes from the Canadian Armed Forces and we hope that he and **Shirlene** enjoy their stay with 'us limies'. **Captain Bill Ivison** and his wife **Margaret** are also welcomed to 1 Squadron—a two for two replacement for **George** and **Mary Heaney. Brian** takes over as OC Commcen from **George** and **Margaret** assumes **Mary's** job in HQ Aviation.

NIJMEGEN MARCHERS—A FINE EFFORT

Despite this year's limitations on the number of teams allowed to compete in the marches the Regiment was fortunate enough to enter two teams—one each from 1 and 3 Squadron. Exercise Summer Sales caused some interruption to training but **both teams completed the arduous course and achieved team medals—the only Army unit to do so.** Much credit must go to **Second-Lieutenant Lindsay Simpson** and **Sergeants Paddy Hunt** and **Pete Bawden,** who, despite little training and no previous marching experience, managed to lead their teams so well. (**John Adair** would, indeed, have been pleased to see his three interlocking circles so ably achieved.) Prizes for 'sheer guts' must surely go to **Lance-Corporal 'Boggy' Wilsoncroft,** whose boots (size N) disappeared on the day he arrived and he was obliged to complete the 160kms in boots size N–1; and to **Signalman Geoff Ashton,** who broke his toe on the first day but carried on regardless; and, finally, to **Signalman Steve Horsfield,** who did the marches with his arm in plaster.

TOUGH GOING AHEAD

Sergeant Peter Bawden at Nijmegen being shown a point of interest before setting off on the march

SHOOTING SUCCESS IN COPENHAGEN

The subject this month is the Regiment's entry in the 2nd International Shoot at the Danish Signal School at Hovelte in Denmark. A stalwart team of four—**Lieutenant Peter Hryhoruk, Staff-Sergeant Ray Norris, Staff-Sergeant Bill Olive** and **Sergeant John Duddridge**—drove to Copenhagen for the event. They competed against teams from Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and the USA. This was the first time a British team had appeared on the scene. All our team members gained marksmanship certificates in the pistol competition, though it is reported from our international correspondent that **Peter Hryhoruk** was seen in the queue many times waiting for another go. On the social side an excellent week-end had been planned for all the competitiors and a trip to the Tivoli gardens had to be included, of course. Danish beer can be considered as well sampled, Copenhagen well visited and the final Marksmanship Ball thoroughly enjoyed. Volunteers for next year will be selected from the survivors who are not killed in the rush.

The WIRE—

Without it—

You're not With it!

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

THE Regiment is now in the throes of leave, summer camp, and sailing that comes round each year at this time. This year, after completing a successful series of warm-up exercises, we launched ourselves into Exercise Summer Sales on a new organisation and all went exceptionally well.

One man's story appears below and leaves one in no doubt as to the hectic nature of things although one of the 'highlights' of the exercise was persistent lightning strikes on Div HQ, which had the effect of crippling 14 vehicles, many yards of various cables, setting fire to the 27½ kVA generator, stopping the auto exchange, imposing the swiftest radio silence in a long time and putting three men in hospital; luckily none seriously hurt.

OFFSHORE SAILING

On 12th July the Regiment's offshore sailing team joined the crews of 12 other boats for the annual Royal Signals' Offshore Regatta at Kiel. The team had used the 2nd Division's regatta the previous week as a warm-up but retired prematurely after hitting a rock in the second race: not the glorious start that had been hoped!

In the RSYC event, however, the outlook soon became brighter when they won the first race to Copenhagen with only three to go. The total sailed distance of the regatta was some 500 miles divided into four races. After some excellent sailing the Regiment's team came home winners of the Dan Class, the Copenhagen Cup, and **Captain Bill Coxon,** as skipper of the overall best boat, brought home the telescope. Of the four races, the crew had sailed three 1st places and one 2nd.

SUCCESSFUL SAILORS

The unit winning crew (*left to right*): Lieutenant Tony Cudlip, Sergeant Bill Witty, Captain Bill Coxon (Skipper) and Captain Benny Goodman

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DIVISIONAL HQ AND SIG REGT RECCE OFFICER

Extract from Personal Diary

0430 Called for by Sig Ops—Get dressed—wake Driver and Operator, tell them to decam, get breakfast and prepare to move.
0445 Report to Sigs Ops. Told to sit down and wait.
0730 CO arrives. Complains there are far too many people in Sig Ops and tells you to get out of the way.
0732 Tell Duty Clerk in Sigs Ops your location and return to vehicle.
0735 Called for by CO to be 'on hand' in G Complex whilst he discusses moves with GOC and Staff.
0740 Stand outside 'Plans' to await orders—told to move as you are in the way (go and stand outside in rain/snow/sleet/wind).
0830 GOC and party leave for breakfast—Col GS comments on scruffy officer outside complex.
0830 Go with CO to Sig Ops—orders—prepare for immediate move to GR 1234.

0830 Check recce maps and find that there is no known location within 50 miles.
0835 Select possible area from map and ask Comcen Executive to do a PPA to Comcen.
0840 Open radio ready to move. Told by Control to keep off the air and stop jamming the net.
0845 Driver put on charge by RSM for decamming vehicle—driver says your tea and breakfast is cold.
1000 Told to move to allocated area and recce.
1130 Just entering area when receive call from Sigs Ops. Area changed. Move to GR 4321—change direction, ask for PPA for new location.
1300 Arrive in area having selected possible location from map—start to clear village. First farmer refuses to allow you into his farmyard and barns—tell him you are defending him from the Russians—E Germans, etc and you are coming in and what is he going to do about it?
1305 Go to Krankenhaus to have dog bite treated.
1330 Start again.
1335 Main start chasing for RV of new location for harbour party.
1340 PPA for new location works out at 165° loss. Start looking frantically for a new village/wood/anywhere.
1400 Harbour officer arrives and asks where he is to go as he has 8–20 vehicles lined up on the road (also tells Recce Officer he is incompetent and a 'b . . . f . . .').
1500 Find wood—PPA 135—harbour party arrive.
1505 Start debogging line 4 ton.
1508 Have lunch.
1510 Harbour Officer says location is too small, wet, etc (call him incompetent and a 'b . . f . . .').
1515 Leave lunch and show harbour officer how everything *will* go in.
1625 Return to vehicle to finish sausage and beans. Find driver has thrown it away and packed up.
1630 Urgent message to call Sig Ops at Main.
1631 Operator tells you the set has suddenly 'gone funny'.
1640 Find DBP telephone and phone Bielefeld Military to put you through Div Main (operator refuses to put you through and rings off).
1645 Phone supervisor—call put through to Comcen—operator calls Sig Ops Main—Duty officer answers—money runs out! (Start again).
1646 Radio Operators tell you set is OK and the CO wants to know 'what the hell you are playing at'.
1647 Start to cry and then remember you are an officer and pull yourself together.
1700 Gets dark.
1815 First packets start to arrive.
1816 Hide in L/R until all vehicles are in position.
1930 Go and sit in warm Sig Ops.
1935 Step-up Signals staff arrive (2IC).
1936 2IC tells you to give a hand in Sig Ops.
1937 Shot to Comcen drops out—Pax say it is the other end—Radcon say unknown station jamming Div Comd Net, cannot work through it.
1938 2IC leaves Sig Ops to get a couple of hours' sleep. Tells you to get things sorted out.
2000 Radcon tell you Div command Net OK. Carrier was from Recce L/R operator sitting on hand set.
2037 Still no Bruin—call via radio from Comcen. They say that your shot is out and that it is your end.
2040 Find C70 is working on Bearing 180° out.
2145 All Comms in and working. Change of command at 2200.
2155 2IC gets up.
2156 CO arrives and 2IC tells him everything is ready.
2157 CO tells you to get out of the way and that it is the second time that day that he has had to tell you not to sit in Sig Ops.
2200 Change of Command (no problems).
2300 GOC sends for CO. Where is his ADC—Caravan—L/R, etc and why are we in such a bad location. What is the recce officer up to?
2305 CO sends for recce officer and tells him the GOC is displeased.
2330 CO returns to GOC with recce officer—answers/explanations/excuses/pleas.
2335 GOC makes note to speak to CRA to make certain entries on recce officer's annual report.
2359 Remainder of staff arrive who complain Mess is too near/far—not enough sleeping area, too noisy—what does the recce officer do all day? Wish they had such a cushy number.
0100 Recce officer called to explain.
0200 Recce officer returns to vehicle to find it has been moved to Land-Rover park.
0330 Find vehicle—finally to bed.
0430 Urgent call to recce officer!!!

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

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

FOR this month's contribution 1 Squadron drew the short straw and have produced short notes on their 1975 trip to Denmark. I am sure Carlsberg must be addictive, they went to Denmark last year and are already planning their 1976 visit! On second thoughts, perhaps, those Danish girls are part of the answer. And where is the editor going for his leave (well earned) you may ask—Denmark, of course.

CARLSBERG, TOO, IS GOOD FOR YOU

1 Squadron, commanded by **Major Peter Webster,** was fortunate this year to participate in exchange training with the 1st Telegraph Battalion of the Danish Army. It was also an opportunity for the Carlsberg drinkers of the Squadron (99·9%) to visit their 'Mecca'. Unfortunately, the day of the visit coincided with a strike at the brewery. This had been caused by the male workers going out because the female workers were receiving more pay—another triumph for women's lib? Carlsberg had plenty of reserve stock and the visit culminated in grand style. All those who attended are proud members of the 'order of the Elephant'.

Various sightseeing trips were organised by our hosts, to Helsingor and Copenhagen. The latter was found to be expensive but very good value for money.

THE MORE SERIOUS SIDE OF CAMP

The summer camp was not all play. Each day started at 'sparows' with swimming (outdoor pool) and assault course training, led by **W.O.2 (SSM) Eddie Vickers, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Henry Connor** and **Sergeant Stephen Hunter.** Map reading, voice procedure exercises and orienteering were some of the first week's activities. The week ended with orienteering and football matches against our hosts. The former consisted of 45 two-man teams, one British and one Danish soldier. Several members of the Squadron found themselves paired off with a Danish girl soldier and this produced several cries of 'to the woods'. In fact, **Signalman Ian Foster** was pulled round the course by his young lady fast enough to win a first prize.

The football match was played that afternoon, which was, unfortunately, lost 6—1. It was a good game, and the Squadron team included six regimental rugby players. The 'small' bar run by **Corporal Charlie Mitten** on the touch-line made up for the defeat. The referee, **Corporal 'Chunky' Jewell,** was thrown in the pool afterwards for his efforts in the match.

The second week started with range work and preparatory training for the final exercise. The ranges were rather ancient but in good working order. The majority of the Squadron were able to obtain their 'Shoot to Kill' classification for the year.

FINAL EXERCISE EXTENDS ALL

The final exercise, Carlsberg Canter, was designed to practice all the training done in the previous 10 days and to give junior NCOs some leadership experience. Two platoons, led by **Staff-Sergeants Ian McCrindle** and **Peter Boulby,** were 'dropped' on the North Coast and had to chase and eventually capture a 'Russian agent' (who was played by OC Squadron). Information was fed to the platoons by friendly agents (Danish soldiers), who were controlled by **Staff-Sergant (F. of S.) John Jones** and **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Nigel Cox.** A lot of walking was involved (45 crow kilometres) and most soldiers managed to keep going, though some finished having produced their own hydrolastic suspension. **Sergeant Terry Toye** and **Corporal Dave Hogben** took their section by boat for part of the trip.

The exercise finished on a training area with an attack on a house, amidst smoke, thunderflashes and blank fire. A big party, for those who could stay awake, was held that evening, where many war stories were told, exaggerated and forgotten in the flow of Carlsberg.

The main party were shepherded on to a train by **Captain Stephen Galpin** the following Sunday and the rear party followed by road a few days later, led by **Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton.** Our thanks go to the 1st Telegraph Battalion for hosting us so splendidly, and we look forward to seeing them in BAOR.

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

NEWS FROM KILO ARMY

FROM the depths of the fighting Fifth Squadron a runner recently appeared with the following despatch: Once again the troop has burst into a frenzy of inactivity (NAAFI break has been cut to a meagre one hour in length), to produce some WIRE notes. Where to start, we asked ourselves. Well, what about the sad plight of **Corporal Tony Sherrif,** who lost his front teeth on a Regimental Exercise at the beginning of June? The news that a recent large-scale deployment of communications units and Staff Officers (Summer Sales to the unenlightened) was not held just so that they could help search for them came as a sad blow.

We said farewell recently to **Corporal Scottie 'Big Thick' Handibode,** who has left these shores for 8 Inf Bde. We wish him well, and send commiserations to his new unit. Meanwhile **Signalmen Pat Riley** and **Derek Wright** have joined us from our training branch in Yorkshire. At first they seem a little confused, but suddenly it all came clear (?), when they realised that they are not out of place—we are all confused, too. We also welcome **Sergeant Trev Johnson** (complete with rugby boots) and, to swell our 'experienced' ranks, **Lance-Corporal Alan Hibberd.** It would also appear that Records have held another raffle, with **Sergeants Eddy Hobday** and **Steve Cheesman** both pulling out their third tapes.

Corporal Barry 'Baz' Young was recently entrusted with a new vehicle (a MK). He lost his old wagon by rolling it over so fast it disappeared up its own exhaust pipe. To date with his new vehicle, he has only managed to seize the engine.

Now it's time for prize giving for clangers of the month. Awards go to:

Lance-Corporal 'Smudge' Smith, who forgot to take his free standing mast on exercise (and he runs a relay!).

Corporal Bryan Power, who forgot to take his passenger out on exercise with him. His passenger? Troop Commander **Captain Robin Hill,** of course.

This month, too, a special prize for **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Rice.** So far this month he has not hit anything with his new vehicle. He receives a silver-plated panel beaters' hammer.

TENNIS SUCCESS

In the Division final recently, the Regiment met near-neighbours 4th Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment. The Regimental team of **Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Oehlers,** Commanding Officer, **Major Bob Siderfin, Captain Mike Anderson, Lieutenant Bob Axton, Staff-Sergeant (FOS) Keith Zoing** and **Lance-Corporal Tony Tomlinson,** REME, proved too strong for the defending champions. The eventual score was 6 rubbers to 3 to the Regiment.

The next match in the competition was the BAOR semi-final. Here we met current BAOR champions 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. Alas, whilst we had the strongest pairing in **Lieutenant-Colonel Oehlers** and **Major Bob Siderfin** (they won all their three rubbers) our opponents had greater strength in depth. We eventually lost by 6 rubbers to 3.

Prior to the Divisional Final **Major Bob Siderfin** took part in the BAOR tennis finals held at Rheindalen. There, he was in the winning combinations in the open doubles Arms and Corps doubles and mixed doubles. Quite a haul!

. . . AND ATHLETICS—A GALAXY OF TROPHIES

In recent months three more trophies have been added to the Divisional Winners' Cup by the Athletics team. These are the runners-up shields from the BAOR Major Units athletics finals and the Morrison Cup (no prizes for guessing who beat us into second place!) and the Viking Trophy. The Viking Trophy is presented to the team in the BAOR finals which scores the highest number of points in the field events, and thus certain BFBS commentators had to eat humble pie after forecasting that our weaknesses in the field events would greatly affect our chances!

In the Army Finals just held we came third, for the second successive year. We had beaten 1 Cheshire, who came second, comfortably in the BAOR finals. However, this time they showed a vast improvement. In the Army single event championships, held straight after the Inter-Unit finals, the Regiment fared very well. We came first in the 4 × 110m hurdle relay and second in the 4 × 100m, 4 × 200m (beating 21 Signal Regiment in both these events), 4 × 400m, shot putt, and the high jump (beating the old Army record in the process). We also gained 3rd place in the triple jump, javelin and long jump. Thus a stock of medals is returning with the team to round off a good year.

OFFSHORE SAILING

In each of the two regattas open to the Regiment, the 4th Division Championships in June and the Royal Signals Baltic regatta in July the Regiment entered two crews—one 'Danboat' and one 'Cutlass'. In the 4th Division Regatta the Regiment's Danboat crew were overall winners by a comfortable margin. The last race, however, was abandoned after the fleet had spent a day being avoided by the wind! The boat was skippered by **W.O.1 (FOS) Bill Carr,** who displayed a talent for finding wind when others were becalmed. His crew consisted of **Lieutenant Alan Poppleton** (navigator—who spent much time hanging over the bow watching the sea bed getting nearer and nearer and . . .), **Corporal Steve Aston,** RAPC, and **Signalman Alec Austin.** The 'B' team were less successful, but evidently had a good time, judging by the celebration pirouettes they performed on the start line of the last race. For the record they were **W.O.1 Sandy Powell** (from 4th Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Captain John Phippen,** Royal Australian Signals, and **W.O.1 (FOS) Dave Potter.**

In July a modified 'A' team—**Signalman Tony Crilly,** substituting for **Signalman Alec Austin,** who has left the Regiment—entered the Royal Signals regatta. However, our high hopes of success were dashed by a very strong team from 2nd Division HQ and Signal Regiment. In every race we led the fleet early on, only to be overhauled by the eventual winners. This did not detract, however, from the enjoyment experienced in the long race to Copenhagen and the subsequent races round Sjaelland. These races also gave the crews samples of all types of Baltic weather—Force 7 winds to flat calm. The 'A' team were finally placed second in the Danboat class and sixth overall. The 'B' team of **Captain Bon Middleton, W.O.1 (RSM) John Widdicombe, Captain Jeremy Gomersall** and **Signalman 'Sparticus' Custus** also fared well in the final classification.

ANOTHER YEAR OF SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT 1974 to 1975

To round up a successful year we would like to list the trophies we have won or retained in the past 12 months:

Athletics	Third in the Army Finals.
	Runners-up BAOR Finals.
	Winners of Divisional Competition.
	Runners-up Morrison Cup
Tennis	Winners of Divisional Competition.
Rugby	Winners of BAOR 7-a-side Competition.
	Winners of Divisional 7-a-side Competition.
	Winners of Divisional 15-a-side Competition.
	Winners of Double Diamond Trophy.
Hockey	Winners of Divisional Competition.
Sailing	Winners of 4th Division Off-shore Regatta.

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10 Sig Regt Hounslow

THE Regiment came under the eagle-eye of Commander 2 Signal Group, **Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin,** on 15th and 16th July. We are pleased to report that the formal visit to all Squadrons went well. Our photographs show the Brigadier inspecting the Quarter Guard commanded by **Sergeant Pete Stanger.** The Regimental Sergeant-Major, **W.O.1 (RSM) Jim McElvogue,** giving an approving glance at **Sergeant Stanger's** handiwork. The Quartermaster, **Major Sid Howard's** department was visited shortly after. **Sergeant Dennis Green** was presented with his LS and GC medal by the Commander 2 Signal Group at the conclusion of Wilton's FFR inspection on 16th July.

BRIGADIER PETER BALDWIN INSPECTS THE QUARTER GUARD

Left to right (Guard): Corporal Morgan, Signalmen Hinton, Keast, Briggs, Whytock, Hough and Lance-Corporal Randall
Foreground: Sergeant Stanger, W.O.1 McElvogue, Brigadier Baldwin

GOLD COMSTAR AWARD FOR WARMINSTER COMMCEN

Left to right: Major R. B. Carroll, Brigadier P. A. Downward, Mr. E. W. Walford, Mr. I. L. Bryant

GOLD COMSTAR AWARDS

The Communication Centre at the School of Infantry in the shape of **Messrs. Walford** and **Bryant** distinguished themselves with an error-free six months' period of transmission and earned themselves a Gold Comstar award from HQ DCN. The certificate was presented by the Commandant, **Brigadier P. A. Downward, DSO, DFC.**

MIXED MANNING FOR EXERCISE SIGNAL VIEW

We would like to add a vote of thanks to the Wilton and Hounslow WRAC girls, namely, **Second-Lieutenant Cherry Hume-Lewis, Sergeant Jean Baldwin, Lance-Corporal Edith Marr, Private Valerie Hall, Lance-Corporal Griffith, Private Coysh** and **Private Howard,** who went off to Worcester, where they manned (is that the correct word) a field communication centre. From correspondence received they undoubtedly created a good impression. We must not forget the male element; they were **Sergeant Chris Endean, Signalman Steve Sellors** and our cricket net man (bowl me another), **Sergeant Robin Gipson.**

CRICKET

Contributed by LANCE-CORPORAL JOHN CHAPMAN

A HIT-OR-MISS GAME

THE above title has been a much-debated point in our cricket team. Our openers are proving that it is mostly a 'miss' game judging by their ducks. Just as well the middle men make it a 'hit' game.

However, we have still had a reasonably successful season, reaching the semi-final of the London District Minor Units and winning most of our friendly games.

AN UNUSUAL FINE

Our Cricket Officer instigated a social fund of levying a small fine for dropped catches and ducks. This was done with the intention of encouraging a better result. Most notable among those who have made contributions have been openers **Sergeant Pete** 'Where's it gone' **Stanger, Lance-Corporal John** 'Not again' **Chapman** and the man to whom the fund owes a big debt of gratitude, **Major Dick** 'Dropped it again' **Smith.** However, good batting and bowling by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Phil** 'Leave it to the old ones' **Phillips** (Cricket Officer) and **Sergeant Ray** 'How many to win' **Walton** have saved the day frequently.

Unfortunately we have not always had the services of our captain, **Sergeant Robin Gipson,** due to Corps fixtures. His vice-captain, **Lance-Corporal 'Lofty' Dalton** (more caught than bowled), has stood up well to his task. His best performance being a hard hit of 51, regrettably scored against us when he was on loan to 20 Sqn RCT. At present, due to postings, we are still looking for players. But thanks must go to **Corporal Dave Henderson, Sergeant Brian Dimmock, Signalmen 'Scouse' Favager, Mike Tanser** and **Larry Nelson,** and, not forgetting our guest players, **Major Mike Gunton,** 5CTT, and **Mr. Lew Carter,** SKC, who have given good service to the side in this season and many before. **Corporal** (Not another one) **'Scouse' Mulvey** should not go unmentioned, always available to cart the kit from game to game and provide the 'refreshments' as well as stand-in captain for the odd game.

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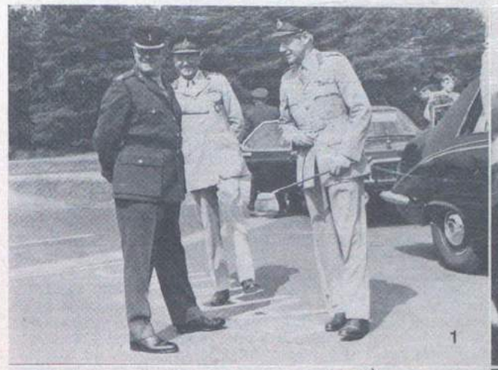
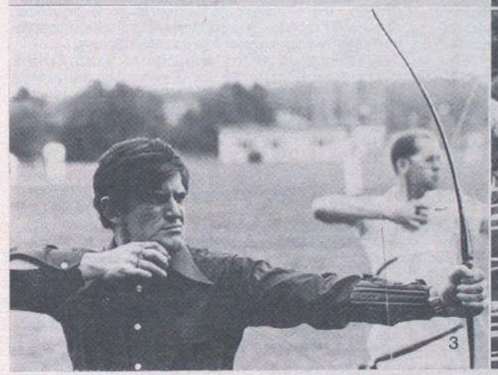
Photo News from 13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

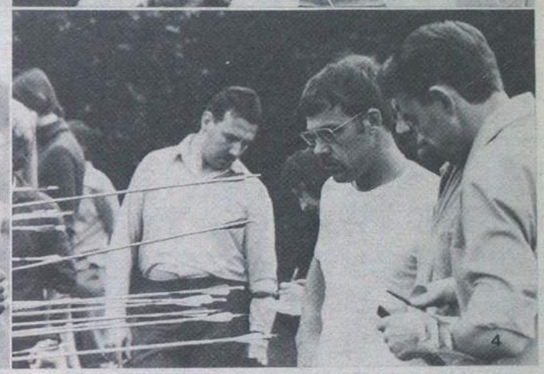


1. Chief of the Defence Staff, Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, visiting the Regiment. Seen with Lieutenant-Colonel John Taylor and General Sir Harry Tuzo

2. A fast-growing Regimental sport. This year Staff-Sergeant Peter Cant introduced the Regiment to archery at distances up to 90 metres. There are now 40 of the Regiment participating. Staff-Sergeant Peter Cant seen here with Captain John Roberts, Corporal Joe Boyce and Corporal Kirk Lewis



3. The Adjutant, Captain John Roberts, is the newest devotee to the sport. It is suspected that he is practising this expression for group discussions at Staff College



4. This year we only came second in the BAOR Championship. Next year we intend to do better. Sergeant 'Jos' Medcalf, Corporal Boyce and Corporal 'Oppy' Openshaw are not so certain

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

NOTES FROM 1 SQUADRON

IMAGINE a camp site in beautiful surroundings, glorious weather with temperatures soaring into the nineties, days filled with varied and interesting activities and nights of hilarity combined with much lager and local wine. Looking back that sums up Summer Camp 75 for 'D' Troop.

The surroundings were the woods, hillsides and vineyards of the Mosel; the activities of the day consisted of canoeing and paddling assault boats on the river, map-reading exercises, swimming at the local pool (a favourite pastime in that heat!), trips into the surrounding countryside and a visit to a wine cellar in Cochem.

AMUSING INCIDENTS

The attempts to teach **Lance-Corporal Mick Fagan** to dive —much to the amusement of several young German girls. It was like refloating a stranded whale!

The mammoth climb of a certain walking party, including **Corporal Stan Wise, Corporal Barry Dawson** and his wife, **Lance-Corporal Maureen Dawson,** along with **Corporal Carol Lowe, Signalman Mich Strefford** and his wife, **Private 'Scotty' Strefford,** up an enormous hill opposite the camp only to discover on reaching the top that they could have walked up the road on the opposite side of the hill!

The 'super discotheque' which **Lieutenant D. Platts,** WRAC, took some of the gang to in Cochem only to discover that it was full of table-thumping locals and blasting out oom-pah music. That took some living down.

The calamity of **Sergeant Jim Hunter,** who was excluded from the water sports all week after splitting a toe on a tent peg, which had apparently 'walked' when darkness fell. That local wine is strong stuff!

Last, but not least . . . soldiers have been known to sleep in strange places, but none so strange as **Corporal Tony Sygrove,** who managed to fall asleep on a thunderbox—for four hours?

All in all—a truly marvellous week, which was enjoyed by all at the time and which has provided many a laugh during the quiet hours of a night shift since.

SERGEANTS MESS

RSM ON SERIOUS CHARGES!

After three years of exemplary service with the Regiment, it was unfortunate that **RSM Colin Meredith** was, apparently, involved in a traffic accident on his way to the Mess for his own dining-out. However, because of the very good relationship that has been forged between the Mess and the local police and although there appeared to be overwhelming evidence against **RSM Colin Meredith,** they allowed us to deal with the case in true Sergeants Mess style. The German Police, it must be stated, showed no favouritism whatsoever, as they kept him handcuffed throughout the proceedings.

Other charges preferred against him included walking on water, and stating he alone was the Holy One. Evidence was heard against him and although in itself it was completely damning and eloquently presented by **W.O.1 Brian Maltby,** the jurors consisting of **W.O.2 Jan Ellis, Sergeants Pool, Lytollis, Hill, Huggins, Death, Gibbons, W.O.2 Thurgood, Staff-Sergeant Mellors, Sergeant Savage, Staff-Sergeant Lister** and **Sergeant Kubu,** heard the case most fairly and were not easily swayed by scathing remarks made by the judge, **W.O.1 Alan Tasker,** it his summing up. A word should be mentioned for the defence counsel in **W.O.1 John Bartlett,** but it is difficult to think of one.

After due consideration by all parties concerned, it was decided that death should be the only punishment for such heinous crimes, but at the last minute a reprieve was issued by the pretender to the throne, **RSM W.O.1 Bob Vale.** It was decreed that if, indeed, the accused could walk on water then he was to be spared. So having duly been transported to a watery place, namely, the swimming pool, he was given the chance to prove his boast. Unfortunately, due to slight deflation of the feet he sank, and his plight was not aided by the fact that the German Police, quite rightly so in view of the spectators, had forgotten to remove the handcuffs. It was then thought by the reigning king, **RSM Bob Vale,** that the revolutionary elements within the court might have an unstabling effect on his new domain, and quickly had them all despatched to the deep watery wastes.

The sequel to this story was provided by **RSM Colin Meredith** himself. After drying out he went to thank the REME Recovery Team of **Lance-Corporal Holroyd** and **Corporal Murray,** who, after supping the beer he provided, said: 'That's all right, sir, we only came because they said you couldn't bloody swim'.

The Mess wish both **Colin** and **Marie** a pleasant stay in Bristol.

CRICKET—REPORT FROM RSM R. G. VALE

In true cricketing weather a full ground watched the spectacular defeat of the Officers Mess team by a cool and youthful Sergeants Mess team. Because of a rule which stated that any player hitting a six must drink a pint of beer before continuing to play, **Sergeant Peter Death,** the star of the Sergeants Mess team, was considerably the worse for wear on leaving the field. To be fair to the Officers they did put up a good fight, surviving the 30 overs and putting up a total of 115, which was surpassed by the Sergeants only in the 25th over. It was a good day's sport, thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

MAJOR GEOFF GRANGER REPLIES

By their subterfuge and chicanery, coupled with low cunning born of many years' experience, the Sergeants stole a narrow but pyrrhic victory. This entailed the lacing of our lemonade with vodka, intimidation by the RSM of the Corporal umpires, possession of unnumerable spare balls to assist their aged fielders. However, forewarned is forearmed and in **(Sergeant) Death's Dark Vale** (RSM) *or* **(Sergeant) Hill** we shall fear no evil. We await the return match with the absolute confidence that justice will prevail.

NOTES FROM 2 SQUADRON

TWO WEEKS IN THE MOSEL VALLEY

The main event in July so far as 2 Sqn was concerned was Exercise Square Dance IV, or how to survive two weeks of sun in the dark Mosel valley at Treis Karden.

By the time the main party had arrived ot Monday, 21st July, all recces for the two weeks had been completed. These included projects devised by the OC, including a walk about across country jolly, water sports from assault boats and canoeing to the ample delights of Treis Swimming Pool.

The highlight of the week for the seniors of the Squadron was the escape and evasion exercise planned for our OTC cadet, the hunted John Atherton, who took a cool five hours to crawl 7 kms to the river for a crossing hotly pursued by the seniors, eventually crossing under a bombardment of apples directed by the OC.

The Commanding Officer also paid us a visit in week one, taking a very active part in all events and, much to the delight of the spectators, doing his capsize drill in the canoe.

Saturday crowned week one with 'It's a Knock-Out', which even our 'Eddie' would have been hard pushed to beat. This was won by the seniors, who, true to form, produced more sly methods than are ever seen on the BBC; they even preferred to sink the opposition boat rather than rescue young ladies in 'Save the Maiden'. Saturday night was the Weinfest and once more 2 Squadron showed that they could turn their hand to anything and, when the sun rose on the Sabbath, they were still to be seen dancing.

Week two was rather quiet, with coach trips to Keller Geister and Koblenz, and a small barbeque on Wednesday night after the projects. Friday morning saw an early start and 2 Squadron arrived back with suntans and one or two hangovers, but no more early-morning runs and ready for anything!

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

GOODBYE MR. CHIPS

MR. TOM DAY, headmaster of the Lippstadt Primary School, is saying goodbye to us after nine years in Lippstadt. During this time he has seen many changes—over 70 staff have worked for him and 1,500 children have passed through the school. In the following paragraphs **Mr. Day** gives an interesting background of the school from the time it was first established in 1946 up to the present day:

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Lippstadt Primary School, which has educated the children of 22 Signal Regiment since its formation as a Regiment, had the distinction of being the second school to be established in Germany in 1946. The first was at Iserlohn. This Lippstadt school was housed in requisitioned accommodation in the town, now appropriately enough replaced by the New Stadt Theatre. It had a teacher and under 20 children. The roll had increased to only 40 by 1948, but by then the building sported a staffroom, the inevitable school kitchen was in process of being built, and there were three teachers. Behind the school there was another education establishment known as the Polish Academy. With a shared playground of rolled ashes and no common language, this created language problems, many of which were further complicated by the Jugoslav guards who lived in a Nissen hut in the grounds.

CLOSURE

There is a familiar ring about a log book entry for 26th April, 1948, which reads: 'School opens for the Summer Term'. 'Works services not yet completed'. Who said that they didn't have these problems in the good old days? The 7th Training Bn, RASC, provided customers and support at this time. Their children of secondary age went to King Alfred's School, Plon, where they boarded in a well-appointed comprehensive school (unheard of in England at this time) idyllically situated among the lakes of Schleswig-Holstein. Alas with the concentration of British Forces South this school closed in the late fifties.

NEW ACCOMMODATION

In 1953, with still under 100 children, the school moved into new purpose-built accommodation bounded by houses on two sides and open country on the others. It was built for 180 children and had its own kitchen and caretaker's flat. Despite new buildings, progress, and the world at large, traditions died hard at Lippstadt. On 24th May, 1954, the log reads: 'Empire Day—Talk given to Juniors on Empire Day by the Headmistress, Mrs. Sadler. CRE visits school *re* sunblinds and hose for garden'.

15th Regiment RA had replaced the RASC. They were soon to be joined by the 43rd and then a succession of other Artillery Regiments, and it wasn't long before an additional classroom had to be added to the original five.

FORMATION OF 22nd SIGNAL REGIMENT

In 1960, 22 Signal Regiment arrived on the scene to share Churchill Barracks with 41 Field Regt RA, and, being of a more permanent status accepted the responsibility for the school as parent unit although cleverly contriving to leave the imprest with the Gunners. What a genius that first Paymaster must have been.

Multiple hirings, the first 'Open Market', strained resources until in 1962 a small annex was opened in the Barracks. It was closed in September 1964 when permission was obtained from the Stadt for three temporary Nissen hut classrooms to be erected on the school site. Within three weeks one had been burnt to the ground; fortunately at night, and had to be replaced. Planning permission was agreed for a maximum of six months for these huts. They were eventually demolished after eight years in October 1972! By this time numbers had caused a further five classes to be housed in an unused guardroom a mile away. With the built-in peep holes in the doors and bars on the windows, it hardly encouraged liberal education.

FIRST OPEN PLAN SCHOOL

Educational utopia, by comparison anyway, arrived in 1972 when a large extension in open-plan was built on to the now renovated existing buildings. This time Lippstadt were first not second, as in 1946, for this was the first open-plan school built in N.W. Europe for the Forces. In fact, at this time there was only one other in the whole of Germany and that was a German kindergarten in Stuttgart. This has been a great success, both architecturally and educationally as children, staff and parents of recent years can testify. It set a building pattern and principle that has since resulted in a further nine BFES open-plan schools being built.

So from those far-off days of 1946 with 16 children and one teacher in a requisitioned house we now have our magnificent open-plan school with 16 teachers and five full-time ancillaries serving 380 children from 22 Signal Regiment and 27 Med Regt RA.

Mr. Day is retiring from the British Families Education Service and is taking a post as Headmaster of Saints Middle School, Bletchley. He is leaving behind him a fine school with a good staff and happy children. Our best wishes for the future go with him and his wife Angela.

MEET SOME OF THE CHILDREN OF LIPPSTADT SCHOOL

Left to right: Kevin Smith, Tony Ward, Samantha Davy, Fiona Lowdon, Anthony Froude, Alan Wallace

FAREWELL MESSAGE

The following is an extract from a letter he wrote to the Commanding Officer before departing:

'In my nine years as Headmaster I can remember no occasion when assistance and support wasn't unstintingly forthcoming. The strength and quality of our BFES schools is dependent upon the local conditions and support. In the case of Lippstadt these cannot really be improved.

We should be most grateful if our appreciation could be made known to all concerned and, in my own case, to all, past and present, over my years of happy association with the Regiment.

IT HAPPENED YESTERYEAR

1st May, 1964—**Major A. J. Jackson, Bsc (Eng.), AMIEE,** appointed Second-in-Command vice **Major A. Pagan, MBE.**

30th December, 1964—**Lieutenant-Colonel Beale** assumes command vice **Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe.**

1st March, 1965—**W.O.1 (RSM) D. F. Langston** appointed RSM vice **W.O.1 (RSM) P. W. H. Lafferty.**

July 1965—**Lieutenant Neil Horler** departed Lippstadt with an adventure training expedition to Norway. The expedition included two military hitch-hikers: **Officer-Cadet John Ellicock,** now Captain, Adjutant 27 Med Regt RA; **Officer-Cadet Brian Chubb,** now Captain, Adjutant 22 Sig Regt, both of Lippstadt.

27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

VISITORS

THE Spring visiting season is over, as it is now much too hot and humid for UK visitors. This year we were visited by two senior officers, the first being the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Signals), **Air Vice-Marshall S. M. Davidson, CBE,** accompanied by **Captain A. C. Wray, RN,** Assistant Director of Signals (Policy). In 49 hours they were shown Hong Kong communications, met many soldiers and gave us the MOD line on the Defence Cuts.

Two days later Controller DCN, **Group Captain P. A. Law,** RAF, arrived from Singapore for a week's visit. With both the CO and 2IC keen sailors any visitor present over the weekend is likely to be taken to sea—CDCN was no exception, even the RAF took him on a junk trip.

REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON

THIS is 1 Squadron's contribution and we apologise for our overlong absence from THE WIRE:

PERSONALITIES IN THE SQUADRON

OC	**Major D. J. D. McKail**
2IC	**Captain D. G. Ellen**
OC 'O' Troop	**Major (Tfc) E. W. G. Hill**
OC 'S' Troop	**Major (TOT) A. J. Lees**
OC WRAC Troop	**Captain S. D. Ellis-Jones,** WRAC
SSM	**W.O.2 E. J. Banham**

SOCCER SUCCESS

Regimental soccer is run by **Captain David Ellen** and the team captain is **Corporal Rick Licence** of 'O' Troop. The team won Division 2 of the Minor Units League. Trophy presentation was held at Sek Kong after the Regiment played 'C' Sqn 1 RTR, winners of Division 1, and we won by the decisive margin of 5—1. Perhaps the team's best performance was in a friendly match against Seiko, a professional club, who won the local league championship and FA Cup. We drew 1—1 and every player gave his all in a superb team performance. **Lance-Corporal Bill Heelan** scored the equaliser and his face was a picture—it was one of his typical blockbusters!

Army soccer in Hong Kong was very much a 27 Sig Regt responsibility. **Major Ted Hill** was the secretary and his wide knowledge of the game and the time spent organising football colony-wide will be missed when he leaves in August. **Captain Ellen** was team manager. **Sergeant Jim Coffey, Sergeant Ken Keppie** (RAOC), **Corporal Rick Licence** and **Lance-Corporal Jim Wright** were all regular members of the Army (Hong Kong) XI and were awarded Army Colours, whilst **Corporal Dave Butler, Lance-Corporal Cliff Kerry** and **Signalman Hui Shui Lun** also played.

HOCKEY TEAM IN SCORING FORM

The Regimental team, captained by **W.O.2 Ted Banham,** had a most successful season, winning the Minor Units Cup and Major/Minor Units Trophy. They were also runners-up in the Minor Units League.

The Regiment provided a number of representative players during the season. **W.O.2 Ted Banham, Sergeant Henry Hunt, Sergeant Dick Russell** and **Lance-Corporal Grai Tolton** played for both the Army and Combined Services, whilst **Sergeant Tony Horne, Corporal Les Wood, Corporal Eddie Holland** and **Lance-Corporal Jock Crawford** represented the Army.

'M' TROOP

The Troop is commanded by **W.O.1 (F of S) Eddie Harris** and employs nine technicians and six civilians. Its main task is the maintenance of the Pye radio nets throughout the Colony, whilst **Sergeant Eric Powell** is responsible for some of the Radio Relay equipment. The RAOC Storeman, **Sergeant Willy Stent,** left recently for Germany—he was an honorary Signalman with a very good knowledge of PA Systems—a first-class advertisement for his corps.

WRAC TROOP

The Squadron looks after all WRAC in Hong Kong, except those working with 40 PCCU and the RMP. Forty work in the busy Army Commcen as Commcen or Switchboard operators.

We have recently had two Inter-Regimental marriages—**Lance-Corporal Lesley Tudor** married **Corporal Colin Roberts** in April (both are off to 16 Signal Regiment in September) and **Lance-Corporal Linda Chilton** married **Sergeant Dick Russell** in May. Both couples are obviously enjoying life as 'married pads'.

The highlight of the visit of **HM The Queen** and **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** in May was a very colourful, traditional, Chinese procession on Nathan Road. Ten WRAC girls acted as ushers for the stands and despite rather unpleasant drizzly weather thoroughly enjoyed the dazzling display.

The next major event on our calendar is the mixed Regimental summer camp in September, which is being looked forward to eagerly but with a certain amount of trepidation as last year the WRAC camp was hit by a typhoon after four days, much to everyone's concern, and, we suspect, more than a little amusement in retrospect!

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

This festival is held on the 5th day of the 5th moon in memory of **Wat Yuen,** a government official who drowned himself in a river in 296 BC as a protest against corruption. Races are held between villages using Dragon Boats, which are to scare sharks away from **Wat Yuen.** This year the Regiment was invited to enter a crew in the races at Cheung Chau.

Dragon Boats normally come in two sizes, seating 30 or 60 Chinese—we were racing in 30-seaters. But 25 British soldiers more than equal 30 Chinese for weight and we set off for the first practice with little freeboard and four people baling furiously. After several practices everyone took a four-hour break during the hottest part of the day.

Our turn came and we paddled out the half-mile to the start. We managed to keep level for the first quarter of a mile but eventually lost by a length.

ABANDON SHIP

The next race, we were told, we would be allowed to win. Whilst waiting to start a passing ferry caused considerable wash, which was too much for our limited freeboard—the boat filled and sank, paddlers remaining seated. Ordered to abandon ship by our leader—the CO—we obeyed. Then came a shout, 'I've lost them', followed shortly by 'I've found them'—it was the CO holding something. Would have made quite a story—awarded OBE—sank in Dragon Boat—lost false teeth.

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

The story of the 3,750 refugees who were picked up from a sinking ship by the Danish freighter *Clara Maersk* and landed in Hong Kong in May made the news throughout the world.

Initially this Regiment was responsible for the provision of telephones into the four camps—two permanent and two tented. But, as the photograph shows, **Staff-Sergeant Robert Taylor** soon found himself involved with a much more difficult task—assisting the Civil Aid Service in camp administration.

The Regiment was also called upon to provide the guard at Sai Kung refugee camp in June. Commanded for one week each by **Captain (Tfc) Harry Wright** and **Captain Graeme Halliburton,** the guard comprised British and Chinese soldiers—the offer, by the WRAC of the Regiment, to provide the guard (equal pay etc) was turned down by Brigade!

Staff-Sergeant Robert Taylor helps the civil administration receiving Vietnamese refugees

THE SNAKE

Whilst supervising a party of Chinese schoolchildren on a Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition on Lantau Island **Captain Graeme Halliburton** slipped and put his hand on to a bush to steady himself. Unfortunately it was the resting place of an unseen snake. Objecting to the intrusion it bit him on the finger and disappeared.

Casevaced to the BMH by helicopter the victim aroused great interest amongst the doctors, who asked 'Where is the snake?'. Their diagnosis, as the snake was not seen was: either a Bamboo Snake or Chinese Cobra, but would not know until either his finger healed (Bamboo) or dropped off (Cobra).

Officer and snake (presumed) both now ok and fit to attend Summer Camp on Lantau in September.

A REQUEST TO ORIGINATORS

Hong Kong is approximately 9,000 miles east of Europe and nine hours ahead by time. We go to work on a Monday before you in UK go to bed on Sunday and finish work on a Friday before you start.

We do not appreciate priority signals—they always arrive after we have gone home and, in many cases, gone to bed. Unless it is most urgent—send it routine (and we will answer before you breakfast).

AIRBORNE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

There is a flourishing 1st Airborne Signals Association in Caythorpe, Lincs., run by Messrs. Firbin and Young. No equivalent exists for either 6th Airborne Signals or for those who have served with 216 Para. Sig. Sqn.

There have been suggestions that an all-embracing Airborne Signals Association should be formed. If you agree please drop a line to 216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot, stating whether you would be prepared to help run such an association.

If the response is favourable an official move could be made to form an Airborne Signals Association.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

SIGNAL VIEW A SUCCESS

Early in the month, a good deal of attention was paid to Exercise Signal View. The Regiment provided display stands for the exercise, which this year was held at Worcester from 4th to 6th July. The weather was superb and the personnel from 3 AMF(L) Squadron, who were displaying their Arctic equipment, suffered somewhat from the heat. The photographs show the Line and Cable Display from 2 Squadron and the Arctic Display from 3 AMF(L) Squadron.

On 15th and 16th July we held our annual 'Meeting of the Gladiators' or Regimental Sports Day. The event was tied in to an effort to raise funds for charity, and to this end a total of £124·65½ was raised. No UK national records were broken, but the very parched sporting arena was grateful for the many pints of sweat donated by the participants. 3 AMF(L) Squadron were the eventual winners of the team competition.

LINE AND CABLE DISPLAY—EXERCISE SIGNAL VIEW

Left to right: Corporal Jack Bowes, Signalman 'Brummie' Gray, Sergeant Bob Taylor, Lance-Corporal Larry Tullett, Signalman 'Jock' Kelly

SCHOOL CCFs TAKEN UNDER REGIMENTAL WING

The Regiment also entertained two School CCFs and the following account has been submitted by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Taffy' Dunbar.**

The responsibilities of the Training Wing element of 2 Squadron includes the Signal Training for some 13 School CCFs in the south of England and the Channel Islands.

During the school term **Sergeant Roy Tyson,** our CCF Sergeant, visits each school on a regular basis to carry out instruction and testing of the Signal Sections. He is ably assisted in line laying instruction by the Squadron Line Troop, led by **Sergeant Bob Taylor.**

The highlight of the CCF year is the annual attachment to a Regular unit for a summer camp to enable the boys to meet regular soldiers and carry out training to consolidate their classroom work.

This year the Regiment were hosts to three Officers and 20 Cadets from Victoria College, Jersey, and the Signal Section of one Officer and 16 Cadets from Christs Hospital, Sussex.

The two schools were involved in different types of training, Christs Hospital carrying out mainly radio exercises, under the direction of **Major Peter Brunton,** OC 3 AMF(L) Squadron, and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) John Sydney,** whilst Victoria College were subjected to the rigours of military training, which included early-morning battle PT under the watchful eyes of our two AIPTs, **Lance-Corporals 'Mac' Mackenzie** and **'Larry' Tullett.**

The summer camps involved a tremendous amount of hard work by all members of the Squadron and by the Cadets, who, it is hoped, enjoyed their 'holiday' with the Regiment.

After the Cadets had left us, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Perry,** Officer Commanding Victoria College CCF, wrote the following:

'Without exception, the Cadets thoroughly enjoyed their camp with 30 Signal Regiment, who provided a variety of training, ranging from a night fighting patrol, internal security (using both CCF Officers and Captain Peter Durrant as their eventual victims), through basic signals to potted sports, assault courses and outside visits.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Jarrett is to be congratulated on his DS. From the Cadet point of view, Staff-Sergeant Ringsdore retained a firm grip overall and the three sections flung themselves wholeheartedly into the competitive spirit of the camp. Even those Cadets with little physical resiliance achieved success in one way or another. Last, but not least, the weather was kind and the sun shone most of the time'.

News from Squadrons

6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 106

ATHLETES HIT THE JACKPOT

6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn have completed a successful season of athletics. On 18th June, 1975, they won the 4th Division Athletics at Sennelager, on 5th July, 1975, after final competition, they emerged winners in the BAOR competition.

Fine individual performances were recorded from **Sergeant Harry Kernohan,** who jumped a personal best of 6·12m in the long jump; **Sergeant Peter Bradley,** who did another personal best of 1·73m in the high jump; and **Lance-Corporal Davey Wyles,** who broke his own BAOR 1,500m record in a most exciting race. All in all the team produced some excellent results.

Finally, on 23rd July, they won the Army Competition in Aldershot. Again individual performances were: **Sergeant Peter Bradley,** a high jump of 1·77m; **Sergeant Harry Kernohan,** a long jump of 6·11m; **Lance-Corporal Stu Procter,** a shot of 12·54m; and **W.O.2 Bob McCrindle,** a javelin throw of 47·80m. All these athletes gained Minor Units first places in their events.

FAREWELL TO W.O.1 T. BALCH

On Friday, 6th June, the Regimental Sergeant-Major of 6th Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **W.O.1 T. Balch,** was presented with a silver cigarette box by the officers and all ranks of 6th Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on the occasion of his leaving the unit on commissioning.

To mark the occasion **Major F. R. Maynard,** Officer Commanding the Signal Squadron, addressed the Squadron, saying **Mr. Balch** had reached the zenith of his carrer in that he had achieved what most soldiers aspire to do by becoming a Regimental Sergeant-Major and successfully bridging the gap between commissioned and non-commissioned ranks.

Mr. Balch leaves the Squadron to join 4th Divisional HQ and Signal Regiment, He is to take up the appointment of Officer Commanding Div HQ Troop.

SOEST GARRISON QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE 1975

On 13th June HQ Soest Garrison celebrated the Queen's Birthday 1975. The celebrations took the form of Beating Retreat followed by a cocktail party in the Officers Mess at St. Sebastian Barracks, Korbecke.

The retreat was sounded by the Band of the Royal Hussars (PWO), the Band and Drums of 2nd The Queen's Regiment and the Pipes and Drums of 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and was preceded by a fly-past of a Harrier aircraft from 4 Squadron RAF, who are affiliated to 6th Armoured Brigade. The Harrier landed vertically near the square and provided an exciting start to the ceremony.

Brigadier H. S. L. Dalzell-Payne, CBE, and the St. Sebastian Officers Mess later entertained guests who included local German, Belgian and American military and civilian dignitaries.

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Major D. C. N. Genders**
2IC	**Captain R. F. Willsher**
QM	**Major P. A. Mantle,** Scots DG
Admin Officer	**Captain P. G. Connolly,** 16/5 L
MTO	**Captain C. D. C. Doyle,** RCT
OCA	**Lieutenant I. N. Fraser**
OCB	**Lieutenant D. G. Proctor**
Designate	**Lieutenant R. S. Hewitt**
RSM	**W.O.1 D. H. Leggott**
ASM	**W.O.1 B. R. Moseley**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 A. A. Winstanley**
	Staff-Sergeant D. Bowden
F. of S.	**W.O.2 R. N. Howes**

NO notes have been in the magazine for some months, so the following comments will cover a mixture of topics in the unit which took place before everyone disappeared on Summer Camp and leave.

EXERCISES

After the success of the unit team in the Brigade Military Skills Competition during January, the Squadron launched itself into the exercise season. Cobwebs were removed after Christmas leave by the usual unit shakedown followed by Exercise Spring Sample, and then Exercise Ice Axe. (There must be some logic somewhere!)

Early March was interspersed with lectures on the intricacies of the enemy, counter surveillance and the overhauling of vehicles. The latter part of the month and early April were taken up by Exercises Flying Falcon and Morning Glory, during which the FV432 drivers practised the well-known art of steering their iron toboggans in some really unpleasant ice and snow. The Divisional Commander's Exercise, Hurst Park, was much calmer than the previous year (OCs note—thank goodness). A live enemy took over the auto exchange on the last night of the exercise, but, having closed themselves in behind the steel doors of the 'Beastie', realised that the cramped and airless space alongside the clicking exchange was not to their liking. They soon decamped to leave us to get on with the war.

A long wait followed prior to Exercise Summer Sales, fortunately broken by Exercise Ohr Park, the annual APC flotation exercise. This took place near Hameln. All the drivers and commanders managed trips by day and night on the river Weser without incident, though several commanders had difficulty in telling the left from the right.

Having been responsible for running control HQ for Exercise Summer Sales in 1973 and rested in 1974, we arrived on the battlefield for the 1975 innings knowing that we had been earmarked to be control HQ in 1976. A very quiet start was topped by the Brigade HQ, wearing its control hats, existing behind the imaginary enemy front line for three days. Fortunately, our 'survival' in such difficult conditions was recognised by 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, from whom the following signal was received:

> 'Congratulations on being awarded the good housekeeping gold medal for outstanding track mileage economy'.

The comment by one young Subaltern when told that the Squadron is to be responsible for providing control HQ for Exercise Summer Sales 1976 was: 'Someone at HQ must have forgotten about the other Brigades'.

VISITS

The unit has also had its full quota of visits. There was a very welcome but unexpected 'out of the blue' visit by the GOC 1 Div, **Major-General J. Stanier,** who popped in for a quick walkabout and chat with the soldiers. The CSO BAOR, **Major-General Roper** called on the Squadron to say farewell and, at the same time, presented the LS and GC medal to **ASM Mosley.** We look forward to seeing **Major-General Sturge** in September, when he visits us at our military training camp at Soltau.

Two visits which required a great deal of preparation were made by the National Defence College and the Secretary of State for Defence, **Mr. William Rogers.** Both included impressive layouts of the Battleaxe on the barrack square. The former included a miniature TEWT with students playing the part of the staff and crews as if they were on exercise. The most memorable moment was created by an RAF Phantom, which swept low over the complex and succeeded in completely destroying an airportable shelter. This can be classified as the only known target that the PFAC, **Major Davies,** RRW, and BALO **Flight-Lieutenant Irwin** have managed to find and successfully destroy during the exercise season so far. Seriously, though, the RAF have tried to find us on exercise many times without much success.

SPORTS REPORT

Besides repeated success on exercise, though we say so ourselves, our success on the sportsfield hasn't been too bad either.

HOCKEY

The hockey team repeated last year's success under **Sergeant Stuart Bromidge** by winning the minor units central league and added the 1 Division minor units knockout by beating Regt AAC 4—2.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The cross-country team managed to run up a few wins, including 1 Div minor units championship and the 1 Div major and minor cross-country league, while finally qualifying for the Army finals at Aldershot after coming runners-up in the BAOR finals. The mainstays of the team were **RSM Leggott, Corporal Probin, Signalman James** and **Sergeant Bailes,** who also ran for BAOR.

BASKETBALL

A new sport to the unit was basketball. **Sergeant Welsh,** RAOC brought the team from nothing to BAOR runners-up in the first season. Their successes included the 1 Division knockout trophy and the Minden Garrison league. Their enthusiasm will now mean that this sport might become a regular event in the unit. Helping **Sergeant Welsh** to their win were **Corporal Morrison, Signalmen Doan** and **Colvin.**

ATHLETICS

The arrival of spring and then summer brought unexpected rewards on the athletics track. Wins included the Brigade and Divisional shields, and we were runners-up in the BAOR championships. Having been beaten by 6 Bde in the latter, we were very happy to trounce them to win the Morrison Cup. It was thoroughly enjoyable to see such a strong team spirit, which motivated members to some memorable runs, especially seen in **Lance-Corporal Fisher** and **Signalman James** in the 800 and 400 m respectively. The team was made up from **Lieutenant Proctor, Sergeant Bailes, Corporals Morrison, Douglas,** RAOC, **Henriques,** RCT, **Lance-Corporals Dixon, Fisher, Signalmen Humphries, James, Walton, Quick** and **Private Armstrong,** ACC.

SWIMMING

Further surprises came from the swimming team, who, under the management of **Y. of S. Winstanley,** won the 1 Division competition and then came runners-up in the BAOR event in Berlin. Swimmers included **Lieutenant Hewitt,** the man asked democratically by the rest to swim butterfly, **Sergeants Woolley, Mustard, Corporal Freeman, Lance-Corporals Moore** and **Lambrechts.**

CRICKET

The cricket team once again became 1 Division runners-up to 54 Sqn RCT. A certain metalsmith must have had sixth sense as he had engraved the runners-up plaque with our name on it for 1974 and 1975.

SAILING

A very unexpected but pleasing win was recorded by the sailing team in the Cutlass Class of the Royal Signals regatta. The skipper, **RQMS Scrutton,** with the help of **Sergeants Dunn, Duggan** and **Corporal Jepson,** plus gale-force weather, managed to hold off very strong opposition and bring home the unexpected prize, a huge cannon. The cannon is now outside the Guard Room, chained down but pointing at Brigade HQ—just in case!

SQUADRON DEMONSTRATION

What happens when an FV432 meets a mere car at 10 m.p.h. Signalman Lenny Cook was the driver

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations must go to **Captain Willsher** on his marriage to **Miss Christiane Buyken.** They were married in Amelinghausen on Saturday, 19th July, at a 'quiet' military wedding. Also **Corporal 'Paddy' Morrison** to **Miss Pamela Wright** on Saturday, 12th July, at St. George's Barracks Church of the 1 Cheshires. **Corporal Morrison** somehow managed to get the agreement of his new wife to allow him to take his place in the Squadron athletics team in the Army championships, when he should have been on honeymoon in the South of France, while the 2IC, we understand, went to a sandy little island off the coast of North Germany.

STOP PRESS

Army minor units athletics—beaten into 2nd place by 6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

Army minor units swimming—beaten into 4th place.

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 5

DEPARTURES

Sergeant John Waugh; Signalmen: Brian Bates, Ted Delve, Mick Cousins, Bob Lake and **Gordon Ritchie.**

With the list of departing personnel increasing monthly and no replacements, the hard facts of the withdrawal from Singapore are upon us. What started as a politician's major policy decision has been digested by the system and filtered down to our level as such mundane things as MFO boxes, flight details, last-minute panic tanning and the buying of warmer clothing. All the military members of the Squadron now know their future postings (including the OC, **Major Ian Graham,** who, we hope, by the time this is published will have worked out the abbreviations of his job in SIGS 31C). The locally-employed civilians of the Squadron are still uncertain as to their future, a lot depending on what is going to happen to the Military Telephone Exchange (the only one on the island that works properly).

CLOSURE OF THE JUNGLE WARFARE WING

This was marked by a small ceremony at Pulada, Malaysia, at which the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier G. D. J. R. Russell, OBE,** thanked His Royal Highness The Sultan of Johore for his kind hospitality over the years.

A Guard of Honour for His Royal Highness was selected from all the units serving in Singapore, **Lance-Corporal Bob Burnett** representing the Corps.

SPORT

The following have been awarded Squadron football colours for 1975: **Staff-Sergeant Jeff Johnstone, Sergeants Colin Bachelor, Tom Sawyer, Jim Nelson, Neil Urquhart, Corporals Tom Goodwin, Brian Smy, Ian Urquhart, Jim Cooper, Signalman Mick Cousins** and, after a brief struggle **W.O.2 (FOFS) Nick Lynn.**

The highlight of the month's sporting activity was a limited overs cricket match against the CPOs and POs Mess of HMS *Mermaid,* the resident guard ship for Singapore. The end result of a most enjoyable game was a narrow win for the Squadron, although HMS *Mermaid* was quick to point out that when at sea they are more used to playing with a length of string tied to the ball! As well as organising the match **Sergeant Barry Vargas** also played and scorning the offer of a runner actually scored two runs before fatigue overcame him.

LAUGH OF THE MONTH

The Fire Brigade has been kept busy recently with a spate of people locking themselves out of their married quarters. **Staff-Sergeant Bill Wilson** would appear to be having a competition with his wife Morag. The score stands at the moment 2—1 in Morag's favour, although one of those doesn't really count as when Morag was away phoning the Fire Brigade, Bill returned home unexpectedly and let himself in with his key. Imagine Bill's surprise as he was quietly preparing the evening's curry, when a strange helmet appeared at his third-storey window. We still haven't found out what he did with the curry but Morag now carries two spare keys!

216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

EXERCISE HARDNUT WANDERER WITH SUMMER SNOW!

WE'LL go to Scotland for our Summer Camp', the bosses said. Camp yes; summer. . . well! During the first week it rained, and rained, and rained, then, surprise, surprise, it snowed! Fortunately these arctic conditions did not last and towards the latter part of the exercise the weather was indeed quite like summer.

The aim of the camp was to familiarise the 'troops' with the techniques of combat survival and resistance to interrogation.

With a plethora of instructors and DS, **W.O.2 (SSM) Baikie** set out to put all rather firmly 'in the picture' and succeeded only too well.

After the initial training period, when we were billeted in Cultybraggan Training Camp in Perthshire, and during which all manner of experts displayed their diverse skills, we were reduced to the barest essentials, and I do mean literally that, and sent on our way, pursued hotly by a hunter force from 'X' and 'Y' Vigilant Platoons from HQ 16 Para Bde, and six Dog Teams from the Scottish 'Polis'.

DOGS ARE OUTRUN

The chasing and searching, not to mention the evading, went on as best we could manage, although we were at a slight disadvantage against the dogs. Or so we thought, until **Sergeant John Tovey** managed to outrun one over a distance of several miles! Others amongst us fared less well, and discovered dogs can swim lochs and still maintain a ferocious appearance.

Once caught we were 'processed', as I believe the Geneva Convention would term it, and underwent a period of interrogation (tactical and otherwise).

The legendary 'Igor', i.e. **Signalman Millar,** a tame hairy, excelled himself by escaping from a holding pen, having overpowered a guard, and then swam a loch to safety, all the while wearing handcuffs!

Eventually we were taken back to Tominsky Rehabilitation Centre, in Cultybraggan Camp, where our fiends, sorry, I mean friends, in the Para Log Regt gave us some updated 'Ve had vays of makink yoo talk' treatment.

The stories of the 'run' are many and nearly all funny (ha! ha! and peculiar) and would occupy too much space here. Suffice to say the runners and the hunters learnt a great deal and the Scottish 'Polis' shall have to restyle some of their own equipment; it might be criminal proof, but certainly not Airborne proof!

Our thanks to the many people who made our camp an interesting one. Colditz Castle . . . no problem!

AIRBORNE FORCES DAY 1975

We were very pleased to host a party of the 'old 'n bold' from the 6th Airborne Division Signals OCA, who fought at the Battle of Arnhem in 1944. I'll spare their blushes here, but a grand time was had by all and we hope to maintain this link with our Airborne Signals heritage.

SIGNALS RECRUITING

Our teams have taken part in the Aldershot Army Show and Signal View in Worcester with gratifying results. Next month we shall have a small team at Armex 75 in Harrogate and early next year we hope to send two teams to BAOR.

CORPS SHOOT

The Squadron Team, led by **Captain 'Jack' Turner** and **Staff-Sergeant 'Steve' Marshall,** peppered everything in sight and managed to hit a few targets, winning the Minor Units section match and came close to winning the falling plate competition. Considering the amount of time allowed to practise they did very well.

WELSH 3000

Team came 9th. The competition was won by 16 Para Hy Drop Coy, setting a new record. The Squadron team: **Sergeant Peter Whitehead, Signalmen Danny Kaye, Chris Vincent** and **John Graham.**

EXERCISE DASHING IMPACT BRINGS REWARDS—ITALIAN STYLE

This should not be confused with the wine-tasting festivals held yearly in Germany. This one was in Italy, North of Venice, and we all took part. Our main NATO exercise of the year, where we fought alongside our Italian allies (loosely disguised as soldiers) against the 'baddies' (heavily disguised as Italian soldiers). Eventually we won, and settled down to vast quantities of pizza pies and vino. Our hairy senior, or is it our senior hairy, never mind, **Sergeant John Aspinall,** achieved the rare distinction of being awarded Italian soccer acclaim, viz. 'Viva El Bonto, keel heem', or words to that effect!

ATTS AND DETS—OUR BOYS GET ABOUT!

Just a few of the little jaunts we send the 'troops' on to maintain high morale or even to get them out of the SSM's way for a while:

Corporal Peter Pritchard, Signalman Paul Hatchman, Signalman Jeff Frazer—Tour with 'D' (Patrol) Coy 3 Para.

Signalman Bob Hope, Signalman Guy Richards—Operational tour in Belfast with 2 Para.

(To be augmented by **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Jones** and **Signalman Fred Hutchinson.**)

Corporal Mick Granitza—Para Course with the 82nd (US) Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, USA.

Corporal Alan Jeannette, Corporal Peter Doherty, Signalman Paul Hatchman, Signalman Jeff Frazer—First-aid Course with 23 Para Fd Amb.

Lance-Corporal Tiny Shaw, Lance-Corporal 'Spud' Murphy, Signalman 'Tug' Wilson, Signalman 'Jock' Ramsay—Firing Camp with 7 Para RHA in Cyprus.

Corporal Alan Jeannette, Lance-Corporal Tony Giles, Signalman 'Geordie' Sinclair—Exercise Subject with 1 (Gds) Indep Coy Para at the French Para School at Pau.

Signalman Paul Hatchman, Signalman Grant Humble, Lance-Corporal 'Tiny' Shaw—Our highly-trained Forward Air Control Operators and AF 1771 experts.

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

Our congratulations to **Corporal Robin Stanley** and wife and **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Jones** and wife on their respective new additions.

Our commiserations to **Lance-Corporals Ricky Richardson** and **Bob O'Hara** and their new wives on their recent matrimonial manoeuvres.

Our fond farewells to those stalwart members who have departed for pastures green, viz:

Staff-Sergeant Ray Duffy, ORSQMS to 8 Inf Bde Londonderry.

Staff-Sergeant John Newman (wot did he do?) to 12 Mech Bde in Osnabruck.

Lance-Corporal 'Nique' Nichols to Shape HQ.

Signalman Steve Judd to 30 Sig Regt.

We wish them and their families all the best in their new postings.

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to the ranks:

Corporal Manning from 2 Div, **Lance-Corporal Cogan** from 5 Bde, and **Signalmen Chamberlain** and **Hill** from Catterick.

COURSES

The following have done rather well on their respective courses and deserve a mention:

Lance-Corporal Jones, Lance-Corporal Aitken, Corporal McFarlane—Royal Signals Det Comds Course No. 85/86.

Lance-Corporal Finn—1st Royal Signals Det Comds Course No. 84.

Signalman Grant Humble—R Tg AIII/AII converted from D Tg.

SQUADRON REUNION—15th NOVEMBER, 1975

As mentioned in our last notes we now plan our Reunion for all ex-Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-commissioned Officers of the Squadron for 15th November, 1975. If you want to come please drop a line, or phone, to the Squadron, giving your address, so that we can let you have the full details.

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Major R. A. H. Houghton**
2IC	**Captain G. Penman**
SSM	**W.O.2 M. P. Hothersall**
RQMS	**W.O.2 K. R. Thurley**
ORS	**Sergeant T. R. Craven**

THE AFCENT SHUFFLE

THE aim of the game, it would seem, in the Afcent system, is to promise the world by telephone and then, when paper clarification is required, to deny all knowledge of the problem.

Your indoctrination becomes a quick run through the famous 'Afcent Shuffle'. This is a unique system working on the basis of diminished responsibilities. I have verbal proof, from a German comrade, that he has been faithfully promised 'Raquel Welch' on five occasions by an unnamed American Supply Officer. The rubber stamp he asked for five months ago is still, however, unseen.

We have also devised a pure Afcent game, which German, Dutch, British and Americans play; it's called Hackball. Scoring is by nationality, e.g. A Brit, American or German being hacked only scores one point, but the Dutch, being rare, with only two or so in the unit, score high, five points. You rarely catch sight of a Dutch soldier in the area! At present, the Brits lead this league since the Americans claimed the 5th Amendment.

The problems within Afcent are phenomenal, an example of problems faced is best illustrated with cricket. The sports ground attendants, all Americans, were asked to produce a cricket pitch. Like good soldiers they looked up their good book, found the dimensions etc and off they went and cut and marked out the wicket. Once they had finished the marking of creases etc, they then rolled the matting on top! It must always be said, however, that they are always more than willing to help out.

FOOTBALL TALENT

Look out, BAOR, 227 Signal Squadron is establishing a team to be reckoned with. No longer can 227 be classed as the wooden spoonists of Afcent. After defeating the declared stars here, 2 Flmd Coy GEA 9—1, people are sitting up and watching.

We have now made the first steps to joining the Rhine Area League Div 2 and the Army Cup Competitions. We are also, of course, in the respective Afcent leagues and cups. Next year we intend to make a big move forward in soccer.

VISITS

The 9th June saw the final visit to the Squadron of **Major-General H. E. Roper, CSO,** BAOR. During his visit he presented the LS and GC to **Sergeant J. G. Souley.**

On 18th June the unit was inspected for its annual Fitness for Role by **Brigadier J. D. C. Graham, CBE,** Comd British Army Element, HQ Afcent. The Squadron once again was on parade, this time for the presentation of LS and GC to **Sergeant G. T. (Father) O'Mara.**

227 SIG SQN ON PARADE

Brigadier Graham inspects the Squadron. In attendance Major R. A. H. Hoghton, Captain G. Penman, W.O.I (RSM) D. Parker

Brigadier M. Callan, Commander Rhine Area, paid his initial visit to the Squadron on 31st July (we, unfortunately, ran out of LS and GCs to present).

The OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records paid us a visit on 6th August, giving the Squadron a very informative presentation on career structure.

Our diary doesn't show any more visits in the near future. Parhaps we can now apply to go on leave!

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

OC	**Major J. E. Barnes**
2IC	**Captain J. A. Speakes**
OC 'R' Troop	**Captain (Tfc) D. V. Boddington**
OC MQ&L Troop	**Captain (TOT) I. R. Lidstone**
OC Commcen Troop	**W.O.1 (Y. of S.) P. J. Cadman**
SSM	**W.O.2 R. While**
RQMS	**W.O.2 E. W. Percival**
FOS	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. S. Jones**
Chief Clerk	**Sergeant P. G. Ferns**

BRITISH, AMERICAN AND FRENCH PARADES

THE highlights of June and July in Berlin are the British, American and French parades which mark national days. The Queen's Birthday Parade this year took place on 21st June and it was quickly followed by the American celebration of 4th July and the French Bastille Day parade on 13th July. Although there is keen, friendly rivalry to put on the best show, it is unfair to draw exact comparisons, each nation's characteristics being the basic influencing factor in the format and conduct of the parades.

At any of the major military events in Berlin, and for some civil ones, the Squadron plays a part in providing public address, radio and telephone communications. Invariably we go to great lengths to conceal our cables, speakers and antenna so that they do not detract from the general splendour of the occasion. Only the alert are conscious of our presence by observing our technicians, lineman and radiomen hovering in the background ensuring the 100% success of our contribution. It thus came as a pleasant change this year on the Queen's Birthday Parade to actually have some of the Squadron 'up front' on parade. In the splendid setting of the Maifeld, an arena which has the Berlin Olympic Stadium as a backdrop, the Berlin Infantry Brigade formed-up.

PREPARATION AND REHEARSALS AMPLY REPAID

The three infantry battalions were backed by a Ferret/Land-Rover vehicle screen, manned by personnel of all Brigade minor units and this in turn was backed by the Chieftains of our Armoured Squadron. Five of the 24 vehicles in the vehicle screen were crewed by the Squadron. The hours of work which went into the preparations and rehearsals for the great day were amply repaid by a faultless parade on the most brilliant, cloudless day of June. The pride of all on parade was doubled by the ensuing praise from members of the audience, particularly our American and French Allies. Apart from our shift and duty personnel virtually the whole of the Squadron was concentrated on or in the area of the Maifeld for the occasion. The radio, PA and telephones worked without fault and our technicians were relieved at the end to find the concealed microphones, deployed to assist the Brigade Commander to cover the very large parade frontage, were not run-over by the vehicle screen as it 'marched off'! We lost two during rehearsals! All ranks associated with the parade received a token of thanks from GOC, **Major-General D. W. Scott-Barrett, MBE, MC**—a litre of beer per man, which was most welcome in the heat of the day.

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Largely due to a large turnover in manpower, our athletic and swimming teams have not been able to repeat the successes of last season this summer. Unfortunately our Brigade and 2 Division trophies have now passed on to other hands, but we are taking the philosophical view that, in general, Brigade sport will benefit now our dominance has proved fallible. **W.O.2 (RQMS) E. W. ('Ted') Percival** has had a very successful season as an individual entrant in the hammer event (which is, unfortunately, an event not included in minor units athletics). As an individual his successes this year include winning the Morrison Cup, 2 Division and BAOR hammer events, runner-up in the Army competition, and third place at the Inter-Services meeting.

CORPS DAY EVENT ORGANISED BY JUNIOR RANKS

On 28th June we held a Squadron party with barbecue to celebrate Corps Day. The whole event was organised by JNCOs and soldiers of the Squadron, under the general supervision of **Captain John Speakes,** and was a most enjoyable evening. Members of 3 Squadron 13 Signal Regiment and all other Corps personnel in Berlin were invited to join us for this 'family' party.

A guiding light for the party, **Lance-Corporal Wally Henderson** subsequently proved his energy does not wane when there is a worthy function in the offing. On 16th July the Squadron held a concert in aid of SSAFA and **Lance-Corporal Henderson** did not spare himself prior to the event in travelling far and wide

'MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED'

Sergeant Peter Ferns (our chief clerk) and Debbie Cadman show obvious delight at the success of their duet during the SSAFA charity concert

selling tickets and on the day acting as house manager. The stars of our show were Hamish Imlach, a professional singer, and **Sergeant Peter Ferns,** our Chief Clerk. The pair have had many successful evenings appearing as 'Double Scotch' and their reputation was the main attraction for our concert. Seven folk singers, two British girls, two male BFES teachers, an American serviceman, **Sergeant Terry Brenchley** from 3 Squadron 13 Signal Regiment, and Debbie Cadman, the 11-year-old daughter of our Yeoman, **W.O.2 Peter Cadman,** gave supporting performances. Debbie's solos and her duets with **Sergeant Peter Ferns** were most enthusiastically received by the audience of about 250. There was no envy on the part of the other performers over the fact that this young girl became the darling of the show. The only problem of the evening was getting the audience to go home! It was most pleasant to present a cheque of £71·50 to SSAFA when it was most obvious that the audience had received a superb evening's entertainment in return for their support.

PLAY—AND WORK

As a footnote to this article, which may give the impression that we only live a social life in Berlin, it should be made quite clear that since our last notes, submitted in April, the Squadron has, amongst other things, taken part in two exercises, sent detachments to 2 Division exercises and battalion and armoured squadron training in BAOR, reacted to a practice alert and came unscathed through an FFR inspection. All these activities are very similar to those our readers endure and, hence, their mention is only as a footnote.

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

HIGH SUMMER

MID-JULY 1975: temperature 95°F—Location one of the highest points in Malta at Mtarfa:

With the advent of the Maltese summer the Squadron slipped into the long forenoon routine with scarcely a ripple, although some yawning has been observed between Monday morning parades and the first stirrings of flatulent sparrows. Our almost entirely new management have now acquired the degree of pigmentation around the knee considered desirable by old Malta hands, and have encouraged that particular brand of summer madness prevalent in Malta—the Mediterranean cruise competition.

Outright winners are **Corporal Ben Cartwright** and crew, who took advantage of a Royal Navy invitation to go aboard HMS *Antrim* on a courtesy visit to Trieste. A close second was achieved by the Sergeants Mess with their day trip to the island of Comino, and a considerable distance behind, in third place, the Squadron Boat Club temporarily aground on the rocky coastline of marine insurance.

RADIO RELAY PROJECT PROGRESSES RAPIDLY

Phase II of the Malta Radio Relay Project is progressing rapidly, with assistance from **Sergeants Bob Baker** and **Bob Edwards** of Project Installation Team, CPA, who are again passing through Malta on their annual migration. Due to a certain ambiguity in terminology the closure of the Zebbug Radio Relay terminal was completed the day before MOD (NAVY) had given their final approval to the project, causing mild consternation in Royal Navy circles. However, with permission to close officially sanctioned it was gratifying to demonstrate Royal Signals' continuing ability to accomplish tasks yesterday.

Trade training conducted by unit instructors **(Staff-Sergeant (FOS) N. Patton, Staff-Sergeant A. Parnis** and **Sergeant C. Mizzi,** to name but a few) resulted in a 100% pass rate for our Maltese personnel converting to Terminal Equipment Technician and Telecommunications Mechanic. Suitable gasps of surprise and complimentary remarks were heard from the testing authorities of 8 Signal Regiment (who have a warm place in our hearts).

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron said farewell to **Sergeant Jim Lindsay** on his departure for 14 Signal Regiment and promotion to Staff-Sergeant, and **Sergeant Paul Cowles,** who said he would be glad to get to 7 Signal Regiment for a rest?

We welcome **Sergeant Bill McLaren,** who has replaced **Sergeant Jim Lindsay** in Line Troop.

The OC, **Major Tony Hill,** and **Mrs. Hill,** were officially welcomed to the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess at a Mess Guest Night on 12th July. After a five-course meal, served with vintage Maltese wines (frivolous to all but the discerning palate), requests for the scheduled 'After Eight Mints' were regarded as sheer gluttony and tacitly ignored. I wonder what did happen to them? And the view across the valley from Squadron Headquarters.

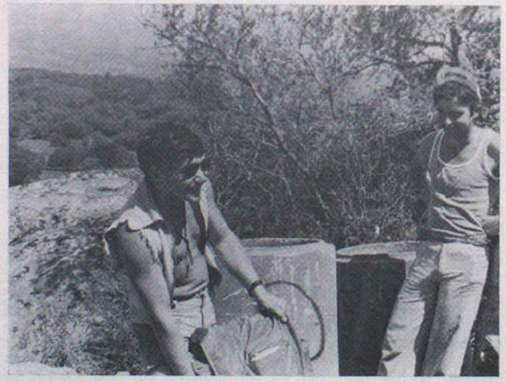
VIEW FROM SQN HQ
The old capital city of Malta—Mdina

News from Troops

551 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 20

CORSICA ACCLIMATISATION

SIX members of 551 Signal Troop recently spent three weeks in sunny Corsica taking part in an adventure training expedition. Together with HQ Battery, 24 Missile Regiment RA, to which we are attached, we carried out training in sub-aqua diving, climbing, canoeing and trekking. We flew from RAF Wildenrath to RAF Decimomannu in Sardinia, and then took the 'express' train to Olbia, literally packed in like sardines. From there we caught a bus to St. Teresa, Sardinia's northern port, and took the ferry to Bonifaccio in Corsica. There we were met by the Battery Commander, **Major D. J. Farley,** RA, and his merry road party, who ferried us to our first campsite at Prunelli, a small village on the west coast. We spent the first few days in acclimatisation, not only to the very hot sun but also to Pastis—the local drink, a cross between Pernod and Amstell!



THE CORPS GETS AROUND!
Signalmen Steve Carmichael and Chris Hardy taking a breather during an adventure training expedition to Corsica

CHASED BY OCTOPUS

Each day started at seven with an early-morning swim and although the sun was hot the water was definitely not! Then breakfast, a choice of either sausage and beans or beans and sausage! We then split up into groups after a series of tests designed to show our natural talents. The OC, **Lieutenant Jon Henderson,** ended up sub-aqua diving, due no doubt to his fishy nature. **Lance-Corporal Steve Toms, Signalmen Chris Hardy, Mic Gorst** and **Steve Carmichael** gained their canoe proficiency award and our non-swimmers, **'Monty' Montgomery** and **'Diddy' Watkins,** can now swim at least 50 metres—whether it was because the local octopus was chasing them we never found out! All the troop took part in basic climbing and abseiling techniques. It wasn't all work, however, and our free time was spent in sampling the local wine and the local delicacies—fried octopus and blackbird pate!

All too soon it was time to come home and so, after a most enjoyable three weeks, we found ourselves catching the return plane from RAF Decimomannu, with the words of the RAF Commanding Officer ringing in our ears—come back next year!

FAREWELLS

We recently said a sad farewell to **Sergeant Peart,** who has left us to join 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, to **Corporal Dave Smith,** who left us for Northern Ireland, **Signalman 'Monty' Montgomery,** who has gone to Berlin, and **Signalman Wilson,** who has gone to UK. We wish them and their new units the best of luck—they'll need it!!

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Sergeant D. Peart, Corporal Colin Ager** and **Lance-Corporal Steve Toms** on their recent promotions. And also to **Signalman 'Diddy' Watkins,** who passed his driving test recently after trying for four years!

605 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Gan
B.F.P.O. 180

RAF HITTADU—THE CORP'S SMALLEST DETACHMENT?

THIS month's scribe, **Corporal Trev Inman,** writes of life on RAF Hittadu. Here on RAF Hittadu **Sergeant Chris Wilkie** and myself are the only two 'Pongos' living on this sun-drenched island, together with 45 or so 'Blue-jobs'. Hittadu is part of the Addu Atoll, in the Maldive Islands, where we look after the Hittadu end of the Gan–Hittadu radio relay link.

Although outnumbered, we don't let this bother us, and we take part in almost all sport and social activities. Occasionally a stroppy 'Bluejob' comes along and has to be shown the rules concerning radio-relay, which are:

Rule 1: The Pongo is always right.

Rule 2: If the Pongo is wrong rule 1 applies.

This normally has the desired effect of quietening them down.

As the working hours are from seven until one o'clock there is plenty of time for sport and other activities.

Chris has recently done a great job repairing three marine engines which had been lying around US for nearly five months. I, myself, play quite a bit of tennis and volleyball, and at odd times try to get my helicopter flying. This is a radio-controlled model which I built myself many months ago, which has so far defied all attempts at flying. I've had lots of snags, but it now looks like all systems go, and the helicopter should be in the air shortly.

We have one club, 'The Hermitage', which is used by all ranks, including one officer and all senior NCOs. The atmosphere in the Hermitage is extremely friendly and it is a regular sight to see **Chris** or myself playing backgammon. This is the current craze and we haven't many rivals at it.

All in all life on Hittadu isn't too bad, but a few 'dollies' around could liven things up. There is ample proof that girls have visited here in the past, as they must leave a souvenir pair of panties in the Hermitage. The souvenirs pinned up in the bar make a welcome sight.

The Volunteers

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

INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING

THE 'home' town of our Headquarters and 90 (NR) Sig Sqn is currently celebrating its 'twinning' with Dunkirk and, as part of the celebrations, the Regiment were invited to take part in an international shooting competition organised by the Reserve Officers Association (Dunkirk Branch). Unfortunately this date clashed with the North-East District shoot and so not only could the best regimental shots not take part, but the team of four included two officers of the 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers besides the 2IC, **Major G. C. Mitchell,** and OC 49 Sqn, **Major A. W. Illingworth.** About the shooting little should be said—in mitigation we were using French weapons with little opportunity for familiarisation and our normal two-handed style of pistol shooting was not allowed—but we did beat the Belgian Naval Reserve team overall and came third in the sub-machine-gun section. The hospitality was generous and our French-speaking improved considerably. Our hosts dropped broad hints about a return match next year and we are hoping to arrange a form of contest to guarantee a home win.

A 'SISTERLY' WELCOME

The proud emblem of the Ulster Volunteer Signal Regiment is a red hand. Our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Olds,** however, decided that this should be redesigned and he devised a 'Blue Hand of Ulster'. This was drawn by our RQMS and depicted the 'hand' with the middle and index fingers parted, thereby providing the basis of a subtle welcome, based on a 'Harvey Smith' salute, to our Sister Regiment, 40 (V) Signal Regiment (V) on their arrival at Scarborough for their annual camp in June.

Armed with a large number of copies of the 'Blue Hand' our RSM, **W.O.1 Reg Heath,** and our RQMS, **W.O.2 Ken Woods,** infiltrated Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, prior to their arrival, and placed a copy in every conceivable spot—these were in cupboards, drawers, behind toilet doors etc.

A 'SISTERLY' RESPONSE

As expected 40th Regiment produced a reprisal—it came when they accepted an invitation to a games night in our Regimental WOs and Sgts Mess. On the night in question, the members of 40 Signal Regiment Sergeants Mess arrived, led by their Quartermaster, **Captain Dugie Rumsey,** and RSM, **W.O.1 John Loveday.** At the head of the parade, their pipes and drums marched in all their splendour. **Captain Rumsey** carried a black-thorn forked stick with an appropriate message attached from 40 Regiment in reply to our welcome. The evening went well with the usual bar games and we regret to report 40 Regiment won. This was, however, due to the expertise of their WRAC professional 'bar skittles' players.

After the evening's entertainment the pipes and drums of the 40th played their members from the mess to awaiting coaches. The local residents around Brambles Farm remember this occasion. It is an unusual treat for them to be serenaded by pipes and drums of an Irish Signal Regiment in the early hours of the morning. (We can't understand why there have been no requests for a repeat performance!)

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

HAVING said goodbye to **Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby** we start this month's notes with a warm welcome to our new CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Rowland,** and his wife **Carole.**

The extraordinary feature about **Lieutenant-Colonel Rowland** is that having travelled the world from the age of three, firstly with his father, who was in the REME, and then in his own right—this is the first time he has visited the West Midlands, now his Regimental 'beat'. We look forward to a happy and successful association.

SIGNAL VIEW 75

The one impression which stands out above all others at Signal View is the sheer professionalism of this year's Royal Signal Show. From a collection of 'stands' it has become a much more integrated and, consequently, interesting display, and it is a pity more members of the public are not able to see it.

Having provided the TAVR stand for the last two years, we are beginning to feel part of the show and there is certainly a family feeling developing amongst the presenters. This was particularly evident between our stand (11) for instance, and stand (12), the 30 Signal Regiment's cable jointing display next door. **Sergeant John Allen,** a Post Office foreman cable jointer and Volunteer with 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) at Shrewsbury, and **Sergeant Bob Taylor,** a lineman with 30 Signal Regiment, spent hours talking about the various methods of jointing cables, and this sort of dialogue between the full-time soldier and the part-time soldier can do nothing but good for all concerned.

TAVR AT SIGNAL VIEW

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Dave Evans, Harlescott, Shrewsbury (Combat Radio-Relay man), Sergeant Colin Bermingham, Malpas, Cheshire (Radio-Relay technician), Sergeant John Allen, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury (lineman). Sergeants Allen and Bermingham are Post Office engineers in the Shrewsbury Telephone Area. 'Quipps' Lance-Corporal Evans: 'What tune would you like me to play' or 'That will set the professionals guessing'.

Opposite the TAVR Stand was a display provided by the Royal Signals Museum and, here again, by exchanging ideas and helping each other wherever possible further friends were added to the list, even if the Corps Historian, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis Dickson** (Rtd), and **Major John Alexander** (Rtd) looked a trifle nonplussed when **Colonel M. E. Holdsworth,** an old Territorial CO of 48 Divisional Signal Regiment (TA) (predecessor to 35 Signal Regt (V)), told them he had used a piece of equipment dated 1920, as a Signals Officer in the trenches in 1917. After a most illuminating discussion, honour was restored when **Colonel Holdsworth** admitted that the apparatus in question did seem to have modifications which were not fitted to the First World War set he used.

Perhaps it was the position, but we certainly had our fair share of visitors this year (the object of the exercise, of course). It could be that the CST 1 + 4 4/12 link we had between our Regular colleagues in 10 Signal Regiment on the other side of the sports field and ourselves provided the attraction—but more likely it was **Staff-Sergeant Margaret Redmond,** WRAC, and her girls, who were a credit to the Regiment and the TAVR in their immaculate uniforms.

Once the link was in operation and relationships established, it was just a matter of time before the TAVR stand became open house with Regular personnel of both sexes paying frequent visits. **Private Joan Reynolds,** of Quinton, Birmingham, found that the person she was talking to on the other end of the line was another Quinton resident, **Private Val Hall,** and they promptly arranged to meet and commemorate the occasion with a photograph.

Some of the girls found that dealing with strapping six-foot sixth formers from the various schools attending was a bigger handful than answering the numerous eager 'subscribers' on the 40/160 Switchboard. Some of the questions and propositions put to them would make even a WRAC Sergeant-Major blush. However, if there's one thing the TAVR teaches it is versatility and the girls took it all in their stride with their usual good humour.

Surprisingly, with all that expertise about our unusual C41 Yagi configuration (see photograph), aroused no comment. The antennas which were not active had only been erected for decoration and to carry the power cable from the central generator. I wonder who will spot next year's deliberate mistake—two weeks in sunny Balsall Heath for the first correct answer.

PREPARATION FOR ANNUAL CAMP

At the moment preparations are well in hand for Annual Camp in Scarborough and a full report of camp will appear in the next issue of WIRE Notes.

Sport

Golf

GOLF CHAMPIONS

BRIGADIER Jasper Peck will have retired before this article is printed. He selected the team and made all the arrangements but then handed over the Captaincy of Corps Golf as he was due to retire only two days after the events reported. Much of the credit for the team's success is due to him for his enthusiasm, encouragement and untiring efforts to improve Corps Golf. He was present throughout every match and worte the report which follows. All Corps golfers will wish to say thank you for all that he has done for Corps Golf during his two year's Captaincy and wish him good fortune (and good golfing) in his retirement. His report reads:

ARMY GOLFING ASSOCIATION MEETING, 11th AND 12th JUNE

Tidworth was as hot as anywhere else on 11th and 12th June and the golf was even hotter. For two days, the Corps team fought its way through to the Final of the A.G.A. inter-Corps competition for the Royal Irish Rangers Cup and finally won it.

The team led by **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales,** as Captain and reserve, consisted of **Major Dick Carroll, Captain Willie Brewin, Yeoman Reg Simpson** and **Corporal Chris Carveth.** The matches were all played over 18 holes, the aggregate of holes up deciding the winning team.

In the first round we played the Dentists, and our players were up in every match to win by 20 holes. The second round was also comfortably won against RMP by 22 holes to 3.

AN IMPORTANT PUTT

It was in the Semi-Final against RAOC that we realised that the prize would take some winning. In the top match **Corporal Carveth** found he was really up against it in the form of **Corporal Ian Gray,** an ex-Professional; having been 2 up after 7 he was 4 down after 13 to sub-par golf. He finally lost by 6 holes, his opponent having gone round in 67. Behind him, however, a strong recovery was staged first by **Yeoman Simpson** who holed a nasty one on the 18th to finish 3 up. **Dick Carroll** too had done great things and finished 4 up so that with the last match still to come we were 1 up. We thought that **Brewin** had been having some difficulty and had been 2 down until 4 holes from home, but there was quite a long pause before he and his opponent appeared down the 18th fairway and we learned that they were all square. If he lost it all four would have had to go off again from the 1st and play 'sudden death'. Faced with a 10 ft. curly putt to get his half **Willie** firmly put the ball into the centre of the hole and we were through to the Final.

Undoubtedly, great encouragement had been given to the team by the arrival during the morning of the SO-in-C on his way to a more military engagement. He was able to stay to see us well started in the Final and to give one or two tips on technique!

WE WON THE CUP

After the tremendous battle with RAOC the Final against APTC might have been a bit of an anticlimax but our team, although very tired, fought hard and eventually won quite comfortably by 13 to 5. The reality was rather too close for the comfort of the spectators, particularly the more technical amongst us, who realised that it only needed two holes to be lost by each man to swing the result by 8.

Our team did really well to win, particularly as we were generally considered favourites to do so. It is quite an achievement to play up to everyone's expectations for two days when everyone else is hoping you will be beaten. A special pat on the back for **Mike Hales** and **Dick Carroll** who have striven for so long to help the Corps win a major Golfing Trophy; it was very nice to see their efforts rewarded.

All four members of the team had their great moments and their disasters. Special mention must be made of **Carroll's** splendid form in three out of four of the rounds so that in all he emerged 19 up and only 3 down. **Carveth** for his magnificent 5 up against **Sergeant-Major Hanna** of the RMP. **Simpson** for his vital putt to go 3 up on the last green against **Dickinson** of RAOC and **Brewin** for his brave winning putt already described and for only losing one match.

What is even better than reporting a splendid victory is to record that there were three or four other Corps players of a similar standard who could not play for one reason or another. At last the Corps has got a bit of depth in its golf; long may it continue.

THE CUP

The Royal Irish Rangers Cup for the inter-Corps Golf team championships being held by the present and immediate past Captains of Corps Golf. The photograph shows (*left to right*) W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Simpson, Captain Willie Brewin, Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales (Captain), Corporal Chris Carveth (behind the Cup), Brigadier Jasper Peck (immediate past Captain), Major Dick Carroll

Detailed results of matches were:

1st Round vs. RADC		
Carroll beat **Smart**	8 up	
Carveth beat **Stock**	8 up	
Brewin beat **Galloway**	2 up	
Simpson beat **Lyall**	2 up	
	20–nil	

2nd Round vs. RMP		
Carroll lost to **Thompson**		3 down
Carveth beat **Hanna**	5 up	
Brewin beat **Smith**	7 up	
Simpson beat **Marnoch**	10 up	
	22	3
Semi-finals vs. RAOC		
Carveth lost to **Gray**		6 down
Simpson beat **Dickenson**	3 up	
Carroll beat **Wilson**	4 up	
Brewin halved with **Rush**	—	—
	7	6
Final vs. APTC		
Carveth beat **Speight**	6 up	
Simpson lost to **Pegler**		3 down
Carroll beat **Cleaver**	7 up	
Brewin lost to **Trayner**		2 down
	13	5

Royal Signals Win BAOR Golf Championship for Third Year Running

THE BAOR Inter-Corps Championship (The Benson and Hedges Trophy) was again staged at the British Army Golf Club, Sennelager, this year.

Battle commenced at 07.30 hrs on 10th July when 11 teams, each of 10 players, played a medal round. The best eight scores in each team produced the aggregate gross score which was used for seeding the eight teams who went forward to the match play knockout stages of the competition.

Royal Signals having won in the two previous years were strong favourites to retain the trophy, but when the Royal Artillery achieved the best aggregate medal score and were seeded number one with the Corps at number two it was obvious that the Gunners, whom we beat in last year's final, were determined to avenge that defeat.

Each team now selected eight players from the original 10 to play in the knock-out stages.

As number two seed the Corps, playing against the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, teed off behind the Gunners playing against a combined Infantry side. This meant a late afternoon start of 15.45 hrs and when a heavy thunderstorm brought a halt to proceedings just after the half-way stage, it looked as though the round would have to be postponed. Like **Lee Trevino,** Army golfers were not prepared to take chances with lightning so close. However, the storm soon passed and the sun appeared once more to make conditions very humid. The Corps side finally disposed of the RAOC challenge at 20.15 hrs and were amazed to find that the Gunners had earlier succumbed to the number eight seed by two holes.

On the morning of 11th July, which was to be another sweltering day, the Corps side beat the Royal Corps of Transport to reach the final. The other finalists were the Royal Army Pay Corps and tee-off was set for 13.00 hrs. Fifteen minutes before tee-off another thunderstorm threatened to wash out play for the day. Not only was the clubhouse, a tree and a caravan struck by lightning, but after the storm abated several holes on the back nine were found to be waterlogged. A worried committee carried out several inspections of the course before deciding to start the final at 15.00 hrs. This proved to be a tough battle. At the half-way stage the RAPC were leading by two holes, but the golfing skill and stamina of the Corps team eventually won the day, the Corps side running out winners by nine holes.

The following represented the Corps: **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. Simpson,** 16 Signal Regiment; **Captain D. A. Reed,** 227 Signal Squadron; **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) L. Yates,** 22 Signal Regiment; **W.O.2 (RQMS) P. C. Barnett,** 16 Signal Regiment; **Signalman W. G. Kelman,** 13 Signal Regiment; **Major P. D. Tidey,** HQ Rheindahlen Garrison; **W.O.2 (Radio Supvr) D.**

Cheyne, 13 Signal Regiment; **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) C. N. Lightfoot,** 7 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant A. Funnell,** 7 Signal Regiment; **Major D. E. Burt,** 7 Signal Regiment.

Special mention must be made of the youngest member of the team, **Signalman Bill Kelman,** of 13 Signal Regiment, who, after a tentative start in the practice matches, improved with each round and by the final was playing like a seasoned competitor. I am sure we are going to hear a lot more about Bill in Corps golfing circles over the next few years.

The CSO BAOR, **Major-General H. A. J. Sturge,** has been pleased to award Royal Signals (BAOR) Golf Colours, in recognition of their services to BAOR Corps golf, to the following: **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) L. Yates, W.O.2 (Radio Supvr) D. Cheyne, Signalman W. G. Kelman.**

Shooting

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING HELD AT BULFORD RANGES 23rd to 27th JUNE 1975

REPORT BY MAJOR G. A. S. EXELL, CAPTAIN OF CORPS SHOOTING

THE relief at being able to hold our meeting in 1975 was tempered by the MOD policy which permitted UK teams only to compete. Eventually we mustered some 68 UK competitiors from two major and eight minor units. The standards were encouragingly high despite the absence of many 'old hands' who have recently left the world of shooting. **Captain John Reed** shot consistantly well to take the individual championship by the convincing margin of 34 points. Despite only two major units competing for the team championship, the result was in doubt until the last shot of the final match with 30 Signal Regiment just pipping the School of Signals by a single point. The minor unit championship was essentially between 11 Signal Regiment, 223 Signal Squadron and 5 Brigade Signal Squadron, the final placings being in that order.

The meeting was noteworthy because for the first time the 'overheads' of administration and range management were shared with the Royal Artillery. Although each Corps had their own Stats, everything else was run in parallel. The experiment proved most successful, due to splendid co-operation by the Gunners, with whom we managed to remain on speaking terms throughout!

The CSO UKLF, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, MBE,** who has always staunchly supported Corps Shooting, presented the prizes. He thanked 30 Signal Regiment, the host unit, which had given unfailing backing to the competitors at all times. The Training Brigade and 10 Signal Regiment all had honourable mentions for providing butt parties and stats.

It is pleasant to record that **Majors George Cowsill** and **Bill Matthews** (both now retired) were able to present in person the trophies they had donated for the Britannia and Worcester and Lindley matches respectively.

The main individual prizewinners were as follows:

Match 1a	Roupell	**W.O.2 Cole,** School of Signals
1b	Whitehead	**Sergeant Bonser,** 11 Sig Regt
1c	Association	**Captain Reed,** 35 Regt (V)
2	Roberts	**Corporal Marriott,** 223 Sig Sqn
3	Army 100	**Sergeant Burns,** RSME
4	SMG	**Sergeant Laughlin,** 8 Sig Regt
5	Bisley Cup	**Lieutenant Evans,** BUOTC
6	Pistol	**Captain Reed,** 35 Regt (V)
19	LMG	**Captain Howard, Signalman Mitchell** (School of Signals)

REGULAR ARMY SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING—BISLEY

70 Royal Signals competitors from six major units and four minor units attended RASAM. In spite of these gratifying numbers we realised from the outset that we would be hard-pressed to compete with the record entry of 68 major units, of which no less than 39 were from infantry battalions. This year each unit had to produce three Class B shots (less than five years' service) out of the nominated team of eight and, as expected, many of our units found this to be difficult. The significance of the change was emphasised by the fact that only two of our Class B shots qualified for the second stage of the Championship, whereas 32 of our Class A shot the Roberts Match. The rapid rise in the overall standards at Bisley is best illustrated by the qualifying scores for the Roberts and Army 100, which increased by the big margin of 12 and 21 points respectively over the 1974 scores. Five members of our Corps qualified for the Army 100 and this was a pleasing result with so many of our better-known shots away from the scene. Our highest placing in the Championship was by **Sergeant 'Corky' Corcoran,** who came a very creditable 10th in this his first year back at Bisley since 1968. Our other Army 100 qualifiers were **Captain John Reed, W.O.2 Barry Hassall, Corporal Alan Brooks** and **Corporal Colin Harris.**

Many readers will know that this year the Corps presented the Royal Signals Trophy to the Army Rifle Association for award to the pair making the highest score with a Bren LMG in the Worcester and Lindley Match. Naturally we had hoped that a Royal Signals pair would be the first to win it. Unfortunately, a pair from the Royal Pioneer Corps had other ideas, and, although **Captain Roger Howard** and **Signalman Tom Mitchell** from the School of Signals scored a very good 176 it wasn't quite good enough.

28 Signal Regiment, led again by **Captain John Woods (REME),** was our best placed team in the KRRC Cup (the major unit championship). Although by our Corps standards they had a strong team, they still only came 22nd and it is worth noting that the first 19 places were filled by the infantry. It is difficult to compete with the strength in depth of infantry battalions, which have such a wide field from which to choose their B Class shots—the weakest part of most Royal Signals teams.

259 Signal Squadron, lead by **Captain Hugh Goodman,** produced our first team ever to appear at Bisley from Cyprus. They really made their journey worthwhile by coming 4th in the RASC Cup (the minor unit championship) against some very stiff opposition. To cap some fine performances they won outright the Parachute Regiment (SMG) Cup for minor units to record the only 'silver' won by the Corps at the meeting. Well done '259'!

Our Methuen Team was missing many familiar names of recent years but the 'new brigade' acquitted themselves well. But for a disastrous jam in the rapids (no names), we would have come much higher than our eventual 11th placing. Spare a thought, however, for **Captain John Reed,** who suffered a suspected slipped disc the day before and thus missed not only the Methuen Match but also the Army 100 and Pistol 30. He won't forget his return to Bisley from Malta in a hurry!

ROYAL SIGNALS METHUEN TEAM 1975

Standing: Sergeant J. F. Burns, Sergeant A. G. Hunt
Seated: Sergeant M. Corcoran, Corporal A. S. Brooks, Major G. A. S. Exell (Team Captain), Corporal C. G. Harris (Reserve), Lieutenant R. J. Evans, W.O.2 B. Hassall

SERVICE WEAPON EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD AT BISLEY 14th to 17th JULY, 1975

Due to other commitments we were able to retain only two of the Methuen Squad for our team at this meeting. Shooting as a tyro, **Sergeant Tony Hunt** proved our most consistent shot by being awarded six bars in prize lists for individual matches. **Major Geoff Exell** had his moment of glory by scoring an HPS of 50 to win the Sitting Match, thus keeping up a Royal Signals tradition over a number of years of taking back silver from the National Meeting.

REPORT ON NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION'S TARGET RIFLE MEETING—BISLEY 'TARGET RIFLE EVENTS'

Seven serving members of the Corps shot in the Target Rifle events, alongside two well-known Corps shots from the past, **Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Walsh** and **Colonel Tommy Thompson.** We were unable to follow up **Geoff Exell's** raid on the silver cupboard, but **Colonel Richard Gilbertson** came near it with a 'possible' in the Conan Doyle match at 900 yards; as he was given five extra rounds for the tie. The rain descended and the targets all but disappeared. Two other shooters scored their possibles later in the day and he was eventually placed third.

John Cox, Richard Gilbertson and **Lieutenant Philip Grey** were selected for the Regular Army team in the Inter-Services Short Range Match (fired at 300 and 600 yards). This was **Philip Grey's** first appearance in a Regular Army Team, and though he was disappointed in his own score, we can confidently predict that his name will feature in these columns again. The Regular Army won by a good margin, and, having already won the United Services Cup (Service Rifle) and the SMG and Pistol events, proceeded to 900 yards with their tails high and every intention of achieving the Grand Slam. Alas, even the help of **Major John Cox** and **Colonel Richard Gilbertson** was not enough and the Regular Army went down to the Navy, the RAF, the TAVR, and even the UK Cadets.

A PINT EACH WAY

The National and Mackinnon Matches are the Short and Long Range matches between teams from the Home Countries and certain overseas teams. **Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Walsh** has been the Irish captain for a number of years, and **Colonel Richard Gilbertson** shoots regularly for Wales. They have a pint each way on both matches; this year, Ireland beat Wales in both, but **Richard** beat **Paddy** in the long range match and finished only two pints down. **Lieutenant Jim Evans** shot for Wales for the first time in the National, achieving a creditable score.

Sailing

R SIGNALS YC v RESA, 30th JULY, 1975

The Royal Signals YC were at home to the Royal Engineers Sailing Association at Whale Island on 30th July, 1975, to sail in a Corps match for the Wakeham Cup.

The winds were light and variable. The match consisted of two races in Bosun dinghies from the RN Sailing Centre. There was some very closely contested team racing with positions changing constantly. The RESA won both races.

1st Race: RESA 9¾ points; RSYC 11.
2nd Race: RESA 9¼ points; RSYC 11¼.

The Royal Signals team included the following: **Major S. W. Read, Captain H. J. P. Exan, Sergeant D. C. A. Ellis, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Smith, Musician P. R. Smith, Corporal Wilson.** Reserve: **Lance-Corporal I. T. Ward.**

Corps representative and Officer of the Day was **Colonel R. S. Holbrook.**

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Garrison on Sunday, 13th July, 1975

Present

Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO, President; Major-General M. D. Price, CB, CBE, Chairman; Colonel L. W. Wright, TD, Vice-Chairman; Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, DSO, General Secretary; Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Murray, OBE, General Secretary-designate, and some 140 members of the Association.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the Master of Signals, President of the Association; Major-General Morrison, a past Chairman; Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, General Secretary-designate, and some 750 members, wives and families attending the reunion. The Chairman went on to thank the Rev. Leslie Pettifer for his fine sermon and the choirs of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and the Risedale School for their significant contributions to the service at St Martin's. The Royal Signals Association Squadron on parade contained 21 Branch Standards with escorts and 200 marching members. The march past after church included a squad of 'Maresfield Signalmen' numbering 18 commanded by Major-General Morrison.

The Chairman also thanked Brigadier King and his staff, the Catterick '75 Planning Team, the Corps Band and the very many members of the Brigade who had helped to make the weekend so successful. This was supported by warm applause from all present.

The Chairman then referred to the outstanding success of the Catterick '75 celebrations, which preceded the reunion. The visit of Her Majesty the Queen on 10th July was an outstanding event. Her Majesty had unveiled a statue in the newly-named Queens Avenue—formerly Druggon Road—depicting a Signalman of 1925 and 1975. The Chairman advised the meeting that the Association had contributed £1,000 towards the cost of the statue, of which some £200 had been contributed by donations from branches.

Major-General Price then referred to the renaming of the Swale Bridge in Richmond—now 'Mercury Bridge'—on 11th July. This important event was followed by a parade through Richmond and the playing of Retreat in the castle grounds. Three Branch Standards had been carried ahead of the Royal Signals Association Squadron on this parade.

1. MINUTES OF THE 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were approved by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

Branches. There are now 46 active Branches of the Association—two new Branches having been formed. These are the 'SHAPE Branch' formed by the UK Support Unit SHAPE and the 'Three Counties Branch' formed at Worcester and covering the Counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. There are also five affiliated Branches, including a new one —the '56 Divisional Signals Old Comrades Association'.

The new Branches have got off to a good start and much credit must go to the hard-working individuals and founder members who brought these Branches into being.

Membership. Association membership has again increased as follows:

New Life Members		
Put forward by Branches		101
Under the Day's Pay Scheme		486
	Total	587
New Annual Members		
Put forward by Branches		114
Signed on at Association's HQ		2
	Total	116

The number of life and annual members put forward by Branches is 19 more than last year's considerable total and Branches are to be congratulated on their excellent achievement in gaining so many new members. The problem still is to persuade more regular soldiers leaving the Corps to join Branches and play an active part in them. Every regular soldier leaving the Corps who has contributed to the Days Pay Scheme is now written to by

Association HQ and told he is a Life Member and is asked if he wishes to play an active part in the Association by joining a Branch. A number write back to say they do and they are put in touch with their local Branch Secretary—if there is one nearby. We believe we are achieving some modest success by this procedure.

Welfare. Calls on our welfare funds increased slightly during 1974. £13,114 was spent on 600 cases compared with £11,935 on 586 cases in 1973. Included in the £13,114 was £1,035 distributed in Christmas grants to 204 of our most deserving cases. Over and above this, £1,021 came from the War Memorial Fund to provide recuperative holidays for those badly requiring them. During 1974, 592 clothing parcels were sent out to needy families. The support we receive from serving and retired members of the Corps who regularly send us part-worn clothing is quite remarkable and, we believe, unique amongst Service welfare organisations. We made Welfare loans and grants from our funds totalling £1,916 to 21 serving soldiers who had run into financial difficulties. At Christmas we sent £320 to CR Signals, N. Ireland, to help towards providing Christmas amenities for our soldiers serving there. We made a donation of £20,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund to help the splendid work they are doing for Army Welfare as a whole and from which we derive much benefit including interest-free loans totalling £13,275 in 1974 to help soldiers set up home on leaving the service. Figures this year show a considerable rise in average *per capita* grants and with the serious escalation of living costs it is clear that our welfare expenditure may increase by some 50% to around £20,000 in 1975. With the generous support we receive from the Day's Pay Scheme we can meet such a call on our funds but will probably have to reduce our contributions to the Army Benevolent Fund as a result.

Finance Accounts 1974. On 31st December, 1974, our accumulated funds stood at £199,854. The book value of our investments was £176,025 and the market value £113,069; since then the market value has recovered to somewhere near the book value. Our general fund showed an excess of expenditure over income of £1,562. Included on the expenditure side was a capital transaction—a loss of £6,368 on the sale of certain shares. These were shares which the Trustees felt it was advisable to sell because of their poor performance, even though it meant accepting an element of loss. Our benevolent fund showed a surplus of income of £9,367 so that there was a net overall surplus of income in the fund of £7,805 which was transferred to the Capital Account.

An ex-Staff-Sergeant of the Corps who has made a successful second career has most generously covenanted his Army Pension to the Association and Mrs. Anne Murphy, who worked for the Welfare side during the War, left us a legacy of £1,000.

The Wire. THE WIRE has had a difficult 1974, brought about by increasing costs and severe delays in publication—an aftermath of the three-day week at the beginning of the year. It was only near the end of the year that it was able to return to its normal production schedule. This was achieved by cutting the size of a number of issues and close collaboration with our printers. Due to publishing a number of issues at reduced size the cost of printing and mailing in 1974 was less than in 1973 and THE WIRE only needed a subsidy of £2,670 compared with £3,013 in 1973. However, things will be very different in 1975 due to further increased costs of printing and heavy additional postal charges. And the Central Committee decided recently that an increase in cost was inevitable, to 20p for bulk copies from this month and to 25p for individual copies from the beginning of next year. This will still mean a subsidy being paid from central funds, which it was agreed should not exceed about £3,000.

Staff. Our staff continue to render their usual loyal and efficient service: Miss M Hyde-Parker, Miss M. Cook (Welfare); Mr. F. Shelbourn, Mr. K. Nazarin (Accounts); Mr. D. Greenbrook (Assistant to the General Secretary and Records Section); Mr. L. Wood (Assistant Editor of THE WIRE); Mr. A. Walsh (WIRE mailing list and post). Lieutenant-Colonel 'Ron' Murray who becomes General Secretary on 14th July, 1975.

The Central Committee appointed a new Trustee, Brigadier Peter Vaigncourt-Strallen, in the place of Brigadier Guy Tucker, to whom the Association's thanks are due for his long service as a Director of our Trustee Company.

Conclusion. The Association continues to be, as it always has been, a lively and important part of the Corps family. The number of active Branches has increased—as has membership—and Branch functions are well supported. The Reunions at Catterick and Blandford are more popular than ever—and indeed the main problem is trying to cope with the large numbers who attend these gatherings. However, the average age of active members increases and more younger men would be welcomed in Branches. Under present-day conditions, when the costs of even the basic necessities of life press heavily on the less well-off our Welfare work assumes added significance and is certainly the most important aspect of what the Association sets out to achieve under its charter.

Throughout the Association one cannot help but be impressed by the strong loyalty and pride in the Corps evident amongst its members. Not only is this very good for the Corps but it is also a refreshing element of stability amid the stresses and strains of national life today.

ELECTION OR RE-ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The meeting elected or re-elected the following to the Central Committee by a show of hands:

Chairman and Treasurer: Major-General M. D. Price, CB, OBE (re-election). Vice-Chairmen: Brigadier T. I. G. Gray (election) vice Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, MBE (retiring). Colonel L. W. Wright, TD (re-election). Branch Rep, Zone C: Mr. E. P. Wilds (Dorset Branch) vice Mr. D. W. F. Barnfield (Torbay and District Branch) (retiring). Branch Rep., Zone D: Major M. A. W. Rose, TD (North London Branch) vice Major D. P. Gardiner, TD (Aldershot Branch) (retiring).

The Chairman thanked Brigadier Gribbin, Mr. Barnfield and Major Gardiner for their most valuable services to the Association during their terms of office on the Central Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member of the Newcastle upon Tyne Branch raised the question of an increase in the number of lady members of the Association being accommodated over the weekend. The Chairman said that the accommodation in the WRAC Block was limited and that it was unlikely that any increase, over approximately 20, would be possible.

Presentation to Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, DSO. The Chairman declared the formal meeting closed and observed that the moment had come to say a collective *au revoir* to Brigadier Pat Hobson. He was not going to list his virtues and great contributions in service to the Corps during the past 45 years; some of these would be included in the next WIRE. On behalf of past and present members of Royal Signals Major-General Price expressed a heartfelt thank you with the hope that Brigadier Pat would find it possible to attend at least one of the reunions each year. He then invited the Master of Signals to make a presentation to which both Association Branches and the serving Corps had subscribed.

Major-General Bradley presented a silver salver and a cheque to Brigadier Hobson. This was supported by warm and prolonged applause from all present.

Brigadier Hobson, in responding, referred to the tremendous pleasure and satisfaction he had derived over the past 45 years, both as a serving officer and as General Secretary of the Association. He referred to the Corps as second to none in the Army and his sadness on retirement. He would always treasure the inscribed silver salver and thanked all who had contributed to this magnificent gift and the cheque which accompanied it. Finally, Brigadier Hobson paid tribute to the headquarters staff of the Association.

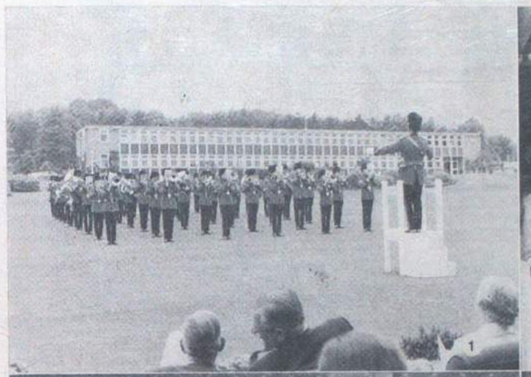
(Photo courtesy Sergeant Lennon)

LAST AGM FOR BRIGADIER PAT HOBSON

Major-General Peter Bradley presents the retiring General Secretary with an inscribed silver salver from the Corps

(Please see page 336 for Association Accounts for year ending December 1974)

★ CATTERICK REUNION 1975 AS POPULAR AS EVER ★



(Photographs courtesy Glovers, Richmond)

1. The Corps Band gave an impressive performance at the Retreat Ceremony

2. Cheerful gathering on Saturday evening

3. Friends from Newark enjoy themselves

4. The serving Corps enter into the spirit of the occasion

5. The Corps Band passes the recently-unveiled 1925–75 statue on the way to the Sunday Church Service

6. Old Comrades march past the Master of Signals after the Church service

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1974

1973					1973				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND					OFFICE FURNITURE—AT COST LESS		
169,782		Balance at 1 January 1974	192,049			270	DEPRECIATION		243
		Add: Excess of income over expend-					INVESTMENTS AT COST		
22,267		iture for the year	7,805				Quoted (Market value £113,069, 1973—		
					166,665		£181,255)	176,020	
	192,049			199,854			Unquoted—Royal Signals Association		
		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED			5		Trustee Limited	5	
	3,260	CHARGES		4,187					
		NOTES:				166,670			176,025
		1 No provision has been made for the							
		fall in market values of quoted invest-			1,470		STOCKS IN HAND, AT COST	2,070	
		ments during 1974 since these invest-					*Less:* Provision for slow-moving stocks	80	
		ments are held for the long term and,			80				
		in the opinion of Royal Signals Asso-				1,390			1,990
		ciation Trustee Limited, there has been				12,624	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS ..		7,680
		no permanent impairment in their				1,709	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		2,042
		value.				12,646	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		16,061
		2 Included in bank balances is an							
		amount of £3,000 deposited with					*Chairman:* M. D. Price		
		Royal Bank of Scotland as security					*Secretary:* P. M. P. Hobson		
		for a loan made by the bank to a							
		member of the Association. The loan							
		is expected to be repaid in 1975 and							
		the deposit together with accumulated							
		interest will then be released.							
	£195,309			£204,041	£195,309				£204,041

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

For the reasons given in note 1 to the balance sheet quoted investments have not been written down to market value at 31 December 1974. With this explanation 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 1974 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

3, Frederick's Place,
Old Jewry,
London, EC2R 8DB.
12 March 1975

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1974

GENERAL

1973						1973				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£	
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES				244	SUBSCRIPTIONS			169
		Salaries, national insurance, super-				47	RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES			43
606		annuation contributions	635				SUNDRY INCOME			
468		Pensions to former employees	402				Income from sales of Corps clothing,			
2,019		Other administrative expenses	2,267				badges, records of Corps music and			
						641	diaries			1,017
	3,093			3,304		8,869	INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS—GROSS ..			9,792
		DEPRECIATION OF FURNITURE AND				4,115	PROFIT ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS ..			—
	30	FITTINGS		27			PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT—COST OF			
	—	STATUE FUND		793		549	INVESTMENT WRITTEN BACK			—
	2,180	COST OF ASSOCIATION REUNIONS ..		2,049		646	BANK DEPOSIT INTEREST			2,597
		CONTRIBUTION TO COSTS OF PUBLI-				—	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME ..			1,562
	2,821	CATIONS		2,639						
	—	LOSS ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS		6,368						
	6,987	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ..		—						
	£15,111			£15,180	£15,111					£15,180

BENEVOLENT

1973						1973				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£	
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES					DONATIONS			
		Salaries, national insurance, super-			550		Individuals and local branches	778		
4,408		annuation contributions	5,525				Regiments and Squadrons, Royal			
240		Postage of welfare parcels	220		1,308		Signals	439		
119		Sundry expenses	166							
						1,858				1,217
	4,767			5,911			RECEIPTS FROM CORPS FUNDS			
	11,935	BENEVOLENT GRANTS		13,114	7,444		Officers	8,100		
		DONATIONS			37,750		Other ranks	40,527		
15,000		Army Benevolent Fund	20,000							
1,295		Others	2,016							
						45,194				48,627
	16,295			22,016		1,225	BENEVOLENT GRANTS REFUNDED ..			1,306
	—	CONVALESCENT HOLIDAYS		742						
	15,280	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ..		9,367						
	£48,277			£51,150	£48,277					£51,150

SUMMARY

1973				1973			
£			£	£			£
		EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME ON			EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ON		
—		GENERAL ACCOUNT	1,562	6,987	GENERAL ACCOUNT		—
		OVERALL EXCESS OF INCOME OVER			EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ON		
		EXPENDITURE TAKEN TO ACCUMULATED		15,280	BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT		9,367
22,267		FUND	7,805				
£22,267			£9,367	£22,267			£9,367

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October-November 1975

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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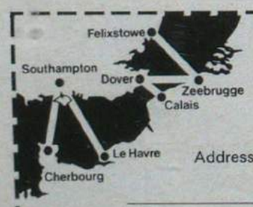

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MR. L. WOOD

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER — 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 10**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

On 5 September, 16th Signal Regiment celebrated the third anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of the City of Krefeld by 'marching through the streets of the town with band playing, drums beating, swords drawn and bayonets fixed'. The parade formed up before the Rathaus and was inspected by the Burgermeister, Herr Groten. After speeches and a march past the Regiment headed by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tim Hackworth—supported by the band of the 14/20th Hussars—made its presence felt by marching through the centre of the town—and this on market day!

Editorial

Recently to hand is the Army Benevolent Fund annual report for 1974–75. Once again we are reminded of the splendid work carried out by this organisation on behalf of serving and retired soldiers and their dependants. Perhaps the most striking fact to emerge from this report is that grants to Corps and Regimental Associations amounted to £109,200 in 1974–75 compared with £4,300 in 1964–65—such has been the impact of the Day's Pay Scheme on Army benevolence during the last 10 years.

We can be justly proud of the substantial contribution the Corps makes through this imaginative scheme which is so well supported by the great majority of serving officers and soldiers in Royal Signals. However expenditure by the Army Benevolent Fund extends on a far wider scale than the example quoted above. We note from the report main heads of relief assistance as follows:

Grants to the serving soldier, the ex-soldier and their families ..	£541,000
Loans to help serving soldiers prepare for civilian life and to families pending claims for compensation (N. Ireland) ..	£277,000
Caring for the aged including weekly allowances	£103,000
Nursing and training the disabled	£56,000
Caring for children including a very comprehensive holiday scheme	£99,000
Placing soldiers in civilian employment on discharge	£27,000
General welfare investigation and assistance in case work. This covers S.S.A.F.A., Forces Help Society and many other charitable organisations dedicated to Service welfare work ..	£110,200
Total	£1,213,200

Included in these totals are the very substantial grants made by Corps and Regimental Associations to their own welfare cases.

All-in-all Army benevolence is providing effective and timely assistance to its own. This is money well spent. Your contribution to the Day's Pay Scheme has played a full part in this. Keep up the good work!

A belated acknowledgement

Many of our readers will recall the August/September issue which drew its main theme from the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Catterick. We gratefully acknowledge the most excellent photograph, used for our front cover, provided by Mr. Steve Heritage, Audio and Visual Aid Group, 8th Signal Regiment.

Apology

Due to problems beyond our control, it has not been possible to include in this issue all the unit notes received up to the 12th October. We hope to overcome the difficulties leading to this undesirable situation. Meanwhile our sincere apologies.

From our "In" Tray

NEW APPOINTMENT

We congratulate Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Honorary Colonel Commandant, on being appointed a vice-chairman of the TAVR Council.

History of Indian Signals

From Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. Deshpande

Dear Sir,

This is to thank you very much for your help in getting write-ups/photographs etc for our Corps History. The response to the request through THE WIRE and the Institution Journal was quite good and our SO-in-C feels that another request with many 'thanks' to those who have responded will further encourage some more 'shy' officers to make their contributions based on a guide line (see below).

I shall again be grateful for your further help in the matter.

Yours sincerely,
P. B. Deshpande

Military Advisers Dept.,
India House,
Aldwych,
London,
WC2.

GUIDE LINE

THE Indian Corps of Signals Historian has already individually acknowledged with thanks the contributions made by a large number of British Officers who served in the Indian Corps of Signals during years preceding 1947. The draft History still finds some gaps on historical events in Middle East, Malaya and Burma, the Araken and Italy. Dirth of material in the following is slowing down the writing:

(a) The Allied pursuit in the Middle East;
(b) Performance of 8 and 10 Indian Divisional Signals in Italy;
(c) Role of Signals in PAI Force;
(d) Signals in the final phase of the Campaign in Burma.

A detailed guide line to refresh the memories of officers/NCOs can be had from:

Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. Deshpande,
Military Adviser's Department,
The High Commission of India,
India House,
Aldwych,
London WC2,
or
Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Dhamija (Retd.),
Corps Historian,
Inspectorate of Signals,
Trades Training,
Jabalpur, India.

CORPS OFFICER TAKES OVER SOUTH YORKSHIRE ARMY CAREERS OFFICE

Sheffield memories . . . the Lord Mayor, Coun. Albert Richardson presented Lt Col Bruce Beattie (pictured left), the new officer in charge of South Yorkshire's careers' office, with a book on the city when he and other officers visited the Town Hall. Also pictured are Maj James Marchall (second left), the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Richardson, and Maj Mike Wilkes of the 1st RHA Chestnut troop in Germany (right) (Bruce Beattie writes that he is thoroughly enjoying the new job after the pressures of Whitehall and that he has bought a lovely old house in the Derbyshire Peak District)

A notable retirement

W.O.2 Bracegirdle recently said goodbye to T. & A.V.R. life after 22 years service.

Without moving from his home town of Leigh, **W.O.2 Bracegirdle** has served with several units due to the various re-organisations of the T.A. and T. & A.V.R. He joined 96 A.G.R.A. in 1953, but rebadged in 1961 when A.G.R.A. became 59 Signal Regiment. His last unit has been 42 Signal Squadron (V.) where we are all sorry to see him retire. He handed over to **W.O.2 Rusdale** who works for the Post Office and finds he can never get away completely from the T. & A.V.R. Recently, in his capacity of Senior Technician, he heard he was eligible for a P.O. award. The news came to him from his Senior Telecomms Superintendent, who happens to be **Captain A. C. Leech,** also of 42 Signal Squadron (V.).

Can You Help?

From: Mr D. R. Jones

Sir,

I wonder if any reader remembers 2310797 **Sgt H. C. Bosworth,** Royal Signals. I believe he was discharged from the Army in 1939. I have recently acquired two medals to **Sgt Bosworth** and would be delighted to receive any information.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. Jones.

'Sorrento',
39 Wheatfield Drive,
Shifnal, Salop.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY JOB VACANCIES?

It may be that some of our readers in civilian life are aware of employment vacancies which could be filled by those leaving the Corps on retirement or those already retired who are seeking employment. It would be greatly appreciated if details could be forwarded to the Association.

GRADUATION DAY, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

WHO would have thought that, after four weeks of fine warm sunshine Graduation Day could maintain its record for good weather. Contrary to gloomy forecasts, 11th July was appropriately pleasant, and the graduates of 27 Degree course were able to show off their vivid B.Sc. hoods in the sunshine. And now after three years of academic effort they have departed: **Bob Axton** to 7 Regiment, **Martin Bevan** to 2 Division (via a Clipper in the first half of the Round the World Race), **Charles le Gallais** to the R.M.A.S. as a University Cadet, **Nick Mansfield** to 260 Squadron, **John Snowdon** to 1 Division with the Corps Prize for his Upper Second Degree, and **Chris Wright** to P Company as an aspiring parachutist. We'll miss them all, and our best wishes go with them and their wives in their new posts.

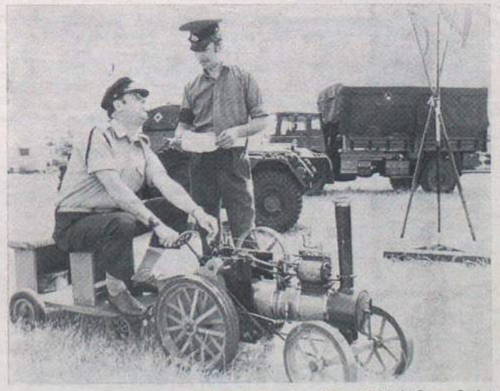
Those who are left behind have dispersed on vacation training. Several—**Fisher** (the elder), **Hughes, Macfarlane** and **Stewart** are attached to the Gurkhas in Hong Kong; **Lynam** to 24 Brigade and **Podmore** and **Crowther** to units in BAOR. Other are attached to industrial firms—**Crowley, Fletcher, Parfitt Bryning, Evans, Fisher** (the younger) and **Wills** all hoping to return wiser in the ways of industry.

And then of course, there is our usual crop of adventure trainers **Messrs. Wood** and **Manders,** thwarted in their attempt to trek across Nepal have decided to mountaineer in Canada instead; and **Messrs. Holmes** and **Hope** are crossing Europe by canoe. A possible Trans Sahara expedition was foiled at the last minute by the politicians, leaving **Lieutenant Wills** to take an industrial attachment instead.

Finally at least one member will be really earning his pay during the vacation—**John Macfarlane** will return from Hong Kong to stand-in in 39 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron while AG11 try to sort themselves out. All in all a full programme, and one on which we hope to elaborate in a later edition of THE WIRE.

Our photograph shows members of the staff with graduands and their wives, and the S.O. and C.'s representative **Brigadier Roy Phippard,** accompanied by his wife.

CORPS RSM BREATHALYSED!



(Photo courtesy B. A. Hyde, 24 Bright Street, Derby)

The suspicions of Corporal Mick Hancock were enough for him to get out his breathalyser kit, when RSM Reg Bishop, Royal Signals W.O.1 of the Derby Army Careers and Information Centre, arrived at the recruiting display at the Derbyshire Steam Rally on a model steam engine, but everything was in order. Breath was *Signal* fresh; the RSM was fulfilling a life-long ambition to drive a steam engine

BE WISE!
PLAN AHEAD!

through

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Movements

Officers

Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, O.B.E.	..	To RMCS Shrivenham
Major (Tfc.) D. A. Burge	..	„ School of Signals
Acting/Major C. W. Collier	..	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Major W. G. Cunningham	..	„ APSG Edinburgh
Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. Davis, M.B.E.	..	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Captain D. G. Ellen	..	„ School of Signals
Acting/Major M. J. Forge	..	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Major (QM) S. H. D. Golding	..	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Lieutenant A. R. Heath	..	„ 21 Signal Regiment
Second-Lieutenant C. L. Le-Gallais	..	„ RMA Sandhurst (DE7)
Major (QM) T. J. Licence	..	„ 10 Signal Regiment (HS)
Lieutenant C. C. McColville	..	„ RHG/D
Captain P. A. Noble	..	„ 7 Signal Regiment
Captain D. G. McH. Overton	..	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Lieutenant-Colonel M. W. Pollard, MBE		„ HQ AFCENT (BAE)
Lieutenant L. G. Poole	..	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Major J. D. Plummer	..	„ RARDE MOD (PE)
Colonel F. Ramsbottom	..	„ AAC Harrogate
Captain (Tfc) D. F. Reed	..	„ 11 Signal Regiment (HS)
Captain (Tfc) I. A. Reid	..	„ HQ AFCENT (Sp Gp International (227 Signal Squadron)
Captain J. H. Roberts	..	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Captain M. G. Taylor	..	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Second-Lieutenant N. J. Thompson	..	„ Bristol University OTC
Major D. J. Walder	..	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Captain (TOT) K. J. West	..	„ 233 Signal Squadron
Lieutenant R. F. Binham	..	To JCSC No. 26 5th October–5th December, 1975
Captain R. H. G. Elford	..	
Captain D. K. Hadder	..	
Captain B. J. Hughes	..	
Captain I. A. Noble	..	
Captain R. J. Skaife	..	
Captain H. Smith	..	
Captain A. E. Truluck	..	

WOs and SNCOs

W.O.2 G. Shepherd	..	To HQ AFNORTH BAE
W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. J. Shone	..	„ 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. M. Douglas	..	„ 10th Signal Regiment
W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. Wills	..	„ 226 Signal Squadron (Radio)
W.O.2 S. Brown	..	„ 11th Signal Regiment
W.O.2 W. B. Dick	..	„ 35th Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 M. F. P. Little	..	„ HQ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
W.O.2 J. F. Milton	..	„ 34th Signal Regiment (V)
W.O.2 A. K. Woods	..	„ 22nd Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) W. R. F. Hall	..	„ 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) B. J. Gilhooly		„ 262 Signal Squadron (East)
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) I. Haylock	..	„ 9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. Young	..	„ Northag Air Support Radio Squadron
Staff-Sergeant A. S. Cotillard	..	„ 10th Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant T. W. Coulson	..	„ 8th Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant G. H. Maloney	..	„ 16th Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Staff-Sergeant K. E. Russell	..	„ NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron
Staff-Sergeant J. B. Salter	..	„ 8th Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant R. Upton	..	„ Aberdeen University OTC
Staff-Sergeant D. S. Berry	..	„ 33rd Signal Regiment
Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) T. J. Spence		„ 259 Signal Squadron (West)
Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) R. E. Chapman		„ 35th Signal Regiment (V)
Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) P. M. Dowdall		„ 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Acting/Staff-Sergeant J. M. M. Newman		„ HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade & Signal Squadron
Acting/Staff-Sergeant R. J. Duffy	..	„ HQ 8 Infantry Brigade & Signal Squadron
Sergeant F. Madden	..	„ HQ 2nd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. S. Chard	..	„ 11th Signal Regiment (Depot Troop)
Sergeant M. Barnet	..	„ 32nd Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant J. Bell	..	„ 9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant J. Carter	..	„ HQ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant H. J. Hughes	..	„ School of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant P. Mercer	..	„ HQ 1st Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. Royle	..	„ 225 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Sergeant J. M. Smith	..	„ 244 Signal Squadron (TA Air Support)
Sergeant E. A. Harper	..	„ 16th Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sergeant B. S. Bennett	..	„ HQ 4 Guards Brigade & Signal Squadron
Sergeant M. Standing	..	„ 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
Sergeant J. W. Watson	..	„ 8th Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant A. G. Hooley	..	„ 7th Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sergeant T. J. Smith	..	„ 9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant D. French	..	„ 9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant M. R. Cooke	..	„ 9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sergeant D. E. Hamilton	..	„ 543 Rear Link Detachment
Sergeant T. K. Muir	..	„ 36th Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant T. Wardle	..	„ 561 Rear Link Detachment (Hy Regiment)
Sergeant A. M. Bailey	..	„ 8th Signal Regiment
Sergeant S. J. Howard	..	„ 30th Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. R. Nicholson	..	„ 40th Signal Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. G. Littler	..	„ Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
Sergeant R. J. Sinnott	..	„ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. J. Conroy	..	British Army Training Unit Canada
Sergeant B. R. Mumford	..	„ HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. Wilson	..	„ HQ 4 Guards Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sergeant D. Thompson	..	„ 15 Cadet Training Team
Sergeant D. R. Roberts	..	„ HQ 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. P. Hallsworth	..	„ HQ 2nd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant S. Bondin	..	„ 3 Cadet Training Team
Sergeant R. S. Heald	..	„ 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sergeant J. Keen	..	„ 22nd Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sergeant B. Watson	..	„ HQ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant N. Macnair	..	„ HQ 2nd Division Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant B. C. Smith	..	„ Army Apprentices College Harrogate
A/Sergeant B. Johnson	..	„ Recruit Selection Centre (Sutton Coldfield)
A/Sergeant J. A. Speers	..	„ 16th Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)

Obituary

Sgt. Derek John Bassford

It is with deep regret that we report the sudden death of **Derek Bassford** at the early age of 33 years. This followed a heart attack on October 24, 1975. **Sgt Bassford** joined the Army in 1959 and during the 16 years of his service he served not only in the United Kingdom but in Hong Kong, British Guyana, British Honduras, Aden, SHAPE and BAOR. At the time of his death **Sgt Bassford** was serving in Northern Ireland on a detachment to 233 Sig Sq from 30 Sig Regt. We would like to express our sincere sympathy to his mother and two brothers in their loss.

Cpl Stewart Charles Fox

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of Cpl Stewart Charles Fox, who died shortly after being admitted to the Catterick Military Hospital on Thursday, October 9.

Stewart had just finished his Upgrading Course Radio Relay Tech at the Trade Training School and was due to be posted to 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt, Bulford.

Stewart leaves a wife and two young children to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Welfare

AUGUST

Number of cases assisted financially	17
Number of clothing parcels sent	23
Amount spent	£693·26

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	8
Amount spent	£110·00

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

LANCE-CORPORAL, war-time service, who has not worked for 10 years, owing to ill health. The Association has assisted him and his family over the years with frequent clothing parcels. A grant of £10 from the War Memorial Fund was sent to give the family a day out at the seaside, and his letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

I FIND it very hard to express in mere words just how deeply grateful the family and I feel about your great kindness. We had a most happy day at the seaside, glorious weather, and enjoyed a very nice luncheon with all the extras. The kindness of the Association is something we will always hold dear in our thoughts.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1975:

	£
G. W. Cook, Esq.	7·63
Major R. C. Roberts	2·32
Various small donations	60
O.C., 30th Signal Regiment	10·00
Total	£20·55

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Joint Services West-East Sahara Expedition

Sergeant B. J. Doughty, 559 Rear Link Detachment

(Att. 2 Queens)

SELECTION FOR SAHARA CROSSING

DESPITE several years of adventurous activitics which included small but significant expeditions to Kenya and Iceland, the 'big one' always seemed to elude my grasp. However my luck changed when I found my name on the short list for the Joint Services West East Sahara Expedition. From mid-1974 onwards numerous cold weekend training sessions were held at Longmoor and Aldershot in preparation for this venture led by **Squadron Leader T. H. Sheppard, M.B.E.** By November 1974 with the final 'pruning' complete a team of eight men were selected.

Delays prevented our embarkation in early December but we finally left on 15th January, 1975.

It seems relevant at this point to outline the expedition's aims which were as follows:

To make the first west-east crossing of the Sahara through the Mauritanian empty quarter.

To carry out a geophysical, geological and zoological scientific programme.

To make a television film.

To test four new 101 1-tonne. Land-Rover and two powered trailers.

To refine desert navigation techniques—sun compass/Astro.

NO SENEGAL BLUES

Three days of force 9 gales and a fire in the engine room provided us with an eventful sea journey to Dakar in Senegal. Here our journey really started and a routine was quickly established—an early start and travelling in our open topped vehicles soon dispelled the 'early morning blues'. At lunchtime we would open up our radio link to the UK, using the clansman P.Rc. 320 with great success. We would then resume our journey and stop again about 1600 hrs. to set up the evening camp. Now individuals would set about their respective tasks. Such as cleaning cameras, recording the day's filming, writing up the log book, preparing the following day's route, setting up of the theodolite for the evening's Astro-fix, refuelling the vehicles, making a detailed mechanical inspection, collating the day's scientific data and naturally the water supply had to be checked. During all this activity we somehow managed to cook and consume a substantial evening meal—and to think someone had remarked—'what will you do in the evenings'!

SOME CUSTOMS TROUBLE

The journey to Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital, was interesting, and the incident of the ferry breaking down on the river Sennegal at the border leaving two of our vehicles stranded, caused confusion with the customs for some three hours. During our stay in Nouakchott we had to purchase and fit an American jeep shock absorber to one of the trailers. This was one spare we did not carry.

After leaving Nouakchott we came upon Akjoujt a small copper mining community further north in Mauritania. The tarmac roads had disappeared and corrugated sandy tracks were the best available. We made steady progress to Quadane the last sign of habitation we were to encounter for some time, and there at 'Sidi's Well', we replenished with water and, because it was plentiful, indulged in a 'kit washing and bathing' session.

FROM OUT OF THE BLUE A PLANE LANDS

Thursday 6th February saw the start of our journey into the 'Empty Quarter'. The golden dunes silhouetted against a cloudless azure sky beckoned us. We had travelled only 5 kms, when trouble with one of the trailers halted us. A two-hour investigation proved unfruitful and more detailed investigation was needed that evening to find the fault.

We got used to the variations in the terrain very quickly and became fully aware of the combined capabilities of man and machine. That first evening in the 'Empty Quarter' was to me a terrific experience. I felt absorbed by the beauty and the silence of the desert. It was not the barren waste I had been led to believe, it was almost friendly.

The sight of an aeroplane landing in the 'Empty Quarter' must be rare indeed. Yet Saturday 8th February saw this happen when **Gerry,** the Assistant Manager of the copper mine in Akjoujt made a rendezvous with us. This provided **Squadron-Leader Sheppard** with the opportunity to do some aerial photography and, whilst airborne, he was also able to make a forward recce of the unknown sand dunes ahead. These we were to traverse in the next few days. The dunes in fact didn't prove as difficult as expected because of the aerial recce and the excellent French maps. Our sand dune avoidance plan coupled with our prior preparation and training sessions in the U.K. meant that only occasionally did a vehicle get bogged down.

There was a further delay on 11th February when an air cooler on one of the vehicles was found to have a small fracture. However, a small soldering job, using one of our small cooking stoves as a means of heating soon rectified this. From that date onwards our journey ran fairly smoothly and we encountered few problems. The daily filming continued with great care being taken to re-enact specific situations. Our individual tasks kept each of us busy. When one found time to relax from physical duties the solitude and beauty of the desert beneath the stars stirred one's mind into action.

MEETING WITH CAMEL TRAIN

On Sunday 16th February our daily routine was given a shake up when we saw an undistinguishable black mass on the horizon, and as we approached, a hundred strong camel train came into full view each beast carrying rock salt from Taoudenni in the north to Araouane in the south—a 15-day journey, one way. This was certainly a sight not to miss recording so the cameras were soon clicking. We exchanged greetings and the unwritten law of the desert soon followed—we gave our needy guests water, 15 gallons in all.

A CHANCE MEETING—MID-DESERT

After leaving this splendid group we moved along the 20th parallel towards Tadac where **Geoff Renner** our 'Boffin' wanted to spend a few days collecting rock samples for the British Museum. These rocks known as carbonitites were of particular significance because of their rarity. We made an extensive coverage of the outcrops at Tadac and recent reports from the British Museum indicate that the findings were very worth while.

THROUGH CENTRAL AFRICA TO KANO—AND PROBLEMS

A further two days' travelling brought us to the road running north-south. We were a few miles north of Tessalit in Mali and it was here that we revelled in the luxury of buckets of water as a makeshift shower.

Permission being turned down for passage through Algeria and Libya our journey now followed the course of the river Niger to Niamey, and from here the vehicles ate up the miles travelling on a tarmac road to Kano in Nigeria. On arrival at this city, we were able to service the vehicles using the facilities offered by Bewac Ltd., the Land-Rover agents in Nigeria. The stay in Kano played havoc with the health of several of the team members as bouts of dysentery and subsequent bodily weakening were experienced. Beware the so called 'official camp site' frequented by many touring Europeans—the sanitary conditions are appalling—seek instead one of the many cheap hotels! The market in Kano is worth a visit althought for 'queezy' stomachs it should be a swift one.

It was intended that we should spend only one evening at Maiduguri, our next stopping place. This however materialised into five days, as one team member went down with malaria and several others were still suffering from dysentery.

—AND THENCE TO CHAD AND A MILITARY ESCORT

Once on the road again we were soon back to rough tracks traversing the Cameroons across the river Chari into Fort Lamy/Njanena in Chad. At that time travellers passing through Chad were obliged to have an official escort. Being no exception we too found ourselves in the hands of the authorities and began to wonder just how long we would be delayed at police posts. After consultation, we were helped and the delays were limited; in fact the longest we waited was an evening and half of the next day, in Aberche. Our military armed guard of 12 soldiers duly arrived and the remaining journey through Chad proved to be relatively easy and the hospitality was extremely good.

GIFT OF THREE SHEEP AND ON TO THE NILE

We encountered the border between Chad and the Sudan at the garrison town of El Geneina where we were invited to the home of the garrison military commander. Here we were introduced to a Sudanese Army Officer, one of a group of 22 Officers and men who were going to be with us for five weeks to learn about desert navigation. On leaving El Geneina we experienced a journey to which our vehicles were totally suited—endless wadi beds to El Fasher. This was definitely the worst road we had to travel along.

In convoy with the rest of the Sudanese party we left El Fasher and headed out into the desert again, calling at a couple of small villages en route. At the second village, Malha, the local chief wanted to present us with three sheep and a small camel—we finally settled for the three sheep and hoped that he wouldn't take offence! Some 6 kms out of Malha was a volcanic crater, in the centre of which was a large expanse of water. This was the local source of water supply. It was certainly impressive looking down into the crater at the hundreds of camels and other animals. After a night's sleep and filming session we left Malha and headed for the desert via some rocky outcrops, where we were hoping we would find some cave drawings. We eventually found some cave etchings, as opposed to drawings and were well pleased with our discovery, the desert was very beautiful and produced at different times of the day almost all the colours of the spectrum, particularly as the terrain was continually changing.

The river Nile was soon within sight and our eyes were soothed by the greenery of the fertile area. We stayed four days in Atbara and took the opportunity to repair a vehicle spring but mostly we were glad just to wallow in the typical Sudanese hospitality.

PYRAMIDS MARK JOURNEYS END

Expedition vehicles with pyramid background

The 21st April saw our journey almost complete with the Red Sea only a few miles in front of us and the oil refineries of Port Sudan dominating the skyline to our left. Our west-east crossing was now complete—the aims had been achieved. However, a final and very interesting leg remained—the journey to Cairo and thence home. We said goodbye to our Sudanese friends at Bir Shalatin and met up with the Egyptian Army who escorted us along the

Red Sea coast and into the Nile valley. Here we played the role of tourists for a day, visiting the beautiful Luxor and Karnak Temples and the tombs in the Valley of Kings and Queens. This included the tomb of Tutankhamen whose fabulous treasure we were to see in Cairo only a few days later.

As we posed for final photographs with the Pyramids as our background it was then that we all realised that the expedition was over. We had covered 7,494 miles in 100 days and vehicles and men had come through almost unscathed. Another successful British Expedition.

Return Ticket to the Azores
by Capt. Robin Burrows

AS a finale to his tour at 244 Signal Squadron and prior to moving to 39 Bde H.Q. and Signal Squadron **Captain Robin Burrows** took part in a sailing race from Portsmouth to the Azores.

A VARIETY OF BOATS

This year has seen two races to the Azores, a group of islands 420 miles west of Gibraltar. The AZAB (Azores and Back) was a single-handed event taking place in July, but we opted for the lower-tone MOCRA (Multihull offshore and Cruising Association) event. This was a one-way race leaving Southsea on 2nd August, 1975, for boats with a crew of at least three. Entrants included all variety of boats from a 26-foot trimaran to the new Gypsy Moth.

DUTY FREE SADLY MISSED

Our run-up to the race proved to be highly successful. In 'F.T.' we won the multihull division of the Round the Island race (even overtaking all but two of the Admiral's Cup contenders who had started a minimum of 15 minutes before us), and then followed this by a win in the Crystal Trophy (Cowes to Plymouth via Cherbourg and the Wolf Rock). The Crystal Trophy hurt us sorely for the turning off Cherbourg is only a few miles from the duty-free shop, but time did not allow a stop-off.

A DOUBLE BUNK AND A BUCKET

'F.T.' in her glorious, and at times sick-making, Financial Times pink was a complete contrast to the Round Britain race 'Superstar'. This year I was in a 35-foot racing trimaran and along with **David Palmer** and **Robin Musters** could hardly said to be living in luxury whilst contained in the slim centre hull. The double bunk has shared by the two off-duty crew members and a bucket served for the 'smallest room in the house'.

AT THE START

The 35 foot trimaran 'FT' was not the most comfortable of craft for three crew members to live in, nor was her pink hull always a joy to behold. Nevertheless, she put up a good performance, winning several events against strong opposition

RAGING FORCE 9 FOLLOWED BY DEAD CALM

The course direct to Horta turned out to be 1,505 miles of alternate hell and glory. The trimaran'Three legs of Mann', in the AZAB race beat even the race committee to the Azores in a seven day sprint and we secretly hoped to follow her example but the Gods had decided otherwise. On one day we hove-to in a raging force 9 headwind and finding distinct difficulty in navigating and the next we were taking sextant sights 'au natural' with the sails lowered to save them flogging as the boat rocked about in the dead calm.

OH FOR A SEWING MACHINE

This line of contrasts was one dominant factor in our 12-day saga of rapidly diminishing stores of food and water. The other was the repair of our blown-out spinnaker. Piecing together yards of shredded material and then stitching by hand at sea is not exactly pleasant. The irony of the situation was that after much discussion we had rejected the idea of taking a sewing machine because of its weight.

WELCOME SLEEPING BAG

We worked day shifts of three hours and night shifts of four hours—this system giving reasonable on-duty periods and a rotation of timings. The worker had his hands full, even with the help of 'Charlie'—a powerful controlled tiller servo and the 'Hasler'—a wind vane steering device. With such a racing machine sail changes are numerous and the trimming and steering tricky so that one was always glad at the end of a watch to unhook the 'forever-rove-on' lifeline and climb into the empty sleeping bag.

The problem then arose of trying to sleep in a restricted, shared and tossing cubby-hole knowing that only wet sticky oilskins were to meet you on waking—a situation that may ring true to many a sailor.

TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW IN DEMAND

The supposed potentials of a Royal Signals Officer were well used for the electrics needed constant nursing. With faulty solar charging cells, corroded switches, wiring breaks and assessment of direction-finding errors possibly a full time technician would have been worth the extra weight.

MEMORIES WILL REMAIN

Memories only now remain of noon sight to noon sight, drifting or thundering daily runs of between 60 and 250 miles, of the 'where is everyone' loneliness after leaving the Channel, of the sharks and dolphins and the so we didn't make a mistake sight as the Lajes beacon was sighted on landfall. For a mixture of sport and travel I recommend this occupation to all and an absence of jet-lag is guaranteed.

A Long, Long Walk!
submitted by 3 Div. Sig. Regt.

CONCEIVED IN KENYA

THE seeds were sown during the Regiment's training in Kenya earlier this year. Four members of 2 squadron, **Sergeant Keith Teasdale, Corporal John Cunningham, Signalman Graham Douglas** and **Signalman Les Allan** decided to push aside such communicators luxuries as travelling everywhere by vehicle and attempt a team walk from John o' Groats to Land's End. It had been done by such stalwart walkers as **Dr. Barbara Moore,** but nobody has ever attempted a 4-man team walk before. Having returned from exercise in BAOR during the first week of July, the team got down to some serious training. With an admin back-up consisting of **Lance-Corporal Duke Sivewright** and **Sapper Dick Crouch** they walked 400 miles over the South of England and the rugged valleys and mountains of Wales. Finally the big day arrived, **Lance-Corporal Sivewright** and **Sapper Crouch** having driven up in the mobile hotel (a four tonner fitted with bunk beds) and the team travelling by train, everyone was assembled at the most Northern part of the British Isles, John o' Groats.

THE START FROM JOHN o' GROATS

Very early on the morning of the 7th with the waters of the North Sea lapping at the heels of their boots it was all systems go for Land's End, first port of call being Inverness. This was

reached without much difficulty and included a refreshing shower, courtesy of the Royal Highland Fusiliers. This is where the story really starts, as leaving Inverness the team had to climb continuoulsy for some 5 or 6 miles which was a real tester so early in the walk. Having reached the top of the climb the team's next thoughts turned to the Drumochter Pass, reputed to be the highest road in Great Britain. This was negotiated without any great difficulty for by this time the team were veterans of the hills of Auld Scotland. Crieff, another beautiful little town was left behind. During the morning, whilst negotiating yet another steep incline, the team were met by the Adjutant, **Captain Ian Noble** who had come from his home in Dundee to give them encouragement from the front seat of his Triumph sports car.

CUNNINGHAM CLAN IN FORCE AND THENCE TO ENGLAND

In Bannockburn a most memorable night was spent, as it was here that the Clan Cunningham turned out en masse to greet their wee laddie John and his friends. The following morning with slightly sore heads, farewells were said, and on they walked into the morning sun, for the Scottish weather had been very kind to them, the hottest day being 93°. Now the traffic started to increase and the dreaded A74 proved quite hazardous. However, it was finally crossed without mishap and having completed 37 miles that day the team entered England. The first thing that happened was a change in the weather, rain, something which was noticeably absent in Scotland. Carlisle was passed with the rain still bucketing down.

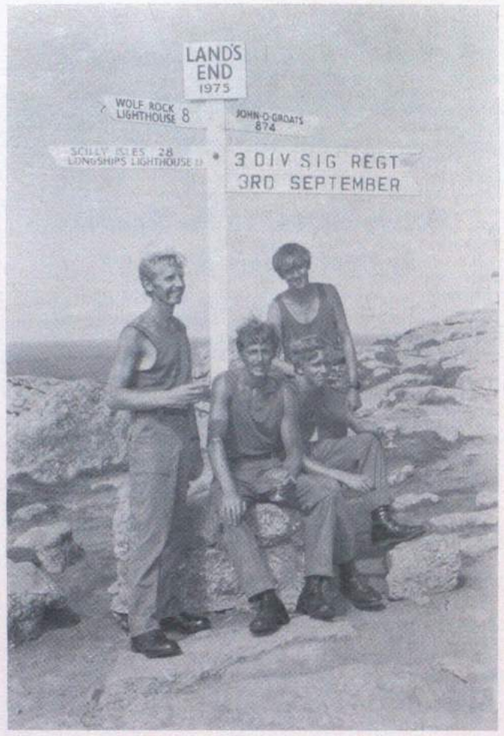
SAS PROVE EXCELLENT HOSTS

During this stage the team met with a real "King of the road" dressed appropriately with no toes or heels in his blue socks walking happily through the rain. The sight of him made the team's problems feel quite small against those of such a veteran. On then to Penrith where at last the rain relented and Shap Fell was negotiated with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of wind, and so down the A6, through Kendal and into Lancashire.

In Warrington the team got slightly split up. Travelling well spaced apart in big towns, **Sergeant Teasdale, Signalman Allan** and **Signalman Douglas** took a wrong turn and after marching for 2¾ hours came to a signpost marked Warrington 2 miles. Meanwhile **Corporal Cunningham** had continued on the right road and met up with the administrators after 11 miles—wondering where the other three had got to! Finally reunions were made with everybody except a rather smug Corporal having walked over 40 miles that day. Moving now along the A49 such towns as Whitchurch, Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Ludlow, Leominster were conquered and finally Hereford and Bradbury Lines where the team availed themselves of 22 SAS Regiment's hospitality as they had done during their training stints. It was also an ideal opportunity for the 'mobile hotel' to be looked at by their hosts L.A.D. From Hereford the team left on the A49 and then took the A466 to Monmouth and the Severn Bridge. After that the big right turn and down through Bristol and Somerset. A night stop was made only 19 miles from Bridgewater. There was method in the team's madness for in Bridgwater, N.A.T.O. Cars (one of the team's sponsors) had arranged a not small reception for them which included an enormous buffet and lots of nubile salesgirls clambering all over those foreign cars we are encouraged to buy. All in all, a pleasant three hours were spent in Bridgwater and then back to walking and an uneventful five days were spent reaching Okehampton. There the team suffered its first casualty—**Lance-Corporal Sivewright** with tonsillitis.

LANDS END AND CHAMPAGNE

Penzance was reached at about 1730 hours on 2nd September and the team now knew that their goal was just around the corner. Putting off the last few miles until the morrow, the team celebrated with the local brew and retired that night somewhat merry. Wednesday 3rd September dawned a little early for a couple of the team members but onward to the objective just 8 of the 874 miles away. At Land's End at approximately 13.00 hours the team were greeted by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. P. Russell,** O.C. 2 Sqn **Major H. Grenville-Jones,** the R.S.M., **W.O.1 R. J. Mathieson, B.E.M.,** and S.S.M. 2 Sqn. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) W. J. Crumbie.** Amid much handclapping and camera clicking the team celebrated with a champagne NAAFI break.



CHAMPAGNE NAAFI BREAK!

L to R: Sergeant Keith Teasdale, Corporal John Cunningham, Signalman Graham Douglas and Signalman Les Allen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO GENEROUS SPONSORS

All in all a remarkable effort and not to be forgotten is the fact that over £800 was collected for charity. Through the medium of THE WIRE the team would like to thank all the units and members of the Corps who so graciously sponsored them on this mamoth walk.

Report from the Corps at Middle Wallop

TIME WE MADE *THE WIRE*

AFTER months and possibly even years of evasion the omens seemed set fair for the Royal Signals element at Middle Wallop to make an appearance on the pages of WIRE. Visits by the S.O.-in-C. and O.I.C. Manning and Records, a sunny biennial Army Air Day and five serving and four ex-members of the Corps on the Wallop ration return was too much for us to remain unnoticed.

S.O.-in-C. VISITS

It was a great pleasure to see the **S.O.-in-C.** and **Mrs. Tighe, Colonel Ramsbottom** and those other members of the Corps and their families who attended Army Air Day. Many people may not be aware that the Friday preceding Army Air Day is reserved for guests, servicemen and their families. The static and flying displays are exactly the same but there are none of the crowds. Entrance is by identity card and should you be in the area in July 1977 this must be one of the best free shows in the country and is guaranteed to keep children of all ages amused.

(*Continued from page* 344

CORPS ELEMENT AT THE ARMY AIR CORPS CENTRE

The 'daring young men' talking to the SO-in-C are (from left to right) Sergeants Lyon, Greenacre, Kinnell and Marsden (the one pointing out his twitch). The unfamiliar backdrop is not the Spirit of St Louis but a Beaver, the current Army liaison/communication aircraft

LOCAL LAYOUT

For the benefit of these unfamiliar with Wallop there are two separate A.A.C. elements. The bulk of the camp is the A.A.C. Centre which is responsible for aviation training within the army, including courses for R.E.M.E. aircraft and avionic technicians. On the 'wrong side' of the Andover—Salisbury road is the Headquarters Director Army Air Corps, happily rusticated from the Ministry of Defence in London.

CORPS WELL REPRESENTED

There is a regular turnover of Royal Signals student pilots at the A.A.C. Centre with normally at least one on each course. The four students presently at Wallop are progressing nicely, apart from their marked inability or reluctance to write WIRE notes. **Sergeants Mick Greenacre** and **John Marsden** are fixed wing students training on Beavers. The other two, **Sergeants Dave Kinnell** and **Ray Lyons,** are learning to fly helicopters. **Dave** has almost finished his course and leaves us shortly to join 664 Para. Sqn. A.A.C. at Farnborough.

The Director Army Air Corps has one post on his staff annotated 'R. Signals preferred'. Currently filling this slot is **Major Alan Eastburn** who treads fairly carefully because of the four ex-members of the Corps at the Directorate. In case anyone should remember them with affection or, alternatively, be wondering where that loaned fiver, girl friend, workshop manual, etc, went to, they are **Colonel J. G. Crowe** (Col. G.S.) and **Majors Peter Carter** and **Mike Orwin.** Last but not least and with no regard for his desire to remain anonymous is 22994922 **Bombadier (ex.-Lance-Corporal) Geordie Cunningham** who served his apprenticeship at Maresfield Camp and at Herford with 1 Corps Signal Regt. from 1954 to 1956. He hides it well although his ulcers still occasionally play him up.

SOME GET HOOKED

Over the years the Corps has produced a fair number of pilots. Following their flying tours most return from the fourth dimension but occasionally someone gets really hooked and a number have elected to transfer and wear the light blue beret on a permanent basis. Pilots courses last roughly 11 months at the end of which the successful students receive their wings and are posted to join an operational A.A.C. unit. In addition to flying, the courses include a great deal of studying/bookwork at Ground Instruction Wing. ('Hard graft but enjoyable'. R. Signals student). Anyone attracted to the life and a payslip inflated by flying pay should ask at the Orderly Room to see D.C.I. (Army) S.28 of 1973 which gives details for volunteer pilots and airgunners

22 Signal Regiment—The Real Army

Contributed by Second-Lieutenant M. T. H. Stewart, Royal Signals (V) of 858/859 Signal Troops (V)

Comment from 22 Signal Regiment: 'Not all the sentiments expressed are agreed with but the writer makes valid points which would need to be answered in a counter-article.

22 SIGNAL Regiment is stationed at Lippstadt, West Germany, and provides a vital link in the trunk system communications system of 1st British Corps. In the event of mobilisation 858/859 Corps Signal Troops (V), my T & AVR Unit, have an essential role in providing terminal stations for various support units and thus, through the two communication centres of 22 Signal Regiment, connecting vital support units to the Headquarters. Each year the troops, which are based at Eastbourne, attend a camp with 22 Signal Regiment. Although I was not able to attend the camp this year, I was lucky enough to be on the pre-camp recce party in April.

PRE-CAMP AIMS ACHIEVED

In the company of **Captain Tom Hatfield** I flew to Germany on Friday, 25th April, and arrived at Lippstadt in time for lunch. At this point I began to realise why the quotation 'The best-laid plans of mice and men . . .' is so much in use in the Army. Instead of immediately getting down to work we were agreeably surprised to find that the Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team (the White Helmets) were giving a show in the playing fields. Since this was attended by the entire Regiment and many families, little or no work was going on. That evening and the weekend were taken up in socialising, a marvellous introduction to the Regiment. Perhaps the best way to meet the CO is with a drink in your hand and blissful ignorance of his identity. Monday morning was all work; seeing the Operations and Training Officers; meeting the Quartermaster's staff; and settling many points which had been discussed over a drink in the bar. On Monday afternoon we returned to the UK, having achieved most of our pre-camp aims.

AN ATTACHMENT ARRANGED

It was during this visit that I was able to persuade the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Wheawell,** I should do an attachment with his Regiment as I would be occupied with taking my Teaching Certificate Eaxminations during the annual camp. The CO was kind enough to offer me a period of just under a month, which I very gratefully accepted. On 7th July I was, once again, on my way to Lippstadt and what follows is a narrative of what happened during my visit, and some impressions of the Regular Army.

ARRIVAL

I was met at RAF Gutersloh by **Lieutenant David Kirkup,** whom I had met before. As **David** was shortly to move to Catterick on posting he could devote all of Tuesday to escorting me around. It was a full day; paying my respects to the CO; kitting myself up for exercise; meeting **Major John Higton,** the Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, to whom I was to be attached; and seeing the proposed programme of my attachment. The first part of the programme, the acquisition of transport, went according to plan, but from Wednesday 9th, although there was plenty to do and see, it was rarely in line with the plan. Situation normal, you may say.

A TECHNICAL PROBLEM SOLVED

Wednesday's early flight of sparrows saw me heading out of Lippstadt with the prospect of 100-mile journey, a peaceful and enjoyable visit to a terminal station (known as a TEV B), and return to Lippstadt by 1830 hrs. There were two TEV Bs, in support of an Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) exercise, joined through the German civilian telephone network (DBP—Deutsche Bundes Post). On my arrival at the first TEV B I found all the right people there but no communications and, apparently no explanations. After much brain racking and conferring with the crew it was back to Lippstadt to confer with the DBP engineers, snatch a swift lunch, refuel and set off for the other end of the link to assess the situation there. (No chance of being caught out by 'other-end-ituss'). It was not until 0200 hrs the next day

that all the problems were solved. The engineers amongst my readers will understand when I explain that there was no engineering line on the DBP circuit and, also, that if the circuit passes through one or more exchanges, then no VF equipment is required, since the DBP exchanges have VF equipment built in. The CST 1+4 and TTVF had to be taken off circuit and the line routed through the Line Isolator Unit (LIU).

USEFUL EXPERIENCE GAINED

The delay considerably upset the HAC's exercise on the first day. However, all was now well for their exercise proper to start on the next day and I left for Lippstadt and my night's (three hours) rest. After briefing **Major Higton** on the situation, and discussing the problem in the company of Foreman of Signals **Alan Harper,** I returned to the nearer TEV B by 1100 hrs on Thursday. It was at this stage that I decided that an outside telephone was required at the TEV to ease liaison with the Regiment and the DBP control unit. As it took 15 minutes to the nearest contact point you will understand that under the difficult conditions this innovation was to prove very useful. The exercise was a great experience for me; meeting at first-hand some of the problems of using other countries' telephone systems; seeing some of the difficulties 'Service' branches have in assisting other exercises; meeting the HAC, a highly professional and dedicated part of the TA, whom I shall look foward to meeting again.

AN ENJOYABLE WEEKEND

I returned to Lippstadt at 1913 hrs on Thursday evening and awaited for a report from the distant end before reporting the situation to the Operations Officer, **Major Dick Drew,** and **Major John Higton** at 2130 hrs. I was grateful for the opportunity to dive into my bed, sure in the knowledge that the Regiment were stood down on Friday, having just returned from a major exercise. This Friday was the Officers Mess Summer Ball and much feverish last-minute preparation was in hand. The Mess was transformed on the theme of 'The Wind in the Willows', and after so much effort, and after the previous few months' hard exercising, everyone threw themselves into enjoying a very successful evening. The rest of the weekend was spent in more gentle social functions and clearing up the aftermath. Monday was to see me joining 2 Squadron on a week's exercise, so personal preparations took care of Sunday evening.

A VISIT TO A HARRIER SITE

The role of 2 Squadron is to provide the Bruin Communications Centre 'Sierra' (Comcen Sierra), which for this exercise (Hemp Sprite) was deployed in support of Harrier aircraft in field sites. During this week I was able to see and learn a lot about the workings of an area communications system such as Bruin and see those radios which may be passed on to my own unit when the Regulars have reduced them to near scrap! One afternoon I was able to go to the Harrier site and have an explanation of the organisation as best can be achieved against a deafening background of low-flying aircraft. This was an interesting visit and, altogether, a very informative week seeing a Comcen not overextended and available to my inquiring mind. I was able to be introduced to many different aspects of this complicated command.

VITAL IMPORTANCE OF RAF CIRCUIT

I was back in Lippstadt on Friday night for a weekend 'R and R' before joining 1 Squadron on Exercise Whirly Gig. This is the Nato Air Defence exercise of the year and a natural follow-up for the Harriers that had been deployed on Hemp Sprite the previous week. My old friends Sierra were still up on their lonely hilltop, but I was able to see Communications Head (Comhead) November in support of HQ 7 Artillery Brigade. The Signals side seemed very slack and uninteresting but as I chatted to the RAF staff I realised that a circuit being out for just one minute represents 10 miles to a 600-m.p.h. jet strike aircraft.

A VIEW FROM THE AIR

Perhaps the highlight of my week with Exercise Whirly Gig was a helicopter flight on Tuesday. This proved most interesting especially with regard to the camouflage, or otherwise, of vehicles as seen from the air. I was pleased to note that the pilot and his observer had difficulty in spotting the Signals vehicles, but I was horrified to see that vehicles, which on the ground I had thought were well camouflaged, were perfectly obvious to the naked eye. All in all this was another interesting exercise for me as I could visit many other departments and pick up background information on strike tasking, met reports and in-flight reporting procedures.

LOCAL SCHOOL VISITED

Friday saw me once more back in Lippstadt and, as prospective teacher, I was delighted to take this opportunity to visit the British Forces Education Service School at Lippstadt. It is a Junior School of the open plan type, which has grown from one teacher and 20 children in 1946 to 16 teachers with five full-time ancillaries, serving the 380 children of Lippstadt station. I was impressed with the philosophical manner in which they deal with continuous movement of pupils and staff, just as their opposite numbers in the barracks deal with the continuous movement of soldiers.

SUMMING IT ALL UP

At this point you may be wondering about the title of this article. 22 Signal Regiment is part of the 'real Army', but I feel they are hard pushed to better their T&AVR counterparts. There is the old saying: 'The Regular Army—oh yes—they are the lot who look after the Army in peace time'. 22 Signal Regiment certainly work hard, with a large part of the year spent on exercise and as much as one Squadron or more out in any week of the year. Somehow they seem to lack the irrepressible style, zest and character of the Terriers, which may be just as well. My final point, if the last remarks have not completely alienated me from the Regulars, is to thank everybody, both in UK and BAOR, who made my visit possible and worth while. When we visit units we are met, fed, 'watered', entertained, trained and supplied with most of our requirements from four by two to a glass of ale. Most of this we seem to take for granted, not realising that to a busy Signal Regiment a visit from the Terriers is not the high spot of the year. I would like to assure everyone in Lippstadt that it is all appreciated, even after all these years and all those visits.

My message to the Regulars, perhaps as thanks for their help, is to encourage them to come along to their local TAVR unit when they leave the Army. They will have something to offer us and we have a lot to offer them. They can really join the professionals then!

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

O.C.	**Major A. F. Carter, R. Signals**
2.I.C./Comms. Offr.	**Captain N. O. Williams, R. Signals**
Admin. Offr.	**Major (Q.M.) J. P. White, K.O.S.B.**
Q.M.	**Captain (Q.M.) S. J. Raynor, R. Signals**
R.S.M.	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) J. Sinnett**
O.C. Comms. Tp.	**Captain L. Fox, R. Signals**
M.T.O./2.I.C. Comms. Tp.	**Lieutenant J. B. M. Macleod, R. Signals**
Y. of S.	**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. J. Tunmore**
F. of S.	**W.O.2 (F. of S.) I. Forbes**
R.Q.M.S.	**W.O.2 J. F. Milton**
Chief Clerk	**Staff-Sergeant (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) D. S. Berry**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron is pleased to welcome to sunny Londonderry the following recent arrivals: **Major (Q.M.) John White, Captain Nick Williams, Sergeants Don Lambert** and **Brian Bradbury, Corporals Bob Baggaley** and **'Olly' Hollingsworth, Signalmen Bob Hinton** and **Joe Whiteley.** We wish them all an enjoyable tour in the Squadron.

As is inevitable in Royal Signals units we have had to say farewell to a number of Squadron characters who will be missed. These include **Captain (now Major) Ray Windmill, Sergeants Tom Stirzaker** and **Larry Jukes.**

MARRIAGES

The following personnel are congratulated on their marriages: **Sergeant Geoff Board, Corporal Pete Durkin, Corporal Gerry Vick** (R.P.C.), **Lance-Corporal Mike Brady, Signalman 'Taff' Thomas** and **Signalman Steve Rodgerson.**

THE 12th AUGUST MARCHES

The annual marches to celebrate the relief of Londonderry in 1689 passed off fairly quietly. The Squadron had a grandstand view of the bands as they marched past the barrack gates. In all some 150 bands took part giving a continuous musical accompaniment to the day's work. Our roving reporter **Captain Leslie Steane** escaped from the Ops Room to take some pictures that capture the spirit of the marches.

12th AUGUST MARCHERS IN LONDONDERRY

THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION

There has been much coming and going across the Irish Sea over the past month. **Staff-Sergeant Steve Gair,** resident helicopter borne albatross, actually flew across to Scotland and back without causing the helicopter to divert for major repairs. A party of ten visited the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and **Captain Les Fox** is at present pounding the Scottish highlands with an adventure training party. Plans are already afoot for the Winter ski-ing in the Cairngorms.

THE TERRIBLE DUO

Our two rival specialists **Foreman of Signals Ian Forbes** and **Yeoman of Signals Dave Tunmore,** who joined the Army on the same day, were presented with their L.S. & G.C. by the Commander, **Brigadier D. Houston, O.B.E.** There was much scurrying to the Q.M. Stores as both the Foreman and Yeoman desperately tried to find their uniforms.

MADE IT!

WO2 (F of S) Ian Forbes and WO2 (Y of S) Dave Tunmore with the Commander after receiving their LS&GC

News from Regiments

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

ISLE OF MAN SUMMER CAMP FOR 3 SQN

This year, Jerby in the Isle of Man was selected to entertain 3 Squadron of the Regiment on its annual summer camp. The aims of the camp were to practice escape and evasion, do adventurous training and to give all a chance to have a good time. The escape and evasion exercise was set over a course of some 30 miles and the squadron was split into patrols of four. The Isle of Man radio broadcast a suitable commentary to the Islanders and police to make everyone aware of the exercise. (This was the cause of four soldiers being picked up on a harmless shopping trip the afternoon before the exercise started). The squadron was outnumbered by 3:1 (including other military organisations also at camp), but despite this, the patrols were 84% successful in covering the course and three out of the four 'demolitions' were blown up.

The remainder of the holiday (sorry camp), was spent indulging in sailing, canoeing, water ski-ing, rock-climbing, riding. The pictures tell their own stories, but some of the best stories have had to be censored since at the Squadron dance the ladies outnumbered the men. As a result of the success of this camp, the Isle of Man may well be the location for the Regimental summer camp of 1976.

Ascot?, The Local Hunt? . . . No, just 3 Squadron on the move while camping on the Isle of Man

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

EXERCISES

WHILST editorial policy (regimentally speaking of course) does not encourage long reports of exercises we do try to publish the odd amusing story from time to time.

The following rhyme was written as a result of some confusion over the correct order of dress at the start of Exercise Summer Sales.

RIGHT DRESS

Gentlemen you've nought to fear
If you're in a shirt at Rear,
At Main you would be in the mire.
Full combat kits the right attire,
At Step-up they are saying nowt,
(They're in the field and Bruin's out).
Trousers combat—trousers green,
More changes than a stripper queen.
Russian infiltrators must beware,
They won't know what the . . . to wear!

The following conversation was overheard in a certain office in the regiment a few days ago shortly before our deployment for Exercise Wide Horizon (1 and 2 Divisions may recognise similarities with Exercises Master Mind and New Key).

Top Pronto: Have I got it right? RCT get complete detachments from 2 Div?
Pronto No 2: Er, no Sir, 2 Div will provide complete dets but the wrong sort of radio for RCT, so we will use the radios.
Top Pronto: I see, so we take out the sets and provide the right ones?
Pronto No 2: Well no Sir, 99 Med Regt have provided the sets.
Top Pronto: Oh, well at least they will have masts and ATUs and things.
Pronto No 2: Er, actually no Sir. The sets came bare but 1 Div are providing the ancillaries.
Top Pronto: Good Lord. Well we shall have to hope that the 2 Div Operators sort everything out, won't we?
Pronto No 2: 'Fraid not Sir, we need those operators so the Blankshires have been asked to provide operators for the RCT.
Top Pronto: Are you telling me that the RCT are going to run a net with 2 Div Vehicles, 99 Regt Sets, 1 Div ancillaries and Blankshires operators.
Pronto No 2: Unfortunately no Sir.
Top Pronto: Before I faint tell me what I've got wrong.
Pronto No 2: The Blankshires don't want to play Sir.
Top Pronto: Catch me . . .

The remainder of our report this month comes from 2 Squadron.

'THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES'

Push . . . Push . . . Pull . . . Steady . . . Speed up a little . . . Fine . . . and full marks if you can guess the latest sport to hit the Regiment. Hang gliding! **Major David Dudley** took eight intrepid members of the newly formed Hang Gliding Club across to UK with a serious intent to commit aviation. We attended a four-day beginners course at the Hawksworth School in Brighton and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves (and did some hang-gliding as well). **Major Dudley** clocked up 6½ minutes in one soaring flight. **Signalman Pete Vickery** obediently flew hands-off for 10 seconds (radio instructions from the ground) to prove how docile the machines are. **Signalman Vaughan Phillips** frightened us all with a perfectly executed hammer-head stall and survived and **Signalman Mark Roberts** became disconnected from his ear-piece on take-off and was half way to Hove before he realised that the order to turn was not going to be given (except in all our prayers). A line of HT pylons seemed to exert a magnetic attraction on **Signalman 'Mo' Mohomet** and the instructor finally dredged up some national service vocabulary and **'Mo'** responded at last with the necessary action. **'Wee Mac'** (our tame hairy, **Signalman MacMillan)** had a frozen smile on take-off which did not leave his face until he bent his thumb violently during a hairy landing. **Signalman Mick Ogle** and **Signalman David Bird** took to the air in remarkably smooth fashion after all the excitement and it was left to **'Kamikaze Les' (Signalman Mullins)** to bring our hearts back into our mouths with his do or die (and nearly both) flights. Now it sounds dangerous, and various newspaper reports suggest it is too dangerous, but really it is like most exciting/adventurous pastimes—if you take the trouble to prepare properly, to train carefully and to avoid unnecessary risks, the danger remains within acceptable proportions (I mean, you have to be mad to climb mountains). It really was a super week and as soon as we can find a German hill without trees all over it, the 4 Div Hang Gliders will be committing aviation once more . . . up, up, and awaaaaaayyyy!

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

3 SQUADRON 10th SIGNAL REGIMENT—ALDERSHOT DETACHMENT—JULY 1975
or "ONE AMONGST MANY"

Back row: Privates Burke, Beach, Lance-Corporal Bird, Privates Vincent, Robinson, Lance-Corporal Hennah, Private Matthews, Lance-Corporals Britton, Stevens and Smith
Third row: Privates Ray, Bradley, Paterson, Mckenna, Matthews, Mayes, Lowes, Davis, Wakely, Day, Clark, McInally
Second row: Lance-Corporal Bell, Private Vernon, Lance-Corporal Lynch, Privates Josbon, Heathcock, Lance-Corporals Gregge, Harrison, Thomas, Gibbons, Privates Scott, Young, Patterson, Lance-Corporal Carter and Private Robins
Front row: Lance-Corporal Williams, Corporal Van Horrik, Sergeant Ackroyd, Staff-Sergeant Lane, WO2 McKechnie, Captain Jarman, Major Wood, Captain Le Gassick, Captain Stead, Second-Lieutenant Hovell, WO2 SSM Ramsden, Corporal Mitchell and Lance-Corporal Vickers

NEW FACES

AUGUST has been a fairly quiet month in Hounslow. Many members of the Squadron have been on leave; the rich basking in Majorca or hiking around Europe and the less wealthy fishing in the Thames at Twickenham. We have said goodbye to **Major Dick Smith** who has once again departed to direct the destiny of the British Biathlon Team as they prepare for the forthcoming Winter Olympics. **Major George Fulton** has arrived from Cyprus to take over the Squadron and **Captain Richard Harrison** has relieved **Captain Henry Jennings** as Communications Captain. The staff of Squadron Headquarters began to play musical chairs in the various offices soon after the new management arrived but we have now become accustomed to the idea of not finding our rather large **SSM WO2 Johnny Johnson** in his close-fitting broom cupboard!

RECRUITING TEAM DO WELL

One element of the Sqn which has been working flat out throughout the month is our Regimental Recruiting and Information Team led by **Corporal Mick Pettis.** The team appeared at shows up and down the country including the Knebworth Air Display and the Colchester Military Tattoo. Supporting **Mick Pettis** were **Lance-Corporal Mitch Mitchell, Signalman Sam Burke, Barney Cox, Donny Donegan, Tony Reynolds** and last but not least our two attractive WRAC Privates, **Leslie Orchard** and **Ruth Coombs.** As the month progressed their suntans were the envy of all those deskbound in Hounslow, but consolation could be found in the form of Concorde as the aircraft went through a flight-proving programme. We've found another use for ear-defenders!

THE ORDER OF THE DAY IS CAMP

Towards the end of the month the male element of the Regiment started to take turns at Regimental Camp. **Major David Lycett-Gregson** the 2I.C. masterminded the affair, ably backed up by **RSM Jim McElvogue, Staff-Sergeant Colin Hayton** and **Sergeant Bernie Burnett.**

This year we've been able to include a solid dose of sailing under the supervision of **Major Frank Brandreth** and canoeing under the expert eye of **Captain Richard Harrison.**

Finally as our stop press item we would like to mention that Radio Troop and SWS Troop are about to provide communications and public address facilities at the 14th World Water Ski Championships. As usual **Sergeants Ken Cooper** and **Pat Stanley** will be presiding over our two PA vans of which we are justifiably proud.

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)

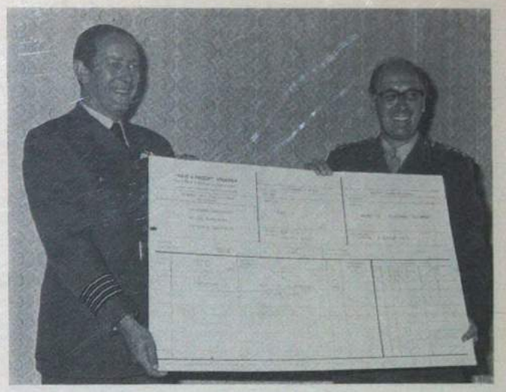
The annual 3 Sqn mobilisation exercise took place in July. We rounded up all our military personnel (we have 230 civilians!) and found a photographer to record this rare event. We hope the Editor will have sufficient space to publish the result. Incredible to think that the solitary male usually gets his way! Also incredible is the variation in WRAC forage caps—no two alike. Perhaps we need a NATO standardsied head before we attempt to standardise the hats.

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER OF OUSTON BARRACKS

Due to the large increase in junior signalman recruits into the Corps it has been necessary to find more accommodation for the intake that arrives on 8th September. As we reported in the last edition of THE WIRE, both Junior Signalman Squadrons will now be located at Ouston Barracks, a former RAF airfield. Since the decision to locate the junior signalman at Ouston was made, frantic activity has been going on to prepare the barracks and make it habitable by the time the September intake arrives.

On 4th August a small ceremony was held at Ouston when the RAF formally handed over the barracks to the army.



OUTSIZE AFG 1033

Colonel Catermull presents Group-Captain Hardy with the 1033 for RAF Ouston

As the RAF Ensign was lowered for the last time, four jet provo aircraft from RAF Leeming flew overhead in salute to the end of the RAF's long and distinguished association with the station. The Union and Corps flags were then raised and **Colonel D. G. Cattermull,** Commanding Officer 8 Signal Regiment, representing the GOC North East District, shook hands with **Group-Captain Hardy,** Station Commander RAF Leeming, to mark the formal handover of the barracks.

The officers on parade for the ceremony then departed for the Officers Mess, where **Group-Captain Hardy** unveiled a plaque which outlines the history of Ouston as a RAF Station. In reply, **Colonel Cattermull** presented an 11 Signal Regiment plaque and the inevitable document AFG 1033 (large in this case) to **Group-Captain Hardy.** As can be seen from the photograph, it was, in fact, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Cuerden,** Commanding Officer 11 Signal Regiment, who signed the 1033, having first been assured by the QM at Ouston, **Captain Alan Alfred,** that he had checked the station 'as per CES'. The champagne corks were then popped to mark the first celebration in our new Officers Mess.

The work at Ouston to prepare the barracks continues and by the time the next edition of THE WIRE is published we shall be fully established and operational and we shall have a further report.

1 SQUADRON NEWS

August dawned bright and sunny in Catterick as 1 Squadron worked its way back into the routine of recruit training after all the excitements of July. On 2nd August No. 4 TAVR Troop commanded by **W.O.1 Mick Hall** and assisted by **Sergeant Roy Bennett** and **Corporals Eddy Bell, Mav Merrick** and **Ian Fraser,** gave a demonstration of the military skills they had learnt during their 15 days with the regiment. The inspecting officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Rowland,** C.O. 35 (S.M.) Signal Regiment (V).

A week later on 8th August 2 Troop passed off after 10 hard weeks of training. The Best Shot was **Signalman Malcolm Campbell** and the prize for the Best Recruit was awarded to **Signalman John Levins. Lieutenant Martin Strong, Sergeant Ray Crook** and **Corporals Gordon Air** and **Tom Boddison** worked hard and long to produce an excellent parade. The format of the Pass-Off Parade has been changed and two troops—the passing off troop and the troop following (in this case 3 Troop)—now appear on the square. The senior troop only marching past in line in slow and quick time.

The two troops from 1 Squadron were joined on the square by 9 Troop from the Junior Signalman Squadron, who were also passing off after 26 weeks training. O.C. 1 Squadron **Major Peter Todd, B.E.M.,** commanded the parade. The inspecting officer was **Colonel I. G. Swan,** Assistant Adjutant General in the Directorate of Manning M.O.D.

August wasn't all hard work. On the 9th we held the Squadron party for members of the permanent staff and invited guests from the rest of the regiment who have helped us with training and

administration. The party went very well, mainly due to the efforts of **W.O.1 Johnny Howker** and his 'staff'. We didn't realise quite how well the party was organised until the O.C.s wife, **Mrs. Jenny Todd** won the first prize in the raffle.

The 16th was quite a busy day for several members of the Squadron. **Lance-Corporal Sam Stevensons's** wife **Barbara** produced a bouncing baby boy. Both **Barbara** and **Samuel Junior** are doing fine. The training officer **Captain Howard Van Praag** married **Judi Evans** in Northampton Registry Office. In Catterick **S.S.M. Mick Palmer** celebrated the day when his daughter **Lesley** was married in St. Martin's Church. All in all a good start to the summer break.

2 SQUADRON

SQUADRON ON THE MOVE

At last the Squadron has come to the end of what has been an arduous term. The move from Hooge Barracks, Catterick, to the renamed Ouston Barracks, near Newcastle, is almost complete and the Troops have been sent on leave to return to the new barracks in September.

The work, however, does not end there and the Cadre can expect an even more difficult time when it starts to prepare for the influx of approximately 350 juniors on 8th September.

11 TROOP FAREWELLS

Due to the move to Ouston the three junior toops have been reformed into two, which has led to the disappearance of the present 11 Troop! However, they are a fine bunch of lads and will, undoubtedly, settle in well in their new troops.

11 Troop also said farewell to **Sergeant Kemp,** who is leaving the Army and he was given a rousing send-off during an end-of-term party.

TOP TROOP

9 Troop were overall winners in the inter-troop competition despite individual successes for the other troops. The competition included swimming, athletics, basketball, tennis, cross-country and an assault course race.

On completion of a most successful period of training 9 Troop passed off on Friday, 8th August, on a joint parade with 2 Troop, 1 Squadron, having been given the 'once-over' by **Colonel I. G. Swan,** the inspecting officer.

The Troop Commander, **Lieutenant John Cook,** and the Troop Sergeant, **'Ray' Walker,** can now look forward to a fresh start in a different location with a new set of faces. A moment of nostalgia, too, for 9 Troop as **Corporal 'Bill' Earl** has now left the Army for pastures new. We wish him and his family every success.

SWIMMING

The Regimental swimming team, provided almost exclusively by the Squadron, managed to take third place in the Army minor units swimming championships on 29th July. This was a commendable effort considering the limited time the team had been able to devote to training.

FAREWELLS

We have to say farewell to two of our members this month. Our Training Officer, **Captain Bob Wannell,** is off to Cyprus, and OC Adventure Training Troop, **Lieutenant Dick Gittings,** is about to join the Parachute Regiment.

We wish **Bob** all the luck in his new posting, and give **Dick** our best wishes on joining his new regiment.

3 SQUADRON

Staff-Sergeants Courses Nos. 101 and 102—Reflections contributed by Sergeants D. Nixon and C. Cross

The big day dawned, 14th July, 1975, we arrived in dribs and drabs from far and beyond. Everyone seemed to know at least one other except **Sergeant Jim Flockhart,** he knew everyone. Don't worry about this one said the knowing few **'Captain Alfred** has been posted'. 'Looks like an easy course then' sighed the others. As the courses assembled for their initial briefing **W.O.2 (Q.M.S.I.) Tony Davies** gave his usual quip 'Welcome to Sunny Catterick'. This time Catterick was to prove him wrong, heat and sweat reigned supreme, especially during dreaded Warcop.

Tuesday came and went, but not before taking the intake tests and a memorable introduction to drill instructor **Staff-Sergeant Mick Lavery,** original thoughts were beginning to change. Most of us found we could not march, were terribly unfit, and had been re-christened by the aforementioned gentleman. Wednesday morning arrived—still awaiting results. Wednesday afternoon. Sighs of relief, we're still here. As the course progressed we became confused or were we confusing our instructors **Staff-Sergeants Paul Greenhalgh** and **Andy Evans** looked worried. **W.O.1 Bert Irons, Captain Wharton** and **Major Law** smiled wrily. Not satisfied at punishing our brains in the classroom, we humped L.M.G.s, S.L.R.s, S.M.G.s, mortars, pistols and magazines from the armoury to the weapon school and back frequently. 'Cock Hook and Look', was by now not unfamiliar to our ears. **Sergeants Dave Hooks** and **Joe Bonser** tried their hardest at teaching us, was their effort to be in vain?

The dreaded 'Warcop' arrived, and sunny Catterick was having its hottest summer for many years, needless to say the sweat was flowing. It's rumoured that **Q.M.S.I. Tony Davies** knows mother nature very well, the promised thunderstorm arrived in time for the section attacks. Mud, glorious mud, was the plaintive call of **Sergeant John Rogers** as he slowly disappeared.

Back from Warcop and the final week exams, drill, T.P.s, Mot. I., I.S., M.M.L., would it never end? Friday arrived, all was over, was **Colonel Cuerden** really saying 'well done, goodbye safe journey home'.

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

DETACHMENTS UP TO 500 MILES FROM RHQ

ONE of the features of this Regiment is that quite apart from those personnel who get detached to Northern Ireland and Cyprus, there are squadrons, troops and dets anything from 300 to 500 miles from RHQ. This certainly fosters a spirit of independence. In fact, only regular visits from the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Taylor,** keeps thoughts of UDI suitably in check. This month one of the more remote sub-units—'H' Troop were asked to provide THE WIRE notes. The last time they were in the news was when the founding OC, **Captain Mike Billett,** was awarded the MBE. Timings do not seem to have been any quieter under the new regime.

REPORT FROM 'H' TROOP

On 19th June, **Brigadier M. J. H. Walsh,** accompanied by **Leutenant-Colonel M. Liley,** visited the Troop and the tour round the unit ended at the Troop bar, a fitting place to present **W.O.2 (SSM) Tony Morpeth** with his LS and GC. Normal troop hospitality prevailed and our two guests, with their wives, spent the evening in the Troop Club, meeting members of the Troop with their wives.

FRIENDLY SAPPERS HELP OUT

The OC, **Captain Eric Samell,** mentioned to the Brigadier that if the ground north of the Troop site was cleared of tree stumps and levelled, it would make a basis for a football pitch. The Troop was, however, pleasantly surprised when a few weeks later a couple of friendly Sappers arrived from 32 Engineer Regiment, asking if it would be in order to bring their plant up to the Troop the following day, to build our pitch. The OC turned round and, before a hasty retreat could be beaten, **Staff-Sergeant Pete Derrick** was appointed IC Project Wembley. The area was soon marked out and the Sappers set to, ably assisted by such budding plant operators as **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' Sherwood** (who is also our Troop Photographer), **Corporal Steve Buck, Sergeant Drew Duncan** and **Staff-Sergeant Tony Baker,** whilst our MT NCO, **Corporal Charlie Ferguson,** kept the whole project supplied with diesel fuel, obtained from Munsterlager, 60 miles away.

CLUB DINNER NIGHT

On 9th August the Troop enjoyed a dining-in night, to which our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Taylor,** was the guest of honour. **Lance-Corporal John Sutherland** was duty chef and **Signalman Jim Keay** performed the duties of Mr. Vice. These Club Dinner Nights are now a regular occurrence in the 'H' Troop social calendar, and, as we have no Officers' or Sergeants' Mess, these functions must be unique in the Corps.

FRIENDLY SAPPER
Sergeant Drew Duncan

NOW A FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AND FETE

At the time of going to press the Troop are busy organising another 'first'—the 'H' Troop football tournament and fete, which is being held on the Gross Gusborn pitch, and organised by that well-known firm of **Sergeants Alan Brack** and **Dennis Weir.** Side-shows will include such stands as **Sergeant Brian Firth's** mine-field, the Wives' Club soft toy staff, and **Corporal Brian Well's** hot-dog stand, not to mention **Lance-Corporal 'Foxy' Fox's** beer tent. Proceeds will go to the Troop School (it has just completed its first term, and is still standing) and a local charity.

14 Sig Regt Worcester

SOOTY BUT NO SWEEP

WITH the roar of an express train a massive conflagration greedily devours masses of tinder-dry brush and undergrowth. A capricious, vagrant breeze drives it hither and thither, seeming intent on destroying all combustible material. Flames leap crazily skyward, falter, then explode at breakneck speed to spread the fire over an even greater area of the beautiful Malvern Hills. All efforts to contain the blaze are proving fruitless as the fire rages across 250 acres and threatens to destroy houses and business premises at the base of the hills.

FIRE SERVICES REQUEST HELP

At this stage the Worcester and Hereford Fire Service called on the Regiment and a local RAF unit for assistance. The call was received by the Adjutant, **Captain Richard Holmes,** at 1550 hrs. He mustered all available manpower on the square by the simple expedient of sounding the fire alarm. These were rapidly divided into fire parties, by 1700 hrs the first party was in action on the hill. Throughout the night, the parties directed by **Majors Mike Brock** and **Ken Wright** and **W.O.1 (RSM) Bill Scott,** toiled in extremely unpleasant and dangerous conditions. At times parties were completely cut off as the fire swirled around them and everyone had to race for safety. They beat, raked out smouldering undergrowth, damped down and frantically dug to establish fire breaks along a front of two to three miles. In spite of an evil acrid cloud of black smoke, which seared eyeballs and choked lungs, they gradually managed to contain the fire and prevent it spreading. Parties were rotated every two hours and staggered down the hill looking like fugitives from the George Mitchell Minstrels.

Fire raging on the Malvern Hills prior to the Regiment being called upon to assist the Worcester and Hereford Fire Service

As dawn broke the heavens opened and a torrential downpour consolidated the parties' efforts and put paid to the fire. A black, barren hillside now stands starkly against the skyline behind Malvern, **a mute reminder of yet another example of the excellent co-operation which exists between service units in this area and the local authorities.**

FRIENDLY EARS

These were admirably provided throughout Exercise Signal View by our liaison teams, **Sergeant Mick Punter** and **Lance-Corporal Rick Cooper** were in Cyprus, **Sergeant Dave Fountain** and **Corporal 'Taff' Thomas** were in Hong Kong replying to the many queries fed through the TSC 500 via the Skynet satellite to these two locations. They maintain that they undertook the more arduous duty in these far-flung outposts, where they sweated blood, Keo, San Miguel and Tiger, as they searched for a suitable answer or merry quip to parry every question. They assure me that **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Joe Jackson** and his crew had the easier and more enjoyable task entertaining the visitors and dolly birds in Worcester, the foreman's comments were quite outside my vocabulary. For the E21 station we had **Sergeant Dave Hudson** and **Lance-Corporal Phil Cull** in Malta, and they insist that without the Mediterranean Fleet, Straight Street is now living up to its name. In a slightly less exotic setting (Krefeld) we had **Sergeant Ray Dickenson** and **Corporal Phil Hall** doing the same task for the D13. All of the Regiment's stands proved to be very popular and their efforts were obviously appreciated by our many visitors.

A FLAG PROBLEM

Sergeant Dave Bennett on the D13 in Worcester caused some confusion when he agreed to safeguard the unit flags for **Sergeant Tom Fowle,** our RPC provo Sergeant. As night fell **Sergeant Fowle** lowered all six flags and handed them to **Dave,** who locked them in his cabin. The following morning **Dave** inadvertently (?) gave him seven flags. **Sergeant Fowle** was convinced that someone had stolen a flagpole. Anyone seeing a cadet or schoolboy running down the M5 with a 20-ft flagpole on his shoulder should contact the Regiment, our provost sergeant will then be able to close this investigation. (Note, he should also have a 4-ft hole.)

PERPETUAL MOTION

During the setting up stages the Regiment was sure it had discovered the answer to perpetual motion; as **Corporal 'Slim' Cummings** laboured throughout the day and far into the evening fetching and carrying stores, erecting stands and sorting out tents, whilst showing what a one-man labour force can achieve, before dashing off to act as unit projectionist each evening. For the second year in succession he amazed everyone as he maintained this frantic tempo for weeks. Alas, we failed to produce perpetuum mobile. On the third day, before the show opened, he produced his usual daily effort before continuing on to do DJ at a very hectic unit disco. This proved to be the final straw, he literally fell asleep standing up. Fortunately 24 hours in bed rejuvenated all his moving parts without Heineken, and he recovered his old drive before the show was over. **W.O.2 (RQMS) Tony Morgan** assures me that this will not happen next year, as he is now engaged on modifying **Corporal Cumming's** circuitry, whilst LAD are busy manufacturing the MK V Morgan whip.

LADIES SELL OUT

The CO's wife, **Mrs. Ella Hales,** and the ladies of the Regiment ran a very successful refreshment tent. They sold a veritable mountain of strawberry cream teas, a plethora of mouth-watering cakes and a mass of tasty sandwiches. Their sales technique was so successful that the QM, **Captain Cyril 'Sign 'Ere' Evis,** had visions of the accommodation stores, tent and real estate on which it stood being sold off. Messrs. Forte and Lyons are rank amateurs at the side of those girls.

Having successfully cleared out every last schoolboy and schoolgirl we are now busy putting the barracks back together again ready for 1976, when we again host the Royal Signals premier show.

FIVE YEARS TO PENSION AND STILL GOING STRONG

At the ripe old age of 60, one would not normally contemplate undertaking a trip of 2,500 miles relying entirely on one's own motive power. However, this is in fact a very unusual 60-year-old. It is a 1915 BSA motor cycle owned by **Mr. Peter Ward,** one of the civilian fitters working in the Regiment's LAD. The journey took him from his home in Colwall, near Malvern, to Lublin, a small town in Poland, located 30 miles south of the Russian border.

Mr. Peter Ward gets down for a close inspection of 1915 BSA prior to setting off on his journey to Lublin

In company with friends Peter made the trip to attend an International Motor Cycle Rally. An added interest was the fact that he was sponsored for every 100 km he rode. The monies raised have gone to the Kington Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund and Kington Hospital Extension Fund.

SPEEDING TICKET EN ROUTE

The trip was not without incident and Peter managed a brush with the Polish law. He was bombing down the road, flat out at a fantastic 36 m.p.h., when he was nabbed for speeding. Fortunately hyper-inflation has not reached Poland yet and he was only fined the equivalent of £1·50.

On arrival in Lublin they joined 15,000 other enthusiasts from 23 countries. As a tribute to the age of his bike, Peter was selected to lead the parade of 15,000 motorcycles through the main streets of Lublin on the last day of the rally. The bike attracted an enormous amount of attention from the Polish people, who bombarded him with questions at every opportunity. During their stay in Lublin they were entertained by the Polish community, who arranged a dinner and folk-dancing show. The Polish Army also organised a huge barbeque for the motorcyclists.

A visit which really moved him was the one the party made to Maidenek; this is a wartime concentration camp, preserved exactly as it was at the end of the Second World War as a monument to the thousands of people killed there. A feature which touched him was a mountain of 800,000 pairs of shoes, taken from the victims; many of these were partially-worn children's shoes. Peter found that the Polish people are still very bitter about the war in spite of the time which has elapsed.

In spite of all the problems encountered Peter enjoyed every minute of the trip and considers that it was a very worthwhile experience. We consider that anyone who is capable of maintaining a 60-year-old motorcycle in a fit condition to make a 2,500-mile trip is well fitted to keep our modern equipments in good running order.

FOLLOWING THE SUN

THE bumper 1975 holiday season continues with the Regiment's travel bureau working overtime.

CRUISES

Sergeants Ian Brydon and **'Kojak' Dickenson** have recently returned from a luxury cruise on board H.M.S. Leopard which took them from Portsmouth to Gibraltar. They were ostensibly on board as a liaison party during a Jocomex with our E21 detachment, but as usual the set did it all unaided with a solid circuit for ninety per cent of the exercise. This left the party free to emulate the yacht set and enjoy the sun, sea and fresh air. Both are full of praise for the R.N. cruise lines which entertained them royally. To amuse them, the captain put the ship through a series of elaborate manoeuvres and laid on a demonstration of fire power. Off the southern coast of Spain he even stopped the ship to allow them to swim. **Sergeant Dickenson** took advantage of this and in company with a number of the younger members of the crew dived in. He then treated the crew to a display of 'Pongo Power' by impersonating **Mark Spitz** and swimming faster and farther than anyone else. Having achieved splendid isolation he dived beneath the surface to demonstrate his powers underwater, but on surfacing he was amazed to see the sailors frantically scrambling up the commando net draped down the ship's side. As his ears cleared he heard the lookout's frantic cries of 'Shark, Shark, Shark'. He then surpassed his previous performance as he strove to reach the ship which now appeared to be a million miles away. Frantically his feet flailed the water whilst his nose threw up a bow wave which would have done credit to an M.T.B. After what seemed an eternity he reached the ship, scrambled up the net and collapsed in a soggy heap. The shark meanwhile had apparently examined him, ascertained he was not carrying his usual supply of lollipops, rejected him as an afternoon snack and then dived under the ship. **Sergeant Dickenson** confirms that he has no wish to visit an island called Danger. On arrival at Gibraltar, the pair were booked into the luxurious five-star hotel H.M.S. Rooke, and they then had a few days in which **Sergeant Dickenson** was able to get his breath back before taking in all the sights of the rock prior to flying back to U.K.

Varying the theme slightly we have **Corporals Robin Fenton** and **Jeb Stoney** flying out to Gibraltar to join another cruise liner, H.M.S. Salisbury. They will then reverse the procedure, omit the swim and sail with the ship back to Portsmouth.

The year's record for the shortest cruise is now held by **Corporal Pete Jones** and **Lance-Corporal Brian Wenban.** They joined H.M.S. Eskimo for a cruise from Portsmouth to Helensburgh in Scotland. Unfortunately, owing to a technical problem the ship remained in Portsmouth throughout the exercise. They did, however, have the opportunity of visiting H.M.S. Victory and seeing the spot where Lord Nelson founded a famous nautical tradition with that immortal phrase, "Kiss me Hardy'.

PACKAGE TOURS

Gibraltar seems to be particularly popular this year. **Corporal Andy Guest** and **Lance-Corporal Tony Hodgson** are on vacation with Commcen Gibraltar whilst D13 detachments are savouring the delights of Blandford and RAF Watton. Social activities permitting, the liaison party and detachments should compare notes over a secure circuit before the exercise ends.

In common with many in the present affluent society **Sergeant 'Kojak' Dickenson** is taking a second holiday this year; with **Corporal Les Rix** he is visiting the George Cross Island. We are assured that in between touring the Grand Harbour and sightseeing in Valetta they will endeavour to call in on Commcen Malta and speak to our E21 detachment in South Cerney.

SHOWS

As a complete change from Oakhanger **Captain Peter Neale** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Joe Jackson** took a T.S.C. satellite station up to Harrogate to sample the waters and the many attractions of Armex 75. The station was providing circuits via the Skynet satellite to Commcens in Cyprus and Hong Kong whilst giving the many visitors an opportunity of inspecting our space age communications system.

SEARCH FOR A GODDESS

Generously foregoing the pleasures of the fleshpots at Harrogate, **Sergeant Brian Etheridge** and **Corporal Chalky White** flew out to Cyprus in search of Aphrodite. Their families can be reassured: I am reliably informed that the lady is quite armless. They left no stone unturned during their quest and also managed to find time to talk to Armex visitors. They report that Aphrodite no longer rises from the surf at Paphos and that the locals claim that she has been transformed into marble by some Italian chiseler.

ORIENTAL EXILES

Enduring an even more distant exile from the pleasures of the Yorkshire Spa, **Sergeant Bob Alexander** and **Lance-Corporal Nigel Metcalfe** took on the arduous task of liaison duty in Hong Kong. An occasional tremor in their voices, as they conversed with visitors over the circuit, indicated that, in spite of a traditional stiff upper lip, they were deeply upset about missing Harrogate.

FLUSHED BUT NOT WITH SUCCESS

Recently, while cleaning her quarter, **Mrs. Sue Dobson,** wife of one of Newcastle's most ardent supporters **Lance-Corporal Geordie Dobson,** picked up a pair of his socks. On entering the bathroom where the soiled linen basket is kept, her mind was completely occupied with the pending birth of their first child. While lost in her reverie she absentmindedly popped the socks into the toilet. Before she realised her mistake she had flushed it and the socks had disappeared. Yachtsmen sailing in the Bristol Channel area are asked to keep a watch out for them. The socks are readily identifiable as, at the shout of, 'Away Super Mac', they stand rigidly to attention.

ALL OF THE MONKEYS AREN'T IN THE ZOO

'You ought to talk to the animals mate', 'Do you stuff monkeys mister?' 'He's the doctor in Daktari', 'Go on, He's David Attenborough'. These were some of the milder comments produced by cockney sparrows when **Sergeants Dave Hudson** and **Keith Kennard** boarded a tube train at Camden Town in company with a crocodile, two monkeys and a cheetah—all stuffed of course. The animals had been borrowed from a theatrical props supplier to lend authenticity to the Regiment's stand at the Royal Tournament. On their move across London they certainly attracted a lot of attention and our two sergeants had as many youthful followers as the Pied Piper. The Regiment's terrible twins, along with **Sergeant Terry Winsor,** had been tasked to produce an R234 cabin in a jungle setting. The curator of Kew Gardens was convinced that his tropical greenhouses had been plagued with instant locust as our ingenious trio made the most of their opportunity to produce a realistic setting.

The finished result proved to be an irresistible attraction for the children and was popular with all visitors. The party, suitably attired in OG, found an appropriate answer to all questions fired at them. **Sergeant Terry Winsor** is still mystified that so many children requested him to sing 'Whispering Grass' and demanded to know why he was not wearing his topee.

During their stay the party sent a very appropriate postcard to their squadron administrative officer showing **Messrs. Wilson, Heath** and **Thorpe** at the Cenotaph with poppy wreaths and the message 'Lest You Forget'. They were reassured on their return. The R.S.M. had them figuring very prominently on the duty roster. The party all enjoyed their spell at Earl's Court but complained bitterly about lack of sleep due to a combination of the music of bagpipes and the crash of naval fieldguns being manhandled, these being interspersed with shrill cries of 'Oggy, Oggy, Oggy', as Devonport Fleet Division strove for even faster times at 0600 hours daily. Our party were quite amazed to discover that such an hour existed. However, a good social life more than made up for this slight inconvenience.

THE NAME'S THE SAME

On a recent unit selection board, the candidate for commissioning was nervously facing the members while trying to project well and find all the right answers. One member of the board asked, 'What papers do you read?', 'The Telegraph' was the prompt reply. 'Where would you find Peterborough?', asked another. Without hesitation came the reply, 'About one hundred and fifty miles east of here'. Our young hopeful is now aware that he is also the journalist responsible for 'London Day by Day'.

LES MISERABLES

Colourful brochures extolling the many scenic beauties of the Seychelles have recently been lavishly scattered around 1 Squadron, as **Major Tony Seward** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Allan Falconer** read up on their next exercise location. Their spirits soared at the rapturous reports on this tropical paradise set like a gem in the Indian Ocean. Like dogs with two tails they congratulated themselves on their good fortune. In the midst of all this elation they were handed a signal which proved quite conclusively that someone in high places has a sense of humour: the location had been changed to that popular Arabian Sea tourist resort, Masirah. Having now completed a recce they have glowing reports of picturesque landscape, wide sandy beaches and a well established colony of tropical penguins. Anyone with a good line in buckets and spades is assured of a brisk trade with our E21 detachment. A full report of the Regiment's sheiks will be produced on completion of the modern Arabian Nights.

A TASTE FOR LITERATURE

Simba, the alsatian owned by **Captain (Tfc.) Colin Heaps,** having demonstrated his love of music by devouring five record cases and numerous LPs has now progressed to literature. He recently found **James Herriot's** 'Let Sleeping Vets Lie', very much to his taste and almost ate the whole book.

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

FAREWELLS—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AND MRS. A. N. de BRETTON-GORDON

OVERCOMING the minor obstacles of a far flung empire and no Regimental Messes, appropriate farewells were given to **Lieutenant-Colonel Alastair** and **Jill de Bretton-Gordon,** by the whole Regiment.

LADIES FIRST

Wives from five of our six Regimental locations assembled in a local hotel, for a farewell dinner for **Jill de Bretton-Gordon.** Mine hosts' face, on being confronted by so many lady guests, was a study in abject terror but he is now reported as being well on the way to recovery. A silver photograph frame was presented to **Mrs. de Bretton-Gordon** by **Angela Michie,** on behalf of all the Regimental Wives.

Next to the Sergeants Mess, R.A.F. Wildenrath, where of course all six Regimental locations were fully represented (our furthest outpost being 150 miles distant) to say nothing of our other 'Regimental Mess Members' from 669 Squadron, Army

Air Corps and Royal Engineers from the Station's Forces Post Office and PSA for the dining out of **Lieutenant-Colonel Alastair de Bretton-Gordon.** Speeches on these occasions do tend to be a little poignant and very much family affairs but it must be admitted that the Regiment's unparallelled, all-round sporting success was mentioned (and with more than a little pride). After receiving a stainless steel dinner service and Regimental beer stein, **Colonel Alastair** presented the senior ranks with a silver goblet which he directed should remain in perpetuity for the use of 'Mr Vice'. The time of departure from the Sergeants Mess must remain a Regimental secret but staying power was well proved by all. Not to be outdone, but cunningly the next night the Officers Mess, R.A.F. Wildenrath was the venue for the officers farewell function. The officers farewell to **Colonel Alastair,** took place in the Log Cabin (part of the Officers Mess) all comfortably attired in 'Planters Rig'. Following the meal **Major Bill Michie** presented **Colonel Alastair** with a leather desk set, to which the Colonel replied with a rather touching speech and presented the Mess with a silver goblet.

The very next day a farewell Regimental Parade was held at R.A.F. Wildenrath. After taking an individual salute from nearly every soldier in the Regiment it seemed appropriate that the Colonel, a keen supporter of the Regimental Club, 'The Train', should leave the Regiment by train. The R.C.T. did us more than proud, producing an engine named Carr, a flat platform and two extremely smart engine drivers. Reclining on his armchair aboard the decorated flat platform, with the railway engine's bell ringing and whistle blowing. **Lieutenant-Colonel Alastair de Bretton-Gordon** departed 21 Signal Regiment to the farewell waves of officers, soldiers, wives and children.

W.O.2 (S.S.M.) AND MRS. D. M. FERGUSON

Almost concurrently the Regiment was saying farewell to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Don MacFarlane** and **Ann Ferguson,** en route for civilian life in Rhyl, after 22 years service. The popularity of 'the Fergies' probably established a new world record for farewell parties, starting with Troops, and Squadron parties, through S.N.C.O. and officers drinks and culminating in a farewell dinner party given by the Warrant Officers and their wives.

R.C.T. Railway Squadron escorts for Lieutenant-Colonel Alastair de Bretton-Gordon

LANCE-CORPORAL ALAN PROUDFOOT

Having completed around 24 years service **Lance-Corporal Alan Proudfoot** continues his association with the army by taking a local release to work for the NAAFI in BAOR. To **Lieutenant-Colonel Alastair** and **Jill de Bretton-Gordon, W.O.2 Don** and **Ann Ferguson** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Proudfoot** we extend our sincere good wishes for a happy future in their new environments.

SPORT

CROOK SHIELD

The Crook Shield is believed to be a unique Army trophy. It is competed for by the major units of Rhine Area and awarded annually to the unit with the best all-round sporting record. The sports concerned are numerous and include: athletics, basketball, badminton, cricket, cross-country, football, hockey, motorcycling, rugby, orienteering, squash, swimming, tennis, tug-of-war, water polo. With only the orienteering results outstanding for 1974–75 (we anticipate maximum points) our lead is unassailable so we shall retain the Crook Shield for the fourth consecutive year.

FOR THE RECORD

Not including Rhine Area (see above), Morrison Cup or R.A.F Germany successes, our major championships are:

Army:—athletics and cross-country.

BAOR:—athletics, cross-country and table tennis.

If these are added to the recently published list of 8 Signal Regiment successes, it does not leave much for the remainder of the Army to hold, does it?

A FAMILY AFFAIR

On Thursday, 21st August **Nigel Markham,** son of **Captain John and Madge Markham** of the Regiment, enlisted into the army. In the photo he is being congratulated by his father watched by the Attesting Officer **Captain Chris Melhuish.** All our very best wishes for the future **Nigel.**

LIKE FATHER—LIKE SON

Nigel Markham joins the Army congratulated by father, Captain John Markham. Attesting officer, Captain Chris Melhuish looks on

TACEVAL ALERT

One is constantly warned never to listen to rumours, however here at R.A.F. Wildenrath it is advisable to do so, when it concerns the date and time of the 'Tactical Evaluation' (TACEVAL) alert. It had been rumoured that Monday 1st September, 1975, was the big day and true to form at 0545 hrs the dreaded station hooter began to wail.

The TACEVAL alert is a test of the operational capability of an airfield by a team of Allied Air Forces Central Europe specialists.

H.Q. Squadron under **Major Chas Hughes** are tasked with providing a mobile defence for the R.A.F. station; no mean task when one considers the size of the camp. For the next 72 hours it was the task of these three sections to react correctly to infiltrators and all forms of air attack including nuclear, damage to comms, ops rooms and fuel points.

There are always incidents that come to mind after an exercise and the TACEVAL alert was no exception. The determination of No. 2 Section at flushing out an infiltrator by using four thunderflashes and giving chase across a field before being successful (the infiltrator who came from 28 Signal Regiment obviously had not heard that we win the athletics each year), **Captain Neville Illman's** ability to fill his pouch with chocolate, **Sergeant Dave Stevens'** ability to end the alert as he started with highly pressed 'Noddy Suit' and **Signalman Vincent Sanderson's** vastly improved knowledge of wild plants and insects having manned an OP for 2 days.

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

PROLOGUE

THE CO looked around the Adjutant's doorway.
'Short conference today, I'm off to Norway'.

ACT I SCENE I—(CO's Office)

The Squadron Commanders knew it, when the CO called the hurried conference and forgot to invite the Training Major, **Major Ray Etheridge,** that he was a worried man.

'I won't be coming for the whole of the summer camp—I'm on a Commanding Officer's introductory outward bound course in Norway for most of the time.

SCENE II (Summer Camp—Vogelsang)

No CO, what will the mice do? **SSI Adolf Grainger** soon put paid to any thoughts of early-morning lie-ins. 159 steps down to PT at 6.30 was an assault course in itself.

SCENE III

The helicopters provided one of the main attractions for regimental training. 18 Squadron RAF from Gutersloh provided us with two Wessex helicopters for a new variation to an old theme—on the chopper—off the chopper. **Sergeant Keith Buckley** had his own way of descending the rope and now he looks as if he is ready to take on Mohammed Ali—providing the venue is at St. Tonis.

SCENE IV

OC 1 Squadron, **Major Pat Thomas,** added his variations to initiative tests. Twenty-four chicken, yes 24 chickens were procured and put under close arrest in the armoury for the night, much to the chagrin of **Sergeant Mac MacLaughlin** and **Signalman 'Jock' Dixon.** Still, it was only for the night and they did have a fresh egg for breakfast. More than the rest of 1 Squadron got. At dawn the next morning that mean Major paddled his assault boat across to an island on a lake and released the chickens. By the time he got back he was able to tell his ravenous Squadron what their task for the morning was!

SCENE V

OC HQ Squadron, **Major Chichester Robinson,** had the right idea. He found himself four dinghies about five miles away and just called in to the Mess for lunch. But he did have **Captain Gordon Walker,** our Catering Officer, and recently qualified from JDSC, to cope with things military. The latter was not too happy about the authenticity of one of his initiative test answers. In reply to the test 'Proof of osculation with a woman', **Sergeant John Thorley** provided written proof that he had received it from the local sanitary inspector of Gemund!?

Another test was to find the oldest inhabitant in Gemund. This wonderful old lady, **Frau Rosali Meiners,** age 98, welcomed an enormous party of beefy soldiers into her home.

SCENE VI

It wasn't all fun. No, OC 2 Squadron, **Major Bob Brewis,** saw to that. Who would tell his 2IC that the night attack would definitely not come before 4 o'clock? Poor **Captain Dick Stokes** —how rude to catch him in his basher with his boots off at 3 o'clock in the morning and a smoke grenade in his sleeping bag. Yeoman of Signals **Nick Naylor** can't see where he went wrong!

Signalman Pod Leaning was given some expert tuition from the RE Bomb Disposal expert. But Pod, you walk forwards when searching for minefields. Mind you, he did do better on the grenade range—he ran.

ACT 2 SCENE I—Nijmegen

Our victorious Nijmegen marchers appeared towards the end of summer camp—sporting a fair crop of blisters. The Regiment entered two teams, 'A' and 'B'.

Team 'A' was led by that unrelenting slave driver **Lieutenant Moray Martin-Rhind.** Morale was maintained by the operatic tones of **Lance-Corporal 'Buddy' Fowles** and the alto-tenor accompaniment of **Signalman 'Snoopy' Barron. Signalman Neil Thomas** was awarded the 'Golden Blister' Award.

Team 'B', whilst not being as fast as the 'A' Team, were equally as cheerful. Team Captain **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Mick Golledge,** helped maintain his version of 'Our Sergeant Major' every 15 minutes, day in and day out. Fortunately for them, on the third day the team picked up 601 Security Company USAF and the two teams then stayed together, thus sparing the former from any more versions of the illustrious WO—they taught each other new songs instead!

Lance-Corporal Jerry Barr and **Signalman Dave (Old Man) Grant** were heard to laugh loudest when the USAF Medic was dealing with **Signalman Andy (The Feet) Hazell's** blisters. 'The Feet' had the last laugh, however, when he was bedded down after the march and everybody else went on to Vogelsang.

Thanks go to **Sergeant Robby Robinson** for supplying 'Electric Water' (Pernod to the uninitiated), **Lance-Corporal Don Robson** for his enthusiasm for 'Wellies' and **Signalman 'Tessie' O'Shea** for just being Irish.

ACT 3 SCENE 1—Bisley

Having an equally military time was the Regimental shooting team at Bisley. They succeeded in not only being the top Royal Signals Unit, but were, in fact, the 3rd non-infantry major unit in the order of merit. They also came 3rd in the falling plate competition. Among the individuals **Captain John Woods,** REME (Team Captain), and **Corporal Alan Brooks** were awarded the Army 100 Medal, and **Sergeant Mick Colley,** REME, was awarded the SMG 45 Medal. **Captain Woods** also won the target rifle competition at 900 yards! Well done, gentlemen—good shooting.

ACT 3 SCENE 2—St. Tonis

Our Adjutant, **Captain John** (I might leave my office) **Young,** was straightening out his pencils, and adjusting a few files in his pending tray when in walked the CO:

He looked a little rough
He wouldn't say a lot
'Did Sir find the course too tough?'
'Did I' was his retort.

CURTAIN!

(See overleaf Unit cartoonist's impressions of certain Regimental happenings)

OC 1 Squadron demonstrates the art of 'poulet a la mode'

IT'S TOUGH AT THE TOP!

The CO recently attended a Commanding Officers introductory outward bound course

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The following are some of those recently posted into the Regiment, to whom we wish an enjoyable and worth-while stay:

Miss Riddell, W.R.V.S., Captain Charles Elsey, R.E.M.E. (O.C. LAD), **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) D. Gallacher, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Atkinson, Corporal Sharkey, Corporal Jenkins, Signalmen Baker** and **Thompson.**

There have, sadly, been quite a number of departures but it goes without saying that we wish all of them good fortune for the future.

Sergeant Naylor (R.E.M.E.), Corporal Coverdale, Corporal Healey, Corporal Turnbull, Corporal Parrotte, Corporal Neish, Lance-Corporal Comber, Lance-Corporal Sewell, Signalman Kelley, Signalman Scott, Signalman Smith and **Signalman Weedy.**

Of particular note is the departure of **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) T. L. Brown.** Both **Joan** and **Tom** will be sadly missed by all members of this Regiment, and we wish them well during their tour in Belgium.

FRANFEET!!

On August Bank Holiday Monday while the rest of the Regiment was still in bed, the Regimental marching team struck again. **Lieutenant Murray Martin-Rhind, Lance-Corporal Pete Reynolds, Signalman 'Scouse' Evans, Pat O'Brien, Martin Smith,** set off to walk to Antwerp (270 kms) followed by **Corporal Meakin** and **Signalman Jock Wilson** in a Land-Rover, to say nothing of **Signalman Ian Tozzi** on his bike. The aim of the exercise was to march to Antwerp, cross to Marchwood, and walk again to Windsor—all to take part in an international march! You should now be utterly confused, so read on! On arrival in Windsor our stalwarts were joined by the air party headed by **Sergeant Harry Squires** and by **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Mick Golledge** and many others who found their own way.

The march itself was on Saturday 6th September and was organised by the British Airways Silver Wings Club. A mere 30 kms! By the time march time arrived our body had swollen to two teams each of 10 men (thanks to **Jock Wilson** who having never marched competitively before volunteered to make up the numbers).

ATTRACTIVE CHECKPOINTS

The march itself was through Windsor Great Park with each checkpoint manned (?) by attractive British Airways stewardesses. They stamped the cards—and in the case of some of the more amorous members the hands and arms of all competitors. A great incentive this and a spur to make it to the next checkpoint where there were even more girls! Both teams made it over the 30 kms with no problem, receiving attractive individual medals for their pains. These pains were not too severe to prevent any of them attending the Silver Wings Club dance that evening we might add! Our thanks to the Adjutant and Chief Clerk of 10th Signal Regiment for their kind assistance, and to movements staffs of all persuasions who got us there and back. Our thanks also too to our sponsors—their money will be given to charity in the near future.

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

News from Squadrons

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

EX ALPINE RAT

EX Alpine Rat took place in the area around the Brigade Ski Hut which is situated just outside of Steibis in Bavaria.

The main party of 20 travelled overnight by train which turned out to be quite an experience, especially when **Lance-Corporal Bob Pepper** dropped his luggage off the platform under the train, and the train timings supplied by Movements being totally different from those operated by the German Railways. However, eventually the main party arrived at the Ski Hut bleary eyed and rather tired and were greeted by three inches of snow.

Unfortunately the weather was against us during the first part of the week and we were advised by the German Mountain Rescue organisation to stay in the valleys. This news was received by certain members of the party with sighs of relief after seeing the size of some of the local mountain. But never at a loss for something to keep everyone busy, **Lieutenant Adrian Schuler** soon organised orienteering and canoeing.

On the third day the weather cleared sufficiently to allow 18 of our heroes to climb a 'small' peak of 1400m which seemed to get larger with every weary step.

THE HOCHGRAT

The Hochgrat is the highest mountain in the area around Steibis of 2300m. On the Thursday morning an intrepid party of 12 adventurers set out to conquer this rather impressive mountain. During the ascent it became clear that **Lance-Corporal Brian Humphries** and **Signalman Jono Johnson** must be closely related to mountain goats as they almost ran up the mountain. But eventually everyone reached the top and then began the descent, a task which must surely be easier than going up. But no if anything it was more difficult. At times people disappeared in the snow, and **Corporal Paul Titman** used his rucksack as a sledge. While this was happening **Staff-Sergeant Arthur Cottilard** took the remainder on a walk over a smaller peak. At around midday they met **Major James Sweetman** who was supposed to be walking to the same place as **Staff-Sergeant Cottilard.** The only trouble was he was going in the opposite direction. A 'discussion' ensued as to who was right, and the result was that both parties went their separate ways and since they both reached their destination the argument was never settled. But don't worry Sir, we believe you, honest!

The rest of the week was taken up with similar strenuous activities. Then the return to Soltau, this time no chances were taken and the German Railways were the source of train timings. But this journey was to be no better as the transport from Hannover Bahnhof to Soltau was 1½ hrs late.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

This annual event took place on the 5th June and represented 7 Armd Bde's presentation to Stadt Soltau. Six bands from units both within and out of the Brigade took part in a programme of military and classical music.

Much rehearsing was done before the day, whilst the stands and loudspeaker systems grew around the stadium.

One of the rehearsals was recorded by BFBS and this led to the evoution of a rather different antenna which was used to pick up the music from above. Everything went well and the evening and the parade were considered a great success.

EX SUMMER SALES

Ex Summer Sales took place between 26th June–3rd July. The idea of moving during Summer Sales struck terror into the hearts of certain older and more long-standing members of the squadron who had always considered the exercise as their summer holiday. Also, because the number of players, and other attached personnel had grown for the exercise, movement of this comparative giant resembled a five-mile snake which moved at the whim of the map reader in the leading vehicle. Nobody ever really got lost, they just saw more of Germany.

Despite the departures from the norm, the exercise seemed to go quite well, and managed to provide the usual number of amusing incidents.

FOOTNOTE

Staff-Sergeant Arthur Cottillard leaves us this month to go to 10 Signal Regiment, and would like to deny the rumour that he will be S.S.M. of the Hounslow Mother's Pride Factory (see WIRE notes July-August).

EXERCISE COUNTDOWN X—BY STAFF-SERGEANT (Y. of S.) D. P. PALMER

Exercise Countdown X was the yearly summer camp held by the Signal Squadron at Eckernforde (near Kiel) during the period 18th July—1st August, 1975. The command structure was as follows:

OIC Camp	**Captain R. F. Rutherford**
Trg. Offr. week 1	**Captain A. J. Schuler**
Trg. Offr. week 2	**Lieutenant H. H. Ham**
R.S.M.	**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. Williams**
R.Q.M.S.	**W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) H. Emraz**
S.Q.M.S.	**Staff-Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) J. Palmer**

The exercise was designed to enable the Squadron to complete annual BE tests, range classification, night firing, map-reading training and an escape and evasion exercise. Training was split into two weeks therefore the whole squadron was able to attend. There was also wide scope for sporting and adventurous training activities.

The advance party which left three days prior to the first main party was led by **Captain R. F. Rutherford,** and assisted by **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Harry Emraz.** To our great relief all the work was completed when we arrived and we were able to commence our training right away.

TRAINING

Training consisted of a wide sphere of activities namely: map-reading training provided by the author and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Keith Gordon** (a F. of S. and a Y. of S. can work together provided the Y. of S. does the brain work). Congratulations go to **Corporals Alex Mair, Jock Letford and Chris Quinn** on winning the various competitions. Ranges and night firing were organised by the 2IC, **Captain J. P. Munnery,** and excellent results were achieved. Canoeing under the coachmanship of **Sergeant Sid Barnett.** A special mention must be made of **Private Humphries** who did a sponsored trip around the bay in aid of the local scouts thus raising DM160 which will help towards the scouts proposed trip to Canada next year. We had five Assault Boats which were ably run by the R.M.P.s **Staff-Sergeant Wilkinson** and **Sergeant Champness.** Frequent use was made of the boats especially when it was discovered there was a budding nudist colony about a mile away. However our R.Q.M.S., **Harry Emraz** was the only one to strike up a conversation with them, 'practising my German' says he?

Skin diving and water skiing were also very popular. **Corporal Winter, Lance-Corporal Gault** and **Lance-Corporal Pepper** were hardly ever on land. Water skiing was **Captain A. J. Schuler's** 'piece de resistance'. No one was safe from being convinced by his smooth patter that their dearest wish was to water-ski. Various sailing trips were organised to Faaborg and Sonderborg in Denmark and around the Kiel area in Petasus the Corps yacht with her permanent skipper **Lance-Corporal Brian Humphries.** Landlubbers who braved the elements were, the author, **Corporal Frank Brown, Corporal Allex Mair, Lance-Corporal Bill Smith, Lance-Corporal Laurie Waters, Signalman 'Mac' McIntyre** and **Signalman Joe Barrallon.** An officers study weekend was held on the high seas. The crew consisted of our O.C., **Major R. F. L. Cook,** (Royal Signals), **Captain R. F. Rutherford, Captain J. P. Munnery** and **Lieutenant H. H. Ham.** What they were studying is still a secret, but it was certainly not how to operate the heads. One of the crew discovered rather drastically that the head can propel its contents at the user as opposed to emptying by suction effect. P.F tests were the R.S.M.'s forte and he ruthlessly ensured we all had a go. I wonder if this was because the O.C. took him around the course? Competitive sport we had in plenty and the grand finale must be the S.N.C.O.s football and volleyball match against the S.N.C.O.s of the Bundesmarine. We may have lost but we sure put up a good fight.

WHAT WERE THEY DOING TO LOOK SO SURPRISED?
Lieutenant H. H. Ham and WO2 (F of S) Gordon sort out a small communication problem

SOCIAL

During week one we were invited to the Marinefliegerschwader for a potted sports afternoon, followed by a barbeque. We and the hosts were in uniform and souvenir swapping was carried on with abandon. One of our members by industrious swopping finished up with a complete German uniform. We reciprocated in the second week with a barbeque and It's a Knockout competition. The competition was organised by **Lieutenant H. H. Ham** and included a water jousting match between **R.S.M. Tony Williams** and the Marinefliegerschwader R.S.M. The diplomatic result was a draw with both contestants swimming for shore. The Signal Squadron was presented with a handsome plaque depicting all the ranks in the Marinefliegerschwader from Admiral down to Seaman. Finally, even though we trained hard, it was an enjoyable summer camp and we look forward to next year's.

Signalman Price and Lance-Corporal Jenkins take a quick smoke break before moving off again

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28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn,

B.F.P.O. 5

CRICKET SUCCESS IN FORCES SPORTS WEEK

Having successfully completed the Squadron F.F.R. inspection our attention was turned to the preparation for Forces sports week, which took place in early August. This competition was the last of a long line of such events which were initiated by 28 Commonwealth Brigade. The Squadron competed in most events despite its diminutive size, and after a tense struggle with 1 Gordons won the cricket championship. The Sqn personnel in the team were **Captain John Kay, Corporal Rick Simpson, Corporal Mick Johnson, Corporal Cliff Kemp, Corporal Jim Lander** and **Corporal 'Jake' Jacobs** of the R.N.Z. Signals. The Squadron's squash team—**Major Ian Graham, Captain John Kay** and **Sergeant John Wallace**—also did well to reach the semi-finals, under stiff opposition from the New Zealanders.

Immediately after the sports week a party of twenty left for Tioman on an adventure training exercise led by **Corporal Jim Lander.** Two visitors to the Sqn **Signalman Jordan** and **Signalman Wigham,** from 28 Signal Regiment arrived just in time to take part, and the full account of their exploits will appear in the next notes.

BRIGADE COMMANDER INSPECTS

DESPITE the gradual run-down of British Forces in Singapore the Squadron has found no difficulty in keeping itself busy. After the usual preliminary inspections we were inspected by the commander of 28 Inf. Bde., **Brigadier G. D. J. R. Russell, O.B.E.,** on 24th October on the occasion of our F.F.R. Before arriving at the Squadron the commander was taken on a brief tour of the military telephone exchange and the radio relay station by the O.C. **Major Ian Graham.**

The Brigadier arrived outside S.H.Q. to find the entire Sqn. with its vehicles on parade under the 2I.C. **Captain John Kay.** After the formal parade an inspection was made of the Squadron accommodation, including a simulated Brigade exercise on the training set universal. Finally the commander inspected and spoke to the civilian line det, under the command of our resident G.P.O. engineer, **Mr. George Smart.**

SQUADRON ON PARADE

L to R: Captain John Kay, Brigadier G. D. J. R. Russell, Lance-Corporal Bob Burnett, Staff Sergeant (SQMS) Mick Abson, Sergeant Jim Nelson, Corporal 'Archie' Arnold, Signalman 'Flash' Adams

The Brigadier inspecting a civilian line troop jointing trailer. To his right is the OC Major Ian Graham, with the SSM WO2 Jim Bowman in the background

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

WATER POLO SUCCESS

THIS month we are able to include notes on another sporting victory achieved by the Squadron (representing the Army in Malta) when we defeated the Navy and RAF in the Inter-Service (Malta) Water Polo Championships for 1975. The report is written by **W.O.2 R.Q.M.S. Jim Moody** but I am informed by reliable sources that he doesn't give true credit to the team's underwater technique!

Due to the shortage of water polo players within the Army Command on the island the honour of representing the Army in the Inter-Services Water Polo Championships for 1975 went to 234 Signal Squadron. Our first game against the R.A.F. started somewhat shakily resulting in an early goal for the R.A.F. Team captain **Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti** rallied his team about him and under his brilliant leadership coupled with excellent support from members of the Squadron the Army went on to win by 7—3, goals being scored by **Grixti, Farrugia** and **Xuereb.** The Navy provided somewhat stiffer opposition but after four gruelling sessions in the Robb Lido pool we emerged victors by 8 goals to 4, and Inter Service Water Polo Champions (Malta) 1975. In this second game, goal scorers were **Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti** (4), **Sergeant Franz Farrugia** (3) and **Corporal Eddie Xuereb** (1).

A few days later the team were again in action along with members of 8 (Alma) Commando Light Battery RA in the Inter-Services Swimming Gala. This time the Army were less successful (third!) despite very creditable performances by **Lance-Corporal Grixti** who won the 400 and 200 metres freestyle, and **Sergeant Farrugia** who was 2nd in the 100 metres freestyle. At the time of writing **Lance-Corporal Grixti** is away in Algiers with the Malta national water polo team participating in the Mediterranean Games. The squadron wish him and his side the best of luck.

A WORKING PASSAGE TO TRIESTE

The other event of note this month is the 'voyage' of some of our soldiers to Trieste abroad H.M.S. Antrim—the chance of a lifetime. **Corporal Ben Cartwright's** log of the event follows:

There I was, sat in the workshops industriously stirring my coffee, when in bursts the F. of S. and says, 'How would you like to see the Navy at work?' Before I could say 'Yo-Ho-Ho and a 3 amp fuse', myself and four other members of the Squadron were standing on the dockside in Valletta's Grand Harbour, waiting for a launch to take us out to H.M.S. Antrim, a County Class Missile Destroyer moored out in the middle of the harbour. The other four were **Signalmen Paul 'Bondu' Hames, Jeff 'Chippy' Wood, John 'Herbie' Holmes,** and **Bob 'Billy Whiz' Shotton,** and together we were to join Antrim for a twelve-day cruise to see how the Navy functions ticks, along with a party of marines from 41 Cdo, which is based in Malta.

(Continued on page 361)

A SLIGHT SWELL!

On boarding H.M.S. Antrim we were allotted accommodation and given a rough idea of what we were going to do, as well as being told that a visit to the city of Trieste in N.E. Italy would be forming an integral part of the cruise. After this, we were granted overnight leave and told to be back on board the following morning by 0730. This we managed successfully, and at 0900 the next day we lined the decks as H.M.S. Antrim left Grand Harbour in what the experienced mariner would call a 'slight swell'. Slight it may have been, but it made its mark on myself and a few others, my only trip on deck being made during a short halt in Syracuse, Sicily. After returning to Malta to casevac an injured rating, we headed for Trieste, conditions abating somewhat during the night. Accommodation on board was a bit cramped, but the 'matelots' proved to be a great bunch of lads, as well as amateur comedians, every man jack of 'em (ow! that sure hurt!). During the three-day journey to Trieste, we worked in several of the ship's departments, getting first hand knowledge of the ships running and administration. Again, we lined the decks as H.M.S. Antrim entered Trieste harbour, much to the amazement of the local populace and a number of British tourists.

A TASTE OF TRIESTE

Shortly after docking, a thunderstorm sprang up, which persuaded most of the ship's company to stay on board, but this cleared up overnight, and next morning we got our first taste of Trieste. Buying presents for the 'folks back home' was found to be slightly more expensive than in England or Malta, but the shopping facilities were on a par with England and made a welcome change. Nightlife was in pretty short supply, but plenty of the local vino collapso was consumed, and the natives proved to be friendly. During our stay in Trieste, coach trips to local places of interest were organised, and **'Bondu Hames'** and **'Herbie' Holmes** seized the chance of a coach trip to Venice. The five days in Trieste soon passed, and we shipped out of Trieste harbour on a hazy Friday morning, the sea as calm as a mill pond (sigh of relief!). The return journey was fairly uneventful, apart from a search and evasion exercise with the submarine H.M.S. Olympus.

HOMEWARD BOUND

Three days saw us back into Grand Harbour, after a very enlightening and entertaining twelve-day 'jolly'. N.B. The sailor in charge of the leading rates (Corporals) accommodation was an ex-Signals Electrician/Driver, who said he couldn't stand Catterick.

It takes all sorts to fill the world!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Lastly we say goodbye to **Sergeant Jim Lindsay** and **Corporal Dave Clark** who leave us for 11 Signal Regiment, **Corporal Dicky Lane** to 8 Signal Regiment, **Signalman John Holmes** to 633 Signal Troop and **Signalman Callum McLean** to 21 Signal Regiment. We wish them the best of luck in their new units.

Joining us are **Captain Alistair Clark, Corporal Frank Hall** and **Signalman Alan Palmer** to whom we extend a hearty welcome and the hope that they enjoy their tour in Malta.

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

THEY HELPED MAKE HISTORY IN LONDONDERRY

By Staff-Sergeant Jim Allen

ON 5th July, 1975, at 1630 hrs, 'Q' Battery of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery completed their tour in Northern Ireland and helped to create history by being one of the first security forces in Londonderry City centre to complete a four-month tour without a major incident since the troubles began.

Twenty-four soldiers from 'Y' Troop 260 Signal Squadron helped to achieve this long-awaited peace, which it is hoped came from their cool handling of minor incidents, and their determination to carry out the role efficiently.

Signalman Chris Tabak helped in this peace-making role when he was asked while on duty to present a bunch of flowers to the Civic Queen of Londonderry during the City's Civic Week celebrations.

The tour was so quiet, and at times boring, that a few members of the Troop managed to find time to represent 5th Regiment at sport. **Signalman 'Scouse' Daly** did very well in sailing when he was crew to **Lieutenant Mike McMackenzie** of 5th Regiment and they won the main event in the NI Forces regatta (**Mr. Ted Heath** beware). **Staff-Sergeant Jim Allen** and **Lance-Corporal Lurch O'Brien** represented the Regiment at the NI skill-at-arms meeting, but, due to lack of training, did not manage to lift any trophies.

Sergeant Duncan Innes, although not participating in sport, did find time to study for his social studies degree. No mean feat, considering it was all done in his off-duty time, which is not a lot. Well done and good luck in your final exams.

Good luck to **Corporal 'Stropper' Thomas** on his posting to 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment and all best wishes to **Signalman Chris Tabak** on his forthcoming marriage. Our thanks to 'Q' Bty 5th Regiment Royal Artillery for the hospitality over the last six months and to 8th Inf Bde and Signal Squadron on the use of their club and amenities during the tour.

Men of the tour: **Staff-Sergeant Jim Allen, Sergeants Duncan Innes, Mick Jolliff, Corporals Garry Thomas, Mick Eady, Tony Lunney, Lance-Corporals Alf Thornley, Bob Short, Danny Hennon, 'Jock' Rice, Lurch O'Brien, Tom Perkins, Signalmen 'Butch' Butchers, Stevenson, 'Scouse' Daly, 'Bomber' Brown, 'Tich' Wray, 'Paddy' Sloan, Jim Little, Cartlegde, Chris Tabak, Holcroft, Kevin Doyle** and **'Jock' Grey.**

After-note

Corporal Boyd and his section, who are with 26 Fd Regt RA for their Op Banner tour, are to be congratulated on winning the regimental best section competition.

MARCH OF FRIENDSHIP, ARDENNES 1975

To commemorate the Battle of the Bulge, 10 representatives of 260 Signal Squadron, led by **W.O.2 Bill Goss,** and 13 members of 8 Signal Battalion US Army, led by **Captain 'Randy' Skinner,** ably assisted by an excellent administration party under the eagle (profit wise) eye of **Staff-Sergeant Dave Wilcox,** went down to Bastoigne in the Ardennes on 25th June to take part in the March of Friendship.

This is an annual event lasting four days and the participants march/hobble over four different routes of country 35 Km each. At the end of the second day's march there was a short service at the American Memorial ('Present Hup' means salute to the front!), followed by a march into Bastoigne, stopping to place wreaths on the Belgian military and civilian memorials on the way.

260 SIG SQN—ARDENNES MARCH, 1975

Back, left to right: Signalmen Fox and Brown, Lance-Corporal Edwards, Sergeant Escott, Signalman Hodge, Corporal Brown, W.O.2 Goss

Front, left to right: Signalmen Leitch, Evans and Atter

At the end of the fourth day's march, from Samree to Vielsalm, all successful participants (9,500 of the 10,000 starters) were presented with their medals before proceeding on the final march past. This took place through the streets of Vielsalm, which, by the time we arrived, were lined with cheering locals. After numerous choruses of 'Allouette' etc. (keep it clean being the order of the day) we passed the saluting dais containing all the local dignitaries and the reviewing officer. By this time, much to the delight of **Bill Goss** and the embarrassment of **'Randy' Skinner,** they had both been presented with flowers and a telephone number by four of the local beauties.

After the march past, it was a mad scramble to board the transport for the trip back to Bastoigne, where we were encamped, to pack up our kit for the return journey to Dortmund and Bad Kreuznach, respectively, tired but justifiably proud of the four days of concentrated effort that went into the adventure.

ENGLAND SCHOOLBOYS FOOTBALL TEAM ENTERTAINED IN THE SQUADRON CLUB

After the England–West Germany Schoolboy football match in Dortmund, members of the English team were given typical English hospitality in the Squadron Club.

This paid dividends when **Sergeant Dave Lupton, Lance Corporal 'Brum' Jordan, Signalmen 'Gus' Cutts** and **'Paddy' Holland** watched the England–Scotland match at Wembley, in June, England team manager **Jim Morrow** took them on a tour of the dressing rooms and introduced them to both teams, as well as giving a personal invitation to all future England games in Europe. **Sergeant Dave Lupton** presented the England team with a silver inscribed plaque from Dortmund. The Squadron is now awaiting a plaque promised by the England team to adorn the walls of the Squadron Club.

8 (US) SIGNAL BATTALION ORGANISATION DAY

On 1st August, 45 members of the Squadron and their wives were guests of the Commanding Officer and soldiers of 8 (US) Signal Bn, Bad Kreuznach, at their Organisation Day (the American equivalent of our Open Day).

The Americans laid on unlimited supplies of beer and steaks, and in return we won the traditional 'Boat Race' and football played to English rules.

The glorious 1st of August is a day that many members of the Squadron will remember for the generous hospitality of our affiliated unit.

News from Troops

605 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Gan
B.F.P.O. 180

This month the dubious honour of writing these notes falls to me **Corporal Nick Cole.** It was rather silly of me to volunteer. I knew I had too much to drink.

The most recent 'gozomies' were: **Corporals Brian Fenton** and **Roger Stebbing. Brian** goes to 2 Div. and we wish him and 2 Div. luck and hope the NAAFI has enough stocks of Martell to keep him going. 21 Signal Regiment has the dubious honour of owning **Roger** now. Quite a well-known character around the island (all 2 sq. miles of it), he plays the piano, skittles, ran the Pongo club and even played volleyball. We don't know if we miss him yet, but our block is a lot quieter since he left. Seriously though, best of luck to the pair of them for the future.

GAN FAIR AND DHONI RACE

The most important things to happen in August were the Gan Fair on the 12th and the Dhoni Race on the 28th.

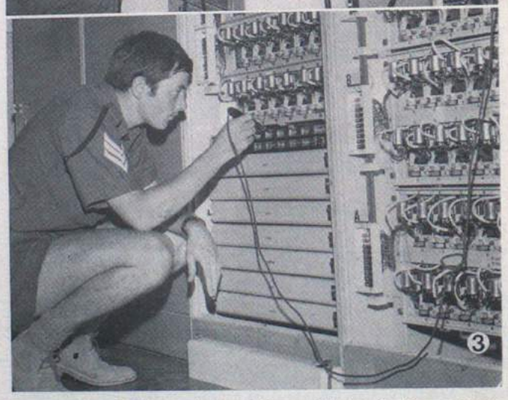
All 12 of us took turns at running a beer stall at the fair and, unfortunately for the blue jobs, most of the prizes were won by us. Honestly there was no fiddling.

Despite great expectations and much practice we only came 7th out of 19, in the Dhoni race. The team consisting of **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Hill** (skipper), **Sergeants Graham Hughes, Pete Smith,** and **Frank Brown** of the Post Office, **Corporals Roger Stebbing, Nick Nicholson, Tom Johnson** and **Dave Plum,** on loan from Masirah, and last but not least the coxswain **Signalman Mick Dymtrenko.**

I was watching from the jetty, as I was unfortunately duty tech (what a shame). There was a big pile up at the first bend, so with a bit more luck we could have done better.

(Notes continued on page 363)

PHOTO NEWS FROM 603 SIG TP MASIRAH



Sergeant Les Collins and Lance-Corporal John Godfrey prepare cable for testing

Lance-Corporal Steve Churchman using a line test-set

Sergeant Bryan Gardner fault-finding on Rurax 300 exchange

VISITS

In the last few weeks we've had a few visitors from Cyprus, Masirah, M.O.D. and Blandford, supposedly to scale us down, but it's generally agreed that they are having a few days in the sun before they finally close us down.

BOAT BUILDING

Last month **Corporal 'Nick' Nicholson** and myself finally managed to repair our boat, and, after bribing the members of 1125 M.C.U., we finally got a seaworthiness certificate and launched it. It's been named the Titanic and, apart from keeping our eye's open for icebergs, we are keeping our fingers crossed that it doesn't sink.

SPORTS

This month our 5-a-side football team actually managed to win a match. We beat a civilian team 4—0. Our team, on that glorious occasion was **Signalman Mick Dymtrenko** (captain), **Lance-Corporal 'Mac' McColl** of the Post Office, me again, **Sergeant Graham Hughes** and **Corporal Tom Johnson.** Well done lads. We would have won by a greater margin but we were without **Signalman Paul Weaver,** although that's taking nothing away from the five players who did play.

A VOTE OF THANKS TO RECORDS

Last but by no means least go our thanks to all the staff at Balmore House. Almost every member of the troop got the posting he wanted. We'd like to buy them all a drink but unfortunately our bar has to close down, and they aren't here. Anyway thanks very much all at Reading.

604 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 17

Notes again submitted by Signalman Holden, OC's driver and literary genius.

(Note from **Captain R. A. J. Gardner,** OC Troop, 'With regret I have had to do a little censoring as my driver's choice of words is not always my own!')

WELL here we are again. I've given up the battle with Raj (the OC). I'm sick and tired of being splashed with aftershave. I think I prefer the smell of my socks.

A TROOP HAPPENING

Well the month of August started with a bang, or should I say a happening. This happening took the form of Exercise Footpowder. Basically this is where the wits of the troop admin party are tested against the rest of the troop in the form of an escape and evasion. To increase the interest on both sides a tankard competition was introduced. Not that there would have been a shortage of interest anyway.

The Exercise started with the 'friendly forces (Escapees)' being stripped naked, searched and then told to put on coveralls. This is not so cruel as it seems, because the days were hot and the nights warm. Despite all these precautions, however, **Corporal 'Lofty' Toothill** still managed to get some money out unseen I won't say where he hid it, but he had to hold his nose when he wanted to spend it. They were dropped off from two Land-Rovers and had to make their way to a checkpoint where I was waiting (as a friendly agent), with information to get them to an RV where bedding and food awaited them.

The next morning, about 0800 hrs, my officer (Raj, disguised with tomato ketchup) staggered into the RV asking them if they had seen me, his driver? I should mention that the previous day we were shot up from the air, and he had bailed out and left me in the lurch, which is only what you would have expected having, of course, read the two previous issues of THE WIRE. He gave them another RV and left them to it. In the meantime I was a passenger in a private aircraft which had taken off from Diepholz. My job was to spot the enemy and direct two Land-Rovers on to them by using walkie-talkies. This wasn't a great success, as far as I was concerned because the walkie talkies didn't work from air to ground and after the first two wingtip turns, I didn't see much, except the inside of a plastic bag. Still all was not lost. Everybody saw us and we caused general panic amongst the escapees.

VISIT FROM CSO BAOR

That afternoon we were visited by **Major-General Sturge,** CSO, BAOR, who raised everybody's spirits by being so easy to talk to. The next day both **Signalman Graham (Bruce) Burrell** and myself lost our Land-Rovers in ambushes, organised by the merry men of **Corporal 'Lou' Sharman** and **'Lefty' Toothill,** and both **Graham's** mob and my own finished up with a short walk.

That night the escapees had to plant two bombs on a DF station (a D11) at the admin location. During the day they had to recce the location and **Corporal Knott** got himself caught. Well not so much caught as he couldn't run any further, and his catcher, who couldn't run any further either, tempted him to stay, with descriptions of the excellent cuisine provided by **Private Pound,** at the admin location.

That night the air was full of tension: every sound was magnified, and set the imagination working. No one knew what time it was when **Lance-Corporal Bill Jackson** (Stonewall) decided to take a walk into the cornfield next to our location, and there spotted **Signalman Jimmy Duncan,** who was within 20 ms of his objective. It had taken him two hours to crawl 50 yards unseen, which, when one thinks of it, is no mean feat. Later that night **Signalman Tony ('Pringle') Sherwin** was caught. We immediately searched the D11 but found no bomb. He had, in fact, planted it in the trailer after walking through trip flares and various other devices.

At first light we at the admin base were attacked and overrun by the escapees, which only goes to prove that ('Censored by OC Troop).

GOODBYES

This month we say goodbye to **Signalman Harry Connel,** who goes into civvy street—a great lad was Harry, who is not only a loss to the troop, but I should think also to the Corps.

We also say goodbye to **Signalman Dave ('Bones') Jones,** who is posted to the sun of Belize. There's not much one can say about 'Boney', except that if one has left the services without having served with a Bonesy type, then one hasn't served. I hear that the powers that be are thinking of making Belize a 604 detachment; or, perhaps, it is just wishful thinking, but we have had a lot of old boys posted there.

Well, that's all this month, just remember ('Censored—by OC Troop).

The Volunteers

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

ANNUAL CAMP 1975

'SOMETHING different', said the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Revill,** 'something different in the second week'. But the first week first and that was at Milton Bridge Camp, in Penicuik, near Edinburgh.

During that first week a typically full TAVR Camp programme of trade training, special cadres, inter-Squadron competitions, antenna trials and a plethora of parties kept everyone busy day and night. Among our visitors were 2 Group Commander, **Brigadier Peter Baldwin,** and our Honorary Colonel, **Colonel H. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, TD, MA, DL,** both of whom we are always delighted to see.

The mixture was topped off by a Regimental Parade and then, straight off the square, we set off to do 'something different'.

46 SQUADRON (DERBY AND LEICESTER)

TO THE WOODS

46 Squadron went to Inverary at the head of Loch Fynne and settled in the Glenary Forest. The tone was set by a crash survival course run by **CSM Maurice Handley,** ex-SAS and now 3 WFR, who taught them things they hoped they would never need to know. What for? For Exercise Seek Out.

Exercise Seek Out was an escape and evasion exercise, with the guerilla nationalists, led by **Captain John ('Jock Mac') Millar,** evading (hopefully) the government forces of **Captain Paul Stafford.** With A41 and Pye sets the mixed Royal Signals and WRAC patrols disappeared over the hills and into the brilliant sunshine.

The 1,200-ft climb to the exercise area behind them and with only a minimum number of helpful (?) suggestions from DS, the torture began. Why was it so cold at night, when it was so hot during the day? And why did the enemy disappear when you had just slogged half a mile through a bog to get into position for the

kill? Mind you, **Sergeant Len Fawkes** seemed to have the knack of making a contact just as tea was brewing ('with sugar, please') and **Sergeant Tommy Dowd** said he was always pleased to run into 'lost' guerrillas providing they could tell him where he was.

And the verdict? Exhausting but enjoyable and a great deal learned, in unfamiliar conditions, about map reading, leadership, survival—and how to lose weight!

THE DROP-OUTS

Not everyone in 46 Squadron went into the hills. A lucky (?) few plunged into something quite different—space. Thanks to the Golden Lions free-fall team under their manager, **Lieutenant Charlie Millar Q.O.H.,** six volunteers got their lessons in survival on Strathallen airfield.

After initial ground training they confounded themselves by going *up* in a parachute during an afternoon of parascending behind a Land-Rover. **Corporal Dave Freeman** found a new way to land at this stage, and then there were five.

Undaunted, the five began their programme of jumps, during which they proved that anything is possible. **Sergeant John Geary** and **Lieutenant John Thatcher** undertook aerial obstacle courses just missing everything; including the airfield. **Staff-Sergant Sid Ward,** on the other hand, proved he could hit even the smallest targets—the ones found in cow fields. Only **Staff-Sergeant Derek Harris** and **Signalman Philman Ray** proved they could keep out of trouble—at least with the parachuting.

Needless to say, they enjoyed it and **Lieutenant Thatcher** says he now knows how his radio relay detachments should be deployed.

64 SQUADRON (SHEFFIELD)

The second week found 64 Squadron at Cultybraggen in a beautiful part of the Scottish highlands. Their programme included NBC training, weapon training under instructors from the Yorkshire Volunteers, map reading, day and night marches, orienteering and a night attack. **Signalman Mike Swaby,** after an 11-mile march, took first prize for the best blister, closely followed by **Officer Cadet Sue Murton,** WRAC, who spent the rest of the exercise in **Major Stuart ('Doc') Cottage's** carpet slippers.

The OC, **Major John Wardley, Staff-Sergeant Phil Selkirk** and PSI **Staff-Sergeant ('Tic Toc') Cartwright** took a Pye Mobile over the orienteering course. All three claimed that they carried the set all the way while the others drank cans of lager concealed about their persons. On the other hand, the night attack went according to the book, until the raiding party of recruits, proving that they were trained in the countryside, too, noisily closed the metal gate after them when they entered the site.

Training over, the Squadron was rewarded by a barbeque in the field, organised by **Major Toby Seymour.** Funny that the CO, the 2IC and the SWRACO should turn up just as it started!

87 SQUADRON (NOTTINGHAM) AND SUPPORT GROUP (SHEFFIELD)

87 Squadron and Support Group combined in the second week for infantry training involving recce and fighting patrols in the mountains south of Crieff.

For them, Exercise Scotch Mist proved a misnomer as blazing sunshine attended their every movement and helped the sun-worshippers at least to forget their aching muscles and blistered feet.

Sergeant Barrie Austin and his team won the overall patrol competition and everyone got great satisfaction just by completing the course. However, as yet, there have been no requests for transfer to the infantry and it may be that the home comforts of the commcen will be more appreciated in future!

93 SQUADRON (BLACKBURN AND MANCHESTER)

For the second week, 93 Squadron moved in glorious weather to the Galloway Training Area, camping in the forest north of Glen Trool. The site was in a pleasant spot, but it was soon discovered that the midges, present in huge numbers, were very hungry! The purpose of the exercise was adventure training and for this the Squadron was divided into teams. The first evening, after a tent erecting competition, **Captain Ted Hall,** the ever-present AO, set the scene by laying down the law in an entertaining session on 'Camp Administration and Field Hygiene'.

"Come in 93—please!"

"Bottoms up—93 Sqn. style"

The team competitions during the rest of the week included night patrols and a six-mile march with tasks to be performed at intervals around the course. These included clearing a 'minefield', changing a wheel on a Land-Rover without a jack, and carrrying a loaded stretcher up and down a one-in-one hillside (we never discovered why the MO was half-way up the hill!). The most entertaining task, for the observers at least, was the river crossing. Here each team used a number of oil drums and planks to get the team across a 30-ft-wide, 4-ft-deep river. There were, of course, a number of different solutions and some very narrow escapes. The only complete ducking, however, was when **Lance-Corporal Jack Boyne** attempted the crossing on just two drums lashed together. He travelled about 2ft across and 4ft down! Everyone enjoyed the competition, which was won by a team led by **Officer Cadet Alan Briant.** Prizes were awarded to the winning team by the OC, **Major Nick Bradley,** who also made a presentation to PSI **Sergeant Mick Stone,** who did most of the organising.

REGROUP AND MOVE OUT

At the end of the second week the Regiment reassembled in Milton Bridge Camp before returning home and tall stories were exchanged. The Recruits Course, who had slogged through the second week in their own way, on the Square, passed out with flying colours, **Private Carol Brown** and **Signalman Alan Whittle** of 93 Squadron winning the best recruit cups. The Bisley team were heard muttering that it had been hell on the range. **Lance-Corporal Steven Holgate** and **Signalman Bob Horsefield** gave another hilarious rendering of 'Whispering Grass' and the RSM explained again what he would do to the coach driver who left him behind after the Regimental Dance. Something different indeed!

For some, as always, this was their last camp with us. They include **Major Jim Potts, Major (Tfc) Gary Grant, Major (QM) Pat Lafferty,** PSI **Staff-Sergeant Brian Eason** and **Sergeants Roy Hadfield** and **Ken Waller.** We wish them the best of luck.

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN HATTERS

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39 Sig Regt (V) London

A NUMBER OF FIRSTS

'AHA! I'm the new RSM, and you are the Regimental Scribe', said the new RSM—and thus it was that **Sergeant Whiteley** volunteered to write THE WIRE Notes.

The arrival, albeit only a short visit for Annual Camp, of the new RSM, **W.O.1 F. Pope,** was only one of the many 'firsts' scored by the regiment over the last few months.

We now have our first TAVR Commanding Officer, when **Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Foster** took over from **Lieutenant-Colonel Keith White.**

For the first time the regiment went to Annual Camp at Fremington, where, when the local populace had grown used to the accents and the antics of the Dundee Squadron, everyone enjoyed themselves, particularly when they heard that the Honorary Colonel and the CO had got stranded in the sand dunes and were found by an Air Sea Rescue Helicopter and rescued by the Training Major, **Major Richard Reynolds,** in a DUKW—also for the first time.

The regiment went to sea for the first time with the regimental flag proudly flying at the mast of an LCM to recover the parachutists who had made a successful water descent into Bideford Bay—led by the 2IC, **Major Peter Myhill**—his first jump.

HIGH SOCIAL LIFE...EVEN IN THE FIELD

The regiment lived up to its reputation of high social life with Squadron Parties in the field, a Recruits Course Party, an excellent WOs and Sergeants Mess Dinner to welcome the new CO and RSM and a guest night at the Officers Mess, where we were pleased to welcome the Deputy Master of the Skinners Company, their CSO UKLF, **Brigadier Frank Clarkson,** DDWRAC **Colonel Anne Field** and many other old and new friends. At this dinner a presentation was made to **Major David Smith,** who was leaving the TAVR after more than 20 years' service.

CAMP EXERCISE

Exercise Viking Bank was the name given to the Camp Exercise. With HQ firmly ensconced in Fremington communications were soon established with detachments in Cyprus, Gibraltar and BAOR. Later the squadrons took to the field on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor leaving Fremington to the mercy of the QM, **Major Tom Leeson,** and the recruits.

3 Squadron were visited in the field by the new RSM and, to his apparent delight, he was given his own tent aptly named 'The Vatican'—Tel No VAT 69.

GENEROUS WORK FOR CHARITY

The regiment has been working hard raising money for charity.

From 3 Squadron comes the news that PSI **Sergeant Roger Fairfield** did a sponsored walk in aid of the Church of England Children's Society. He walked 20 laps at 3 miles per lap and raised £13·20. Earlier **Sergeant Mick Tunbridge** of the same squadron did a sponsored swim for 'The Lions'. He swam 25 lengths and raised £12 for old aged people and under-privileged children.

From 5 Squadron we hear that **Sergeant Dot Paget** and **Corporal Joy Littledyke** organised a sponsored walk in aid of the local Banbury Handicapped Children's Home. Over 20 members of the squadron took part and the sum of £130 was raised.

FALSE TEETH ASTRAY

To finish on an equally charitable note—would anyone finding a set of false teeth in the Atlantic Ocean please return them to **Lance-Corporal Malcolm Fancourt** of 5 Squadron—he lost them whilst paddling in Bideford Bay.
604 SIG TP BFPO 17

If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading — boy you sure need sympathy!

858/859 Corps SigTps (V) Eastbourne

REPORT ON ANNUAL ATTACHMENT TO 22 SIG REGT

ON 31st May, Corps Troops commenced its sixth annual pilgrimage to Lippstadt in BAOR to join their parent unit, 22 Signal Regiment, in a spot of communicating.

The road party left the white cliffs of Dover behind on a pleasantly warm and windless evening and, after a trouble-free journey, including a very welcome breakfast at Emblem, presented themselves at Churchill Barracks, Lippstadt, in time for lunch. Despite the lack of sleep the previous night the usual litre-downing ritual got off to a good start that evening.

Monday dawned dull, to the music of a multitude of Bedfords, Land-Rovers, etc, moving out to the Blomberg/Bielefeld area on Exercise Jay's Nest. The representative in the QM Dept who indented for the exercise weather is to be congratulated on the variety supplied. This consisted of heavy rain at the top end to driving snow and gale-force winds at the bottom. In spite of the weather, and a break for the referendum, a good exercise was had by all.

At the weekend two losses were regrettably recorded. On Saturday afternoon in the annual cricket match, Corps Troops were outplayed by a very good drinking team from 22 Regt. We still have to record our first win in this series. The second loss occurred when some over-enthusiastic non-driver decided to 'borrow' one of our venerable old Land-Rovers and go for a rapid lap of the area, finishing up by trying to park it between the doors of the boiler house. Unfortunately they were shut at the time. The remains are to be interned in BAOR for posterity.

The second week was taken up almost entirely with trade training and local exercises. One notable exception to this routine was a visit from our Group Commander, **Brigadier W. A. Sykes.** A guard of honour, the first mounted by Corps Troops on such an occasion, was inspected and then after lunch the Brigadier saw various facets of trade training. Next day a C50 exercise was held.

And so another two weeks at our second home was over except for the long haul back to Zeebrugge, which nearly ended in a prolonged stay in Belgium, due to what appeared to be double booking by Movements (it doesn't only happen in Spain). However, all's well that ends well and 4.00 a.m. on Saturday morning saw us all back at Eastbourne, tired but enlightened.

Sport

Sports result

Hockey

October 4 Royal Signals, 2; RMCS Shrivenham, 1.
10 Royal Signals, 2; Royal Marines, Plymouth, 2.
11 Royal Signals, 3: RAE Farnborough, 0.

11 Royal Signals, 3; RAE Farnborough, 0.

Rugby

October 8 Royal Signals, 15; RAPC Worthy Down, 12.

Royal Signals Yacht Club

The annual general meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will take place in room 254 in the Old War Office building, Whitehall, on Wednesday, January 14, 1976, at 1100 hrs. Any member wishing to attend will be welcome. To facilitate entry into the building the names of those not holding passes and wishing to attend should be given to the Hon. Secretary, Room 02, Old War Office by Friday, January 9, 1976.

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.

BADMINTON

In the opening round of The Army Badminton League the Corps I team beat RAMC/RADC by 9–0 (walk over) and RE I by 6—3.

The Corps II went down by 6—3 against RAPC I.

Representing the Corps: *Corps I:* **Maj Clayton, Capt Holland Capt Heasman, WO2 Hargreaves, Sgt Harvey, Cpl McAlpine.**

Corps II: **Ssgt Leech, Sgt Smith, Sgt Clark, Cpl Rowland, Cpl Potts, Lcpl Reid**

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

1. Royal Signals glider pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Royal Signals Games Fund for the period December 1974 to November 1975 NOT later than November 30, 1975 to:

Maj S. G. Falla, R Signals
OC TSS,
School of Signals,
Blandford Camp, Dorset.

2. The following details *are required:*

(a) Flying fees paid in the period (no other expenses) less any sum received from other sources in this respect.
(b) Number of launches in 1975 and total launches.
(c) Cross-country kms 1975—and total.
(d) Results of competitions or badge attempts.
(e) Qualifications held.
(f) Full address of claimant including regional number.
(g) Confirmation that you subscribe to Corps funds under the day's pay scheme or similar.

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Why not contact

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20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)

Postscript . . .

Two Travelogues from 14 Sig Regt

(I) Venetian vacation

Having been satiated with big game adventures in Kenya **Captain 'Sandy' Lovatt** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson** took the lion hunters off for a quiet holiday to Vivaro in Northern Italy. To justify this trip our NATO allies kindly organized war games and the det remembered to take a D13. This, in conjunction with an impressive display of Pongo Power on the part of our liaison team of **Corporal Jed Stoney** and **Lance-Corporal Robin Underwood** at Commcen Gibraltar, produced a solid circuit and left everyone free to get on with the serious business of the exercise.

THE ROCK VISITED

A complete sightseeing tour was organised four our men in Gibraltar by **Lieutenant Harris,** RN. This took in all the many tourist attractions on the Rock and even included an occasional visit to the commcen. Both NCOs are now recovering from a surfeit of naval hospitality and are looking forward to more duties in this location.

. . . AND VENICE

To prevent boredom and introduce a touch of culture into the lives of the Detachment **Captain Lovatt** organised a trip to Venice. This produced an amazing result; 50 per cent of the crew became keen ornithologists and pontificate at great length about the beautiful birds in Venice, and the remainder are now keen astronomers and enthuse endlessly about the heavenly bodies sighted in this area. **Staff-Sergeant Des Ackers** reports that on a visit to the Bridge of Sighs **Sergeant Terry Winsor** produced heartfelt sighs from the depths of his imported welly boots; which threatened to strike resonance and shake the bridge asunder. The wonders of St. Mark's Basilica, The Doge's Palace and the unique architecture of the city went unnoticed. The works of Canaletto, Giovanni, Titian and Tintoretto have also failed to earn a mention. The crew is keen to pay another visit and suggest two gallons of optrex and a hundredweight of tranquillisers should be included on the loading list.

MASKED FIRE POWER

Towards the end of their stay the Detachment were invited to a fire-power demonstration, which included such weapons as loop the loop anti-tank missiles. They would have given a more graphic account but a smoke screen display was inadvertently laid on the spectators. The display ended with a guard of honour consisting of approximately 30 tanks and SP guns, wombat teams and 20 helicopters assembled for review by SACEUR and the Italian Defence Minister. Due to a navigational error on the part of **Sergeant Terry** (back to the Corporals Mess) **Winsor,** a jeep carrying **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Nickson** and **Staff-Sergeant Ackers** took the salute first.

We are now wondering whether there was a corruption in the signal from **General Brancato.** It read:

'It gives me great pleasure to send my heartfelt tanks for your efficient co-operation'.

(II) Mediterranean Idyll

The brochure promised sun, golden sands and all the ingredients necessary for a first-class vacation. The exotic Sardinian resort of Cape Teulada offered a first-class holiday at economy rates. **Captain Ron Abbott** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Len Sant** decided that this was the answer to their prayers and booked one of 'A' Troop dets for the chance of a lifetime. Our happy holiday-makers packed glamorous beach wear, sun tan oil, a D13 station and Clansman VRC 321.

GENERALS AND MORE GENERALS

Reality proved rather different; in spite of its exotic name Cape Teulada turned out to be a cross between an overgrown garden and the Libyan desert. It was, in fact, a NATO training area. These travel agents have no scruples at all. Entertainment was first class, if somewhat noisy; expense appeared to be no object as the Americans staged daily elaborate displays of helicopter

(Continued from page 368)

flying. The Italians produced a daily set-piece tank battle for those who wanted a change from aerobatics. Parachute assaults and beach landings were thrown in for variety. In fact, a veritable MGM military spectacular. The detachment confess that they considered that the effort made to entertain them was a little ostentatious. The camp was visited on one day alone by a total of 15 generals working down from Deputy SACEUR; this detachment is now just a trifle blase about top brass.

ROYAL MARINES TO THE RESCUE

The cuisine promised to be a little spartan when **Signalman 'Taff' Morris** staged a firework display with the one and only No. 1 cooker. Anyone wishing to obtain an exploded version of a No. 1 cooker, ideal for instructional purposes, should contact **Captain Abbott.** Salvation came when the Royal Marine Commando invited the crew to wine and dine with them and proved to be the perfect hosts.

The D13 and ClansmanVRC 321 behaved in their usual plebian manner and produced excellent communications but failed to join in the social activities.

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

THE 1976 CORPS DIARY

This item is again produced in Planner Style. The outer cover is in flexible dark blue vinyl, embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert.
Cost: Home—45p. Overseas—40p

The following lists Association items now in stock and available. In days of high inflation these represent really good value for money, so what about looking through them for Christmas presents.

	Overseas	UK
	£	£
Crested glass astrays	0·72	0·78
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0·32	0·32
Blazer buttons—Large	0·18	0·18
Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	1·70	1·85
Car badge—square, acrylic	1·52	1·60
Corps cravats—terylene	1·15	1·25
Corps cuff links	1·15	1·25
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·22	0·25
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	2·00	2·10
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	9·00	9·80
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	3·45	3·70
Corps scarves—woollen	1·60	1·80
—terylene and wool	1·26	1·35
Corps squares—terylene	1·30	1·40
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·13	1·20
terylene 3¾"	1·18	1·25
terylene type 'A'	0·57	0·70
terylene type 'D'	0·55	0·60
terylene type 'E'	0·45	0·50
woollen	0·85	0·90
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5½)	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅜")	0·30	0·32
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·45	1·55

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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.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages/disadvantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

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And the application form must be submitted before 31st December 1975.

The form, together with a prospectus will be posted off to you as soon as we receive your coupon.

To: The Headmaster, Welbeck College,
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F2

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November-December, 1975

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MR. L. WOOD

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER — 1975

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

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

Christmas message from the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army)

Major-General P. A. M. TIGHE, M.B.E.

Through this issue of THE WIRE I am delighted to be able to send seasonal greetings to all members of the Corps at home and overseas, whether serving or retired, regular or volunteer, and to all your families.

During the past year I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you in places far and near. I can therefore say with conviction that the Corps is in good order and is carrying out its duties in an exemplary and cheerful manner. I remember especially those of you serving in Northern Ireland including many members of the Corps who are there in an infantry role.

The effects of the defence review are now well understood and the tremendous amount of work carried out this year has been tackled with zest and skill, and for this I am most grateful. In the field of command and control a great challenge lies ahead of us and we expect future years to be ones of activity coupled with a steady improvement in our equipments and techniques.

My best wishes to you all wherever you are serving, especially to those of you separated from your families, serving in Northern Ireland, Belize or elsewhere. A happy Christmas to you all and a good New Year!

This will be the last issue of THE WIRE which will be in readers hands in 1975. May we therefore at Association HQ also extend our best wishes to all serving and retired members of the Corps—and our other 'supporters'—wherever you may be—for a very happy Christmas and every good fortune in 1976. May we also express our special appreciation to all who have contributed unit notes and special articles during the past year. To help you in 1976, we have set out below slightly revised guide lines which we hope will be of assistance.

We also hope, with the help of our printers, F. J. Parsons Ltd, to improve our track record in the future and see contributions more speedily incorporated into our Corps magazine. To all who have exercised such patience and understanding during 1975, a most sincere thank you.

* * *

Please keep your notes short, typed with double spacing and remember they are best supported by good clear black and white photographs on glossy paper.

Please let us have your notes as early as possible and not later than the 12th of the month. Remember we are now working to a defined production schedule and late contributions are almost certain to be deferred.

Please caption photographs fully and legibly giving rank, christian and surname. We like to use christian names in our Corps family magazine—this also applies to notes.

Please remember that only high-grade colour photographs with sharp definition and good contrasting colours can make the front cover. The processing cost is increasing and in the interests of economy a colour front cover will, in the future, have to be reserved for really high-grade photographs.

Please remember there is no restriction in the length of general interest articles. These should be separated from unit notes—we will mention the unit in the presentation.

Please send cartoons if they are really well executed and are likely to amuse all our readers and not only those in the know in the unit. They are expensive to print.

And please nothing more of Christmas after January 12!

(Our Cover Picture see page 372)

—From our "In" Tray—

Any News of the February Intake of 1939?

From: **Ex-Sgt John Power**
Sir,

I receive THE WIRE every two months and it is nice to read about present day Army life.

My Army number was 2328428 and I did my training in February 1939 at Le Cateau lines and my drill instructor was **Sgt Shelldrake** of the Wiltshire Regiment. I wonder whatever happened to all those Signalmen from numbers 2328425 to 2328430. We were on the square sometime in March. We failed on our first pass out and we had a second after two extra weeks training and of course did pass out. I am sure some readers must remember the good times we had in 1939. If this letter could be published maybe we shall hear all about them. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
John Power.

136 Orchard Street,
Somerville, Mass, USA.

Thanks to an Anonymous Gentleman

From: **Sgt G. L. Crossland**
Sir,

During the summer we attend many carnivals, fetes and displays of many varieties. On the last occasion a kindly gentleman flush from a lucky horse or similar such success donated £25 because he thought the Army needed all the support it could get.

We accepted his five £5 notes with some reluctance fearing some joke. Nevertheless I enclose a cheque for £25 and thank the anonymous gentleman very much.

Yours sincerely,
G. L. Crossland.

59 Army Youth Team,
Royal Signals,
COD Donnington,
Shropshire.

Junior Ranks get your Pens out!

From: **WO2 (FoS) J. Hill.**
Sir,

THE WIRE magazine, the official organ of the Royal Signals Association, is, without doubt, read by over 90 per cent of the Corps. Individual contributions, however, seem to be very few and far between. While individual reports from units are an interesting and permanent feature, I feel personally that encouragement should be given by Officers and Senior NCOs to their junior soldiers to bring out their views and opinions in THE WIRE. In general, the individual authors present excellent reading material, but which tends to originate mainly from unusual tasks or unusual environments.

Without doubt, the first thing on reading THE WIRE is to glance through the thick type to recognise comrades of the past. Consequently articles should mention names, names and more names.

May I therefore, through your column, appeal to all Junior Ranks to get cracking. After all, you are the Corps of the future; your viewpoint is invaluable; your humour priceless and your promulgations—no matter how controversial—requisite. So how about it—**Paul Jennings** and **Cliff Kerry**—ex 603 Signal Troop; Pens out! **Geoff Barden** and **John Taylor** ex-30 Signal Regt. Perhaps a stroke of genius from **Norrie Brett** or **Kenny Sugden** —not heard of since 644 Signal Troop—and how about you **Iris Charnock** (WRAC) TAVR or **Pete McIver** ex-39 Signal Regt.

The time has come, the Foreman said
To write many things
Of exercises, uniforms and engineering wings.
Of sideboards being far too long—or hair still cut too short
Or the places you have travelled to—and even what you've caught
Or tracing friends and long lost pals
Whatever you desire
Just put your pen to paper lads—and get it in THE WIRE.

Yours sincerely,
J. Hill.

8th Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison.

MRS H. CURTIS

Mrs Curtis, widow of the late **Capt L. F. C. Curtis,** would like her friends to know that she has married Mr A. R. Lawe and that her address is: 93 Freeston Road, Boston, Lincs.

MRS. M. ELLIS

Mrs Maureen Ellis wishes to thank everyone for their kindness, floral tributes and condolences during her recent bereavement.

She would especially thank 5 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn without whose help and support she could not have borne the pain of her loss. Her future address is: 10 Broomfield Gardens, Rotherham, Yorks.

Royal Visit Evokes Vivid Memories

From: **Brig H. V. G. Bloodworth, CBE, MSM, B.Sc.(Eng)(Hons)**
Dear Sir,

As a 'Founder Member' of the Corps I must heartily congratulate all those, both directly and indirectly, concerned with the recent celebration ceremonies of the 50th anniversary of the Corps transfer from Maresfield Park to Catterick Camp and the gracious visit of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, to unveil the excellent memorial commemorating this occasion.

The very excellent photographs and details, together with the account of the unveiling ceremony, so graciously performed by Her Majesty, conveyed to me a feeling of great pride and very happy memories of those very early days during the initial formation of what has now become the Royal Corps of Signals, an illustrious and most essential part of the present British Army.

Unfortunately however, I feel compelled to comment on one particular aspect of the anniversary memorial.

The Signalman holding the 'Flag Signalling. is apparently standing 'At Ease' and obviously depicts an Operator Visual of that era. The right hand did not hold the flag in the manner as shown whilst standing 'at ease'. The right hand gathered the folds of the flag from under and took the folds up to the tip of the flagpole allowing sufficient material to overlap and cover the fingers of the right hand. The flags used were either white with a blue stripe or totally blue. I base this observation on the fact that during the very early days of my Army career I attended a trade course, and subsequently a trade test, as an Operator Visual with 'B' Company, Royal Engineer Signal Service, at Crowborough Camp

Memories came back to me most vividly on reading THE WIRE report. I recall the early days, and the mornings of Monday's 'Flag Drill' periods when the various squads awaited the commands of the Squad Instructors, some of whom had probably over-indulged a little in the Mess over the preceding weekend.

First came the command 'Attention' then, 'Prepare to Signal', 'Ready', and then the command: '3 (or more) times through the alphabet, taking the time from the front "begin" or "commence".'

We all knew that half way through the 3rd alphabet we would be brought back to the 'Ready' and that a fresh start would be ordered. I remember, only too well, the blisters on both hands, and the almost unbearable aching of ones arms on the conclusion of the Flag Drill periods. Signalling with the 6-ft flag also did nothing to alleviate the torture.

I, for one, realised during those early days that much bigger things were to come and that soon we would become a new Corps divorced from the 'Sappers', in fact when this transfer did happen we were all given the option of transferring to the Royal Corps of Signals or remaining with the Royal Engineers. A limited number elected to remain with the Sappers, and they were posted away from Crowborough Camp very soon afterwards, and we lost trace of a number of comrades.

I became so determined to see the job through, and to take advantage of the forthcoming opportunities, that I at once elected to transfer to the new Corps. I had at that period of my service as a young soldier a desire or, better expressed perhaps, a passion to learn, and qualify in as many Signal trades as possible, and also to pass all the necessary educational examinations necessary for rapid advancement.

I subsequently took courses and trade tests in: TSBO—Telephone Switchboard Operator, OL—Operator Line, OW—Operator Wireless, WM—Wireless Mechanic, IM Instrument Mechanic, DR—Despatch Rider, Lmn—Lineman, and at a much later date, Operator Signals.

The horse riding course at Maresfield was also one of the highlight memories of those early days. The vision of one **'Busty' Lane** kneeling down in the peat of the riding school 'praying for horsemen' is not forgotten, nor is his command to 'Dismount', and carry one's saddle back to camp, a frequent order.

The reward for all this effort came much later in life, but all my years in the Corps were extremely happy ones and the comradeship of so many good friends, commissioned, non-commissioned and other ranks, is a memory to be cherished when one reaches old age, and although I have little opportunity to attend the many Corps functions I recall with affection my assocation with such friends as **Gen (Ronnie) Penney, Lt Col (Andy) Anderson, Arthur (Joe) Eastes,** and many more who have sadly 'passed on'.

Would you kindly pass the enclosed to the Secretary of the Corps Benevolent Fund as a contribution to assist those ex-members of our Corps less fortunate perhaps than oneself.

Yours truly,
H. V. Bloodworth.

5340 Bad Honnef am Rhein,
Berg Strasse 43B,
Federal Republic of Germany.

(The 1925 Signalman, like his 1975 comrade, was not intended to be shown as on parade but in a relaxed off-parade attitude—Editor.)

Open Door in U.S.A.

Lt Col William F. O'Meara, Signal Corps, US Army (Ret), writes:

'After three fully enjoyable years in Dorset, during which time I was fortunate in seeing many old friends at Blandford and making many more new ones, I am once again back in the States. As usual my door is open to anyone who may venture this way. The address is: 966 Borden Villa Drive, Santa Rosa, California G54U1. The telephone number is (Area code 707)-527-8573. I'm 50 miles north of San Francisco'.

Major (retd) J. H. Waldron, OBE, US Signal Corps 11 L of C Signals hold Minor Reunion

Maj Joe Waldron of the US Signal Corps who was awarded the OBE for his close collaboration with Royal Signals especially in the field of Long Lines Fault Control during the Italian campaign of World War II recently revisited his Royal Signals comrades. **Maj Waldron** has very strong connections with the wartime 11 L of C Signals and CSO L of C Italy (the late **Brig Buchanan**). Despite the attack of polio sustained during the Korean War which has confined him to a wheelchair ever since, **Joe,** with his charming wife **Trudy,** took the 10-hour flight from Los Angeles to London on September 1 and spent a week on the Bakewell area with his old friend **Col L. W. Wright.** During his stay a minor reunion of the old 11 L of C Signals was held in

(continued in next column)

Second-Lieutenant Gordon Walker receiving the Agar Memorial Prize from Colonel C. J. Gilbert, Chief Instructor, School of Signals. Second-Lieutenant Walker is the son of Lieutenant-Colonel S. G. Walker, Royal Signals and is attending No. 7 Royal Signals Officers Introductory Visit at the School of Signals. The prize was awarded to him as the best young Royal Signals Officer of his Sandhurst Course RCC 7, which ended on 11th July, 1975

Maj F. V. B. Philp of the Army Careers Office, Lincoln writes:

'I feel that the retirement of WO2 (SSM) M. C. Jones, Royal Signals should not be allowed to pass without comment.

'WO2 (SSM) Jones enlisted into the Royal Signals on 24 November, 1938, and was trained as a lineman. During his service he served in Italy with the 8th Army, also in Iraq, Egypt and BAOR. He was appointed WO i/c my Army Careers Office in Lincoln in 1962. Since that date he has been involved in the enlistment of at least 5,746 young men into the Army—many of them into Royal Signals. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1971, and on his last day of official duty was presented with the bar to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The presentation was made by Lt Col G. C. Negus, RE, the Commander Recruiting and Liaison Staff, East Midlands. The accompanying photo (by Courtesy of the *Lincolnshire Echo*) shows the presentation, with his wife, Mrs Olive Jones looking on.

'I am sure that his many friends in the Corps will join me in wishing Maurice and Olive a happy and contented retirement'.

Matlock. There were present **Maj Waldron, Prof W. L. Saunders, Capt R. J. Wilkins, Maj T. S. Wragg** and **Col L. W. Wright** and their wives. Telephonic communication was established with many members of the 11 L of C Signal of World War II.

Maj Waldron maintains the greatest interest in the Corps past and present. The charming personalities of **Joe** and **Trudy** brought great pleasure to all whom they met. They have returned by sea to their home in San Gabriel, California

Sailing—1976

THE Royal Signals Yacht Club maintains two yachts for charter in the UK. *Skywave* is a five-berth Nicholson 32 and *Quicksilver* is a six-berth Westerley Tiger 26. Both yachts are based at Gosport adjacent to the JSSC.

Bids are now invited for charters during the 1976 season which will last from April 1 to October 30. Charter fees for the yachts are likely to be £8·50 per day for private charter and £16 per day for Adventurous Training. Bids received prior to February 1, 1976 will be considered together. Priority will be given to Adventurous Training. Short weekend charter bids will be given lowest priority. Bids received after February 1, 1976 will be dealt with in order of receipt. Where possible alternative dates should be given.

As from mid-November 1975 the new Yachtmaster to whom bids should be addressed will be:

Maj M. M. Barker, Foyal Signals,
Housing Commandant East Hampshire,
Peronne Close,
Hilsea,
Portsmouth PO3 5LG.

If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading — boy you sure need sympathy!

OUR COVER PICTURE

The first reference to the existence of St Alban's Church Choir is to be found in 'The Harrogate Apprentice' of December 1949: 'Our Sunday worship has been helped tremendously by the choir which has come to us from (the Army Apprentices' School) Taunton . . . It was particularly inspiring to hear the Harvest Hymns sung so heartily'. This is not to say, of course, that there had not been a Choir before this date.

But, if the origins of the Choir are now lost in the mists of antiquity, it is certain that St Alban's Church has never since been without one, of a strength rarely below 40. Certain it also is that, while individually voices may not be wholly of Covent Garden standard, collectively the Choir can always be relied on to 'make a cheerful noise unto the Lord'.

Among the many cathedrals the Choir has visted is Selby, where they accepted an impromptu invitation to sing at a wedding which was about to take place. Opinions differ as to who was the more surprised—the choir or the bride!

Christmas Wire—Special Production Schedule

IN order to ensure the publication and distribution of this issue prior to Christmas, it has been essential to implement a special production schedule which has led to us 'going to press' earlier than normal. We are very sorry to have to close the year by not processing and publishing material received during November.

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SEPTEMBER 1975

Number of cases assisted financially	**33**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**63**
Amount spent	**£687·03**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants made	**2**
Amount spent	**£40·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

EX-SERGEANT, 16 years' service, whose wife deserted him, leaving him with their five school-age children. He has kept the home going and looked after the family ever since. Through the generosity of Messrs Pontins, a chalet has been placed at the family's disposal for a week at Southport Holiday Camp, and the Army Benevolent Fund and Royal Signals Association have paid the cost of their food, fares, spending money, etc. The man's letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

I AM so grateful to you all for your very great generosity in giving me and my children this most welcome holiday. The children are delighted, and we are all looking forward to it. Also thank you so much for the lovely parcel. Everyone was thrilled, and the clothes are very welcome and useful. I cannot express how helpful you have been to us. One day I hope I shall be in a position to return some of your kindness. For the present, I can only repeat that all you have done and are doing for me and mine makes me proud that once I wore Jimmy as my badge.

THANK YOU

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

Mr A. W. Smith, Maj C. J. Bayfield, Lt Col D. A. Dickson' Capt and Mrs D. Maxted, Capt A. M. Lovatt, FoS and Mrs N. Crowder, Mr W. E. Osborne, Maj H. J. Crocker, Maj A. W. Stewart, Lt Col W. F. O'Meara, Mrs J. Hewson, Yeoman Warder A. A. Copestake, Mr and Mrs. H. Palmer, Mr and Mrs C. Fry, 10th Signal Regiment, Mrs G. Finch, Maj Gen C. E. Page, Mrs C. Rodgers, Mrs F. D. Pedley, Mrs V. E. Haslett, Major and Mrs G. W. Young, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Sgt and Mrs D. Fryer, Capt W. W. Farley, Capt and Mrs P. Whitemore, Anonymous parcel from RMA Sandhurst, Mrs V. A. Heath.

Movements

Officers

NOVEMBER

Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt C. P. P. Barnes	24 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj H. M. A. Bonaker	22 Sig Regt
Maj M. F. Collins	DCGWL(A) MOD (PE)
Capt (ToT) A. J. Cook	242 Sig Sqn (HS)
Maj (ToT) P. W. Dale	27 Sig Regt
Col A. H. Dennis	ASD 22 MOD (A)
Lt R. A. Dodman	30 Sig Regt
Capt H. L. H. Feber	16 Sig Regt
Maj A. P. Fielding	Canadian Forces School of Communications Electronics, Kingston, Ontario
Capt (ToT) G. W. Fordom	HQ Trg Bde
Capt A. H. Gibb	7 Flt AAC (Berlin)
Capt (Tfc) J. D. Heard	HQ 1 Sig Gp (HS)
Capt P. S. Holder	28 Sig Regt
Capt D. B. Jones	21 Sig Regt
Lt D. T. Llewellyn	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col J. Maclean	HQ Sowdist
Capt (Tfc) D. M. Maxted	262 Sig Sqn
Lt Col K. H. Olds	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj W. A. Price	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. G. Rogers	HQ Northag
Maj R. J. G. H. Rumford	269 Sig Sqn
Lt D. M. Rutherford	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. W. Sharpe	8 Sig Regt
Lt M. R. S. Stanners	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. C. Tripp	HQ Londist
Maj A. J. Welch	HQ 2 Sig Gp

W.O.s and Sergeants

Rank and Name	*Unit to which Posted*
WO1 (FoS) D. J. Finighan	642 Signal Troop (Gibraltar)
WO1 (Supvr) R T. B. Neal	13th Signal Regiment (Radio)
WO2 (FoS) G. J. O'Sullivan	HQ 24 Airportable Brigade and Signal Squadron
WO2 (FoS) A. King	HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade and Signal Squadron
WO2 (FoS) G. H. D. Ward	HQ 6 Armoured Brigade and Signal Squadron
WO2 (FoS) K. Downton	Royal Military College of Science
WO2 (FoS) R. A. G. Allen	SHAPE (BAE)
WO2 J. D. Bowman	16th Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
WO2 E. W. Percival	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
WO2 J. H. Smith	HQ 5 Airportable Brigade and Signal Squadron
WO2 P. A. Winton	71st Signal Regiment (V)
A WO2 J. R. Acey	224 Signal Squadron (TAC Air Sp)
SSgt (FoS) G. Rothwell	227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE)
SSgt (FoS) B. J. Gallagher	262 Signal Squadron (East)
SSgt D. Hornsby	259 Signal Squadron (West)
SSgt (Supvr) R W. L. Willock	9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
SSgt R. Bates	HQ 1st Division Signal Regiment
SSgt R. G. Graham	Army Apprentices College (Harrogate)
SSgt P. L. Lewer	HQ 1 Artillery Brigade and Signal Squadron
A SSgt C. S. N. Bartlett	71st Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt E. C. F. Friend	SHAPE Support (Intelligence) BAE
Sgt D. D. C. Fraser	School of Signals
Sgt J. Watson	8th Signal Regiment (Cadre)
Sgt K. Cooper	16th Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sgt E. F. Shuker	244 Signal Squadron (TAC Air Support)
Sgt A. J. Logie-Campbell	11th Signal Regiment (Depot Troop)
Sgt A. Murphy	HQ 24 Airportable Brigade and Signal Squadron
Sgt P. D. Hooker	234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
Sgt G. Collier	234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
Sgt K. O'Hagan	16th Signal Regiment (HQ BAOR)
Sgt B. Inglis	242 Signal Squadron (Mormond Hill)
Sgt R. Churm	10th Signal Regiment (Cold Blow Lane)
Sgt M. H. French	35th Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt F. P. Hartley	28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
Sgt M. P. Gray	HQ 1st Division Signal Regiment
Sgt D. A. Caldwell	Army Air Corps Centre
Sgt J. H. Mason	11st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sgt D. M. Lees	22nd Signal Regiment (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt R. F. Parsons	HQ 2nd Division and Signal Regiment
Sgt I. L. Chapman	7th Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt J. Gregory	8th Signa lRegiment (Cadre)
Sgt B. R. Hobbs	260 Signal Squadron (SAM)
Sgt D. Heselton	30th Signal Regiment
Sgt J. W. Nelson	8th Signal Regiment
Sgt J. Wharton	8th Signal Regiment
Sgt G. W. Bartliff	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt M. Freedman	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt P. L. Gethin	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt G. S. Gibson	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt J. D. Haytree	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt J. Hindle	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt M. J. Taylor	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt R. Wilson	School of Signals YofS course 28
Sgt D. G. Wright	School of Signals YofS course 28

Sgt J. T. Haycock	244 Signal Squadron (TAC Air Support)
Sgt P. T. Atherton	244 Signal Squadron (TAC Air Support)
Sgt A. V. Meir	9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sgt. D. Thompson	13th Signal Regiment (Radio)
Sgt L. Broadbent	7th Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt J. Foley	38th Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt E. A. Hall	48 (Gurkha) Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
Sgt M. T. Robertson	8th Signal Regiment
ASgt M. R. Channing	School of Signals YofS course 28
ASgt A. R. Tait	School of Signals YofS course 28
ASgt B. W. J. Ross	HQ 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron

Obituary

Capt (QM) F. C. Callegari

We have recently learnt of the death of Capt Callegari on July 6, 1975, after 35 years service in the Army. He was born in 1893 and enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1911, transferring to the Corps in 1920, on its formation. He was discharged in 1937 and immediately joined the TA and was commissioned as a Quartermaster in 54th (East Anglia) Divisional Signals (TA) in 1939. He served with this unit for most of the war until 1944 when he went to North West Europe as QM to 2 L of C Signal Regiment where he was mentioned in despatches.

Brig J. H. Cameron-Webb, CBE

Brig John Heseltine Cameron-Webb was born in 1895 and died at Exmouth on September 6, 1975. He was commissioned into the Indian Army from the Cadet College at Quetta in 1917 and saw active service as a battalion signal officer and with Signal Units in Mesopotamia during the 1914–18 War. Between the wars he spent most of his service in India, transferring to the Corps in 1927. During the 1939–45 War he went to France with the BEF as second in command of I Corps Signals and then served with Air Formation Signal Units and Formations in the Middle East and North West Europe until retiring in 1946. He was appointed OBE in 1941, Officer of the Legion of Merit and promoted CBE in 1945. After retirement he settled in Exmouth where he became interested in local affairs, he was a Devon County Councillor, Chairman of Exmouth Urban District Council and Chairman of the Devon British Legion.

Lt Col W. J. S. Gray

Lt Col Wilfred John Spencley Gray died in hospital at Poole on September 25, 1975. He was born in 1907 and commissioned into the Corps from the RMA Woolwich in 1926. After qualifying at Catterick he went to India where he spent most of his subsequent service. He retired in 1950 and settled in Bournemouth where he was an active member of the Bournemouth and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association, being secretary from 1970–74 when ill health forced him to give up. He was then appointed president of the Branch and continued to the end to render valuable service in that office. Wilfred had a quiet unassuming nature and was always full of kindness and consideration for others.

Maj John Ryan, CBE, MC

John Ryan died suddenly at his home in Ealing on October 5, 1975 at the age of 81.

He was educated at Wolverhampton Grammar School and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and gazetted to a temporary commission in the Royal Engineers in April 1915. He went to France and joined the 12th Divisional Signal Company. He was awarded the Militsry Cross in 1916 and later went to command the 22nd Corps Signal Company. In September 1918 he took over command of the Guards Divisional Signal Company from Maj L. G. Phillips ('Flipper') and commanded the unit until after the armistice. He was mentioned in despatches.

After the war he served for a short time with the 48th (SM) Divisional Signals TA in Birmingham until he went to Lancashire in 1922 to work in the Lancashire Cotton Corporation. By his hard work and outstanding ability he made his way to important posts in industry and became vice-chairman of Metal Box Ltd when he retired in 1960. For a time he was on the Western Area Board of the British Transport Commission.

He was a member of the Livery of Merchant Taylors and a leading figure in many business and scientific associations. He received the first Verulam Gold Medal of the British Institute of Management and was appointed a CBE in 1949.

In 1922 he married Mabel McEwen, who survives him with three sons and a daughter.

Maj M. McG. Simmonds

Maj Murray McGeorge Simmonds who enlisted in the Corps in 1925 died at the age of 65 on May 30, 1975. He was commissioned in 1940 and served throughout the war in the Middle East when he was mentioned in despatches. After the war he spent most of his service overseas, three years in the Far East, two years in the Middle East and two years in BAOR. He retired in 1955 having completed 30 years service.

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Circumstances do not always enable the timely publication of obituary notices to mark the death of serving and retired members of the Corps. From time to time we receive from Ministry of Defence sources a list of officers who have died in recent times This list is reproduced below.

Maj J. C. Alcock
Maj S. D. Allaway, MM
Maj T. R. Allerton-Beattie
Lt Col W. S. Bailey
Maj D. D. Bannerman
Maj Gen K. C. O. Bastyan, CB, CBE
Maj W. J. Boreham, MC
Mr K. C. Boswell, OBE, TD, BA
Maj (Tfc) A. J. E. Cheshire
Maj J. L. Donne
Maj W. V. G. Fuge, MBE
Maj R. T. Gatford
Col Sir Lionel Hall Bt, MC
Lt Col A. J. Hannah, OBE
Lt Col C. D. Hinds
Lt Col J. E. Hobson
Maj M. Hooper, MBE, MM
Col R. Jee, MC
Col E. V. F. MacSwiney
Col R. C. Newcombe, OBE
Brig F. W. Nicholls, CBE
Maj Gen Sir Leslie Nicholls KCMG, CB, CBE
Lt Col G. B. Power (RE Signals
Maj (QM) W. E. Roscoe
Maj W. S. Sanderson
Maj (QM) J. W. T. Snell
Maj (QM) F. G. Strange
Lt Col F. J. D. Thompson
Maj (Tfc) M. Turner
Maj A. C. E. Ware, MBE
Lt Col P. A. Watts
Col F. K. Wilson
Maj P. Wolfendale

Something Worthwhile for the Children of Belfast

Report by Capt D. P. Howshall

THE Voluntary Services Bureau exists to provide community action and integration between the peoples of Belfast. Various schemes are run for children, the handicapped and the aged aimed at fostering the community spirit.

THE 'PLAYBUS' SCHEME

'E' Troop, 233 Signal Squadron became involved in one aspect of their work, when it came to our notice that 'Playbus No. 3', one of four used in the City, was in need of an extensive repaint. The VSB run these ancient double-decker buses as mobile kindergarten for the children of Belfast. They operate in the new estates where little provision has been made for the most basic needs of children. They also work in the more derelict areas where the children's playground is more often a dangerous pile of rubble. These 'Playbuses' fill a desperate need for the 3 to 5 year olds, to play in safe and pleasant surroundings. They allow an escape from the realities of their battered urban environment. The recent introduction of a scheme where mothers join their infants at play in the buses has been successful in providing 'Mother Helpers' and relieving the overworked volunteer of some of the responsibility.

CREATIVE TALENT TRANSFORMS BUS

Sgt 'Foxy' Fowler and **Ssgt Don Brookes** approached the Director of VSB and offered the troop's services to transform the bus. Consequently we were given the bus for a week and set ourselves a busy off-duty schedule to meet the deadline when the bus had to return to the streets of Belfast. A creative time was had by all as hidden talents were revealed to produce cartoon characters and colourful decorations. Our resident Dental Officer, **Maj Ted Bishop, RADC,** who dabbles in paint in his spare time, joined us by invitation and proved to have a wealth of talent. It is fair to say that he left his mark well and truly on the sides of the bus and worked long hours to ensure its completion.

'PLAYBUS' AFTER RE-DECORATION

The repaint was completed on time and we reluctantly returned 'our' bus to the VSB representative. By all reports the children greeted its return by cries of 'the new bus!'. We were justifiably proud of our efforts and pleased to receive a letter of thanks from the Director of VSB.

It is hoped that by our efforts we have have brought a little happiness to the children of Belfast. We wish 'Spirit of 76' and all who play in her a joyful time and a peaceful future.

Seventh Reunion of the Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45

THIRTY-NINE members and 44 wives and guests assembled at Blandford Camp on August 29 for the seventh reunion of the old Company.

As usual the majority arrived on the Friday evening to spend time recalling happy days in pre-war Hong Kong and some not quite so happy days during the war years. Nevertheless, amidst the clinking of glasses and rattle of plates there is a continual buzz of conversation and bursts of laughter. Funny how we only seem to remember the good or funny events that we shared. How happy one feels getting to grips with old comrades and to re-live the past and recall old friends who have passed on. Truly those who have gone never grow old as we that are left grow old and at times like this they live again. What more fitting memorial could they have.

On the Saturday we had our annual dinner. The chief guests were a Canadian Hong Kong Veteran, **Lloyd Doull** and his wife **Margaret. Lloyd** is President of the Canadian Hong Kong Veterans Association (Quebec and Maritime Branch) and **Margaret** is Treasurer of one of the largest branches of the Canadian Legion. Their presence brought a touch of drama to the proceedings. When **Lloyd** was captured by the Japs during the fighting he came into possession of a Bible stamped with the regimental number of a British soldier.

During captivity this bible brought comfort to him and after the war when he returned to Canada he often wondered what had happened to the owner. Last year our secretary was asked to try and trace the original owner and it turned out to be one of our members. **Lloyd** was invited to attend our next reunion and return the bible as he wished to do and right up until the presentation after dinner only four people knew of the real reason for the presence of our chief guests. When the secret was unfolded to the assembly there was a buzz of excitement when the owner of the regimental number was asked to step forward and to save his blushes he shall remain anonymous. In addition to receiving his bible back he was made a life member of the Canadian Hong Kong Veterans Association. **Lloyd** received a suitable plaque to commemorate the occasion. Well done **Lloyd** it was great to have you with us.

Messages of goodwill were received from the Royal and Gurkha Signals, Hong Kong, The Canadian Legion and the Canadian Hong Kong Veterans Association. As is customary at our dinners we drank a toast to the Royal and Gurkha Signals Hong Kong.

After dinner the younger members danced in a disco whilst the older ones continued chatting and griping about old times. The bar was well supported.

After lunch on Sunday we dispersed until we meet again next year. Once again as the last car left the camp a flock of birds circled overhead, dipped as if in salute, and flew eastwards.

NEW TESTAMENT LOST IN BATTLE IS RETURNED TO ITS OWNER 34 YEARS LATER

On Christmas Day 1941 a British Soldier was taken prisoner when Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese forces. The soldier was in the Royal Corps of Signals and his service number was 2324023.

Thirty-four years after the fall of Hong Kong RCS 2324023 recovered the New Testament that he lost in battle. It was picked up by Sgt Lloyd C Doull, The Royal Rifles of Canada, and sustained Lloyd Doull throughout his four years of captivity.

Lt Col Monty Truscott, Royal Signals, now retired, was in that battle and was instrumental in bringing two complete strangers together for the purpose of returning the bible.

Joyce Hibbert, a journalist of Drummondville, Quebec, took up Lloyd Doull's plea to return the bible to its owner. She wrote to Brig Pat Hobson, Secretary of the Royal Signals Association requesting his assistance in tracing 2324023. Brig Hobson passed this request to Lt Col Monty Truscott who each year since 1968 has organised a reunion of Royal Signals taken prisoner in Hong Kong.

This year at the 7th Reunion the New Testament containing only a service number was handed back by the Canadian soldier to RCS 2324023 Bill Devlin.

Left to right: Lt Col Monty Truscott, Bill Devlin and Lloyd Doull

A LITTLE PLACE

In a little place called Blandford, to the west of London Town
There's a meeting of old comrades, once a year.
That they've served in Hong Kong Islands, their only claim to fame
And they recall those days whilst sipping of their beer.

Recalling names like Lyemun, Murray Barracks and the Peak
And that lovely Island's peace before the war;
How they strove by work and sport through each succeeding week
To enhance the reputation of their Corps.

And in doing so found friendship which stood them in good stead,
When forced to face the darker days in store,
For one morning Orderly Sgt came and knocked us out of bed
Saying 'Come on lads the Nips are here at war'.

But at 3 pm on Christmas Day of nineteen-forty-one
Honk Kong decided it had had enough,
There weren't no Christmas parties, there was previous little fun
And there certainly wasn't any Christmas duff.

O'er those days till '45 'tis best to draw a veil,
Except to wish we'd never made the trip
But although we finished up the worse for wear and just a little frail
We'd really learned the meaning of comradeship.

Which brings us back to Blandford to the west of London Town
And the meeting of old comrades once a year,
If things get rough don't worry, don't let it get you down
Remember that your pals are sitting here.

BRACK
(with apologies)

Looking Back . . .

50 YEARS—THE WIRE DECEMBER 1925
Signal Training Centre, Catterick

Thanks to the agreeable weather, the Centre has been able to proceed apace with the work of getting well dug in for the Yorkshire winter which we have heard a lot about. Now for Catterick Camp! In the first place it is of vast proportions and in a year or two may justly style itself the Aldershot of the North. The most important item for new arrivals to remember is the distance they. will have to walk unless they make arrangements for transport Catterick Bridge railway station is roughly five miles from the STC lines and transport is by taxi (sometimes). Richmond is four miles away and a good omnibus service is maintained throughout the day at **5d the single journey.**

Married quarters are full up and likely to remain so for a few years. New arrivals go to the bottom of the waiting list and rise gradually (very gradually). These quarters are fully equipped, including a bathroom and copper. The quarters are situated about a mile from the Training Centre so that push cycles are much in evidence in this region.

The following officers are posted to the Training Centre on first commission in Royal Signals. 2/**Lts D. C. P. Hall, R. H Copeland, K. E. Holmes, C. C. Danby, H. A. C. Stallan, K. T. Muspratt-Williams, E. S. Cole, J. Vickers** and **F. A. Pedlar.**

25 YEARS—THE WIRE DECEMBER 1950
Editorial extract

This, for many in England will be an austerity Christmas. The immediate post-war period of spending has gone, and money is very tight. The uneasiness of the international situation is very reminiscent of the 1930s at their worst. For many of the Corps in Malaya and Korea such Christmas festivities as can be contrived may well be disturbed by enemy action. In both theatres we are having our casualties.

In sport, as in work, we count our successes; by 1 Training Regt especially in rugby football and cross-country running. The first visit of a Corps team to Bisley gives promise of future successes at Army Rifle Meetings. In Egypt our reputation in shooting, cross-country running and football and perhaps especially in swimming is greater than it has been in the past. And one who wears our cap badge, **Sig Brian Close,** represents England at cricket.

10 YEARS—THE WIRE DECEMBER 1965
2 Sig Regt, BFPO 22

Lt Col J. R. Cubberley's 1965 team has shown a considerable number of hierarchical changes even from last year. Those whose time with the Regt expired included **Majs R. H. Borthwick** (now CR Signals 1st Division), **A. C. Birtwhistle, J. B. Alkinson** and **E. L. Rogers; Capts M. J. P. Vann, I. R. D.Shapter** and **H. R. H. Dunlop; Lts M. K. Carson, P. J. K. Dickinson, R. R. Johnson** and **B. M. Cooke.** The RSM **WO1 J. Crich,** is now commissioned and his successor **WO1 (RSM) R. J. Wombwell** is a well established regimental figure.

In the WO and Sgts' Mess the RSM has the support of **SSMs R. W. J. Hammerton** and **W. R. D. Clark** of 1 and 2 Sqns respectively. **Ssgt S. R. Norris,** now really getting on a bit in Regimental maturity, is acting SSM of 3 Sqn.

605 Signal Troop, Gan

WE hear that our old friends, 605 Signal Troop, are leaving Gan in the New Year. We have always had a soft spot in our heart for the Corps' more remote Troops and detachments. We are indeed sorry to hear of 605 disappearing from their island paradise. Their morale has always been high and at both work and play they have fully upheld the good name of the Corps. They were much respected by the RAF whom they served so well. They were regular contributors to THE WIRE and we shall miss their monthly contribution—light hearted but reflecting a true Troop spirit. We wish them all good fortune in the future after a job well done.

Faraway Places . . . Unusual Jobs

Report from Royal Signals Element Royal Brunei Malay Regiment

PROLOGUE

YEOMAN to GSO2 (Sigs) 'Yes Sir I know all about 244 Sqn but what you've got to realise is that when there are only six members of the Corps, one of whom is the Foreman detached to the Royal Brunei Police there just ain't the time to write in THE WIRE'. Immediate reply 'You've got a good 48 hrs to produce, incidentally I've got your confidential lying in my tray'.

Over the past 17 years I've always managed to avoid writing notes for THE WIRE so I suppose I can't grumble (if I post them by surface mail using a 3 cent Brunei stamp and a fictitious address in Katmandu—who knows they may never arrive at the Editor's desk).

THE LOCAL SET-UP

At the time of writing the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment comprises a formation HQ, two infantry battalions, a flotilla of patrol boats and assault boats, an air wing of medium and light helicopters and HH The Sultan's VIP Andover aircraft, and a Depot and Training Wing.

There is nothing better than working together as a team and in the RBMR we partially achieve this by all wearing the same dacron green. There is no obvious way of determining whether an Askar (Melayu Di-Raja Brunei) is a soldier, sailor or an airman or whether if a soldier, he's an infanteer, cavalier, communicator or a provision merchant. Needless to say we do have our inter-service rivalies but basically we are all here to train the Brunei soldier so that eventually the Force will be self-supporting.

Just over two years ago the Royal Signals element consisted of a captain GSO3 (Sigs) and a Foreman detached to the Royal Brunei Police. However, as the Force increased in size and its training became more varied it was necessary to increase the number seconded and contract posts. Today Corps representation is two majors (GSO2(Sigs/Air) and Regimental Quartermaster), a captain (RSO of the 2nd Battalion), the Foreman (still detached to the Police), a yeoman of signals and a staff sergeant clerk technical. There are also two contract captains, SO 3 (Tels) and OC Force Electronic Workshop. The clerk technical post came into being when it was decided to discard our Larkspur and most other HF equipment and spend £1¼ million pounds on a Clansman VHF FM system.

CLANSMAN—OUR VERSION

Mention of the Clansman range of radios normally conjures up thoughts of a large number of HF and VHF vehicle stations and man-pack sets. To us, apart from our section set, Clansman means one basic radio the Racal-BCC PRC 351, which with its differing configuration of ancillaries, the primary one being the PRC 352 20 watt amplifier, is being fitted into our Andover aircraft, helicopter patrol boats, assault boats, armoured cars, Land-Rovers and onto the soldiers' back.

Question from **Ssgt Keith Johnson** (Clerk technical)—'Who is signing for £12,000 worth of equipment stuck out on an unmanned rebro site in the middle of the ulu?'

GSO 2 (Sigs)—'Don't bother me with trivial stuff, see the SO 3 (Tels)'.
SO 3 (Tels)—'Don't ask me I'm technical—see the Yeoman'.
Y of S—'Not me that's for sure!' Picks up ever-ringing phone 'What's that Sir more coffee?'

MODERN EQUIPMENT

One of the amazing things about this unique Force is its modern equipment, most of which has been tried, tested and is on order by British or Allied Forces. The rule seems to be:

Determine what new facility is required.
Determine the best available equipment (and the Bruneis prefer to buy British).
Determine how quickly the RBMR can obtain it.
Order it for delivery yesterday.

During the coming year **Ssgt Johnson** has the job of co-ordinating the issue of Clansman equipment and spares to the 1st and 2nd Battalions to the Flotilla and to the Air Wing. Other current projects include the provision of state-wide teleprinter links using two tone keying adaptors over the Clansman circuits and the setting up of our own Signals Training School.

The idea that short range VHF communications is the only order of the day is quickly dispelled by the sight of the Yeoman on his annual pilgrimage to Hong Kong complete with suitcase type Collins KWM2A. This provides us with telephone quality HF SSB communications between Beraks Camp and our detachments in the New Territories of Hong Kong: thereby avoiding the necessity of using the DCN network (nothing like a private line!).

PERSONALITIES—ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

Among the new arrivals is **Maj Alan Harfield** late of 244 (by coincidence we've had five ex-244 visitors) and even later of the 259. Those who know **Alan Harfield** are never amazed at the tenacity of purpose he displays when researching military history. He and his very patient wife **June** have already spent hours collating nominal rolls in the military grave-yards, ancient and modern, of Brunei and East Malaysia. As a contrast to this dead end pursuit the Regimental Commander, **Col Runce Rooney,** gave him the task of writing the Regimental History and appointe him the (first) curator of the (yet to be formed) Regimental Museum.

WO1 (F of S) Mick Groom joined us from Northern Ireland. He was immediately sub-seconded to the Royal Brunei Police (as an Inspector). He has the fascinating task of travelling to police posts in Brunei's remote Kampongs, usually by small river boat, to service and maintain the Police emergency network. On his first helicopter visit to an Iban longhouse he was invited to partake of rice wine, which he imagined was a soft drink. Unaware of its laxitative qualities, he later broke all records for the 100 m after landing back at Berakas after a most uncomfortable trip.

Ssgt Keith Johnson joined us from BAOR. He has quickly established himself as a rent-a-crowd man and appears to be a mandatory guest at the numerous Malay Regimental weddings. He has also already established himself as a Regimental cricketer and a soccer player.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to a former Corps stalwart, **Capt Maurice Caplan** and his wife **Marian. Maurice** served in the Corps for approximately 30 years before becoming a contract officer with RBMR. He and **Marian** made a lot of friends in Brunei and this was reflected in their lunching-out at the Police Mess, their host being a fellow 'Ham' and very senior member of the Royal Family. Although in his fifties **Maurice** is still an immediate first choice as both bowler and bat for the Regiment Cricket XI. We think he may come back again.

We also extend our best wishes for the future in the concrete jungle of BAOR to **WO1 (F of S) Dick Allan** and his wife **Dot. Dick** was also a Regimental cricketer and gave sterling service in such community projects as the Cubs and the Buffs.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES ABOUND

There seems to be no holding back as far as outside interests go. On joining the Force, one can either take to the air or sea in one's spare time.

The ever adventurous GSO2 (Sigs) **Maj Phil Spooner** has already obtained his private pilot's Licence and plays an active part in running the Royal Brunei Flying Club, he is being followed closely by **Capt Dave Beare,** RSO 2 Battalion and our contract (ex-RAF) SO3 (Tels) **Capt Dave Lee.** We have recently had a freefall parachute course and sure enough the most expendable of the Royal Signals element was nominated to take to the air (however, he would insist on wearing two chutes).

Our other activities include water skiing, sub-aqua and 'Hashing'. For the uninitiated, 'Hashing' is the weekly ritual normally held on the Beer Drinker's Sabbath (Wednesdays) and consists of two hares laying a paper trial in the ulu (jungle) with the drink crazed hounds dashing after it, but instead of barking when the trail is found a scream of 'On! On!' is heard. Eventually the weary hounds stagger out of the jungle after a loss of several pounds and immediately start to remedy this by consuming enormous amounts of Tiger. To add to the excitement, occasionally one or two of the hounds get lost and it's all hands to the 'pump' in a search and rescue effort. (No prize for guessing who got lost last week—who me Sir I did't say a word!).

The Ham World is well represented by VS5MC **(Capt Maurice Caplan),** VS5JS **(Y of S Jim Strickland),** VS5DB **(Capt Dave Beare)** and VS5MG **(Foreman Mick Groom).** Keep-fit classes, badminton, tennis, squash, horse riding and swimming help to prevent any boredom for wives.

Although Brunei can boast some of the most exotic beaches in this area it also has its fair share of highly dangerous sea creatures. **Yeoman Jim Strickland,** arrived two years ago complete with skin suit, underwater compass, knife and depth gauge. During the first week he made the mistake of visiting the local aquarium, which is one of the best in South-East Asia and consists entirely of creatures found in and around Brunei waters—the majority of which are Nasties! If anyone wants to purchase an unused skin suit, etc, etc.

POSTSCRIPT

The Corps' efforts in Brunei were recently officially recognised by His Highness the Sultan with the award to **WO2 (Y of S) Jim Strickland** of the Perkerma Setia Bakti (PSB). This came as a tribute to **Yeoman Strickland's** outstanding contribution to the training of Brunei signallers and to the smooth and efficient running of the Regiment's Communication Centre.

A Visit to the Swiss Association of NCOs

Account submitted by Sgt Eric Gregory of 71st Sig Regt (V)

DURING March 1975, the Senior NCOs Committee of the Reserve Forces Association received an invitation from the Swiss Association of NCOs to nominate two representatives to attend a three-day military competition at Brugg, Switzerland. This event takes place every 4 or 5 years, one hundred sections comprising approx 3000 competitors and approx 150 members of the Swiss Association of SCF (Veterans) taking part. The military skills envisaged were command of sections under various tasks, reconnaisance, rifle-pistol shooting, grenade throwing, obstacles course (team and individual) navigation over a river crossing, obstacle swimming, orienteering, anti-tank shooting, military vehicle recognition, inclusive of competitions for females (including first aid). The designated representatives were to be the 'Honoured Guests' of the JSSO for the three day event.

The UK members of the Senior NCOs Committee nominated to attend this Swiss event were:

Sgt Eric Gregory, Committee Member Senior NCOs Committee 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) 71st Signal Regiment (Volunteers).

Sgt John Ridd, Deputy Chairman, Senior NCOs Committee, REME attached to 5th Queens (V).

The essential documentation had been made by **Major Gen W. Bate, KB, OBE,** and the Military Attache in Berne, Switzerland, **Lt Col V. F. Wortledge,** together with the Ministry of Defence, to obtain premission to wear uniform in a neutral country. A statutory document was ultimately obtained from the office of Department Politique Federal at Berne, which stated that permission to wear British Army uniform—without arms—had been granted and the document had to be carried on the person whilst uniform was being worn at future duties and ceremonies. In retrospect, the article was never required although the distinctive differences of Mess Dress, Nos 1–2 and Combat uniforms as worn by the two UK delegates during their stay more than caused passing interest from their fellow-delegates and the local citizens, who were only accustomed to the blue-grey of Swiss army uniform.

All travel arrangements were made by **Sgt Gregory** and ultimately both delegates arrived at Brugg Barracks at about 1430 hrs on Friday June 6, 1975, having left Heathrow by air at 1000 hrs travelling by coach and train from Zurich. The delegates reported to the Organising Committee, where **Sgt Ridd** met many of his Swiss comrades of L'Association Europeenne Des Sous-Officers des Reserve (AESOR) whilst **Sgt Gregory** on his first official function, made new introductions to his fellow Senior NCOs.

The barracks (Kaserne) is a modern establishment situated about three quarters of a mile outside Brugg on a main road, and about one mile from a large island in the waters of the River Aare. In the surrounding countryside, engineering training is undertaken, predominantly with British equipment.

After the reception we were conveyed to a local hotel, and subsequently to our first official engagement at 1700 hrs at the Duforhaus. We undertook our official reception and were fully briefed in French and German and given medals denoting Honorary Participation in Brugg SUT 1975, and met our fellow honorary guests from France, Belgium, West Germany and Austria.

The proceedings over the next few days were varied and extremely enjoyable. These included military, social and cultural visits. Brugg was developed by the Romans, who built an amphi-

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theatre which was used for part of the official ceremonies on Sunday, June 8, 1975.

Both UK Sergeants participated in the bomb-throwing and rocket shooting on the anti-tank ranges. We were prevented from taking part in a trial river crossing!

Final celebrations were held in a huge marquee sited on the bank of the River Aare. The marquee was large enough to accommodate all the contestants, guests, families and invited townspeople plus a stage for the band and dancing together with cooking facilities on the exterior. During the evening, both UK delegates were invited from the Honorary Guest Area to visit a SION Cantonment Table, by the detachment commander **Capt J. Claude-Chavan.** There was no language difficulty since SION is situated near the Swiss-French border, and French was utilised. The celebrations were made more cordial by the consumption of whisky, which the UK delegates had acquired through duty free sources. Our French delegates were very appreciative of our ceremonial preparation of 'Irish Whisky'.

On the final morning there was a vast parade in the Roman amphitheatre outside the town; followed by another parade and march-past of all the contestants and Veterans taking part in SUT 1975. The salute was taken by the Mayor and all official delegates. This was followed by warm exchanges in the Festival Marquee prior to lunch.

Sgt Gregory presented a plaque to the President Association Swisse de Sous Officers BRUGG Adt Sof Victor Bulgheroni.

All recipients were visably moved by the tokens of our steem.

The official prize giving and final presentation was held at the modern sports stadium.

Our personal interpreter, insisted on conveying us directly to Zurich Airport by car, an offer which we quickly took. **Sgt Gregory** travelled to Nesscliff Training Area, Shrewsbury, to rejoin the Regiment for the annual training and another 14 enjoyable days with the TAVR.

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 53

Owing to printing difficulties we have had to hold over notes from certain units including 9 Sig Regt, but we felt this very happy photograph should appear in THE WIRE if at all possible.

FAREWELL PRESENTATION

Capt Brian Moody, Royal Pioneer Corps, and his wife pose with Pte 'Pip' Moran, youngest Royal Pioneer Corps soldier, after he had presented them with a pair of silver goblets in appreciation of all they had done for the Sqn and Regt

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

LIEUTENANT SHAW'S ANTI-RIOT PLATOON

THE Squadron has been tinged with a Naval flavour in the last couple of months with the innovation of the watch system. Every member of the Squadron from the cooks to the 'G' Branch clerks should now be involved once a week in some form of training under their various watches (Port, Starboard, Stern, Bow and Heads?). The system after three weeks appears successful. The training has included a range day, a full day's sport and the battle efficiency test. As a result most members of the Squadron are either maimed or nervous wrecks.

Regrettably this has had an adverse effect on the Squadron football team ably led by the Chief Clerk **Ssgt Ted Dudding** ably assisted by such stalwarts as **Sgt Phil Platts, RAPC, Sig Lofty Craig** and **Sig Chick McCue.** Although they have yet to notch up their first victory, I understand that in their last game which they lost 5—2, they were drawing 0—0 at one stage.

INDOOR SPORT

Indoor sport continues with added spice and violence. Tougher refereeing and tougher tackling has resulted in three sendings off and dozens injured. The MT Troop have proved to be the punchiest of teams with their 'Jam Stealing' members proving the most violent.

TM TROOP

The technical standards in TM Troop are apparently more hamfisted of late. Actually the photograph shows a set that was burnt out when a ferret overturned near Armagh. Rumours that **Sig Barry Griffiths** did this damage are completely unfounded.

NOT TAUGHT ON TRADE TRAINING
Sergeant Brian Jones and Signalman Barry Griffiths using all their technical expertise

COMMS TROOP

Comms Troop carry on in their inevitable fashion although **Ssgt Ken Harlick, Lcpl Dave Dalton** and **Sig K. Z. Grabouski** nearly found themselves interned at the Maze. They were repairing a line fault near the perimeter one evening when they were challenged by a sentry. Regrettably **Lcpl Dalton** who hails from Belfast replied. This combined with the fact that they were in civilian clothers was too much for the sentry from 26 Fd Regt RA and no time flat they were whisked away and locked up. However, good humour prevailed and as a result **Lcpl Dalton** now plays with screw drivers and intercomms in the relative safety of Kitchen Hill Factory.

Cpl Dave Priday has with the help of **Sig K. Z. Grabouski** been responsible for the majority of aerial rigging in the Brigade area. Virtually all major Security Force bases now have towers varying in height, from 70 feet to 140 feet. They have now reached a high standard in this particular task in spite of the RAF who with the aid of a Wessex and a winch nearly succeeded in knocking **Cpl Priday** off the tower at Newry.

VCPs

The Squadron has had some interesting experiences whilst performing this onorous task. **Sgt Bob Harrild's** VCP was fired upon near Gilford whilst setting up. **Tpr 'Flasher' Finney** in diving for cover leapt a 4-foot fence in true L'Escargot fashion but twisted his knee and ankle on landing. He now contents himself with cleaning rifles in the armoury and drawing dirty cartoons.

Lt Tom Richardson's VCP had a more light hearted experience. **Sgt Graham Jobson** and **Lcpl Frankie Vaughan** having been instructed to stop only the second of two cars approaching, proceeded to try and do so. This proved impossible because the second vehicle was being towed by the first so with cries of 'Dead On', 'See You' and 'Right Now' the bewildered driver drove through the VCP. Rumour has it that **Lt Richardson** has gone on leave to recover and **Sgt Jobson** now sits in Sig Ops playing with football league tables.

RIOT QUELLING

Lt James Shaw's Platoon, grabbed at short notice from every corner of the factory were deployed during the August riots to assist the resident company in quelling a minor riot. Our picture shows the number of different Regiments and Corps involved in this platoon. **Tpr 'Flasher' Finney** was the only casualty, hit in t he mouth by a festering pear. No one seems to know whether his mouth was open or shut at the time.

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

A HIGHLAND FLING

IN September, **Capt Les Fox** and a party from the Sqn headed for the highlands of Scotland. Having based themselves in Aviemore, the party set off on a four-day trek over Carn Ban Mor and other obstacles. The route took them through some of the most pleasant scenery in Scotland (they were told afterwards) and the party saw quite a few large herds of deer. In spite of the inclement weather and occasional blister, spirits were kept high by constant extracts by **Pte 'Tink' Tinkler** and **Pte Pete McVeigh** from Monty Python's latest LP—until somebody scratched the record, scratched the record, scratched the record. 'Well, it's better than bottling it up' said **'Tink'.** 'It's better than a kick in the groin', answered **Pte 'Taff' Sullivan,** who had been counting sheep and biting the heads of whippets.

After two more days of walking some local peaks, the party returned to Londonderry except for **Capt Fox, Lcpl Reg Rose** and **'Tink'** who stayed to repeat the trip with the second party.

SQN SPORT

The Bde cricket team, 'skippered' by **Capt Ian Jones,** has just completed a very successful season, having won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championships. The path to the final was achieved by some sound victories over 33 Fd Sqn RE and The Depot R Irish. Special mention must go to **Cpl Mick Callaghan** for his 35 against 33 Sqn and to **Sgt Chris Allen** for his scores in both these games. There was some very fine bowling from **Cpl Dave Frost** who took 5 wickets for 5 runs in the first game. **Pte Cliff Puttock** took 4 wickets for 6 runs in the same game.

In the final we met 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn. After some more fine bowling by **Cpl Frost** and **Cpl Puttock,** the opposition was sent back to the pavilion for 83.

Cpl Tony Parker played a good game behind the stumps and catches by **Ssgt John Turner, Sgt 'Bud' Abbott** and **Cpl Callaghan** helped to dismiss 39 Bde.

During our innings, the game swung backwards and forwards. However, the final runs were eventually scrapped together by some resolute batting by **Sig Bob Hinton** and **Cpl Parker** and we won by 3 wickets. Special thanks must go to all our cheering supporters (all three of them) and to those players who have represented the team but could not make the final.

The Northern Ireland Squash Championships also received the attention of our gladiators. In the team event, entries from 1 BW, 33 Fd Sqn RE and 1 QLR were disposed of without losing a game until the eventual final against 39 Inf Bde. This resulted in **Maj Carter** playing against **Sgt Hutton** for the second time in four hours. As luck would have it a result was already certain by the time they came to play as **Sgt Jim Stokes** had already beaten 39 Bde's No 3 and **Sgt Chris Allen** had beaten **Maj Meagher** their No 2. **Maj Carter** was eventually beaten by **Sgt Hutton** after another hard fought contest and a very happy 8 Bde team trekked its way back to Londonderry.

8 BDE GIVE THEIR COMMANDER A ROCKET
The Commander, Brig David Houston, being escorted by Maj John White, KOSB and members of D & E Pl, on his departure from Bde HQ

FAREWELL TO THE COMMANDER

On September 25, 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn said farewell to **Brig David Houston.** He was escorted from the Headquarters in a specially constructed rocket in response to a remark he had made about how he wished to leave! He has the most sincere best wishes from all ranks in 8 Bde for his new appointment.

We welcome **Brig Brian Webster** as his successor.

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

ADVENTURE TRAINING—EX HOT FOOT 5

THIS exercise, we must admit, was only organised as an excuse to stock up with kippers; still, staff administration is part of our job.

An advance party set up a tented camp near Campbelltown in the Mull of Kintyre, and waited for the main party to arrive. The first party was one day late due to the vagaries of weather and operational requirements for the RAF but on their first day there was a quick swimming test in the loch, then, as light was failing, they were despatched for the rape and pillage of Campbelltown.

The group was then split up into three parties to take part in the following activities: abseiling by **Ranger Park,** loaned from 92 AYT, canoeing by **Lcpl Fisher** or pleasant, if wet and arduous, walks across the hills. **Sig Colin Brett** seemed willing to fling himself over the edge of the cliff at any time, if attached to a rope.

Exercise Long Day enabled soldiers to put into practice the skills that they had learned or revised during the previous four days. The maps were 13 years out of date, with lakes, houses and forests disappearing, appearing or just moving a couple of hundred metres. This threw a few people, aided and abetted by Forestry Commission personnel: 'This is the only track around here mate', it wasn't. Even so it was instructional. Streams and hills don't change, as shown by a fine piece of map reading by **Cpls Taff Clements** and **Andy Wilson.**

Time off allowed both types of Tartan to be purchased and two football teams played RAF Machrihanish. **Sig Tommy Taylor** and **Pte Paul Cartner** (RPC) both distinguished themselves.

After a week the parties changed over by courtesy of Sealink and a trip of some 250 miles by road and water to a destination which was only 69 miles NNE of the starting point. The programme for the second party was the same as the first, the extra day being used for a trip to Glasgow. First aid training came in useful for **Cpls Chas Rodgers** (RCT) and **Harry Gowan** when they arrived first on the scene of a very nasty road accident.

It was a short trip for some, too long for one or two, but all agreed it was a welcome change of scene from the streets of Belfast.

FIRST FIJIAN CHRISTENING IN N. IRELAND
Cpl and Mrs Cagilba of 39 Bde Sig Sqn proudly display baby Asena

ARRIVALS

We have welcomed the following into the Squadron: **Capt Burrows, Lt Grey, WO1 Wafforne** (RAOC), **Ssgt Gray** (RAOC), **Sgts Conway** and **Tierney, Cpls Lewis** (now Sgt), **Martin, Rodgers** (RCT) and **Tiplady, Lcpls Burgess, Davis, Hunt, McMahon, Swindells** (RPC), **Talbot** (RCT), **Wagairadovo** (RCT) and **Widdup, Sig Austin, Sig Skeoch** (now permanent), **DVRs Blackburn, Cannon, Hunter, Terry, Thompson** and **Vardy, Ptes Smith** and **Warner** (RAOC).

DEPARTURES

This month (or so) we have said farewell and thanks for all they have done to: **Capt MacLean** to join the crew of GB II en route to Sydney, Austrialia. **Lt Hounsell** on retirement and **WO1 Graves** (RAOC), **Ssgt Hawthorne** (RAOC), **Sgts Hamer** and **Watson, Cpls Chesterman** and **Lofts, Lcpls Allan** (RCT), **Illingworth, Kelly** (RCT) and **Wild** (RS), **Sig Baker** and **Campbell.**

233 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 801

OC	**Major M. P. Walker**
2IC & OC Comms TP	**Capt L. R. J. Tilson**
Admin Offr & OC Admin Tp	**Capt A. G. Stapleton**
SSM	**WO2 M. J. Hanlon**
OC Commencen Tp	**Capt (Tfc) J. W. Ankers**
OC Tech Tp	**Capt (ToT) A. J. Cook**
OC 'V' Tp	**Capt (Tfc) W. A. Littlejohn**
OC 'E' Tp	**Capt D. P. Howsall**
OC WRAC Signal Tp	**Lt R. A. Hewlett, WRAC**
OC NICAST	**WO2 (Supr R) D. J. T. Poole**
YofS	**WO1 (YoS) P. C. Gray**
FofS	**WO2 (FoS) W. P. Kent**
SQMS	**Ssgt S. Evans**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt G. Meredith**

SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS

WE were delighted and honoured to receive a visit in September from the **Rt Hon Merlyn Rees, MP,** Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The squadron is proud of its communication system and it was therefore exciting to hear that in his busy schedule he would find time to have a look round. Although the visit was short, it gave a good opportunity for him to see the complexity and extent of infrastructure of the communications now used at formation and command headquarters level in N Ireland type operations. The visit also gave him chance to meet the operators and technicians whose combined efforts make a vital contribution to the successful conduct of operations in the Province.

VISIT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR N. IRELAND
The Right Honourable Merlyn Rees about to bid farewell to OC Squadron, Major Mike Walker and WO2 (SSM) Martin Hanlon

ADMIN TROOP TAKE A BOW

Despite all attempts by the rest of the Squadron Admin Tp continues to flourish. The loss of the hitherto leader **(Capt Paddy Henry)** has not deterred the Troop, and his relief, **Capt Alf Stapleton** faces a formidable task in assuming the distinguished title.

The Fishing Club, composed largely of Admin Troop, has had several excursions lately, but strangely enough we do not hear many 'ones that got away' tales. Perhaps they only go for the beer!

Lately, some of the effort has been directed to the odd spot of painting and polishing prior to the FFR. **Sig Tony Hall** has excelled in his 'primary trade' of painter and decorator and deserves a pat on the back for his hard work. **Cpl 'Aitch' Epthorp,** our jack of all trades, supervised the labourers and used his DIY scrounging talents to contract a top for our special task trailer—it's amazing how much kit there is waiting just to be scrounged and usefully employed

Our happy band also includes the Chief Clerk, **Sgt Bill Winder** and his chorus line of girls—**Margaret, Lorna, Shelagh** and **Dorothy** and they cope remarkably well with the vast amount of verbiage which pours out. The girls were all AOL one Friday in August—attending **Shelagh's** wedding. Many congratulations to her and **Nick,** one of our 152 Light RCT comrades. The MT, under **Sgt Norrie Baird,** perform miracles in keeping our small fleet of MT-owned, MT-maintained and MT-papered vehicles on the road despite all efforts by the users to get them VOR! Apart from that, they prove to be quite good with the 9mm pistol with 8–9 out of 10 hits at 25 metres—not all bulls, but close enough to deter anyone hanging around.

We are looking for volunteers in the trade of Cbt Dvr or Cbt Pmn—get your name on our waiting list before it's too late!

The Squadron Commander **Maj Mike Walker** in a moment of weakness splashed out and bought a ship's bell for the 'Peake Inn'. This was suitably engraved in honour of all the hard work done by **Capt Paddy Henry** in making the club a success.

It was then pointed out that the bell should have a name and after much discussion **Capt Alf Stapleton** and **Bill Kent** decided on **'Old Henry'.** It is anticipated that its ring will in no way make up for the loss of Captain H's fine Ulster intonations and 'Cotton Pickin' adjectives.

SPORT

NICAST won the N Ireland Minor Units Cricket League Trophy, holding off a determined challenge from 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

A PROXY BOMB

IT is still hectic, demanding and interesting being a soldier in Northern Ireland. The campaign continues, despite the 'cease-fire', at its own pace. Only last week an RR detachment of our Comms Troop was located at a base that was given the attention of a 'proxy bomb'. No real damage and no casualties thank goodness. The power line to the detachment was severed and no tea could be brewed for hours. Our one-year-old Victor Tp has had its share of 'battle initiation'. Mortars, bombs and directed rifle fire have all been aimed their way—and missed. Amid all this excitement normal military affairs take their course. FFR was the September event. We managed to impress **Brig Campbell,** the inspecting officer, by flying him to the Divis Mountain Rebro site and giving him a splendid lunch there. Smart move that! The Brig, who is Chief of Staff, and **Col Gray,** the Col AQ, both from HQ Northern Ireland made a two pronged inspection. They were unanimous though in their praise of the Squadron's efforts.

EVERYONE GETS MARRIED HERE

Back to Victor Troop. It's positively incestuous the way the Tp members are marrying each other! Let me explain. There are six WRAC girls in the Tp and already **Pte Carol Whyte** has married **Cpl Sanderson, Pte Glenda Hall** is pledged to **Lcpl Malcolm Ball** and **Pte Alex Simpson** has said 'yes' to the temporarily bearded **Cpl Enefer.** To cap it all **Cpl Nallon** had a visit from his Dutch niece. **Lcpl Edwards** espied and wooed her—when they marry next year **Cpl Nallon** will become his uncle! On top of all this **Sig Tez Kelly** and **Lcpl Reynolds** have recently married (not to each other)! **Pte Liz Medcalf** is engaged to a 'donkey walloper' and **Cpl Pauline Swann** even married one on October 2—all this in a Tp of 24!

If we have any orphans left in the Corps perhaps NI is the posting for them? Good luck to them all—they will certainly not forget this posting.

Tech Tp has pulled a fast one on **SSM Martin Hanlon.** They have actually built a workshop around his office! The SSM is now liable to put you on a 1045 if you contravene any EMER.

By the time these notes are published it will be nearly Christmas—so thinking ahead a very Merry Christmas to you all!

ARRIVALS

We welcome: **Sgts Denton, Hadrick, Shorter, Thomas, Sgt Willmott, Cpls Lawson, Mather, Savage, Thomas, Topping, Wotherspoon, Lcpls Comber, Ede, Ellis, Scot, Sigs Bennett, Donan, Johnston, McManus, Neale, Taylor and Williams.**

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and bon voyage to: **WO2 Slater, Sgt Sandham, Cpls Cowton, Hutchison, Phipps, Trembeth, Lcpls Isles, Murray, Pearson, Whitsmith, Sigs Gillham and Hart.**

MARRIAGES

Cpl Davey to **Miss Linda Bennett** and **Sig Kelly** to **Miss Ann Korobczyc**—our best wishes for your future.

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No Grouse on the 12th !
A shock for those on the grouse moors but a smile on our faces if your notes arrive with us each month by this date

—News from Headquarters—

Royal Signals HQ Afnorth

APOLOGIA

IT is over a year since we graced these columns, but material has been scanty. However, our correspondent in Terminal, **Sgt 'Mac' MacDonald,** reminds us that all has not been quiet and his report is included below.

Dirty Deed in the Tunnel

Most of us, work in a bunker connected to the outside world by a long tunnel. **Sgt Mick Eval the Kneval VARVEL,** preparing no doubt for a second career as a film stunt man, attempted to ricochet off the wall with our one battery operated truck. Outcome several days rest in hospital and a plaster cast that means much hobbling on crutches to cries of 'it'll strengthen you arms for the skiing season' (which should just about be on us when these notes are printed).

The Year's Best Saying

—or how to lose influential friends. As forecast in our last notes our RQMS **WO2 Bill Kerr,** got his rooty gong and had a party to celebrate. The presenting officer was a Very Senior Gunner Indeed FSGI. Ah, **Mr Kerr,** I see from your citation that although you have served as a rear link operator with 12 different infantry battalions you have never served with the Gunners. Why is that?
RQMS. 'Too far back Sir' (now potential Lcpl).

Luck of the Draw

Sgt Davie Clark bought five tickets in the SNCO monthly raffle and won a cassette recorder. Deciding to be generous he bought 25 tickets next time and, yes, won a portable TV. **Sgt 'Bunny' Rolfe** also won a prize in the Diving Club raffle and in that biggest swindle of them all—the AG11 officers posting plot—**Maj Bob Savage** is rumoured to have won a prize post to Cyprus to round off this Oslo trip!

Corps Day

This year we celebrated Corps Day with a disco/supper and we were very pleased to have two members of our senior Allied Corps, the Royal Canadian Signals, as our guests. **Col Peter Sutton** and **Chief WO Roy Goodwin,** seemed, like everyone else, to enjoy themselves. Next year we hope to expand the function. Is the Corps Band spare?

Hatches

To **Sgt** and **Mrs Brian Rolfe**—a boy.
To **Lcpl** and **Mrs Tony O'Kell**—a boy. Father is doing poorly on UK leave at the moment.

Despatches

We have said farewell to **WO's2 Tony Hewitt** and **Bob Burgess, Sgts John Walker** and **Brian Cudd** and **Cpls Ian Bramham** and **Ches Thomasson** (the latter has left his Danish wife so he'll be back).
We have welcomed **WO's2 John Roberts, George Sheperd, Sgt John Sharp** and **Cpl John Clare.**

Ski Shoot

Your scribe may be on his way to Cyprus by the time the ski shoot arrives in mid Feb but his last act will be to detail off a volunteer to give the Wire a fall by fall summary of our annual athletic event.
Until then—Ha det!

Implementation Team, Project Wavell/Bates, Fort Halstead

AS this small unit has never appeared in THE WIRE, it is time we were well and truly placed on the map.

Project **Wavell/Bates** (Implementation Team) is based at Fort Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent. We are a mixed bunch, with representatives from Royal Signals, RAOC, 14/20th Hussars, US Army Signals Corps and the RA.

The team is commanded by **Lt Col Tony Daw,** RAOC GSO 1 (W).

Representing the Corps we have: **Maj Ron Clayton** GSO 2 (W). **Ron,** when not chasing off all over the world, spends most of his time at Plessey, Slough, Bucks. He always appears extremely busy, but nobody really knows exactly what he does. **Maj Brian Postlethwaite** GSO 2 (W). **Brian** must have thought **Ron Clayton** had a good thing going, for he quickly followed his example, and is now only an occasional visitor to the Fort. **WO2 (Y of S) Terry Mack. Terry** is our programmer and spends many hours in his office writing computer programs, and then spends many days jumping for joy when his program actually works. **Ssgt Tony Claffey. Tony** is our current MOD 1 'Computer King'. He works in close harmoney(?) with civilian staff at the Fort, and he is full of praise for computers. He is often heard muttering eloquent phrases such as 'The damned thing has crashed again'.

Supporting the Corps are, **Maj Brian Short,** RA. Let's hope his gunnery is better than his darts. **Maj Roy Sinclair,** RA, **Maj Henry Joynson,** 14/20 Hussars, who spends all his free time collecting antiques, **Maj Bill Wahl,** US Army Signal Corps, who threw everyone into confusion when he stated he wanted 'Cream' in his coffee. The admin side of the team is efficiently led by **Sgt Doug Boshier,** RAOC, ably assisted by **Cpl Phil Jeffery,** RAOC. Another RAOC 'wallah' is **Sgt Phil Morris** who is at present learning to program computers.

We have recently lost on posting, **Maj David Mitchell** and **Capt Don Overton,** both of the Corps. We wish them well in their new posts, 13 Sig Regt and RMCS respectively.

The work undertaken by the team is totally different from that met by most of us before, but all members of the team find it both challenging and interesting.

Now that we have been placed on the map as regards THE WIRE, I hope that through its pages, we stay there.

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY for the Summer Term 1975 was held on Thursday, July 31. As the Commandant was later to tell the visitors, the term had been shortened to 13 weeks to enable 1,100 of those involved in the presentation of 'Armex' to be accommodated at the College.

THE PARADE

It is a strange experience for your correspondent to record that the weather was pleasantly cool: during one at least of the rehearsals our not-so-tame meteorologist had estimated the temperature on the square at over 100 degrees.

All therefore went well under the eagle eye and stentorian voice of **AT Steve Baldwin,** 18, a Radio Relay Technician from Wigan, who was later congratulated by the Reviewing Officer, **Maj Gen G. de E. Collin,** GOC North East District.

INSPECTION
The Reviewing Officer inspects the Senior Squadron while the Commandant looks on and 'Colonel Johnny', College mascot, looks to his front

The only tinge of sadness in the day was that it would be the last such occasion for the Commandant, **Col Gordon Neilson,** who is retiring unexpectedly early from the Army, having been with us for only just over a year. He will be much missed—and not only by the College.

During the parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 C. E. A. Howells,** R Signals, **Ssgt E. Davenport,** R Signals, **Pipe Maj A. S. Cross,** QO Hldrs, and **Sgt D. Jones,** ACC, all of whom are serving on the College staff.

PRIZEGIVING

At prizegiving, **Col Neilson** reviewed, with his usual admirable conciseness, the term's events, highlighting the string of sporting successes reported in the last issue of THE WIRE, as well as the great amount of charitable work quietly done by the College. The marathon runners of Bradley Squadron, for instance, under the inspiration of the tireless (ageless?) **Ssgt Harry Escott,** had raised £300 by running 234 miles in 24 hours. Our high-horse and log teams had been prominent at many a local charity fete. **Col Neilson's** advice to the Senior Squadron was also creditably erse: 'Don't switch off now'.

Maj Gen Collin is another not addicted to long speeches. Clearly he was well aware that 'it is the penalty of the Reviewing Officer that he must make a speech; it is the penalty of the visitors that they must listen to it.' He said of those who had 'chosen to be British soldiers' that they were 'recognised world-wide as being second to none'. Amongst their greatest attributes were professional skill, good humour, flexibility, kindness and compassion. His advice was that, with alternative courses of action, one should choose the harder: 'You will be happier and better for it in the long run'.

Prizes were presented as follows:

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD (for the best all-round Apprentice of the Term). Won by **AT SSM T. J. McEwan.**

COMMANDANT'S PRIZE (for conduct, discipline and example). Won by **AT RSM S. Baldwin.**

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE (for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College). Won by **AT Cpl A. R. Watson.**

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE (for the best Apprentice of the Term in each trade).

TECHNICIANS—Terminal Equipment. Won by **AT Cpl A. R. Watson.** Radio. Won by **AT SSM T. J. McEwan.**

PROUD MOMENT
Maj Gen G. de E. Collin presents the Commandant's Prize to A/T RSM Steve Baldwin

TELEGRAPHISTS—Data. Won by **AT A. M. Jenkins.** Radio. Won by **AT R. M. Pemberton.** Special. Won by **AT D. A. Craig.**

THE WESSEX TROPHY (presented by the Bristol Branch, Royal Signals Association, and awarded to the best all-round Apprentice from the West Country). Won by **AT Cpl P. W. J. Staynings.**

EDUCATION PRIZES (for the best academic progress during their time at the College). TECHNICIANS. Won by **AT D. R. Stimpson.** TELEGRAPHISTS. Won by **AT Cpl S. Palfreyman.**

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZES (for the best essay on local Government). TECHNICIANS. Won jointly by **AT J. R. Middleton** and **AT I. Tepielow.** TELEGRAPHISTS. Won by **AT Lcpl I. R. Bishop.**

COMMUNITY SHIELD (for the Squadron giving the most aid to the local community in the past year). Won by **Bradley Squadron.**

CHAMPION SQUADRON CUP. Won by **Penney Squadron.**

News from Regiments

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

OSCAR POTPOURRI

THREE Squadron is commanded by **Maj Owen Richards,** Royal Australian Signals. This could explain the 'Strine' dictionary on **WO2 (SSM) 'Chippie' Wood's** desk. The other ingredients for a well organised (?) SHQ are provided by **Sgt Don 'The dentist's friend' Douglas, Cpl 'Not more work' Jepson** and **Sig Johnny 'Where's my gun' Boyle.**

In the field we supply one of the Corps Comheads. However, off duty, we can turn our hands to a variety of tasks. For example, should you require advice on how to fall out of a plane you could call on **Cpl Pete McIlveney** and **Sig Roger Lawton**—our resident free fall experts. On the other hand if you prefer ascending to descending **Sig George 'Geordie' Rowley** is a dab hand on a rock face. But if air and land do not take your fancy then **Sig Dave Phillips,** fresh from a sub-aqua expedition off (or is it under?) the coast of Holland might be able to help you.

However, not everything we turn our hands to is so difficult or diverse. In Holland recently it was discovered that the Squadron was camped near a nudist beach. Initial shyness soon gave way to a bold front, all over sunburn and sore eyes.

Finally, a word about recent departures. These include our SQMS, **Ssgt Ron Upton** who is off to Aberdeen OTC on promotion, and **Cpls Stewart French** and **Brian Appleyard.** We shall also be saying farewell, shortly, to **Sgt 'Biff' Bailey** and **Cpl Brian Hughes. Brian** is posted to Catterick to attend a upgrading course after getting a much coveted grade 'A' pass in his T1 entrance exam. We wish them all well for the future.

WINTER SPORTS

Cricket bats have had a last coat of linseed oil and tennis rackets have been put back in their presses. Yes, rugby, hockey, cross country and football are upon us again.

The cross country team are undergoing strenuous training. The Adjutant, **Capt Richard Farrimond** can vouch for that. **WO2 (SSM) 'Mac' MacKenzie** is giving the football team a hard time which, so far, had resulted in a good win over 2nd Division Signal Regiment. **Capt (Tfc) Peter Brown** is putting his hockey squad through their paces whilst the rugby team, captained again by **Ssgt (FoS) Keith Zoing** has started the season by retaining the Double Diamond Trophy. The Rugby Club also fulfilled 1st and 2nd XV fixtures against 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. The first team won 33—3 whilst the second team won 54—0, with **2Lt Keith Pritchard** and **Sig Stevie Lodge** starring.

BITS 'N PIECES FROM PAPA TROOP

(Heard at a troop swimming practice.)

"Two lengths of the pool . . . GO!"

'But I can't swim.'

'No problem. Just wait until you hit the bottom . . . and run like hell!'

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

SHOOTING

The season started quite successfully in May when the Regiment came 10th in the North East District Skill-at-Arms Meeting.

In group one of the Rifle Match the team consisting of **Lt Derek Rutherford** (Team Captain), **Ssgt (Reg) Parnell, Sgt Derek Bassford, Sgt Chris Laughlin,** and **Cpl Chris Furby** came third to the two Infantry Regiments stationed in Catterick.

The SMG Team went one better and won their group with **Cpl 'Chris' Furby** winning the Individual Prize with a top score of 123. More practice on the Section Match and the team could have greatly improved their position from eleventh as the scores of the top teams were very close.

The LMG Team, **Cpl Bill Gemmell** and **Sig Michael O'Brien** came unstuck in their match when a major stoppage at the 500 yd point wrecked the team's chances of coming higher than 10th. The two reserves **Sig Howard Coe** and **Robin Lister** trained hard with the team and although they did not fire in any of the matches their training will benefit their next Regiments.

We were unable to release a full team to go to the Corps on Bisley Meetings, but three individuals, **Ssgt Reg Parnell, Sgt Laughlin** and **Cpl Furby** managed to find the time to go there. Although they did not win any individual major prizes they did succeed in getting a handful of medals and honours.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM
Back row: Sergeant Laughlin, Signalman Lester, Signalman Coe, Corporal Gemmell, Signalman O'Brien, Lieutenant Rutherford (Team Captain)
Front row: Corporal Furby, Colonel D. G. Cattermull, Major Lenthall, O.I.C. Shooting, Staff-Sergeant Parnell, Posted: Sergeant Bassford

EXERCISE HOT FEET

The weekend August 8–10 saw 3 Squadron on weekend training. By way of a change they decided to 'do' the Three Peaks of Pen-y-Ghent 2273 ft, Whereside 2419 ft, Ingleborough 2373 ft. The distance to be covered was approximately 22½ miles. The exercise was organised as a competition with each section starting with a hundred points and having points deducted for men dropping out and time taken over ten hours.

The winning section consisted of **Cpl Palmer, Cpl McTernon, Cpl Pickering, Sig Sayers, Verrall, Ackers, Priestly,** who won with a score of 96⅝ points and an overall time of 10 hrs 10 mins. The prize of a crate of beer was donated by Newcastle Breweries.

Of special note is Mr **Jack Barraclough** who as deputy to **Capt George Hayes** is a civilian attached to 3 Squadron. **Mr Barraclough** left the Fleet Air Arm and joined the Corps in 1950. As a veteran walker he is no newcomer to marathons. Having complete the Fellsmen Hike (55 miles), the Lyke Wake Walk (42 miles) once, and the Three Peaks a previous three times, he found this time 'a piece of cake'.

GOLF

The Regiment won the North East District Cup by beating 11 Signal Regiment. Our solid team of **Maj Bernard Hodgson, RQMS John Harvey, F o S Colin Smith** and **Ssgt Paddy Kavanagh** now are ready for the Army Challenge Cup at Tidworth. Victorious news later we hope.

FAREWELL

From Radio Relay Group comes a farewell to **Capt (ToT) Norman Walker.** Seldom is it possible for 17 senior NCOs and civilian instructors to bid farewell to a group supervisor, a diplomat supreme, a gentleman, a perfectionist, a friend and leader all in one evening, but such was the occasion when a departure dinner was arranged in honour of the perfect boss, **Capt (ToT) Norman Walker** and his wife **Eileen** on his posting to Edinburgh from Radio Relay Group—Trrde Training School.

Though his tour with 8 Signal Regiment was only of one year's duration, all members of his instructional staff respected his qualities and the high standards he set to improve the role and knowledge of technicians and Combat Radiomen.

A keen and commendable golfer, he was presented by his understudy **WO2 (FoS) John Hill,** with a new putter—which he apparently needed. However, our loss is Edinburgh's gain and the Group, to a man, wish him every success in his new empire, new golf course and new garden—oh! By the way, thanks for the confidentials!

FAREWELL TO VIC IMPEY

IF we have not had the pleasure of your company over the last six months, it is worthy to note that even here in Catterick we have enjoyed one of the finest summers for many a year.

A quiet month for a change but we cannot let it pass without saying bon voyage to one of the stalwarts of the Corps.

We say farewell to **Lt Col Vic Impey** after 36 years service. He joined the Corps in May 1939 and, as an operator signals, saw active service in the Western Desert and Italy. He returned to the UK in 1944 with 7 Armoured Div to prepare for the second front Huddersfield for Line Technician Training.

LT COL C. V. IMPEY

Posted back to Italy, promoted Lcpl in 1946 (the departure of a million conscripts to civilian life had created the vacancy).

In 1947 **Sgt Impey** exchanged his battledress for 90 clothing coupons and a civvy suit but, a few months later, he rejoined the Corps and was posted to 1 Training Regt as an instructor.

F of S Impey, a product of No N F of S course in 1951, was commissioned TOT in January 1955 serving in UK, Germany, Cyprus, Aden and Hong Kong. He reached the pinnacle of his career when promoted Lt Col in April 1973.

The wanderlust still in his veins he is taking up an appointment as Chief Instructor (Engineering) with the Nigerian Army Signals.

May we say thank you, and to **Dorothy,** for your company. God bless and keep in touch.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

AND WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNG MEN GONE?

TO St Martin's Plain, every one. Well, nearly every one. This year's annual trek, for 'health reasons', to St Martin's Plain Camp, Folkestone, took place between August 31 and September 20. The 'Cure', prescribed by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col R. K. Nice,** was to 'work hard and play hard'. They certainly worked hard. The landlord of 'The Star' only 100 yds from the camp gates, viewed the nightly consumption of beer by our 'trained killers' with delight, and must have thought that prohibition was going to be declared the following day!

Strenuous play was devised by the **RSM, WO1 Jim McElvogue,** and refereed by **Sgts Pete Stanger, Bernie Burnett, Ian Perry** and **Cpls Geoff Ruffer** and **Taff Morgan.** Once the participants had recovered from the initial shock of being turned out at 0615 hrs in the morining to perform physical cavorts, known as PT, they settled down and really enjoyed themselves.

Life at camp was not without its lighter moments. During one of his visits, the CO asked **Lcpl Pete Jones** if he was enjoying his week at camp, and received the prompt reply: 'It's great if you have a sense of humour, sir'. Or, the voice from the ranks during early morning PT, 'I didn't know there were two 6 o'clocks in the day'.

Most afternoons were spent trying not to get wet. Sailing, canoeing and assault craft training were the main pursuits. Sailing in Dover Harbour was under the expert instruction of **Maj Frank Brandreth.** The joys of canoeing were extolled by **Capt Richard Harrison**—it is reported that **Sig Mike Wilks, Buck Buckley** and **Tony Levy** actually managed to keep their canoes upright—most of the time! **Sgt Burnett,** assault craft instructor, promoted himself to 'Commodore' when **Lcpl Jock McLean,** camp MT NCO, in a moment of weakness let slip that in previous service with the Royal Engineers, he had handled assault craft.

The spirit of competition thrived, as soccer, basketball and volleyball competitions went on well into the evenings. Fortunately the weather was kind to us, allowing a full programme.

The officers and seniors were not allowed to be forgotten. All, or most, under the mystical age of 40 joined the camp to do their thing and recapture their youth on the range and with the Battle Efficiency tests.

At the end of a week's stay at the camp, those that were able, sprinted off to their various 'hidey-holes' refreshed and invigorated not for one moment considering a transfer to the infantry!

Special mention is required for the 'Best Soldier' of each week. The laurels went to **Sig Douglas Brooker, 'Bunny' Rabbets** and **Keith McKenzie.**

On September 18 we were honoured by a visit from the Commander, 2 Sig Group, **Brig P. A. C. Baldwin,** who toured the military and adventurous training sessions. En route he demonstrated that he is no mean hand with the pistol and sub-machine gun.

For those with the 'Bruno' Regiment, next summer your free package holiday is already booked.

HIGH JINKS AT WILTON

1 Sqn will certainly miss **Sgt Cath Ledgard** when she is demobbed on November 7, if not for anything else but for the shows she has produced each year for the WRAC Benevolent Fund.

This year's show once again proved to be a grand success. In the night club atmosphere of the NAAFI, 'Bunny Girl' waitress service was provided by **Ptes Lyn Roosendaal, Catherine Parks, Jackie Connor, Beverley Davies** and **Linda Avery.** There were many acts, some of which deserve special mention.

There was **Pte Mandy Baker,** the lightning Stripper—those who blinked missed her! **Pte Annette McDonnell** sang in the style of a well-known singer, sexy but flat. She was accompanied by the 'Drink Alots' **(Cpl Jan Carpenter, Lcpls Sue Kavanagh, Pam Starkie** and **Chris Partington**—just as flat but very happy! Thanks to **WO2 Carol 'Drums' Holland** and **Sgt Cath 'Piano' Corrigan,** WRAC recruiters for most of the music, and to **Ssgt Bill Gorrie,** RAOC, who provided the rest with his guitar. **Ssgt Sue Taylor** ran the bar and **Sgt Bobbie Richardson** was Master of Ceremonies. The cabaret was well supported and the WRAC Benevolent Fund was increased by £45.

2 SQUADRON GOES WATER SKIING

For the first time ever the World Water Ski Championships were held in the United Kingdom at the Thorpe Water Park, Egham, Surrey, during the first week of September. The event, a spectacular display of skill and speed, was hosted by the Princess Water Ski Club. Both Radio and SWS Troops were committed to providing the control communications and the public address system, at the same time meeting many of the stars and having a grandstand view of the whole affair—it was pure chance which caused the 'Royal Signals' display to be just in front of the television cameras!

As a mark of their appreciation and in the hope of picking up a few tips, The Princess Water Ski Club invited the members of Radio Troop to demonstrate how the sport should really be performed. **Yeoman Alex McArthur, Sig Tony Levy, Donny Donnegan, Sam Burke, Paddy Johnston** and **Wally Wallace** offered their services and demonstrated some interesting new techniques.

3 SQN

WO2 Maggie McKechnie was the centre of attraction this month. On September 20 she married **Sgt Alan Ladd,** REME, at St Andrew's Church, Aldershot. Fresh from her honeymoon, she was presented with her Warrant by **Capt Wendy le Gassick.** An eventful few weeks for **Maggie.** Marriage and career are both doing well!

We welcome our new SSM, **Carole Austin. SSM Ann Ramsden** has been posted to the WRAC College. Camberley (for the third time—there's no rest for the wicked!). We wish her good luck, and may her sense of humour last for ever.

11 Sig Regt,
Catterick Garrison

CATTERICK ROSES

THE 'Catterick Roses' held a highly successful fashion show on September 18. The very glamorous models all belong to the 'Catterick Roses'. Reading from left to right in our photograph they are: **Heather Whiffen, Irene Beckett, Margaret Guiney, Margaret Whiffen, Uschi Watson, Kathleen Hooks, Doreen Bonser, Margaret Howker, Tina and Sheila Hunt, Jackie Hall, Katrina Stanners,** out of the photograph **Penny Cuerden.**

THE CATTERICK ROSES (see names in text)

I SQN

After a somewhat staggered leave period during August, due to the assistance given at Ouston during the setting up of the Junior Signalmen Sqns, 1 Sqn began full training again in earnest on September 1, 1975. This culminated into a successful double

(Continued on page 385)

(Continued from page 384)

Pass Off day on September 19, with **Col C. B. Masser,** Col GS Signals 32, being the inspecting officer for both a Regular and a TAVR parade. Fortunately, the weather just about held out during the day as we watched 3 Tp commanded by **Lt Mike Stanners** assisted by **Sgt Ray Bennett, Cpl Jock Cain,** and **Cpl Bill Kershaw,** pass off in the morning and 5 TAVR Tp commanded by **Lt Martin Strong and** assisted by **Sgt Ray Crook, Cpl Tom Boddison, Cpl Gordon Air** and **Cpl Ian Fraser** in the afternoon. Well over 100 parents turned out for the morning parade. However, how long this good turn out will last as the renowned winter fogs of Catterick descend, remains to be seen!

Congratulations to **Sig Trevor Bradley** for winning the prize of best recruit and to **Sig John O'Donnell** for winning best rifle shot. Well done.

Sgt Ray Crook having spent 15 days of training with the TAVR Tp expressed a very favourable report. At first, he viewed his change of role from a regular recruit Tp to a TAVR Tp with horror, having visions of coping with long-haired civilians. However, when the course assembled, not only was he pleasantly surprised to find that most of them had had haircuts, but he was also very impressed by their enthusiasm. The 15 days of training passed quickly with **Cpls Ian Fraser, Tom Boddison** and **Gordon Air** teaching a wide range of subjects. The one-day exercise proved to be amusing for the cadre as they watched the uninitiated struggle to feed themselves on a 24-hours man pack.

The best recruit was **Sig Bourke** of 33 Sig Regt (V) and the best shot was **Sig Farmer** of 36 Sig Regt (V). The cadre were delighted at the success of the Pass Off Parade, and now look forward to a posting to a TAVR unit somewhere in the outposts of the Empire!

Visits to the Sqn Office are expected to increase as we welcome **2/Lt Philippa Roberts** WRAC as our Admin Officer. She already had an 'introduction' to the Sqn when the OC, **Maj Peter Todd,** took her on an inspection of the Tp Lines. Those readers who have visited or lived in the Sqn accommodation will understand why she only visited 'selected' rooms.

2 SQN

At the moment we are rather busy with courses, namely RSSSC 103/104, RSDCC 88 and Technicians course No 12. Joining us right in the middle of all this hectic activity is **Capt Henry Jennings** and **Cpl Pete Wonderling.** We wish them and their families a happy and successful tour with the Sqdn.

Promotion was in the air in early September. This time in the form of a third pip for **Lt Keith Butler,** RAEC, who was heard to mutter 'Not before time'. Sincere and hearty congratulations from all the squadron.

LAMENT FROM RSSSC 103/104

Two things of great note have taken place in Catterick this year, the first, the visit of Her Majesty The Queen, the second, the arrival of RSSSC 103/104. The days following our arrival leave memories of casual strolls around Helles Square under the gentle supervision of **Ssgt Paddy Lavery** and include the sensations of service funds and Q accounts and the knowledge that screams and insane laughter after midnight meant that one of our band had finished his first line totals.

All too soon our peaceful memories were shattered with the arrival of Warcop, 104 loaded their 'rain cloud' and 103s resident doctor (Witch) **Sgt Jim Nichols** went along for the ride. There is no truth whatsoever in the rumour that **Sgt Tony Hornby** tried to swim back to camp or that **Sgt 'Witchdoctor' Nichols** was seen skin diving for a practice grenade. **Sgt Parny Pottinger** did, however, show great form in his bikini. After Warcop the days sped by, till at last we were able to say fare-thee-well to 11 Sig Regt and whistling our 'Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head', we went our weary ways.

The WIRE–

Without it–

You're not With it!

14 Sig Regt Worcester

WORDS MAY BE FALSE AND FULL OF ART

'HOW about a trip to Norfolk to see the Broads?' This question from **Capt Ron Abbott** received an instant affirmative from the members of A Troop and sparked off some enthusiastic preparation by his suave, urbane men about town. Optrex by the pint was stowed away whilst space was found for gallons of Brut and Denim. A D13 station's cabins proved ideal for transporting this veritable sea of Faberge preparations. Alas all too late our young hopefuls found that their troop commander is a master of innuendo, and, like his Tors in Devon, the Broads were not quite what they expected.

A somewhat spartan set up was organised at RAF Watton by **WO1 (F of S) Tim Southall. Sgt Taff Assender** took a crash Charles Atlas course and assisted in driving the antenna pickets into solid rock. Friends should now beware of kicking sand into his eyes, as he has no strength left for blinking. The detachment then switched on and left the set to do its thing, while they stoically endured all the rigours and privations of life on exercise. These consisted of living in the very palatial officers' mess now converted to sergeants' accommodation, using only slightly less luxurious airmens' rooms and enduring cuisine which would have sent Egon Ronay into raptures. Only the X-factor compensated for such arduous conditions. The detachment's galloping gourmand **Sig 'Fub' Williams** complained bitterly to the RAF cook sergeant that he could not possibly face two steaks—one would have to be sufficient. After a little cajoling he managed to force down the second one, but only, he assures me, in the interest of interservice relationships.

In Gibraltar our liaison team of **Cpl Andy Guest** and **Lcpl Tony Hodgson** managed an occasional visit to Commcen Gibraltar and report that the D13 was functioning perfectly on each occasion. This left them free to swap anecdotes with the rock apes, tour the upper galley, visit St Michael's Cave and generally make like tourists.

LITERARY DECAPITATION?

A recent letter from the Garrison Adjutant has given rise to speculation that either Nicholas Monsarrat has visited the Regiment and discovered another of his famous tribes, or, that Madame Guillotine has caressed a few necks. The letter was headed, 'Upkeep of gardens for headless families'. A case of being unable to see to cut the grass?

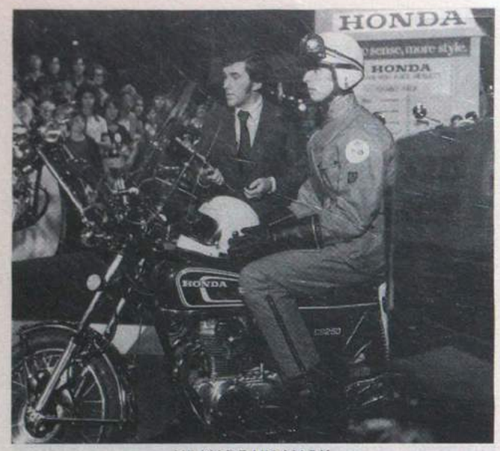
NOT INSCRUTABLE BUT MAINLY ORIENTAL

This was the situation found by **WO2 (F of S) Len Sant** and his D13 detachment when they reported for duty at the Earls Court Motor Cycle Show. The detachment set up a stand and provided a radio circuit to a detachment of 22nd Signal Regiment in BAOR. This gave the visitors the opportunity of examining a D13 station and talking via the keyboard to a motor cycling enthusiast with the station in St Tonis. It proved to be very popular and the organisers were extremely pleased with the results achieved.

Prior to the show commencing, Londoners were amused and entertained for two days at the crew's antics as they emulated the feats of Harold Lloyd, the Keystone Cops and Buster Keaton with improvisations of their own while endeavouring to erect their antennas on the roof of Earls Court. To the surprise of **Foreman Sant** this was eventually achieved without loss of life.

The stand proved to be a big attraction for the Dolly Birds from the Capitol Radio Stand. This, the crew insist with becoming modesty, was a tribute to their rugged masculine charm. **Sgt Terry Winsor,** however, reveals a much more mundane source of attraction: the crew had the only electric kettle and brew kit in the area. So much for male sex appeal.

The BBC TV programme 'Tonight', had the honour of screening the first appearance of the Regiment's answer to Twiggy, **Lcpl John Webb.** He was elected 'Male Model of the Year', and with very commendable panache modelled British motor cycle accessories while mounted on the ubiquitous Honda. His manager **Len 'Ten per Cent' Sant,** announces that his TV personality is available for bookings. **Lcpl John Webb** also celebrated his twentieth birthday during the show. This occasion was made memorable by the Dolly Girls from Capitol Radio producing a small cake complete with candles and gathering round the stand to sing 'Happy Birthday'.



HE MADE HIS MARK
LCpl John Webb, 14 Sig Regt's answer to Twiggy, models British motor cycle accessories on the BBC TV programme 'Tonight'

The detachment's answer to Lee Marvin, **WO2 (F of S) Len Sant,** also won a modicum of fame when he was interviewed by BFBS for a BAOR motoring show. This went out on radio, as the foreman is not as pretty as his Lcpl.

The recent spate of bombing scares resulted in some very harrowing experiences for members of the detachment. While searching suspicious bags, a number of the crew were bobby-trapped by jam sandwiches lurking in the murkey depths.

LIVELY INTERNMENT

A recent arrival approached his troop Ssgt 'Excuse me Staff, can I have time off to attend my cousin's funeral?' 'Your cousin's funeral?' 'Yes, he's my only living relative in this country'. There are no prizes for guessing his country of origin.

MORE EVIL THAN KNIEVIL

Having been inspired by the famous American dare-devil and his recent death-defying feat at Wembly, **Ssgt Des Ackers** decided to liven up the somewhat drab existence of the early morning Worcester commuters. With an ear splitting roar of power his Honda 70 sped past the double line of traffic fouled up in the interminable early morning traffic jam. All eyes were rivetted on the figure crouched low over the petrol tank reducing wind resistance to a minimum. With military precision and split second timing a van pulls out of a gap in the traffic then halts in the path of the speeding cyclist.

Without hesitation **Des** unleased like a steel spring and launched the bike in graceful flight. Like a bolt from a crossobow the bike sped with unerring precision for the critical spot in the centre of the vans side. The aim was obviously to burst straight through the van and land on the opposite side without unseating the rider.

The spectators gazed in awe with hand poised to applaud, a myriad of mouths were open in preparation for a tumultuous roar of appreciation, when the air was rent by an ear splitting, eye watering crunch. The bike's forward momentum ceased abruptly and **Des** continued for a split second longer before telescoping into the side of the van. Momentarily he hung there with an incredulous expression, reminiscent of Sylvester when thwarted by Sweetie Pie, before sliding gracefully to the road.

Slight miscalculation—he had chosen a van with solid sides. His left wrist was slightly buckled and by noon he was plastered. Rumour has it that he will remain plastered for the next five weeks or so.

His wife **Christine** showed real wifely solicitude and excellent training when she rang the Regiment from Worcester Royal Infirmary with a sitrep. When sympathy was given and the hope expressed that he would not find it too inconvenient she replied, 'He will, he won't be able to cast and he intended going fishing this weekend'. The lady obviously has a complete appreciation of her husband's order of priorities.

Staff is now open to offers for a Honda 70 with a number of unique features.

PLANET OF THE APES

I can only assume that the Rock Apes are getting prettier with every passing day. Two more members of the Regiment, **Sgt Keith Kennard** and **Lcpl John Webb** are at present hot foot for Gibraltar on board HMS *Andromeda* to pay them a flying visit.

TWINS IN HARMONY

A holiday with a difference has recently been enjoyed by **Sgt Bob Walkingshaw.** He volunteered to participate in an international work camp at Chelmsley Hospital, Marston Green, near Birmingham. The hospital is about half a mile from Marston Green and is the largest hospital in a group of mental subnormality hospitals administered by the Warwickshire Area Health Authority. It has a population of five hundred and fifty, many of whom are mentally retarded teenagers. Here he joined six young people from Birmingham and six from Birmingham's twin town of Lyons in France.

The objective of the camp was to assist in looking after the teenagers and provide a recreational programme for them. This covered such diverse activities as games, painting, dancing, music and trips to various places of interest. The aim in all activities was to encourage maximum participation on the part of the handicapped children.

Initially the biggest problem was for everyone to adjust and realise that the simple things in life appealed most to the children. Improvisation and enthusiasm proved to be far more important than expensive equipment, and physical contact was an important factor in all activities. Youths of 18 and 20 years of age need to be led by the hand and make a real personal contact with the activity organiser.

Sgt Walkingshaw found it a thoroughly rewarding and worthwhile experience and is hopeful that he will be able to participate in a similar camp schedule to be held in Lyons next year.

WINTER WONDERLAND

In an effort to ensure that the Regiment's happy happy holidays are perpetuated throughout the winter months **Maj Tony 'Hello Sailor' Seward** and **Capt Ron Abbott** have recently paid a flying visit to Norway. Their aim was to select a site which surpasses Sun Valley and all its facilities. One of our D13 detachments will reap the benefits of this very successful exploratory tour early in 1976.

On his return **Capt Abbott** sported a large plaster on his hand which, he insisted, concealed a wound inflicted by a cold water shark. 'A' Troop reveal that in fact it was a bite inflicted by a local dog (troop trained?) which was injected for rabies as a precautionary measure. They are delighted to report that the animal has apparently suffered no ill effects.

HE'S NOT CHEETAH

A recent swimming coaches' course has wrought an enormous change in our **ORQMS WO2 Frost.** During the course he spent so much time in the water that he seems to have decided that it is his natural habitat. He now spends all day swimming placidly round the office with his mouth opening and shutting.

He informs me that his aquatic prowess is now far superior to Mark Spitz. However, his actions lead me to believe that he has mixed up both his Olympic Champions and the set dialogue: he insists on telling his clerical assistant **Miss Shelia Reid,** 'You Tarzan, Me Jane'. I feel that only a fish could make such a mistake.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

CYCLING CLUB—A NEW AND SUCCESSFUL VENTURE

THE Regimental Cycling Club was formed at the beginning of the year when a group of 'would-be-bikies' persuaded **Capt John Thewlis** to act as head man and mouthpiece. The idea of the club was to partake in both racing and touring and, to date, we have been successful in both.

On the touring side the big event of the year was a trip from Lippstadt to the Dutch border, by the coast, and then a ride along the North German coastline to the Danish border, along the border to the Baltic and then down the Baltic coast to Eckernforde to meet with 1 Sqn on their summer camp.

The party consisted of **Capt John Thewlis, Cpl John Thorpe, Cpl 'Smudge' Smith, Lcpl Bill Pirie, Lcpl Steve Ballance, Sig Trevor Morris, Sig Duncan 'Jacko' Jackson** and **Sig Geoff Baines,** ably assisted by ¾-ton Rover crewed by two Scottish Nationalists, **Lcpl 'Andy' Anderson** and **Aig Billy Carswell.**

We set out on Sunday, July 20 and set a moderate pace to Tecklenberg, south-west of Osnabruck, where we were faced with

CYCLISTS AT THE START OF THEIR TOUR
Left to right: Capt Thewlis, Sig Jackson, Cpl Smith, Lcpl Pirie, Lcpl Anderson, Sig Carswell

a stiff climb to the top of the Teutoberger Wald. Having spent a convivial evening in the camp site Gasthaus, replacing lost fluid, and having slept like logs we reaped the benefit of the long climb the following day, hardly having to turn a pedal for the first five miles. That evening we camped along side the Dortmund-Ems canal at Meppen where we played a game of football against a Dutch team from the same camp site. The football was distinguished only by the referee who was a nubile young Dutch girl with an unnerving body swerve whose First Aid treatment consisted of throwing a bucket of canal water over soldiers writhing on the ground with simulated cramp in the thigh. The final result was an 8 all draw and a few bruises.

Day 3 was the start of the monsoon season in North Germany and the last 20 miles to Emden, our destination, were into a stiff headwind and heavy rain. On arriving we found that the nearest camp site was another 20 kms further. Tired and wet, we made it as dusk fell only to be told to leave after a camp site resident complained about our No 1 burner. Luckily we found sanctuary on a nearby farm.

The next day, distinguished only by thunderstorms, took us to Voslapp, a suburb of Wilhelmshaven. Then followed Black Thursday.

Heavy thunderstorms delayed our start but, apart from several soakings all went well until the outskirts of Nordenham, hear Bremerhaven, where we had our first puncture of the trip. Shortly after **Geoff Baines** missed a kink in the cycle path and took a tumble and then, 5 kms later, rode into a lamp-post (!) and bent his front forks. Luckily he was unhurt and judicious application of a boot succeeded in straightening the forks. Further misfortune was at hand and a heavy storm in Bremerhaven caused a five-man pile-up on a level crossing which resulted in buckled wheels for **Capt Thewlis** and **Trevor Morris.** Amazingly no one was hurt and it was a grateful party of cyclists who camped that night. The following day, after some frantic repair work, we took a gentle ride to Cuxhaven and caught the Elbe ferry to Brunsbuttel where a rest day was declared. While the cyclists gave their machines thorough overhauls our back up crew took advantage of the rest to teach the locals the old Scottish tradition of hanging on to a bar by the teeth. Progress from Brunsbuttel was slower than expected as we had to battle into a strong headwind and flat country with no hedges made the going particularly hard. On the second day we made the Danish border, tired but happy, and camped in the small village of Aventoft. Another rest day was declared to allow people to go to Denmark or Sylt. Our camp site here was on the playing field of the local school and we were allowed to use the school washing and toilet facilities and swimming pool. We played football again, this time against a team of local boys, and came off winners by 10 goals to 7.

We reluctantly left Aventoft after our rest day and headed for Schleswig. By now our days in the saddle were paying dividends and we covered 100 kms in less than 3½ hours cycling time before camping beside the inland sea at Schleswig. This left us with mere 20 kms to Eckernforde which we duly covered the following day. Here the party split, half staying to meet 1 Sqn summer camp advance party and the remainder taking the Rover back to Lippstadt.

By Rover the return journey was a mere six hours; but then, it took the direct route.

BAOR 25 MILE TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The trials and tribulations of the tour certainly paid dividends in the racing field. The BAOR '25' Championship was held at Munster on August 30 and the Regiment gained first, second and fourth places. **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** won the event, followed by **Cpl John Thorpe** with **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** -filling the fourth spot. We have high hopes of winning the BAOR 50-mile championship in September and next season looks very promising.

IT HAPPENED YESTERYEAR

Extracts from our Regimental Scrap Book:

April 1, 1967—**Maj J. S. Agar** (AG 11) visited the Regiment.

May 29, 1967—**Lt Col Beale's** farewell meeting with the Burgermeister of Lippstadt, at which he was presented with an inscribed plaque.

June 5, 1967—**Lt Col A. L. Dowell,** assumed Command of the Regiment.

November 9, 1967—**RQMS Ient** departed the Regiment on promotion to RSM.

January 6, 1968—**2Lts G. A. Carmichael, C. R. Crumball** and **G. H. Goodman** arrived in the Regiment on posting.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

RUMOUR has it that September did again exist this year after all, however, it does seem to us that those who blinked missed it. The whole Regiment has been busy classifying on the range, tackling the final PFT and PFA's and eating our biscuits and sipping our water in the gas chamber, plus the less entertaining aspects like preparing for our FFR inspection.

SPEARHEAD SQN

Their claim to fame in this edition is by being visited by the C in C UKLF **Gen Sir Roland Gibbs, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC.** He spent a pleasant afternoon inspecting the Sqn deployed on a typical Spearhead exercise.

Another activity keeping the Sqn busy was Exercise Pasha 5 which took place in the depths of Blandford Forest, a new venture playground for us. However, judging from the remarks from the men from 14 Sig Regt and our own, the exercise was a success. This was particularly due to the enormous blackberries which grew in profusion around the various detachments and also supplemented the compo with delicious blackberry pie. The competitive spirit came to the fore with the enemy infiltration phase of the exercise when the 'Seniors' set out at dusk to 'penetrate the defences'. The next morning the 'Seniors' were then shown the Iris and Tobias equipments that were used and knowing looks of disdain were noticed. However, life speeds onwards, HF Tp **(WO1 (Y of S) Henry Higgins Own)** are preparing to take to

THE SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS . . .
C in C UKLF Gen Sir Roland Gibbs, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC, being briefed by Cpl (now Sgt) Bob Hay in the Spearhead CommCen on Exercise Pasha 5. The CO Lt Col M. S. Jarrett and Sqn Comd Maj Warren Armstrong look on

SIGNALMEN 'FISH' HAMON AND NICK PHILLIPS ON PATROL ON EXERCISE PASHA 5

the air again and to fly to distant parts whilst the remainder of the squadron becomes fragmented to all parts of the UK on Exercise Inside Right.

2 TRAINING SQN

We soldier on preparing and running the classifying sessions and are trying to keep the Sqns up to their 40 minutes out of the 40 hours a week skills training minimum, for all men.

The Line Tp are seldom seen as they disappear in all directions supporting the other squadrons on exercise. **Maj Dick Hood** and his merry men of EW Tp are also on the move and we wonder when they are due to return to the fold, as do their very patient and understanding wives.

3 AMF(L) SQN—ADVENTURES IN TURKEY

3 Sqn has been off on its travels again, this time to Turkey to practise operating on NATO's southern flank.

The Sqn deployed by sea, taking seven sun-filled balmy days to arrive at Saros Bay in Turkey, **WO2 John Sydney** was so taken by the life at sea that he is now universally known as the Yeoman of Sailors. **Ssgt F of S Gavin Spearpoint** gained notoriety by wiping out all the scrabble opposition aboard, and our heavyweight troop tug of war team of **Cpl's Brian Roxburgh, David Thompson, Bob Hill** and **Sig Simon Rose** were both swift and sure in destroying every other team in sight.

However, all good things must come to an end and we exchanged the sedate restful sea voyage for the made helter skelter 'Chicken run' that is Turkeys principle highway. As one urbane German staff officer put it: 'There is no problem, the road is just like a German autobahn but driving the other way.' Traffic accidents were numerous and serious, we can only thank providence and some very nervous passenger/observers riding in the hot seat of right-hand drive vehicles that we escaped without serious incident. **Sig Jock Marshall,** the veteran Tp Commander's driver took some pleasure at showing the new Tp Commander, **Capt John Ambrose** the AMF(L) ropes.

Communications went well throughout the exercise, with the troop managing to produce a couple of unscheduled 'one off' links to satisfy an anxious information starved staff. International relations were, as ever, very good, though **Maj Peter Brunton,** is still wondering about the background to **Sig 'Tex' Saul's** swop of one 'hats floppy ridiculous' for a brand new American combat jacket complete with liner. Most of the troop are hoping the Americans don't manage to find any army surplus stores when they visit Salisbury Plain in November, it could mark the end of a happy trading relationship.

Cpl Mick Kenny lost some comms time on the RATT net eventually reappearing to report he had been struck by lightning. Since there had been no rain at all anywhere else on the exercise, let alone storms, this announcement was greeted with a certain scepticism by the powers that be. However, reliable technicians were despatched to the scene and reported that the detachment had indeed been struck. We have asked the padre to check through that crew's Regimental entries. We were visited on the exercise by **Col J. H. Hild** Comd 1 Signal Group and by the CO, **Lt Col M. S. Jarrett.** Both visits went well and we hope they were satisfied with what they saw (CO's note—they were) we entertained them in the field and it was reliably reported that our General was jealous of our senior officers' accommodation. Certainly our cook, **Lcpl John Thorpe** ACC excelled himself in producing some excellent meals at some fairly odd times.

Next month we voyage fearlessly to Imber village on Salisbury Training Area (West), new territory for AMF(L). Then early in the new year, we donn our Arctic kit and return to the more familiar NATO northern flank. Anyone for winter sports let us know quickly!

News from Squadrons

4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

THE SUMMER 'BREAK'

THE summer months in BAOR traditionally provide a break in the seemingly endless series of exercises which appear to fill the rest of the year. In practice, with summer camps, summer sporting activities, and the need to fit in leave for the majority of the Sqn, most diaries are as full in summer as they are for the rest of the year. Summer 1975 was no exception.

FAREWELL TO WO1 (RSM) WELLS

At their major social event of the summer the Warrant Officers and Sergeants said goodbye to **RSM Ivor** and **Mrs June Wells** at a formal dinner dance. **Mr Wells** had the Mess in uproar with his party piece—those present now know all about the Paras! After dinner the RSM was escorted from the mess on a real live Pegasus, accompanied by a silver-suited 'Jimmy' also on horseback. We wish him and his wife well in their new post at Sutton Coldfield. In their places we welcome **RSM Tom Guest** and his wife **Ann** from 24 Airptbl Bde HQ & Sig Sqn and wish them a happy and successful tour.

SUMMER CAMPS

Alpha Troop has had a very busy summer. In addition to providing individuals for service in Cyprus, Canada and Northern Ireland they took the opportunity to brush up their HF training in a series of sky wave exercises covering the length and breadth of BAOR. They opted to have two camps, the first of which was held on the island of Nordeney off the North German coast. During this they had a survival exercise which required them to live off the land (and sea) for some four days under the expert tuition and guidance of **Cpls Jack Ferguson** and **'Jig-ot' Kerr,** late of the Para Sig Sqn and the SAS respectively. All survived to take part in a second camp at Bad Swischenahn in the Ammerland where they threw themselves into a programme of PT, orienteering, boating, escape and evasion, and beating the locals at football.

A couple of extracts from a report written by **Sig Jed Monks** on the camp read: 'Day two. The day began with a reluctant motley squad running through a wood under the supervision of **Cpl Jack Ferguson.** Every now and then we would all jump about a bit. This was called PT but at 0700 hours many people gave it different names.'

'During the 10 miles bash points were awarded for appearance, turnout, marching, the cleanest feet, the best joke, the best song and the most original item from Bad Zwischenahn. All items except a speeding ticket and fine, somehow collected by **Cpl 'Smoothie' Lang,** were returned on orders of **Lt Donaghy.'**

Bravo Troop led by **Lt John Gareze,** enjoyed a similar camp on the banks of the Moselle. Again the villagers were beaten at football which made up for the local officials making the troop move its camp site on day two. Two members of the LAD, **Lcpl 'Jock' Hughes** and **Cfn 'Lunch' Richards** showed a straightforward, if novel, approach to orienteering. When asked why they had struggled in a straight line for five miles up and down one of the steepest valleys in the area **Cfn Richards** replied 'I followed the telegraph poles'.

TM Troop can claim to have had the most socially gracious camp. The report on the reconnaissance for the camp, containing numerous coloured photographs, read more like a travel brochure than a military document. Conducted largely as a private venture by **Sgts John Illingworth** and **Joe Murtagh** the camp in Holland proved to be a great success and much lager and cheese was rumoured to have been tasted.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

There has been a massive turnover at all levels in the Sqn too many changes to be listed here. However, special mention must be made of the departure from the army and squadron of our Quartermaster, **Maj Victor Sullivan** who joined the army before either the Squadron Commander and Brigade Major were born. We wish him farewell and good luck in civilian life.

6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 106

SUMMER CAMP

IN August, the first of two parties from the Sqn deployed to the Biggesee area of the Sauerland for its annual summer camp. It was only by coincidence that this should clash with a Schützenfest in nearby Olpe which attracted 20,000 people!

The Schützenfest, combined with an interesting training programme and constant sunshine, gave camp a flying start. Rock climbing, canoeing and 'The Trek' were run by **Cpl Pete Holder, Cpl Graham Twisse** and **Cpl Budgie Dann** respectively. There are no reports of any horrific experiences from the

ANNUAL CAMP—AT EASE
Left to right: Lcpl Jeff Allen, Cpl 'Budgie' Dann, Lcpl Colin Thompson, Cpl Jackie Smythe, Sig 'Yorky' Weston

rock-face or the Biggesee but the 45 km trek took its toll. The marchers had two days to complete the course with an overnight bivouac included. A combination of sunburn and blisters proved the biggest enemy as **Cpl Jim Highton, Lcpl 'Honker' Hancock** and **Lcpl Dick Walsh** can vouch.

An answer to the heat came in the form of a trip to the local Krombacher Brewery, which proved successful. In some cases it proved far too successful!

The camp was administratively run by the formidable combination of **Ssgt Harry Creedy** and **Sgt Dave Turner.** They made light of the hard work involved in running this most enjoyable exercise.

WO2 (Y OF S) D GALLAGHER

Y of S Gallacher receives a double congratulation; firstly, on his promotion on posting as WO1 to 28 (BR) Sig Regt Northag and secondly, on receiving the award of Mention in Despatches for service in Northern Ireland.

216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

SQUADRON OPEN DAY—THE FOUR MUSKETEERS
Left to right: Lcpl Norrie Clanachan, Lcpl Eddie Newton, Sig Kevin Malpass, Sig Graham Jones

OPEN DAY GOES WITH A SWING

WE returned fresh and re-vigorated from our August leave and swung straight into a Sqdn Open Day, With all the wives and friends lining the DZ at Hankley, we jumped in from a Hercules C130. A collection of sideshows and joyrides kept the interest of the younger spectators, while the remainder watched balloon descents using a new steerable parachute and a practical field condition demonstration of 'bashas', radio sets and how to cook an Airborne Stew! Our two VIP visitors were **Brig G. W. H. Howlett, OBE, MC,** Commander 16 Parachute Brigade and **Col J. H. Hild, MBE,** Commander 1 Signal Group. The weather stayed fair and everyone enjoyed themselves, even more so at the dinner and dance that evening.

Here are a few comments from **Mrs Carole Aitken** on her experiences during the Open Day.

'After signing my life away on an indemnity form, I was fitted out with two parachutes and an airborne helmet. I thought,

FOR RICHER, FOR POORER, YOU JUMP, I JUMP!
Lcpl Tommy Aitken and wife, Mrs. Carole Aitken

"great", a chance to get a little bit of that chilly feeling the boys say they get when, after a quiet ascent to 900ft they make their jumps. The ascent was as they said it would be, 'strangely quiet. But the silence was broken by the seemingly happy voice of the PJI who called the boys forward, one by one, for the 'Big E'. Sure enough, one by one they went to the door and disappeared from view. With each tug of their parachutes opening, my stomach seemed to rise another few feet. The PJI asked me (jokingly) if I wanted to jump. 'Yes', I answered, but I also told him I wouldn't because I didn't like to think of him left up there on his own (that's my excuse anyway, and I'm sticking to it!)'

NEWS FROM FRANCE

Herewith contents of a letter received from **Cpl Alan Jeannette,** on detachment to 1 (Gds) Indep Coy Para on their last fling in France:

'Dear Squadron,

A couple of lines to let you know the detachment is still in one piece. We are stationed in a small town called Carcasoore, some 600 miles south of Paris and 150 miles due east of Pau. The barracks are very primitive, dating back to 1724, though the accommodation block we are in has been modernised slightly. The locals are very hospitable, food is terrible and beer very expensive. Needless to say we are all looking forward to our home comforts.

The duration of our time has been taken up mainly with patrol exercises and field firing using the French weapons. **Tony Giles** and young **Sinclair** have been attached to one of the three troops and myself to Coy HQ. To date, we have completed three descents with the French Airborne from the C160. We have a final exercise tomorrow in which we do our fourth and final descent. The Bde Cmdr visited the Coy last week, completed one descent and awarded himself the French Wings! The Coy Comd on the same jump broke his leg! The French 'chute' is quite good, though the aircraft drills and DZ leave a lot to be desired.

That's all for now, see you soon'.

223 Sig Sqn, Winchester

SQUADRON	PERSONALITIES
OC	**Maj Alan Coates**
2IC	**Capt Sandy Lovatt**
QM	**Capt Robbie Burns**
Ops Offr	**Capt Alan Maxwell,** MBE
USO	**Capt Mike Dawkins**
Trg Offr	**Capt Simmy Nelson,** MBE
Admin Offr	**Lt Ken Sloane**
SSM	**WO2 Graham Adlington**
Chief Clerk	**Ssgt Brian Unwin**
F of S	**WO2 Bob Paton**
Y of S	**WO2 Reg Hazelgrove**

AS the long hot summer of '75 drew to a close, we wonder in the Sqn how we achieved so much with so few. The sporting life of the unit certainly swallowed large numbers of keep fit enthusiasts, throughout the season.

TENNIS

From the month of May our two Corps tennis players, **WO2 (SSM) Graham Adlington** and **Ssgt (SQMS) Ron Leech,** represented the Corps in various matches in the South of England and found time to coach novices. Their energy and patience was rewarded in June, when nine unit entries were accepted in the Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Competition 1975. **SSM Adlington** won the Mens Singles, Mens Doubles with **Lt Mike Podmore** from RMCS Shrivenham and Mixed Doubles with **Mrs Pat Coates.** Due to the success of our tennis players, **Lt Alistair Cumming, Sgt Angus Macrae, Lcpl Bob Reid** and **Lcpl Steve Stevenson** were subsequently selected to play for the Corps.

SHOOTING

Capt Simmy Nelson and his team of sharpshooters entered the Sedsam Rifle Meeting and the Royal Signals Skill at Arms Competition, narrowly missing in these events the District and Corps Minor Units Championship. However, they proudly brought home the coveted Royal Signals Association Cup. Later as one of the few Royal Signals Minor Units to qualify for Bisley, we won no unit trophies but collected several individual medals and a whole lot of experience.

GOLF

Capt Robbie Burns brushed up his golf between leave and courses and entered the Royal Signals Golf Meeting at Woking on September 2, 1975. He was our second corps sports winner and came away with two titles, the Single and Doubles (partnered by **Brig A. J. Jackson).** He also picked up some money in the sweep!

FISHING/CANOEING

WO2 (F of S) Bob Paton and his team of anglers rented the good ship 'Ellie May' to trawl the Solent and **Sgt Pat Murphy** and a team of canoeists traversed the white water stretch of the River Kennett.

FAMILIES' DAY AUGUST 3

After months of planning, coaxing and smooth talking, this event got off the ground with the kind assistance of *HMS Sultan,* School of Signals, 30 Sigs Regt, 10 Sig Regt, Engineers, Green Jackets, and many others who lent us fun fair and general equipment. The hottest day of the year but most enjoyable. The only problems were that the beer cooler failed and the ice cream melted.

SPONSORED WALK

In our last article we reported on the activities of Comcen Troop. On Saturday, September 13, **WO2 Graham Adlington, Ssgt (ORSQMS) 'Aggro' Unwin, Sgt Bill Clydesdale** (RAOC) and **Cpl Jean Thompson** WRAC, committed themselves to a 50-mile sponsored walk in 12 hours in aid of the Caterham bomb victims. Sponsors with 'tongue in cheek' thought they were fairly safe and gambled heavily! Our mixed bag of walkers surprised everyone. Strictly observed throughout the exercise they came back to camp in record time of 11 hours 35 minutes. The sum of £200 is being collected and will go to **Gdsmn Paul Thomas** who lost both his legs and an arm in the Caterham disaster, any money in excess of that amount will go into the general fund for the victims.

LOOKING AHEAD

As autumn approaches and our travellers begin to wade through their trays, we look back on a very good season, and look ahead to a lot of work and the autumn sport programme not forgetting the planning for the summer of 1976.

605 Sig Troop, R.A.F. Gan, B.F.P.O. 180

LEAVE OR 605 SIG TPS' AUTUMN HOLIDAYS

The new 'slimline and two stone lighter' **Cpl Tom Johnson** and **Cpl Nick Nicholson,** are having a break from this sun-drenched coral reef having gone to experience the night life of Hong Kong. Their return is eagerly awaited as the tales of their exploits will, no doubt, be somewhat colourful.

SIG NIGEL GRANT WRITES OF RADIO GAN

'You are tuned to Radio Gan, Broadcating on 1560KH, 192 metres in the medium waveband and 88MH VHF.'

I have been broadcasting on these frequencies for Radio Gan for over a year. Yes a 'Pongo' on the air.

It all started off in June 1974, when I used to help out in the Radio Gan Library late at night. I was asked by one of the RAF lads at the station if I would like to join them and help to broadcast shows. Four months later, after a lot of back-biting and rib digging, I joined and did my training. I was on the air. Within two months I had my own show called 'Cobweb Corner' in which I used to play all the oldies, especially for the foreman, going right back to the 50s and early 60s. Since then I have done several different shows and varied my type of music to suit all tastes.

Not only do I broadcast shows but I am also in charge of the training side of the station, this can be a very rewarding job at times. At other times, well that's another story.

Radio Gan may only be a small amateur 100 per cent voluntary service but it has a big following. We have even received cards from hams who have picked us up as far away as Sweden and South Africa. We even have regular listeners in the Gulf, India and Sri-Lanka, only the other day we received a card from a 14-year-old-ham in Japan giving details of the programmes he had heard us broadcasting.

The great thing about working on the station is that it takes up a fair amount of ones spare time. It keeps one active and 'off the street corners' and, of course, you get to meet people from other sections of the island who you would not normally meet

I could tell you more but time is against me, you see I've got a show tonight on RG. This is 'Nige P' (that's P for Pongo) signing off for now, see you again next month.

234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

MALTA SIG SQN SUCCESSFUL WATER POLO TEAM WITH TROPHIES

Left to right, back row: WO2 Moody, Sgt Mizzi, Sgt Farruma, WO2 (SSM) Lamerton, OC, Maj Hill, Sig Scibberas, Cpl Zammit, Cpl Xuereb
Front row: Sgt Janparys, Sgt Alburey, Lcpl Briffa, Lcpl Grixti, Cpl Mizzi

A MEMORABLE MONTH

SEPTEMBER will be recalled as a memorable month by virtue of three events. On September 9 the Sqn deployed 'to the field' for the summer training camp. Wednesday, September 10 saw the arrival of **Brig John Randle, OBE, MC, ADC** to start his farewell visit to the Sqn in his capacity of Brigadier Overseas Detachments, United Kingdom Land Forces. Finally on September 15 we welcomed to the island some 25 members of 506 Specialist Team RE (Public Ytilities) (V) to whom we were playing host.

SUMMER TRAINING CAMP

The camp was held over a period of two weeks from September 9, 1975 in the island training area of Ghajn Tuffieha. Training was strenuous to say the least and **SSM Danny Lamerton** who led the team of Directing Staff is now affectionately known in some quarters as the 'Hitler of Ghajn Tuffieha' (such quarters include the correspondence column of one of the local newspapers). The culmination of military training came with a night assault landing on the beaches of Gnejna Bay.

ASSAULT LANDING IS PRACTISED . . .

☆ ☆ ☆

. . . AS IS SEARCHING OF SUSPECTS!
Suspect was Sgt Ken Swinburne, ACC

THE VISIT OF BRIGADIER OVERSEAS DETACHMENTS

Brig John Randle spent a week with us renewing his acquaintance with all aspects of the Sqn and Army Elements Malta. It was a visit thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks and we were pleased to be able to express our appreciation to **Brig John** for his valued interest and assistance to us at a dinner night in the Officers Mess. This occasion was somewhat unique in that two current Aide-de-Camps to Her Majesty The Queen graced our table—the other being **Capt James Kelly** RN, the retiring Captain Malta.

WE PLAY HOST TO THE SAPPERS

With the arrival on September 15, 1975 of 506 STRE (V) a Sapper/Signals period of reunion commenced. Royal Signal Officers were for 14 days outnumbered by the officers of the mother Corps. So much so that we decided to hand over the Mess to the Sappers and reap the benefits of being invited to their Guest Night.

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP—A RETURN FIXTURE WITH SIGNAL BN

OLD acquaintances were renewed as teams of 8 US Signal Bn moved into Napier Barracks, Dortmund on September 1 for a week of sports competitions to further the affiliation between the two Signal Units begun two years ago.

A welcome by the CO 36 Hy AD Regt RA, **Lt Col G. C. Monk** RA in 36 Regt Workshop Club opened the proceedings. This gave the opposing teams an opportunity to size each other up over a glass of beer.

The first outdoor event was golf. The two teams played off in the Napier Golf Club course, having had a warm up on the preceeding day. The home team came out on top with a 6—0 win, however, the American team was noblely led by **Capt Jerry Swint.** The golfers then spent a day recuperating and on Thursday played 36 holes at the Dortmund German Golf Club. Again the British team, captained by 2/**Lt P. Kelly** RA retained their honour.

In the three day shooting match both teams fired both British and American weapons. The overall competition was won narrowly by 36 Regt, scoring 3,717 points against the 3,348 points scored by the Signal Bn. The bext individual shot of the competition was **Sgt Pete Thomas** the Sqn Chief Clerk with **Cpl 'Big Al' Robinson** a close second.

The tennis match was enlivened by the addition of two WACs in the Signal Bn team, not to mention the two young ladies in the 36 Regt team. The Americans claimed they thought they were going to play pataball (similar to Squash but the roof of the court is also used) 36 Regt managed to win this event, and the following day played the Signal Bn at Squash—a game most of the American team had not played before.

The Napier Bowmen led by **Cpl Geoff 'Robin' Hughes** came to the fore in the archery competition. The American team's experience was limited to hunting, rather than target archery, so as a compromise, a Clout Shoot was organised. For the unversed, this is the archery of Crecy and Agincourt. The Bowmen loft the arrows at a pennant 180 yds away, the target area being an 8-yard circle from the base of the pennant. The ladies, led by **Val Marion Hughes,** shot at a similar pennant at 120 yards. Experience over longer distances paid dividends and Napier Bowmen were the winners. Just as the teams had started their last set of arrows. **Lt Col M. Xenos,** CO 8 Sig Bn, **Command Sgt Maj Bright** of 8 Sig Ban and **Maj Alan Stutchbury,** OC 260 Signal Sqn stepped forward to try their luck. Suffice to say that honour was satisfied in that none of them scored, but had creditable misses.

The grand finale of the week was a party held in the Sqn Club. During the evening, **Lt Col Xenos** presented **Maj Stutchbury** with a fine marching banner to commemorate the combined international marches already undertaken by the two Signal Unit marching teams. The banner was used the following weekend, when the two teams marched together at Köln, completing 30 kms in 3 hrs 20 mins.

OP BANNER NEWS

In addition to 10 men under **Cpl Derek Boyd** of W Tp, attached to 26 Fd Regt RA in Ulster we have now a further eight men under **Cpl 'Brummy' Jordan** attached to 39 Med Regt RA and at present under training at Paderborn.

SUMMER CAMP

From September 15 to October 3, 1975 the Sqn were located in Bad Kreuznach for the annual camp. It is hoped to have a pictorial account of the Sqns' activities ready for the next edition of THE WIRE.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Jim Downie** on the award of Corps and BAOR Colours for Dinghy Sailing, and to the Sqn team for winning the 'Rhino' Cup at the Mohne See Regatta on Thursday, August 28.

To **Sgt Tom Chhetri** on winning the Royal Signals Individual Badminton Championships at Blandford on Friday, October 3, 1975.

The Volunteers

31 Sig Regt (Greater London) (V)

ANNUAL CAMP—TRAINING MAJOR'S DELIGHT

FROM September 6-20, the Regiment held its biennial UK camp at the Signal Training Centre in Burniston Barracks, Scar borough. After nearly a year in office, the Training Major was amazed and delighted to discover that a lively, trained and organised Regiment really DID exist—although exist is perhaps a poor word to convey the energy, enthusiasm and expertise with which a full and varied training programme was tackled and completed, in parallel with a near-marathon of sporting and social activities!

VISITORS FOR ALL

Like all TAVR regiments at camp we had many visitors, but it was particularly pleasing to note that almost every element of the Regiment had appropriate visitors, that virtually all our associated organisations and superior HQs were represented and that many of our visitors were themselves Volunteer officers. Many travelled a long way to see us, like **Col David Part, OBE, TD,** the Col TAVR (North) from HQ London District and **Col G. D. Thompson, MC, TD,** representing the Greater London TAVR Association. From Harrow, the Mayor and members of the Lord Lieutenant's Committee made the journey to visit 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, and inter alia saw a party of combat linemen from the Sqn installing a permanent telephone cable system for the North York Moors Historical Railway Trust.

A veritable team of visitors led by **Col D. E. Filer,** the Col TAVR REME, took a long look at our LAD, and DWRAC, **Brig E. J. Nolan,** Hon ADC accompanied by **Lt Col Pat Norman** (ADWRAC, HQ London District) made good use of the opportunity to see our very keen WRAC recruit course at work and also to have an informal discussion with senior members of our WRAC contingent—in the CO's house!

SUNSHINE FOR THE GENERAL

Throughout the camp period the weather was variable with occasional high winds and some very heavy rain making the point that September is not normally a good camping month. However, for the visit of **Lt Gen Sir Allan Taylor, KBE, MC,** D CinC UKLF, the weather was perfect with sunshine all day. The D CinC spent six hours with us and, as our photographs show, during his tour of the barracks he saw a wide range of activities including drill, trade training, HGV driver training and the WRAC recruit course. Most important of all, he saw nearly every element of HQ Sqn—hard at work, as they were throughout the camp period—and showed a keen interest in their duties and problems.

SHOWPIECE WEEKEND

As always, the culmination of the first week's training takes place during the middle weekend of camp, when the Regimental Parade is held on Saturday morning followed immediately by an interdenominational service. Once again the weather was perfect and despite the aftermath of an excellent All-Ranks Dance the preceding Friday evening the parade, ably commanded by the 2IC **Maj J. Greenhill, TD,** was undoubtedly a success. The Inspecting Officer was **Brig D. H. Baynham, GM,** Commander

Accompanied by the CO, Lt Col J C Eversfield, Lt Gen Sir Allan Taylor, D CinC UKLF, shares a joke with Pte June Isted, best WRAC recruit, and Pte Sheila Billing

The Parade Commander, Maj Jim Greenhill, TD, leads the parade past the Inspecting Officer, Brig D. H. Baynham, GM, Comd 11 Sig Gp (V)

11 Sig Group (V), and among his other parade duties he included presentation of the Territorial Decoration to **Capt P. J. Mather** and **Capt R. G. Simpson,** and an Efficiency Medal First Clasp to **Ssgt R. W. Keevil,** RAPC. The parade music was played by the band of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) by kind permission of their Commanding Officer.

However, to the amazement of many and the delight of all, the result of much hard work in the gymnasium under the newly-joined Adjutant, **Capt Gordon Giles** and his able assistant **Ssgt Bill Smith,** was revealed when the officers on parade wielded their swords with great confidence and considerable panache. This, together with the high standard of foot and arms drill achieved by the Sqns made it a memorable parade; one which fully justified the efforts of the team of SSM and PSI drill instructors led by **WO1 (RSM) P. B. Cairns**—who did not lose his voice as had been confidently predicted!

Following the religious service all visitors and the members of the Sergeants' Mess were entertained to an open-air buffet lunch by the Officers' Mess, after which the Regiment stood down for the weekend—all except the officers and the guests of the Regiment who continued the celebrations at a formal dinner that evening.

CHANGE OF EMPHASIS

During the second week the emphasis switched from the drill, military training and early-morning PT of week one to completion of HGV driver and trade training and testing programmes. A 48-hour engineering exercise taught many good lessons (and raised a few tempers!), the WRAC recruits completed their course with an impressive pass-off parade at which best recruit **Pte June Isted** received her prize, visits were made to the many members of the Regiment attending trade courses at the Trade Training School, 8 Sig Regt and a recruit course at 11 Sig Regt and all the various inter-squadron competitions were completed.

Finally, after a great deal of hard work, no disasters and many very enjoyable parties, the Regiment returned to London on Saturday, September 20, with morale high, happy in the knowledge that a very successful UK training camp had laid good foundations on which to build towards next year's operational camp in North-West Europe.

Vale—Maj G. A. J. Barnaby

Just over a month ago, **Maj Barney Barnaby** handed over his appointment as Adjutant of 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (Volunteers) and at the same time retired after 36 years service with the British Army.

A Canadian by birth, he originally enlisted in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry in August 1939—two weeks before the start of World War 2. During the war years Barney served in the Dutch West Indies (1939–42), UK (1942–45), India and Burma (1945–46). He was commissioned during the war and held the rank of Lieutenant before being 'demobbed' in 1946.

Major G. A. J. "Barney" Barnaby, Royal Signals

After some years reserve service, Barney re-enlisted in Royal Signals in 1950 and saw service in Egypt, France, Aden and Cyprus while work-his way steadily up the ladder via Chief Clerk and Superintending Clerk to a second commission! Curiously enough, in all his varied service Barney was never stationed in BAOR. However, he considered that two consecutive and successful tours with TAVR units spanning his last five years service was much more noteworthy!

Barney has served Royal Signals and the Army loyally and well for many years; on behalf of his many friends throughout the Corps we wish him, his wife **Mary** and daughter **Alice** a successful transition to the 'rigours' of civilian life and many happy years in their new home in Devon.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY JOB VACANCIES?

It may be that some of our readers in civilian life are aware of employment vacancies which could be filled by those leaving the Corps on retirement or those already retired who are seeking employment. It would be greatly appreciated if details could be forwarded to the Association.

37th Sig Regt (V) Bristol

A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL CAMP

AFTER months of intensive preparation, exhortations from the Training Staff and mumbled prayers from the Adjutant the Regt arrived in good order at St Martins Plain with a full complement of 55 officers and 480 volunteers. The weather was clear and cold which enabled us to concentrate on 15 different trade courses and a military skills area consisting of an assault course, built by **Lt Ron Hartill,** NBC and gas chamber, internal security, first aid and close quarter battle area for the detachment commanders course.

The day began for all at 0615 with a road run led by the CO around Sir John Moore's 'Corunna Hill'. After intensive daily training the Sqns enjoyed 'smokers' most evenings. Our visitors list looked like an excerpt from Who's Who and included **Gen Shapland,** DVT and C, **Gen Leuchars,** GOC Wales, **Brig Randall,** D Comd South West District, **Brig Baldwin,** Comd 2 Sig Gp, **Col Sir John Wills, Col Fields,** DDWRAC, and **Lt Col Kentish,** ADEME(V). The detachment commanders eventually deposited **Sgt McLoughlin** our 'tame provisional' into the mud of the assault course after being 'blown up' several times for the delight of the visitors. Fortunately the activities are absent of **Capt Andy Flint's** marauders passage through the French customs on their day off.

Regional Exercises

7 VHF Tp successfully completed Exercise Live Wire when for the first time all the Pye master and repeater stations were proved simultaneously throughout the South-West District. The exercise had the full participation of the District Staff and two Gen Res Bn's. The stations were visited by **Brig R. J. Randall** the D Comd South-West District.

9 VHF Tp communicated successfully throughout West Midland District to assist the QOMY and 53 Sig Sqn (V) have been busy on Exercise Early Goal. The latter exercise was visited by **Brig P. A. Baldwin** and **Maj F. C. Lettin** of HQ 2 Sig Gp, they arrived at an appropriate moment as the masts at Gower collapsed in a 60 mph gale.

The Gateway Sqn with its several new technical innovations introduced by **Maj Keith Brown** deployed on Exercise Outside Left and enjoyed considerable success using their D1f/D11 radios to six stations within 150 miles of Bristol and to our siste Regimental in Scotland and Northern England. They were well supported by HQ Sqn who have also taken part in the motor rally 'Blackdragon' sponsored by North East District.

Honorary Colonel

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Col Sir John Wills, BT, JP, TD,** The Lord Lieutenant of Avon, shown presenting a TD to **Ssgt Spence,** as the new Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. He succeeds **Sir Cennydd Traherne** who has devoted much time and effort to the task. Sir John has many business interests in the south-west and his last military appointment was as CO North Somerset and Bristol Yeomanry in 1966. We welcome him to the Regt and we are sure that he will enjoy his next five years with the volunteers.

Bonds of Friendship—Colorado Natural Guard

Our affiliated Regiment, The 140th Signal Battalion of the Colorado National Guard, has honoured us by presenting the Regt with various items of mess ware suitably inscribed by their officers and by making the CO an Honorary Colonel of the Colorado National Guard. We hope that they may be able to visit us in 1976 on an exchange basis.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

ANNUAL CAMP
Volunteers on the assault course

Cpl Barry Bridge (47 Sqn) discusses HGV driver training with the D CinC and the CO. Capt Reynolds-Jones (in the foreground) and the RSM listen with interest

NEW HONORARY COLONEL
Col Sir John Wills, Bt, JP, TD, presents the TD to Ssgt Spence

Wives Club

The wives club is thriving again. There are 20 members who attend regularly and several successful outings have been made to other clubs, freezer demonstrations and to their annual dinner in Bristol. A children's party was held in Horfield in June and its success has inspired a proper Children's Christmas Party; already £35 has been raised by the QM **Capt Danny Kay,** by **Mrs Williams** and **Mrs Kay.** A visit to Harlech Television is planned for November and the Ladies Dinner is to be held in December.

STOP PRESS

Exercise Dress. Officers will not wear their guns tide down to their kneecaps a'la Jesse James!

FAREWELL

Congratulations and farewell to **WO2 Moore** on his appointment from December 1975 as WO1 (RSM) 38 CTT at Worcester. Many thanks to you and your family for their tremendous support. What are you going to do in Worcester?

Sport

Royal Signals Badminton Championship 1975

THE Corps Badminton Championships took place in the gymnasium Blandford Camp September 30 to October 3, 1975. This year there were 46 competitors playing some 104 matches. Once competitor, **Sgt Jock Brown,** came from Cyprus, 10 from Germany, two from Northern Ireland and, of course, the rest are UK based.

Prizes were presented by **Mrs Jarrett,** wife of the President of Corps Badminton, **Lt Col M. S. Jarrett,** Commanding Officer, 30 Sig Regt. The headlines should be that at last the School of Signals have lost the unit cup for the first time, or to put it in more positive terms, 30 Sig Regt won it. Quite fitting for 30 Sig Regt to win it as it coincided with their FRR! The School did not give it up without a struggle, **Capt Ted Heasman** and **Cpl Dave Potts** eventually going down to **WO2 Stan Hargreaves** and **Sgt Jock Brown** 18–16, 10–15, 15–11.

The full results are:

EVENT	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
Mens Singles	**Sgt O. Chhetri**	**WO2 S. Hargreaves**
Ladies Singles	**Miss M. A. Seeds**	**Pte. P. Laws**
Singles Plate	**Cpl Man Bahadur Rana**	**Cpl S. Croot**
Mixed Doubles	**Miss M. A. Seeds**	**Mrs M. Gallagher**
	Capt G. S. Heasman	**Sgt R. D. Brown**
Ladies Doubles	**Miss M. A. Seeds**	**Lcpl C. Lennox**
	Mrs M. Hatchard	**Pte J. Thorley**
Mens Open Doubles	**Sgt A. J. Brown**	**WO2 P. McLoughlin**
	Capt G. S. Heasman	**Cpl Man Bahadur Rana**
Vets Doubles	**Ssgt R. D. Brown**	**Maj R. S. Clayton**
	Capt G. S. Heasman	**WO2 S. Hargreaves**
Unit Doubles	**WO2 S. Hargreaves**	**Cpl D. Potts**
	Sgt A. J. Brown	**Capt G. S. Heasman**
	30 Sig Regt	**School of Sigs**

As you read the results, seeing some rather old and bold in the list, one can imagine retorts of 'I can thrash him', well, let's see you at next year's championships.

Who will be the future champions of the Corps, could it be **A/T Lcpl Cannings** from AAC Harrogate who played with style and intelligence. It is always difficult to single out names from a championship, one who did stand out was **Ssgt 'Ginger' Leech** from 223 Sig Sqn who encouraged the younger players and was always available to help with the organisation. When he revealed his age (he had to, to enter the veterans) the rest of us realised how young we all are still.

Before us we have the Army Badminton League, our first team is currently in Div 1 and our seconds in Div II. The fixtures for the coming season are:

October 11, 1975 at Blandford
R Signals I v RE I v RAMC/RADC
At Worthdown RAPC v R Signals II
November 8, 1975 at Blackdown
RAOC I v R Signals I
At Blandford R Signals II v RA v RE II
December 6, 1975 at Arborfield
REME I v REME II v R Signals I
At Blandford R Signals II v RCT
January 17, 1976 at Aldershot
ACC v R Signals I
At Blackdown RAOC II v R Signals II

WO2 REG SIMPSON WINS PICCADILLY PLATE

The Piccadilly Plate is a 72-hole Medal competition introduced in NW Europe in 1974. The event is open to all British and Commonwealth Service personnel and sponsored civilians serving in NW Europe.

This year the competition took place at RAF Bruggen Golf Club between 9 and 12 September and resulted in a notable victory for the Corps' leading golfer in BAOR, WO2 (Y of S) Reg Simpson of 16th Signal Regiment, who had to go to a 'sudden death' play-off to beat Chief Technician John Marshall of RAF Gutersloh, who tied with him for first place after 72 holes. One extra hole was enough for Reg to finish outright winner.

This completes a great year for Reg Simpson, who during 1975 has won the BAOR Championship, the Sennelager Open and now the Piccadilly Plate.

Left to right: WO2 Reg Simpson, Max Faulkner, Chief Technician John Marshall

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Goods Available from Association Headquarters

THE 1976 CORPS DIARY

This item is again produced in Planner Style. The outer cover is in flexible dark blue vinyl, embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert.
Cost: Home—45p. Overseas—40p

The following lists Association items now in stock and available. In days of high inflation these represent really good value for money.

	Overseas £	UK £
Crested glass astrays	0·72	0·78
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0·32	0·32
Blazer buttons—Large	0·18	0·18
Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	1·70	1·85
Car badge—square, acrylic	1·52	1·60
Corps cravats—terylene	1·15	1·25
Corps cuff links	1·15	1·25
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·22	0·25
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	2·00	2·10
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	9·00	9·80
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	3·45	3·70
Corps scarves—woollen	1·60	1·80
—terylene and wool	1·26	1·35
Corps squares—terylene	1·30	1·40
Corps ties—terylene 3½″	1·13	1·20
terylene 3¾″	1·18	1·25
terylene type 'A'	0·57	0·70
terylene type 'D'	0·55	0·60
terylene type 'E'	0·45	0·50
woollen	0·85	0·90
Corps transfers—large (10″ × 7½″)	0·55	0·58
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small (3″ × 2⅜″)	0·30	0·32
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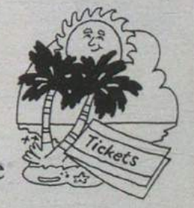

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December-January, 1975-1976

wire

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FJP

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MR. L. WOOD

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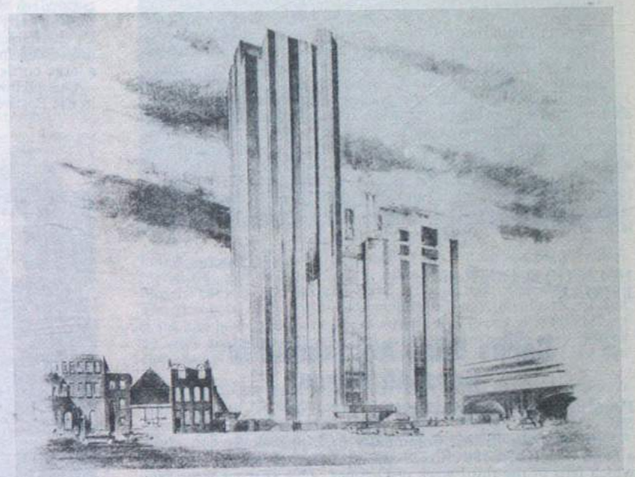
DECEMBER-JANUARY — 1975-1976

Vol. 29 *(New Series)* **No. 12**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

All soccer enthusiasts will be interested to see the Corps 'squad' as it lined up for the fixture v RCT. It is no secret that those managing Corps soccer have most of the problems of Don Revie, the team coming from many UK units. Nevertheless, we have seen an encouraging start to the season winning against RAPC, drawing against the Gunners, Sappers, RCT and REME — and losing only to RAOC on an 'off day'.



THE UNION JACK CLUB

YOUR CLUB IN LONDON

The Union Jack Club which, in its new premises opposite Waterloo Station, will embody the original Women's Services and Families Club opened as under:

Serving, Ex-Service and Temporary Honorary Male Members as from Monday, November 3, 1975.

Women's Services and Families of members as from Monday, December 1, 1975.

FACILITIES

For single and unaccompanied members accommodation is all in single rooms.

The capacity of the new premises is Single rooms 417
Double rooms 55

Public rooms comprise the following: 2 Dining Rooms, 2 Bars and Lounges, Billiards Room, 2 TV Rooms, 2 Library/Writing Rooms, Children's Play Room. A Sauna Bath and Launderette will be available at a later date. Limited Club car parking available.

A Conference area for Association Dinners and other functions is likely to be available in the new year.

BOOKINGS AND CHARGES

Room bookings should be made to the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ. (Telephone: 01-928 6401).

Charges for accommodation are £3·24 per night for a single room and £6·48 per night for a double room (inclusive of VAT). Charges for children in proportion to their age. Charges for Temporary Honorary Members are £3·78 and £7·02 (inclusive of VAT).

Bookings for the Conference Area will be accepted from November 1 for 1976.

MEMBERSHIP

All those serving in the Armed Forces of the Crown, not of commissioned rank, including the Women's Services, are full members of the Club without subscription.

Ex-Service membership is also available; details on application to Club Secretary, Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ. Annual subscription rate: £2·00 including VAT for men. £1·50 including VAT for women.

To succeed, this venture by the Union Jack Club must offer the members good amenities at the right price. The right prices can only be achieved by a high rate of occupancy and general use of the Club by members.

From our "In" Tray

1st, 5th and 7th Divisional Historical Collection

From: Lt J. L. Davies, Royal Signals

Dear Sir,

This unit is in the process of establishing a small historical display illustrating the pasts of the three regiments from which 1 Division Headquarters and Signal Regt has evolved. We would be grateful if the appeal below could be published in your illustrious pages:

1 Division Headquarters and Signal Regt is at present establishing a regimental historical collection covering the evolution of the Signal Regts of the 1st, 5th and 7th Divisions from which the present Regt is descended. It is intended that this collection will cover such aspects as theatres of war and campaigns in which the Division have fought and the development of the individual units from the emergence of the Royal Engineer Telegraph Companies through to amalgamation. It is our primary aim that this should be presented in a lively and easy manner which will appeal to junior soldiers.

I would be grateful for any assistance your readers might be able to offer in the shape of personal recollections, photographs (which will be returned after copying), or any souvenirs such as uniform flashes, uniforms or equipment and campaign memorabilia.

Items on loan or gifts are equally welcome especially with a brief history of their origins to add a touch of personalisation. We will try and arrange collection within the United Kingdom for any large articles too expensive to post.

Yours sincerely,
J. L. Davies, Lt

1st Div HQ and Sig Regt,
BFPO 32.

Corps Band Acclaimed in German Press

From: Lt Col T. H. Wheawell

Sir,

Each year the British Community in Lippstadt Station gives a Band Concert for the citizens of Lippstadt during Herbstwoche, which falls in the third week of October. This year we were fortunate to be able to arrange for our Corps Band to play in the magnificent Stadt Theatre on the evening of October 25, 1975.

I am enclosing a translation of a report which appeared in the Lippstadt newspaper *Der Patriot*. It pays glowing tribute to **Maj Keith Boulding** and his musicians who have been firm favourites with the citizens of Lippstadt since their performances during our Freedom of Lippstadt ceremonies in 1973.

We all look forward to their return next year for our Farewell Celebrations before the Regt moves to Gutersloh.

Yours faithfully,
T. H. Wheawell

22 Sig Regt,
BFPO 107.

EXTRACT FROM LIPPSTADT NEWSPAPER
'DER PATRIOT,' OCTOBER 27, 1975

Royal Signals inspired audience with Music, Humour and Can Can

Their concert has for years been a 'secret tip' for the large group of enthusiasts of military music but what was offered this time as their 'Herbstwoche' contribution on Saturday in the theatre and on Sunday at the open air concert in the Poststrasse exceeded everything in swing, melody and originality which had ever been offered before: 'The Band of the Royal Signals', conducted by Maj Boulding, filled with enthusiasm an Anglo-German audience in the customary full house of the theatre. What was offered there, from Offenbach's temperamental Can Can up to the solemn finale with both National Anthems, has nothing comparable with what is normally offered in Lippstadt's cultural life.

The British proved themselves to be temperamental and sensitive musicians with a varied and rhythmical programme from opera overture to song-hit. Their high sense of music and soft melodies from a brass-band as well as the immense skill of their soloists playing the cornet, bugle, trumpet and tuba brought storms of applause again and again.

Maj Boulding's English announcing was not quite understood by everybody but for his musical expression he did not need an interpreter. A great homage to the unforgettable Glenn Miller (surely a musical model of the Royal Signals) changed to a Spanish Paso Doble, the American spiritual 'Swing low, sweet chariot', with Cole Porter's 'I love Paris in the spring-time', a musical outing to the Tyrol and there was room left for the typical dry British sense of humour expressed by some wonderful actors in 'Old McDonald has a farm'.

With 'Alte Kameraden', an indispensable concession was granted to the German audience who clapped their hands enthusiastically for a nearly two-hour concert. Buergermeisterin Dr Barbara Christ said in good school English that Lippstadt must keep in touch with Maj Boulding and his boys and handed a large bottle of Lippe Schnaps to the friends from Great Britain.

Our picture shows the Royal Signals at the concert on Sunday in the Poststrasse.

Surrounded by the German public the Corps Band is a popular feature in the town of Lippstadt

Old Airborne Spirit very much alive

From: Mr Frank Young

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the 'plug' in the September/October issue for the 1st Airborne Divisional Signal Regt OCA.

No doubt our friends in 216 Parachute Signal Sqn had a hand in this and I would like to put the record straight.

This OCA all started just after the last war and we are indebted to **'Hocker' Spivey** and **Bill Sheffield** who spent many months tracing ex-members via Signals Records, serving members, etc.

I took over a couple of years around 1958–61 but as I was still serving and being posted very frequently I handed over to **Johnny Ferkin** who has carried on ever since. Since I resigned in October 1973 I have been able to take a more active part on the admin side but all credit must go to **Johnny** for his hard work over the years, and of course to **'Hocker'** and **Bill.**

We have no laid down subscriptions. We donate whatever we can afford each year. We hold our yearly reunion on the weekend nearest to September 17 in the village of Caythorpe where we were billeted in 1944. The villagers have their own 'Arnhem Committee' and are very proud of the 'Red Devils' and with **Johnny** arrange an evening meal, film shows of previous reunions, overnight accommodation and a buffet on Sunday before we leave. The local vicar holds his Arnhem Service at 10.30 a.m. and a wreath is laid on the plaque bearing the names of our comrades killed at Arnhem which is in the Arnhem aisle. This aisle was dedicated by the Bishop of Grantham last year, the 30th anniversary of the battle.

Apart from organising visits to Arnhem we have been hosts to parties of children from the Arnhem area who tend the graves in Oosterbeek Cemetery. Airborne Forces Security Fund kindly allowed us to include six of the villagers from Caythorpe one year on a pilgrimage to Arnhem. **Bill Sheffield** made a lectern for the Church and many other activities have taken place.

We have the odd old comrade from Australia, Canada and other far flung places who have made a special trip to attend one or more of these reunions. Naturally over the years a few have since died but they are all remembered in the toast 'Absent Friends'.

Our link with 216 started around 1968–69 when **Robby Laing,** now Lt Col, came along with a few of his lads to head the march past on the 25th anniversary. It has grown stronger every year with contacts like **Clem Palmer** but it has never been so strong as it is now through the efforts of **Dickie Hamilton** and **Jack Turner.** We were pleased to see them last month at our reunion and also appreciated how well they looked after us on Airborne Forces Day. The youngsters who came with them from 216 were a great credit to the Army. Everyone remarked how smart they were and so well mannered.

If any ex-member of 1st Airborne Divisional Signals is reading this and has lost touch just drop me a line and **Johnny** will put you on the mailing list for the newsletters. This of course includes any ex-commissioned ranks now retired as we very seldom see any of you!

Before I close may I thank all ranks of 216 for making us feel one of your 'family'. I sincerely hope the relationship between you and the 'Old and Bold' becomes stronger and stronger over the years.

Yours very sincerely,
Frankie Young

'Mehnra',
13 Swakeley Walk,
Swalecliffe,
Whitstable,
Kent.

News in Focus . . .

GURKHA SIGNALLERS TRAIN WITH HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY

Gurkha signallers based in Hong Kong are taking over responsibility for maintenance of the military telephone exchanges

Training of exchange maintenance technicians is being provided by the Hong Kong Telephone Company Technical Training School, perhaps the best in the Far East, who are manning the first basic automatic course for the benefit of Gurkha Signals

This first course consists of eight Gurkha signallers and two attached Royal Signals technicians. According to the Chief Instructor at the school, they are showing excellent results so far. The first written test indicates an above average result

In the photo: Mr Mak Chi Hin (*right*) explaining the intricacies of 'selectors' in the Strowger equipment demonstration room to part of his Gurkha and Royal Signals Course

TOUGH ASSIGNMENT

In October six members of 6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Sig Woolley, McKenzie, Whitehouse, Clinch, Szabo and Caine, set off for the Mosel Valley on the dangerous and arduous task of picking grapes! The thoughts of having to accept DM30 a day, plenty to eat and drink and having to share a barn with lots of lovely girls filled them all with great apprehension but with determination they gritted their teeth and swore to the OC that they would not let the Sqn down

Reports filtering back from 'The Valley', state that exhaustion is taking its toll (at 0800 hrs in the morning!!!?) but that all six are determined to leave their mark. What brave fellows they are. Above is a photo of Sig Woolley taken early on in the proceedings when he looked remarkably fit and cheerful

☆

A UNIQUE GROUP

'Have you heard the one about the Englishman, the Irishman, the Welshman and the Owl?' Royal Signals fielded three, GSO1 (Directing Staff) at the Staff College, Camberley, for much of this year

Left to right: Lt Cols Ian Shapter, Paddy Verdon and Peter Davies

Sig Alan Armstrong hands over a cheque for over £800 to Ian Lavender (Pte Pike of Dad's Army) on behalf of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association. Sig Armstrong now with 16th Signal Regt raised the money by a sponsored bicycle ride from Laarbruch, BAOR, to the Headquarters of BLESMA in Essex—and back again. He did 1,000 miles in five days. The RAF flew him in to present the cheque at a London hotel. Mr Phillip Dixon, MA, National Chairman, told *The Wire* it was a magnificent achievement. Sig Armstrong was asked why he did it: he modestly said 'I decided to do this for BLESMA when I read about some of my limbless ex-comrades in my Regimental magazine and I hope my contribution will be of some help to them'

In July 1974, then with 'K' Troop of 21st Signal Regt, Sig Armstrong completed a 500 km ride from Wildenrath to Amsterdam and returned in two days, backed by a two-car team provided by 'K' Troop, to raise funds for 'Launch a Lifeboat' appeal. The effort of Sig Armstrong and the many members of 'K' Troop who organised the sponsorship netted in some DM3,500 the largest contribution

39 INF BDE HQ & SIG SQN
Sig Hewitt, WO2 (Y of S) Whydell, Cpl Besant, Lcpl McArthur, winners First Aid Competition Regular Army, Northern Ireland 1975

QUEEN MOTHER PRESENTS LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL TO CORPS WARRANT OFFICER

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited the Queen's Own Hussars, of which she is Colonel in Chief, on October 30 and having inspected the Royal Guard she presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to members of the Regt

WO2 R. S. 'Dee' Dehdashty, RQMS of the Royal Armoured Corps Signal School was very kindly invited by the Commanding Officer of the Queen's Own Hussars, Lt Col James Rucker, to appear on his Regimental parade and is seen here receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Her Majesty

Movements

Officers

DECEMBER POSTINGS

Capt R. A. L. Anderson	To HQ British Gurkhas (NEPAL
Capt (TOT) R. C. Boulter	,, 7 Sig Regt
Lt W. E. Brewin	,, AAC Centre (Course No. 246)
Capt W. K. Butler	,, HQ 3 Sig Gp
Capt M. K. Carson	,, HQ NE District
Maj P. E. A. Chaddock	,, SRDE MOD (PE)
Capt P. R. Dick	,, HQ 3 Sig Gp
Lt P. K. Goreford	,, 30 Sig Regt
Lt H. H. Ham	,, 11 Sig Regt (Held Str)
Capt (Tfc) A. M. P. Howie	,, HQ Berlin—Br Sector
Capt I. D. M. Ingram	,, HQ Northern Ireland
Maj-Gen A. J. Jackson	,, MOD
Maj B. F. Kavanagh	,, 13 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. F. Larrington	,, Sch of Sigs
Lt G. L. Lord	,, 70 AYT
Maj J. K. C. Maclean	,, 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj D. F. Malone	,, Sch of Sigs
Maj A. R. Martin	,, MOD (A)
Lt R. J. Mathieson, BEM	,, 13 Sig Regt
Maj M. Y. Miller	,, 9 Sig Regt
Maj E. Mulley	,, MOD
Lt C. V. Nind	,, 7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt M. A. Payne	,, HQ NORTHAG
Lt J. W. Rollins	,, 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
Maj K. Ryding	,, 1 Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt M. A. Sheehan	,, 20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj R. P. Shiner	,, BQA MOD (PE)
Capt I. C. Shuker	,, 3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt R. G. Stokes	,, 30 Sig Regt
Lt Col A. V. Swindale	,, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill
Capt H. G. S. Thomas	,, ACGS (OR) MOD (A)
A/Maj M. A. Thorne	,, 3 Div Hld & Sig Regt
Lt Col C. B. Ward	,, GCHQ CESG (Msc Appts [Home])
Maj A. L. Watson	,, 4 Sig Gp
Lt Col M. L. Willway	,, Housing Comd UKLF
Maj K. A. C. Wilson	,, HQ RCT Trg Centre

WOs and SNCOs

WO2 J. G. P. Akehurst	To HQ 12 Mech Brig Sig Sqn
WO2 R. I. Buckley	,, HQ 11 Armd Brig Sig Sqn
WO2 R. A. Finch	,, Sheffield University OTC
WO2 M. Jennings	,, HQ 2nd Div Sig Regt
WO2 R. G. Stanley-Jones	,, 32nd Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (Y of S) F. C. McLoughlin	,, 22nd Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
WO2 (Supvr R) G. Widdowson	,, 9th Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 (F of S) W. Sawyer	,, 14th Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) K. H. McNally	,, 240 Sig Sqn (Stenigot)
WO2 (F of S) I. D. Hope	,, 224 Sig Sqn (Radio Trg)
WO2 (F of S) A. Keohane	,, HQ 20 Armd Bde Sig Sqn
WO2 (F of S) A. Lynn	,, 233 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (Y of S) K. Halliwell	,, 28th Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Ssgt (Y of S) N. J. H. Naylor	,, 40th Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt (Y of S) E. C. Jones	,, 229 Sig Sqn (Berlin)
Ssgt (Y of S) J. D. Waterston	,, 28th Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Ssgt (Supvr R) D. G. Wills	,, 9th Sig Regt (Radio)
Ssgt J. B. Pottinger	,, 28th Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Ssgt J. N. Turner	,, 16th Sig Regt (HQ BOAR)
Ssgt (F of S) J. D. Pyke	,, 259 Sig Sqn (WEST)
Sgt D. H. Diamond	,, HQ 1st Div Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Paines	,, 22nd Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt N. R. Urquhart	,, 21st Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt R. K. Sawyer	,, 14th Sig Regt
Sgt C. Watson	,, 34th Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. Kinnar	,, 603 Sig Tp (Masirah)
Sgt D. Parr	,, LSP Oman
Sgt T. Pittendreight	,, RMA Sandhurst
Sgt P. J. Day	,, 30th Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Wade	,, 21st Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt J. Coffey	,, 521 Rear Link Detachment (FD Regt)
Sgt C. C. Mitchell	,, 32nd Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. R. Jennings	,, CVHQ & Trng Wing
Sgt J. Bestford	,, 22nd Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt A. C. Doane	,, HQ 1st Div Sig Regt
Sgt P. Hodgkinson	,, 7th Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt R. L. Holt	,, 1 Artillery Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Johnson	,, 28th Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt W. Ritchie	,, 264 Sig Sqn (SAS)
Sgt K. Rodgers	,, HQ 2nd Div Sig Regt
Sgt K. B. Stevens	,, 28th Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt M. A. Thornton	,, School of Sigs (Cadre)
Sgt B. R. Tranter	,, 21st Sig Reg (Air Support)
Sgt S. J. Walls	,, HQ 3rd Div Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. Watson	,, 28th Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt D. M. Wood	,, 3rd Div Sig Reg
Sgt R. D. Wright	,, HQ 4th Div Sig Regt
Sgt R. Sedgbeer	,, 21st Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt A. J. Scrase	,, 30th Sig Regt
Sgt B. Cottam	,, HQ 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt L. Harris	,, HQ 4th Div Sig Regt
Sgt O. J. McGuinness	,, HQ 4th Div Sig Regt
ASgt E. R. W. Sadler	,, 9th Sig Regt (Radio)
ASgt J. Ruddy	,, 13th Sig Regt (Radio)

Obituary

Lt Col H. E. H. Clements, MBE

Lt Col Holroyd Ernest Hugh Clements enlisted in the Corps in 1926 and reached the rank of Warrant Officer before being commissioned as a TOT in 1939.

W.E.P. writes:

'Clem, as he was affectionately known throughout the Corps, died at his home in Woking at the age of 70 on October 12, 1975. He served in India, Karachi and Waziristan District before the War. On returning to the UK he was posted to Edinburgh and then went to Gibraltar and Ceylon. After the war he was at Catterick and Canterbury for a few years before going to Egypt Command Signals and then to BAOR where he was appointed MBE whilst serving with 12th Air Formation Signals in 1956. His last appointment before retiring in 1960 was at the War Office with ORD 9. On retirement he joined the Ministry of Defence as an RO and finally retired in 1970. Clem was a truly likeable character and an officer with a great sense of humour, in fact "Begone Dull Care" was his hobby and "communicating" his way of life.'

Lt Col W. J. S. GRAY

Lt Col Wilfred John Spencley Gray died in hospital at Poole on September 25, 1975. He was born in 1907 and commissioned into the Corps from the RMA Woolwich in 1926. After qualifying at Catterick he went to India where he spent most of his subsequent service. He retired in 1950 and settled in Bournemouth where he was an active member of the Bournemouth and District Branch of the Old Comrades Association, being secretary from 1970–74 when ill health forced him to give up. Wilfred had a quiet unassuming nature and was always full of kindness and consideration for others.

Capt A. D. Steel

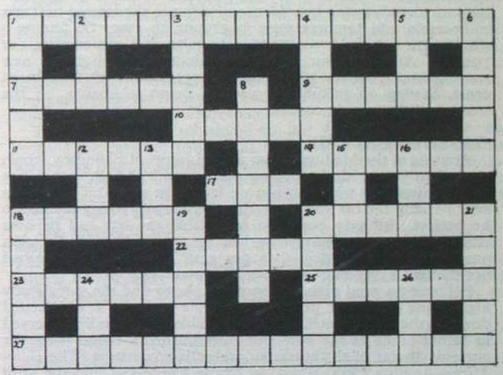
Capt Arthur Drummond Steel enlisted in the Corps at the outbreak of the Second World War and was commissioned in 1946. Apart from two tours in BAOR and a short one in FARELF he spent the bulk of his commissioned service in the UK. He retired in 1970 and settled in Worcester having previously served there for several years with 14th Signal Regt. He died at his home on August 20, 1975 at the age of 54.

Major General R. H. R. Steward, CB, CBE, DSO, MC

As we go to press the sad news of the death of Maj Gen R. H. R. Steward has come in. A full obituary will appear in the next Wire.

Crossword Puzzle No 1

Solution next month. [The Editor acknowledges this contribution by WO2 (F of S) J. Hill.]



ACROSS

1. Fools losing cash in Dorset, but getting unsettled (6, 2, 7)
7. Preferably, the sailor returns for the girl (6)
9. Ask! But it sounds like bells ringing inside, softly (6)
10. Mellow out of an obituary to the beginning of the end (5)
11. Two kisses for Caesar, No! many more (6)
14. Different ride to any newspaperman (6)
17. Mother loses her man, but wasn't put off her food (3)
18. Claws Capone, when taking on the heavyweights (6)
20. The ships put into harbour; it keeps the crew fit (6)
22. It may sound foolish, but I do it only for a change (5)
23. To love, the last of the extremities (6)
25. — or go even further (6)
27. Master Gardener—one of the pack (3, 4, 2, 6)

DOWN

1. Fishy arrangement, smack in the middle of the street (5)
2. In this weather, the Spanish leave the inn (3)
3. Initially fifty other ranks went back for a year on the wagon (5)
4. — in a direction that is quite stupid (5)
5. One upmanship on 27 across (3)
6. System used to provide heat (5)
8. Travelling companion in Russia, but a high and mighty explorer also (7)
12. The Cockney says he will, and is eaten with jelly (3)
13. This time; half eleven (3)
15. Should be lucky, if you keep your hand in (3)
16. Pitched back to start 7 (3)
18. Where in Nottingham one finds the sapper among the explosives (5)
19. Alarm, and anger though poles apart (5)
20. Goes right to the top, even pests in confusion can make it (5)
21. A saint before March 15th makes up the teams (5)
24. Possibly responsible for a large amount of litter (3)
26. Funnily enough, this is it (3)

Italian Excursion or the Rainmakers

Article submitted by 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt

THIS summer the Parrys took their faithful Ford Escort, known affectionately as the 'Duchess of Burgundy', southwards to the sun . . . now read on.

WEATHER OR NO

Our objective was Sicily and we had planned to travel down the western side of the Adriatic, around the heel, under the boot and across the toe, returning after a quick recce of Mount Etna, back across the Straits of Messina, up to Salerno, Napoli, not forgetting a quick run round Vesuvius. From there to Rome, Pisa, Genoa, Monte Carlo, Luxembourg and homeward bound. Who was it that once said, 'The best laid plans of mice and men . . .'.

VENICE AVOIDED WITH SOME DIFFICULTY

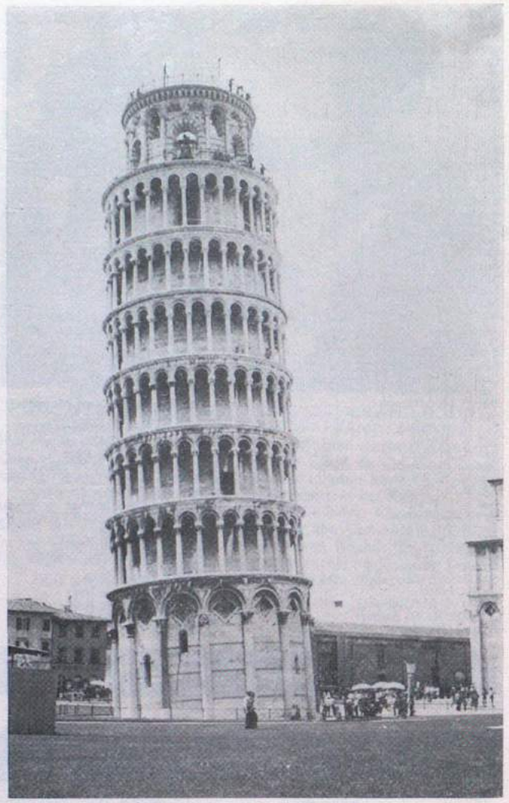
Heading towards Venice looking for a particular camp site we unfortunately found ourselves on the Causeway leading into the centre. When we eventually got off the Causeway (some two hours later due to traffic problems) having had a very brief glimpse of the city, we started again to search for a camping area, but were unsuccessful and headed farther down the coastline. Many stops later, when cooling ourselves in the sea we found the first 'Tahiti' camp site where we spent a couple of days absorbing the sun. Reluctantly we packed our tent and moved onwards. Despite autumn already being in evidence, driving in the intense heat was unbearable and tempers were beginning to fray. So finding a shady corn cob field, we stopped to relax and contemplate our position. After an hour or so, our minds made up and a new route planned, we set off across country for the Mediterranean coast. Setting off inland the weather began to change for the worse and the rain descended.

GASEOUS HAZARD

Arriving at the Mediterranean coastal resort of Follonica, which proved to be an ideal stopping place, and although rather late at night, luck was with us when we found the second Tahiti camp site. Parking the car and inspecting the site everything seemed to be perfect, the only exception being that the site had its own effluent plant so occasionally when the wind changed direction one was aware of the drill 'Gas, gas, gas!' Needless to say we had not thought a respirator an essential item of kit.

Following a good nights sleep we awoke to find the sun already high in the sky, so we presented our pale bodies to it and settled down on the sandy beach. The natives, although friendly, observed us rather oddly as my wife and I established a beach head, for our only source of shade was an umbrella advertising 'The *Daily Mirror* Angling Club' which we firmly hammered into the sand to indicate that the British had arrived. The aim of the exercise was to become as brown as a berry. Arming ourselves with fruits and cool drinks nothing more was required. In this way we passed a couple of days gradually changing our skin colouring from cherry to honey with the occasional dip to offset the tinge of pain. Discussing the health of our skin we decided that we'd better give it a day's rest and make the following day a sight seeing one, and as the Isle of Elba was not too far we decided to visit it.

The harbour of Portoferrio on the Isle of Elba



That famous Leaning Tower!

ELBA VISITED

Tourists who are seeking a peaceful holiday will find the island especially suitable as peace and tranquillity seem to prevail over it, but alas for us it was only a day trip. The usual sights were the order of the day, so finding what and where to visit we headed for the local bus station only to find that neither the Museum or the residence of Napoleon were open. Unlike our fellow tourists we did not stay around the shopping areas, as most of the souvenirs were too expensive. Our time was spent walking through the back streets admiring the exotic flowering shrubs, watching the children at play, and sampling the ice cream bars (Italian ices are certainly the best in the world) and gorging ourselves. All too soon we had to leave. On finally returning to our camp site at about 2100 hours we found that the restaurant was on the verge of closing and the remaining portions of spaghetti being fed to the camp site guard dog! Indicating that we were ravenously hungry by rubbing our tummies I approached the friendly Senora who took pity on us and very kindly cooked us a swordfish steak as we downed a glass of the local vino. Our skin must have been turning brown as we were taken for a couple of Italians by one of the locals, so we were quite pleased with ourselves.

BAKED EARTH TURNED INTO A SWAMP

After the few days of sunshine, the skies opened and down came the rain for the next 12 hours. The sun baked earth was turned into a swamp, huge lakes developed as the rain lashed down on all below. Children no longer suffered from the heat but played in the puddles and were reluctant to return to their frantic parents when they called, so much did they enjoy themselves. After staying in playing cards, etc, and occupying ourselves in general we decided to venture out and take a walk along the beach. Not being prepared for all this wet weather (although after years of experience of rain following us—we should have known better) we made temporary goloshes for ourselves and must have looked more like men from outer space. Plastic bags were substituted for wellingtons held on with elastoplast. Walking along the beach was very refreshing and we spied a jelly fish, larger than we'd seen before, washed ashore. Taking a piece of wood I tried in vain to push it back into the sea, but on closer inspection I found it had been chopped open by a ship's propellers. On slicing it right open I found a tiny crab inside which was still very much alive and relieved to be free and in the water again. Finding ourselves ravenously hungry once more, we decided to treat ourselves to half a suckling pig preceded by lashings of minestrone and tried a glass of the local spirits, 'Grappa' by name and nature. Afterwards we found that it was 100% proof and illegally made. It should definitely stay illegal! Our hunger appeased, were turned to the tent to see the remaining part of the wet night out.

'HEY YOU'RE ENGLISH'

Leaving Follonica next day with very mixed feelings we drove towards Pisa, which we briefly visited, taking in the main tourist attraction. From here to Florence via Cascina and Lastron was a dry run and we had the feeling that the weather might just change. As soon as we entered the city of Florence the Gods must have had a conference and decided it was time the Parrys would enjoy another torrential downpour. (Hence our title.) Selecting a camp site overlooking Florence, we were hastily erecting our tent, which does not take long, when someone said, 'Hey! you're English'. As these were the first English faces we had seen for a considerable time you can imagine how much we chatted.

FLORENCE FASCINATES

The rain continued for several days, and so we tripped daily into Florence leaving the car in Fiesole market square, and took a tram, which was rather nerve racking as it screamed down the steep hills on the wrong side of hairpin bends. We wondered if we'd ever see the centre of Florence and I for one was glad to get off. Armed with a camera we headed for the Piazza del Duomo and the Baptistry of St John the Baptist which stood like a large mushroom. With many others we stood and gazed admiringly at the past, our eyes trying to take in all the artists' works, masterpieces by Rubens, Titian, Raphael, and many more. Standing on the Ponte Vecchio bridge where goldsmiths and silversmiths have worked and traded in their precious metals for centuries, we marvelled at their artistry. Markets with leather goods, marble, alabaster and other souvenirs, so much to absorb all in the space of a few days, when one could easily spend a lifetime there.

The goldsmith's and silversmith's bridge—The 'Ponte Vecchio' in Florence

MIXED FEELINGS AS WE LEAVE

Our lifetime was running out rather rapidly and although we could have journeyed home in 24 hours we saw no point in having a holiday if you end up more haggard than when you start, so we started to gather out belongings together and set off homeward with very mixed feelings on Italy, the contrasts; the poor peasants working as they have done for decades; the city dweller, although better off is still relatively poor in comparison to his Swiss, Austrian and French neighbours. 'Friends, Romans and countrymen . . .'. Ah well, maybe another year we'll get to Sicily, but preferably in the winter months—we may even get sun!

'Jocomex' Ariadne Style

Our 14 Sig Regt correspondent writes:

THE following extract from the Royal Naval magazine, *The Communicator*, written by **Lt G. C. Beard,** RN, suggests that the Regt's policy of subjecting our nautical friends to Pongo Power in the shape of liaison parties is paying off. It would seem they have decided, 'that there is more in us to be praised than to be pardoned', to paraphrase Shakespeare. Fortunately, our E21 cannot write or it would reveal that the crew played pontoon while it did it all unaided.

The Mediterranean to Worcester

by Lt G. C. Beard, RN

Those of us who are used to the normal run-of-the-mill 'Jocomex' carried out whilst working-up or weapon training at Portland might be interested to know that 'Jocomex' also work over greater distances.

Ariadne was recently detailed for a 'Jocomex' whilst deployed in the Mediterranean. The Army unit involved was 14th Signal Regt who, by their signal address, were thought to be in Macrihanish in Scotland. They turned out to be in Worcester, much to everyone's surprise and none of us quite knows why.

The circuit took about two hours to set up initially but once in, apart from the time it took to change frequencies, it stayed in. Ariadne at the time was participating in NATO's Naval On Call Force Mediterranean consisting of four other NATO ships. Equipment and staff were well stretched and the effect of this 'Jocomex' was to provide us with our very own MRL. The co-operation of the Army in accepting all our traffic without a murmur greatly reduced the effort and time required to set watch and pass traffic on ship-shore and took a considerable amount of strain off the 'G' sub-department.

The exercise was scheduled to last 45 hours but once we realised the value of this circuit the obvious thing to do was to ask 14 Sig Regt to extend. In spite of the fact that it was a Friday and the weekend loomed large, the request was granted and it was arranged that we keep the circuit in for a further 24 hours until the ship's arrival in La Spezia.

The success of this exercise, which provided 93% traffic availability time, was due largely to the efforts of **RS (G) Sykes** and **LRO (G) Selway,** well backed-up by a keen department and the willing co-operation of the Army. 14 Sig Regt on one occasion linked the ship's Diving Officer with his mother who lives in

Members of the E21 Detachment responsible for the successful JOCOMEX to *HMS Ariadne*

Back row, left to right: Cpls Knight, Birch, Lcpls Livermore and Walker

Front row, left to right: Sig Caddy, Ssgts Birney, Rogers, Bennett, Cpl Hall, Sgt O'Hagan, Cpl Lawrie, Lcpl Ellis

Worcester, passing messages back and forth via teleprinter and telephone, and on another occasion provided us with a blow by blow commentary of the European Cup Final, the result of which caused one Able Seaman on board to burst into tears.

Having been successful with only one 'Jocomex' over the last six months we approached this one with a certain amount of anxiety. In the event this was totally unfounded and the success of it restored our faith in long-haul inter-Service communications. It leads one to wonder if this form of MRL could be used more often with ships who are on short deployments to the Mediterranean. Our thanks go to 14 Sig Regt for their splendid co-operation.

School of Signals, Blandford Camp Fashion Show a Marked Success

BLANDFORD Camp is well used to the staging of VIP visits and various Corps functions, the majority of which run on well-oiled wheels born of custom and almost daily practice. The highlight, for the resident population, in September was an entirely new departure—a fashion show jointly organised by the ladies of our two Wives Clubs, School and 30 Sig Regt, and the Guild of St Helena.

Male participation was confined to the provision of the hardware, early talk of male models having fallen upon stony ground. 'Catwalk', lighting, background music and loudspeakers arrived on time thanks to the good offices of the two resident RSMs, **Messrs Piper** and **Green,** who showed their expertise in management techniques by a masterly display of delegation.

Despite dire warnings from the Quartermaster of the retribution that would be exacted should another fuse be blown, after the minor disasters of the dress rehearsal, **Lcpl James** and **Sig Hodson** produced really effective sound and lighting effects worthy of the occasion and displayed remarkable fortitude by remaining at their posts for the duration of the dress rehearsal and actual performance. **Sig Hodson** also acted as fashion photographer. More than one Peer of the Realm should know that competition in fashion photography is hotting up from darkest Do set. An example of his work is shown against the background of a Rolf Harris original, the model being **Mrs Mary McGrath,** wife of US exchange officer **Maj Jack McGrath.**

The fashions were presented by 'Hicks' of Blandford. **Mrs Ann Blake,** their fashion buyer, acted as an expert compere throughout the show. The natural charm and elegance of our own models flowered into professionalism under the expert guidance of **Mrs Penny Humes,** daughter of **Maj Fred Cornish,** our Housing Commandant. Her experience with many well-known fashion houses, including Christian Dior, proved invaluable.

Attendance on the night of well over 200 ladies from the station, Blandford and surrounding villages, surpassed even the expectations of the organisers and incidentally, our security conscious Guard Room! Those attending were treated to a non-stop show of two hours duration, taking in a full range of ladies fashions from casual sports wear to formal evening attire. The event concluded with a vote of thanks to all concerned from **Mrs Anderson,** and the raffle of the Rolf Harris original, won by **Mrs Stella Simpson.**

All agreed that the evening had been a great success. How many husbands got broad hints with their breakfast the following morning?

MODELLING AT THE BLANDFORD WIVES FASHION SHOW—MRS MARY McGRATH

News from Regiments

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

OUR covering letter to the Editor was headed 'Wire Notes, August–October 1975'. As the notes will show, time did not permit the submission of articles in August/September/October since during the first two weeks of those months we were engaged in some activities which involved the Regt—in part or in whole. So there follows an edited version of our accounts showing the varied and interesting exploits since August.

SMART'S FATE

Once again it was the lot of 3 Sqn to organise the annual Anglo/German Fete at Verden on Saturday, September 6. The entire Regt was, of course, involved but its efforts were co-ordinated by **SSM Mel Smart** whose expertise at arranging such functions is legendary—or so he says.

The fete which included a display of military equipment—British and German, bands, refreshments, stalls, pony rides, etc, heralded the start of this occasion. **Lcpl Barry Phillips** and Line Troop surpassed themselves and produced a most colourful complex of stalls. Their pig stall was a big success—pink ribbons on linemen who go 'Oink Oink' work wonders! The wives' club stall did a roaring trade in cakes and bottles and the fish and chips stall ran out—yes—ran out of chips. But the band played on. Over DM4,200 was the final figure and this sum which was nearly twice the amount from last year's fete went to various British and German charities.

ANGLO/GERMAN ATHLETICS

On Sunday, September 7 the climax of the weekend was an athletics/spectacular display in the Verden town sports arena.

Three teams took part in the competition; a British team consisting of mainly the Cheshire Regt, 7 Signal Regt and other individual BAOR standard athletes, a German Army Team and a German civilian team. The standard was very high—and we came third!

The afternoon programme included a free fall parachute display, three bands playing, a local dog handlers display and the Verden town athletic/gymnastic club giving a massed performance. Over 5,000 people enjoyed the day's programme and 2 Sqn gave a splendid reception for all the athletes. Anglo/German relations were again firmly cemented.

SPORT

The highlight of our sporting achievements lie in three fields—boxing, tennis and sailing. **Lcpl Jerry Dolan** has already featured on these pages as an up and coming boxer. This time he has swept the board. In a matter of months he has gone from novice to being the Army Intermediate Champion 1975 (Welterweight). In October he will have boxed against Oxford as a member of the Army representative team. At 20-years-old he has a promising future.

In short, 1 Division Headquarters and Signal Regt are the holders of the Army Inter Unit Challenge Cup 1975 in tennis. As our gallant paymaster **Maj Tony Moore** prophesied in 1974, next year would be the final coup—and he was right. At the Divisional Stage we beat 49 Field Regt, Royal Artillery and in the BAOR Final 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regt were beaten 5—4.

In the BAOR Championships more Regimental successes were scored particularly when **Sig Griffith** partnered by **Maj Siderfin** of 7 Signal Regt won the Army/Corps Doubles Championship for the Royal Signals and **Mrs Hannelore Roberts,** wife of our Adjutant **Martin Roberts,** won the Ladies Singles title.

Another prophesy is that any Unit which intends winning the Inter Unit Challenge Cup in 1976 had better start practising now—to give us a good game!

The 1 Divisional Inter Unit Dinghy Regatta was won by the Regt who beat five other major units at the British Weser Yacht Club in September. **Capt Martin Roberts** (his wife plays tennis) was the capable helmsman in this event. Another win was achieved when the Regt beat 10 other teams in the Royal Signals Inter Unit Dinghy Regatta. **Capt Martin Roberts** also won the Royal Signals Individual Trophy (The Silver Junk) and his able crew was **Lcpl Jock Norrie.**

LOW-LEVEL EXERCISES

A feature of Regimental activity over the past months has been the number of varied and challenging Squadron/Troop exercises.

VIKING RETURN 2

On August 25 five illustrious members of RHQ were granted four days off from the turmoil of a clerk's routine to go and sample the relative quiet of Danish waters. This exercise had been classed as an arduous session of continuous offshore sailing in cramped conditions. 'This description was dead right' admitted **Cpl Paul Connors.** Skippered by **Capt Martin Roberts** the green crew consisted of **Cpl Paul Connors, Lcpl Pete Baker, Sig Mick Cole** and **Dave Stokes.** After a quick introduction to various 'sailor type' terms, RHQ set sail in Baltic waters. **Mick Cole** soon discovered that the contents of his stomach belonged to the Baltic. Other hazards were negotiated including our disentanglement from a Naval Exercise. Four very weary, weather beaten but happy sailors arrived back at the Kiel Yacht Club having had a hard but enjoyable exercise. Thanks go to the Skipper for bringing RHQ back in one piece (less a little bit in **Mick Cole's** case). **Sgt Mick Court, Cpls Paul Hargrave** and **Nick Round** deserve a mention for holding the fort in RHQ.

RIVER DELTA

A hundred local jaws dropped open as Delta Troop (1 Sqn) rolled up to the small village of Missunde, north-west of Eckernforde. The camp was quickly and efficiently set up (how else would Delta Troop work?) next to the river, into which most later plunged, for after a quick request from the Camp Commandant, **Lt Robin Holland-Smith,** the weather witch doctor drummed up 10 days cloudless sunshine.

The next day saw the start of activities and sports both on land and water. The activities were run on a team competition basis and the winning team members presented with a mug

On water, **Sgt Dave Brown** coached individuals in the use of our eight kayak canoes whilst the lazier amongst us circled round in an assault boat or the Regimental motor boat. The boating activities culminated in team assault boat and canoe races providing much entertainment for participators and spectators alike. Perhaps the hot sun and inviting water prompted rather more capsizes than might normally be expected! A team from the Troop also raced a German youth team in two 10-man Canadian style canoes.

On land, the various sports were run by **Foreman Gary Sharp, Yeoman Bill Balding, Sgts 'Paddy' Hunt** and **'Mac' Mackellar,** which included football games against the German youth team and against the Bundesmarine Fernmeldeschule at Eckernforde.

The major event, on land and water, was a 30-hour Escape and Evasion exercise involving five check points and well over 50 km walking (not taking into account the exhausting extra kilometres covered whilst being pursued). The captors kept up the pressure and the teams did well, avoiding a highly mobile enemy, with the notable exception of the team caught trying to hitch a lift from an enemy Rover. Perhaps the prize for the most enterprising escaper goes to **Lcpl John Pritchard** who, chased into the marshes of the estuary, filled his combat smock with expanded polystyrene floats and floated into the estuary. The exercise proved a great success and the next night, contented snores replaced the clamour to board the liberty truck.

The last day jolted us back to reality. Sun tanned faces mused on the perfect weather and brown backs remembered what a KF shirt feels like. We all climbed into our various wagons and cars, pointed the bonnets towards Verden and wondered why we had moaned at being told we were going on this exercise.

ROUNDABOUT RETURN

Whilst Delta Troop (1 Sqn) were 'busy' frolicking on their exercise River Delta, Charlie Troop was training as usual in preparation for carrying the 1 Sqn workload on the Autumn exercises in October. **Yeoman Mel Watson** had prepared some unique training for this exercise which was held on that well-known feature—the Sunteln (440 m). It turned out to be a very successful venture since **Cpl 'Tiny' Blacklaw** and **Lcpl 'Nobby' Clark** managed to site the Radio Relay detachments so well that **Capt Bill Richard,** CELE, OC Charlie Troop is now seeking new employment for the Yeoman and **Sgt 'Pockets' Oliver. Mel Watson** need not worry, however, since **Lcpl 'Smudger' Smith** and **Sig 'Norrie' Allan** have both bid for his services as their detachment cook. The exercise ended on a high note as **Sig Gary Shaw** used his impressive first aid knowledge to revive a 'dead man' asleep at the roadside and **Cpl 'Ganz Anz' Bailey,** despite getting lost, managed to get back to barracks first.

TANDEM TREK

After some initial teething troubles Alpha I Troop from 2 Sqn took to the road on August 21 for their exercise in Denmark. This exercise was a blend of escape and evasion exercises, swimming, canoeing and trekking. The Troop were based on a civilian camp site and the local campers were amazed at the daily antics. 'Spirits' rose and fell as the weather changed from brilliant sunshine to torrential rain but the escapers still escaped—or were caught. It proved easy to arrange the odd soccer match and the children in most cases provided tough opposition—(they just didn't know the rules!) The Troop was faced with formidable opponents at soft ball including buckets of cold water.

After 10 days of hard training and enjoyable extra mural activities, **Capt Rob Symonds** led his merry Troop home again to that other way of life in Verden.

VISIT AND FAREWELL

On October 21, the Representative Colonel Commandant **Maj Gen D. G. Horsfield, OBE,** visited the Regt. **Capt Bill Richard** Cele, our Canadian Exchange Officer was presented with the 'Mobile Command Achievement Award' for past services. The General saw much during his one-day visit and was present for the inaugural Page Trophy basketball competition between HQ and 3 Sqns. He also kindly presented 1 and 2 Sqns who tied equal first with the Page Trophy for the Summer Season.

Our General Officer Commanding 1st Division, **Maj Gen J. W. Stanier, MBE,** was seen off in fine style by the Regt when he paid his farewell visit on October 28. The Corps Band who had arrived in Verden for a concert that evening led the procession out of barracks. The General rode in a very smart Line Troop Land Rover having buckled on his linesman belt. For his ADC, **Capt Henry Callander,** the line trailer provided adequate room amongst the ladders and cable. All ranks from the Regt lined the road out of the barracks then fell in behind the General to march down the main road. It was an impressive parade and the local German drivers, although delayed were fascinated by this spectacle.

We all wish **Maj Gen Stanier** the very best in his new appointment as Commandant, The Staff College, Camberley.

(See photos overleaf)

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

CAMERA REPORT from 1 DIV HQ and SIG REGT

AWARD FOR CANADIAN EXCHANGE OFFICER

Capt Bill Richard, a Canadian exchange officer serving with 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regt, was recently presented with the Canadian Mobile Command Achievement Award, following his tour with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Israeli occupied Sinai

The award 'in recognition of Capt Richard's dedication to the service, in particular the outstanding manner in which he carried out his assignment as Commander of the Signal Troop within the Middle East theatre of operations', was presented by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals, Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield, OBE

FAREWELL TO GOC

Maj Gen J. W. Stanier, MBE, being driven out by Sig Edwards in a line Land-Rover escorted by the Regt under the watchful eye of RSM D. Spiers

CORPS BAND PLAYS ITS PART

The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals led by the Director of Music, Maj K. R. Boulding, marching through the ranks of the Regt followed by the departing GOC Maj Gen J. W. Stanier, MBE

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

THE CROSSED KEYS FEST

NOT content with its Kohima celebrations and Fete in June the Regt staged yet another all action spectacular on September 6. This time the venue was Tunis Barracks, Lubbecke, the home of our HQ Sqn. The occasion for the Fete (Fest) was the 1,200th anniversary of the town.

The 'Crossed Keys Fest', as it was known, was opened by Richard Baker of BBC Television and despite the heavy rain spoiling the opening ceremony the day was a great success. The fete was in the main designed for the townsfolk of Lubbecke and, as a symbol of the Army's good relations with them, GOC 2 Division, **Maj Gen Mangham,** presented a painting of the Battle of Minden to the Mayor of Lubbecke.

The Fest included a first-class static display of British and German military equipment, arena events and all manner of sideshows.

The Fest was thoroughly enjoyed by its 4,000 visitors and went a long way towards promoting even better Anglo-German relations in Lubbecke. It was also a great financial success for the Regt, DM5,000 being taken.

COMEX 7

Also in September six members of the Regt embarked upon an 18,000-mile round trip to India as members of the Commonwealth Expedition of 1975 (Comex 7). The expedition was led by **Col (Retd) Lionel Gregory** who in fact served in the Corps. The expedition consists of young people from many walks of life throughout the Commonwealth countries, and aims to promote goodwill amongst Commonwealth peoples by portraying the philosophy of Comex in mime, word, and song.

Representing the Regt were **Lt Richard Mardo, Cpl Steve Johnson, Lcpl Mick Hendley, Cpl John Burton, Cpl Ian Robinson** and **Cpl 'Brumme' Harvey.**

One-hundred-and-ten-strong, Comex 7 is moving as five contingents each in its own custom-built coach. The members of the Regt form part of the British contingent, and as part of their tour of India they will, with members of the Indian army, make a pilgrimage to the Kohima battlefield and lay a wreath at the Memorial, to those of 2nd Division who died at Kohima in 1944, on behalf of **Gen Grover,** the then GOC, **Gen Mangham,** the present GOC of the Division, and of the Regt.

On their return Comex will give a concert at Birdwood Barracks, Bunde, before proceeding on to London for their final performance in the City Hall, Westminster.

OFF TO INDIA

Col Peter Davis presents Lt Richard Mardo with a parting gift Looking on are (*left to right*): Cpls John Button, Steve Johnson, Ian Robinson, Lcpl Mick Hendley and Cpl 'Brumme' Harvey. Also Cpls Bill Bird and Ken Evans (12 Mech Bde)

HGV DRIVER TRAINING

With the exercise season over the Regt began a programme of HGV Driver Training in the Training Wing. It was felt, however, that as visual teaching aids go, this time **Yeoman Alan Chapman** had gone too far. What in fact happened was that two Linemen, **Sig Alan Fugill** and **Sig David Taylor** were asked to move a Bedford from the square so as to clear the hockey pitch. They discovered too late that Bedford brakes don't work when the engine is not running and the hand-brake takes time to apply! The result of this chain of events was that the Bedford entered the Training Wing classroom through the wall. They did, however, manage to explain it all away at the inquest.

THE DEPARTURE OF COL DAVIS

Late September saw the departure of **Col Peter Davis** as Commanding Officer. He was dined out of the Officers' Mess on Friday, September 26, where as a memento of his tour here he was presented with an engraved Silver Salver by the 2IC **Maj Bill Morgan** and in return he presented the PMC of the Mess **Maj Bill Parkes** with a picture of RMA Sandhurst. He was finally 'dragged' out of RHQ in a Land Rover drawn by the Seniors of the Regt. The Regt will sorely miss his enthusiasm, his professionalism and most of all his stickability and wish him a happy and prosperous future.

While saying farewell to **Col Davis** we were welcoming **Col John Halford** as our new CO. **Col Halford** immediately put an end to any problems which might have existed in the Regt by abolishing them. 2nd Division Headquarters and Signal Regt now has only 'causes for greater, or lesser, concern'. We look forward to a long and successful tour under our new CO and hope that all of his 'causes for concern' are small ones.

Lt Col Peter Davis (*left*) presents a parting gift to the Officers' Mess which is received by Maj Bill Parkes, the PMC

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 53

SOME said it would never happen but on September 1, **Mrs D. J. Milton,** the Commanding Officer's wife cut the tape and declared the pool officially open. **Mrs Jennifer Milton** had previously unveiled a plaque recording the magnificent efforts of the PSA (DOE) who with the assistance of 20 Fd Sqn, 36 Engineer Regt and 62 (NE) Sqn RE, designed and constructed the pool.

The first person to try the pool, after it had been officially opened was, of course, **Lt Col D. J. Milton,** when he was tossed in fully clothed quickly followed by lesser dignitaries.

OPENING OF SWIMMING POOL

Mrs D. J. Milton cuts the tape

SADDLE CLUB OPEN DAY

On September 13, the Saddle Club held an Open Day to show their appreciation for all the hard work and financial support given after the disastrous fire in March 1974, which destroyed over £2,500-worth of riding equipment. At last the club is financially sound and the burnt riding tack has been replaced.

The Open Day was enjoyed by over 400 spectators, who watched Pony Club gymkhana games, a western formation riding display by the lady members, a tent pegging display and show jumping. An element of competition was brought in by the participation of Akrotiri Saddle Club.

Mrs Jennifer Milton kindly presented the prizes and rosettes at the end of the afternoon.

After the day's riding the competitors, club members and their

guests retreated to the club where a disco was held on the patio, and there they all enjoyed dancing under the stars until dawn.

A lot of planning and hard work went into the gymkhana by the club members. There are many who should be mentioned but I shall just confine it to **Mrs Susan McGrath, Sgt David McGrath** and **Ssgt Mick Jackson** Intelligence Corps who practically lived at the club for two weeks preceding the gymkhana.

1 SQN

So much happens in our Sqn that I am going to confine my report to a paragraph or two on a few events.

On August 13 the Sqn's swimming team comprising—**Ssgt Ray Jeffrey, Sig 'Hammy' Hamilton, Sig Charlie Charlton, Cpl 'Tug' Wilson, Ssgt Pete Perrott** ATPC, **Lcpl 'Superboy' Chapman, Capt 'Grandad' Culbert** and team captain **Ssgt Trevor Evans,** competed in the Cyprus Minor Units swimming competition, in which there were 11 entries. The Sqn won every event but one where they were beaten only by a touch!

Following this success (and who can beat it?!) a Cyprus combined Services swimming and water polo team of 14 left Cyprus on Friday, September 12 for Malta. Seven of the combined team are from **1 Sqn** they are **Capt Culbert, Ssgts Perrott, Jeffrey, Evans, Lcpl Chapman, Sig Charlton** and **Cpl Smith,** the referee. They will be competing against civilian and military teams. The standard is known to be high in Malta as water polo and swimming are national sports in Malta.

We look forward to hearing how our team fares, for after all their hard training they deserve to win. Next month we shall give you a report on how their trip progressed.

1 Sqn consists of many corps, as well as Royal Corp of Signals. Our 2IC **Capt Brian Moody,** belongs to the Royal Pioneer Corps. At a farewell party on August 30 given for **Brian** and his wife **Olivia** in the Regiment's club, 'The Elephant and Castle', the youngest Royal Pioneer Corps Soldier in the regiment, **Pte 'Pip' Moran,** presented **Brian** and his wife **Olivia** with silver goblets. **Maj Bob Aitken,** OC 1Sqn, said a few words, thanking him for all the work he had done for the Sqn and the Regt. A few days after the party for **Brian** a large car with BFG number plates, driven by **Capt Dick Richards (Capt Moody's** relief) was seen around the Regt—so it's goodbye **Olivia, Brian** and family and welcome **Capt Dick Richards** and family.

The cricket season was brought to an end in the Sqn by an end of season party held in the Mercury Theatre Club on Friday, September 5. The highlight of the party was a grand presentation to the Sqn's cricketer of the year. **Maj Bob Aitken** was roped in to decide who would be our candidate for this award. There were many contenders but finally it was decided that **WO2 Brian Ballard,** Royal Army Pay Corps, would claim the award. **Brian** has put a great deal into the Sqn's cricket this season and was only just warming up when the season ended. The party was organised by our Chief Clerk, **WO1 Tom McMahon** with the help of **WO2 Kevin Brennan,** Army Catering Corps, who presented us with an excellent buffet.

2 SQN

On Saturday, August 16, 2 Sqn held its Summer Ball. The evening started at 8 pm when 150 members and their ladies arrived at the 'Elephant and Castle'.

After a quiet start the evening soon livened up with the help of Hannah Mills Show Band, who provided excellent music throughout the evening. A superb buffet was provided by the Army Catering Corps cooks, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

At approximately 11.30 pm the raffle was held, with all five prizes going to people who were not attending the function. As a consolation **Capt Ian Strong** then decided to raffle off four bottles of champagne to people who were present.

A good time was had by all and the evening closed quietly in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Our thanks must go to the committee, led by **WO2 Lee Coupe** and to everyone else who helped to make it a memorable evening.

2 Sqn's cricket season has been very successful with 15 victories out of a total of 16 games played. The one match lost was unfortunately the one that lost us the league championship and by the smallest of margins, we therefore had to be content with the runners-up trophy. We finished off the season by winning the Rafiq Khan Cup and the ESBA Knockout Cup.

The team was captained by **Maj John Radford** (who also captained this year's Army Cyprus team in the drawn match against RAF Cyprus) and managed by **Sgt John Lister.** Our star bowlers have been **Ssgt Dave Sykes** who has taken 35 wickets at an average of only 9 runs, **Maj John Radford,** who has taken 26 wickets at an average of 9·3 runs and **Sgt Bob Williamson** must get a mention, who in the two matches he played has taken 8 for 24 runs. Our batting has been consistent with **Cpl John Hudson** and **Sgt Alan Thompson** leading the averages. The biggest factors in winning so many games has been our depth in batting and excellent fielding.

★ ★ ★

SINCE writing the above WIRE notes for the Regt, I have kept a diary of events, now I find that we have so much going on, that it is with reluctance that I must only submit the events which have the widest interest. Just remember when you read these notes, that it is only the 'tip of the iceberg' which you read.

EX-COMMANDING OFFICER PAYS A VISIT

Col H. A. Johnstone, OBE, who commanded 9 Signal Regt from 1972–74 revisited his past command in September and renewed old acquaintances. He was taken on a tour of inspection by **Lt Col David Milton** and **WO1 (RSM) Bob Wade,** where he surprised many of the long-serving members of the unit by greeting them by their name.

CARTER FLOODLIGHT TROPHY WON BY REGIMENT

On Saturday, September 27 the Regt played RAF Akrotiri, in the final of the Carter Cup Floodlight Tournament.

In previous years this competition was solely a Western SBA event but because of the defence cuts on the island, it was decided to invite teams from the Eastern SBA to participate.

The preliminary rounds commenced during the first two weeks of September, when we played the 1 Duke of Wellington's Regt with a result of 3—3 and won on penalties 5—2. Next was the match against 1 Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt with the result of 2—0. This took us into the semi-final against a combined army/civilian team from Episkopi garrison, which we won with a resounding victory of 6—0!

Although during last season our team had played RAF Akrotiri three times and beat them, the RAF team were the favourites of all the football critics on the island, due to the fact that they had some good players posted in during the summer break, whereas we had lost our Army (Cyprus) full back, half back and centre forward.

After a musical display by the band of the Duke of Wellingtons Regt both teams were introduced to the Station Commander of RAF Akrotiri, **Gp Capt D. Cooke, OBE.** Immediately the Regt went into the attack, then after 25 minutes a free kick was awarded to the RAF and a perfectly judged cross from the left was nodded in past our goalkeeper, so at half-time the score was 1—0 against.

During the second half, the pattern of the game remained the same, with the Akrotiri defence at full stretch, and resorting to some do or die tackles.

The team were rewarded for their efforts when a loose ball in the penalty area was picked up by **Kevin Manger,** who scored! By now the Regt's attack was at full cry and 10 minutes later a low cross from the right was caught on the volley by **Geoff Willcox,** who gave the RAF keeper no chance, now the score was 2—1.

The remainder of the game continued with the Regt pressing and the mid-field tackling like terriers, until the final whistle. The final result was a win for the Regt 2—1.

The Regt team was: **Cpl Bob Bolt, Lcpl John Jackson, C/T John Mullen, Sgt 'Mo' Harkin, Sgt Bob Williamson, Lcpl Kevin Manger, Sgt Jackie Snaith, Sgt Ron Clay, Lcpl Dave Oakley, Sgt Geoff Willcocks, SAC Dave Gardner.** The substitutes used were **Sgt Bob King** and **SAC Dave Bues.**

NEW MERCURY CINEMA OPENS

On October 8 the New Mercury was opened by **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers, CB, MBE,** Director of SKC and his wife **Grace,** who, after cutting the tape, declared the New Mercury officially open.

Now let us mention the many 'faces' who were involved it the planning and building. **Mr Martin Whiteman** (DOE) was given the task of designing the conversion of the Marsden shed into a cinema, and along with him worked **Maj Bob Hudson,** RE, who was responsible for designing and planning the electrical and ventilation systems.

From the start the SKC were consulted on the do's and dont's, they were **Mr Ron Davis,** SKC area manager and **Mr Dereck Bonce,** technical engineer. After the plans were drawn up they were passed on to **Mr Tom Thirkill** and **Mr Arthur Scott, BEM,** who are responsible for all DOE work at Ayios Nikolaos, they delegated the work to **Mr Mick Glenn,** Supt of Works, who was then responsible for the structural and finishing of all building jobs. The electrical and ventilation installation were delegated to **Mr Bill Brown,** supervising engineer. Everything went according to plan and the cinema opened with the showing of 'The Towering Inferno' to a packed house.

COMBINED SERVICES (CYPRUS) WATER POLO MALTA

In last month's WIRE I promised to report on how the Combined Services team fared. The party arrived in Malta on Saturday, September 13 and were in the water that evening playing a combined civilian and army team. This team included **Gristie,** the captain of the Maltese national team and the local hero. The game resulted in a narrow defeat for Cyprus by 8 goals to 6. The following day was the start of a series of games against the local League Clubs, the first being the Bizzibuga Club, which we won 7 goals to 4.

There games every day and the final result of the squads' performance was, played eight games, won four, drew one, lost three. A very good result when you remember the opposition were national standard.

The members from the Regt were: **Capt (Tfc) John Culbert, Ssgt (Y of S) Trev Evans, Ssgt Ray Jeffrey, Pete Perrott, ATPC, Lcpl John Chapman, Sig Tony Charlton** and **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** as referee.

1 SQUADRON WIN ALL FOUR TROPHIES

The Grand Final of the water polo season was held on Saturday October 11 for the Cyprus Minor Units water polo cup.

1 Sqn had already won the Cyprus minor Units swimming competition, the Gayton Trophy and the water polo league trophy and therefore were the favourites.

The competition was held on a straight knockout basis, so when 1 Sqn took to the water against BMH they went straight into the attack and won the game.

The semi-final was against RAF Akrotiri, which we won 15—0.

THE FINAL—1 SQN v 1 DERR

1 Sqn scored four quick goals at the start, but 1 DERR fought back, to make the score 4—3 by the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter 1 Sqn gave a great display of attacking water polo and by the end of the game won by 21—4.

This is the first time in the history of these competitions that one team has won all four trophies, which 'speaks' for itself of the very high standard of 1 Sqn swimmers who are: **Ssgt (Y of S) Trev Evans** (Capt), **Ssgt Pete Perrott** (Coach) ATPC, **Lcpl John Chapman, Sig Charlton, WO2 Barney Hill, Ssgt Frank Connor, Cpl 'Tug' Wilson, Ssgt Ray Jeffrey, Lcpl Martin Chapman** and **Lcpl Joe Morgan.**

1 SQUADRON'S VOLUNTEERS

Maj Bob Aitken, OC 1 Sqn, called for volunteers in his Sqn some time back in the middle of August to pit their skill, wits and guts in this year's NEARELF Military Skills Competition.

Out of the many that came forward the following were picked: **WO2 Andy Boyle, Ssgt Mike Hollins, Sgt Ernie Churchward, Sgt Davi Pugh, Sgt 'Smudge' Smith, Cpl 'Tug' Wilson, Cpl Pete Stickland, Lcpl Tony Bishenson,** REME, **Lcpl Geordie Atkinson,** RPC, **Sig Les Allen, Sig Mark Faulkner** and **Sig Pete Thompson.**

To do well in any competition, a team must train hard, which unfortunately caused a few to drop out through injury. This was the case, when **Sgt Pugh** dropped out with an injured back and **Sgt Smith,** when he injured his toes, **'Smudge'** wanted to continue but was told to drop out and give his injured toes a chance to heal.

On September 1 these lucky lads started training practically day and night, their subjects were many and varied, from shooting to first aid.

Sgt Jim Cork, RAMC was asked to instruct the team in first aid and did such an excellent job that they scored top marks in this section.

Ssgt Mike Hollins coached the team in the art of shooting, his patience and the team's willingness to do well paid off, as they scored the highest marks.

As the competition went on we slowly gained on the leaders getting the most marks for the tactical phase.

It was a competition the Sqn team trained hard for but which they enjoyed and they look forward to competing in again next year, when they are determined on bettering their position of third to first.

2 SQUADRON

We made our mark in the hockey field by winning the ESBA six-a-side minor units league (as there are few major units on the island the Regt is split, each Sqn entering as a minor unit), here is how the tournament went for us.

1 SQN'S MILITARY SKILLS TEAM

Rear, left to right: Sig Pete Thompson, Ssgt Mike Hollins, Cpl 'Tug' Wilson, Sig Les Allen, Sgt Ernie Churchward, Sig Mark Faulkner
Front, left to right: Lcpl 'Geordie' Atkinson, RPC, Pte Jeff Astill, RPC, WO2 Andy Boyle, Maj Bob Aitken, Cpl Pete Stickland, Lcpl Tony Bishenden, REME

v Hook Company (1 DWR)

There was plenty of good hockey from both teams but the ball just would not go into the net.

v 48 Command Workshop REME

The second match was a different story, although we were flustered after not scoring in the first game, 2 Sqn went into the attack from the start and within minutes we had scored! Ending this game with a score of 3—2.

v 62 (NE) Sqn RE

Both teams were at their best and the spectators were entertained to a display of fine hockey. **Lcpl Kev Manger** scoring both the goals for us.

The final—2 v 3 Squadron

So it was an all Regimental final. The first 10 minutes ended goalless although 2 Sqn put on a lot of pressure, this paid off and goals from **Sgt Dave Cleggett** and **Al Thompson** gave us a well deserved victory.

The Commanding Officer presented the trophies, after a very successful and entertaining day's hockey.

2 SQUADRON'S SNCOs AND LADIES ARE DINING!

We were well represented when the Sqn SNCOs decided to hold a formal dinner in the Sergeant's Mess. The ladies were a magnificent sight in their evening dress, accompanied by the gentlemen in Mess dress.

The catering staff as always excelled themselves and produced a first-class meal. A mention must be given to the volunteer waiters, who were the SNCOs of 1 and 3 Sqns, they would have obtained full marks on any resettlement course!

The Guest of Honour was **Sqn Ldr Allan Tillman,** RAF, accompanied by **Mrs Jean Tillman,** who were hosted by **WO2 Lee Coup** and **Mrs Ann Coup.**

After dinner speeches were kept short and extremely light hearted, and were kept in this vein throughout with **RSM Bob Wade** proposing the toast to the Royal Air Force. The gesture was very well received by all the 'Blue Jobs' present.

The evening was rounded off with dancing to a Disco supplied by 'D' Troop.

Our thanks must go to the organisers **WO2 (SSM) Lee Coup** and **Ssgt Eddie Grisedale.**

3 SQUADRON

The highlight of the month for 3 Sqn was rather a sad one. On Saturday, October 11 a pub lunch was held in our Squadron Bar to say farewell to the OC 3 Sqn **Maj Bill Snell,** Int Corp, and his wife, **Rosemary.** During lunch the SSM, **WO2 Cooper,**

on behalf of the Sqn, presented **Bill** and **Rosemary** with a set of four silver, Grecian type vases on a tray. Each vase was inscribed with a crest of the Int Corps, WRAC, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy respectively.

We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming to the Sqn our new OC **Maj Mike Fitzgerald,** Int Corp, his wife **Sue** and family

FAREWELL PRESENTATION
Left to right: Mrs Rosemary Snell, Maj Bill Snell, Sgt Andy Gray and WO2 Wilson Cooper

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

EXERCISE INSIDE-RIGHT

THE main item on our Regimental scene over the past month has been Exercise Inside-Right. The exercise put our extensive communication system under test, and we were pleased to hear at the end that we had passed with flying colours. The GOC in C UKLF **Gen Sir Roland Gibbs, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC,** visited our Wilton Communications Centre during the exercise. We would like to express our thanks to the members of the several Regts who came to help us cope with the very large traffic loads.

Meanwhile on the sports scene:

BASKETBALL

The London District winter basketball league has started once again and we are training energetically. Unfortunately we have lost **Capt Henry Jennings** to 11th Signal Regt and the basketball squad wish him every success in his new appointment. **Mr Colin Hatcher,** our new civilian F of S (who has just retired from the Corps) has taken over as coach and is doing a great job. **Sgts Al Carratt, Chris Endean, Marsh Davey, Pete Graham, Cpl Steve Hall, Lcpl 'Lofty' Dalton, Sig 'Jock' King, Ian Hastings 'Paddy' Johnson,** plus a few old hands train and play regularly and we are aiming to beat last year's good record.

HOCKEY

Down with the cricket file and reopen the hockey file; **WO1 (Y of S) Phil Phillips,** our cricket/hockey officer and umpire has gripped the stalwarts from last season's hockey teams and cast his net for new talent. His catch are achieving success. They have won all seven matches so far, which included the 1st Round of the Army Cup, and were runners up to MOD Army in the London District Six-a-Side tournament. Thanks must go to stalwarts of last year's team, **Sig Tony Reynolds, Sgt Mick South, Lcpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** (all have represented the Corps at one time or another), **Lcpl Bernie Randall, Sig Dave Fry,** not forgetting our new-found talent **Sgt Pete 'never get past me' Stanger, Sig 'Brummie' Hough** (both Regimental soccer players), **Ssgt (Y of S) Alex McArthur** (Capt), **Sgts Bill Tatnell** and **Karl Braganza,** to mention but a few of the squad of 16 players.

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

We are pleased to announce the success of **WO2 Eric Smith,** our MTWO and leader of the Regimental 'Hells Angels', in his excellent shooting in the Clinch Cup. He has twice scored 100 and twice 99. Perfectionist as he is, he was overheard saying he wasn't too happy about one of his possibles; perhaps he intends to improve on it!

And also meanwhile, back on the reservation . . .

TROPO SIGNAL TROOP SOUTH-WEST FRONTIER

Chief	**Capt (TOT) Denys Alblas**
Medicine Man	**WO1 (F of S) Bill Cochrane**
Indians	**Sgts Pete Shepherd, Chris Harris, Chris Boys, Tom Terras, Jim Carnegie, Bob Scott, Larry Adams, Eric Stout, Alan Reed, Cpls Alan Dixon, Sean McHale-Smith**

There has been much movement to and from the Tribe in the three moons since our last mention.

FAREWELL

We have said farewell to **Sgts Brendan O'Hare** and **Andy Guilline,** both of whom left the security of the Great White Cliffs to become Scouts of the Palefaces who permanently make camp in this Island. Also to **Cpl Derrick 'replace those bulbs' Thurley,** who left for instruction in Modern Signalling Techniques in the Great Glass House of Catterick Garrison, soon to be joined by **Cpl Sean McHale-Smith**—good luck.

WELCOME

Welcomes and War-Feathers have been given to **Sgts Larry Adams, Eric Stout** and **Jim Carnegie.**

CONGRATULATIONS

WO1 Bill Cochrane, Ssgt Joe Lovell and **Cpl Alan Dixon** on their promotions; also **Sgt Tom Terras,** who finally collected he 'bride price' of skins and horses and married Heather—we hope they will be very happy in their New Teepee.

On the sporting side of the Tribe's activities, since the arrival of **Sgt Bob Scott** there has been much movement and falling of Scalps on the Ancient Ladder of Squash. **Sgt Chris Boys** was selected to represent the Settlement with White Man's smoke pole, and **Sgt Chris Harris** and yours truly **Sgt Pete Shepherd** are having a quite successful season playing with a Ball of Hide for a local Ball of Hide team. Squaws **Sybil** and **Marilyn,** who sharpen arrows and sweep wigwam for Wise Ones, also wish to say 'How'—has women's lib gone to their heads?—to past members of our Tribe. It only remains for all the Tribe to wish fellow Redskins best wishes and happy hunting until we next appear in these collection of Smokes and Signals.

11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

ALL members of RHQ continue to work as hard as ever with little time for glamorous events.

We welcome our new Chief Clerk **ORQMS David Drane, Cpl Graham Copson** and **Sig Eddie Lowson** and bid farewell to **ORQMS George Shepherd** and wish him and his family every success for the future.

1 SQN

PASS OFF PARADES

As predicted in our last set of WIRE notes, the fogs of Catterick truly have descended upon us. On Friday, October 31, 1975, we started by just listening to the Pass Off Parade. We knew they were there as the music played by the Band of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards echoed in the distance and shadowy figures marched before us, but it was difficult to distinguish anything through the fog. However, it seemed to clear as the CO **Lt Col H. A. Cuerden** and **RSM WO1 A. S. Walton** marched on parade. The reason for this sudden lift of the fog remains a secret with the RSM.

Nevertheless it was another successful parade. The Troop passing off was No 5 Troop commanded by **Lt D. W. M. Conran,** assisted by **Sgt C. Wing** and **Cpl Merrick.** The Inspecting Officer was **Col D. B. Emley, OBE,** from Signals 37, Ministry of Defence. The prize of 'Best Recruit' was awarded to **Sig R. A. Lees** and the prize of 'Best Shot' went to **Sig D. Haynes.** We wish all 30 members of 5 Troop all the best for their future in the Corps.

Col Emley remained with us for the afternoon to inspect No 7 TAVR Troop commanded by **WO1 E. C. Hunt,** assisted by **Sgt Dagless** and **Cpls Cairns, Thornton** and **Gibbons. Col Emley** asked each of the recruits about their civilian employment. One recruit replied, 'Sir, I am a bull chopper operator'. To the uninitiated that is a sausage maker! The prize of Best Recruit went to **Sig Stanley** (63 Sqn SAS) and Best Shot went to **Sig Bradley** (81 Sig Sqn).

The standard was impressive after only two weeks of training and we hope that they went away having benefited and enjoyed themselves during their two weeks.

Fortunately 4 Troop had better luck for their Pass Off Parade held earlier in the month on October 3, 1975. The Troop commanded by **WO1 E. C. Hunt,** assisted by **Sgt G. J. Dagless, Cpls Thornton** and **Stephenson,** was inspected by **Col J. S. Agar,** Assistant Adjutant General, Ministry of Defence. The prize for the 'Best Recruit' was awarded to **Sig S. J. Sherwood** and **Sig W. J. Banner** won the prize for 'Best Shot'. Again we wish all 31 members of 4 Troop all the best for their future in the Corps.

EXERCISE INSIDE-RIGHT

Virtually the whole of 1 Sqn was involved in Exercise Inside-Right either as enemy forces, umpires or simulated casualties.

Probably the most frightened of all the Sqn was 6 Troop. They were lying about quietly bleeding to death (simulated) and freezing to death (not simulated) when a pack of the local hunt came along. I don't know how many people have tried lying still while 50 hungry fox hounds come sniffing around.

Winner of the exercise Oscar was **2/Lt Phillipa Roberts,** WRAC, our Admin Officer who acted as a distraught farmer's wife. It was a most convincing performance except for a slight giggle when her best friend **2/Lt L. E. Finch,** WRAC, stepped out of the ops room to interrogate her.

2 SQN

For those of you who have served or just 'passed through' Instructional Wing, we have, as you can see been re-designated. We still maintain our 'Rogues Gallery' and make regular additions, our latest being RSSSC 103 and 104.

RSSSC (TAVR) 6 are with us at the present and their notes are included below, but in passing we would like to say 'It was a pleasure to have you'. The mad season being upon us, our tame referee, **Ssgt Paul Greenhalgh** is seen in training with his notebook and pencil at the high port and **Sgt Bob Lockwood** our other football crazy 'instructor' keeps out of his way.

TAVR VIEWPOINT OF A COURSE IN CATTERICK

On Saturday, October 18, 1975, 30 raw recruit SNCOs arrived from all over the UK to take part in RSSSC (TAVR) 6, which developed into 15 days of organised frenzy. The first of the major frenzies that this now highly trained force was ordered to deal with was a raging moor fire north-west of Catterick Garrison. (Would **Sgt Dave Hooks** please ensure in future, that the inferno is kept burning until the course arrive).

Ssgt Mick Lavery ably waltzed us around the drill square to the vocal accompaniment of **Sgts 'Chippy' Hughes** and **'Egg' Freeman.**

The normal Course *v* Cadre football match resulted in a 13—3 defeat for the course. The main reason for our defeat was the vast amount of tactical training meted out by **Sgt Joe Bonser** which resulted in our team diving for cover every time we came under attack from the 'enemy'.

The second week commenced with a mystery coach tour of the Northumberland area culminating in a brief respite in the Otterburn training area. This week was very ably organised by the new managing director of the firm **Capt Duncan Macpherson** and **QMSI 'It aint 'alf hot mum' Tony Davies,** who, at the moment are still trying to find **Ssgt 'the chin' Tom Sharp,** last seen disappearing over the moors with eight now highly trained course students in hot pursuit.

PRIZEWINNERS

Ssgt Dave Rayner—for high-speed loading (with the magazine the wrong way round).

A steel helmet—for losing **Ssgt Barry Greenwood.**

Sgt Malcolm Freeman—for keeping up with the PTI on the two-mile run.

Sgt Dougie 'the song' Douglas—for playing his 30 tunes over and over again.

Sgts 'Paddy' Conlon and **McDowell**—for proving that all Irish jokes have a solid foundation.

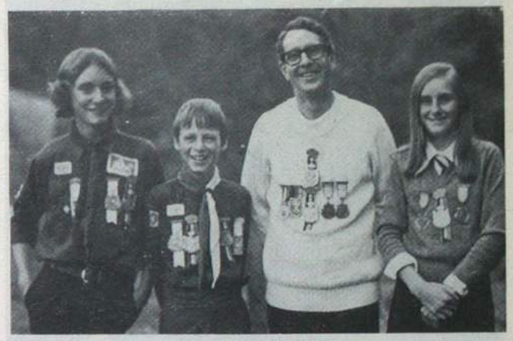
WO1 Bert Irons—for his award-winning split personality.

THANK YOU ALL

As a footnote, thanks to all the Staff of 2 Sqn 11 Signal Regt for a good time had by all.

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

ORIENTEERING AND MARCHING THE 'IN THING'



ALL AGES COMPETE
Proudly wearing their latest marching medals—Mark Loud, Andy Etherton, Sgt Terry Loud and Kim Loud

THREE FRONTIERS MARCH, PLOMBIERS BELGIUM
Back standing: W/Lcpls 'Dot' Bremner, Ann McCallum, Sig Bill Kelman, Dave Hopwell, George Punton, W/Cpl Marion Carr
Front (unable to stand): W/Cpls Sue Webb, Jean Davies, Sig 'Pickles' Exley

OUR orienteers have gone from strength to strength this season, finishing second in the Rhine Area League, and having competed in several German events. **WO1 Dave Etherton** came fourth in his class in the German National Orienteering Championships at Valbert and recently represented the Corps in the Inter-Corps Championships held at Ringwood.

Since the early summer the marching bug has bitten the Regt.

A steadily growing band of marchers, strollers, and plodders regularly attend the organised marches in Belgium and Germany. Distances vary from 10 to 50 km and our marchers, who include wives and children, select the distance which suits them. Everyone who completes their march receives a medal, some of which are impressive souvenirs.

ORIENTEERING ENTHUSIASTS
At the German Turner Bund Orienteering Championships: Lcpl Mick Jarvis, WO1 Dave Etherton, Cpl Ian Haig

14 Sig Regt Worcester

ISLAND IN THE SUN

THE 'in' scene for holidays this month is a gem set in the Indian Ocean. Constant sunshine cascades down on wide golden beaches which stretch from end to end and side to side of this sun-worshipper's Utopia. The name of our resort conjures up pictures of lissom, nubile, dusky maidens swaying sensuously in diaphanous pantaloons while hawk-nosed desert sheiks, with eyes of ice-cold, flashing steel, loll indolently on richly embroidered cushions. It is, of course, Masirah.

Our answer to Sir William Butlin, **Maj Tony 'Hellow Sailor' Seward,** ably assisted by **Capt Tony Pennington,** has taken a mixed bag of RAF and Army tourists out to savour its many delights. No expense has been spared to cater for all tastes. The Regt's Izaak Walton, **WO2 (RQMS) Murray Foster,** has gone along to instruct on the noble art of angling. Judging by the gauge of some of his line he is out for whale. Hopefully, I will have a plethora of stories of the ones that did not get away on his return.

In a new guise **WO2 (SSM) Jerry Jarrett** is setting up a desert camp and playing Lawrence of Arabia. With his usual thoroughness he has checked that there are no Turks on the island; he insists that he is no method actor and there are limits to the extent he will go for realism. His right-hand man is **Sgt Ted Bentley** who has taken along three books to occupy his spare time: 'Animal Tracks', 'Fungus' and 'British Birds'. The Troop can understand the first as they feel sure that the indigenous populace may summon up sufficient energy to drag their limbs over the hot sand and leave some. They also feel sure that they will undoubtedly support fungus even if they have not got the energy to move. They are, however, completely mystified by his third choice. As they so rightly point out, British Birds are the curvaceous chics with peaches and cream complexions which abound and delight the eye from Dover to Dundee. One of these appearing in Masirah should be readily recognisable to any red-blooded British male without the aid of a book. They can only assume **Sgt Bentley** is a little backward on this subject.

To ensure that our liaison teams of **Cpls Brian Coombs** and **Roy Baker** in Cyprus and **Sgts Frank Rodgers** and **Keith Kennard** in Hong Kong (rank has its privileges) have someone to talk to, **WO1 (F of S) Alan Falconer** has taken an E21 along. This could prove useful if some of our well-heeled holidaymakers fancy King Prawns from the exotic Far East or citrus fruit from the Mediterranean.

On their return I am promised an updated version of Desert Song for future WIRE notes.

NIMBLE-FINGERED FINKERS

The typists working for 1 and 2 Sqns have recently displayed remarkable intellectual prowess. **Mrs Mary Munden** arrived for work recently, obviously bursting with pride. Without waiting to be prompted she announced that on the previous evening, whilst watching Mastermind, she had managed to answer one question. Almost enhancing this feat is her mistyping while producing the orders for the Remembrance Day parade; by missing a line she produced:

'Medals are to be worn on the left-hand side of No 1 Dress Hats, fitted beneath chin-strap button'.

I feel a few bruised faces could result.

Not to be outdone, her bosom friend **Mrs Sue Cole,** having done some of **Mary's** typing, returned with a very noteworthy query; she wanted to know if 'cadre' was the catholic equivalent of 'Padre'.

No doubt, as a direct result of working closely with these two typists, **Sgt Fred Almond** is obviously suffering from the same malaise. **Mrs Munden** recently brought him a couple of large bags of very appetising-looking apples from a local farm. Next morning **Sgt Almond** appeared in the office with a grey complexion, eyes shot with blood and a sad doleful expression reminiscent of Clement Freud's dog on a no-meat day. He announced with some exasperation that after an exhaustive search of his encyclopedia, gardening manuals and other horticultural tomes he had failed to unearth anything on the type of apples **Mary** had brought in. During the night he had read reams on Cox, Orange Pippins, Golden Delicious, Bramleys, Granny Smiths, Lord Lambournes and every other kind of apple, but not one solitary word on 'Windfalls'. We now have him staked out under an apple tree in an orchard somewhere in the Vale of Evesham. We feel sure that this coupled with gales will repair a serious omission in his education.

BUBONIC?

A veritable black plague has recently affected the Regt. The first manifestation of this dread malady was Exercise Black Hunter. The symptoms of those worst affected was the urge to take off to the remote fastnesses of the Brecon Beacons and involve themselves in military activities. Here **Maj Tony Seward,** aided and abetted by **Capt Ron 'Mountain Goat' Abbott** and **WO2 (SSM) Jerry Jarrett,** put a literal translation on the words of the hit song 'Climb every Mountain' as they urged the members of 1 Sqn to do just that. No form of lung-searing, blood-pounding, strength-sapping activity was overlooked in their quest for amusements for the troops. Their boast that they succeeded suggests that they cannot tell grin from grimace.

Section attacks, forced marches, ambush drill, withdrawal march, probing patrol, forced march, attack and counter attack became reflex actions. Everyone revelled in the myriad delights of the life of the infanteer. During one of the ambush drills, **Sgt Dave Hudson's** section was totally annihilated by the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He gained the distinct impression that bonfire night had arrived early and that he had been selected for the role of Guy Fawkes as a year's supply of pyrotechnics were expended in a very brief encounter. On another occasion, in company with **Sgt Ted Bentley,** he hit the jackpot when four thunderflashes exploded in their trench. We trust that they will eventually lose the slightly bemused expression they now sport.

The sub-acquatic enthusiasts were well catered for by the weather; the Sqn's signature tune is now 'Raindrops are falling on my head'. Many, of course, wished fervently that they would fall somewhere else.

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.

A raiding party consisting of **Sgt Bob Botfish, Cpl 'Dobbin' Birch** and **Lcpl 'Pollie' Pollard,** masquerading as SAS, kept everyone on their toes. They also tasted the bitter gall of defeat when they in turn were ambushed by a heavy raiding party in which **Sgts Hughie Strang** and **Duncan Game** played a prominent part. Some of their tactics were well outside the bounds of the Geneva Convention.

In spite of the weather and intense physical activity everyone enjoyed the exercise and is now looking forward to the next one.

Retaining the black theme, **Maj Tony Seward** organised Exercise Black Gauntlet. This was a Tewt in which members of 1 Signal Group were invited to consider the problems of defending Sheepcote Farm from the Fantasians. Some very ingenious ideas were produced and we all enjoyed a day in the sun. Everyone agreed that it was almost impossible to defend the farm so we now have a very disconsolate farmer awaiting the arrival of the Fantasians.

BEEHIVE

Overhead in passing: 'What did your wife say when you told her you were going to Hong Kong?' 'Do no Wong!'

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

VISIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT, MAJ GEN D. R. HORSFIELD, OBE, TO 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Maj Gen Horsfield inspects a smart quarterguard

Cpl John Nicol is presented with his LS & GC by the Representative Colonel Commandant

THE Representative Colonel Commandant visited the Regt on the afternoon of Thursday, October 23, 1975. As the Guardroom is being rebuilt (bigger and better than it was, more cells) the Quarter Guard was mounted in front of RHQ.

The Quarter Guard, ably commanded by **Sgt Jeff Brook,** comprised mainly of young soldiers (who have not been in the Army very long) and a few innocent (?) linemen, not forgetting a few stalwarts such as **Cpl Eddie Waring, Mick Lytollis** and **Sig Mick Freeman.** These were knocked into shape somewhere between the servicing bay, the LAD and the square by **SSM Paddy Keating** muttering PRE and other Gaelic incantations.

The Colonel Commandant inspected the Guard and had a word with each member. He then presented the LS & GC to **WO1 (RSM) Bob Vale, Cpl John Nicoll** and **Cpl Arthur Joy** at a formal parade on the Regimental square.

WOs' AND SGTs' MESS

PROMISING START TO SOCCER SEASON

THE Mess soccer team has entered the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess League with a definite view to emulate last years performance of a 'clean-sweep' of all the trophies.

Having played a 1—1 draw against our neighbours 28 Signal Regt Sergeants' Mess (the old enemy), in a pre-season friendly and won our first league match 4—0 against 21 Signal Regt, the season has got off to a good start.

CAFE CONTINENTAL

A touch of the European Bistro's came to the Mess on Saturday, September 27, 1975, when a very successful and enjoyable evening was had by all at the Cafe Continental. **Ssgt (Y of S) Dave Burnham** and his cowboys did a good job on the organising front, whilst the catering staff, according to **WO1 (RSM) Bob Vale,** were reputed to be shedding parts of the anatomy, along with a high level of perspiration, during the preparation of the delectable meal for the ensuing horde. Having eaten their fill of a superb meal, the opportunity to dance to the music of the 'Aces' until the small hours was taken by most.

We now look forward to the Halloween Dance at the end of the month.

MASSED BANDS DISPLAY DRAWS 6,000 AUDIENCE

For a number of days prior to September 14 'Bernard Delfont' alias **Maj Derek Copeland,** 2IC of our Regt, was seen around the barracks waving an imaginary baton and whistling such tunes as 'Morning Has Broken', but more often than not humming 'Colonel Bogey'. A casual remark to **Lt Steve Bresloff** 'Do you like music?' and an idea came to life.

The 12, 13 and 14 September saw the arrival of such famous bands as the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, 14/20th Kings Hussars, 1 Prince of Wales Own Regt of Yorkshire, Queens Dragoon Guards and the Cambrai Staff Band with their director of music, **Capt B. T. Keeling, RTR.**

You have the bands so now you must display them, what better than the Grotenburg Stadium, Krefeld, capacity 23,000. The stage is set. 'We must make an impact', said the 2IC, so off to do a short course went **Cpl Willie Pounder** who was designated IC 'Bangs' under the direction of **WO2 Pick,** RAOC, of the Ammunition Inspectorate BAOR. The jigsaw takes shape, lance men under the direction of **WO1 (RSM) Bob Vale** and **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Northey,** start rehearsing and the strains of music float up from the square to RHQ where even an overwhelmed Adjutant **Capt Gareth Mann** was seen tapping his feet (this time not in annoyance).

Furious activity behind the scenes. 'Speech Steve'. 'Not really, on a Sunday afternoon!' said the Colonel with a smile. (At least Steve hoped it was a smile.)

The great day dawned—Sunday, September 14—and at 1000 hrs, in various states of undress, a full rehearsal was carried out on the ground. Then at 1600 hrs the show was definitely on. Approximately 6,000 people saw a magnificent show, the grande finale being the '1812 Overture', that's where IC 'Bangs' came in. (If the bangs were that loud no wonder they retreated from Moscow).

Many visitors came to watch and we hope that they all enjoyed their Sunday afternoon out with us. Speeches were made by the Oberburgomeister of Krefeld and our Commanding Officer **Lt Col Tim Hackworth.** The show ended to thunderous applause.

We must say thanks to the many who worked behind the scenes and especially to our RHQ Clerk **Frau Jutta Lumma** who spent many days liaising with the Stadt Officials on our behalf.

ANGLO-GERMAN HGV DRIVING COMPETITION

With the sound of engines revving, bands playing and with frustrated marshals, the Regt took part in a HGV Driving Skills Competition, Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28, 1975, run by the German Motor Sports Group (Kraftfahrer Schutz).

The competition was open to all HGV drivers, military and civilian, many of whom came long distances to take part. The course was in two parts, one part negotiated in a German Class II vehicle and the second part in a RHD British Bedford, which was open to varied comments, as the Bedford did not have power assisted steering and the Kleine Spiegel (Mirrors).

The competition was enjoyed by all taking part and the skill displayed was of a high standard.

Congratulations must be given to **Lcpl Graham Russell, Cpl 'Perky' Perkins** and **Lcpl 'Nasher' Nash** (all of 16th Signal Regt) for taking first, second and third places in the military class, and, of course, to **Sgt Gordon Craggs** who, with a superb effort gained sixth place whilst practically embalmed in plaster from a recent accident.

A hearty thank you must go to **Cpls 'Perky' Perkins** and **John Plumb, Lcpls John Martin, Danny Wilson** and **'Nasher' Nash,** who acted as marshals with thoughts of passing the next BE Test due to the mileage they covered on foot around the course. Not forgetting **Lcpl Larrie Spring** and **Sig Ian Spivey,** who were leaping about like kangaroos, but managed to get the vehicles to the correct starting point for each competition. At the end of the competition everyone concerned gathered in the Regimental village hall for the prize giving by the Burgomeister of Krefeld. After many speeches and much handshaking the weekend finished with everyone hoping there will be another competition next year.

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

THE WANDERERS RETURN

BY the beginning of September, the nomadic element of the Regt had begun to make its way back to St Tonis. In odd groups, they seemed to reappear from all parts of the globe

Lt Murray Martin-Rhind and his teams of marchers returned to BAOR the easy way on September 8, having participated in the Windsor marches reported in the last WIRE.

They were followed in by **WO1 (Y of S) Gallacher** and members of Alpha Troop who had been the guests of a French unit on Ex-Entente Cordiale.

Hard on their heels were our five intrepid cyclists from Ex-Andorra Bravado. **Cpl Foy** and his team of **Sig Pammenter, Hunter, Hayes** and **Laidlaw** had set out on August 23 to reach the tiny state of Andorra on the French/Spanish border. Having taken a train to Belfort just over the border, they cycled the 600 km to Narbonne on the French Riviera. Here **Cpl Foy** retired 'hurt' and he and **Sig Hunter** stayed behind whilst the other three completed the final 160 km to their goal.

Having been even further afield, **Sig 'Buzz' Jordan** and **Mick Wigham** returned looking bronzed from their trip to Singapore, where they were hosted by 28 Bde Sig Sqn. They had thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and made the most of an all too brief stay. Mentions of 'Tiger' and 'Anchor' brought a nostalgic tear to the eyes of some of those with shady pasts.

. . . TO GET SOME WORK DONE

September then, proved to be a busy month. Amongst our visitors were OIC Manning and Records, **Col F. Ramsbottom** who visited us on September 15 and faced the usual barrage of questions from the floor.

The major event, however, took place on September 18. On that day, we were visited by Commander Rhine Area, **Brig M. Callan,** while our neighbours, 13 (BE) Cie TTr, celebrated their 15th anniversary with a parade. As **Brig Callan** was to visit purely the AQ aspects of the Regt, and the Belgian celebrations were ceremonial—including a Tribune on the square, the two programmes were closely co-ordinated. On the day, all went with the precision of a good Brian Rix farce, including our Brigadier going out the back gate as their General came in the front. (This is all hearsay as I had the misfortune to be on leave at the time—Adjutant).

Towards the end of the month we started on the perennial round of stocktaking boards, audit boards which heralded the onset of the pre FFR period.

However, through all this we managed to maintain our sense of priorities, **Capt Jack Fiskel** took a party down to Bad Tolz, where they were well looked after by our American allies, and **Lt Clive Cox** took Tropo Troop trekking in the Black Forest.

. . . FOR A WHILE

All this was too much for the RSM **(WO1 Atkins)** who personally led a determined band to Bernastel for the Mosel grape harvest. (Rumour had it that he couldn't find anyone to pick on so he went to take it out on the grapes).

It also seemed an appropriate time for the Adjutant, **Capt John Young,** accompanied by the PRI Officer, **Capt Bob Pierce** (a deadly combination), to take off on a NORTHAG study tour of the Normandy battlefields.

On Friday, October 24 we were pleased to host the representative Colonel Commandant and **Mrs Horsfield.**

That same evening, the Corps Band gave a concert in the Sportshalle at St Tonis for the local townsfolk. This is becoming an annual event which is very popular with the Germans. The concert was well attended and the music much appreciated. In particular, the hilarious rendering of 'Old MacDonald had a farm' brought the house down, despite the language barrier.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The past month has seen a fair number of comings and goings—too numerous to mention them all. We welcome **Capt Kate Meacham,** WRAC, from CSO Branch and **WO2 (SSM) Golding** on promotion from 1 Div Sig Regt.

A farewell to **Capt Jane Freebairn,** WRAC, off to her Q Course, **WO2 (SSM) Brown** to 11 Signal Regt, and **Sgt Fulton** on promotion to 1 Arty Bde Sig Sqn.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Cpl Macham, Lcpls Mason** and **Whitesmith,** and **Sig Wingrave** on their recent marriages.

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News from Squadrons

3 Commando Bde Sig Sqn, Plymouth

THE DETACHMENT

SNCO IC Det	**WO1 (F of S) Barry Hassall**
SNCO IC Cypher	**Sgt Len 'Cancel Last' Rae**
Cypher NCOs	**Cpl 'Big Bob' Elliott**
	Cpl 'Dino' Derrick
	Cpl Stan Skidmore
	Cpl Mick 'Taff' Morgan
TE Techs	**Cpl Iain 'Potential' Officer Brownlee**
	Cpl Allan Whitehead

NEVER heard of us?

Well our job with the Bde Sig Sqn RM is looking after their crypto interests and crypto machinery.

With the exception of **'Taff' Morgan** who was on rear party, and **Iain Brownlee** who was at Catterick on his leadership course, we've just returned from a jaunt in Turkey on Exercise Deep Express.

SHIPBORNE

We embarked on *HMS Intrepid* the beginning of September in Plymouth Sound. There was a quick stopover at Gibraltar, then on to Malta. Whilst in Malta **Cpl 'Dino' Derrick** flew out to join us, after having a few days extra in Stonehouse. The 15th saw us sailing from Grand Harbour, Valletta, in Proceedure 'Alfa' (lining the decks).

Author's note: For those that have not been on board the Grey Funnel Line wear shin pads for the first few days, and nod wisely when told to 'Pipe down at 2230'.

RENDEZVOUS

We rvd with the rest of the NATO fleet, consisting of Turkish, Italian, and American ships, and anchored off the Turkish coast in Antalya Bay before sailing for Saros Bay for the amphibious landings. En route the ship's captain informed us of local places of interest, like the place where the last *Intrepid* was sunk. (That was a morale booster for the landlubbers on board).

THE CORPS IN TURKEY

The landings went as planned except for the cancellation of the wade ashore for the vehicles after seven had 'drowned'. The wade was about 4 ft deep and a distance of approx 20 yds. For those that enjoy adverse driving conditions try it!

The extremely dry dusty tracks/roads? made travelling unpleasant and everyone had a permanent coating of dust during the five days ashore on exercise. The Turkish authorities seemed to route us over the worst roads possible. Here the Royal Marine drivers deserve credit in the fact that there were not any accidents despite poor visibility due to dust and very narrow rough roads. One interesting thing about the exercise was that we actually practised and advanced and on paper beat the enemy, rather than the BAOR tactic of practising a withdrawal. After re-embarkation we sailed for Istanbul passing the site of the ill-fated Gallipoli landings of the first world war. Now two monuments to folly bear memory to the men who died.

HOMEWARD TRIP

Well after a cruise with the Grey Funnel Line what more could we ask but to be flown home by an RAF Hercules aircraft with a stopover in RAF Akrotiri to land at Lyneham some 13 hours later.

Things should be quieter next year as we aren't involved in any overseas exercises (as yet) and keep our feet dry except for a planned work-up on *HMS Fearless* when she completes her refit at Devonport.

THE DOMESTIC SCENE

We welcome **WO1 (F of S) Barry Hassall** to us and say goodbye to **Ssgt (F of S) Brett** on posting to 241 Sig Sqn.

We say goodbye to **Cpl Pete Morris** on demob, wishing him all the best with Bass Charrington Breweries, and to **Cpl 'Taff' Morgan** on posting to SHAPE. Congratulations go to **Sgt Len Rae** and his wife **Lynn** on the birth of their first son **Michael** on July 9.

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

DURING the summer months two University Officers **2/Lts Maynes** of Birmingham University and **Swindlehurst** of Sheffield Officer Training Corps, were attached to the Squadron summer camp in Holland. On return they were asked to write a short joint report on their activities in Holland. They report as follows:

SUMMER CAMP AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO UNIVERSITY OFFICERS

With summer here and the exercise season over for a short time at least, the next item on the Sig Sqn's agenda was ex-Davy Crockett VIII. A rather elaborate title it seemed to us, for what turned out to be a two week summer camp in Wijk Aan Zee, a small town near Beverwijk on the west coast of Holland. The camp was visited for a week by two parties both under the guidance of an excellent admin party under the able charge of **Sgt 'Brick' Wall** and **Cpl P. J. Probin,** without whom the calamaties would only have been mishaps.

SIGNAL AND CLERK TRAINING WING

THE COMMANDO COURSE

'It's only pain lads' was the motto Sgt Bill Anderson endured during his six-weeks Commando Course at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines

Sgt Anderson is currently attached to the Signals Training Wing CTCRM, Lympstone, Devon, where he instructs tape relay and joint message handling procedures. During his tour with the Royal Marines, Bill has set the precedent of becoming the first Royal Signals SNCO to successfully complete the Commando Course. Bill now joins Sgt Don Burst, an ex-Royal Marine, who is also an attached Royal Signals SNCO serving at the Commando Training Centre

In the photo, left: Sgt Bill Anderson. *Right:* Sgt Don Burst outside the Signal Training Wing, Royal Marines

LOCAL CONTACTS GOOD

The first party arrived to a sunny but windy reception and set to with the job of 'getting to know the locals'. The locals had already found the camp and seemed to spend most of their evenings monopolising the volleyball court. Several of the lads were invited out and others visited the town during their evenings where they found the local people extremely friendly. Some soon became acquainted with the barmen of the 'Moustache'. One turned out to be an excellent water-skier and adviser on boats and engines. He was most helpful in arranging the repair to the engine of our ski boat.

A VARIETY OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Each day's routine began with a run to rid of us the morning after the night before feelings. After the run various activities were arranged including canoeing, volleyball, swimming and water ski-ing. For the first few days ski-ing was not possible due to the popular belief that our boat driver **Sig 'Paddy' Hoy** was in the field latrine looking for the chain. He wasn't and the delay was due to a problem with insurance for the boat.

The local police, apart from being very good hosts, challenged us to a football match and a pistol shooting competition. In football, Bravo Tp were beaten but Alpha Tp managed a draw, mainly due to a brilliantly scored penalty by **Sig 'Jesse where's my defence' James.** We lost the pistol competition but won the rifle competition. There were also 5-a-side games with the local under 16 team who had not been beaten in their local league for two years. However, they suffered defeat by the adults of Alpha Tp, big sigh! Both were good games with the only injury being the under 16's pride which we quickly repaired by a visit to the bar.

HELP TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

One day on each camp was set aside for community work at a local hospital for the disabled—The Heliomare. A concrete path was laid by us through the animal farm so that the patients in wheelchairs could visit their pets. The second camp arranged a day out in a log cabin in the hospital grounds for some of the patients and it was very gratifying to realise how much the patients appreciated all that we did for them. In the evening a disco was arranged for some of the patients and nurses and we were invited along.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Several visits were made to the local places of interest. One was to the largest steel works in Europe where we had a marvellous

conducted tour of the works. Everyone was impressed except for **Sig 'I still think Scunthorpe is bigger' Walton.** Other trips included Saturday night in Amsterdam where a great number of conflicting reports were heard—so none had better be reported! There was also a trip to the Heinekin Brewery in Amsterdam, but —alas, only the bottling plant was open, sadly we were obliged to spend the visit in the bar. The souvenir shop was also opened for us and many of us bought T-shirts, half-yards and glasses.

THANKS TO ALL

All in all a great time was had by all and our thanks must go to Sgt Wall and the Admin Party for the work they put into the camp site and arranging trips, the programme, food and the excellent bar and evening time entertainment—they all deserve a medal for their efforts.

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj A. M. Willcox**
2IC	**Capt S. M. A. Lee**
Adjt	**Capt G. R. Hooton, IG**
Comms Offr	**Capt J. C. Chambers**
QM	**Maj N. Maddocks, PWO**
MTO	**Capt C. G. Cole, RCT**
OC 'A' Tp	**Lt P. B. Neale**
OC 'B' Tp	**Lt I. R. C. Brown**
RSM	**WO1 R. A. Jones**
RQMS	**WO2 M. Springer, BEM**

HIGH SUMMER 1975

THE summer of 1975 has been memorable not only for the superb weather but for all our adventure training activities. A few of these are mentioned in more detail below. We now look forward to a hard winter with plenty of snow and winter sports as we are running our own ski-hut in the Allgau.

EXERCISE MOUNTAIN GLORY OR 'OH! THE PAIN'

The 2IC ran this adventurous training exercise in Bavaria during July. The exercise was based in an Alpine hut just below the German/Austrian border ridge and, on the OC's insistence, well above the NAAFI line! The approach to the hut could only be made on foot and was described in the briefing as 'a gentle meander through a Bavarian pine forest'. Perhaps it was more aptly described by **Csgt Dennis Stephens,** Green Howards, as 'Oh! The pain'.

WELL ABOVE THE NAAFI LINE
Sgt Ali Abdulrahman, Cpl Bob Sturrock and Lcpl Dave Moreton high up the mountains on Exercise Mountain Glory

Over 40 members of the Sqn took part in this exercise and nearly all of them completed a five-day trek over this very challenging country. Even the 'old and bold' in the shape of the RSM, **WO1 Tony Jones** and the ASM, **WO1 Glynn Davies,** made it to the hut and beyond on the last course and described the experience as memorable!

CANOEING IN FRANCE WITH ATTRACTIVE CAVE LIFE

The last two weeks of August saw **Lt Peter Neale** and a party from the Sqn braving sunburn, heatstroke and tourists to achieve their goal of surviving the 33km long descent of the River Ardeche through the famous 'Gorge de L'Ardeche' from Vellen-Pont d'Arc to St Martin d'Ardeche. The party made several trips through the gorge, some people spending the night there on the way in one or other of the numerous inhabited caves. The cave dwellers, mostly naturists, were very friendly and on one occasion **Cpl Angus Macdonald** is reputed to have taken a midnight dip with a young lady from the next cave!

WITH PETASUS IN THE BALTIC

We chartered *Petasus* for the first two weeks of September for an adventurous training cruise to Oslo. The first crew consisting of **Cpl Mick Wilton, Lcpls Pete Clunie, Jim Denehy** and **'Alfie' Rowlinson-Bates** sailed with the new and old bosuns to Frederikshavn, North Denmark. They arrived there after only two-and-a-half days sailing which was 24 hours before the relief crew arrived by road! Unfortunately the relief crew had to be changed and because of this the decision was made not to go to Oslo but to return to Kiel by way of a long cruise round the Danish Islands. **Cpl Mick Wilton** stayed on board and was joined by **Cpl Chris Othen, Lcpl Paul Forryan** and **Sig Steve Hunter.** They had a most eventful trip back to Kiel with winds up to Force 7 and a lot, perhaps too much, of rain. In retrospect at least all enjoyed it and there are lots of mutterings about Oslo in the Spring of 1976.

AFFILIATION WITH PANZER GRENADIER BRIGADE 31

The Sqn was represented by a contingent of 30 men commanded by **Lt Peter Neale** at an affiliation parade with Panzer Grenadier Brigade 31 on September 6, 1975. Also on parade were contingents from the Scots DG, 1 QO Hldrs and 1 A and SH showing the distinctly Scottish flavour of 12 Mechanized Brigade. The parade also marked the 15th anniversary of the German Brigade. Scrolls and plaques were exchanged to mark this important link in the history of both formations.

COMEX '75 INDIA

Finally, two of our soldiers, **Cpls Bill Bird** and **Owan Evans** are taking part in the 10th anniversary Commonwealth Expedition COMEX '75. They are now somewhere in India and will be writing a full report for THE WIRE on return. They are back—we are now cutting their hair! (O.C.)

WE ALSO WORK!
The Commcen staff after receiving a Bronze Comstar Award from *Left to right:* Lcpl Paul Forryan, Sig Peter Jones, Lcpl Benny Revell

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Colchester

RENT A MOB

THIS last few months has seen the Sqn delve into the realms of the infantry. The cycle began with Sqn annual Military Training, but in order to consolidate our knowledge the OC accepted various tasks as enemy.

Exercise Scrum Half saw **Lt Arthur Merrick** lead a band of 30 dangerous men (from four different cap badges!). The Platoon worked in small groups acting as terrorists against 6 (V) Battalion Royal Anglian Regt who were practising the usual internal security drills. Part of the exercise required an attack on Battalion Headquarters, which was carried out with much gusto. Unfortunately a thunderflash landed on a tent, which turned out to be a tent occupied by the CO! The scene closes with a very irate CO chasing **Lcpl Archie Kennedy** and **Sig 'Padre' Taylor'.**

EXERCISE INSIDE-RIGHT

A mammoth mobilisation exercise saw Alpha Troop provide the enemy for 'Naval Ad Hoc Columns'. The naval force was made up of cooks, bottle washers, ships' stewards and the Band of the Royal Marines, all from *HMS Pembroke* and *HMS Ganges.*

The enemy force was commanded by **Sgt Pete Wilson** and consisted of **Lcpl Ted Haines** (QM's Dept), **Sig Ian McKay, Paul Gilburt, Martin Shields, 'Tich' Henly, 'Chippy' Wood** and **'Budgie' Parry** all of Alpha Troop, as well as **Sig Alan May** (LAD) and **Paul Harvey** ('M' Troop).

The exercise started on Stanford PTA on the evening of Saturday, October 18 with an all-out attack on a 'key point' held by the Navy—to coin a phrase, the enemy went through them 'like a dose of salts'. After this, they were engaged on trying to break through vehicle check points, and generally 'beating-up' the Navy positions for some hours.

The final phase of the exercise consisted of the enemy setting up a 'Hide' so that the Navy could practise cordon and search procedures. The hero of this part of the exercise was undoubtedly **Sig 'Tich' Henly** who was told to climb up a tree and 'Not to move'! He didn't move, but unfortunately, when the time came to leap from his tree and shoot up the naval search party he was completely rigid with cramp! He did finally manage to fall out of his tree, however, even if it was a tiny bit after the proper psychological moment.

This small part of an exercise involving 30,000 or so men seems to have been a great success, and was very much enjoyed by all who took part.

Other, more conventional Sqn activities, have included signals training weekends for CCFs, communications training for TA Officers, as well as the odd Jocomex.

EXERCISE 'BICYCLE BOUNTY'

This exercise saw 'Jumbo' Troop take off on adventure training in Devon and Cornwall. The Troop commander was quickly briefed by the OC, **Maj Jim McLuckie.** 'Take your Troop adventure training next week. You can have no kit and no money'. Undaunted, our leader rang up the Quartermaster at RMA Sandhurst. He kindly lent us 10 'tank-weight' army bikes with 2-in thick tyres.

The first bicycle was put out of action in three minutes by **Sig Martin Shields.** However, the remainder of the bikes managed to tackle the 1 in 5 hills of north and south Devon, and Newquay in Cornwall. Fortunately our routes had many convenient watering stops! A word of congratulations to **Cpl Dave Walker,** who was actually seen riding a bike on one occasion! Then on the other hand we had **Cpl Pete Coverdale** who is keen to do 'La tour d'Angleterre' on army bikes!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This time around, as usual, there are several new faces in Alpha Troop, and a few long-serving members have been posted. We have said goodbye to **Cpl 'J.C.' Campbell, Cpl John Monahan** and **Cpl Brian Lawrence**—the last two on promotion to Sergeant. At the same time we welcome **Lcpl 'Smudge' Smith** and **Sig 'Tich' Henly** who is under 5 ft 2 in, and is at present undergoing a Troop 'stretching course' so that he can learn to drive a Bedford. **Ssgt Pete Forster,** our new Troop Staff Sergeant must have arrived sometime recently, but he seems to have been here for ever.

Jumbo Troop has swelled its ranks with the arrival of **Cpl Pete Coverdale** and **Sig Ray Bownes. Sig Malcolm Holmes** and **'Basher' Bennett** have joined us from training.

The LAD has seen a change of face with the departure of **WO1 (ASM) D. J. Bayley** to BAOR and the arrival of **WO1 (ASM) M. Burnett.**

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 5

THE FINAL GROUP
Back row, left to right: Sgts W. Pettie, G. T. I. Riddy, J. Nelson, N. Urquhart, J. Waugh, A. Meir, J. Wallace
Middle row, left to right: Ssgt W. Wilson, Ssgt (SQMS) M. Abson, Sgts B. Vargas, T. Sawyer, J. Gilbert, K. Fowler, C. Bachelor, Ssgt (Y of S) R. G. Pond
Front row, left to right: WO2 (F of S) Lynn, Mr G. Smart (GPO engineer), Capt (TOT) H. Davies, Capt J. Kay, Brig G. D. J. R. Russell, OBE, Maj I. Graham, WO2 J. Bowman, Flt Lt M. Luscombe, Ssgt M. Sposito

SIGNING OFF

OC	**Maj I. Graham**
2IC	**Capt J. Kay**
TOT	**Capt H. Davies**
SSM	**WO2 J. D. Bowman**
FOFS	**WO2 A. Lynn**
YOFS	**Ssgt R. G. Pond**
SQMS	**Ssgt M. J. Abson**
Tp Ssgt	**Ssgt W. Wilson**

THE EARLY DAYS

AS a final contribution to THE WIRE from 28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, before its imminent disbandment it is proposed to outline the highlights of its brief existence. Formed on February 1, 1974 28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn was a direct successor to the ANZUK Sig Sqn. This was formed on the withdrawal of British Forces from Singapore in 1971, and can trace its heritage back to the Commonwealth Brigade, founded in the Far East after the Second World War.

28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn was unique in many aspects and despite its relatively small size had a surprisingly large commitment. Briefly, it was responsible for providing all tactical communications for the Bde, for providing a protective security net to cover Singapore itself, for providing the military telephone system in Singapore, and for running the radio relay paths from the DCN comcen to its receiver site at Kranji.

AMERICAN HARDWARE

The tactical aspects of these commitments were provided with a variety of equipments. Firstly all the radio equipment was of American origin, and on hire loan from the Australian government, and consisted of VHF sets ANPRC 77, and ANGRC 160 and HF sets ANPRC 47, and ANGRC 106. For those not familiar with these equipments they are similar in design and operation to the new Clansman range, and are fully frequency synthesised. In addition to the American equipment we also used an Australian set, the F1, Australian generating equipment and an Australian Tels repair Land-Rover complete with Kangaroo bar on the front bumper!

A KIWI ANGLE

Although predominantly British we were fortunate enough to have four New Zealanders attached to the Sqn, who provided more than a touch of colour. One of the highlights of our numerous HF commitments was radio station 'Kiwi Saigon' provided by two of our Kiwi operators. This station successfully maintained contact with Singapore during the last critical days of the Vietnam conflict, before being hurriedly evacuated shortly before the fall of the city.

The Sqn deployed to the jungle of Malaysia on many occasions, either in support of the Bde or in providing communications for Jungle Warfare Courses. The final major exercise in Malaysia proved to be our biggest commitment however, when we provided command, Air/AQ and umpire nets for a confrontation between the friendly forces comprising 1 Gordon Highlanders and 1st Bn The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regt, and the enemy comprising 2 Para and the SAS Squadrons from UK, Australia and New Zealand.

Lcpl 'Bob' Pakes operating an ANPRC 77 set deep in the jungle

'KIWIS'
Two 'Kiwis'—Lcpl 'Doc' Crene and Sig Kerry Ngaheu—showing the 'Poms' how to open coconuts on an adventure training exercise in Malaysia

TRAVEL FAR AND WIDE

Despite the many calls on the Sqn for operational assistance there has been a tremendous opportunity for travel during the past two years. Besides Vietnam and Malaya already mentioned Sqn personnel have visited Australia, New Zealand, Gan, Hong Kong, Brunei, Japan and the Phillipines. We have also had our fair share of visitors including the SO in C **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE,** OIC Manning and Records, **Col F. Ramsbottom** and two Commanders Royal Signals Hong Kong **Lt Col R. Benbow** and **Lt Col J. O. C. Alexander, OBE.**

SPORTING SUCCESSES

On the sporting side the Sqn has had several successes. In the 1974 Skill at Arms competition the rifle and SMG teams beat many infantry specialists and were easily the fittest team competing. More recently the Sqn were triumphant in the 1975 cricket competition of the Forces Sports Week. We can also boast of having had a keen soccer team which has done well in several local league and cup competitions.

HAPPY MEMORIES

As the Sqn rapidly diminishes over the next few weeks we shall all have many memories to take home. These will no doubt vary from toiling in the jungle of SE Asia, to drinking cold Anchor beer on sun drenched islands off the East Coast of Malaya. **Whatever these memories may be, we are all thankful of having had the opportunity of serving in this theatre of the world before its inevitable closure early next year.**

223 Sig Sqn, Winchester

AMALGAMATION WITH 224 SQN

THE news of the month in 223 Signal Sqn is the announcement that we are to amalgamate with our sister unit, 224 Signal Sqn in Loughborough.

There is an atmosphere of excitement, expectation and regret in the Sqn. Winchester is one of the nicest places to be posted to in England, and nearly everyone will be sorry to go. On the other hand, we have new postings, new jobs and new units to look forward to. Our Orderly Room is a hive of activity, answering queries and keeping track of people's future movements. The scene is dominated by our Chief Clerk **Ssgt 'Agro' Unwin,** who keeps the Sqn in order with a cool, calm style. All silly questions are answered with a friendly '. . . off'!

VISITS

The news of the amalgamation has stirred a new interest from outside in this hitherto obscure little Sqn. We have been pleased to receive some distinguished visitors. The first to come was **Col D. L. Bentley,** Chief Catering Advisor UKLF, who came to find out why there were no complaints about the food in a small unit such as ours. Credit for this must go to **Sgt 'Curly' Knox,** who runs one of the few cookhouses to offer an a-la-carte menu.

Col 'The Don' H. A. Johnstone, godfather of our sponsor precinct in the communications underworld, paid us a visit to assess the progress we were making with the 'offer we couldn't refuse'. Having been briefed by our leader, **Maj 'Al' Coates** and his concierge, **Capt 'Bugs' Maxwell,** he spoke to the troops and then went to the speak-easy in the Sergeants' Mess for some bootleg refreshment. The visit ended with lunch in the Officers' Mess. We understand that he was pleased with what he saw and that no-one is being measured for a concrete coffin. Visits of lesser mortals have been legion dealing with all the nitty gritty aspects of run down and amalgamation.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT

Old soldiers never die, they get Long Service and Good Conduct medals, provided their crimes are undetected. For 18 years' undetected crime **Sgt Chas Hall** was awarded his LS & GC medal. The medal was presented by **Brig P. F. A. Sibbald, OBE,** Commander Winchester Station. **Sgt Hall's** career has taken him to Cyprus and the Far East, not to mention the UK. He is a good shot and his abilities have won him two individual medals and bars for his performance in the Roberts and SMG 40 competitions at Bisley in 1975. He goes to the School of Signals at Blandford in the New Year, as a staff sergeant.

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

SUMMER FETE

ON Saturday, July 26, 1975 the Sqn held its annual garden fete. The fete was opened by **Lady Hodges,** the wife of **Sir Lewis Hodges,** the D Cicent.

Garden fetes just don't happen, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in preparing for the big day. This task was ably carried out by **WO2 Mick Hothersall,** the Sqn SSM and his workers.

The day arrived, the sky was overcast and it threatened to rain all morning, but just like a wedding the sun came out at the right time, nobody won or lost a fortune but a pleasant time was had by all.

The star of the fete was undoubtedly **Mrs Carole Mutch,** our Sqn office typist who donned an old fashioned bathing costume and volunteered as the victim on the ducking stool.

The first person to send **Carole** into the icy depths was our 2IC, **Capt G. Penman.** Some people say he took advantage of his rank and moved over the throwing line in order to hit the releasing mechanism.

The unit invited the local Red Cross to enter a stall and to sell their locally made goods. The profit which they made we are assured will go to a good cause.

GOLF

On Wednesday, September 17, 1975 AFCENT held its annual open golf championship. It was played at the Witten Golf Club, near Maastricht and **Capt Donna Reed,** our constant golfer, who plays off a 4 handicap, won the tournament with a gross 76, net 72. He was presented with 'The Heineken Trophy' by **Gen Lynn W. Hoskins,** USA, the AFCENT Golf President.

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

In July the AFCENT international small bore competition was held with **Capt (TOT) Reg Davies** and **Capt (TOT) Roy Lund** carrying the colours for the Signals. It was a very keenly fought competition with the honours going to **Reg Davies** in first place and **Roy Lund** taking third place.

NEW ARRIVALS

We have had our fair share of new arrivals, far too many to mention, but the most welcome new arrival into the Sqn are a son, **Stuart James** to **Sgt and Mrs Lumgair,** and a son, **Alexander Philip** to **Lcpl and Mrs Breakell,** REME.

AT THE FETE
Mrs Hoghton, wife of the OC, chats with Lady Hodges

News from Troops

HQ BAOR Sig Tp, BFPO 40

MARCHING, A POPULAR PASTIME

MILITARY marching of the Nijmegen type is popular in HQ BAOR Signal Troop. It provides a way of getting out of the Commcen, out of Rheindahlen Garrison, and into the countryside. Shift work, and the primary task of providing communications for Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, prevent the Troop from actually entering a team for Nijmegen. Instead, we have concentrated on the one-day international events, such as Brussels, Rheindahlen, and Val de Marne.

The Marches du Val Marne take place on the outskirts of Paris. This year's march was held on September 21. The Troop entered a mixed team of 10 WRAC and 4 R Signals. The WRAC accepted an invitation to take part in a Guard of Honour at the formal reception held on the Saturday evening.

ACCOMMODATION PROBLEMS

The march centre was at Fort Neuf de Vincennes. The accommodation was not quite as advertised. The men were accommodated in the echoing transit wing of the Carnot cavalry barracks, some 10 minutes walk from the Fort. The WRAC found themselves at Sucy Town Hall, where the accommodation consisted of a small room with eight bunks. Sucy is some 30 minutes drive from Vincennes. As breakfast was to be at Vincennes at 0700 hours, and as all 10 WRAC had to share the same cold water tap, it was calculated that reveille would have to be at 0530 hours. Suddenly, no one was interested in breakfast. **Ptes Pat and Pauline Thomas** went out to hunt for sandwiches and found two charming gendarmes who personally took them to the only cafe in Sucy still open. The 'A' shift representatives, **Sig Dave Noble** and **Pte Myra Male** were working till 2200 hours on the Friday and came by overnight train from Aachen (the last leg of the Moscow to Paris express). **Sig Leo Black** set out early to explore the city. Those who had spent the night at Sucy made

WRAC MARCHERS OF BAOR SIG TP UPHOLD CORPS' GOOD NAME

their way to Vincennes, some via an open air market, some via a cafe, and all by the Metro. **Cpl Di Gardner** and **Lcpl Sandy Murphy** were delighted with the market. At the cafe, **Lcpl Pauline Snowden** didn't quite take to coffee and croissants for breakfast.

After details of the Guard of Honour had been established a quick visit was made to Champs Elysee and the Arc de Triomphe, and then it was time for the WRAC to change into No 2 Dress and for **Ssgt Martin Bienvenu** and **Sgt Terry McAuliffe** to change into mess dress for the reception.

CIVIC RECEPTION

Creteil is an expanding suburb to the south-east of Paris, planned eventually to take 110,000 inhabitants. The parade formed on the edge of a housing estate and consisted of representative detachments of units taking part in the next day's march. The organisers' original intention had been to make the theme of the reception 'International Women's Year', but in fact the BAOR Signal Troop detachment, ably commanded by **Cpl Dee Foster** was the largest from any of the women's services. Men of various services, including the French Foreign Legion and the US 8th Signal Bn lined the steps of Creteil Town Hall, while the women's services formed two facing ranks in the foyer. The guests, civic and military representatives and heads of visting teams, moved into the reception through these lines. When the formal welcome was concluded, the Guard of Honour themselves mingled with the guests. **Ptes 'Mitch' Barnett** and **Anne Torrington** helped establish friendly contact with the US 8th Signal Bn.

The following morning the team was piped out of Fort Neuf by a Scots piper, to the satisfaction of our Scots representative, **Lcpl Kathy Fogwill.**

CORPS PENNANT PROUDLY FLYING

The route of the march follows the great ox-bow that the Marne makes before it flows into the Seine at Charenton. The marchers then climb up away from the river and their make way through the Bois de Vincennes. At the end, with Royal Signals pennant flying, the team joined the ceremonial march through the Chateau de Vincennes, ancient home of the Valois kings of France. Then they went back to Fort Neuf to collect medals and check for blisters.

551 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 20

PRACTICE CAMP

LIFE for us after our trip to Corsica returned to normal and we were soon hard at work again preparing our vehicles and equipment for 24 Missile Regt's practice camp.

This involved a Regimental move along the autobahn at 50 kph to Hohne, where our 'attached gunners' were to fire their missiles at anything and everything that moved. Most of our time was in fact spent training for the Nijmegen marches and the Hohne ranges proved an ideal training ground, being fairly flat with plenty of pubs on route—just like Nijmegen! The weather was very hot so as the OC said 'at least we should be OK at Nijmegen'.

NIJMEGEN

24 Missile Regt entered four teams in this year's marches, one from each battery and **Lt Jon Henderson, Sgt Tom Padden, Cpl Colin Ager, Lcpl Steve Toms, Sig Steve Carmichael** and **'Jonah' Jones** from 551 Signal Troop made up half the HQ Battery team. The OC having been before, knew his way around and so it wasn't long before we were settled in and ready for a few days sightseeing before the marches started. Nijmegen itself is a lovely Dutch town, filled with very friendly people who each year give a tremendous welcome to the soldiers of all nationalities that are taking part. The first day went fairly well and that evening saw us soaking our feet in bowls filled wth ice cold water and surveying the damage. The second day always seems to be the worst but apart from **Lcpl Steve Toms** who pulled a leg muscle and **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** who had taken a liking to large blisters, the team seemed remarkably fit. After that the last two days were almost a doddle and it was with great relief that we marched into the assembly area on the last day knowing that we had done it. The final march past was carried out in almost torrential rain (the only rain during the whole week!) but, as always, the aches and pains seemed to disappear and the British contingent put on an excellent display for the many thousands of spectators. It was with regret that we said goodbye but no doubt many of us will return again next year. (Incidentally all four teams finished and all got team medals—doesn't 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt count us as Army? see September/October THE WIRE).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the OC, on his engagement to **Miss Trysh Baker** and also to **Cpl Colin Ager,** on his engagement to **Miss Alma Town**—they must both be mad (the girls, that is!).

603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah B.F.P.O. 65

603 SIG TP FACE THE CAMERA

Rear row, left to right: Cpl Leitch, Lcpl Godfrey, Sig Thornley, Sig Askew

Middle row, left to right: Cpl Bryant, Sig Walker, Sig Smith, Cpl Cerrone, Sig Nesbitt, Lcpl Ling, Cpl Churchman

Seated, left to right: Sgt Gardner, WO2 (F of S) Hough, Sgt Collins, Sgt Moore

Front: Ali

VISIT OF GOC NEARELF

MAJ GEN C. W. B. PURDON, CBE, MC made a brief visit to the Troop during August. Taking the opportunity to sample the newly introduced 'Masirah Flyer' VC 10 schedule. (Five hours from Cyprus in quiet comfort, as against eight hours of noisy discomfort in a Hercules). The GOC made a tour of the Station, meeting members of the Troop at their work, then back to 'Pongo HQ' to present a Commendation from the Commander-in-Chief, RAF, Germany to the Troop OC, **WO2 (F of S) Jim Hough.** The Commendation was for service to the Royal Air Force whilst Foreman **Hough** was OC of the Roetgen terminal of the UK/Germany troposcatter link.

SALALAH DETACHMENT

Salalah is the principal town of the Dhofar Province of Oman. It is situated some 350 miles to the south of the island of Masirah, and is accessible only by air. RAF Salalah provides the Air logistic support for the British Army Element in the Dhofar. 603 Signal Troop Detachment provide and maintain all the normal RAF Station line communication facilities, including an ageing 50 Line RURAX PABX. The Detachment is commanded by **Cpl Dave Plumb,** with **Cpls Dick Moule** and **John Gallagher** providing the technical support, with **Lcpl Andy Donnelly** and **Sig Jim Udale** as the real workers. Being detached to RAF Salalah has its attractions, a town to visit, being able to swim in the sea (not allowed in Masirah, because of the strong currents and all the marine nasties, sharks, stone fish, etc) and green vegetation, because at Salalah it even rains (a very rare occurrence in Masirah). Also, a stay of 30 days or more qualifies for the Dhofar Clasp to the 1963 General Service Medal, which gives an indication that it's not all sunshine and sport at Salalah.

SPORT—'PONGOS' TO THE FORE

Because the Troop strength averages 15 men, it would normally be difficult to have a Troop team represented at every sport. However, at Masirah this is not the case, and the 'Pongos' manage to take part in, and very often win most of the many sports played on the Station. The most popular sport on the Island is five-a-side soccer, played in the cool evenings on a floodlit outdoor court. We have two teams in the current league, one in each of the two divisions. The 'A' team are now firm favourites to take the first division championship. The 'B' team, although not as successful, still manage to win a few points and a good reputation for 'fair play'. At Station level, **Sgt Brian Gardner, Lcp John Godfrey,** and **Sig Gary Askew** have been selected to represent RAF Masirah on soccer tours to Singapore, Gan and Cyprus

The 'Pongos' also field two teams in the five-a-side hockey league, the 'A' team having already won the first division championship, being undefeated throughout, and scoring 32 goals with only 4 against. **Cpls Ken Cerrone** and **Ray Leitch** with **Sig 'Taff' Smith** have represented RAF Masirah on tours to Gan and Cyprus.

On the rugby scene, **Cpl John Bryant, Lcpl John Godfrey** and **Sig Gary Askew** have represented RAF Masirah on tours to Singapore, Gan, or Cyprus. Unfortunately none of the Station representative sides have home matches since nobody seems to want to visit Masirah. Any offers?

Other sports around the Station include squash, where **Sgt Les Collins, Sgt Brian Gardner** and **Lcpl 'Flank' Ling** are all in the top six of the Station ladder, and **Lcpl Ling** also showed admirable skill in winning the Station table tennis knockout competition. Volleyball is another sport where the 'Pongos' are still undefeated, and look favourites to win the Station league. At cricket we combine with 276 Signals Unit and were unlucky to be defeated in the semi-final of the Station knockout cup, the unlucky part was that we were all out for 34. The 'Ace' fisherman of the Troop is **F of S Jim Hough,** and tales of the one that got away, or the more spectacular story of the clash with a shark make 'interesting' listening. The Foreman also helps out on the sporting scene, being a hockey umpire and soccer referee of the five-a-side court. It can be seen from this brief account that the 'Pongos' are certainly a force to be reckoned with on the Station sports fields, and have gained an excellent reputation because of this.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES (MOONIES AND GOZOMIES)

The most recent recipients of the most honoured award of the 'Moonie Medal' (Masirah) are **Sig Gary Askew, Sig Terry Thornley, Sig Andy Walker,** and **Sig Jim Udale,** all late of 21 Signal Regt. Recent 'Gozomies' were **Sig 'Taff' Davies,** posted to 30 Signal Regt, **Sig 'Hulk' Baxter,** posted to 234 Signal Sqn, **Sig 'Spike' Stingemore,** posted to 227 Signal Sqn, and **Sig 'Baz' Nesbitt** who was lucky enough to wangle a posting to 27 Signal Regt. In the very near future, **Lcpl 'Flank' Ling** leaves us for leave in Malaysia and then onto 3 Div HQ and Signal Regt, and **Cpl John Bryant** who is also going to 227 Signal Sqn.

The Volunteers

31 Sig Regt (Greater London) (V)

HAIL AND FAREWELL

AS in every regiment, the passing of time brings changes of command. On November 10, after two-and-a-half years in the chair **Lt Col John Eversfield** handed over to our new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col John Brian.**

Lt Col Eversfield was dined-out on separate occasions by the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, and in thanking him and his wife **Beryl** for all their efforts on behalf of the Regt we wish them all the best in the future. At least they will now be able to lie-in on Saturday and Sunday mornings!

We welcome **Lt Col Brian** and his wife **Barbara** to the Regt and hope that their stay will be happy—despite the uncertainties of rush-hour traffic along the Fulham Palace Road.

NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY

Over the years the members of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Sqn—in particular the combat linemen—have established a good working relationship with the enthusiasts of the North Yorkshire Moors Historical Railway Trust. The liaison has a mutually beneficial aspect. During the Regimental UK camp every second year a team of combat linemen undertakes practical

Maj Mike Vokes (OC 47 Sig Sqn) and Capt Dennis Hill, with locomotive '4767 George Stephenson' and members of the 31 Sig Regt line party on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway

telephone system installation work for the railway; with materials provided by the Railway Trust and utilising their own expertise the team is able to practise worthwhile skills on a live project which, on completion, meets a real need and becomes part of the railway permanent communication system.

During the camp in September this year, with the Regt based at the STC in Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, the team installed a 10-pair telephone cable along the 'country' mile of track from New Bridge Signalbox to Pickering Station, with lineside tapping-in boxes every few hundred yards, which had been designed to take into account the proposed run-around facility for Pickering.

Old campaigners **Sgt Brian Callaghan** and **Lcpl Denis Orger** who had worked on a similar project between Goathland and Grosmont two years earlier instructed the younger element in the rugged and demanding techniques of digging holes and siting concrete posts, despite the counter-attractions of good northern ale—and a young lady called **Penny . . .**! During the second week reinforcements were drafted in to ease the burden, but then the team had to contend with frost.

Inevitably the team had many visitors. **Maj Mike Vokes,** the Squadron Commander, and **Capt Dennis Hill**, the team leader, together with the railway enthusiasts were hosts to the Mayor of Harrow and members of the Lord Lieutenant's Committee, the High Sheriff of Pickering Council, the CO of the Regt and even an Archbishop!

Eventually the team completed its task and our photograph shows team members with a recently renovated steam engine '4767', called 'George Stephenson', which made its inaugural run during the period of the project.

MILITARY SKILLS UNDER TEST

Once every two years, teams from each sub-unit of the regiments and independent squadrons of 11 Sig Gp (V) compete in a test of military skills for a trophy presented by **Col Bill Lang,** once Deputy Commander of the Group. This year the competition was organised in the Nesscliffe Training area by 33 and 35 Signal Regts.

In the main event, which rightly proved to be as much a test of skill as of physical fitness, our teams were defeated but by no means disgraced, finishing in a neat block in 5th, 6th and 7th places out of 13. Our WRAC team competing for the first time came second of three. Led by **2/Lt Jenny Brooks,** the team displayed considerable effort and enthusiasm—at one point during the orienteering section **Pte June Isted** leaped aside to avoid a falling tree, tripped over another and knocked herself out! **Cpl Ronnie Jacobs** and **Pte Elizabeth MacArthur,** the two drivers, were tested separately from the rest of the team and did extremely well; they were top in the Night Navigation section (with full marks) and in the Route Recce.

2/Lt Chris Mote's team from 83 Sqn started training in May and even carried out a night exercise at Nesscliffe, but then suffered from last minute team changes caused by illness and pressure of work. However, their preparation allied to excellent backing by their administrative support team did pay dividends, as they took top place in the Regt.

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

ANNUAL CAMP—SCARBOROUGH

CAMP 1975 was very much enjoyed, partly because it was different. How different?—well, the weather was superb for a start and neither did we have to worry about trade training thanks to the experts of Training Brigade at Catterick! So it was military and physical training-biased in a big way, and physical is the word when you're coaxing veteran K9's from one side of the country to the other. Thanks to our Scammell crew for recovering **Capt Nick Candler's** (Yankee Troop) aged Austin.

So we made it to Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, and had hardly settled down when the kip-blasting notes of Reveille burst from the dented orifice of **Cpl William Bishop's** bugle. The Saints (and others) bless that bugle by the end of camp every year! Despite the 'must-av-ush' campaign, however, competition often wailed onto the scene in the form of OC LAD **(Capt Bob Gardner)** and his undisciplined bagpipes, his room-mate **Capt Bob Haysom** admits that tone deafness is his only form of defence.

One of the quieter places in Burniston is the sports field but this was also the busiest place this year as every Sqn used it for most aspects of military training. The 'gas tent' caused the most eye boggling among the holidaymakers lining the fence as **Sgt Derek 'Dr Death' Flowers** yelled 'don't rub your eyes' at the spluttering fighting-men when they burst from their respirators in breathless sensationalism. Only the cider drinkers of 95 Sqn seemed immune to gas; lending weight to the theory that country farm-houses are no longer draughty.

Graduating from short grass to springy heather, Troop detachments carried out the agonising ritual of infanteering on the local moorland and then culminated most days in equally ritualistic elbow bending at local hostelries. One such occasion even included a beauty competition and **Pte Jayne Wilson** bounced away with the prize with obvious support—from all present.

The only other easy winners were the Mike Troop boat race crew (who sank every other team in sight) and **Cpl David Cottom** who dedicated all his energies to training the girls in physical development and swimming techniques (including resuscitation?)

On the losing side (for once) was the RSM, **WO1 Harry Birtles,** who was not only conned into drinking a glass of water during **Padre Max Lucas'** sermon on the 'water into wine' parable but was even congratulated on his long memory when he correctly identified the insipid fluid as it violated his dedicated palate.

On the second Monday the Regt deployed for exercise Eagle Eye. Radio Relay troops competed for the annual trophy (originally presented by the ex-Commanding Officer **Lt Col David Woodbridge** 1969–72). All aspects of their work were included in the determining of the best Troop and **Capt Ian Hunneyball's** Victor Troop finally cracked **2/Lt Ivan Armstrong's** X-Ray Troop to storm through to receive the trophy from the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, **Col Tony Fender, TD, ADC, DL.**

Col Tony also presented efficiency medals to **Sgt Vince Hemmings** and **Cpl Joe Durber. WO2 (RQMS) John Cockerill** and **Ssgt Derek Partridge** received theirs from **Brig M. C. Thursby-Pelham, ADC,** the District Deputy Commander. **John Cockerill** thus achieved a 'double' in being the first in the Regt (and one of the first in the whole of the TAVR) to receive both the TA and TAVR Efficiency Medals.

The Recruits Pass Off Parade provided the usual finale to camp and the standard was particularly high this year thanks to the tonsil twanging efforts of **Sgts Alec Murphy** and **Tom Lindsay.**

It was a good camp and one of the regular features which ensured this level of satisfaction was the standard of cooking maintained throughout by **Maj (QM) Dennis Newton's** happy bunch of 'steamers'. **Cpl Elizabeth Smith** and **Pte Sandra Howe,** in particular, will be sorely missed now that they have transferred to the Regular Army.

The good behaviour maintained throughout the many visits by Top Brass from 11 Sig Gp (V), HQ West Midland District, Northag Signal Support Group and WRAC UKLF was extended into the homeward return move and all made it back to base safely (even our bashful bugler **Bill Bishop**). Get those troop stores sorted out, BAOR 1976 will be here before you know it!

Col Tony Fender is introduced to Victor Troop by Capt Jan Hunneyball

REGIMENTAL RANGE WEEKEND—LATE EXTRA

Having said farewell to Hong Kong-bound **Capt Reg Hill** we welcome from Malta our new Adjutant **Capt John Reed** and his wife **Jean. Capt Reed** made himself known in positive fashion during our recent range weekend when we were introduced to the multiple skills that made him this year's Corps Champion of both rifle and pistol—ever seen Coke cans dance a real can can before? There's a lot of smoke coming from 48 Sqn these days as our rod-packing probation officer **Lt Malcolm Luing** trains hard with his magnum to try to regain his crown as Regt Gun Slinger-in-Chief.

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

ANNUAL CAMP—MANY SATISFACTORY ACHIEVEMENTS

THE Annual Camp was held this year at Penhale Camp in Cornwall from June 7–21, 1975. This camp, situated on the cliffs of the North Cornish coast, is an invigorating place, and the weather was good for the full 14 days. Over 95% of the Regt's Volunteers attended. Trade and military training commenced on the Sunday morning, the first week being devoted to individual trade training. Consolidation and revision of the year's training programme preceded trade tests which produced some very satisfactory results. The number of good passes reflects most creditably on our TAC (Territorial Army Centres), Commanders, PSIs, and the many officers and senior NCOs who had persevered throughout the year. A recruits Course was also started and this taking the full two weeks of camp saw 51 trained soldiers pass off. **Sig Bob Stephen** taking the award of best recruit and **Pte Sheila Swan,** WRAC, the best WRAC recruit. Her performance so impressed that she has now been appointed as **O/Cdt Swan.**

On Monday evening the Sergeants entertained the Officers with their usual lavish hospitality so much so that the Adjutant, **Capt John Byrne** took advantage, and drank all their gin. On Friday the Officers held a dinner night and dined out **Maj Ronnie Trotman,** the Training Major, and **Maj Bill Newton,** the former Adjutant, on their retirement.

Sqn activities included a heroic cliff rescue by 54 Sqn, a Sqn Parade on grass (football field) by 45 Sqn in full view of RHQ, whilst 44 Sqn preferred to hold their parade hidden amongst the garages and surrounded by 20-ft walls.

The second week was devoted to a communications exercise. Radio Relay shots were established covering a large part of south-west England. The exercise, timed to last four days, sought to ensure the Volunteers practised their operating procedures and their general movement drills.

It was with a feeling of satisfaction and a sense of achievement that we handed Penhale Camp back to the permanent staff (and the seagulls) and returned to our respective TACs in East Anglia, London and south-east England.

MOBILISATION EXERCISE—EXERCISE INSIDE-RIGHT

In September and October 1975 together with the rest of the TAVR we practised mobilisation. In our case it was done in three phases. During the weekend September 19–21, the Regt held its own full-scale mobilisation exercise. There was an impressive and enthusiastic response from the Volunteers of whom 70% turned out. In spite of advance publicity that this was only an exercise one Volunteer reported accompanied by his parents (and girl friend) who were convinced he was going to war and had come to see him off!

The second phase took the part of discussion, lessons and syndicate problems at an Officers' study weekend held at Brentwood on October 11–12.

The third phase was the Regimental participation in the UKLF Exercise Inside-Right over the weekend October 18–19, 1975.

FAREWELL PRESENTATION

Sir Derek Greenaway (*left*) asks the officers of the Regt to accept the Standard as a gift to record his time as Honorary Colonel from 1967 to 1974. Holding the Standard is 2/Lt Herbert. In the foreground are (*right to left*) Capts Latchford, Lilley and Sexton

Problems encountered in the previous two phases were fed into District Headquarters by the Staff of the Regimental Command Post and some interesting dialogues resulted. Despite the varied degree of publicity accorded this exercise by the national press, and other media, readers may be glad to know that one Regt considered that the exercise had been most valuable.

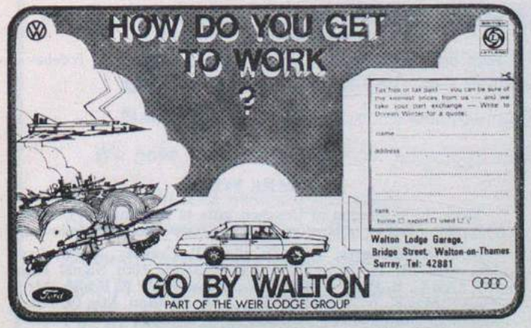
PRESENTATION OF REGIMENTAL STANDARD

During the Officers' study weekend a formal dinner was held at the Brentwood Post House Hotel. It was preceded by the presentation of a Regimental Standard by our former Honorary Colonel, **Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt, CBE, TD, JP, DL.** The Standard incorporates insignia from the present Regt, together with those of its three predecessors, 44th (Cinque Ports) Signal Regt TA, 45th (Essex) Signal Regt TA, and 54th (East Anglian) Signal Regt TA, the amalgamation of which took place during his tenure of office. This unique occasion was attended by many distinguished guests among whom was the present Honorary Colonel, **Brig P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen,** a former Group Commander of the 12 Signal Group of which the Regt forms part. The Mayor of Redbridge **Councillor T. Frank Cobb** was also present. The Colour Party consisted of the Standard Bearer, **2/Lt Charles Herbert,** escorted by **Ssgt Frank Carter** and **Ssgt Colin Dyball** under the command of the RSM. It was an impressive and splendid ceremony watched by all the officers and their guests and a cross-section of the Regt.

Immediately afterwards the Honorary Colonel presented Efficiency Medals to **Sgt Jim Simmons, Cpl Eddie Cannon** and **Cpl Colin Campbell** and the LS&GC Medal to **WO2 (RQMS) Ron Groves.**

TAVR BEAUTY COMPETITION 1975

The Eastern District Heat was held at the Cambridge TAC on October 23, 1975. The hard work in organising the event put on by **Maj Pat Ruston** and her staff was rewarded by two girls from 54 Sqn, **Cpl Penny Brettel** and **Pte Lesley Downes,** taking first and second places respectively. The final is due to be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on November 14, 1975.



ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Derek Poole,** leaves us after two-and-a-half years unstinted service. Warned of a posting to warmer climates, his purchase of tropical clothing was somewhat premature—since he is now going to Norway (AFNORTH).

Welcome to **Lt Col John Swindells,** in his stead.

Our cheerful Training Major, **Ronnie Trotman,** has been replaced by **Maj Mike Alden.**

WO1 Pete Goldsmith, on retirement to the Nottingham Area, has been replaced as MTWO by **WO1 Roy Stark.**

WO2 (RQMS) Harry Docherty, on retirement to Carlisle, has been replaced as RQMS by **WO2 Ron Groves,** for his second tour with the Regt!

Sgt Ray Graves (to 9 Signal Regt) has been replaced in our Bedford TAC by **Sgt Ken Robson** from 2 Div Sig Regt.

Sgt Tom Wardle (to 561 Rear Link Det) hands over Norwich TAC to **Sgt Jock Muir** from 42 Regt RA.

Sgt John Stocker, our tame REME PSI has moved across the river (to the Gunners at Woolwich) and has been replaced by **Sgt Bob Ferguson.**

Sgt Dave Bryant has given up the luxury of Army life in Wanstead for the rigours of a job in Bermuda! We welcome **Sgt Neil Wisely** from BAOR, and **Sgt Ray Dexeter** fresh off his TI Course at Catterick.

To all our colleagues who have gone we say 'thank you and the best of luck in the future' and to the new arrivals 'Welcome to the Volunteers'.

Association News

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH HOLD SUCCESSFUL DINNER

Secretary: E. Speight, 97 Wykebeck Mount, Leeds LS9 0JE

THE Annual Dinner was held in the Drill Hall of 49th (WR) Signal Squadron (V) in Leeds on Saturday, October 4, the Branch being indebted (once again) to **Maj Bill Illingworth** and members of his Sqn for the provision of excellent facilities, and for help in preparing the hall and table silver.

The occasion was notable for a number of reasons—the 40th anniversary of the forming of the Branch, and for a number of 'firsts'—the first attendance to a Branch dinner of The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO,** and **Mrs Bradley,** the General Secretary, Royal Signals Assn, **Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE, and Mrs Murray,** the Commanding Officer of 34 (N) Signal Regt (V), **Lt Col G. C. Beadle,** and **Mrs Beadle.**

The other 'first' was that of a member and past president, **Col John Davies, TD,** making his first appearance at a Branch function since being appointed Honorary Colonel of 34th (N) Signal Regt (V). He was accompanied by **Mrs Davies,** also a Branch member. The Branch is indebted to our guests who did much travelling in order to be with us and contributing so much in making the evening such a resounding success. At the end they graciously said that it had all been worthwhile—a well deserved tribute to a hard working committee.

Maj Illingworth proposed the Loyal Toast—incidently, he lives in Teesside. It is thought, however, that it could, for Association purposes, be included in the area of 'Leeds and District'. The toast 'Royal Signals Association' was proposed by our President **Col N. R. Bigland, TD,** and responded to by **Lt Col Ron Murray** on behalf of the Association—the first of the guests to 'sing for his supper'. In proposing the toast 'Our Guests' the Chairman, **Maj Bob Edwards** made the point that the Corps and Association are a family, and that it was a proud moment in the life of the Leeds members of that family to be honoured by the presence of 'The Head of family'—The Master of Signals and Mrs Bradley. He congratulated those responsible for appointing the new General Secretary, and welcomed **Lt Col Colin Beadle** to 'his parish' as a guest having assumed command three days earlier. Col Colin—the second guest to earn his keep—responded on behalf of the guests.

The Master was the last but by no means the least of the guests to make his contribution to the proceedings. He kindly made presentations of honour member badges to **Col N. R. Bigland, DT,**

and **Mr Jack Harriman, MM**, committee member and Standard Bearer, for their outstanding contributions to the work of the Branch, and thereby to the Association, over many years. Their ladies received bouquets.

The Master was in turn presented with a Retired Sergeants, Royal Signals tie by **Mr Ernie Buck,** Secretary, Retired Sergeants Association, on his induction to Honorary Membership of that Association. It is thought that the General was heard to comment 'I was a Sergeant in the ACF'.

It was a great pleasure to welcome back **Capt Joy Hill,** a member of many years standing, together with her escort, **Mr Bob Cromarty. Joy** was the victim of a car accident some years ago when returning home from TA duty which left her partially paralysed. Resulting from that accident she has recently lost a leg. The fortitude with which she has faced up to life must surely be a shining example of courage in the face of adversity to all who have been privileged to be associated with her over these years. Well done, **Joy,** you were determined to get to that dinner. It was a pleasure to welcome another member, **Mr V. Morris,** accompanied by **Mrs Morris. Mr Morris** has unfortunately reverted from crutches to a wheelchair following the loss of both legs. Again, his courage and determination, and the devotion of his wife, should cause the more fortunate of us to count our blessings.

Two of our more senior members were missed—**Mr Len Payne** —one time muscle master of Le Cateau gym, and tap dancer extraordinary (he is only 80 years young) and **Maj 'Tug' Wilson**—ex-TOM/TOT, both regular supporters of the Branch for many years. We wish them both a speedy recovery and return to circulation, possibly to the annual Remembrance Day service in which the Branch joins with the Signal Sqn each year.

Following the dinner, the annual draw took place and folk danced their way to the small hours. One comment, 'I hope we get invited again'. Well done committee!

Welfare

OCTOBER 1975

Number of cases assisted financially	**28**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**36**
Amount spent	**£1,469·93**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants made	**2**
Amount spent	**£50·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

EX-LANCE-CORPORAL, seven years' service. His wife died suddenly this summer, leaving him with three little children. He is at present unable to work, as he has to look after them. The Association helped him with a grant of £60 towards the funeral expenses and a further £25 for clothing for the children, and clothing parcels are also being sent. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

I WOULD like to thank the Association most sincerely for the generous sums of money granted to me, and also the parcel of clothes. It has helped me a great deal and taken a big burden off my shoulders. I am very grateful.

'Gil' and Joyce Harding *(Ex Demo Team)*
Stapleton Road Tavern
1-3 Stapleton Road
Bristol 5 (Tel 556350)

Welcome to all Royal Signals, past and present, during permitted hours. Darts, skittles, pool, juke box, lunch and snacks

Any serving member stranded overnight in Bristol will be accommodated ***somehow***

Royal Humane Society Testimonial for Bravery Award to Lt Col Peter Lassington

Lt Col (then Maj) Peter Lassington was at Gwenvor Beach, Sennan, Cornwall with his family on July 25, 1975. He saw a woman—a 37 year old housewife—swept away from her surfboard by a strong current. He swam 150 yards through six foot waves and kept her afloat until two other swimmers, in wet suits and flippers, came to his help. After the rescue, Peter is reported by a witness as slipping away into the crowd and was not identified until sometime later. And all that he would say was that he could not have brought her ashore on his own!

Congratulations to Lt Col Peter Lassington on his award by the Royal Humane Society.

No 5 Royal Signals Officers Communications Qualifying Course, October 27, 1975, to April 2, 1976

Back row (left to right): 2/Lt S. A. Crane, Lts S. Greenhalgh, R. A. Holland-Smith, A. J. Poppleton

Front row (left to right): 2/Lt L. J. Simpson, Capt J. A. Freebairn, Lt S. E. T. Sherman

THANK YOU!

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

Mrs W. A. Purser, WO2 (F of S) T. Crawley, Mr B. Law, Maj Gen M. D. Price, The Thrift Shop, 10th Signal Regt, Maj Gen C. E. Page, Lt Col I. E. Simpson, Mr A. Walsh, Mr J. Young, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Mrs G. Finch, Maj J. E. Gill, Ssgt and Mrs B. Unwin.

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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.

RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages/disadvantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

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